

Holidays at:

Helping Hands...



Christmas Eve—At Redeemer Church

Sunday, December 24, 2023

- Lessons & Carols @ 10:00am
- Communion Shared By All
- Candlelight Worship @ 7:00pm
- Communion Will Be Open To All

****Cookies, Coffee and Punch will be shared at both Services.**

Come join in with family, friends and neighbors for a time of holiday cheer. We will share the carols you love to hear and also God's special story will be shared. 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.

See you on Sunday December 24th.

Join fellow friends and neighbors for **Christmas Eve Service**. Fill your holidays with the true meaning of Christmas in a SPECIAL 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 @ 10:00am for a Carols & Readings and at 7:00pm for a special Candlelight Service. Come celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!!

Merry
CHRISTMAS

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: director@hhclearningcenter.com

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
Rachelle Parmelee, 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: Rachelle Parmelee and Pr. Jan Hite

*Deadline for the **February 2024** edition is:
January 20, 2024

*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

ANNUAL MEETING SET...

Our Annual Meeting is set for **Sunday,
January 28, 2024 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 ac-
complished in the year 2023 and what
we plan to do in the year 2024.

Please mark 1/28 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. 28, 2024
following Worship!**

Memories For a Lifetime...

It was over 25 years ago when Carla Fitzgerald, then a member of Redeemer Church, walked through the door offering her service to care for Helping Hands children part-time. Who would have known that those few hours a week would lead her/us down a road that would last so long.



But God knew the time was right. Her gifts were ready for others and we were ready to accept them. Her road was willing to intertwine with "Helping Hand's" road and the journey would allow all involved to grow for the better and experience her precious love in the process.

Carla went from a part-time presence here to a full-time teacher. And then when God called her, she was willing to go to school, while working full time on our behalf so that she could become our much needed, state-licensed "School-Director." She did all this while caring for her husband, 3 children and home in south Lansing. I believe what drove her to do this was her love for God and her love for her church. She was successful at getting her degree in "Child Care-Management" and she went on to learn the "ins and outs" of running/caring for a thriving and growing ***Church—Learning Center.***

Because of her passion and love for ***Helping Hands Christian Learning Center*** and her ability to work with staff, parents, children, other members of Redeemer, and those within our community, our Center has flourished and bloomed into a vital presence that is well known throughout our surrounding community.

In the last 25 years plus, she has been present throughout the ups and the downs that "Helping Hands" has faced, and has remained strong and committed to our mission, ***"to provide nurturing care to God's children through our helping hands, offering a safe haven for holistic growth."*** It is because of her dreams and the dreams of others in the Redeemer community that we have been able to offer thousands of God's children a "safe haven for holistic growth." And grow they have...into...teachers, nurses, doctors, entrepreneurs, plumbers, scientists, retailers, counselors, road builders, engineers, and the list goes on and on. And to think, they all started at Helping Hands under the fine leadership of Carla Fitzgerald and her various staff and volunteer workers.

And now she has taken the next step...she is going to stand beside her fine and humorous husband, Edward and find more time for him and her children: Matthew, Chad, Julie and their Partners in her retirement. Also she will find cherished time to lavish her love upon her 2 grandchildren, Quigley and Theodore. Because of her ability to love others, we her family at Redeemer wish her great Joy & Happiness and say, "Thank You" for sharing 1/3 of your life with us to make Helping Hands a strong presence for Jesus in our community.

We all look forward to seeing you in church for worship, the place that brought you to us over 25 years ago, so that we can continue to share in that special love one can only find here.

Again, "Thanks for all of the blessed Memories!!"

God Be With You As You Journey On,

YOUR REDEEMER FAMILY





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, Warm Blankets \$10, or a Backpack Filled w/ Food, \$10.** 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: On Going Dates Thru-out Our Community.
Times Vary. *See Our Website for Details

Distribution of **FREE, fresh, non-perishable** food items available.



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!**



Taco Dinner...

Date: Thursday, February 22, 2024
6:00-7:30pm.

We are finally going to hold a true Taco Dinner. Yes, this meal will be inside the church with all the fixings. You and your family and friends are invited to enjoy Tacos, chips, beans, rice, all the toppings including Guacamole, various drinks and Melting Moments Ice Cream to top off a great meal. And of course it is **ALL YOU CAN EAT!** There is “Take Out.”



Cost is: Adults: \$10, Seniors: \$9 and Children: \$5.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you again!!!

NEW CEMENT @ Redeemer...

Due to a major amount of asphalt breaking up by our garage/dumpster this summer, and the weight of the Granger truck being a part of the problem, we found we had to invest in a better fix. So, we had a large area of asphalt removed and replaced with 4” of cement, that was reinforced with rebar. Yes, this was a large investment, \$10,000, but the hope is this will hold up, like the cement that has been out there for 25 years and is doing well.

