

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Pastor's Corner --- March & April

The Rev. Jeffrey G. Bohan, Pastor

Redeemer Lutheran Church—Binghamton, NY 13905

In Lent --- Repent!!

"All the commandments which I command you this day you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply..... And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you this day that you shall surely perish." (Deuteronomy 8:1, 19 RSV)

"For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted" (Hebrews 2:18 RSV)

Lent is a time the church to focus on our relationship with God, humbling ourselves so we can grow into the disciples God wants us to be. Repentance is the first step in our being reconciled with God. We hear the word "REPENT" by Jesus, and it hopefully sounds like someone calling us home. Lent really is a focused time for us to "REPENT" by turning from everything that has been calling us away from God and returning home to our Lord. We sometimes tend to forget how our decisions, well intentioned though they may be, draw us away from God, and godly pursuits. Even seemingly benign decisions, like sleeping in on Sunday mornings, can start us walking away from God. We, many times, treat our sinful behavior like a game. We try to see how far we can get but still be able to hear the call to repentance.

One time I had a children's message when I told the children to walk away from me, but when they heard me say "Repent" they were to come back. For the children's message the running away was the "fun" part. We all knew the children wouldn't get far before they heard the call to return, "REPENT." It would have turned out far different had someone not heard the call and kept running and running. This is only one of the dangers in treating our sinful behavior as a game. We may run so far away from God, that our ears cannot pick up the call to repentance. We treat sin as the "fun" part, but sin hurts people. Sin hurts us, and hurts others, directly and indirectly. Jesus recognized the hurtful effects of sin. He was grieved at the hardness of heart that he found and continues to be grieved by our hard hearts.

Jesus told parables about the importance of the sinner to God, and how God goes searching for those who have run so far away they can't hear the call to return. Jesus loves us and all people, and wants our relationships with God, and with each other, to flourish and grow. This can only happen with lives that are constantly turning back to God with humble hearts willing and eager to seek the forgiveness God extends to us and all people.

As Christians this is how we begin and end our days, in humble submission to our Lord. God will bring healing to our lives and restore those things we have broken. As we return and receive God's grace we are empowered and called to help others, not with a judgmental attitude, but one filled with the love of God to search out the lost and help bring God's forgiveness.

Pastor Jeffrey Bohan

RLC Annual Congregational Meeting January 29, 2023

An annual meeting was held at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 29, 2023. The meeting was held in the Centennial Room, with 29 voting members present. 28 were present in person, 1 present via zoom.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Council President Russ Pingrey at 11:13 am.

Opening Prayer: A devotional reading and opening prayer was led by CALM Bobbie Krager.

Minutes of January 23, 2023: The minutes were printed and in the Annual Report packet. Ruthi Fitzgerald moved, and Rich Watson seconded to accept the minutes. All approved.

Annual Committee Reports: The committee reports were printed and in the Annual Report packet. Bill Hinkley moved, and Ruthi Fitzgerald seconded to accept the minutes. All approved.

Financial Secretary Report/Treasurer's Report: Bill Hinkley presented his report, which was printed and in the Annual Report packet. When he noted that the loan will be paid off in full in June, there was a resounding cheer from those in attendance. There was some confusion regarding the reports. Bill presented one report; the Finance Secretary Report and the Treasurer's Report are the same item. Judy Mica Guerin moved to accept the combined report, Ruthi Fitzgerald seconded. All approved.

Proposed budget: Russ Pingrey announced that the proposed budget was printed and in the Annual Report packet. He suggested that those in attendance look at it before discussion.

Other Business:

Pantry: Judy Mica Guerin said that Saturday, January 28, 2023, there were 40 people who were served at the pantry. 33 of them showed up in the first half hour. She noted the people who help her distribute at the pantry- Bear (Paul) Bentley, Paul Talbot, Cassie O'Dell, Inez Briggs, Bill Liberiti, Linda Martin, and Sigrid Bensen. Linda Martin noted that there were extra giveaways that people were very appreciative to receive. Judy mentioned that they would like to collect items to create care packages to give away in the future.

Lent: Judy Mica Guerin announced the Ash Wednesday service, February 22, 2023 would be at noon, with Pastor Jeffrey Bohan leading service and CALM Bobbie Krager assisting. There will also be Ashes To Go outside and a bagged lunch give-away from 11 am until 1 pm. There will also be a short service every Wednesday at noon during Lent at Redeemer in the Sanctuary, and it will also be streamed on Facebook.

