

**Press Release** 

For Immediate Release Contact: Stephanie Cutler, Director of Communications Date: August 30, 2023 Phone: 262-367-8400 Email: <u>stephanie.cutler@drlc.org</u>

## Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church & School in Hartland will break ground on Sunday, September 10th at noon for expansion for the first time in 24 years to build an Early Childhood Education Center (ECDC).

Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church was established in 1972 in the Hartland National Bank basement, located at 229 East Capitol. Quickly, Divine Redeemer outgrew the basement and 132 members moved to their first church location at 400 W. Capitol. Again, outgrowing the space rapidly, Divine Redeemer was built on its present-day location of 31385 W. Hill Road in Hartland, and the sanctuary was dedicated on July 27, 1980. That fall, a school with preschool and kindergarten classes opened. There were 5 successful expansion projects from 1985-1999. For a full history of the church, navigate here: https://shorturl.at/tvGWY.

Divine Redeemer has again outgrown its current space for both members and students. With record enrollment and record church new member class sizes, the church underwent a readiness assessment this past year and has already raised enough funds to break ground even before the public launch of the capital campaign called, "Forward in Our Story, All for His Glory". The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on Sunday, September 10th at noon in the field where the location of the future Early Childhood Education Center (ECDC) will be. The celebration will continue with an Oktoberfest event on the Divine Redeemer grounds including live German music, brats, pretzels with cheese, beer from Brewfinity, bounce houses, root beer floats, and more. This event is open to the community as we share our excitement about growing and providing more ministry opportunities. You can learn more about the event and our expansion (including renderings) at drlc.org/vision.

Weekly, hundreds of members and guests worship on Sundays at 8am and 10:30am in the Sanctuary (Traditional Worship) and at 9:15am in the Gymnasium (Contemporary Worship) as well as online. Kids ages 4k – 6th grade attend Kids Connection during the 9:15 service in their respective classrooms and that starts on September 10th. On August 23rd, the school welcomed back over 460 students from infant through 8th grade. Enrollment questions should be directed to Tracey Markut (tracey.markut@drlc.org).

Currently, we've reached our capacity of educating 91 full-time early childhood students in our existing space and we have waiting lists. The footprint of our proposed building would allow us to expand up to 226 full-time students from infant -preK. The capacity of this 23,000-square-foot building will greatly accommodate our growth and make way for additional blessings of growth after that!

Images for media are attached in the zip file. Media are welcome at the groundbreaking ceremony. Please contact Stephanie Cutler with any questions or interview requests.