

SEPTEMBER

Newsletter

The Messenger

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter September 2024

Mark Your Calendars!

September 1– Sunday Worship

September 8– 9:00 a.m. Outside Rally Day
Sunday Worship with Communion and Church Picnic

September 9– Monday night communion Service

September 15– Sunday Worship Service and Voters Meeting

September 22– Sunday Worship with Communion

September 29– Sunday Worship

Reminder

TWAG: (Time Away with God) evening Bible Study on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Ladies' Bible Study: every Wednesday Morning at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday Bible Study: every Thursday Morning at 10:00 a.m.

Miss Something From the Sermon?

All of our Worship Services are live streamed and archived on our Facebook page! You can also find them on our website:
www.orclknnoxin.com

Savior,
teach me
day by day
love's sweet lesson
to obey,
sweeter lesson
cannot be,
loving him who
first loved me.

–Jane Eliza Leeson (1842)



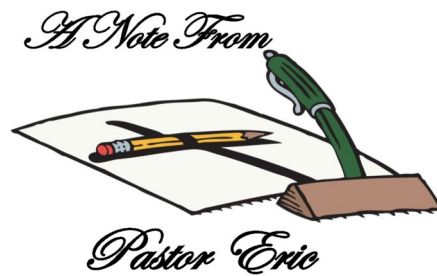
Welcome! to our September church newsletter!

As we embrace the warmth and fellowship of our church community. We invite you to join us in worship and celebration as we continue our journey of faith together.

In the coming weeks, you can look forward to inspiring sermons, engaging Bible studies, and opportunities for fellowship. Our doors are open to all, regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey. Whether you seek solace, guidance, or simply a place to belong, we invite you to explore the warmth and acceptance of our congregation.

Let's come together in faith, love, and service. Your presence and participation make our church family complete. Welcome home!

Pastor Eric



Sunday Mornings Beginning in September: A New Start and a New Chance

This year Our Redeemer Lutheran is returning to a Sunday morning schedule that was the norm here for many, many years: Worship will be at the usual time of 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and an Adult Bible Life-Application group will follow, meeting from 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. This is a great opportunity for the entire family to spend one hour per week in Worship and one hour each week spent with God's word. Why are we returning to our old schedule? For the following reasons:

1. "The Christian Faith is more *caught* than *taught*." Learning how to worship isn't something that can be taught, it has to be absorbed through observation, experience, and practice. Taking children out of Worship for Sunday School is convenient for parents perhaps, but it does a great dis-service to the children. They don't get to absorb the rhythms and flows of Worship; they don't learn the songs of praise and thanksgiving that both teach and express faith and trust; they miss the opportunity to learn the language of prayer, and much, much more. It is important for the future faith of our children that they be in worship with their families because weekly worship is where they are shaped in their faith and relationship with God.
2. While the main way that the Faith is passed down from one generation to the next is by *being caught*, there is an intellectual component to Christianity. So the Faith must also be *taught*. Taking children out of worship only gives the teachers and kids about 30 minutes in a classroom setting where kids learn the Bible. Having an hour every week greatly expands their exposure to God's word and helps everyone learn.
3. Getting immersed in God's word is for everyone! As kids learn the Bible in Sunday School, parents and adults have an opportunity to grow in their knowledge of God's word, too. The "Sunday School hour" becomes an hour when the whole family can be devoted to learning about themselves and Jesus at a deeper level than in Worship.
4. The education hour is a way that ORLC can help you in your keeping of the Third Commandment! The Small Catechism explains the third commandment:

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

Martin Luther expands on this in the Large Catechism:

"Remember, then, that you must be concerned not only about hearing the Word but also about learning and retaining it. Do not regard it as an optional or unimportant matter. It is the commandment of God, ...

On the other hand, when we seriously ponder the Word, hear it, and put it to use, such is its power that it never departs without fruit. It always awakens new understanding, new pleasure, and a new spirit of devotion, and it constantly cleanses the heart and its meditations. For these words are not idle or dead, but effective and living."