Raffle: Cathieann Birtch announced that they had won another gift basket and brought it in to raffle off. It is a bath themed basket. A ticket is \$2 each, and proceeds to go to the Organ Fund.

Council Members: Russ Pingrey announced that this year there is no need to find council members. The Council members and terms were printed on the bottom of the Agenda which was in the Annual Report packet. There were some changes; Dave Bernardo is currently filling a term left vacant, which ends in 2023. He is able to run for Council for his own first term at the meeting in May. Ruthi Fitzgerald, Charles Houser, Russ Pingrey, and Marylou Rutkowski, their first terms end in May 2023, and they are all able to renew their terms for another 3 year term. Inez Brigg's first term ends in May 2024, and she is able to renew that term also. Judy Mica Guerin's term ends in May 2025, and she also is able to renew that term.

Return to the Proposed Budget: Bill Hinkley went over the proposed budget, explaining all the lines, and noting the differences. We currently have a 2.02% decrease in this year's budget over last year. He did note that the insurance went up, and that they did not get the bill to us before he wrote the budget. He said that he did get the bill, and it is more than what he put in the budget. He said that we could leave the budget the way it is, or to amend the budget for the correct amount of the insurance. Judy Mica Guerin moved to amend the budget, Ruthi Fitzgerald seconded. All approved. Judy Mica Guerin moved to accept the proposed budget as amended, Phyllis Hinkley seconded, all approved.

Constitution: Russ Pingrey asked Charles Houser to explain the changes in the constitution. Charles said that the ELCA makes changes to the constitution, and we are to change Redeemer's constitution to reflect those changes. There were changes in 2019, and as he did the work to incorporate them, the 2022 changes came out also. Charles amended our constitution to reflect those changes. Most of them are to correct gender, or small word changes to reflect the difference between congregation and Church. The one major change in our constitution is it was proposed to change the wording of our council members that there would be no less than 5 and no more than 7 members on Council. Bill Hinkley moved to accept the changes, Marylou Rutkowski seconded, all approved.

Acknowledgements: Both Bill Hinkley and Charles were acknowledged. Bill was commended for the hard work he does keeping our finances and preparing the budget. Charles was commended for the tedious work of editing and correcting our constitution.

Other business continued:

Defibrillator – Bobbie Krager announced that we are looking into obtaining a defibrillator and Narcan to have in the church. She spoke with her daughter's boyfriend, who is an EMT, who said that their baseball team is having a fund raiser, and would be willing to donate some money from that fund raiser to the purchase of one. He would also be willing to give training on the defibrillator. There was discussion on the topic and on Narcan use.

Bobbie has some raffle tickets to sell for the fundraiser, they are \$20 each.

Souper Bowl Sunday: Judy Mica Guerin announced that on February 12, 2023 there would be a separate collection taken for World Hunger.

Adjournment: Bill Hinkley moved and Charles Houser seconded to adjourn the meeting. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Mica Guerin

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3rd Joe Guerin
4th Kenna Wales
6th Deborah Bixby
11th Sara Krager
12th Lynn Kalka
13th Malory DeVaul
14th Pat Watson
14th Mary Perkurny
17th Pilar Finsel
20th Cathie Ann Birtch
22nd Judy Mica Guern



Lenten & Easter Services

April 2, 2023 Palm Sunday 10:00 a.m. Service
April 6, 2023 Maundy Thursday Noon Only
April 7, 2023 Good Friday Noon Service Only
April 9, 2023 Easter Service 10:00 a.m.



2023 Midweek Lenten Service

We are having a **noon** service every Wednesday during Lent. It will be held in the Sanctuary, and will also be streamed on Facebook. The series is called Sing with All the Saints in Glory. Each week there is a different topic of focus, scripture readings, hymns, prayer, and commemorations of individuals.

March 1 – Focus is Inheritance of Faith.

Commemorating George Herbert, and John and Charles Wesley.

March 8 – Focus is Perseverance with Endurance.

Commemorating Perpetua and Felicity; Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth

March 15 – Focus is Faithful in Prayer. Commemorating Patrick and Gregory the Great

March 22 – Focus is Striving for Justice.

Commemorating Joseph and Oscar Romero

March 29 – Focus is Dying & Rising with Christ.

