

# THE REDEEMER REMINDER

55 Wyckoff Avenue Ramsey, NJ 07446 Phone 201.327.0148



THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE  
REDEEMER

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

by Pastor Michael C. Linderman, PhD

Redeemer celebrates our ninth graders' Affirmation of Baptism later this month. We are very proud of them as they step into this milestone in their faith journey. In that sacramental act, they affirm their baptism and take on more adult responsibility for their faith, according to their baptismal promises: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. We pray that the Holy Spirit will bless them as they strive to keep these commitments.



It is traditional to interpret this process in terms of responsibility. Generations of Christians before us, who built up our congregations and set the paths for our journey today, saw this responsibility as self-evident and embraced a set identity through which to do so. One shift we are trying to figure out lately is how to address younger people who see their identity as more malleable over time. In our culture, younger generations are encouraged to seek authenticity as a life-long project, making commitment within a single identity less desirable and experimentation more important.

I believe Christian ministry can accommodate this shift when we remember God's love for us sets no limits on personal identity. In baptism, we receive an open invitation to use our SELVES (emphasis added) in faith and service, regardless of where on a spectrum of identity we think we stand. The shift is from responsibility to opportunity. God doesn't restrict human identity, God empowers it, so that we all might embrace responsibility naturally, out of love and gratitude. The five promises of baptism become realms of possibility through which we discover God's inclusive love, just as Jesus' own ministry revealed. So, we bless our Confirmands this month on Pentecost Sunday. May God bless us all in our mutual ministry together. The possibilities are endless! +PL

## Confirmation News

Congratulations to our 9th graders, who will affirm their Baptisms on May 19th at our 10:15am service! Please pray for them and their families as they continue on their journey of faith.

This year's 9th graders are: Chase Cusack, Andrew Grunfelder and Dylan Pacenza. Special thanks to their faith mentors, volunteers from the congregation who were willing to walk alongside them in their confirmation instruction. They are Amber Cusack, Ginelle Grunfelder and Karen Wilson.

BY DON SCHREECK, CHAIR

## Lent & Easter Season Worship

On behalf of the Worship and Music Committee, I would like to thank our youth who participated in the music on Easter Sunday - Connor Behrmann, Cole Bickford, Andrew Grunfelder, and Conner Layng along with Pastor Linderman. They were all playing brass instruments. We had a great season of Lent, and a glorious Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and concluding with the resurrection of our Lord. We had about 225 people attending one of the three worship services on Easter Sunday - and the live-stream at 10:15 has had 180 people view the service either live or by viewing the recording. We can see the importance of keeping the live-stream going each week. I am still looking for people to help with that aspect of worship. On April 6th, we had our first family worship service, the brainchild of our Faith Formation Director Annie and Pastor Linderman. We will most likely see more of them in the future.

## PERSONAL HYGIENE KIT ASSEMBLY - JUNE 9TH

This May and June, Social Ministry, Fellowship, and Christian Education will be joining in a project to help homeless people in Paterson. April Pacenza learned about ONOMA Paterson Outreach, which distributes hygiene kits, juice, socks, bagged lunches every Saturday morning to folks in downtown Paterson. These three committees are inviting the congregation to help assemble 120 kits which will be donated to this effort.



### Our kits will contain:

- 1 wash cloth
- 1 bar soap
- 1 small pack baby wipes
- 1 deodorant
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 toothpaste
- 1 hand sanitizer
- 1 small pack band-aids

*travel size items requested*

Look for a poster soon in the Narthex about this project. Take a ticket or 2 which will identify the items you will donate. Return your items BY JUNE 1, to the bin near the poster. Kit Assembly will take place in Fellowship Hall, Sunday, June 9, immediately after Coffee Hour.

