

Helping

December 2022



Hands

For the South Side of Lansing

Vol. XIII. No. 5. © 2022 Redeemer Church and Helping Hands Christian Learning Center, Lansing, Michigan

Good News!

Christmas Eve—Candlelight Worship

Saturday, December 24th, 2022

- Christmas Eve Worship Begins @ 7:30pm,
- Communion Will Be Open To All
- Silent Night Will Be Sung, but No Candles will be Shared

Sunday, December 25, 2022

- Hymn & Stories @ 10:00am
- Communion Shared By All

Come join in with family, friends and neighbors for a time of holiday cheer. We will share the carols you love and hear God's pure and holy Word. What more could we ask for on the Eve of our Lord's birth?

Come to a relaxed setting and celebrate the "LOVE" of God that has come to earth for each of us. ***Masks are optional now.** See you on Saturday, December 24th and Sunday December 25th.

Join fellow friends and neighbors for **Christmas Eve Service or Christmas Day Services, or BOTH.** Fill your holidays with the true meaning of Christmas in a SAFE way by remembering the birth of God's Son.

May the love of our Father in heaven touch you this year in a way it has never touched you before. Remember Jesus came so that God could **"be with us"**- ALWAYS!!

See you, Saturday, December 24th @ 7:30 p.m. and Sunday December 25th @ 10:00 a.m.



Merry Christmas

Our Mission: "Making Christ known through our Helping Hands"

God's Helping Hands

Redeemer Church, E.L.C.A. "...your helping hands"

A Congregation of the *NorthWest Lower Michigan
Synod of Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

2727 W. Holmes Road
Lansing, Michigan 48911
517-882-8000 (church voice)
517-882-8622 (school voice)
517-882-2063 (fax for both)
517-980-6250 (emergency #)

redeemerlansing.com
hhclearningcenter.com

E-Mail: janhite@sbcglobal.net
E-Mail: carfitz@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Study Time at 9:00am
Sunday Worship begins at 10:00am
***Live & Streaming**

**Holy Communion is Celebrated Every Sunday and Open
To all of God's Children*

Sunday Luncheon follows worship, 11:15am
Wed. Adult Enrichment Hour, 7:00pm

CHURCH STAFF

Jan Hite, Pastor
Jeanette Eastham, Guitar
Bill Hart-Davidson, Bass
Tom Jones, Minister of Music
Sandra Walker, Council President
Vickie Crouch, Learning Center President
Carla Fitzgerald, Learning Center Director
Church Council meetings are open to all members.
**Their normal meeting time is the 3rd Sunday of
each month @ Noon.**

Helping Hands Christian Learning Center Board meetings are open to all to all members, parents and community members. **Their normal meeting time is the 4th Thursday of each month @ 6:00pm**

Helping Hands Newsletter
is published monthly

Editors: Carla Fitzgerald and Pr. Jan Hite

*Deadline for the **January 2023** edition is:
December 20, 2022

*The editors reserve the right to make changes to all items submitted.



*"Our Hands are God's hands at
work with those in need"*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Paula Gartung	Dec. 02
Lisa Temple	Dec. 03
Harry Wilson	Dec. 13
Sandra Walker	Dec. 20
Edward Fitzgerald	Dec. 21
Tom Jones	Dec. 21

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Ed & Carla Fitzgerald	Dec. 02
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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Barbara McGraw	Jan. 24
Katherine Jones	Jan. 27
Denise Eulert	Jan. 31

We are sorry if we missed your special day. Please let the office know of your date by calling 882-8000, emailing, janhite@sbcglobal.net or by dropping your name and Birthdate or Anniversary date in the offering plate. **Thanks!**

ANNUAL MEETING SET...

Our Annual Meeting is set for **Sunday, January 29, 2023 following worship.**

As always this is an important time as we will decide on budgets for both our church and school, elect officers for the boards of both our school and church council and highlight what we have accomplished in the year 2022 and what we plan to do in the year 2023.

Please mark 1/29 on your calendar now as it is important that we all be present. Watch for a copy of the Annual Report in you email or mailbox.



**See you Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023
following Worship!**

THE TEDDY BEAR

Jesus often taught by telling parables. These were simple, down-to-earth stories which expressed spiritual truth. Today, on this third weekend of Advent, I want to use a favorite **Christmas** story as a modern parable. This is a true story, told to me some ten years ago by Dr. Edward Bauman of Washington, D.C.

