

June/July 2026

# Helping



# Hands

For the South Side of Lansing

Vol. XXIV. No. 2 © 2026 Redeemer Church and Helping Hands Christian Learning Center, Lansing, Michigan

## WHY AMERICA?? *Justice, Freedom & Faith It Began 250 Years Ago...*

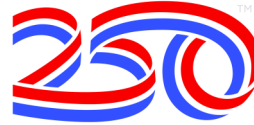
All that we do, all that we believe is grounded in **Justice, Freedom and Faith**. Our way of living was given to us from those who believed that all people, black, brown, yellow and white should have the chance to live a full and complete life in a land of opportunity and grace.

For the last 250 years, those who have fought for Freedom and Justice have done just that because they have been grounded in some form of Faith.

Faith was the energy that brought the 1st Americans to this land a long time ago. For you see the first people that came here were looking for Freedom of Faith, Freedom to worship God and not be oppressed while they were doing it.

So, when they had the chance, they got on a boat, (the Mayflower) and traveled overseas to face the unknown, knowing that God would protect them and show them the way. It was here, in America that they found a "safe place" and a "safe people." It was here in America they found a "Holy Land" where they could put down roots and come to know God in a whole new way.

## AMERICA



Yes, those who came, found "Freedom of Faith" and the oppression they were under in the "old land," was no more.

Many years of hardship was faced by many and forms of in-justice had to be overcome due to the sinfulness they brought with them.

But because of the belief systems (Christian, Jewish and others) they brought with them, they fought hard to stay on a "just" path toward their brothers and their sisters who traveled with them and those they found here.

Eventually they formed a "Republic" and with it all the "right" systems to run a country that offered a life that became more loving toward ALL.

However, over time more opportunities were presented to society and with those opportunities came grumbling and disruption due to the unknown.

Even though a much better life was found by all and Justice and Freedom has been won for most here in this land, "Freedom of Faith" is not appreciated as it should be. A love for God, which we were all once grounded in has somewhat been lost. ***So, as we prepare to celebrate 250 years of freedom, may we remember we are a people who believe in "Justice, Freedom and Faith for ALL!!"***



## COMMUNITY PICNIC

Includes: *Hot Dogs, Salads, Chips, Homemade Desserts, & Drinks*

*\*Special Music*

**Thursday, June 11, 2026**

**6:00—7:30pm**

**"FREE TO ALL"**

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

# 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 #)  
[www.redeemerslansing.com](http://www.redeemerslansing.com)  
[www.hhclearningcenter.com](http://www.hhclearningcenter.com)  
E-Mail: [janhite@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 Sunday's of the Month  
Wed. Adult Enrichment Hour, Wed. @ 7:00pm  
*\*Ends June 12th & Starts again Sept. 11th.*

### CHURCH STAFF

Jan Hite, Pastor  
Tom Jones, Minister of Music  
Rachelle Williams, School Director  
Danielle Greene, Violin  
Duane Lenninger, Guitar  
Caleb Crouch, Bass  
Sandra Walker, Council President  
Vickie Crouch, Learning Center President

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 normally meet the 4th  
Thursday of every other month @ 6:00pm**

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

\*Deadline for the **Sept. 26** edition is:  
**August 20, 2026**  
\*The editors reserve the right to make changes  
to all items submitted.



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Sophia Hopper	June 03
Nate Engle	June 06
Bertha George	June 12
Marjorie Jones	June 13
Robert Eastwell	June 14
Gina Leininger	June 18
Kara Leininger	June 19
Dee Sickles	June 19
Kenny Weeden/Sand	June 25

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Scott & Laura Erney	June 21
Tom & Kathy Jones	June 29

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

Jacob Jones	July 01
Gena Hyde	July 04
Duane Leininger	July 18
Reneishia George	July 29

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](mailto:janhite@sbcglobal.net) or dropping your name and Birth date or Anniversary date in the offering plate.  
**Thank You!**



**A DAD...**  
A Son's first Hero...  
A Daughter's first Love.



## Please join us for these Upcoming Events

### “Mobile Food Pantry”...

**Date:** *Various Dates Throughout June & July.*  
**\*\*See Redeemer’s Website or the Lansing Food-bank’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.

### “Ice Cream Social”...

**Date:** *Saturday, August 22, 2026 @ 3:00pm.*

Come join your friends and neighbors for the annual Ice Cream Social at Redeemer Church.

This is an opportunity to share in some **FREE Ice Cream and Food.** Also, there will be fun games & prizes for the children, music for both young and old, great food, inflatables and our Annual Raffle.

There also will be crafts, face painting and other interesting things for both youth and adults to enjoy. Food will be available to purchase.

