



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

March 2019

Ash Wednesday Is March 6

Lenten Theme: Things the Bible Doesn't Say

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6. The ashes are a sign of our repentance, and we will worship with Mid-Day Quiet Communion at 12:15pm and then with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes at 7:00pm.

Our Wednesday worship services during Lent will be centered around Responsive Prayer (also called Sufferages). Our Lenten Theme this year is "Things the Bible Doesn't Say." Pastor Gary will explore with us various "sayings" prevalent in our culture that are often thought to originate in the Bible, but which really don't, and which sometime speak a message far different than what the Bible says. We will begin on Ash Wednesday with the topic: "The Devil Made Me Do It". Other topics through Maundy Thursday will be: "Money Is the Root of All Evil," "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves," "God Won't Give You More than You Can Handle," "God Needed Another Angel in Heaven," "God Is On Our Side," and "Everything Happens for a Reason."

Our Wednesday worships will be at 7:00pm. Starting March 13, we will offer a supper prior to the worship (6:00pm). Come join us!.



Choral Scholars Gala "Mardi Gras" is March 2



"Let the Good Times Roll!" It's that time again! The Choral Scholars Gala for this year will be March 2, dinner at 6:30, Gala Performance at 7:00. Tickets remain \$15, and will be on sale after worship through Feb 24th. **New This Year:** If you are unable to come for dinner, you may purchase a \$10 ticket for performance only (dessert included). Menu this year is the Boatwright's

version of Jambalaya (chicken and sausage only—no seafood). It will be a milder version of this classic Cajun dish, but hot sauce will be available! Thank you for supporting our choral scholars who add so much to our worship service.

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I say it every Monday night at worship and whenever we have a baptism at worship. Three lines, all with the same answer from you:

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

They are intriguing questions, and perhaps our renunciation rolls off our tongues without a whole lot of thought. Maybe as we begin this Lenten season, a time of repentance and awareness of our sin, we should give them a bit more consideration.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? First, the question implies our assent that there are forces out there defying God. To renounce something means 'to formally declare one's abandonment of' or 'to reject and stop using or consuming.'

There's an old story of a man on his deathbed who refused to renounce the devil when the pastor asked. He said, "This is no time to be antagonizing anyone." But the question asks us to do exactly that. It asks us to affirm that not only do we strive to be on God's side, but also that we completely reject all that opposes God. What might that mean for your life? What might that mean for how you are living, for the choices you make? When we answer this question by renouncing the devil and the forces opposing God, we are truly saying, "Get behind me Satan," and putting God before us.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? Having renounced the spiritual realm opposing God, we now turn to the powers of this world. This one may be even more difficult for us. The world entices us in so many ways, in so many subtle ways that it's easy not to think about. It's so easy to go along with the crowd or to seek what's popular and



common in our society and culture. That's the easy road. But to reject all that, to renounce it, is to ask ourselves all sorts of uncomfortable questions: How does my lifestyle contribute to the poverty or harm of others, even on the other side of the world? How has my consumerism consumed me to the point that I am blind to it's effect on me and

others? How can I be so comfortable and at ease when others aren't? I have told often of the man who said, "You've heard that you should give until it hurts. I think we should give until it stops hurting." In other words, we should ache for the needs of others that we can't rest until they are no more. Is that what it means to reject the powers of this world?

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? Here we admit that it is our very nature to sin. It's not just the things outside in the spiritual realm or in our world that draw us away from God. We draw ourselves away too. Our own greed, lusts, desires; our own self-centeredness and placing ourselves first draw us away.

The ashes on our foreheads are a reminder. They remind us of our sin, of our participation in our sin, of our helplessness against sin and the forces aligned against us. But this year, as we see the ashes, maybe too, we can remember the water put in the exact same place in our baptisms, when God said, "You are mine."

In the midst of renouncing all these, perhaps we could affirm their opposites:

I affirm God and all the forces that work on God's behalf.

I affirm those seeking to do good in the world because of God and join with them.