### RSVP TO:

**April**  
201-788-7959  
[April.pacenza@gmail.com](mailto:April.pacenza@gmail.com)

**Karen**  
201-819-9141  
[Wilson387@yahoo.com](mailto:Wilson387@yahoo.com)

**Sharon**  
201-887-6109  
[Slvogel27@gmail.com](mailto:Slvogel27@gmail.com)

**Thanks in advance for your generosity. Looking forward to seeing you!!!!**

## FELLOWSHIP

BY APRIL PACENZA, CHAIR

**SAVE THE DATE:  
JUNE 22, 2024**

Two volunteers needed: One to host appetizers and one to host dinner in your home. Others can volunteer to bring appetizers and desserts.

Contact April Pacenza cell: 201-788-7959 or [april.pacenza@gmail.com](mailto:april.pacenza@gmail.com)

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or [click here](#).



BY FRAN MORTON, MUSIC DIRECTOR



**Jesus Loves Me**

Everyone who's been to Sunday School can finish off this verse from memory. It comes from one of the best known children's hymns. As a matter of fact you'll have an opportunity to sing it again soon on May 19 when we (congregation and choir) sing an anthem based on it. But for now, we're going to spend a little time learning about its very interesting history. The poem was written by Anna Bartlett Warner (1827-1915).

She and her older sister, Susan Bogart Warner (1819-1885) started out with a perfectly normal life for daughters of a very well-off family living on fashionable St Mark's Place in New York City. Their mother was a Bartlett (society family from New England) and their father Henry Whiting Warner, a wealthy and successful attorney. Most wealthy families of that era had a country house where they spent the hot weather of the summers. Henry Warner purchased Constitution Island for this purpose. It is on the Hudson River across from the U. S. Military Academy.



Susan Warner Anna Warner

Adversity struck the Warners in the 1836 financial crash. In only a few years, the family had lost everything and retreated to Constitution Island, the isolated farmhouse their only residence.



Life in this country farmhouse couldn't have been more different. Anna, in her early teens, and Susan, early 20's, were responsible for every aspect of housekeeping including farm animals and gardening. Money was a constant worry. Connected to the U. S. Military Academy through their uncle Rev. Thomas Warner, Chaplain at West Point, they taught Bible studies to the cadets at their request. Further, a Warner Aunt urged Susan to, "put your pen to financial use." Susan did, and became the first American author to sell more than 1,000,000 copies of a book. Both Susan and Anna wrote successful novels, most on the then popular theme of perseverance and hard work overcoming adversity.

As their literary careers matured, Susan concentrated on novels, more than 50 over her career. Anna was the better poet and published some 25 books including hymnals, children's and religious books. Since modern copyright laws were still in the future, the earnings from their writings barely allowed the sisters to keep their financial heads above water and finally forced them into bankruptcy. Anna sold Constitution Island to friend and philanthropist Margaret Slocum Sage with the proviso that she live the rest of her life there and that Constitution Island then be deeded to The U. S. Military Academy under the condition that it remain a park in perpetuity. Shortly after Anna's death Margaret fulfilled her wish, and a group of concerned citizens including J.P. Morgan stepped forward to form the Constitution Island Association. Constitution Island is open for tours during the summer and remains a National Park. Susan and Anna Warner are the only civilians buried in the West Point Cemetery.



Now, what about Jesus Loves Me? Picture Susan and Anna at work writing together in the farmhouse. Susan has come to a place where she needs a hymn to comfort one of her characters. She asks Anna to write one for her. Anna writes several verses of Jesus Loves Me. The book is a best seller and the hymn gets noticed by musician William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868), one of the best known and most influential composers of music for hymns. He likes it, adds the refrain and composes the tune that is playing in all our heads as we read this. And, the rest is history.

SAVE THE  
*date*

**Save the Date - Ramsey Presbyterian 200th Celebration Service**

Sunday, May 19th at 3pm at the Presbyterian Church, come help them celebrate their 200th Anniversary. You'll sing hymns, listen to great music - choral and instrumental - join us for the Reception after. My colleague, Paul Undreiner, Music Director promises choral music from our combined choirs, along with strings, brass, handbells, percussion, and bag pipes! Our choir members will be singing. Come join us!