About 30 years ago a boy named Tony was born into a family in a Midwestern state. He was blind at birth. He suffered from an extremely rare eye problem for which there was no known cure. When the little fellow was about seven years old, his doctor read in the New England Journal of Medicine of a new surgical procedure that showed some promise for correcting this particular problem. A young surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston had developed it. The local doctor and the surgeon began communicating. The boy's full medical record was sent. A decision was made to try surgery. Since Tony's family could not afford the expenses involved, local churches and civic clubs helped out.



Tony had a favorite teddy bear which he kept with him almost all the time. This teddy bear had begun to show signs of wear. One eye was missing; one ear was chewed off; and through several holes the stuffing was oozing out. Tony's mother told him that she was going to buy him a new teddy bear to take to Boston. Tony rejected that offer in no uncertain terms. What good is a new teddy bear when you have an old, familiar, friendly one already broken in? So, the old teddy bear went to Boston and remained close to Tony through all the medical procedures leading up to surgery: the x-rays, tests, and consultations. In fact, the boy and his teddy bear were not separated until the anesthesia was applied.

Throughout this whole period the boy and the young surgeon were becoming great friends. In fact, the surgeon was almost as excited as the family about the possibilities of this surgery. Somehow there was a good chemistry of friendship and trust between physician and Tony. When the surgery was completed, Tony was heavily bandaged and had to remain quite still for a number of days. That is very hard for a 7 year old. But each day the surgeon was in and out of the room encouraging him.

Finally came the day for removing the bandages. For the first time in seven years of life, a little boy could see. Though the vision was blurred at first, it gradually clarified. For the first time Tony looked into the faces of his parents, saw a tree, and a sunset. The young surgeon was almost literally jumping up and down for joy.

Before long it was time for Tony to be discharged and to go home. The surgeon had been dreading this day because the two of them had become such good friends. On that final morning, the surgeon signed the necessary discharge papers. He gave Tony a big hug and said, "Listen, I own stock in you. I expect to get letters from you regularly. Do you understand?"

Then Tony did something totally unexpected. He said to his surgeon friend, "I want you to have this," and handed him his teddy bear. The surgeon's first impulse was to say, "Oh no, I can't separate you two good friends." But something stopped him. With a flash of sensitive genius, the surgeon understood what Tony was trying to do. He wanted to give his dear surgeon-friend the most precious gift at his disposal, so full was his heart with love. The wise surgeon accepted the teddy bear with a hug and a thank-you, assuring Tony that he would take mighty good care of his friend.

For over ten years that teddy bear sat in a glass case on the tenth floor of Massachusetts General Hospital---one eye missing, one ear chewed half off, and stuffing oozing out of holes. In front of the teddy bear was the surgeon's professional name card. Just beneath his name he had written this caption: "This is the highest fee I have ever received for professional services rendered." A little boy had given the most precious item he had, out of a love-filled heart.

This is a parable of Christmas. 2000 years ago our gracious God, with a heart filled with love, looked out upon a sin-marred, tear-stained world. Had you and I been in charge we might have destroyed the whole mess and started over. But God's great heart was too full of love to allow that. So he gave us the most precious gift at his disposal; he gave himself. ***"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life."***

Confronted by such an awesome gift, our only fitting response this Christmas is to fall on our knees and to enthrone the living Christ as our personal ***King of kings and Lord of lords.***

Our prayer for you and yours is that you find time for Jesus in the midst of this holiday season. Time to give him thanks for all he has done and will do for you. Merry Christmas!!



Please join us for these upcoming Community Events & Needs

“Don’t Forget Poinsettias or Holiday Gifts” ...

Every Christmas Season we have the opportunity to purchase a Poinsettia Plant for the church or a special gift for another in need. This year our special gifts you can buy are: **10 Warm Meals @ Local Soup Kitchen \$20, Fruit Tree Seedling \$10, Vaccination for a Child \$30.** If you purchase a Poinsettia Plant to adorn our worship space for Jesus on Christmas Eve **the cost of each plant is \$10/each.** Thank You for your gift!!!



“Mobile Food Pantry” ...

Date: Saturday, December 17, 2022 @ 9-11am
Distribution of **FREE, fresh, non-perishable food items** at **Lansing Catholic Central, 501 Marshall St. Lansing.** For more info. Call 483-4477.