I affirm what God has done to forgive and save me and that I belong to God forever.

I say it every Monday night at worship and whenever we have a baptism. Maybe we could all say it every day.



- 3/1 Joseph May
- 3/2 Aaron Bernthal
- 3/2 Billy Sturgeon
- 3/3 Lester Bedenbaugh
- 3/3 Michelle Busch
- 3/4 Kaitlin Pell
- 3/5 Ginny Lobaugh
- 3/6 Jody Byrd
- 3/6 Buddy Champion
- 3/6 Travis Cowan
- 3/6 Layne Smith
- 3/7 Paul Fazzio
- 3/9 Graham Mitchell
- 3/10 Connie Davis
- 3/11 Stephanie Cowan
- 3/11 Sarah Drake



- 3/12 Allison Burgess
- 3/12 Sue Harmon
- 3/13 Jason Roddey
- 3/14 Lynda Leonardi
- 3/16 Joan Kiser
- 3/17 McKenzie Bachman
- 3/18 Matthew Epting
- 3/18 Ryan Willingham
- 3/19 Jerry Berley
- 3/19 Jill Griffin

- 3/19 Cameron Himel
- 3/21 Brenda Boyd
- 3/22 Bill Murphy
- 3/23 Carroll Lorick
- 3/25 Louie Carter
- 3/26 Mitch Plemmons
- 3/26 Martha Summer
- 3/27 Gregory Harmon
- 3/29 Dwight Bachman
- 3/29 Kirby Byrd
- 3/29 Allen Nix
- 3/29 Rob Schaller
- 3/30 Keagan Carlsen
- 3/30 Hugh Davis Jr.
- 3/30 Brandi Martin
- 3/31 Adelaide Frey

Thank you so much for the cards, memorials, hugs, and many other expressions of sympathy we received from you upon the death of Robert's mother, Susie. We have many wonderful memories to keep her spirit alive but she will truly be missed. It helps knowing that our Redeemer family grieves along with us during this time.

Love,
Robert & Julie Pell



Finding adequate words are difficult for describing my love and appreciation for my Redeemer family, from Pastor Gary's communion visit to the valentine from the Christ's Kids. Your prayers, cards, phone calls, food, visits, all of which have meant so very much to me. I thank God for all of you and your concern. May He continue to bless your sincere caring for all members of His flock.

Martha Allison

"Love One Another" Goal Exceeded!

Thank you Redeemer. Your contributions to The Lutheran Services Carolinas capital campaign after our "Love One Another Sunday" is \$12,483.42, exceeding our congregational goal \$11,227. It's not too late to give. If you missed last week, or would still like to contribute, please do so. Forms will be available in the church office.



Thank you for your generosity. Because of you, and others throughout the state, LSC can now expand its ministries in South Carolina.

The theme for this campaign is 1 John 3:11 "For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." Thank you for "hearing" and for "loving".



In Appreciation

Each month the Church Council recognizes and thanks those among us who have offered themselves to the work of the church in special ways. **This month the council appreciated:**

Redeemer's Strategic Planning Team: **Bob Long –chair, Mike Parker, Earl Wells, Bill Harmon, Eddie Carter, Preston Smith, Kathy Harrell, Steve Summer, Martha Summer, Fauni Lowe, Kayla Audette, Varner Richards, and Paul Austin, and**

Our 525 Players: **Marilyn Bedenbaugh, Jim Boatwright, Steve Summer, Dan Lowe, Fauni Lowe, Buck Dannels, , Katrina Jorgensen, Donna Nunamaker, Desiree Richardson, Judy Urso, Philip Urso, Bill Newmyer, and providing technical support: Rob Sprankle, Joe and Lynda Leonardi, and Janet Boatwright.**



Why We Do What We Do – Lent

What is it about Lent? Why do we gather for these special worship services in this period leading up to Easter? Actually, this tradition goes back a long way.

