

## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

If you would like to order poinsettias that will adorn the church on Christmas Eve, please fill in the form below. Be sure to include payment and return it to the Church Office by mail, or bring it to worship and place in offering plate.

**DEADLINE IS NO LATER THAN **DECEMBER 15th.****

### **ORDER FORM FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS PLEASE PRINT**

In memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by:

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants you wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10/plant

**INSTEAD OF A PLANT:** I would like my gift to go to the:

◇ Youth Fund \_\_\_\_\_

◇ Lutheran Disaster Response: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

(Make checks payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church)

PLANTS MUST BE TAKEN HOME BY  
DONOR AFTER THE SERVICE ON **12/24**

Your Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

DECEMBER 2025 -Monthly Newsletter  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
2384 E. Landis Ave Vineland, NJ  
856-691-4278  
*The Rev. Heather Sugden, Pastor*



Sunday Services  
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship  
9:15 AM Sunday School

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

On a recent Sunday morning, someone said to me, "Jesus talks about feeding people a lot."

Yes, he does. No, you are not imagining it. Our recent readings from the gospel of Luke have included multiple pointed directions from Jesus that the people who follow him are to share the food they have and feed those who are hungry.

Not only does Jesus give us directions through words, but he also shows us in his actions. He eats with tax collectors and sinners. He stops by the home of his friend Lazarus for a meal. He blesses and breaks 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed thousands. Even his final instructions to his disciples are given over the course of a meal.

Eating is central to life—obviously. But Jesus feeds not only our stomachs, but also our souls. He is the "bread of life" that sustains us forever, and each Sunday we remember Jesus' example when we gather around the table for Holy Communion.

Why do I bring up food now? Because just as Jesus calls us to feed the hungry over and over again, our world too often falls into fighting about how to share resources and who is worthy of having full bellies.

Food has been used as a political weapon throughout history, so I guess we should not be surprised that feeding the hungriest in our society became a political weapon this past month. While I am disheartened that this debate entered our society when we have so much abundance, I instead want to focus on how I saw you all respond: not by pointing fingers, not by shouting words of blame, not by ignoring the hungry, but by taking seriously the words of Jesus and choosing to be generous.

THANK YOU for all the food you brought in for our fall food drive, and for the many overflowing Thanksgiving baskets that will bless families in our community. And thank you for continuing to step up—asking what is needed, finding new ways to stretch resources, and always demanding that we can feed one more family. It is what Jesus tells us to do, and so we will keep doing it.

In Christ, Pastor Heather

## *The Monthly Newsletter* **Redeemer Lutheran Church** [www.redeemervineland.org](http://www.redeemervineland.org)

*Follow & Like us on Social Media*  
**@RedeemerLutheranVineland**



### *Church Staff*

**Pastor:** Heather Sugden - [pastor@redeemervineland.org](mailto:pastor@redeemervineland.org) 609-665-3714

**Office Manager:** Darci Forbes—[office@redeemervineland.org](mailto:office@redeemervineland.org)

**Music Director/Organist:** Teresa Minnix - [terminnix@gmail.com](mailto:terminnix@gmail.com)

**Bookkeeper:** Larry Gilbert

### *Council Members*

Matt Helland (President) - [matrhelland@gmail.com](mailto:matrhelland@gmail.com) (856)534-6415

Susan Papiano (Vice President) - [gspapiano@comcast.net](mailto:gspapiano@comcast.net) (856) 457-9125

Nancy Manzoni (Secretary) - [nanhoops@aol.com](mailto:nanhoops@aol.com) (856)696-4705

Lisa Cook (Treasurer) - [coolcookies2@hotmail.com](mailto:coolcookies2@hotmail.com) (609) 970-9941

### *Congregation Council:*

Brenda Ackley - [backley64@yahoo.com](mailto:backley64@yahoo.com) (856) 506-2372

Linda Foster - [lfoster59@comcast.net](mailto:lfoster59@comcast.net) (856)696-0880