Commemorating Hans Nielsen Hauge and John Donne

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2nd David Wikktorek
7th Spring Kubeli
9th Inez Briggs
10th Dorothy Dilenmuth
16th Deborah Bixby
22nd Alexis Duell
22nd Stanley Dutcher
27th Tim Muss



ANNIVERSARIES

March

22nd Dennis Martin
Merri Markovitch

APRIL

24th Mike & Jennifer Wales
27th Jim & Cathieann Birtch



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MEMORIALS

In Memory of
Ed Conroy

Given By:

Joe Tomanekl
Joan Muss
Cathy Muss

In Memory of
Neil Rader

Given By:

Ruthi Fitzgerald
Sigrid Bensen
Jim & Cathieann Birtch
Bill & Phyllis Hinkley
Linda Martin
Rich & Pat Watson
Nancy Krager
Mrs. Marianne Murphy
Kristin G. Bensen-Hause
Gus & Rachel Zandt
Ruthi Fitzgerald



Prayer List

PRAYER LIST

This Prayer list is provided to encourage the members and friends of Redeemer to be in constant prayer to God, and to remember the special needs of the people listed below in prayer during the week.

Tim Angel	Jack Ferguson	John & Pat Moynihan
Heather B.	Joy Forbes	Kay Nearing
Stephanie B.	Noreen Fonnbeck	Russ Pingrey
Tom Bernardo	Michael G.	Charles Rabeler
Reta Bernardo	Carol Golembeski	Barb Rader
Paul (Bear) Bentley	Trudy Gray	Neil Rader
Dean Black	Theresa Greenman	Al Roggenbaum
Jeanine Black	Jeremy Harris	Alice Rubin
Jenni Brant	Kamdyn Hartung	Linda Schofield
Jordan Brundege	Bernice Hill	Linda Ulrcih
Doris Conroy	Houser Family	Helga Vest
Mayla Conroy	Wendy Joy	Patricia Watson
Steve Conroy	Angel Lair	Margaret Whinton
Patricia Conroy	Caden Lair	John White
Alexis Daniels	Mark Loeffler	Rinny White
Antonio Daniels	Ute Loeffler	Jeanette Wickham
Cathy Demaree	Ravely Mathurim	George Yarnes
Patti F.	Joe Monforte	Annette
	Marguerite Monforte	Peggy
		Gary
Serving In the Military & Police		Amy
Damin Badger	Jack Ferguson	Deann
Matthew Bialk	Peter Jensen	
Duncan Bedlion	Washington DC Police	

To add or delete from this please call Alice 204-0964
Or email [**redeemer_lutheran@hotmail.com**](mailto:redeemer_lutheran@hotmail.com)



OUTREACH MARCH APRIL 2023

Winter is a notoriously slow time for outreach- unfortunately.

The Mobile Food Truck saw a lot of action at Trinity Memorial during the last 2 months. More than 100 families received food each month. Many thanks to Trinity for graciously allowing us to use their facility during these cold months.

All are thankful for not having to endure the elements while waiting- even though this winter has been fairly mild these past two months (I am knocking on wood!!). Also- many thanks to all those helping to sort and hand out the food. It is a great opportunity to meet people!

Redeemer's Food pantry has also been busy. Many thanks to all who contribute to the program in any way. Those receiving food are very appreciative.

As tis article is being written, we are looking forward to a few days from now when our annual "Ashes to Go" activity will be in full swing= signaling the beginning of the Lenten season. It is always a fun and spiritually rewarding activity. Many thanks to Judy for coordinating the activity, and to all who help make it happen!

As we look ahead to the warmer weather coming- we hope that many of you consider joining us as we meet folks in our church neighborhood. We appreciate all the support for these activities- you all enable it to happen. Thank you!!

Happy Spring to all, and many Easter blessings to you and your families.

Council President

**DAY LIGHT SAVINGS
STARTS**

MARCH 12, 2023

**DON'T FORGET TO
TURN YOUR CLOCK
AHEAD FOR
SPRING!!**



Once again we will decorate our altar on Easter morning with Easter Lilies. The cost is **\$16.00** per plant.

Please email me at redeemerbiminghamton@gmail.com. Or Phone 607-722-1029, No **later than March 16, 2023**

I would like to order _____ Easter Lilies for use in our Worship Service on Easter morning:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donor _____

Will you be taking your plant after the Easter service?

_____ YES _____ NO

OR

I would like to contribute toward the Easter Cross

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donor _____

All of our worship services are broadcast live on Facebook!

Please go to <http://facebook.com/redeemberbgm>, at 10:00 am Sunday, to view the live stream.

If you miss worship, you can watch the complete service on YouTube or on our website, <http://redeemberbgm.org>.

Spread the Good News!