Originally, Lent began as a brief period between Palm Sunday and Easter. A new Christian would be baptized on Palm Sunday and then spend a week in penitent prayer and fasting in order to receive their first communion on Easter Sunday. Over the



years, this period of prayer and fasting was extended to 40 days. Some say it was extended to 40 days in remembrance of the 40 days of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness after his baptism, or perhaps the 40 years the Hebrews wandered in the wilderness on the way to the promised land.

Lent can be understood as a time of spiritual discipline. Some people choose to give up something for Lent as a way of sacrificing for their faith. Such denial of the self helps strengthen faith and demonstrate to oneself a depth of faith.

Lent can also be understood as a time of repentance. In this season we are reminded in stark ways of Jesus' suffering and death on our behalf, of our sin, and of our need to return to God.

If you count the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, you will, however, find that there are 46, not 40. That's because the Sundays in Lent don't count. Every Sunday is a little celebration of Easter, although the Sundays in Lent are still more somber in nature. One small way you can see this demonstrated is that we've had, say, the Third Sunday of Epiphany or 12th Sunday **After** Pentecost. But during Lent, the wording is: the Second Sunday **in** Lent.

The Shrove Tuesday tradition began as people sought to get fats and sweets out of their homes before the somber Lenten season. After six weeks of no sweets or fats, having them on Easter enhances the celebration of Christ's victory and marks the change Christ makes.

In recent years, it has been suggested that rather than giving up something for Lent, perhaps a better "fast" is to take something on. Maybe take on an hour a week volunteering for a needy cause. Maybe give up one meal eating out a week and donate the money to world hunger. Take on doing something good for someone else instead of giving something up.

Raindrops Falling on Our Heads....



That's exactly what we don't want, at least when we are inside our church building. Our ancestors in the faith here have bequeathed us a wonderful building in which to gather, worship, and serve. Unfortunately, eventually,

things have to be repaired and renewed. We are rapidly nearing the end of the life span of our flat roof (according to our roofer), and in the coming years, we are going to need to do something. The Council has been inviting gifts to help defray this anticipated cost (\$125,000+) and has scheduled a Capital Appeal for early next year as well. Another major item before us is our front parking lot. The parking lot is a visible statement to our community about how we care for our Church, so it's important too.

Our roof/parking lot needs mark a great place to give special gifts, honoraria and memorials. If you would like to make a special gift, honor someone or memorialize someone, consider adding to this fund.

Internet Improvements

On the Way

Redeemer has long had open access wifi internet throughout our building – or at least we have tried to. If you've tried to use it, particularly in our Fellowship Center or the Back Conference room, sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. The internet enters our building up in the office area, and then is relayed wirelessly to the rest of the building. When it works, it's great. When it doesn't, it can be frustrating.

Recently, wired access points were donated to the church. We're still working out a couple of kinks, but when these are put up, you should find that you have much better access to the internet throughout our building. Thanks, Tech Team!



Twice!



Thank you all who supported the *525 Players* in their latest theatrical presentation, *The Curious Savage*. We had three excellent audiences, who laughed large, went along with us, and were moved by the show's powerful ending. Thanks to your generosity we are well on

our way to funding our summer musical which will likely be *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. We are awaiting approval from the license holder to make this selection definite. The musical will be June 8 and 9.

And a second huge "thank you" for all of you who so generously supported the 2019 Choral Scholars Annual Gala. Our Choral Scholars Fund is adequately funded for another year!

Thank you so very much! Next month's *Crossroads* will give you the full listing of donors. Due to the date of our deadline for publication we don't have all the information in yet. But all our wonderful donors will be acknowledged and honored in next month's newsletter.



While in the process of clearing out my Mother's home, we found this lovely old bookcase. It took Janet's fresh eyes to look at this piece and see the beauty that I'd overlooked. The bookcase has sat in the same place, tucked away in an odd corner of our living room since before I was born. It was just part of the room in my eyes. I had grown so accustomed to it's being there that I no longer even noticed it. Janet saw it and immediately saw its charm and beauty. And that made me think about some church-related things.

