

**Worship**  
**at**  
**Christ the Redeemer**  
**Lutheran Church**



## **For Lutherans, worship matters.**

In fact, worship lies at the heart of how we understand ourselves together.

Today, worship practices among Lutherans reflect different patterns, different pieties, different ethnic backgrounds and experiences, and some influences that are not Lutheran at all.

Worship at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church follows the tradition of worship which received its characteristic shape during the earliest centuries of Christendom and was reaffirmed during the Reformation era. Freedom and flexibility in worship is a Lutheran inheritance, and here at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church we utilize variety in texts, ceremony, music and liturgical form. Worship is planned by the staff with care and integrity, using the prescribed readings in the 3-year lectionary as the basis for hymn selection, prayers, confession texts, etc. for Sunday worship.

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**We gather weekly for worship with Holy Communion.**

On Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 AM believers assemble to *Gather* as the Church, hear God's *Word* proclaimed, share in the *Meal*, and to be *Sent* out into the world to proclaim the love of Jesus and to serve in God's name. All who believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of communion are invited to the table. (Sunday worship times change to 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM for the summer months.)

## The Church Calendar

Part of the beauty of following the tradition of worship which has its roots in the earliest centuries is the adherence to the church calendar, following the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, each with a particular characteristic and theme of lessons.

Along with following the church calendar we follow the 3-year lectionary, a prescribed series of lessons to be read each week of the year.





## **Advent**

During the weeks in Advent we gather for mid-week worship usually on Tuesday evenings. In the dimly lit sanctuary (sometimes with incense), we sing evening songs, psalms, Mary's Song – all interspersed with prayer. It is the pause for reflection and meditation to counteract the 'busy-ness' of the preparations for the Christmas festival.

The first Tuesday in Advent (December 5, 2017 and December 4, 2018) we host an **Advent Tea**. This is an outreach to the community for women to gather, reflect one of the themes of Advent, then enjoy fellowship over tea and holiday cookies. Offerings are gathered for the Domestic Violence Center (a women's shelter and support organization).

Some years we offer a **Longest Night Liturgy** where we gather worshipers to express grief and sadness which is often felt at this time of the year, and to offer prayers for healing and comfort. We encourage all to invite neighbors and friends who may be experiencing loss or sadness during the season of Advent/Christmas to come.



## **Christmas**

Christmas Eve worship at CRLC celebrates the Eucharist at all services. The 5:30 PM service is designed for families with young children in mind. The 7:30 and 11:00 PM services include a fuller liturgy with more music, preaching, and Candle-lighting. Many traditional carols are sung at each Christmas Eve service and on the Sundays following.

## Lent

Ash Wednesday (February 14, 2018) marks the beginning of Lent; our liturgy at noon and 7:00 PM includes the imposition of ashes and time for confession. Lent is a spring housecleaning of the soul. As we prepare for Easter we are invited to clear the clutter and wash away the grit and grime of sin. The simplicity of the season calls us to focus on things that matter most. Prayer and fasting may turn us inward for a time, but the increasing light and warmth sends us back to earth, back to serve the world so loved by God.

During the season of Lent **mid-week Wednesday worship** at 7:00 PM is a strong tradition as a way of continuing the journey of walking with Christ through his passion. These mid-week offerings have traditionally included Prayers Around the Cross, which follows a simple meal and discussion/class.



## Holy Week

begins with the liturgy on **Palm/Passion** Sunday (March 25, 2018) which includes the reading of the passion – the telling of the events of the last week of Christ's life. Each Holy Week worship service begins at 7:30 PM. On **Maundy Thursday** (March 29, 2018) our liturgy includes celebration of the Last Supper and the stripping of the altar. On **Good Friday** (March 30, 2018) our liturgy is a service of word and prayer. Some years this is a Service of Tenebrae and other times includes solemn reproaches and veneration of the cross.



On Holy Saturday (March 31, 2018) we celebrate the **Easter Vigil**, a service which tells the story of salvation from the creation story through Jesus' resurrection. The liturgy begins outdoors and ends in the sanctuary with a full-blown Easter celebration, followed by a party in the Gathering Space.



## **Easter**

We celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord (April 1, 2018) with various opportunities for worship. The 6:30 AM liturgy takes place in our outdoor chapel in an informal gathering around the reading of the resurrection story and celebration of Holy Communion. (Dress warmly – it's always chilly!) The 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM are identical worship services with lots of music and full liturgy. Typically an Easter Breakfast is served after the sunrise and early services allowing time for Christian fellowship.