It is our prayer that the return to our long ago Sunday schedule will serve everyone at Our Redeemer Lutheran by offering a better opportunity to build a solid foundation of faith.



Bible Insights



"If God is for us, who can ever be against us?" (Romans 8:31, NLT)

January may be the official start of a new year, but for many people September represents that, too. Children, parents, and teachers are gearing up for a new school year and churches, following their lead, are ramping up for a new ministry year. Summer is ending, Autumn is around the corner, too. There's a bittersweet feeling in the air. It's a time for new beginnings.

Adjusting to new schedules, new relationships, new expectations, and new opportunities means a lot of change. Change can bring feelings of excitement, but also anxiety and worry. But we can meet the mixed emotions that we feel in new beginnings with affirmations from God's word that remind us of the Big Picture. Like the verse from Romans 8 above.

The future is full of unknowns, but no matter what it may bring nothing can ever separate us from God's love in Jesus. The future is always a mixed bag; it brings successes and failures, good times and hard times. But God's love for us doesn't go up or down, it doesn't change. We are always the apple of His eye and the cream in his coffee because we believe and trust in Jesus.

So whatever this "new year" brings remember that your status before God never changes. You are always loved. *"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."* (Romans 8:28)

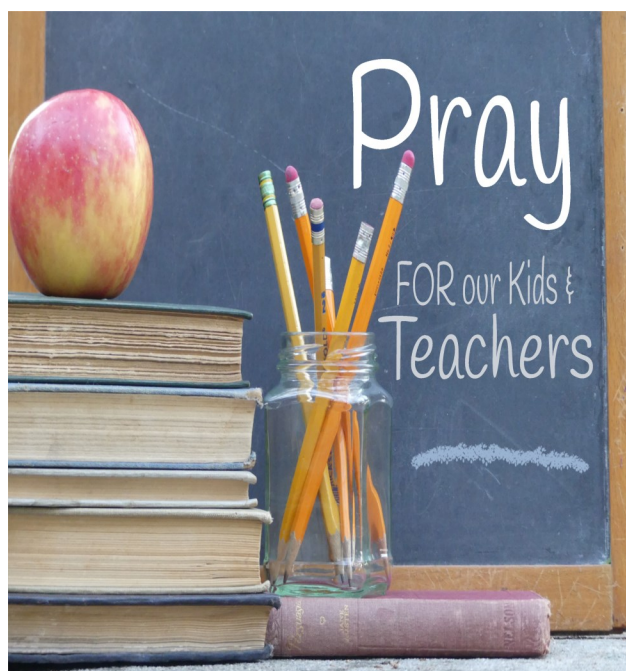
Knowing that God is always on your side – that's powerful! It can encourage you to face any new beginning with confidence and anticipation. May He bless us all as we set forth on this Fall's new beginnings!

A Prayer for Parents and Kids Starting a New School Year

Heavenly Father, you have promised us that you are always with us. As we start a new school year, filled with all the anticipation and excitement of new opportunities, yet also the anxiety of change, fill us all with the peace that comes from knowing that you are always on our side. Watch over [NAME(S)] in all that they do. Grant that this year he/she will make new friends, explore new opportunities for using their talents and skills, and apply themselves to learning new things. Bless their teachers, administrators, and coaches. And keep them safe in body, mind, and spirit. We ask these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.

A Prayer for Teachers and Educators

Good, good Lord, we thank you for all teachers, instructors, and educators who give so much of themselves to teach our children the material and skills that they will need to meet the requirements of work and life. Fill them with a renewed love for their craft and their students. Grant that parents will work with them, not against them, to help students progress in their learning. Grant that they will receive expressions of gratitude from pupils, parents, and others so that they will truly know and feel their worth and importance.





Sunday School Parents Recap Letter

Dear Parents of Children/Youth of
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church,

Although summer is a great time to enjoy family and the warmer weather, we can't wait to begin our fall programming here at church.