First of all, how often do we overlook the beautiful and meaning things in our everyday life—things like good friends, loving family, and even wonderful fellow church members—because they are always there.

We are often tempted to overlook the beauty and richness of our liturgy and our worship services because they've become part of our routine. It's so easy to overlook the truly beautiful things in our lives and take them for granted. Seeing this graceful old bookcase made me realize the many things God has blessed us with that we fail to see because we're surrounded by them daily.

Secondly, I was struck by the intricate details on this piece and thought about the craftsmanship and artistry that went into making this piece. In an IKEA era, it's refreshing to see something that took time, care, skill, and patience to craft. We try to put that care and craftsmanship into our worship services. Yes, it takes a lot of time, lots of practice, deliberate coordination, and just plain hard work to put worship services together, but hopefully the results are something that uplifts us and points us to God and deepens our faith. It's not that it's old that makes this piece so beautiful to me. It's the artistry behind it. And so it is with worship experiences. It doesn't have to be old and stogy to be meaningful and beautiful.



Finally, this piece was handed down to me, and I'll hand it down to one of my kids. And such is our liturgy. It is a beautiful expression of our faith that's been handed down to us by people who have spent a lot of time and thought into developing our pattern of worship. I hope we get a chance to hand it down to the next generation. Hopefully, they'll see the beauty with fresh eyes.



Council Approves New Search Committee to Fill Position for Youth, Family Ministry and Outreach

Several months ago, Redeemer’s Council put together a Strategic Planning Team to consider Redeemer’s needs and desires as we move forward following Sarah Bowers’ departure. The Team looked at Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats facing our congregation, and then ranked them for the Council to consider action as we move forward. In early February, the Team met and offered the recommendation that the Council seek a person to fill a position focused on Youth Ministry, Family Ministry, and congregational Outreach. Council approved the recommendation and has authorized chair Paul Austin and Pastor Gary to initiate conversations at the Synod Office and in the near future, Council will be creating a search committee to find the right person for Redeemer.

In February, Pastor Gary also presented some ideas regarding a Capital Appeal to fund our roof and parking lot projects. Two years ago, Redeemer was advised that our roof likely had about 5 years of life remaining. Our front parking lot (Fellowship Hall around to Preschool Covered Drive) is in need of repair and speaks to our community about how we care for our building. Some generous gifts have been received already, but current estimates of what we will need for these two projects is somewhere between \$225,000-\$250,000. Council asked Pastor Gary to provide a suggested Appeal theme. Pastor Gary suggested the theme “Foundations for the Future” because as we care for our roof and our parking lot, we are building a foundation for the future of ministry here at Redeemer. Council struggled with the timing of when to engage in this Appeal, and suggested that early in Jan-

uary 2020 would be the right time. Any gifts until then are appreciated and reduce the amount we will need then.

Pastor Gary also offered an update on the Scout Troop resources that now belong to Redeemer. Council had asked if the Williamsburg County ministry could use the 14 foot trailer, and they have received it with gratitude. Earl Wells will be working on cleaning out the Scout Room and the large Conex box on the west side of our building. Council is exploring moving the box to the back of our property (less obtrusive), and using it to store large items for Williamsburg County. Pastor will ask Tim Campbell for help in determining what kind of pad we might want to put down in the new location (concrete, concrete corners, crush and run?).

In other business, the Council heard reports and expressed appreciation to our Strategic Planning Team as they complete their work and (cont. p. 7)



- Approved recommendation from Strategic Planning to fill position for Youth, Family Ministry and Outreach
- Approved roof/ parking lot appeal theme of Foundations for the Future and scheduled it for early 2020
- Looking to move Scout storage unit
- Internet service in building to improve
- Souperbowl nets \$295.05 (split between Meals on Wheels and Redeemer Pantry)
- Approved youth fundraiser (baskets to support mission trip)
- Lenten Offering to Love One Another Appeal