Morris Gbolo - [gbolof@yahoo.com](mailto:gbolof@yahoo.com) (609) 289-5153

Dale Nichols - [dalen71771@gmail.com](mailto:dalen71771@gmail.com) (609)805-6283

Donna Yearsley

### *Committee Information*

Nurture Committee: Chairperson - vacant

Gather Committee: Chairpersons - Nancy Manzoni & Alison Keller

Care Committee: Chairpersons - Linda Foster & Lynda Gilbert

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

### Sunday Schedule

**Worship at 8:30 am & 10:30 am**

**Sunday School from 9:15 - 10:15**

**Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 9 am—3 pm**

If you have made any changes to your personal information (address, phone number, email or family changes), please let the office know so that we can update our files. Please send into the Church Office at [office@redeemervineland.org](mailto:office@redeemervineland.org) or call 856-691-4278 ext. 102



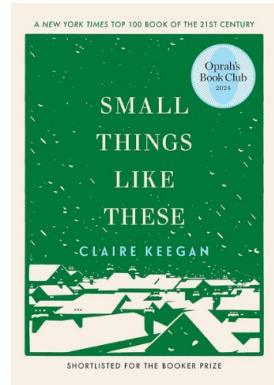
# Book Club

Monday,  
December 8th  
noon

Come join us in the  
Manor House  
living room.

*New readers welcome!*

[Zoom is available.](#)



## Library Review By Doris Allewelt

“Bridge of Sighs” by Richard Russo

A great American story, beautiful, funny, and profound that captures a fading way of life. A tale of community where events can shape a person's life.

Check out the book at our Redeemer library!



**Living Lutheran Review—Fall issue** by Joan Freimanis  
“SOMETIMES SINGING COMES BEFORE ACTION OR BELIEF”

“*All Creation Sings* (ACS) is a sign that the church is always growing, learning, wondering and praising” remarks David Sims, Senior Music Editor for Augsburg Fortress.

ACS, published in 2020 as a **supplement** to Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), did not initially make an impact because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now its impact is being realized.

*All Creation Sings*:

- “Hymns span more than 500 years -1524 to the last decade,
- More people see themselves represented in a worship book such as Spanish speaking Lutherans, those who identify as LGBTQIA+, and everyone who has been longing for more expansive imagery for God and God’s people.”

“Holding a worship book in your hand means its entire contents created by the church . . . . . hymns, liturgies and prayers are available to everyone. *All Creation Sings* can be used as a stand-alone resource for mid-week services, camp settings, retreats, prayer circles, Bible studies and other gatherings that might benefit from a smaller more portable worship book.”

Prayers and liturgies are a blessing to caregivers; to someone who has experienced the death of a pet; those with the challenges of growing older; caregivers; and those who have experienced a violent event.

Reading and exploring *All Creation Sings*, especially during quiet time in the sanctuary can be a special comfort.

*All Creation Sings* is “a statement of both who the church is right now and, more importantly who the church wants to become in the years ahead. Walking into a church and seeing ACS makes a theological statement before you even open it.” (Liv.Luth.pg.52 Fall issue)

*All Creation Sings* is available in the pew edition and eBook versions.



Positive Change for December will go to help Jamaica recover from Hurricane Melissa. Our Thrivent group will match donations, up to \$250. Please consider giving generously on December 7th.



