

We hope you have been enjoying the sermons, videos and other materials created for Sacred Space 2. To summarize, our goals include rebuilding and expanding our existing Sanctuary to bring it up to code; to accommodate more people and diverse needs of our congregation; to add new classrooms and common space for the youth ministries; and to expand the music wing and fix our dying organ. These are just the physical requirements for us to achieve our true mission. Our true mission is to offer a church and worship style to our community that attracts more people here, allowing Jesus to touch and change many more lives.

If you'd like more information on our vision statement, specific design, construction specification, renderings, or other materials, select the Sacred Space 2 menu option on Redeemer's website.

www.redeemberbirmingham.org



Securing Our Future

In the second of our Sacred Space 2 newsletters, we are focusing on the children and youth programs at Redeemer. You may wonder why is it critical to have dynamic youth programs at church? If you've experienced our children's sermons or been involved in any of the youth programs, you can see the importance of attracting young families to our church. This isn't just because they bring energy and excitement to the worship and community service efforts of the church, but because this means they bring their children, which enables the church to teach and train the future generation of Christians.

A recent study by Barna Research shows that nearly half of Americans who accepted the gift

of Jesus Christ's Salvation through the Holy Spirit do so before reaching the age of 13. And, for Christians who embraced Christ before their teen years, half were led to Christ by their parents, and another one in five were guided by another friend or relative.

*The life of your church
depends upon your ability to
connect the gospel with the
next generation.
Judges 2:10*

In another study in the American Journal of Epidemiology, young adults who were involved in religious associations as adolescents were examined for a wide array of psychological factors and compared against young adults with no church attendance. The

results showed that those who attended religious services at least once per week were associated with greater life satisfaction and positive affect.

children and youth programs are a strong suit for Redeemer. We provide programs six days a week throughout the year. Here's a quick overview of our programs and participation levels.

- **Westmaple Pre-School** – Five classrooms for 102 students ages 2 ½ to 6, and a perpetual waiting list given the school's 6X-year history and excellent reputation
- **Sunday School** – A three-year cyclical program that works chronologically through the Bible. We have 9:00 and 10:30 am classes with an average attendance of 50 – 60 children each week.
- **Vacation Bible School** – This action-packed week in mid-June takes over every available space at Redeemer, serving over 300 children with the vast majority coming from non-member families.
- **Mom's Day Out** – This program provides care for 40 infants and toddlers Monday through Friday, serving a vast majority of non-members.
- **Scampers** – This is an 8-session program that runs afternoons throughout the summer with 70 children participating weekly and a total of about 200, of which about 70% are non-members.
- **Confirmation Program** – A three-year program serving 60-80 middle school kids, mostly members. This program is an extremely important part of a young person's spiritual development as they start taking ownership of their own faith and relationship with Christ.

- **JAMS** - This weekly meeting of middle school youth typically has 15-20 kids in attendance and about 20 – 30 at weekend camp getaways of member children. Special events such as lock-ins get 40 – 50 kids participating and bringing their friends.
- **Sr. High Youth Group** - designed to be inclusive at this critical time of life, it consists of a rotating group of 40 – 50 kids that come in through the narrow door (if you don't know what that is, check out the east side of the building) on Wednesday and/or Sunday evenings. This group is led by a group of young adult mentors that continue to influence these teens as they move onto college.
- **Summer camp** – this week long adventure is our biggest youth outreach with a typical participation level of over 150 campers and a staff of 47, of which more than 75% are non-members. This has been a very influential program for bringing non-churched youth to Christ.
- **Mission trips** – 30 high school youth spend a week serving others in locations such as Mexico and Jamaica.



"With Vacation Bible School, we sing and we laugh and we praise God and it's just an amazing week."

- Nicole Olds, Director of Children's Ministries





“It’s easy to judge teens, that they’re not doing what’s right. But how can you judge them if you don’t teach them what the Bible expects from them, what God hopes, wants and has created for them?”

- Gia Scheidt, Director of High School



So, you can see that our facility gets a lot of use. That’s why it is critical that our classrooms, bathrooms and common areas are up to today’s standards. Sacred space phase 2 accommodates new space for youth through the addition of six new classrooms connected to a new common worship and fellowship space. While we have made the best of our current 1950’s classrooms and a youth room with water leakages, parent’s today have reasonable expectations that are not currently being met. The new children’s space will be warm, spacious, safe and consistent with all licensing requirements.