At Our Redeemer, it is our desire and joy to encourage you in faith and to assist you in bringing your children up in the faith. Throughout the years, we have done this through Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and youth group. No matter the program it always entails the teaching of God's Word. God promises us that "faith comes from hearing and hearing comes from the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). To "hear" the Word means to spend time with it.

In order to best assist you in bringing your children up in the love of God, we are pleased to announce a re-imaged Sunday morning Sunday School, a time when the entire family will have an opportunity to explore the riches of God's love and forgiveness revealed in His Word!

So that all generations of the congregation may be blessed through the exploration of God's Word, the following will be the Sunday School fall schedule starting on Rally Day:

Children's Sunday School ~ Fall 2024

1 st day of Classes:	Rally Day! Sunday, September 8 th
Classes Start:	10:15 a.m.
Classes End:	11:15 a.m.
Class Groups:	Preschool & Kindergarten Class 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Grade Class 4 th & 5 th Grade Class 6 th – 8 th Grade Class 9 th – 12 th Grade Class

Adult Bible Exploration

Same days and time as the Children's Sunday School.

two adult classes to choose from so that you can be growing in God's Word right along with your children.

We pray that you will plan to be a part of our Sunday School / Bible Study hour as a family each week!

If you would like to volunteer in some way to help with our Sunday morning Sunday School and adult studies, we would love to have you serve God in this way. We could use volunteers as teachers, helpers, and opening leaders. Please contact Diane (219-363-4750) to volunteer.

May God richly bless you and the rest of your summer!

With You, in His Grip!



Sunday School News



We are so excited to have everyone involved in our Sunday morning Bible study hour once again with classes for Preschool through adults. We will kick off the season with Rally Day and the Church Picnic on Sunday, September 8. Our special day will start with outdoor worship in which we traditionally present our 3rd Grade students with their very own Bibles.

This year our Bible recipients are: Zayden Elston, Henry Hazelton, and Emma Meyers.

After worship, we will continue with our Sunday School hour from 10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Then our picnic lunch will follow at 11:15 a.m. We encourage everyone to bring a friend to join in the festivities. What a great opportunity to invite someone to grow in faith and fellowship with food and fun!

The following information will help everyone know the Sunday School schedule from now through the end of December.

We have some wonderful things planned and wanted to fill you in right from the start so you can mark your calendars for the upcoming Sunday School year.

Sunday, September 8: Rally Day with Church Picnic (Sunday School Begins at 10:15)

Sunday, September 15 - Sunday, November 3: Classes from 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, November 10 – Sunday, December 8: Short Lesson & Practice for Christmas Program during Sunday School

Saturday, December 14: Saturday Program Practice from 9 a.m. to Noon! Practice will be from 9 – 11 with a pizza party following the last run through at 11 a.m.

Sunday, December 15: Sunday School Christmas Program at 9 a.m. with children here by 8:30 a.m. followed by “Happy Birthday Jesus” coffee hour with cake.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ON DECEMBER 15, 22 OR 29!!!

HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

We look forward to serving you and your children!

SS Superintendent: Jessica Wakefield

Teachers: Preschool-Kdg: Jana Hazelton & Elaine Browne

1st – 4th Grades: Danielle Franks/Kathy Dedloff &

5th – 8th Grades: Christy Enger & Shandee Michel

9th – 12th Grades: Diane Cruz & Robin Vargo

Adult Class: Pastor Eric Gawura

Youth Happenings & News

FOR ALL YOUTH...

Sunday, September 8:

Rally Day & Church Picnic with lunch and games will be our youth event for the day!!!

FOR 6TH – 8TH GRADERS...

Sat. Sept. 14 – Sun. Sept. 15:

LCMS IN District Junior High Rally @ Camp Lutherhaven (pre-registration required)

FOR PRESCHOOL – 4TH GRADERS...

Sun. Sept. 15 (SWAG Youth Event)

Meeting (11:15 a.m. to noon) for games/fun!

