

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
2384 E. Landis Avenue
Vineland, NJ 08361

8:30 AM - Worship
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM - Worship



DECEMBER 2023 -Monthly Newsletter
Redeemer Lutheran Church
2384 E. Landis Ave Vineland, NJ
856-691-4278
The Rev. Heather Sugden, Pastor

Many blessings to Isaac Joseph Keller who was baptized on October 29, 2023.

Pictured:
Godparent - Elise Krogman,
Mother - Jessica Keller,
Godparent - Michele Dannenhaur

Isaac is the grandson of
Al & Alison Keller.



Thank you to all who
donated to our
Fall Food Drive.
Over 500 items were
collected to be donated to
Spirit & Truth Ministries.
Thanks to Harry Ackley
(pictured) for
coordinating the efforts.

**BLESSINGS TO OUR
CONFIRMANDS:**
Kaylee Sironen
& Mollie Sugden
who were confirmed on
October 29, 2023



Connecting People to Christ,
Growing in His Love, Serving Him.
"Come and See, Go and Tell, the Good News for All!"

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HEATHER

I have no strong opinions on Daylight Savings Time and whether it should be kept or eliminated. But I do notice that every time we move the clocks forward or back, my sense of day and night is sort of shocked awake. In the spring, I really like the extra hour of evening sunlight. And in the fall, I appreciate having some light when I walk the dog in the morning.

Of course, this time of year we all lament the dark afternoons and long evenings. Add the cold temps and some cream-based soups, and I'm ready to sleep before primetime television even begins.

But I also believe there is something beautiful about a cold, crisp night. The stars shining brightly, the ground crunching under your shoes, the sight of your breath in a mist - the long stretch of darkness this time of year has a beauty all its own.

Lighting Advent candles is a favorite tradition for our congregation in worship, and perhaps a favorite tradition in our own homes, too. A single candle can seem like an insignificant source of light, but we make a point to notice it during this season. And I dare say those little candles help us understand this time of the year.

To light an Advent candle is to not only remember the story of Jesus, but to anticipate Jesus - the light of the world. We welcome the light; we see it flickering; we cannot help but admire its brightness against the short days and early arrival of night.

This Advent, take some time to notice the power of the candles: one flicker alone, one growing to two, two to three, three leading to a full circle of light and the knowledge that the arrival of Christmas is imminent. No matter the length and depth of night's darkness, the candlelight still grows.

I'm not sure if you noticed it yet, but our calendar this year means all of our candles take on special significance. Since Christmas Eve is a Sunday, we will begin December 24th with the lighting of all four Advent candles, followed hours later by the singing of "Silent Night" while we hold our own little Christmas Eve candles. That's a lot of candles for one short day! And so our light will crescendo - a loud gathering of light against the approaching night... We will pay attention to how brightly those little candles shine, including the little one in our own hands... And we will know our Savior is born.

In Christ,
Pastor Heather



The Monthly Newsletter **Redeemer Lutheran Church** *www.redeemervineland.org* *Follow & Like us on Social Media* *@RedeemerLutheranVineland* **Church Staff**



Pastor: Heather Sugden - Pastor2384@gmail.com 609-665-3714

Office Assistant: Dorine Rosier - RLCOffice2384@gmail.com

Music Director/Organist: Teresa Minnix - terminnix@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Larry Gilbert

Council Members

Jerry Amari (President) - djamari5257@gmail.com (609)247-7470

Matt Helland (Vice-President) - matthelland@gmail.com (856)534-6415

Nancy Manzoni (Secretary) - nanhoops@aol.com (856)696-4705

Lisa Cook (Treasurer) - coolcookies2@hotmail.com (609) 970-9941

Congregation Council:

Brenda Ackley - backley64@yahoo.com (856) 506-2372

Kathleen Clay - j1claysr@msn.com (856) 696-1514

Linda Foster - lfoster59@comcast.net (856)696-0880

Morris Gbolo - gbolof@yahoo.com (609) 289-5153

Committee Information

Mutual Ministries: Chairperson - Ginny Workman

Nurture Committee: Chairperson -

Gather Committee: Chairpersons - Nancy Manzoni & Alison Keller

Care Committee: Chairperson - Lynda Gilbert

Redeemer's Mission Statement As a welcoming and nurturing community of faith we: invite all to celebrate Christ's love, Empower one another to grow in Christ's love, share Christ's love as we minister to the world.

