

Mar/April 2023

# Helping Hands

For the South Side of Lansing

Vol. XVI, No. I © 2023 Redeemer Church and Helping Hands Christian Learning Center, Lansing, Michigan

# Alleluia!

Worship With Us On

## Easter Sunday!

April 9th, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

- Worship begins at 10:00 am

\*Holy Communion Celebrated

\*All are Welcome to share in God's Holy Meal

\*Special Music

\*Easter Breakfast, 8:45am, \*Light Meal

**“Easter Egg Hunt”...**  
**Saturday, April 1st @ 9:30am**

Join us in our front lot for a great Easter EVENT. Fun will be had by ALL and 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.



**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](http://redeemerlansing.com)  
[hhclearningcenter.com](http://hhclearningcenter.com)  
E-Mail: [janhite@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janhite@sbcglobal.net)

Sunday Study Time at 9:00am  
Sunday Worship begins at 10:00am  
\*Holy Communion is Celebrated Every Sunday and Open  
To all of God's Children  
Sunday Luncheon follows worship  
Wed. Adult Enrichment Hour, 7:00pm

## CHURCH STAFF

Jan Hite, Pastor  
Tom Jones, Minister of Music  
Jeanette Eastham, Guitar  
Bill Hart-Davidson, Bass  
Carla Fitzgerald, School Director  
Sandra Walker, Council President  
Vickie Crouch, School President  
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: Carla Fitzgerald and Pr. Jan Hite

\*Deadline for the May 2023 edition is:  
April 15, 2023

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



**Redeemer Church**  
“Your Helping Hands Place”



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Teri Sand         | March 08 |
| Penney Shumway    | March 13 |
| Alison Sall       | March 18 |
| Harriet Salvaggio | March 25 |
| Mary Burleson     | March 26 |
| Jan Hite          | March 28 |

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Carol Pierce | Apr. 03 |
| Mike Rector  | Apr. 10 |
| Grace Engle  | Apr. 11 |
| Ann Hyde     | Apr. 28 |

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!**

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

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

**Church Council:** Sandra Walker, President;  
Teri Sand, Recorder; Jeanette Eastham, Treasurer; Harriet Salvaggio, Vice-President.

**School Board:** Vickie Crouch, President;  
Vice President; Jeanette Eastham;  
Harriet Salvaggio, Recorder; Gena Hyde, Treasurer.

**A Big Thank You to each of you!**





## Please join us for these upcoming Events & Needs

### “Easter Egg Hunt”...

**Date: Saturday, April 1st @ 9:30am.**

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. **The Egg Hunt Begins @ 9:30 am. More info can be found on our Website: [www.redemerglansing.com](http://www.redemerglansing.com)**



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

### “Mobile Food Pantry”...

**Date: Various Dates Throughout March & April**

**\*\*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.

### “Our Next Taco Dinner”...

**Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023, 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.*



This is our 2nd Taco Dinner since Covid. Please join us for this fun and wonderful event. **Thank You!!**

## “The Need For Blood Is GREAT”...

The American Red Cross is in dire need for Blood. Since Covid-19 hit, the demand for blood is high and those donating blood are low.



Donating blood is SAFE!!!

If you have been a regular donor, please return to donating blood. If you have never donated blood consider doing it. **Go to: [www.redcross.com](http://www.redcross.com)**

To donate soon, you can find a blood drive or donate at the Red Cross Building on Saginaw St. Make a difference in the lives of those who need blood desperately. It only takes 1/2 hour. Thank you.