Who can participate?

- The disadvantaged and vulnerable.
- Senior citizens on fixed incomes.
- Families/individuals with limited/low income jobs.

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BRING A VALID DRIVERS LICENSE OR I.D.

THANK YOU...to ALL OF YOU for caring for those in need. This year both *Redeemer Church and Helping Hands Christian Learning Center* put together 15



“Thanksgiving Food Baskets” for families in our surrounding neighborhood, so that they could enjoy Thanksgiving. It is always a blessing when we can be a “blessing” to others. A BIG “thank you” to EACH OF YOU for making this project a wonderful success. May God bless ALL OF YOU for the way you have chosen to bless those in need. Keep your eyes open and see where you can help a brother or sister in need, especially as the economic challenges continue for all of us and as the Christmas Season will soon be upon us. **Thanks!**

REMEMBERING Kay LaMar...

Throughout time God blesses us with saints who touch our life and change us for the best. **Kay LaMar was one of those saints.** She had a smile that lit up the room every time she entered it. Even with all her health challenges, she always was able to ask,

“*How are you?*” God called her home November 3rd of this year and placed her into the loving arms of her beloved James who was waiting for her in heaven. Both **Kay & Jim LaMar** were lost during 2022 and were humble and active members of Redeemer Church for many years. May God grant them both Eternal Rest in glorious Heaven!!

THANK YOU TO ALL...Who were able to help with this year’s Trunk & Treat!!

After the Covid challenge it has been hard to return to all of our regular outreach events we offer our community. On October 31 we offered our regular “Trunk & Treat” and it was a **BIG Hit!** The turn out was great and the candy was flowing. Thank you to all members for donating oodles of candy and for showing up to hand it out. It was wonderful to see all the community families in action!! **Job Well Done.**



REDEEMER’S 100TH ANNIVERSARY...

Redeemer Church turned 100 years old on September 26, 2022. Throughout the month of September we, the people of Redeemer celebrated the fact that we have been honored by God to share the Good News of Jesus Christ for the past 100 years. It started with our Annual Ice Cream Social and was finished with a Big Celebration of Great music, God’s Word and a wonderful catered meal. **Now we prepare for what God has planned for our future. What an Amazing Time!!!**



THE STAR...

Back during World War II a little boy and his daddy were driving home on **Christmas** Eve. They drove past rows of houses with **Christmas** trees and decorations in the windows. In many of the windows the little boy noticed a star. He asked his father, "Daddy, why do some of the people have a star in the window?" His daddy said that the star meant that the family had a son in the war. As they passed the last house, suddenly the little boy caught sight of the evening star in the sky. **"Look, Daddy, God must have a son in the war, too! He's got a star in his window."** Indeed, God has a son who went to war, but Jesus came into our world to go to war for US and our sins...



Merry Christmas!



Helping Hands Christian Learning Center

Our Mission: to provide nurturing care to God's children through our helping hands, offering a safe haven for holistic growth.

It Is Time For Family Traditions...

You wait with the other kids as your mother hides the small, green ornament in the tree. Five minutes later, it's time. You run into the living room and dive under the tree, searching everywhere for the little pickle. You get up and circle the tree, looking in between ornaments and branches. After searching what seems like the entire tree, you're ready to give up. You tear up a little, and when you're about to turn around and call it quits, you spot something out of the corner of your eye. It's green, shiny, and pickle shaped. You grin as you reach your arm into the tree and pull out the pickle. The traditions of the Christmas Holidays will stay with you forever and you will pass them on to those you love. And those traditions will give you stability, they will ground you. Make sure you start those traditions with your "little ones."

Visit a Tree Farm. Start your family's holiday festivities off right by bundling up, packing hot cocoa and apple cider, and heading to a local Christmas tree farm to search for the perfect tree. Chances are, you will do more than find a tree: Many tree farms offer hayrides, sleigh rides, and other family-activities.

Decorate the Tree. Your Christmas tree will be your home's focal point for a few weeks, fluff the branches, then hang lights (make sure they are in perfect condition first!) starting at the base and working your way up. Then carefully unpack your ornaments and hooks. Let each family member take turns hanging their favorites. If you have little ones who want to help, set aside non-breakable ornaments for them to hang on the lowest branches.

Celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas. Make others' lives merry and bright during the 12 days of Christmas, **beginning December 25 and ending January 5.**

Stuff decorated shoeboxes with toys, school supplies, and personal-care products for disadvantaged children. Ladle up nutrition at a soup kitchen. Or surprise your mail carrier, elderly neighbor, or child's teacher with an inexpensive yet meaningful gift, such as something homemade, a colorful coffee mug, or a cookie plate.

PJ's & a Movie. On Christmas Eve give the children a new pair of Christmas jammies, a holiday movie and some hot chocolate & popcorn.

Holiday Lights. One of my favorite childhood memories is bundling up and getting in our family's station wagon and cruising around town looking at lights, while listening to Christmas music. Give it a try!

Baking. Growing up, it would not have been the holidays without my mom baking various baked goods, cookies & festive treats. Baking is a fun way to get the kids involved.

Advent Calendar. Thanks to Pinterest there are a million fun ideas for this. Growing up our calendar was simple and we loved every second of it.

Letters to Santa. Do you remember writing a letter to Santa each year and then mailing it off to the North Pole?? And do you remember the magic when he actually responded and you got a letter in the mail from the man in red?

Pay it Forward. Another really cool idea is to give each of your children a little bit of money and use that to do something nice for a friend, class mate or stranger. Bring joy to others!

Video from Santa. Try the website Portable North Pole to make a little video for your toddlers. Watch the excitement in their eyes as they watch him say their names!

Christmas Caroling. Christmas caroling is so much fun every year. Gather a group of neighborhood children or family members and go outside, enjoy the fresh air and singing for the neighbors.

-Child Connect For Family Success

What's Happening

December/January

- 12/13: HHCLC Bd. Mtg. 6pm
- 12/16: Before & After Party
- 12/18: Hanukkah, Begins
- 12/19—01/06, Lansing Schools & Cole Academy *Christmas Break *Center Open M-F, 7am till 6pm
- 12/20: HHCLC Staff Party, 6pm
- 12/21: 1st Day of Winter
- 12/23: Center Closed for Holidays
- 12/24: Christmas Eve Worship, 7:15pm
- 12/25: Christmas Day Worship 10:00am
- 12/26: HHCLC, Closed for Holidays
- 12/26: Kwanzaa, Begins
- 01/01: Happy New Years!!!
- 01/02: HHCLC, Closed for Holiday
- 01/03: Cole Starts
- 01/09: LSD Starts
- 01/16: All Schools Closed, MLK Jr. Day

Helping Hands Christian Learning Center is a ministry of Redeemer Church and has been servicing the community for over 27 years. Here we offer love and quality care to God's children. Come in today to see what we have to offer you and your family.



Sunday Schedule

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| -Choir Rehearsal: | 8:00am |
| -Study Time: | 9:00am |
| -Worship: | 10:00am |
| -Lunch and Fellowship: | 11:15am |
| -Wed. Adult Enrich. Class: | 7:00pm |

We are a church of
this community



Happy Birthday To You...

Aaliyah D.	12/08	Jordyn W.	01/01
Jackson W.	12/27	Aidan S.	01/02
Carter C.	12/31	Eli W.	01/02
		Tiana B.	01/08
		Morgan B.	01/09
		Vivian S.	01/11
		Ms. Michell	01/19
		Aria J.	01/20
		Charles S.	01/30

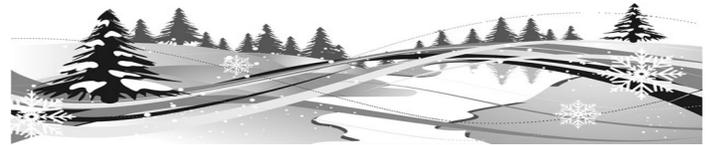


It is not what's under the tree that matters but who is around it!!



Merry Christmas to all from Helping Hands Christian Learning Center

Have a special and safe holiday!!!



The Gift

We can bring so many blessings into our lives just by realizing that it is never too late. Before you turn the page on this day, make a pact with yourself to untie the ribbons and open the gifts we are given in this life. Do ordinary things in extraordinary ways. Have health and hope and happiness! Live a full life on this earth, understand your real worth, and wish on all your stars.

And don't forget, for even a day, how very special you are.

Always remember our greatest gift of all....

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Give thanks for the ultimate gift He brings

Helping Hands Christian Learning Center...