## **Pentecost**

The Day of Pentecost (May 20, 2018) marks the birth of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit to gird up God's people for carrying on the mission that Jesus started in his ministry on earth. Often Pentecost is an overlooked holy day of the Church Year; not so at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church! We mark the day by wearing red, decorating the chancel with red flowers, and celebrating Confirmation at the 10:30 AM Sunday service. The season of Pentecost continues throughout the summer and fall until December when the new church year begins with Advent.

## **Children in worship**

Nearly every Sunday children are invited to come forward for a special message with the Pastor or one of our lay leaders, sometimes featuring puppets. All ages are welcome to the communion table; young children receive a blessing. Children's bulletins are provided for activities related to the day's readings and themes. Activity bags are available with crayons and activities for children to use during worship.

Usually on the second Sunday of the month (October-May) the children and youth of the congregation take leadership roles and serve in worship.

A nursery, called the Children's Room, is staffed with volunteers and a paid attendant. It is open on Sundays during Sunday School hour and the late service. After the Children's Sermon during the late service, children are welcome to come to the Children's Room for a story or craft and then return to the sanctuary for the Eucharist and blessing. Registration with the Nursery attendant is required as part of our Child Safety Policy.



## Contemporary Worship

We strive to worship in a way that opens us up to hear God's voice, draws us to one another, and points us outward to all the people in the world. At CRLC we strive to plan worship services that speak to and about the whole people of God, rather than one segment or age-group. We work hard to plan worship that includes music of all ages and styles and from a variety of places in the world in every service. Technology installations in the sanctuary enable us to regularly project images, announcements, film clips, and worship texts to enhance the point of the proclaimed Word. Puppets and object lessons are shared with children to connect Bible lessons with our world. Worship that happens here and now is always contemporary!



## **First Communion**

Children receive communion for the first time when they express an interest in it and make a decision after conversation with their families and Pastor. Many children wait until they have received instruction in a class and retreat in the fifth grade; some younger children elect to receive communion after private instruction with their parents. Some elect to receive communion for the first time on Palm/Passion weekend; others choose a random date. Those who receive communion at a young age are encouraged to participate in the First Communion Classes for fifth graders in late winter, as well as attend the educational Seder Meal, which helps to develop a fuller understanding of Holy Communion.



## **Outdoor Worship**

CRLC has an outdoor chapel available for worship and private meditation, which is accessible via the side porch on the north side of the building, or through the rear door on the lower level. The elevator to the lower level makes the outdoor chapel wheelchair accessible, too.

During the summer months we worship outdoors several times on Sundays at the 9:30 AM service. In June this outdoor worship is on Father's Day.

## **Worship VIPs**

Lay involvement is valued in all ministries at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church and in worship leadership too. Communion assistants, readers, ushers, acolytes, cantors, and musical groups are all ways to serve as a leader in worship. If you prefer to serve “behind the scenes”, there is also need for nursery volunteers, people to care for the altar and communion, to maintain the pew rack materials, to decorate the sanctuary for festivals, and to oversee the weekly altar flowers. Occasionally there is also a call for actors for liturgical drama, or for artists to design and make liturgical artwork or banners. Below are the coordinators for each area of volunteers:

Altar Care	Gretchen Grossenbaugh	440-838-0660
Acolytes	Jocelyn Smith	440-526-9056
Lay Readers/Communion Asst	Lauren Jirousek	440-526-8432
Children’s Room	Karen Haely	216-986-1806
Ushers	Scott Witzke	440-237-0837
Weekly Flowers	Maureen Michal	440-526-2975
Seasonal Decorations	Kathy Hoinski	440-546-0746
Arts Committee Coordinator	Sandy Weiss	440-526-4847
Director of Music	Joanna Pretz-Anderson	440-526-2303
Worship Team Coordinator	Jen Evans	440-838-8043

# A Warm Welcome to All

## **Worship Hours**

Sundays 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Summer Sunday Hours 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM  
(Memorial – Labor Day weekends)

## **Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church**

9201 Brecksville Rd      440-526-2303      Brecksville, Ohio  
[www.crlcbrecksville.org](http://www.crlcbrecksville.org)