

Redeemer Church (mission)

Kalamazoo, Michigan

Presbyterian Church in America

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM IN KALAMAZOO



WHY KALAMAZOO?

Kalamazoo is a mid-sized town with big-city ambition for national and international impact. Downtown revitalization is preparing the city to become a major conference and trade show destination. Civic leaders have teamed with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals and Western Michigan University to draw new biotech companies to the area. The Kalamazoo economy is changing for the better.

The Kalamazoo culture is changing as well. The younger generation in this historically religious town views the city as increasingly progressive – and the church increasingly irrelevant. A new church must replace heartless religion with living orthodoxy, winsomely engage the culture rather than retreat further from it, and demonstrate God's mercy for the least and the loneliest in Kalamazoo.

We'd love to hear from you!

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WHY REDEEMER?

The goal of history and only hope for humanity is God's promise to restore all that is broken through his son Jesus Christ. Individual lives, personal relationships, communities, culture – all are being made new. A sage from the 16th century got it right when he said Christ didn't come to destroy the world – he came to redeem it.

The gospel is the good news about the Redeemer, who through faith in Jesus Christ forgives every failure, declares clean what has always been stained, and commits to make straight what seems irreparably crooked. All who turn to him find – as the old song says – pardon for sin and a peace that endures.

And all who turn to him join with him in his work.

The redeemed become instruments in the hand of the Redeemer.

Rebels become citizens of his in-breaking Kingdom.

Spectators become participants in the only story that matters: the unfolding drama of redemption.

***Redeemer Church exists to make
God's invisible kingdom visible in
Kalamazoo by joining with him in
his work of redeeming all things –
beginning with our own hearts.***

WHY PLANT A CHURCH? Perhaps you're wondering, why start a new church? Like most cities in America there are churches in Kalamazoo with plenty of room for newcomers. Won't a new church hurt existing ones? In reality, new churches gain most of their members from among the non-churched, and often strengthen existing congregations. Even in Kalamazoo, a historically religious city, the mission field is broad: a third of all households are rejecting their only hope for salvation.

REDEEMER VISION

VISION:

OUR VISION IS TO MAKE GOD'S INVISIBLE KINGDOM VISIBLE IN KALAMAZOO BY JOINING WITH HIM IN HIS WORK OF REDEEMING ALL THINGS, BEGINNING WITH OUR OWN HEARTS. WE'LL ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER IN COMMUNITY, CULTIVATE GROWTH THROUGH AUTHENTICITY, TEACH AND SUBMIT TO GOD'S TRUTH FULLY, AND FOLLOW THE WAY OF LOVE SET FORTH BY CHRIST.

We believe this reflects what the church is called to be and to do in every place and time. As we live for God in Kalamazoo our hearts beat fast for the following:

THE CAMPUSES:

We believe the colleges, especially Western Michigan University, provide a unique opportunity to reach the emerging generation for Christ. Our vision for students includes helping them see their vocation not just as a job, but as their calling.

THE COMMUNITY:

We'll serve through mercy ministry, especially among children in need. We'll practice biblical hospitality and develop genuine friendships with non-Christians. And we'll equip the church to engage culture with the truth of the gospel.

THE REGION:

We are committed to partnering with other PCA congregations in the region to plant Christ-centered, gospel-driven, Kingdom-focused churches.

THE WORLD:

We will pursue global ministry outreach through organizations that share our commitment to biblical Christianity and are reaching areas of strategic influence.

OUTREACH:

How will we reach Kalamazoo?

By loving with our hearts through...

BIBLICAL HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is simply defined as kindness toward strangers. We'll strive to display God's welcoming heart not only in our services, but especially in the way we live and relate to others.

By loving with our hands through...

MINISTRIES OF MERCY

We must share the good news about Jesus both in what we say and by what we do. There are plenty of opportunities to keep our hands busy in Kalamazoo: one out of every four people in the city lives in poverty, and every third person in Kalamazoo homeless shelters in 2004 was a child.

By loving with our minds through...

RELATIONAL EVANGELISM

We will engage the Kalamazoo culture by taking a genuine interest in what our neighbors believe. We'll provide avenues for relevant discourse, seeking to build bridges to the gospel with gentleness and respect.

VALUES:

TRUTH: THE GOSPEL REVEALS LIVING TRUTH THAT MAKES US WHOLE.

The Bible reveals the truth for which our hearts yearn because it reveals Jesus Christ, who alone can make us whole. The deepest questions of life – all the things that fragment our souls – must be addressed from Scripture with intellectual depth, humility, and practicality.

AUTHENTICITY: THE GOSPEL FREES US TO ADMIT OUR FLAWS AND BE REAL.