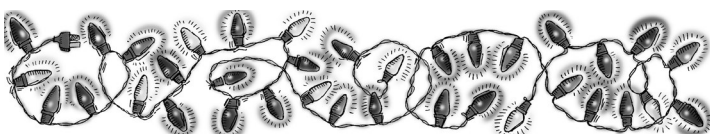
“Thank You To My Redeemer Family”...

Redeemer Members, you are truly my family and I appreciate all you did to make my 70th Birthday Party a special day. Thank you for all you do to keep my spirits up during the hard times and for staying connected.
—Love, Jeanette

“Cookies For Christmas Eve”...

Date: Sunday, December 24th
Time: 10am & 7:00pm

Christmas Eve will be here before you know it and with that special day comes the time for us to worship our Lord. **After the 10am and the 7pm we will gather for a time of Cookies/Drinks/Fellowship.** If you can share a dozen of your special Christmas Cookies at one of those times, it would be much appreciated. Please take time with others on that special day to remember our Lord, before you head out to share the JOY of Christmas with family & friends. We hope to see you then and pray you can spare a dozen of cookies.





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.

10 Ways to Keep Children Safe Over Christmas

Christmas brings a flurry of activity, with presents to buy, rooms to decorate, meals to plan, and friends and family to entertain. By building safety into your Christmas planning, you can keep the day as stress free as possible and make sure your family enjoys a safe *and* fun time.

1. Shop wisely and buy toys that meet safety requirements.

When shopping for Christmas presents, always head to reputable retailers, who take care about the products they stock year-round. Markets or temporary shops often sell illegally imported toys that are unlikely to conform to strict toy safety requirements. Counterfeit goods may have low prices but are illegal, are not made to proper safety standards and can be dangerous for little ones.

2. Ensure toys are age appropriate.

Make sure that the toys you give are appropriate for the child's age, as babies and toddlers can choke on small parts or swallow harmful components. Toys that are not intended for very young children are clearly marked.

3. Keep small things out of your child's reach.

Look out for small things that young children can choke on. Put small decorations high out of reach, tidy away small plastic toys from crackers and put small batteries (particularly the round, silver ones) out of reach of little fingers.

4. Sleep safety and child-proofing away from home.

If you're staying with relatives or friends over Christmas, remember that the top bunk of bunk beds can be dangerous for children under 6 years. And bear in mind that safety items you might have at home, such as stairgates and cupboard locks, might not be available where you're staying.

5. Keep the stairs clear

On the big day itself, make sure stairs are free from clutter. Children will be rushing around to find visitors, open presents and play with their new toys, so remove things that could cause a bad fall down stairs.

6. Keep children out of the kitchen

The kitchen can be a hectic place on Christmas day. So keep young children out of the kitchen while you're preparing Christmas dinner and all the trimmings, to avoid burns and scalds. One in 10 children's accidents happen in the kitchen.

7. Remove alcohol

Clear away any bottles of alcohol and the last dregs of drinks left in glasses as even small amounts of alcohol can poison young children.

8. Lock away medicines

Make sure visitors to the house, such as grandparents, don't leave medicines in places where children can find them, for example in handbags or counted out on bedside cabinets. Medicines are the most common cause of accidental poisoning in children, with everyday painkillers a frequent culprit.

9. Be cautious with candles

Keep candles away from Christmas trees and decorations. And don't hang decorations from lights and heaters, as they can catch alight and burn easily.

10. Turn off Christmas fairy lights and check smoke alarms.

Remember to turn off fairy lights and blow out candles before heading to bed. And check that your smoke alarms are working, so there's time to get out if a fire does start. -MadeForMoms



What's Happening

December/January

- 12/14: Staff Christmas Party, 6:30p
- 12/18: Hanukkah, Begins
- 12/21: 1st Day of Winter
- 12/22 Before & After Party
- 12/24: Christmas Eve Worship, 10:00am & 7:00pm
- 12/25: **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- 12/25: HHCLC, Closed for Holidays
- 12/26: HHCLC, Closed for Holidays
- 12/26: Kwanzaa, Begins
- 12/26—01/06, ALL Schools
- *Christmas Break
- *Center Open M-F, 7am till 6pm
- 01/01: Happy New Years!!!
- 01/02: HHCLC, Closed for Holiday
- 01/06: ALL Schools Starts Up
- 01/11: HHCLC Bd. Mtg, 6pm

Helping Hands Christian Learning Center is a ministry of Redeemer Church and has been servicing the community for over 28 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

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| -Worship: | 10:00am |
| -Lunch and Fellowship: | 11:15am |
| -Wed. Adult Enrich. Class: | 7:00pm |

We are a church of
this community
and ALL are welcome.
Come as you are!



