The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
1915 S. New Hope Road
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-865-6152

February 2016

Rev. Dr. Richard Graf, Interim Pastor

Early Worship 8:15 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

e-mail
redeemerchurch@bellsouth.net

website
www.redeemergastonia.org

Our mission is to welcome people in,
to help all grow in faith and in
God’s gracious gifts and abilities,
so that we may be sent out to care for
others
in our families, our congregation,
our neighborhoods, and in the world,
sharing the Good News in Christ’s name.

Events this Month
Feb. 9     Pancake Supper
Feb. 10    Ash Wednesday Service
Feb. 14    Youth Lunch
Feb. 17    Deriter Trip
Feb. 26    Family Game Night

See inside for much more!

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 9
Pancakes served from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.
Come join us for Effie’s famous pancakes,
including blueberry!

Ash Wednesday Service
February 10
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Lenten Meals & Services
February 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16
Meals at 6:00 p.m.; Worship Services at 6:30 p.m.

Meals

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Menu</th>
<th>Served by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>Chili &amp; Cornbread</td>
<td>Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>t.b.a.</td>
<td>Youth</td>
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<td>Mar. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 9</td>
<td>t.b.a.</td>
<td>Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 16</td>
<td>Sloppy Joes</td>
<td>Deriter Club</td>
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February has more holidays, observances and commemorations than any other month in the year. There’s Valentine’s Day, Presidents Day, Groundhog Day, Iowa Caucus Day, Super Bowl Day, Daytona 500 Day, and, in 2016, Leap Year Day. But you may not have heard of most of the more than 200 other days celebrated this month. They include: Change Your Password Day (1st), Four Chaplains Memorial Day (3rd), Shower With a Friend Day (5th), Girl Scout Cookie Day (6th), Don’t Cry Over Spilled Milk Day (11th), Ferris Wheel Day (14th), Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (18th), Love Your Pet Day (20th), Iwo Jima Day (23rd), National Bacon Day (26th), and National Tooth Fairy Day (28th).

For Christians there is Transfiguration Day, Ash Wednesday, Candlemas Day and the first days of Lent. I would contend these are much more significant days than “Ferris Wheel Day” or “National Tooth Fairy Day.” But what is the most important day in this, the shortest month of the year with only 28 days; except when it has 29?

I believe the answer is found in Jesus’ own words. When he preached his first, and only, sermon in his home town of Nazareth, Jesus read from the book of Isaiah about a day of jubilee, closed the scroll, and said, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” (Lk 4). In his best known sermon, Jesus said, “Do not be anxious about tomorrow…” (Matt 6). Jesus said to a man wanting to go back to his home before becoming a follower, “No one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God” (Lk 9). When our Lord saw Zacchaeus up in a tree, he told him to come down and said, “I’m going to your house today” (Lk 19). When he hung on the cross at Golgotha, Jesus said to the man hanging there beside him, “Today you will be with me in paradise” (Lk 23).

I hear Jesus saying the past is gone and the future doesn’t exist yet. The most important day for me and you is today!

The most important day for any of us in February, or any month, is every day we see ourselves as hopeless sinners, saved by the amazing grace of a God who suffered and died on a cross. Today is the day the Lord has made, not only for our rejoicing, but for us to look honestly at who we are, and how far Jesus went that he might live with us forever.

That is the message and opportunity of Lent. By way of a cross, Jesus has made saints out of sinners like us! Hear it, embrace it, and thank God today for it.

Live it up,
PG

WELCA of Redeemer Lutheran Church continues to be thankful for the fellowship and service opportunities offered to our group. WELCA meets on the second Monday of each month at the church or in the homes of our members.

In 2015 we enjoyed a full year of Bible study and fellowship. During the year we collected wet wipes for As One Ministries, delivered 17 gallons of can tabs to the Ronald McDonald House to help support their programs, and collected toiletries, paper products, and school supplies for The Shelter of Gaston County for battered women. We collected soup and Gatorade for Cancer Services of Gaston County. We delivered 70 gift sets of hats, scarves, and gloves to Lingerfeldt School for distribution to needy children. Many of these hats and scarves were handmade by the women of Redeemer, not all of whom are WELCA members, and for which we are very grateful.

During 2015 we also provided monetary donations to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund, Samaritan’s Feet, and the BackPack Weekend Food Program. We were able through our offerings to purchase a rooster, 20 chickens, a goat, piglets, and honeybees through the ELCA Good Gifts Project.

There is a place for you at WELCA! Our next meeting will be Monday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Marguerite Taylor’s wonderful Bible study on forgiveness will continue in March. Joanna Pressley will have the February program.

Come join your sisters in Christ and serve the Lord here at Redeemer.

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Deriter Club

The Deriter Club will be going to China Grove on Wednesday, February 17, to tour The Price of Freedom Museum dedicated to the men and women of the US Armed Forces who paid the ultimate price of freedom with their lives. The bus will be leaving the church at 9:00 a.m., and the cost is $5 which is due now so that reservations can be made. We have a few seats left; let Dennis and Sharon know if you are interested by calling them at 704-862-7239.
The Lutheran Men in Mission will hold their monthly breakfast meeting on Sunday, February 21, at 7:15 a.m. All men are invited to attend.