The gospel tells us that through faith in Jesus Christ we are fully forgiven with nothing left to hide and fully loved with nothing left to fear. Rather than covering ourselves in false pretense and self-righteousness we can spend our lives loving God and other people. Living for anything less would be fraudulent.

COMMUNITY: THE GOSPEL FORMS A PEOPLE OF FAITH CONNECTED IN CHRIST.

We long for true community because we were made to be like God, who himself exists in the perfect community of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The call to community will be answered at Redeemer through self-giving service, genuine friendships, and a desire to display the welcoming heart of God.

LOVE: THE GOSPEL CALLS US TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN LOVE.

The Great Commandment, New Command, and Great Commission all make clear that the Christian life is to be a life of love. We will love God as a worshipping community, love one another as an encouraging community, and love the world as a witnessing community.

LEADERSHIP & PARTNERS



PARTNERS: THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

This project is affiliated with the PCA Mission to North America, which assesses, trains, and supervises church planters for denominational projects. We have been assessed and approved for church planting.

We will be a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America, a national denomination with historic roots in classic biblical Christianity.

PROJECTED TIMELINE

- *Year 1: 2005*
The Swan's moved to Kalamazoo in August. Marc was installed as Pastor of Redeemer Church on August 21. Since then, they've been holding vision meetings with the core group and doing outreach and service projects.
- *Year 2: 2006*
First quarter of '06 will focus on Community Group formation and key ministry development. Goal is to launch public worship Fall 2006 assuming God has gathered 50 or more people.
- *Year 3: 2007*
Community Groups continue to multiply with ongoing leadership development. Campus outreach, mercy ministry, and cultural engagement increase our influence in Kalamazoo.

CHURCH PLANTER PROFILE

Wendy and I met in my hometown of Temperance, Michigan in 1989 during the summer of my sophomore year of college. While dating we discovered that we both were asking similar questions about the meaning of life and the presence of God, and by his grace we turned to him for salvation just prior to our wedding in 1991.

After completing my undergraduate studies in Biology, I worked as an environmental chemist for four years prior to our move to Missoula, Montana, where I intended to pursue an advanced degree in Ecology. Shortly after arrival I began to sense God's call into ministry, which culminated in our arrival in St. Louis in 1997 to begin studies at Covenant Theological Seminary.

Upon graduating with the M. Div. in 2001 I was called by our local church family, Greentree Community Church, where I was already serving as a seminary intern. As Assistant Pastor my responsibilities included adult discipleship, ministry team formation, and teaching as well as some preaching, counseling, and visitation.

Wendy and I have four children: Samantha (11), Michaela (10), Joshua (8), and Jacob (4). We love hiking, camping, gardening, tennis, St. Louis Cardinals baseball, and good movies. We look forward to making new friends over a great meal across our kitchen table!

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM

Your prayers are essential for the progress of this work! We ask for your prayers for our family, the God-honoring growth of this infant congregation, and the Kingdom impact it will have in Kalamazoo and as far as it may reach around the world. We would love to include your name on our list to receive regular ministry updates and prayer requests. Please check the appropriate box on your pledge card, or email us at:

marc.swan@sbcglobal.net

SEND CONTACTS AND REFERRALS

If you have family or friends in Kalamazoo, feel free to pass along our name and email. Or contact us at: marc.swan@sbcglobal.net

HOW TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

Your tax deductible contribution may be sent to:

**Mission to North America
1700 N. Brown Road Suite 101
Lawrenceville, GA 30043-8122**

*** PLEASE MEMO EVERY GIFT: "Marc
Swan"**

100% of your contribution goes directly to this project!

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

While church planting is "the most effective evangelistic method under heaven," the costs involved in starting a church are numerous. Our goal is to raise the funds necessary to support the church during its early stages when congregational giving is low. As the congregation grows both numerically and spiritually over the first three years it will assume full responsibility for the financial support of the church.

Our support-raising goal for this church plant is \$175,000. This is the total projected funding required over a three year period in addition to estimated giving by the growing congregation and support promised from the PCA. We seek ***Sending Churches*** and ***Individuals*** at the following levels to reach our stated goal:

2 Churches or Individuals giving \$30,000 =	\$60,000
4 Churches or Individuals giving \$15,000 =	\$60,000
6 Churches or Individuals giving \$5000 =	\$30,000
Other contributions totaling	<u>\$25,000</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$175,000

Please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to partner with us as a "sender" (Rom 10:15) for this work – whether through prayer, financial support, or both! If you desire to contribute, please keep in mind ***your support may be given as a one-time gift or pledged over a three year period.***

All contributions are tax deductible.

Thank You!