Redeemer has so many opportunities to connect with youth and their families, setting the foundation for their spiritual life that can impact their lives forever. This influence is clear through the fact that much of our staff – Nicole Olds, Laura McDonald, Gia Scheidt -- are people who grew up here. Additionally, there is an amazing group of young adults -- all who grew up at Redeemer -- who volunteer their time as mentors to the high school and college youth, hoping to share the message of Christ as they were taught here. As stated so beautifully by Laura, *“This is the place that they’re going to worship now, it’s also going to be the place that they worship as they grow up, as they get confirmed, as they go to youth group. When they come back after college and get married and bring their own kids this is where they’re going to worship.”*



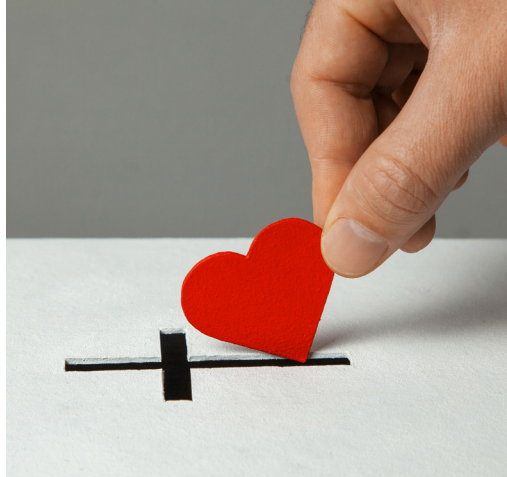
“With our communion program, kids have another place that they can go for support and it’s not just any support, we’re giving them the Word of God and the truth of the gospel.”

- Laura McDonald, Director of Family Life, Middle School, Outreach, & Confirmation

Is Money a Spiritual Issue? Absolutely!

Does it seem to you that when Christians start talking about money things can get a bit uncomfortable? Discussing money is often seen as being unspiritual and worldly. Yet, the only subject Jesus talked about more than money is the Kingdom of God.

There is actually nothing more spiritual than each of us asking ourselves where our deepest commitments lie and engaging in prayer on this issue. This process helps reveal our priorities in life. Our attitude toward money and how we manage it is the foundation that sets the stage for every other aspect of our spiritual lives. When our living and giving reflect the generosity of God through Christ, our financial resources will flow to what is most important.



Today, unfortunately, our culture teaches that material goods provide security and happiness, encouraging us to store up treasures on earth. Did you know that the average American family actually devotes ten times as much money to interest payments as to charitable contributions? (Jonathan Kopke, the author of *God's Thrifty Extravagance*). That is a stunning statistic, but not one that reflects kindly on our ability to manage the resources blessed upon us.

You may think that you have no wiggle room in your budget. But, here are some examples of how you just might be able to find money to support Sacred Space 2.

Potential Resource	Weekly	Yearly	Three Years
Starbucks Drinks	\$10	\$520	\$1560
Dinner Out	\$35	\$1820	\$5460
Manicure	\$20	\$1040	\$3120
Lawn Service	\$40	(6 months) \$1040	\$3120
Reduce vacation, Christmas, shopping or entertainment budget		\$500 - \$1000	\$1500 - \$3000
Increase giving	\$10	\$520	\$1560

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:21

Celebrate

October 20..... First Commitment Weekend
October 27.....Second Commitment Weekend
November 10.....Celebration Weekend

Living by Faith

Let's face it. It's easy to say we trust our lives to God. But, are we truly willing to trust our pocketbook to Him? Let's look back to our initial Sacred Space program, which was initiated and successfully accomplished during a tremendous recession. Making any additional monetary commitment during that time definitely took a new level of surrender for most of us. Redeemer member Tim Holmes shared his experience.

During this time frame, Tim was co-owner of a leading video post-production studio in Birmingham. Like many local businesses, the majority of his company's work was generated by the automotive industry, and we all know the Detroit area was not generating much of that during 2009. Most local studios went out of business. Struggling just to keep the doors open, Tim had the unfavorable duty of implementing massive (thankfully temporary) pay cuts. When the Sacred Space I capital campaign began, Tim and his wife Terry had to examine their ability to commit additional funds to this program. But Tim said there was no question in his mind that it had to be done. Putting worldly worries aside, their faith was placed in God's promise to provide.