The February Confirmation class will be held at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Kings Mountain on Saturday, February 13.

We express our sympathy and love to the following who have lost loved ones since the last newsletter was published:

Gail Broussard on the death of Les Broussard, who died on January 10; the funeral was held at Redeemer on January 16

Nita McGraw on the death of her sister, Carolyn Ivester, a life-long member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Gastonia, who died January 22

the family and friends of Bette McLaughen; many of you long-time members will remember that Bette was a former charter member of Redeemer and the twin sister of the late Dot Smith; Bette died on January 24; the funeral was held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

A Note of Thanks

We would like to thank all the great folks at Redeemer for their cards, visits, and goody baskets. Also, a special thanks to the carolers for the great job of singing for us. We enjoyed it tremendously.

~Bill & Gay Carpenter

My Dear Friends,
Thank you for remembering me. Your efforts send a word of your faithful service to our Lord. I am using the clothing and fresh fruit you sent. My love to all of you,

~Clarke Starnes

Please remember our homebound members with your visits, cards, and prayers.

Helen Bowen
1102 Kensington Ave.
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-864-3549

Mary Harmon
2020 Helen Drive
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-867-9665

Giles Setzer
c/o Covenant Village
1351 Robinwood Rd.
Apt. B107
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-865-9288

Betty Bolin
c/o Morningside of Gastonia
2755 Union Road
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-810-0111

Joy York
2007 Redbud Drive
Gastonia, NC 28054
704-865-5186
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Effie Rogers</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tika Miller</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Dot Ramsey</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Jacob Ledwak</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Martha Clark</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Becky Mack</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Deacon Cheney</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Sam Craig</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Stacy Weaver</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Rudi Waelz</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Mark Lanier</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>John Kaiser</td>
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FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Grant &amp; Donnie Griggs</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Truman &amp; Marge Hudson</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>George &amp; Effie Rogers</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Brent &amp; Sabrina Messer</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>David &amp; Sylvia Moore</td>
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8:15 SERVICE

ACOLYTE
Mark Painter

ALTAR GUILD
Joanna Pressley

AUDIO/VISUAL
Ed Twist

USHERS
Brian and Carter Johnson

LECTORS
7 Brad Alexander
14 Brian Johnson
21 Bob Morris
28 Brock Smith

ASSISTING MINISTERS
7 Brock Smith
14 Mark Painter
21 Brad Alexander
28 Brian Johnson

10:30 SERVICE & ASH WED.

ACOLYTE & CRUCIFIER
7 A-Amber Lightsey  C-Brent Messer
10 A-Sue Keller (Ash Wednesday)
14 A-Brad Alexander  C-Sue Keller
21 A-Faith Waelz     C-Ryan Morrison
28 A-Robin Lightsey  C-Jan Henson

AUDIO/VISUAL
Rudi Waelz

ALTAR GUILD
Joanna Pressley, Libby Jenkins

USHERS
Tom McCray, Head Usher
Carl Field, Eileen Geiger, Alexis Brogden

LECTORS
7 Chuck Lifford
10 Tom McCray (Ash Wed)
14 Ami Morrison
21 Lynn Lifford
28 Heather Kaiser

ASSISTING MINISTERS
7 Lynn Glover
10 Jan Henson (Ash Wed)
14 Heather Kaiser
21 John Blough
28 Brad Alexander
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<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dirty Hands 9am</td>
<td>9 Dirty Hands 9am</td>
<td>2 Dirty Hands 9am</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8 WELCA 6:30pm</td>
<td>3 Ringers 6pm Chancel Choir 7pm</td>
<td>Dirty Hands 9am</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 Confirmation Resurrection 9am @ Seomers 10am</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Dirty Hands 9am</td>
<td>Ash Wed. serv. 6:30pm</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:30-6:45pm</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14 Dirty Hands 9am</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Girl Scouts 1-5pm</td>
<td>10 Dirty Hands 9am</td>
<td>16 Dirty Hands 9am</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Youth Lunch 11:45am</td>
<td>15 Church Council 7pm</td>
<td>Deriter Club Trip 9am Meal 6pm Lenten Service 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7pm</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>LMM 7:15am Girl Scouts 1-5pm</td>
<td>20 Rosemary &amp; Thyme 10am</td>
<td>24 Meal 6pm Lenten Service 6:30pm Chancel Choir 7pm</td>
<td>26 Ringers to Lutheridge Family Game Night 6:30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family Promise Week</td>
<td>27 Seomers 10am</td>
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2015 Year-End Finance Report
(through December 31, 2015)

$225,855    actual general fund contributions
$209,296    actual general fund expenses
$  16,559    amount actual contributions are MORE than expenses

Year-to-date Contributions to Capital Campaign
$21,250

Year-to-date Contributions to Debt Reduction
$12,967

Debt owed to Park Sterling Bank (as of January 29, 2016)
$186,474

The flower calendar is located on the bulletin board in the hallway (near the fellowship hall). Please stop by and reserve your favorite dates to place flowers. You may place them in memory of someone or in honor of a loved one or a special occasion. The flowers are $50. Contact Liz in the church office if you have questions.

