

Helping

March/April 2026



Hands

For the South Side of Lansing

Vol. XXIV, No. #1 © 2026 Redeemer Church and Helping Hands Christian Learning Center, Lansing, Michigan

Alleluia!

Worship With Us On

Easter Sunday!

April 5, 2026 at 10:00 am

- *Holy Communion Celebrated
- *All are Welcome to share in God's Holy Meal
- *Special Music
- *Easter Breakfast, 8:45-9:45am, *Light Meal

"Easter Egg Hunt"...

Saturday, March 28, 2026 @ 10:00 am

Join us on our front lot for a great Easter EVENT. Fun will be had by ALL and free Treats will be Shared with Everyone!!

This event is open to the entire Lansing community and ALL ARE INVITED. There will be games, candy, and a special and SAFE way for everyone to understand the Easter Story. ALSO the Easter Bunny himself will be there.

**ALL ARE INVITED.
PLEASE BRING A FRIEND OR TWO!!**



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 (child care voice)
517-882-2063 (fax for both)
517-980-6250 (emergency #)

redeemerlansing.com
hhclearningcenter.com

E-Mail: janhite@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Worship begins at 10:00am
**Holy Communion is Celebrated Every Sunday and Open
To all of God's Children*

Sunday Luncheon follows worship,
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays.

Wed. Adult Enrichment Hour, 7:00pm

CHURCH/SCHOOL STAFF

Jan Hite, Pastor
Tom Jones, Minister of Music
Duane Leininger, Guitar
Danielle Greene, Violin
Rachelle Williams, School Director
Sandra Walker, Council President
Vickie Crouch, School President
Also Various School Teachers

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 3rd Thursday of each month @ 6:00pm

Helping Hands Newsletter
is published bi-monthly
Editors: Rachelle Williams and Pr. Jan Hite

*Deadline for the May 2026 edition is:
April 15, 2026

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



Redeemer Church
“Your Helping Hands Place”



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Teri Sand	March 08
Alison Sall	March 18
Harriet Salvaggio	March 25
Mary Burleson	March 26
Jan Hite	March 28
Geordie Zimba	March 28

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Carol Pierce	Apr. 03
Mike Rector	Apr. 10
Grace Engle	Apr. 11

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

**Both your NEW Church Council
and School Board have met and
chosen new Officers.**

Church Council:

- Sandra Walker, President;
- Gina Leininger, Treasurer;
- Chris Bilinski, Vice-President;
- Cindy Vogt, Financial Secretary;

School Board:

- Vickie Crouch, President;
- Gena Hyde, Treasurer;
- Sandra Walker, Vice President.

A Big Thank You to each of you!





Please join us for these upcoming Events & Needs

“Easter Egg Hunt”...

Date: Saturday, March 29 @ 10:00 am.

Join us, at Redeemer Church, 2727

W. Holmes Rd., Lansing, 882-8000, in our Front Lot for a safe, fun event. This year's Easter Egg Hunt will be a true Egg Hunt that will be done in a SAFE way. All who come will receive special treats that help them learn more about the Easter Story.



ALL ARE INVITED. TO ATTEND. More info can be found at: www.redeemerlansing.com

***Please bring a friend or two!!**

“Mobile Food Pantry”...

Date: Various Dates Throughout March & April

****See Redeemer's Website or the Lansing Foodbank's Website for Locations.**

Distribution of **FREE, fresh, non-perishable food items at ALL LOCATIONS**



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 STATE IDENTIFICATION CARD OR DRIVER'S LICENSE

If you or someone you know must choose between buying food and filling prescriptions, please tell them about this important program. Participants should bring a box or bag to carry food, one distribution per household. For more information, call the City of Lansing Human Relations and Community Services @ 517-483-4477.

“Our Next Taco Dinner”...

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026, @ 6:00-7:30pm

This will be an “in-house” sit-down event. There will be Tacos (hard and soft) rice, beans, drinks and dessert.

Suggested Donations are:

Adults: \$10, Seniors \$9, \$5 child 10 and under.



Please join us for this fun and wonderful event. **Thank You!!**

WHY COME TO A SEDER PASSOVER MEAL??

Thurs. April 2 @ 6:00pm

In many circles there appears to be an increasing interest in the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. This Easter season numerous congregations across the globe will hold a "Passover Haggadah" or more traditionally known as a "Seder Meal" to gain a greater understanding of the Christian - Jewish relationship. To understand more about the holiday of Passover and how Christians can meaningfully celebrate it today, let's dig into the history and traditions.