### “Daylight Savings Time Change”...

**Date: Sunday, March 12th @ 2:00am**

Spring is on the horizon as we will need to set our clocks ahead one hour on Sunday morning at 2am, 3/12. So, get ready to lose 1 hour of sleep. **Yes, it is time to “Spring A Head!”**

### “Our Current Lenten Study”...

**Date: Wednesday’s @ 7:00pm, March 1-March 29**



**Anxious for Nothing.** During the 5-weeks of Lent we will look at God promise found in Philippians 4:4–8. In this reading we will see that even though “anxiety” is part of life, it doesn’t have to dominate life. As we gather we will learn through God’s **“Prescription for Worry”** – that we can...*celebrate his goodness, ask for help, leave your concerns with him, meditate on good things, and experience his peace.* Yes, you can stop letting anxiety rule your day and find true calm and contentment in Christ.

Come explore God’s treatment plan for anxiety that unfolds in Philippians 4:4–8. Come find a peace that “transcends all understanding.” Come find a peace that will help you reframe the way you look at your fears.





# 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.

# **Conversation With Children: Tips for using words in powerful ways**

By Dr. Jessica Alvarado

The power of the words we use with children is like no other! Much research has been done on the lasting effect our words have on children: we all know someone who still remembers something a parent, grandparent, sibling, or teacher said years ago that still feels fresh today.

As parents, we're not always aware of the implications our words can have; some of us may still regret something hurtful we said to our children when emotions were high. The truth is that no parent is perfect, and we all say things we don't mean or wish we had said differently. With that in mind, we can all be more proactive in our conversations with children, using our words carefully and in honest and loving ways. Below are some practical tips for ensuring our conversations with children are positive and meaningful.

**Choose kind words.** This may seem like a no-brainer, but we need to ensure that we're using words to explain how we feel or think and not words that make children feel defeated. There should never be any name-calling or phrases that cause a child's self-worth to be compromised.

**Be honest.** It may sound silly to say, but it's important to be honest with our children. It's okay to tell a child that you feel sad about a situation or that you're disappointed. But be cautious in how you say it: the focus should be on how you feel, not on what the child did.

**Consider your child's temperament, personality, and current situation.** Some children are more sensitive than others, while other children may be in family situations that are causing them to act out or seek attention in negative ways. Situations such as divorce, a death in the family, or moving to a new home can be stressful, causing a child to behave inappropriately. Be mindful and understanding of life circumstances that could be impacting your child's behavior.

**Think about timing and environments.**  
We are too quick to lash out verbally, and this causes more harm than good. Unless there is a safety issue, take a few minutes to reflect before you speak, and consider how you might express concerns to a child in a way that makes sense, in an environment appropriate for conversation. Find a private spot

without many distractions, where the child can look at you, and where others' attention will not be drawn. Embarrassment can be extremely harmful to a child, having lasting effects. Your conversation is about you and your child—not you, your child, and every other person who happens to be nearby.

**Be aware of your tone, volume, and body**

**language.** We've all witnessed those moments when a parent is pointing a finger at a child, hovering over them and talking too loudly. If a conversation is needed immediately, kneel down to your child's level first look him or her in the eye and remember that a rude or mean tone and loud voice level will not teach your child anything.

**Allow your child to feel and speak.** So often we are quick to reprimand, wanting to hear a child say "sorry" so we can move on. While an apology is appreciated, we need to make sure we're giving children time to process situations and learn how to express authentic apologies. Model for children by expressing how you feel. When developmentally appropriate, allow the child to feel empathetic. When a child has this time, it can be used as guidance for positive behavior.

**Speak and act in love.** We are easily caught up in our own emotions, and can become distracted by our desires to correct negative behavior. Always take time to remind your child that you love him, and express it with both words and physical actions, such as a hug or kiss. If we speak and model in love, children feel secure and safe, and they continue to grow confidently. We are their first teachers, and we want to model appropriately so that they replicate our behavior in their interactions with others.

Following the tips above will provide some gentle reminders for making conversations with children more powerful. We won't always be perfect, but we can always try again or shift our reactions to show children love and respect. Every conversation we have with children helps to shape their lives, and **when we model appropriately, we help them feel safe, secure, and loved!**

## What's Happening

March/April 2023

March is Reading Month!!