LCMS Youth Gathering Parent/Youth Meeting... Sun. Sept. 22

Meeting at 11:15 a.m. in Youth Room

Y.A.C. & L.Y.O. Youth Group (5th – 12th Graders) Event...

Meeting from Noon – 2 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own...

Please bring a sack lunch to eat between Sunday School and youth group or parents please pick up food for youth to eat from McDs, etc.

PLEASE keep the 8 youth and 2 adults attending the LCMS IN District Junior High Rally at Camp Lutherhaven in prayer as they embark upon this great adventure in exploring The Great "I AM" and who we are and whose we are in HIM. Please pray for all to be strengthened and encouraged in faith through this rally. Those attending this camp retreat on Sept. 14-15 are...

Layla Brammer, Raden Cartier, Luci Hamand, Hudson Hazelton, Molly Meyers, Gavin Michel, Christian Norem, Josh Shireman, Shandee Michel, and Diane Cruz.



Upcoming Adult Bible Study

Forgiveness

Making Peace with the Past

Adult Bible Exploration Group

Sundays, 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

Part One: How God Forgives Us

1. Sept. 15 Our Forgiving Father: Luke 15:11-32
2. Sept. 29 Why We Need Forgiveness: Ephesians 2:1-10
3. Oct. 6 Confessing Our Sin: 1 John 1:5—2:2
4. Oct. 13 The Shout of a Forgiven Man: Psalm 32

Part Two: How We Forgive Others

5. Oct. 20 Out of Debt! Matthew 18:21-35
6. Oct. 27 When We Are Wounded: Matthew 18:15-20
7. Nov. 3 As We Forgive Others: Matthew 6:5-15
8. Nov. 10 Forgiving When We Don't Feel Like It: Philemon



LCMS Youth Gathering 2025...



Every 3 years the LCMS hosts a youth gathering inviting and involving youth and adult leaders from all over the world. The gathering used to be called NYG (National Youth Gathering), but because it involves LCMS members from across the globe and not just in the US, the title was changed to LCMS Youth Gathering. This gathering will take place in New Orleans once again and usually consists of approximately 20,000 youth and adults worshipping God and growing in faith through this 5-day mass event experience. It is so awesome to be a part of 20,000 people worshipping and receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion together at one time! This event is definitely a mountain-top faith experience and we are so blessed to be able to take our youth on this adventure.

The registration for this event is this October with the gathering taking place next July 19-23. Please pray that our high school youth take advantage of this opportunity and register for this amazing event.

As is mentioned in the above important dates, we will have a parent/youth informational meeting on Sunday, Sept. 22 after Sunday School to discuss the gathering and all that it entails.

Grief Share Group

We are currently not hosting a Grief Share group at Our Redeemer, but there is one being held at Bible Baptist Church of Knox. Lisa Nichols is leading the group and can be contacted at: 574-292-2496 with questions. The group is a 13-session series and began on Friday, August 23 and will run through Friday, November 15. It meets from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. each week. One can join the group at any time. You do not need to start with session 1.



Fellowship Committee



Please join us for our annual church picnic! We are excited to announce that this year this wonderful time of fun and fellowship will be combined with our Rally Day festivities!

The details for the day are as follows:

9 a.m. Worship Outside!

10:15 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study!

11:15 a.m. Picnic Lunch served!

Noonish: Let the games begin!!! (Bingo for all, Cornhole tournament, Water Balloon Toss, Minute to Win It Games, and a Roof Top Candy Drop!!!)

The Fellowship Committee Will Provide: Hot dogs, sloppy joes, and barbecue meatballs! We will also provide plates, napkins, silverware, and drinks!

Please bring a dish to share!!!

If it happens to rain, we will have a plan for meeting inside so please join us rain or shine!!!

Card Care Ministry

Our card Care Ministry is a Blessing to many! If you would like to help support this Ministry, we do accept donations to help the cost of postage and greeting cards.