What is Passover? A Brief History

Passover is the oldest and most important religious festival in Judaism, commemorating God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and His creation of the Israelite people.

The festival of Passover begins at sunset on the 14th of Nisan (usually in March or April) and marks the beginning of a seven-day celebration

which includes the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The highlight of Passover is a communal meal, called the Seder (which means "order," because of the fixed order of service), which is a time to rejoice and celebrate the deliverance



for the Hebrews that God accomplished through the EXODUS. The first Passover occurred after the plagues were brought upon Egypt during the enslaved of the Israelites. God told Moses to have the Israelites sacrifice a lamb and mark the door frames of their homes with the lamb's blood. God would send the angel of death to Egypt and it would "pass over" the households that were marked by the blood of the lamb.

What every Christian needs to know about Passover

As many prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, knowing the cultural Jewish soil on which Jesus walked is important to a mature and growing Christian's faith. So, it is during Holy Week, on Holy Thursday, when Jesus shared the “Last Supper” with his disciples, that Christians celebrate the Passover together. Through this celebration they remember all that their Lord, Jesus went through as a Jew and also they lift up his Jewish history found in the Book of Exodus.

Join us for a Seder Meal, on Thurs. April 2 @ 6pm @ Redeemer Church. If you and your family/friends would like to join us for this Seder Meal, please email or call to reserve your spaces.

Email: janhite@sbcglobal.net or call: 5179806250.
****Please bring a dish to share**



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.

Talking to Children About Easter

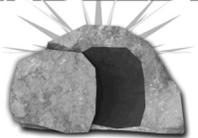
Years ago, one of our family friends asked my then three-year-old brother, Brent, about what happened at Easter.

My dad heard the question and quickly swooped into whisper, "*Jesus rose from the dead*" into my young brother's ear.

Brent then fixed his big blue eyes on our friend and proudly announced, "*Jesus froze to the bed!*"

It's a cute anecdote that my family brings up when the Easter season rolls around – and yes, it's one we'll likely share at Brent's future wedding. We're thankful that, as he's grown, my brother has developed a rich understanding of the Easter season and is continuing to uncover more truths about the depth of God's love and the magnitude of Christ's sacrifice. He didn't, however, come to this place on his own.

**He Is
RISEN
INDEED!**



Parents play a vital role in faith development

Much of the credit is due to our parents, who diligently taught us about Christ. Parents play a vital role in their children's faith development and, considering the central role of Easter in our Christian faith, it's a significant season to engage with your children about Jesus' death and resurrection.

However, there are many themes within the Easter story that may leave parents uneasy about addressing them with young children. While this season represents the ultimate expression of love and sacrifice, Christ's resurrection didn't occur without betrayal, denial, torture, pain and death.

Tips for discussing serious themes of Easter

If you're feeling anxious or uncertain about what to say to your children, consider these tips as you talk to them about Easter in the coming weeks:

- Consider your child's age, developmental stage and personality. Some children may be more sensitive to certain details than others. If you're unsure about reading your children the entire Biblical account of the Easter story, use John 3:16 as your guide to explain what happened. Continue to build on the foundation you've set by adding more details about the story every year, or as you feel comfortable.
- Listen and answer your children's questions honestly. Give them time to process what you're sharing with them and don't be afraid to tell them when you don't know the answer. Even as adults, there are some things about Easter we still may not fully comprehend.
- Engage them in activities that can help bring the truth of Easter to life. Get creative! Use real-life scenarios, science experiments, skits or an Easter-themed book to help your kids understand forgiveness, sin, new life and salvation.

Explain to your children what Easter means to you. It can be easier to chat with your son or daughter when you focus on personal reflections.

Remember, the Gospel message is simple to grasp – even for a child. **Pray that God would give you wisdom and that the Holy Spirit would bring clarity to your children as they learn.**

Ultimately, as a parent, you know what's best for your family. Take advantage of the opportunities you have to engage your children in conversations about Jesus and His sacrifice. And make sure you take opportunities to celebrate Easter with your family.

After all, Jesus didn't stay frozen to the bed!