3/08—LCA: No School

3/12—Daylight Savings Time

3/16—Cole 1/2 Day

3/17—Cole 1/2 Day

3/17—LSD: No School

3/17—Happy St. Patrick's Day

3/20—First Day of Spring

3/23—HHCLC Board Mtg, 6pm

3/24—3/31: Cole Academy & LSD Spring Break

3/27—3/31: LCA Spring Break

4/01—April Fool's Day

4/01—Redeemer Easter Egg Hunt, 9:30am

4/02—Palm Sunday—Service, 10a

4/05—Passover

4/07—Good Friday—Service, 7p

4/07—Cole No School

4/07—LCA 1/2 day

4/09—Happy Easter, Redeemer Church Service, 10:00am

4/10—LCA No School

4/18—Tax Day

4/27—Taco Dinner, 6pm

4/28—Cole No School

**Helping Hands Christian Learning Center** is a ministry of Redeemer Church and has been servicing the community for 27 years now. Here we offer love and quality care to God's children.



### *Sunday Schedule*

- | <u>Wednesday Schedule</u>  |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| -Choir Rehearsal:          | 8:30am  |
| -Adult & Youth Study Time: | 9:00am  |
| -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!**

## WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THE “SEDER MEAL?”

The Passover Seder is a ritual meal that is eaten on the first night of Passover. The Seder includes a retelling of the story of the Exodus, as well as traditional foods that are eaten to help re-tell the story.

### What is the meaning of Passover?

According to the Book of Exodus in the Torah, the Jewish people were enslaved in Egypt and subject to intense labor by Pharaoh. When God caught wind of this, he sent Moses to Pharaoh to free the Jews. Moses asked Pharaoh to let his people go, but Pharaoh refused, causing God to send down plagues.



For the last of the ten plagues, God asked the Jews to offer a lamb or goat and smear its blood on their doorposts as a way to show that their house was Jewish. Then God went through all the houses and killed the first-born son of every Egyptian house, but purposely passed over all the Jewish homes. In Hebrew, Passover is called Pesach, meaning "**to pass over.**"

This last plague pushed Pharaoh over the edge. And so, he decided to set the Israelites free. Since they wanted to leave before Pharaoh changed his mind, they didn't have time to wait for their bread to rise. (Hence why Jews eat matzah and refrain from eating grains on Passover.)

From there, the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years before coming to Mount Sinai.

### Why is Passover important?

Since Passover commemorates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt, it's a holiday of celebration, rejoice and remembrance.

**“Passover** is important because it's all about passing on our tradition to the next generation." Also it allows us to better understand that Easter is a time for all people to connect on levels of both "**their suffering and their pain**" along with their "**joy and happiness.**"

In many ways, it's a time when the past, present and future meet. **"It's a powerful tradition of connecting with the Jews in the past, how they suffered and were liberated, and then also experiencing whatever suffering you have in your life and how you're liberated today."**

For many years Redeemer Church and Helping Hands Learning Center have held a “Seder Meal” on Maundy Thursday” during Holy Week. **This year, on Thursday, April 6th @ 6:00 pm** we will again provide the opportunity for all who would like to experience a “**Seder Meal.**”

**If you are interested please RSVP to the church @ 517-882-8000 by Monday, April 3rd, 5pm.** This will give us time to purchase all the items we will need for those attending. Also, in the middle of a Seder Meal is a **Potluck meal**, so if you can, **please bring a dish to share.**

**THANK YOU!!**

## Easter Eggs: What Is the History Behind This Tradition?

### Why do we have Easter eggs?

Although eggs were a symbol of fertility and rebirth in pagan cultures, Easter eggs were used by early Christians to symbolize parts of the Easter story. Easter eggs represent the empty tomb from which Jesus resurrected. The hard shell represents the sealed tomb and the cracking of the egg represents Jesus' resurrection from the dead. While it might seem like a strange tradition to hand out Easter eggs in a church service, early Christians abstained from eating eggs and meat during Lent, a period of 40 days where Christians fast, repent, and pray to prepare for Easter. Therefore, Easter was the first time Christians could eat eggs. It was at this time that Christians developed different traditions surrounding Easter eggs.