SEPTEMBER

Meeting Minutes from June 9th Voters' Meeting

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Voters' Meeting

June 9, 2024

Attendance: 25 Members

1. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer
2. Membership changes:
 - A. Deaths- Don Shorter and Opal Mann
 - B. Baptism – Maggie Franks
3. Acceptance of Minutes from March 2024 Voters' Meeting
4. Reports
 - A. Board of Elders – Mel Lenig reported that the non-Sunday services will resume – now once a month on the second Monday with communion. Pastor reported that one of the Elders resigned so the church is looking for more Elders
 - B. Board of Outreach – Sharon Krick reported that the committee will give out gifts for Father's Day
 - C. SMILES – Sharon is putting together an article for the newsletter to explain what SMILES means and how it was started
 - D. Board of Spiritual Growth – no report
 - E. Board of Trustees
- I. Phil Hamand reported that the volunteers completed spring clean-up in April
- II. They are researching bids to reseal the parking lot and hope to move forward
- III. New doors were installed in the Family Life Center. They just need painted
- F. Treasurer's Report
 - I. Char Geisler distributed the report. She created a simplified report to clear up questions.
 - II. Total income (March 1 – May 31): \$62,706
 - III. Total expenses: \$58,572
 - IV. Total Operating Funds (not including investments): \$141,670
 1. Char will report on investments twice a year
- V. Vanguard Funds increased significantly over the last 3 months
 - G. Little Lambs Director's Report – Elaine Browne reported that school is out for summer and graduation went well. She is not going to teach this year and hired a new one. She will focus on administration.
 - A. DCE's Report (printed report supplied by Diane Cruz via letter)
- I. Bible Studies are going well. The Tuesday group has 9 regular attendees. They are currently using Right Media study "Grit Don't Quit" focusing on Paul's ministry. The Wednesday group has 8 regular attendees – 5 of which are members of other churches. They are studying the book of Romans.
- II. Sunday School – no classes during the summer. It's being discussed to move classes to after church during the same time as adult classes

Minutes Continued...

III. Bass Lake services are underway. We hosted the 1st one with 118 people attending.

IV. Youth Group attendance has been sporadic. They are going to try Tuesday events

VBS is next week. Theme is Celebrate with Jesus. There are 80 children registered. There are plenty of volunteers, but they are still looking for donated snack items.

b. Pastor's Report

I. Pastor will be taking vacation the first week of July; they are planning to go out of town

II. Worship services are planned/written until the end of July.

III. Thursday Bible Study – 12 people; finishing the Gospel of Luke this week; looking to use Right Now Media for the next lesson

IV. Sunday School – Beginning in the Fall (after Rally Day), Sunday School will be after church while Pastor will offer adult Bible Study. It will be 45 minutes.

V. Sanctuary Updates: Blue paraments will to be ordered for the sanctuary for Advent. A donation in memory of a loved one will replace the brassware behind the altar.

VI. Ministry Plan/90 Day Focus – overall, Pastor reported that we are making excellent progress

1. Elder Zone can't happen this summer; on hold until one or two Elders are added to the Board

2. Pastor is working on his task to reach out to members monthly

3. Small Group Leaders – a lot of interest was found from the volunteer questionnaires passed out at church

4. VBS is going great – they expect over 100 children, so the planning committee had the good problem of finding a new teacher

A. Pastor and Diane are planning fall events for families to invite the VBS children

C. President's Report

I. Dave Geisler reported that the committee is making progress on creating an employee handbook and thinks it will be completed by the next voters' meeting

II. The district accepted our new constitution with minor tweaks. It should also be ready for approval at the next voters' meeting

III. The Starke County Historical Society is celebrating 50 years with many different events planned. There will be a dinner held at ORLC on June 21.

5. Old Business – none

6. New Business

A. Ericka Large (church office administrator) resigned effective June 20, 2024. The church is now looking for a replacement. Pastor requested congregational members share names if they know someone who would be a good fit, preferably not a member of the church.