BY ANNIE GESUALDO, FAITH FORMATION DIRECTOR



Hello Everyone!

Welcome May! April seemed to slip by very quickly! We opened the month with a very lovely family service. The Sunday School teachers, Confirmation students Adler Buerkle, Meghan Layng and I, took the children from service before the first lesson and had a little children's Sermon with them and then some projects to follow. We returned right before the Prayers of Intercession. We had a lot of fun together in Fellowship Hall and parents got a chance to have some "grown-up" time in service. Continuing through a busy April, our Confirmation Class had a very deep lesson on "Forgiveness and Confession". Through clips from the movie "the Mission, we watched forgiveness in a pure and beautiful form give way to redemption and transformation.

The Youth Group met for what I hope to be the first of regular get-togethers, on Sunday April 28th. In our updated lounge, we shared a mix of discussion, games and of course snacks!

April events lead us into a very exciting May, as we take the very first steps to form a Young Adult Ministry.

Our Confirmation class will have its final class on May 5th, with parents, mentors and class together for a blessing before the Sacramental Act of Confirmation on Sunday May 19th at the 10:15 service.

May is a month to honor the strong, nurturing women in our lives - moms, grandmothers, aunts, daughters, nieces, and women in your life that have touched your heart. "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring praise at the city gate." -Proverbs 31:31

Have a very peace filled and happy month!

Faithfully yours, Annie

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BY KAREN WILSON, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHAIR

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### MAY/JUNE SCHEDULE:

MAY 5 - classes

JUNE 2 - LAST CLASS

### Confirmation Class

#### MAY SCHEDULE:

MAY 5 - Last class; parent/mentor blessing

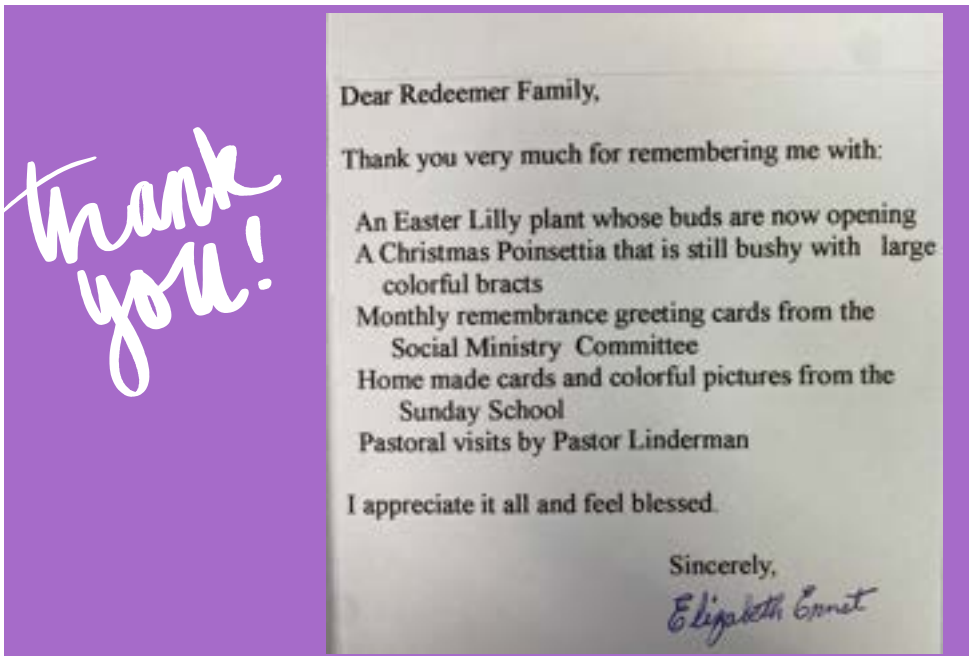
MAY 19 - **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

Register  
here  
today!