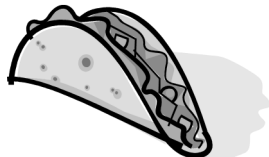


**COME SHARE IN THE FUN.  
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.  
SEE YOU AUGUST 22nd!**

### “Next Taco Dinner”...

**Date:** *Thursday, September 17th, 2026 @ 6-7:30pm,*

Includes: Tacos, Beans, Rice, Drinks, Ice Cream. All you can eat. **Suggested Cost: Adults \$10/Seniors \$9/ (age 60 and older) Children \$5 (age 10 and under).** Take Out is Available. **All are invited to attend. Bring your family, friends and neighbors.**



### “Don’t Forget...”

Many of you will need child care and Before and After Care in the **FALL.** Due to this fact, you might want to **reserve your spot at Helping Hands Christian Learning Center NOW.** Our Summer Program was filled by March, and our Fall programs are also filling quickly. If you think you will be needing care in the Fall, think about signing up **NOW!**



**Call, 517-882-8622.**

**Meanwhile, have a fun and blessed Summer!!!**

**“What is Lansing Promise”...**It is a program in the Lansing Schools that provides up to \$10,000 in scholarships toward an associate degree or certification at LCC or \$20,000 toward an Bachelors Degree at MSU, Univ. of Olivet or Davenport Univ. Also funds can be used in skilled trades. Students who graduate from Lansing Schools, 9th thru 12 are eligible. For more info: [info@LansingPromise.org](mailto:info@LansingPromise.org) or call: 517-512-3616.



### “Juneteenth Unity Fest”...

**Date:** *Tuesday, June 16th, 6-9pm @ Sharp Park*

This cultural event celebrates Juneteenth, by shining a light on our unity as a community through diversity, education and inclusion. There will be food, music, and many steps into the past that will lead into the future.



### “Black Men’s Health Fair”...

**Date:** *Saturday, June 13, 2026, @ 9am-2pm. Doors open @ 8:30am.*

*Located at Union Missionary Baptist Church. 500 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing.* There will be screenings, Vaccines, Education Sessions, Resources, and Refreshments. **This event and all it provides is Open to the Community and FREE to all.**

Contact: [health@naacplansing.org](mailto:health@naacplansing.org)

### “5th Annual Buy Back Gun Day”...

**Date:** *Sat. Oct. 3, 2026, Time to Be Announced.*

This will be held at St. Michaels Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Dr., Lansing, Mi., just off Edgewood on the South side behind Target.

The benefit of this event is that it gets dangerous guns off our streets. Call: 517-882-9733 for more info.



# 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.

## Spend Time Outdoors With Your Child

### Add a short walk to your evening routine.

After dinner and dishes, hit the pavement. Look up at the stars, keep an ear out for sounds of the night, tell a story about when you were young, and listen while your child tells you about his or her day.

### Plant, tend, and harvest flowers or vegetables.

You can plant seeds or plants in a container (pot, window box, bucket, or even a trash can) in your yard or a neighborhood garden plot. Your preschooler will enjoy digging, weeding, and watching the plants flourish. You could grow salad—cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, and lettuce—or plant flowers that grow to different heights, like marigolds and sunflowers.



### Enjoy all kinds of weather.

Try to go outdoors, regardless of weather conditions. Plan short activities when it is very cold or hot; enjoy more outside time when the weather is fine. Preschoolers love walking in the rain; just be sure to wear waterproof boots and hooded raincoats. Layers are important on cold days— as you get warmer you can take off a jacket, hat, or mittens. In summertime be sure everyone wears a sun hat and sunscreen and drinks plenty of water.

### Play games.

Share the games you played when you

were a child, like hopscotch, jacks, Simon Says, and charades. Play board games on a picnic table or blanket. Introduce skills preschoolers will one day use to play sports, such as kicking or dribbling a ball or hitting a foam ball back and forth using light rackets.

### Enjoy the nature all around you.

Whether they live on farms or in apartments, children need experiences in the natural world. Point out the nature all around you—new leaves on trees in the spring, bugs living under a rock or in a decaying tree stump, birds flying from bush to bush. Go strawberry or apple picking or visit a park, nature center, or farmers' market. Bring along nature guides, paper, crayons, measuring tools, containers, a magnifying glass, and binoculars so you can help your child become an enthusiastic nature investigator.

Our classes goes outdoors as often as possible. The children run, swing, climb, ride bikes, pull wagons, go for walks, and kick and throw balls. They also do many of the activities we enjoy inside, like reading, painting, doing puzzles, eating snack, and making music. We believe that almost anything children do indoors can be an outdoor activity also.

**This summer spend as much time as you can outdoors and see how it enlightens your child's spirit.** Walk and talk with them in the beauty of each day and see how the summer brings you closer to them and to God.