By the Numbers

	<u>January YTD 2019</u>	<u>January YTD 2018</u>	<u>January YTD 2017</u>
Total income	29,677	33,383	41,839
Total expenses	39,495	41,998	44,617
Income less expense	<u>\$ (9,818)</u>	<u>\$ (8,615)</u>	<u>\$ (2,778)</u>
Balance on mortgage loan	\$ 228,068	\$ 272,732	\$ 308,181
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 111,063	\$ 66,293	\$ 19,516
Attendance	154	169	163

March 2019 Worship Leaders

March 3		March 6		Ash Wednesday		March 10	
Acolyte	Usher team	Acolyte	Usher team	Acolyte	Usher team	Acolyte	Usher team
Crucifer	Andi Lowe	Crucifer	Shannon Smith	Crucifer	Shannon Smith	Crucifer	Zakary Thomas
Communion Assistants	Richard and Angela Lagroon	Communion Assistant	Shannon Smith	Communion Assistant	Shannon Smith	Communion Assistants	Bill and Martie Newmyer
Worship Assistant	Jonathan Sanchez	Worship Assistant	Tim Campbell	Worship Assistant	Tim Campbell	Worship Assistant	Preston Smith
Lector	Bob Long	Lector	Martha Shealey	Lector	Martha Shealey	Lector	Martha Summer
Nursery	Preston Smith	Nursery		Nursery		Nursery	Sherry Lindler
Altar Flowers	Jim Epting	Altar Flowers		Altar Flowers		Altar Flowers	Judy and Phillip Urso
March 17				March 24			
Acolyte	Usher team	Acolyte	Usher team	Acolyte	Usher team	Acolyte	Usher team
Crucifer	Mike Shealy	Crucifer	Mike Shealy	Crucifer	Kenny Newmyer	Crucifer	Kenny Newmyer
Communion Assistants	Steve and Martha Summer	Communion Assistants	Steve and Martha Summer	Communion Assistants	Greg and Hettie Cross	Communion Assistants	Greg and Hettie Cross
Worship Assistant	Mike Shealy	Worship Assistant	Mike Shealy	Worship Assistant	Kathy Harrell	Worship Assistant	Kathy Harrell
Lector	Pat Crosby	Lector	Pat Crosby	Lector	Stephanie Cowan	Lector	Stephanie Cowan
Nursery	Hettie Cross	Nursery	Hettie Cross	Nursery	Denise Mulkey	Nursery	Denise Mulkey
Altar Flowers	Jim and Sandy Devold	Altar Flowers	Jim and Sandy Devold	Altar Flowers	Jane and Earl Keller	Altar Flowers	Jane and Earl Keller
March 31				March			
Acolyte	Usher team	Acolyte	Usher team	Acolyte	Usher team	Acolyte	Usher team
Crucifer	Tom Lass	Crucifer	Tom Lass	Crucifer	Tom Lass	Crucifer	Tom Lass
Communion Assistants	Tim Campbell and Kathy Harrell	Communion Assistants	Tim Campbell and Kathy Harrell	Altar Guild	Team 3	Altar Guild	Team 3
Worship Assistant	Martha Shealey	Worship Assistant	Martha Shealey	Coordinator	Kathy Harrell	Coordinator	Kathy Harrell
Lector	Steve Summer	Lector	Steve Summer	Usher Team	Team 3	Usher Team	Team 3
Nursery	Faith and Lee Thomas	Nursery	Faith and Lee Thomas		Stan Morgan		Stan Morgan
Altar Flowers	Debbie Suydam	Altar Flowers	Debbie Suydam				