Marriage Encounter

Come and (re)discover your spouse away from home, children, work, and all the other distractions of everyday life. The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend is February 26-28 at the Clarion Hotel in Myrtle Beach. The weekend includes two nights and five meals along with the opportunity to get to know the one you fell in love with in a deeper and more fulfilling way. The fee is a $45 application fee and the chance to make a free will (sealed) donation at the end of the weekend. The donations are used to sponsor a future weekend for someone else, and in this way you are assured that no one is denied the opportunity to attend the weekend due to financial concerns. For more information, visit www.Godlovesmarriage.org.

Youth and Family

Thank you to everyone for your fabulous support with our Youth Service. We learned so much as we engaged in planning a full service, and all of us really enjoyed the opportunity. We look forward to planning another service again in the future.

32 youth and adults participated in our tubing trip to Hawks Nest! It is a blessing to share these times of fellowship with each other while enjoying the beautiful gifts of God’s creation. Our next family event will be a family game night on February 26 @ 6:30 p.m. Please bring an appetizer/snack and a drink to share! Also, bring your favorite game! Chess players, bring your boards!

We will have a family trip in April to Santee State Park in South Carolina. We will plan games, family meals, devotions and meditation time while enjoying the surroundings of the forest and lake. Boating, fishing, hiking and outdoor sports are all options. Cabins sleep 8 and the cost will be $75 per person including meals and transportation for a two-night stay. RSVP to BJ by February 17 and place a $50 non-refundable family deposit.

It is PINE STRAW TIME! We will be taking pine straw orders throughout the month of February with delivery March 19. We have a goal this year to double our sales. We have a high quality product, and the proceeds benefit our Bobby McCain fund and our Mission Trip projects! Please watch for full details and order sheets, and TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

We are looking for munchkins ages 3-5 for our Musical Beginnings Class. These children meet for a 45-minute class with opportunities for instrument playing, pre-music reading, math/literacy games, movement and fun. This class is under construction, so anyone interested should call BJ and let her know. Once we have enough interest we can pick a good day and time for all.

We will have an AGAPE lunch on February 14. This will be a potluck meal, and we will make “Love Baskets” to share with shut ins and others in need of a “pick me up.” Please let BJ know if you can send any of the following items: 12 small heart-shaped boxes of candy; 12 pieces of fruit (apples or oranges are great); 12 devotional or meditation books; 12 homemade holiday snacks or crafts; 12 basket containers or holiday bowls. Thank you for all of your support!
One month of this brand new year has passed, and we’ve already had our first episode of wintry weather, causing the cancellation of Wednesday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services and Sunday School. I don’t mind having the occasional unexpected Sunday off, but it can harm the church budget. Remember to continue your financial giving so that our ministries may function during these cold months.

As many of you know, this past month, January, brought a significant change for Mark and me. Mark’s youngest daughter, Caroline, and her husband, Matt, welcomed a new addition to their little family. Blakely LeeAnn Kaye Kaiser was born on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, five weeks early. As you might expect, she is small, 4 lbs, 12 oz at birth, and still hasn’t quite reached 5 lbs; however, she is doing well. I covet your prayers for Blakely, Caroline, and Matt Kaiser.

Looking into the future, the Redeemer Ringers are going to Lutheridge February 26-28 for the second of their sponsored Handbell Retreats. We always look forward to our time away as we practically eat, breathe, and sleep music, as well as take full advantage of the opportunity to fellowship when not in rehearsals. Those attending are Sue Keller, Gail Broussard, Betty Cloninger, Lynn Glover, Heather Kaiser, Joanna Pressley, Leanne Christman, and myself. Thank you for your graciousness in allowing us the time away to better our skills through this event.

On Wednesday, February 10, we enter the season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service, 6:30pm. Subsequently we will meet the five Wednesdays following for mid-week Lenten services, i.e. February 17, 24, March 2, March 9, and March 16. I hope you will put these dates on your personal calendar and join us.

Lent is a very special season for me. I deeply ponder Jesus’ journey to the cross, for it means God dearly loves me. God loves me so much that He put into action a plan whereby His precious Son was killed and rose again so that I might be forgiven and live eternally with Him. My Friends, we should be in awe and so humbled that we want to honor that sacrifice and love by sharing in worship together during the most holy season of Lent. I hope to see you for our mid-week Lenten services.

As always, thank you for your support of the Music Ministry at Redeemer. Together we are doing great work for the kingdom.

See you Sunday with a smile on my face and a song in my heart,

Dawn Broom
Director of Music Ministries
See inside for dates for Redeemer’s Lenten meals and services

as well as the other “happenings” at Redeemer Lutheran Church !!