## What's Happening

- Tues. June 2nd—Graduation Time, At Helping Hands, 6:30pm
- Fri. June 05th—Last Day of School
- Monday, June 08th—Summer Program Begins, 7:00am
- Wed. June 10th—Staff Mtg. 6pm
- Thursday, June 11th—Redeemer's Community Picnic, 6pm
- Fri. June 14th—Flag Day
- Sunday, June 21st—Father's Day
- Summer Begins, June 21st
- Fri. July 3: HHLCC Closed for the 4th
- Sat. 4th of July, Enjoy the Holiday
- July 20th—HHLCC Bd. Mtg. 6pm

\*\*Every Thursday @ 10:00am the Pre-K and Toddler Class have Educational Hour and Worship Time.

\*\*Every Friday @ 10:00am the Summer Program has Educational Hour and Worship Time

**Helping Hands Christian Learning Center** is an outreach ministry of Redeemer Church and has been servicing the community for 31 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
- Worship: 10:00am
- Lunch and Fellowship: 11:15am
- Adult Enrichment Class: Wed.7:00pm

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

# Happy Birthday To You...

June & July Birthdays			
Logan R.	02	Zuri G.	08
Khalani H.	02	Jaxon P.	13
Oliver E.	14	Semaj J.	15
Kylen W.	16	Mrs. Rachelle	18
Adrianna R.	17	Ayvah A.	26
Ohana N.	25	Tatihanna D.	30
Desmond H.	28		
Ms. Rose, 24, Anniv.		Ms. Heather 29, Anniv.	



## Fun Summer Activity Stained Glass Butterfly

### You will need:

Wax Paper                      Glue  
Scissors                        Paintbrush  
Tissue Paper                  String

1. Cut a butterfly pattern out of wax paper
2. Have the child cut or tear small pieces of tissues paper.
3. Have the child "paint" a small area of glue on the wax paper.
4. Add the pieces of tissue paper to glue area.
5. Continue until the entire wax paper is covered
6. After the glue has dried, attach string to hang the Stained Glass Butterfly from the ceiling or in the window.

- Office for Young Children



## DO YOU WANT GREAT CARE FOR YOUR CHILD ALL YEAR ROUND?

### Enroll NOW For "Before and After School Program"

**HELPING HANDS  
CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER**  
2727 W. Holmes Rd.,  
Lansing  
(517) 882-8622 for more  
info

7:00am till 6:00pm

- Includes breakfast and after-school snack
- Homework help, outdoor play, art projects, board games
- Fellowship Time
- and much, much more
- Occasional field trips
- Bus trip provided to and from school



**C**hoosing your child's Before & After School Program is one of the most important decisions you will ever make.  
[www.hhclearningcenter.com](http://www.hhclearningcenter.com)

Give your child a safe and fun haven to stay in touch with old friends and meet new ones. *Children will enjoy a fun learning experience and you will enjoy peace of mind throughout your work day.* Enroll them NOW!!

ALL elementary – age children are Welcome!!  
**Space Limited. Program is Open on HOLIDAY, BREAK DAYS, SNOW DAYS, & 1/2 SCHOOL DAYS. Beginning to Fill. Call Now!!!**

### Helping Hands Christian Learning Center

**Includes: Before & After Care, Full-time Child Care, Kindergarten Readiness Program, Summer Program, Pre-School, & Feeding Program. Call 517-882-8622 for more info.**

## HELPING HANDS CHRISTIAN LEARNING CENTER 2026...

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR PRE-SCHOOLERS WHO WILL BE MOVING ON TO KINDERGARTEN IN THE FALL. IT HAS BEEN A JOY TO SHARE IN YOUR



LIVES AND BE A PART OF YOUR PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH. MAY GOD BE WITH EACH OF YOU IN ALL YOU DO IN THE YEARS AHEAD!!

**Serenity K.  
Abel P.  
Peyton P.**

**Ayvah A.  
Mark F.  
Ashley P.**

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Our "faithful bus" has served us well and was a gift from someone in our community when we first started our "before and after school program." However, it is getting old, and it is time for a new one.

We are in the process of looking/buying a new one.

We thought all our parents, especially those who depend on that bus to take their children to and from school and on field trips would like to hear this good news.

Our old, "faithful bus" still works well, and at this time we will still hold on to it, but the safety of all of your children is vital to the Board of Directors of Helping Hands and the members of Redeemer Church. We should have the new bus before school starts in the fall.

Keep your eyes open for our new and shiny Bus!!