PLEASE NOTE. The deadline for information to be included in the newsletter is **the 15th of every month.**

Please e-mail your information to: **RLCOffice2384@gmail.com**

Have You Remembered Redeemer In Your Will?

Advent Bible Study



Join us in the Manor House on Thursdays at 2:00 PM
during Advent

November 30-December 21
(not December 14)

All are welcome! Questions? Call the Church Office

Living Lutheran Magazine

Prepare for a Life Changing Faith Formation Event!

The theme for the 2024 **MYLE** (Multicultural Youth Leadership Event), the **table** and the **Young Adult Gathering** is "Created to Be" based on Psalm 139:14.



The Psalmist writes: "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. [Lutheran Study Bible, NRSV, Fortress Press 2009] The theme for **table**, "You Belong", deals with a series of questions for young people living with a wide range of physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities within our church. They ask:

Where do I fit in?
Why am I different than others?
What gifts can I possibly bring?

For more information on the **ELCA Youth Gathering Event, July 2024 New Orleans, LA** go to elca.org/gathering.





Merry Christmas from the Church Office!

2023

DECEMBER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 6:30 PM AA Meeting	29	30	01	02 9:00 AM AA Mtg (Women) YOUTH LOCK IN EVENT
03 8:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	04	05 6:30 PM AA Meeting	06	07	08	09 9:00 AM AA Mtg (Women) 9:00 AM Greening
10 8:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 3:00 PM Christmas Open House	11	12 6:30 PM AA Meeting	13 7:00 PM Church Council	14	15 5:30 PM Gingerbread House Decorating	16 9:00 AM AA Mtg (Women)
17  8:30 Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship/Christmas Pageant 11:30 AM Caroling	18	19 6:30 PM AA Meeting	20	21	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 9:00 AM AA Mtg (Women)
24 9:30 AM Worship 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS (OFFICE CLOSED) 	26 6:30 PM AA Meeting	27	28	29	30
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 9:30 AM Worship	01 NEW YEAR'S DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)					

*events subject to change

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Please keep in prayer the long term needs of: Betty Anderson, Jerry Carter, Jim Clay, Janet Cook, Ellie & Tim Federwitz, Bud Freas, Ernestine Gbolo, Linda Haines, Violet Harris, John Hoffman, Sean Long, Alice Motter, Scott Nagele, Peggy Schumacher, Alma Sessa, Dick & Carol Shenton, Kevin Thurlow, Katy Tyler, John Warren, Ginny Workman, and our College Students

All troops serving our country and the world including:

Meredith Conley, Albert M. Floriani,
Michael Gonzalez & Kevin Sykes

A donation has been made in memory of:

Alma Sessa from Doris Allewelt



4 - Marjorie Frank
7 - Mollie Sugden
10 - Jean Holshue
Steven Heller
11 - Elaine Hering

1 - Harry & Brenda Ackley
12 - Joseph & Rhonda Kubiak

13 - Ursula Barbeck
20 - Pastor Heather
Karl Senseman
21 - Jody Steinbronn
22 - Lauren Geisser
27 - Doris Allewelt
28 - Alison Keller
30 - Ken Schad



Series on Church Symbols

(by Arlene Cherwien)

The Altar

Made of stone and free standing of closed form. The altar was lowered down from the roof during construction. The large candles were made by member Donald Streeter.