What's Happening

March/April 2026

- 3/08 Daylight Savings Time
* Spring Ahead one Hour
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20 First Day of Spring
- 3/20 LSD No School
- 3/26 HHCLC Board Meeting
- 3/27 LSD No School
- **3/30-4/03 Spring Break All Schools, *HH open 7-6pm**
- 3/28 Redeemer Church's Easter Egg Hunt, 10am
- 4/01 April Fools Day
- 4/01 Start of Passover
- 4/02 Seder Meal, 6pm,
*All Invited
- 4/03 Good Friday
- **4/05 Easter Sunday**
- 4/15 Tax Day
- 4/22 Earth Day
- 4/23 Redeemer Taco Dinner

Helping Hands Christian Learning Center is a ministry of Redeemer Church and has been servicing our community for 30 years now. 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!**

HOW IS THE DATE OF EASTER DETERMINED??

In 325AD the first major church council, the Council of Nicaea, determined that *Easter should fall on the Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox.*

That is why the date moves and why Easter festivities are often referred to as "moveable feasts".

So how do we figure this date out? **First we start with the "Spring Equinox-March 21."** Then we find the next Full Moon on the calendar that follows the Spring Equinox. Easter is the Sunday that follows that specific "Full Moon."

This year, 2026 the "Full Moon falls on April 1st, which means that Easter falls on Sunday April 5th, 2026.



Now to figure out the date of **Ash Wednesday**, you start with the date of Easter Sunday, back up six weeks (that gives you the first Sunday of Lent), and then back up four more days: Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday before the first Sunday of Lent.

What is fascinating is that this process in finding the date of Easter has been going on since 325AD.

The Violin Strings...

On Nov. 18, 1995, Itzhak Perlman, the violinist, came on stage to give a concert at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City. If you have ever been to a Perlman concert, you know that getting on stage is no small achievement for him. He was stricken with polio as a child, and so he has braces on both legs and walks with the aid of two crutches.

To see him walk across the stage one step at a time, painfully and slowly, is a sight. He walks painfully, yet majestically, until he reaches his chair. Then he sits down, slowly, puts his crutches on the floor, undoes the clasps on his legs, tucks one foot back and extends the other foot forward. Then he bends down and picks up the violin, puts it under his chin, nods to the conductor and proceeds to play.

By now, the audience is used to this ritual. They sit quietly while he makes his way across the stage to his chair. They remain reverently silent while he undoes the clasps on his legs. They wait until he is ready to play. But this time, something went wrong. Just as he finished the first few bars, one of the strings on his violin broke. You could hear

it snap - it went off like gunfire across the room. There was no mistaking what that sound meant. There was no mistaking what he had to do.

People who were there that night thought to themselves: "We figured that he would have to get up, put on the clasps again, pick up the crutches and limp his way off stage - to either find another violin or else find another string for this one." But he didn't. Instead, he waited a moment, closed his eyes and then signaled the conductor to begin again.

The orchestra began, and he played from where he had left off. And he played with such passion and such power and such purity as they had never heard before. Of course, anyone knows that it is impossible to play a symphonic work with just three strings. I know that, and you know that, but that night Itzhak Perlman refused to know that. You could see him modulating, changing, recomposing the piece in his head. At one point, it sounded like he was de-tuning the strings to get new sounds from them that they had never made before.

When he finished, there was an awesome silence in the room. And then people rose and cheered. There was an extraordinary outburst of applause from every corner of the auditorium. We were all on our feet, screaming and cheering, doing everything we could to show how much we appreciated what he had done.



He smiled, wiped the sweat from his brow, raised his bow to quiet us, and then he said, not boastfully, but in a quiet, pensive, reverent tone, *"You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left."* What a powerful line that is. It has stayed in my mind ever since I heard it. And who knows?

Perhaps that is the way of life - not just for artists but for all of us. Here is a man who has prepared all his life to make music on a violin of four strings, who, all of a sudden, in the middle of a concert, finds himself with only three strings. So he makes music with three strings, and the music he made that night with just three strings was more beautiful, more sacred, more memorable, than any that he had ever made before, when he had four strings.

So, perhaps our task in this shaky, fast-changing, bewildering world in which we live is to make music, at first with all that we have, and then, when that is no longer possible, to make music with what we have left.

-- Jack Riemer, Houston Chronicle

Happy Birthday To You...

March/April 2026

Logan C.	March 03	Ms. Giselle	April 01
Ms. Heather	March 07	Abel P.	April 01
Nevaeh G.	March 14	Vivienne S.	April 06
Preston B-S.	March 15	Ms. Serita	April 08
Alvin P.	March 25	Nax'er H.	April 13
Dominick H.	March 28	Ariq B.	April 13
Pastor Jan	March 28	Legend W.	April 14
Branley V.	March 29	Tiana B.	April 19
		Wallace M.	April 21
		Adalynn W.	April 21
		Ms. Amy	April 23



You need To Bloom Where YOU Are Planted



Summer Will Be Here Soon...