## ANOTHER BEATITUDE

Blessed are they who understand My faltering step and shaking hand,  
Blessed, who know my ears today Must strain to catch the things they say,  
Blessed are they who seem to know My eyes are dim and my mind is slow,  
Blessed are they who looked away As I spilled my tea on the cloth that day!  
Blessed are they who, with cherry smile, Stopped to chat for a little while,  
Blessed are they who know the way To bring back memories of yesterday,  
Blessed are they who never say "You've told that story twice today!"  
Blessed are they who make it known That I'm loved, respected and not alone,  
And blessed are they who will ease the days Of my journey home, in loving ways.

—Elizabeth Clark



## REMEMBER THE PROMISE?

Years ago, a young man knelt with his pastor and prayed as he committed to God his tithe.

His first week's pay was \$10.00 and the tithe was \$1.00. As he grew older he became more prosperous and his tithe was \$7.00 a week, then \$10.00.

He moved to another city and soon his tithe was \$100 a week, then \$200, then \$250, then \$500.



One day the younger man sent his old friend a wire, "Please come see me." The Pastor arrived at the man's house. They had a good time talking over old times. Finally the man came to his point. "You remember that promise I made years ago to tithe. How can I get released?" "Why would want to get released," asked the pastor?" "It's like this," replied the man, "When I made the promise, I only had to give \$1.00 per week, but now it is \$500 per week. I can't afford to give away money like that."

The old pastor looked at his friend. "I am afraid we cannot get released from the promise, but there is something we can do. We can kneel and ask God to shrink your income so you can afford to give \$1.00 again."

**Let us each give thanks to God for ALL He has given us.**

# America Is Turning 250 — Here's How to Celebrate with Your Kids This Fourth of July

This July 4th is not just any Independence Day. In 2026, the United States turns **250 years old** — a quarter millennium since a group of brave (and, let's be honest, pretty rebellious) colonists signed the Declaration of Independence and changed the course of history. The Semi quincentennial, as it's officially called (try saying *that* five times fast), is a once-in-a-lifetime milestone, and it's the perfect opportunity to make this Fourth of July extra meaningful for your family.

## Start with a Free Activity Kit

Before the sparklers come out, download the free **America 250 Activity Kit** — it's packed with hands-on activities designed to help kids connect with American history in a way that's engaging, age-appropriate, and actually fun. Think of it as the ultimate pre-fireworks warmup for young patriots. See the website below: <https://callistomedia.widen.net/s/qgkmslpg25/america250-activity-kit>

## Books to Bring American History to Life

Looking for ways to build on the excitement beyond the holiday itself? These books make fantastic Fourth of July reads, summer additions to your home library, or gifts for curious kids. We've rounded them up by category so you can find exactly the right fit.

- The Bill of Rights: A Kid's Guide to Freedom in America
- How the U.S. Government Works: A Kid's Guide to Civics
- The History of the Constitution: Notable Events for Young Readers
- Major Events in American History: 50 Defining Moments from Pre-Colonial Times to the 21st Century (People and Events in History)
- The Story of Alexander Hamilton: An Inspiring Biography for Young Readers
- The Story of Thomas Jefferson: An Inspiring Biography for Young Readers

## Make It a Moment

The 250th is a big deal — the kind of anniversary that kids will one day tell *their* kids they were alive for. So this July 4th, in between the cookouts and the fireworks, take a few minutes to share a little of the story with them. Read a chapter together, work through a page of the activity kit, or just ask: *What do you think it means to be American?*

You might be surprised what they come up with.

*Happy 250th,  
America!!*



**Redeemer Church, E.L.C.A.**  
“...your Helping Hands”  
**Helping Hands Christian Learning Center**  
2727 West Holmes Road  
Lansing, Michigan 48911  
[www.redeemerlansing.com](http://www.redeemerlansing.com)

*Address Correction Requested*

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**PAID**  
Permit No. 149  
LANSING, MI

Your Helping Hands Place

**TIME-VALUED  
MAIL**

*Please deliver by:  
June 8th, 2026*

**What's Happening at Redeemer...**



**“Neighborhood Picnic”...**  
**Thursday,**  
**June 11th @ 6:00pm**

Come enjoy a “free dinner” and celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer with neighbors and friends.

There will be “summer fixins” and some great music in the church yard @ 6pm.

**It is free to all!!**

All you need to bring is a SMILE AND A CONVERSATION.

**See you Thursday, June 11th!!!**

Come join your friends and neighbors for the annual Ice Cream Social at Redeemer Church. This is an opportunity to share in some FREE Ice Cream and have a wonderful time.



Also, there will be FREE Fun games & prizes for the kids, and LIVE music for both young and old. Come enjoy the great crafts, an inflatable slide and our Annual Raffle.

ALL events are free and also the food and ice cream are FREE to all. There is a charge to buy our Annual Raffle Tickets.

**COME SHARE IN THE FUN.  
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

**See you on Sat.  
August 22nd from  
3:00-6:00 pm**