The Baptismal Font is also stone. The iron cover is an iron mesh hemisphere surmounted by tongues of fire and a dove form. The Cross hanging over the altar is a symbol of the Risen Christ, a reminder of the cost of our redemption. It is made of wood and aluminum, combining old and the new materials, and is suspended on wires.



CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

If you would like a complete Church Council Report, please contact the Church Office.

FROM OCTOBER 2023 COUNCIL

(Full notes are available in the Church office)

Pastor's Report:

- Sunday morning new schedule going well
- Bringing back more elements that were removed during Covid, going well. There will be 2 baptisms in October.
- Two portable kneelers were purchased for people to try out.
- Bell Choir will remain at the back of the church
- Survey was given out to the senior population. As of now, there is not a lot of interest in activities
- Christmas Open House will be held on December 10th from 3-5 pm. It will be a pot luck meal; Doug will provide music.

New Business:

- Confirmation will take place October 29th - Kaylee Sironen & Mollie Sugden will be confirmed.
- The wheelchair lift is out of compliance. We cannot find anyone to repair it at this time. Estimates are being sought to remove the lift.
- Catered Fellowship Breakfast will take place on November 19th between both services.

Recommendations and Proposals:

- Gather—no report
- Nurture - no report
- Care - Updates given
- 100th Anniversary - updates given
- Thrivent - updates given

Treasurer's Report:

General giving was up for this time period.



ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held on
January 21, 2024

following our worship at 9:30 AM.

Please submit all reports to the church office no
later than December 31, 2023.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE OUR INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT & CLEAN UP DAY





The Christmas Tree in the Manor House is in memory of Roy Bradbury



All offerings must be delivered to the church office by December 29th at 9:00 a.m. Anything brought after this time will go to the 2024 year. Thank you for your generous support of Christ's ministry!



POSITIVE CHANGE IS BACK!
December Positive Change will be held on December 3rd for Code Blue.

Anniversary Mission

help us reach our goal of \$15,000

to help renovate a school in Liberia!

This collection will take place throughout 2024 and will be our 100th Anniversary gift! Watch for more details.



SPECIAL THANKS!

Thanks to the determined crew who showed up on a recent Saturday morning to clean up our church property and get ready for the winter season.



Some tasks completed were: shrub trimming, flower bed maintenance, driveway pothole patching, ivy trimming, storage of summer equipment, other tasks, and also enjoyed refreshments and good conversation.

Big thanks to:

Bud, Marilyn, Jerry, Dawn, Vivian, Larry, Lynda, Gus, and Pete.



Children's Christmas Pageant

December 17
10:30 AM Worship Service
Christmas Caroling after
All are welcome!



A MERRIER

Christmas

TO BENEFIT BIG
BROTHERS/SISTERS OF
CUMBERLAND & SALEM COUNTIES

HERE ARE THE DETAILS:
TAGS WITH CHILDRENS NAMES
WILL BE ON THE TREE IN THE
NARTHEX

WRITE YOUR NAME DOWN ON THE
LIST OF CHILDREN THAT IS NEXT
TO THE TREE

PURCHASE \$25 GIFT CARDS TO:
WALMART, TARGET OR KOHL'S

RETURN UNWRAPPED GIFT CARD
AND PLACE WITH TAG

RETURN GIFT CARDS TO THE TREE
IN THE NARTHEX BY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY
DEC | 10 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

In the Fellowship Hall -
please bring appetizer or dessert to share.
Join us for fun, food, fellowship & frivolity



CELEBRATE

2024

JOIN US AFTER THE 9:30 AM WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 31ST
FOR A SPECIAL TIME OF
"TOASTING" THE NEW YEAR & COOKIES



The Book Club

will be meeting on
January 15, 2024 at 4:00 PM
We will be discussing "Snow Falling on
Cedars" by David Guterson
All are welcome

Join us
for Church Decorating

All are welcome to join the fun!
Help us on December 9th
at 9:00 AM