Happy Birthday To You...

Aaliyah D.	12/08	Jordyn W.	01/01
William W.	12/13	Eli W.	01/02
Essence T.	12/15	Tiana B.	01/08
Khloe P.	12/19	Morgan B.	01/09
Jackson W.	12/27	Avery B.	01/09
Carter C.	12/31	Vivian S.	01/11
		Ms. Michell	01/19
		Brandy W.	01/23
		Charles S.	01/29
		Emma H.	01/31
		Kohlton P.	01/31



**Each of Us is...
an Inn
Keeper
who decides
if there is
room for
JESUS in Our
Lives!**

Greetings to All...

Hello! My name is Rachelle Parmelee and I am the new Director for HHCLC. I want to thank everyone for all of the warm welcomes from families, children and staff!

A little bit about me; I have a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and have worked with children for several years.

When I am not working, I am spending time with my family. My fiancé, Jordon and I have two kids, Easton who is six and Angelo who is two.

I am very excited for this next journey with Helping Hands Christian Learning Center!

I am full-time at Helping Hands and look forward to meeting all the parents of our children and also the members of Redeemer Church.



May all of you have a wonderful Christmas Season.

Ms. Rachelle
Director, Helping Hands Christian Learning

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**

WHAT IS GOING ON AT REDEEMER

THE NEWS ON OUR “SOLAR PANELS”...

Well, the date is set to install our Solar Panels. The panels for all our Energy Will be install in April of 2024 by a highly endorsed company called, **Absolute Solar.** They have provided service for several churches in the greater Lansing area, and come highly recommended.



The energy our system will provide will produce electricity for our building, garage, air conditioning and future outdoor learning center. Also we are told, that the equipment on the roof will help to hold our heat in the building, so our gas bills will probably decrease.

The total cost of this project will be: \$97, 731 and we will receive approx. \$28,328 incentive back from the Federal Gov.t and a possible other \$10,000 grant from the Gov.t due to the fact we are in a low income neighborhood. Also, we will receive approx. \$5,300 in credits due to cash payments and BWL credits. We have received throughout the past year various gifts from members of other churches in the area due to their strong beliefs in what we do in our ministries here. **Thanks to God and others, our payment toward this vital project will be at a minimum if any.**

WICKEN’S GRANT...

Since we began our relationship with **Bennie & Connie Wicken,** we have been blessed. When we began our Before and After School Program, they believed in what we were doing, and bought us a BUS.



Shortly after Ben died, we began receiving, \$15,000 grants, yearly from the *“Wicken Foundation,”* due to the fact his family continued to keep Ben’s belief in our ministry alive and going.

On Sept. 30, 2023, we sent in a grant request that was focused on *Security for Helping Hands and the use of our Building.* If we get this year’s grant it will be used for new building cameras, rocks on the south side of our property so that people cannot drive across to our back drive way and threaten our children as they play, and the re-furbishing of our elementary age playground and re-plenishing the current mulch.

The Wicken Family have been a GREAT BLESSING to Helping Hands throughout the years and we will forever give thanks for both **Ben & Connie Wicken!!**

COME MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR @ Helping Hands...

For the last 1 1/2 months, Carla has been training *our new director of Helping Hands, Rachelle Parmelee.* She has an Elementary Education Degree and comes to us from another center. She lives in Lansing and is engaged to Jordon and has 2 young children, Easton and Angelo.

Your board of directors worked hard to find Rachelle, who is just the right fit for Helping Hands. A special group who did all the interviewing, committed to finding just the right person and God blessed us with Rachelle.

Rachelle is a gift from God and has been accepted well by our current staff, our parents and yes, their children. And Carla loves her. She is young and full of energy and is learning more every day. **Thanks be to God for bringing her to us.** You will all be able to meet her at our Annual Meeting.



Redeemer Church, E.L.C.A.

"...your Helping Hands"

Helping Hands Christian Learning Center

2727 West Holmes Road
Lansing, Michigan 48911
www.redeemerlansing.com
www.hhclearningcenter.com

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**TIME-VALUED
MAIL**

*Please deliver by:
Dec. 8th*

*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
 - Lunch is served the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday. Please join us for a great time of food and fellowship.

**ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO
JOIN US!!**

**WE ARE A DIVERSE, AND
WELCOMING COMMUNITY.**



Join Us At...
**Helping Hands Christian
Learning Center**
December 27—January 5
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 Monday & Tuesday
December 25 & 26 and
Monday, January 1st.
517-882-8622**

Winter Break