Child Care, Pre-School, Kindergarten Readiness, Before and After School & Summer Programs are here, for your "Peace of Mind"! Call 517-882-8622 for more information

A BIG THANK YOU TO...

The members and friends of Redeemer for paying to replace the roof on our church building. The shingles on the back side of our roof were very worn and leaking was soon to come. We were informed, due to a insurance inspection that a new roof was a required "must."



We thank all who helped raise the funds, pick out our roofers (Simon Roofers) and make sure the project got done properly. The project went well and the new roof looks fabulous.

Thank you to all of you who were able to donate and make this important project go so smoothly. Now we will begin to look at our next project, "Solar Panels."

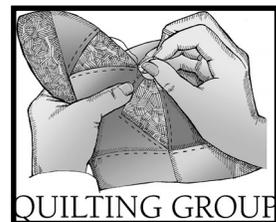
HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE... "ULC Prayers & Squares Quilters?"

This is an amazing group of women who have been gathering for years at University Lutheran Church in East Lansing on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12:30pm who take many steps together to make the most amazing "Prayer Quilts" for others in need.

With their gift of a Quilt which has been prayed over with every knot they have tied, they bless someone with a need.

The person who is blessed with a "Prayer Quilt" may have just graduated, or had surgery, or be a Vet in need, be someone in an extended care facility or undergoing dialysis 3x a week. **The needs are endless but the prayers continue to FLOW!!**

Due to our wonderful relationship with ULC we are blessed with Quilts from these women we are able to share with others around our community. If you ever know of someone who needs a special quilt, please let Pastor Jan know.



A BIG THANKS TO ANN BOOREN & THE BLESSED WOMEN OF ULC!!

Praying for the People

Ruby Bridges was the six-year-old African-American girl who was the first person to integrate the schools in New Orleans. It's a lot to ask of one person let alone a six-year-old. So, every day the federal marshals escorted her into the schoolhouse because both sides of the sidewalk would be lined with people who were screaming threats. Robert Coles, a noted Harvard psychiatrist, volunteered his time to work with young Ruby. Every day he would talk with her, trying to help her weather the crisis. On the news one night, he noticed her walking up the sidewalk and the people were screaming and throwing things, but suddenly she stopped and said something and started backing down the sidewalk. Then the marshals picked her up and took her into the building.

That night, Cole asked her what she said to the marshals. She said, "I was not talking to the marshals." He said "Yes, you were. I saw you on the news. I saw your lips moving. You were talking to the marshals." She said, "I was not talking to the marshals." He said, "Well, what were you doing?" She said "I was praying for those people who were hollering at me. I had forgotten to pray for them and I was trying to go back and pray as I walked to the school building." Cole shook his head and said, "You were praying for the people who were screaming at you?" She said, "Yes, my mama taught me that when people speak mean of you, you pray for them just like Jesus prayed for the people who spoke mean of him."

YES, instead of picking up a gun when we are angry, we should turn to God and pray.



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**TIME-VALUED
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*Please deliver by:
Dec. 14th*

*Christ
IS Born!*



We invite you to visit us. **Everyone is welcome here!** We are people of God who give ourselves freely and joyfully to God, to one another and to others. This community witnesses to a God who is

active in the world. *We proclaim God's active love for all people:* poor and rich; people of all cultures and races; women, men, children, younger, older, single, married, divorced, widowed, those of all lifestyles, blended families, single-parent households, ... all are welcome! You are invited to meet this community that seeks to reflect God's open and loving embrace.

***SUNDAY MORNINGS
Praise Time!***

- ◆ Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.
 - *Holy Communion is shared each week*
 - *ALL are welcome *Dress is casual*
 - *Masks Are Encouraged*

**ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO
JOIN US!!
WE ARE A DIVERSE, AND
WELCOMING COMMUNITY.**

***Masks Are an Option**



**Join Us At...
Helping Hands Christian
Learning Center
December 19—January 6
7:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m., M-F**

While your elementary age children are on break from school, Helping Hands Learning Center will be offering full-day care for children, ages 5-11. There will be indoor and outdoor activities to keep them busy along with movies, crafts, games, and some field trips. Also breakfast, lunch and snacks are included. **OUR SPACE IS LIMITED**, so call to reserve your spots soon!!

***We are closed Friday & Monday
December 23 & 26 and
Monday, January 2nd.
517-882-8622**

***Masks Are Still Required.**

Winter Break