**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 2026 year.  
Thank you for your generous  
support of Christ’s ministry!**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Please keep in prayer the long term needs of: Bill and Marjorie Frank, Betty Anderson, Bob & Tim Federwitz, Eileen Niedzielak, Ernestine Gbolo, Jessica Morrow, Alice Motter, Scott Nagele, Peggy & Oz Schumacher, Elaine Hering, Daniel Furio, Tracy Edwards, Patricia Nichols, Carl DeRenzis, Craig Terry, Dick & Carol Shenton, Ginny Workman, Carlo Drogo, and our College Students

**All troops serving our country and the world including:**

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

**Memorials**

**Donations made in memory of:**

**Bill Niglio** by: Joseph & Sandra Roll, Dick & Carol Shenton, Gayle Penven, Oz & Peggy Schumacher, Arlene Cherwien, Ralph & Maggie Hunter, and Chris & Dale Nichols

**PRAYER IN ACTION**

Pastor and Church Families,

Our hearts are full and so thankful for all the prayers, kind words, love, support, and generosity that you have all shown our family. From the bottom of our hearts, we sincerely THANK YOU all and love you all so very much. Please continue keeping Carlo in your prayers as he continues this very difficult journey. He is strong, determined, and fighting with everything he has to beat this disease. Some days are definitely harder and more challenging than others, but the love and support and prayers from everyone and his determination to ring the bell, the love and support of his wife, three boys, family and friends keep him moving forward.

*With much love, the Drogo Family*



## **December Devotion** by Deacon Federwitz

### *James 5:7-12: Preparing Patiently*

*<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. James 5:7-8*

I grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. The crops we grew and harvested were for the cattle. The main crop was hay. Alfalfa is high quality grass that we grew for hay and/or silage. Dad would cut the first hay of the season on Memorial Day, while Mom would take us children to see the parade in Hilbert. Too often the next day it would rain, and we needed to wait for the hay to dry before we could “make hay”. Dad would say we needed to be patient – the sun will come out tomorrow. And it would! We just needed to be patient!

It was not until I went off to college in the big city of Chicago (actually River Forest, Il) that I learned of how people living in the city often are jealous of the quiet life of the country. The crisp smell of fresh air or even what they referred to as the crazy time farmers call “hay season”.

It is how farmers, by and large, respond patiently and graciously to the conditions that life presents: If it’s dry, they say, ‘The rains will come’. If it’s wet, they say, ‘At least it’s not dry’. Typically, I have found that farmers, while they do complain at times, are much more content with the current conditions than folks living in the city.

As we prepare for the advent of the Messiah, we can be tempted to wish it were now. But, with confidence we can patiently rest in knowing that all is in God’s hands. As we journey deeper into Advent this year, may we see again that all is complete.

I love the great line in the Christmas carol: ‘Joy to the world, the Lord is come.’ It sounds like bad grammar, but it is correct. Jesus *is* come; he is here and remains here, which gives us the confidence to wait patiently for the fulfilment of the age.

***Lord Jesus, when we feel overwhelmed, help us to remain patient. Remind us of your promise to be wherever we are. As we approach this season of life, please give us your peace in all that happens. Amen.***

*This devotion was written by Robert Federwitz, a Deacon in the ELCA and a lifelong Lutheran educator, retired, living in Millville, New Jersey.*

*Email: [bob@federwitz.com](mailto:bob@federwitz.com)*



Congratulations to our 2025 Confirmation Class: Theo Love, Robert Frank, Gavin Martha, Aiden Drogo, Gavin Drogo, and Eddie Drogo.





4 - Marjorie Frank  
 7 - Mollie Sugden  
 10 - Steven Heller  
 11 - Elaine Hering  
 13 - Ursula Barbeck  
 20 - Pastor Heather  
     Karl Senseman  
 21 - Jody Steinbronn  
 22 - Lauren Geisser  
 27 - Doris Allewelt  
 28 - Alison Keller  
 30 - Ken Schad

1 - Steve Heller & Jim Rizzo  
 2 - Harry & Brenda Ackley  
 12 - Joseph & Rhonda Kubiak

CELEBRATE!



# UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 21, 2025

5:00 PM

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

*\*\*PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE\*\**



Our Children's Christmas Program  
 will take place on Sunday,  
 December 14th, at the 10:30 am  
 Worship Service. Please join us to  
 cheer them on!