So, here's where the miracle happens. The studio, originally established in 1997, was well-stocked with state-of-the art equipment, but also some older machines from its earlier days. The day after (yes, this is true) the Holmes signed their pledge card, Tim received an inquiry about a particular piece of outdated, yet rare equipment. The interested company, located in Germany, was one Tim had never heard of before, or since. It seemingly came out of nowhere. The bottom line – the equipment was purchased for the exact amount of money that the Holmes had committed on their pledge card. Plus, within six months, the business at his post-production facility was not only back on its feet, but stronger than ever. Amazing what can happen when we just trust in God's abundance. It may not be easy, but it is that simple.

If you have a personal stewardship story you would like to share regarding God's work in your life, please contact Nancy Lesinski at nancylesinski@gmail.com.

faith



SHARE
YOUR
STORY



Grow Our Future By Building On Our Past

Redeemer has been blessed since its founding by the vision of our leaders and the support of our members, growing from 17 people in 1924 to 677 families (or 1,823 members) today. Although our mission has always been about bringing others to Christ, our church facility has been expanded and modified along the way to meet the changing needs of additional worshippers and new generations. Our building is busy every single day of the week, with about 30 scheduled activities from Monday through Friday, many of which are events that attract non-members to our facility.

Whereas many churches have struggled to maintain membership, Redeemer has continued to grow, helping people find meaning in today's chaotic world through the word of God. Part of the way we can continue to accomplish this is through Sacred Space 2, ensuring that we have the space and accommodations to welcome everyone in. We need to look at our present state by reflecting upon what past generations did to bring us here, and then consider what we can do to secure Redeemer for future generations.

Through a Visitor's Eyes

If your typical interaction with our building consists of a journey between the sanctuary and the Town Square on a normal Sunday, it might seem that Redeemer is doing just “fine”. There is no doubt that we are a blessed community and congregation. And, our staff has done a great job of keeping this building looking good despite numerous issues.

But, Sacred Space 2 is not about our current congregation being comfortable and “getting by” with what we have. It is our opportunity to share the gift of Christ, which we have already received, to others that have not yet had this experience, as well as building upon our legacy for the generations yet to come. That means looking at our facility through the eyes of a visitor and what they might think upon their first visit to Redeemer. We are confident that every visitor is treated warmly by our current members. But, would you want your child attending Sunday School in



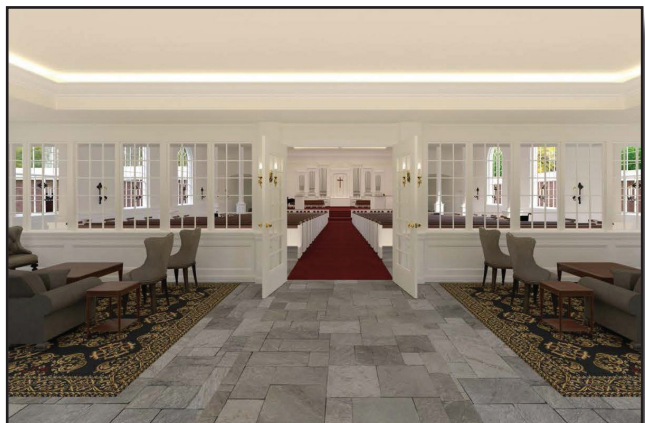
a room with holes in the walls? A basement that smells foul after rain due to a leaky foundation? Where there is no ability to get a wheelchair down an aisle? A seating arrangement where you can't see over the head of those in front of you? Or a dark entryway to the Sanctuary called our Narthex?

Yes, Redeemer is our home and we love it. But, Sacred Space 2 is our chance to build a worship space to serve so many others.

Before



After



Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
1800 West Maple Road
Birmingham, MI 48009

Address service requested

Pre-Sorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Birmingham, MI 48012
Permit number 15



Sacred Space Welcomes Volunteers



Yes, our campaign is well underway. But, there are many, many activities that could use willing hands to help us make this program a success. From hospitality needs to administrative support, from prayer support to making time to evaluate your personal commitment, there is a place for your talents. If you're interested in helping, please contact Steve Scheidt at sacredspace@redeemberbirmingham.org.

For More Information

Throughout the Sacred Space campaign, we will be sharing information with you in numerous ways with all information being stored for availability at any time on our website at www.redeemberbirmingham.org/sacred-space-phase-2/. Or feel free to contact Steve Scheidt at sacredspace@redeemberbirmingham.org.