### Why do we dye Easter eggs?

The early Christians of Mesopotamia began the custom of dyeing Easter eggs. Originally, Christians dyed eggs red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross. Over time, this tradition spread throughout eastern Orthodox churches and eventually made its way to Catholic and Protestant churches in Europe. Missionaries introduced dyeing the eggs different colors to represent different aspects of the Easter story. They used yellow to represent the resurrection, blue to represent love, and red to represent the blood of Christ. Sometimes, the missionaries would paint biblical scenes on the eggs and hide them. This is one of the earliest forms of the Easter egg hunt.

### Why do we hunt for Easter eggs?

As stated above, Christian missionaries hid Easter eggs painted with biblical scenes so that children could find the Easter eggs and tell the story associated with the paintings. Therefore, early Easter egg hunts helped children learn about the significance of Easter.

One of the earliest Easter egg hunts that most resembles the modern Easter egg hunt can be traced to Martin Luther. Martin Luther was a key leader in the Protestant Reformation. During this time, men would hide eggs for women and children to find. The joy the women and children experienced as they found eggs mirrored the joy the women felt when they found Jesus' tomb empty and realized He had risen.

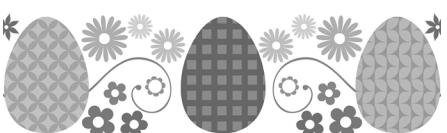
Just like early Easter egg hunts, we hide eggs, filled with special goodies inside each egg. Therefore, when children open the Easter eggs to find their surprise inside, they experience happiness and joy—the same happiness and joy Jesus' followers experienced when they heard the Good News of His resurrection.

### What are other Easter egg traditions?

Every year, the White House hosts their annual Easter Egg Roll. Egg rolling is a symbolic reenactment of the stone rolling away from Christ's tomb. At the White House, children are invited to roll their eggs across the lawn. At the end of the event, the children receive a commemorative wooden egg.

Having its roots in the Greek Orthodox tradition, children across Europe and eastern countries play egg tapping. In its early days, red eggs were cracked together when people exchanged Easter greetings. Eventually, it evolved into a competitive game for children. The children are given hard-boiled eggs, and they hit each other's eggs against one another. The winner is the child that has an intact egg at the end.

The history behind the **Easter Egg traditions** are embedded in the roots of early Christianity. Understanding the different **symbols of Easter Eggs** may give us something new to teach the children in our lives. Something new that might lead them to want to better understand the **true meaning of the true Easter Story.**



# Happy Birthday To You...

March/April

|              |      |             |      |
|--------------|------|-------------|------|
| Vel H.S.     | 3/03 | Abel P. M.  | 4/01 |
| Joseph R.    | 3/06 | Ms. Giselle | 4/01 |
| Ms. Serita   | 3/08 | Ms. Carol   | 4/03 |
| Marissa S.W. | 3/15 | Grace E.    | 4/11 |
| Nova R.      | 3/19 | Logan S.    | 4/12 |
| Ms. Harriet  | 3/25 | Ariq B.     | 4/13 |
| Lucille G.   | 3/26 | Legend W.   | 4/14 |
| Dominick H.  | 3/28 | Ms. Amy     | 4/23 |



Your mind  
is a garden.

Your thoughts  
are the  
seeds.

You can grow  
flowers

Or you can grow  
weeds

## 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 5-11) and a Before & After School Program when school is enrolled.

\*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**

**The need is great.** Can we count on you? **Helping Hands** is supported by donations from individuals throughout our community committed to blessing and serving our children/families in need with the love of Jesus.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Church/Org.: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To Give a Gift in honor or memory of someone, please give the name, reason for gift, and the name and address where we may send an acknowledgement of your gift.