B. No other business brought by members

7. Dave closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted by

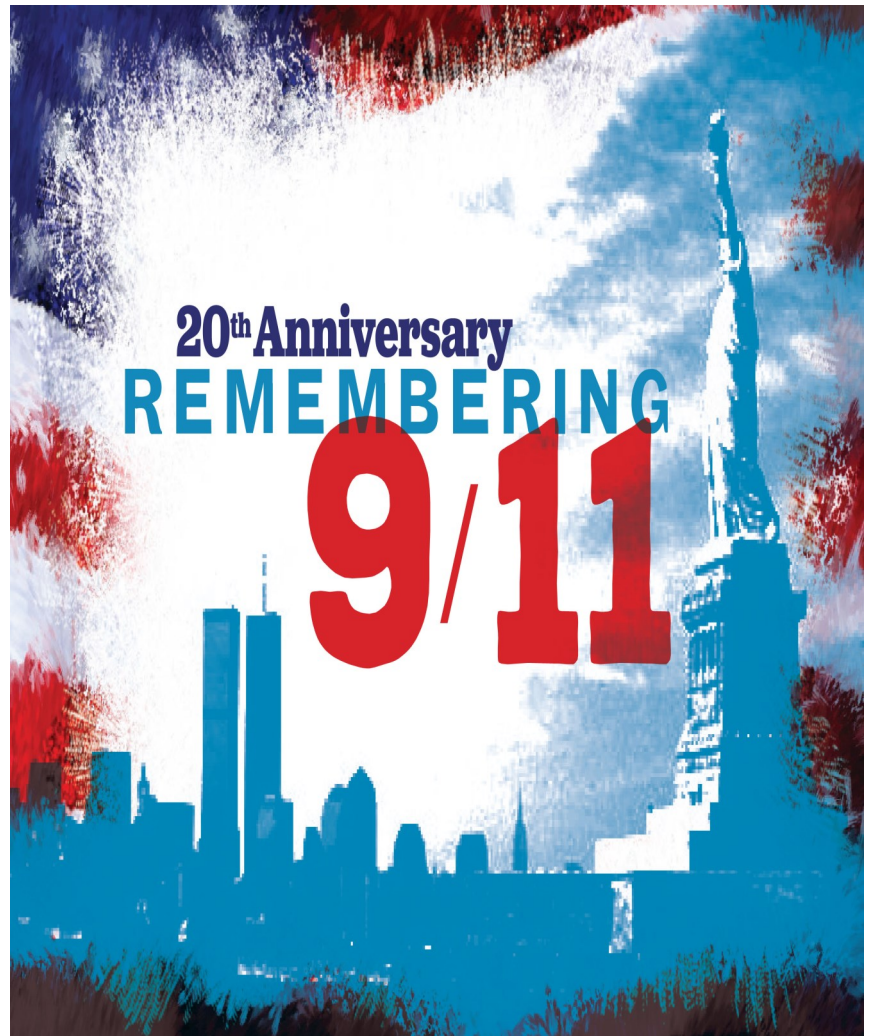
Megan Hamand (Secretary)

The significance of Patriot Day

Three months after the 2001 terrorist attacks, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 as Patriot Day. Every year, we pause to remember the lives lost and changed on that autumn morning.

The resolution requests that each year the president issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities. Those include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence and flying the U.S. flag at half-staff.

In his 2023 proclamation President Biden said, "Together, may we continue to demonstrate that the rights and freedoms that those terrorists sought to destroy on September 11, 2001, remain unwavering — strengthened by generations of Americans who have dared all and risked all to defend, protect and preserve our democracy."



Days of Interest in September



September 1 National Pastor's Spouses Day

September 2 Labor Day

September 8 National Grandparents Day

September 11 Patriot Day

September 22 First Day of Autumn

September 25 National Daughter's Day



Thank you to everyone who donated to our nursery, it looks great and has plenty of busy things to keep the children occupied during the service. Did you know that there is always someone in there who can look after your little one during the service?, or if you are unsure of leaving your child we are also equipped with a speaker system so you don't have to miss out on anything.