Redeemer's Jim Van Duzer with his award-winning painting. Jim's "Dutch Beach Babes" won Honorable Mention at the NJ Art Association's Chilton Hospital show. You can see it in the Chilton Hospital Lobby until June 29. This is the second recent award Jim's paintings have received.



Sign up to host coffee-hour after the 10:15 am service. The sign-up sheet is located on the lectern in Fellowship Hall.





Quilt Sunday



Staff meeting turned into a party--Happy Birthday, Fran!



We updated the lounge a bit for use by the Youth Group.



Redeemer celebrates with Elizabeth Ernst on her 95th birthday, May 1!



Youth group



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person & online)	29 1:00pm Redeemer Quilters	30 1:00pm Staff Meeting	1 10am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Practice	2 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers	3	4
5 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person & online) 4:30pm Confirmation Class	6 1:00pm Redeemer Quilters	7 1:00pm Staff Meeting 1:00pm Brownstone monthly meeting	8 10am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Practice	9 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 10:00am Redeemer Knitting/Crocheting Group 12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers	10	11
12 Mother's Day 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person & online)	13 1:00pm Redeemer Quilters 7:00pm Park Toastmasters	14 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Ramsey Area Garden Club 7:30pm Church Council Meeting	15 10am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Practice	16 Redeemer Reminder Articles Due 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers	17	18
19 Day of Pentecost 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person & online) CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	20 1:00pm Redeemer Quilters 7:00pm Park Toastmasters	21 1:00pm Staff Meeting	22 10am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Practice	23 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 10:00am Redeemer Knitting/Crocheting Group 12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers	24	25
26 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person & online)	27 1:00pm Redeemer Quilters	28 1:00pm Staff Meeting	29 10am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Practice	30 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers	31	1

**Virtual Worship Services are Live on Facebook @ The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Ramsey, NJ. and on YouTube Channel "Lamb and Flag Ministries"**



*May God Bless you on your birthday*

Tim O'Keefe, Jr.	2
Maggie Papp	2
Jeff Backhaus	3
Meghan Layng	4
Brianna Brochhausen	6
Philip Mones	6
Conner Layng	7
Cara Palumbo	7
Chris Vozeh	7
Sara Wilson	8
Bettina Vozeh	9
Lauren Roden	10
Bob Hurta	12
Elise Hommez	13
Matthew Gager	13
Olivia Doherty	14
Erik Hildebrand	14
Kyle Pacenza	15
Cheryl McKeown	15
Charlie Manke	16
Ginelle Grunfelder	16
Carla Backhaus	16
Landon Wilson	16
Jodie Meyer	17
Brenda Dexter	18
Diane Rigg	20
Lis Conboy	21
Chloe Hudson	22
Claire Bradley	23
Rachel Pagnotti	23
Dean Cartier	25
Chris Scala	26
Sarah Anderson	27
Jennifer Thompson	28
Liz Loranger	28
Greg Sundermann	29
Marshall Greulich	31



*Wedding Anniversaries*

Doreen and Paul Rosen	8
John and Trisha Manke	13
Stanley and Kathleen Rutkowski	13
Gerhart and Rose Lempp	15
Inge and Asmut Kahns	21
Art and Jennifer Thompson	22
Laurie & Guy Vogt	28



*Baptism Anniversaries*

Jackie O'Keefe	1
Michael McKeown	1
Maggie Papp	2
Margaret Lee	7
Ali Certosimo	13
Reid Cusack	13
Elise Hommez	13
Tommy Austin	16
Audrey Hommez	17
Landon Wilson	17
MJ Lee	18
Brooks Makely	18
John Grotheer	21
Amanda Rosen	22
Edward Stengel	23
Alexa Austin	26
Cameron Palumbo	28
Rebecca Vogt	28

If you notice your special day is not listed during the year, contact the office at [office@redeemerramsey.org](mailto:office@redeemerramsey.org).



**Redeemer Reminder articles for the month of June are due Thursday, May 16th. Please submit to [office@redeemerramsey.org](mailto:office@redeemerramsey.org)**