Redeemer Lutheran Church

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:5 am Handbell choir 11:5 am Worship & Music 5:00 pm Adult Handbells	4 9:00 am Staff Meeting Worship	5 8:30 pm Monarch and Son's Rays	6 12-5 pm Mid Day Quiet Communion 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	7 9:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 10:30 am Tech Team 11:00 pm NWMI support group 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	1 Set up for Chord Sodas	2 6:30 pm Choral Scholars Gala
10 8:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:5 am Children's Choir 11:5 am Handbell choir 10:00 pm Family Promise 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:30 pm Church Council 6:30 pm Elizabeth Circle	11 8:00 am Garden Club 10:00 am Staff Meeting 11:00 am Worship 6:30 pm Finance Meeting 8:30 pm Ruth Circle	12 8:00 pm Preschool Oversight Comm. 8:30 pm Monarch and Son's Rays	13 12:00 pm Pruned to Senior Caregivers Support Group 6:00 pm Lenten Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	14 9:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	5	16
17 8:45 am Family Promise 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Adult Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:5 am Handbell choir 11:5 am Adult Handbells	18 Family Promise 10:00 am Naomi Circle 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Worship	19 8:30 pm Family Promise Monarch and Son's Rays	20 8:00 pm Family Promise Lenten Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	21 Family Promise 9:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 12:00 pm Leisure Times Lunch 6:00 pm NWMI support group 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	22 Family Promise	23 8:00 pm Family Promise Family Promise Gala
24 8:45 am Family Promise 9:30 am Sunday School 10:00 am Adult Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:5 am Children's Choir 11:5 am Handbell choir 5:00 pm Adult Handbells	25 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Worship	26 8:30 pm Monarch and Son's Rays	27 8:00 pm Lenten Meal 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	28 9:30 am Pastor's Bible Study 10:30 am NWMI support group 7:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study	29	30 3:00 pm Private Event
31 8:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Choir 10:00 am Worship 11:5 am Handbell choir 5:00 pm Adult Handbells						

Council Report Continued

From page 6

...the 525 players for their production of "The Curious Savage."

Pastor Gary reported that the Tech Team has determined their first priority to be improving internet service throughout our building and are taking steps to get this done.

The Souperbowl of Caring netted \$295.05 to be split between Meals on Wheels and Redeemer's Help and Hope Pantry. The Council also approved a request from the youth to hold a fund raiser (baskets) and the Shareholders Dinner to help fund their mission trip to San Francisco this summer.

Lenten offerings were designated to the Love One Another Appeal currently going on at Redeemer.

Paul Austin reminded Council that Synod Assembly will be May 30, 31, and June 1 in Spartanburg and Council is seeking those who might like to attend.

Leisure Timers are on the Move again!



9th - Saturday- Trip to Newberry Opera House to see, "Church Basement Ladies-



Rise Up O Men" @ 3:00. This is a sold out event, but if you purchased tickets, I will be in touch with you with all the details.

21st - Thursday -Lunch @12:00 followed by an interesting tour of our "Sanctuary Banners" led by Pastor Gary. This is the perfect season to understand the meaning of each one!

26th -Tuesday -Edgefield,SC adventure! We'll leave the church at 9:00 and head home at 3:00. We will have a guided walking tour of the Town Square called "Murder and Mayhem". We'll enjoy an "all you can eat" Southern Buffet at Chef Bob's Café. Then we'll have time to browse this unique and historical town before heading home at 3:00. Costs: Tour-\$5 /lunch - \$12.50 and donation towards gas for Bus. (MUST sign up by March 21st.)

Memorials Received

January 23, 2019 – February 18, 2019

In Memory of:

Susan Fulmer

Lane & Hettie Cross
Ray & Betty Olsen
Hugh & Connie Davis

Susie Pell (Robert Pell's mother)

Marie Baughman
Diane Howell
Martha Shealey
Margaret Larson
Kathy Harrell
Pat Crosby

Lane & Hettie Cross
Helen Morris
Ethel Stillabower
Hugh & Connie Davis



Nick Wells (Earl Wells' brother)

Hugh & Connie Davis
Earl & Linda Wells
Marie Baughman
Kathy Harrell
Cornelia Collins
Diane Howell

Ben Earhardt

Jim & Dottie Pappas

In Honor of:

Preston Smith

Heather Pressley
Debra Smith
Shannon Smith