The nursery is designed for children up to preschool age. If you have any question or would like to know how you can volunteer your time in the nursery, please contact

Megan Hamand at 574-850-2089, or Cassie Meyers at 513-203-8400.



DIVORCE CARE

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is now offering a 13 week Divorce Care Video series for people who are going through a divorce, already divorced, or separated. The next group will start Thursday, September 5th from 5 – 7 p.m. at the church. Sharon Krick is the facilitator for this group.

The weekly Divorce Care program has three components, which work together to help group members get (and stay) on the path of growth and recovery. Those components are a video, a discussion time, and personal exercises to do the following week. These are Bible based discussions that guide you in growth and recovery.

More information may be found at divorcecare.org or call the church, 574-772-4186.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church's Food Pantry's Mission is to continue to provide hope, and sustenance in the way of meals and an invitation to know God to those residents of Starke County that are experiencing "Food Insecurity." Along with that insecurity comes hopelessness for so many. With each bag of food that we give out, we also include a devotional booklet and an open invitation to join us in worship.

The Food Pantry has been so blessed over the last year and a half with so many generous donations, both monetary and food. These donations have come not only from the generosity of

members of Our Redeemer, but also from outside sources, as well as grants for which we had applied. The donations from outside sources as well as the grants that we have received are specifically designated for "Food Pantry use."

We are also very appreciative of the anonymous person that has eagerly furnished his "handyman skills." Of course, we are not forgetting our wonderful volunteers who are so selflessly

giving their time. Without them we would be lost! This also includes the volunteers that serve as

"Subs" when needed. So, a "Heartfelt" thank you to our volunteers. Without them we would be lost!

The goal of this Food Pantry is to continue to seek funding and donations to keep our doors open to supplement the needs of the "food insecure" of Starke County with nutritional food. The clients that come to the Pantry receive a standard prepacked grocery bag with enough food for 3-4 meals. Each bag also includes some type of meat.

Typical food bag contents:



Kroger Community Rewards

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Food Pantry has become a member of the "Kroger Community Rewards Program". Now, when you shop at Kroger's and use your *Kroger Plus Card*, Kroger will donate cash to our account, it will cost you nothing.

Instructions to Attach ORLC to your Kroger Plus Card:

1. Download the app or sign into your account on Kroger.com
2. Create an account if you don't already have one
3. Go to the Account Tab
4. Scroll down to Community Rewards
5. Open Community Rewards Every
6. Choose and add Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Organization number: RQ856

Every three months Kroger will notify us of our balance and pay us when the balance reaches \$25.00. Funds will roll over to the next quarter if funds have not reached the \$25.00 amount.



SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Kimberly Emmons	September 7	Bonnie Minix	September 3
Paul Godines	September 8	Emily Waters	September 8
Marybeth Fornelli	September 9	Danielle & Richard Franks	September 15
Haylee Wolf	September 11	Margaret & Rodney Koch	September 15
Nicholas Wakefield	September 12	Elwin (Al) & Janet Holke	September 19
Eunice Cleveland	September 16	Diane & Rich Cruz	September 23
Jeff Sullivan	September 16	Bruce & Karen Zimmerman	September 25
Jesse A. Godines	September 17		
Robert Duffee	September 20		
Michael Lord	September 21		
Lucille Hamand	September 29		
Elwin (Al) Holke	September 29		



Please remember to thank our wonderful volunteers who give so selflessly; from the ones that do minor repairs in the building, to the ones that help with Sunday worship, our youth workers, the ones that sign up for coffee hour, the individuals that help volunteer and work on the various committees, as well as the Food Pantry volunteers.

Without all of these wonderful people giving of themselves to serve our Lord and this congregation, the life of our congregation would be negatively impacted!





Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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