Place your Child in a Safe, Healthy Environment where they can have Fun and Learn.....and in return you will receive "Peace of mind." Remember we have care for infants, toddlers, Pre-Schoolers, Pre-K, a full time Summer Program (ages 5-12) and a Before & After School Program when school starts in the fall.

*All programs Include breakfast, lunch and various snacks. Meals are prepared by our licensed chef with an emphasis on "healthy living and eating" and the cost is included in your child's tuition.

**Also we have a bus that transports your child to and from school each day.

2727 W. Holmes Rd., Lansing—517-882-8622
Call (517) 882-8622 for more info

Enroll Now

Summer Program
Fills Very Fast.
Limited Space
Available.

****Begins the week after**
school ends in the summer.

Call 517-882-8622 to place your child on the reservation list. *One week's deposit required.

A sweet surprise in the right place at the right time...

“Excuse me,” said the young man, standing awkwardly at the open church door. “I’m here to pick up an Easter basket for my daughter. Am I in the right place?”

“Well, we have baskets, but they’re not Easter baskets for kids; they’re food baskets,” I explained.

That morning I had arrived early at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church here in Carmichael, California, to help distribute the baskets to needy families for Easter. To make sure everyone was taken care of, we had handed out numbers to the recipients that matched the basket they were supposed to receive. Each one contained a full Easter dinner—a whole ham, potatoes, bread, vegetables and a pie—plus enough staples to help feed a family for a week.

“Why don’t you come in?” I offered the man.

He looked disappointed. He shook his head, and peered over his shoulder. “I can’t...my daughter is waiting for me in the car,” he said. He gave her a little wave and turned back toward me. “I’m grateful for the food, but when I heard you were giving away baskets for Easter...well, I thought they would be Easter baskets for children,” he continued. “I promised my daughter one.” He glanced over his shoulder again. “I left her in the car because I wanted to surprise her.”



I felt bad, but there was nothing we could do. Our volunteers had put together food baskets, not Easter ones. We didn’t have the means to make up anything else. The man handed me his number, and I walked over to where the baskets were waiting for pick up.

A bulge in one of the baskets caught my eye. What is that? I wondered. Leaning in and looking more closely, I could see, unmistakably, an Easter basket—filled with an assortment of candy and Easter eggs—wrapped with ribbons and tucked inside with the food.

One of the volunteers must have added it by mistake! I thought. Then I looked at the man’s number in my hand. *Well, I’ll be...*

“Happy Easter,” I said to the man, handing him the only food basket with an Easter basket inside—the very same basket with his number on it. ***“Someone knew just what you needed.”***

Someone sure did he responded. Easter is a season, a way of life when Jesu shows us that God truly knows what we need. Jesus lives, dies and rises again so that you and I can see that we are never alone, that we will always receive forgiveness for all our blunders and that he will show us the true way to heaven, when our time comes.

Accept his GIFT and know that IT was made special, just for you!!



Redeemer Church, E.L.C.A.
“...your Helping Hands”
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Lansing, Michigan 48911
www.redeemerlansing.com
www.hhclearningcenter.com

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LANSING, MI

Address Service Requested

**TIME-VALUED
MAIL**

*Please deliver by:
March 7, 2026*

**Celebrate!
JESUS
IS ALIVE!**



TACO DINNER

**Thursday, April 23, 2026
6:00-7:30pm**

Includes: Tacos, Beans, Rice, Chips, Drinks, Ice Cream
*Guacamole & All the Fixings

Suggested Cost: Adults \$10/ Seniors \$9 (ages 65 and up)

Children \$5 (age 10 and under)

All are invited to attend. Bring your family, friends and neighbors.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE...

Palm Saturday

Saturday, March 28th

Community Easter Egg Hunt,

10 am. *All Invited

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29, 10:00am

Procession w/Palms & The “Passion Story”

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2nd

Seder Meal @ 6pm,

*Holy Communion will Follow.

Good Friday

Tenebrae Worship (Service of Lights)

Friday, April 3rd, 7:00pm

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5th

Easter Breakfast, 8:45-9:45am

Holy Worship, 10:00am

****All Invited to each of these Events**

**Worship is available in-Person and Live on
our website.**