\*Helping Hands Christian Learning Center of Redeemer Church is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. All contributions are completely tax-deductible.



You can go to: [www.hhlearningcenter.com](http://www.hhlearningcenter.com)  
and donate your gift from there if you wish.  
Thank You!!

Dear friend,

I am going to assume you're a positive person who enjoys people, radiates goodness, and thrives on hope. I'm also going to assume you're familiar with discouragement. So, tell me if I have this much right: sometime in the last year you looked out over the sanctuary and congregation you love, and you wondered, "**what happened to the people? Why did so many kiss congregational life good-bye?**"

If you've contacted any of these absent parishioners, you may well have learned that they're doing just fine. Their weekends are active and full. They either endured COVID or escaped it altogether. They sound healthy and well. The topic of church may have surfaced briefly when you spoke, but it didn't seem to be very high on their priority list. So what should you do?

Well, keep the doors of your church and heart wide open. Don't write off anyone's place in your community unless they insist on it. Restarting a lapsed habit of any kind, remember, can be more difficult than creating and cultivating a brand-new one.

I wouldn't overanalyze why all sorts of people aren't showing up. Your church may be as good as any. Let's not forget the growing secularization of culture and rising religious indifference staring us all in the face. Much of the public perceives faith as having limited social value. "**We now live in a time,**" says Andrew Root, "**where the very idea that God is real and present in our lives is no longer accepted. Indeed, it's widely contested.**" Skepticism about the benefits of religious community has caused many people to quit looking to the church for personal meaning or identity.

Because you are a person of faith who leans into Christian community, however, there are some things to keep in mind when you're discouraged.

**First, remember that God has given the church a bigger and better hope than what the world lives by.** How you communicate this beautiful idea that we follow a light brighter than the flicker of our own little bulb is up to you.

**Second, don't forget to love your Christian community as you find it**, not merely as you wish it were. That's Dietrich Bonhoeffer's idea, not mine. He also reminds us that there's no way to know Christ apart from Christian community. *Christus als Gemeinde existierend*—Christ exists as community. Anybody can talk up their love for Jesus. But the church is the one place where we actually meet the living and present Christ.

**Third, remind yourself that your church needs to welcome and accept people for who they are—if it is to be any kind of magnet in your community—and then love them into who they get to become in Christ.**

**Fourth, keep looking for ways to grow and share the bubbling energy that ought to be evident in your church when people come together around a shared purpose.** Émile Durkheim coined the term *collective effervescence* to describe what happens when communal gatherings foster a deep religious experience.

Finally, delight in every sign of your congregation's faithfulness. Fixating on who's not in the pews is a worthless and suffocating exercise. There is no convincing anybody of their need for Christian community. They have to want it. And their best chance for discovering that desire may come from observing the joy that's in you.

Your companion on the journey,

Rev. Peter Marty,  
Editor of the Century Magazine  
(Reproduced with Permission)



**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)

NON-PROFIT  
U.S.  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 149  
LANSING, MI

*Address Service Requested*

**TIME-VALUED  
MAIL**  
*Please deliver by:  
March 13th*



## TACO DINNER

**Thursday, April 27, 2023  
6:00-7:30pm**

**Includes: Tacos, Beans, Rice, Chips, Drinks, Ice Cream**



**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, April 1st

#### **Community Easter Egg Hunt,**

9:30 am. \* All Invited

#### **Palm Sunday**

Sunday, April 2nd, 10:00am

Procession w/Palms & The "Passion Story"

#### **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, April 6th

Seder Meal, 6:00pm, \* please join us

#### **Good Friday**

Tenebrae Worship (Service of Lights)

Friday, April 7th, 7:00pm

#### **Easter Sunday**

Sunday, April 9th

Easter Breakfast, 8:45am

Holy Worship, 10:00am

**\*\*All Invited to be part of all Events**

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

