



The Saltshaker

July 2026

Redeemer Lutheran Church

360.384.5923



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BELLINGHAM, WA 98226
360.384.5923

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Sunday Worship Service Schedule

9:00 AM: Adult Bible Study

10:30 AM: Worship Service

August Newsletter deadline is
Monday, July 27th, 2026

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From the Pastor's Pen



“Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through Jesus Christ, our Lord” (Collect for the Nation, Lutheran Service Book, page 313).

As our country celebrates its 250th anniversary, it is good to remember that the nations of the world rise and fall as the Lord allows them to exist. We see that truth declared in the Scriptures in Paul’s preaching to the Athenians: “[God] made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him” (Ac 17:26-27). Our nation exists, because the Lord has allowed it. In the Small Catechism, Luther writes of the connection between the rule of law and the Christian’s ability to live their daily lives. In his commentary on the 4th Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, Luther lists “devout and faithful rulers, good government, and peace” among the items of “daily bread.” Where those are present, people have much greater opportunity to carry out their daily living.

Through the 250 years of our nation’s existence, we have seen many examples of those helpful items being present. But those should not be seen as a given, as if they will always be. Some nations have had little experience of such things in their history. Other nations had times where those were in plentiful supply, but are now absent. We should not think that our nation is immune from that. Instead, we should rightly identify them as blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon us. That should lead us both to express a gratitude for such gifts and to ask that the Lord would continue to supply them.

Such thinking is expressed well in the Collect for the Nation printed above. The prayer recognizes the Lord’s past blessing to us as Americans and states our desire to do his will. It also requests his future actions to sustain our nation and keep us from incidents that would cause it to collapse. In particular, petitions are made for those who exercise authority in our nation.

Independence Day 2026 is certainly a time for celebration. But don’t let that day go by without considering what we have graciously received from the Lord. If you want to pray for our nation, may I suggest we follow the Apostle Paul’s instruction: “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers,

intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior” (1Ti 2:1-3).

See you in church...

Pastor Rex E. Watt



HAPPY
Fourth of July
★ INDEPENDENCE DAY ★

The Bulletin Board

TITHES AND OFFERINGS: *Thank you for your faithful giving!*

DEVOTIONALS: “Our Daily Bread” for June-August and “Portals of Prayer” for July-September are available on the offering table.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY: MEETS AT 9:00 am, a study of the book of Romans.

MEN’S SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY & BREAKFAST: A Study of Proverbs led by Anthony McLeod. 8:00 am the first Saturday of each month here at the church. **ON BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER.**

LWML BIBLE STUDY AND MEETING: The third Friday of each month at 11:00 am. A Bible study followed by a LWML meeting. *The next meeting will be Friday, July 17th.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am. A Psalm study will be starting on Wednesday, July 15th, led by Lynnata Marttila.

COMING SOON: REDEEMER CHURCH PICNIC! Sunday, July 19th following morning worship. More details on page 8!



July Birthdays

07/02	Brian Cobb
07/05	Linda Montgomery
07/08	Tonya Lysne
07/08	Dale Kloes
07/15	John Flarry
07/19	Susanne Martinsen
07/21	Colin Grabish
07/27	Carol Kloes
07/27	Jon Dixon
07/28	Wendy McLeod

August Birthdays

08/02	Helen Granger
08/05	David Ketah
08/09	Shelby Hogle
08/11	Joseph Stephens
08/13	Dale Harshman
08/17	Marianne Giusti
08/22	Hunter Kuljis
08/25	Cindy McKay
08/26	Jan Willand
08/27	Alton Kimes
08/29	George Leonard

Elder Care List

A - Hah: Doug Bender (Head Elder)
 Hal - McK: Kari Marttila
 McL - Z: Colin Grabish

June Sunday Attendance

June 07	59
June 14	65
June 21	67
June 28	61



July Anniversaries

07/04 George & Ann Leonard
 07/09 Travis & Shannon Kimes
 07/10 Louis & Heidi Kuljis
 07/25 Joe & Jamie Dupuis
 07/27 Carl & Mary Ann Olsen



*As the angels sing heavenly praises for our God above,
 As the dawn touches the Earth with its soft rays,
 As another chapter of your life starts anew,
 I wish that God will grant you your heart's greatest desire
 And your presence endows peace to others
 as refreshing as the morning dew.
 Have a blessed and wonderful birthday or anniversary!*

Fellowship Host/Hostess Volunteer Schedule

July 05 - Wendy M. & Leslie R.
 July 12- Annette D. & Dee W.
 July 19 - Red, White & Blue Church Picnic
 July 26- Potluck

Note: If your birthday or wedding anniversary is not listed on this page or if it is incorrect, please contact the church office so we can make the correction.


ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – JULY

Altar Care
 Arenda

Worship Volunteer Schedule

	Elder/Assistant	Usher	Lay Reader	Soundboard	Counters
July 05	Doug/Colin	Ian M.	David K.	Matilda K.	Anthony/Travis
July 12	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	Corinne T.	Ian M.	Wendy/Corinne
July 19	Doug/Colin	Ian M.	Rachel V.	Kari M.	Jon/Ron
July 26	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	Ross A.	Travis K.	Anthony/Travis

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			01 Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm: AIC	02	03 Office closed	04 
05 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	06	07 6:30 pm: Elders	08 Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm: AIC	09	10	11
12 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	13	14	15 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm: AIC	16	17 11:00 am: LWML Bible Study and Meeting	18
19 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Church Picnic	20	21 6:30 pm: Council	22 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm: AIC	23	24	25
26 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Potluck	27 Saltshaker Deadline	28	29 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm: AIC	30	31	



Women in Missions Ingathering Cups of Hope for Lighthouse Mission

Redeemer will be collecting new and gently used coffee mugs for Lighthouse Mission this summer.

These mugs will be used in their Street Outreach program and for those living at the Mission.

Many of the people who pass through Whatcom County are in need of encouragement and support. LHM sends volunteers out into the community to share God's message of love and salvation.

In the fall, we will then add packets of instant coffee, tea and soup along with a granola bar and a spoon to the mugs before gifting them to LHM for distribution to those in need.

Your mugs can be left in the box on the Mite Box shelf in the fellowship area. You will be invited to help fill the mugs in September during fellowship time.

2026 LWML Washington-Alaska District Convention



Wendy McLeod will be attending the LWML District Conference, July 10-12 in Spokane. At the conference, Wendy will be participating in a jog-a-thon to help raise additional mites for the slate of LWML mission grants. Examples of what the mite money supports on the LWML bulletin board will be updated soon with the new slate of LWML missions for 2026-2028.

Please consider supporting Wendy and the jog-a-thon by making a mite contribution! Ask Wendy for more information.

For the LWML Conference in July, there is an ingathering for their local Christ Kitchen. Please see below for a list of items they are collecting.



Our mission is to help impoverished women heal and overcome critical employment and life challenges such as felonies and reentry into society, lack of job experience, prostitution, human trafficking, physical, sexual and mental abuse, addiction, untreated mental health issues and more. We envision a community where no woman or her children who rely on her for survival, lives in poverty due to lack of skills, abusive relationships, or reliance on government assistance or unhealthy substances. Our program increases family stabilization, grows personal and community economic assets, and builds strong leaders who impact future generations.

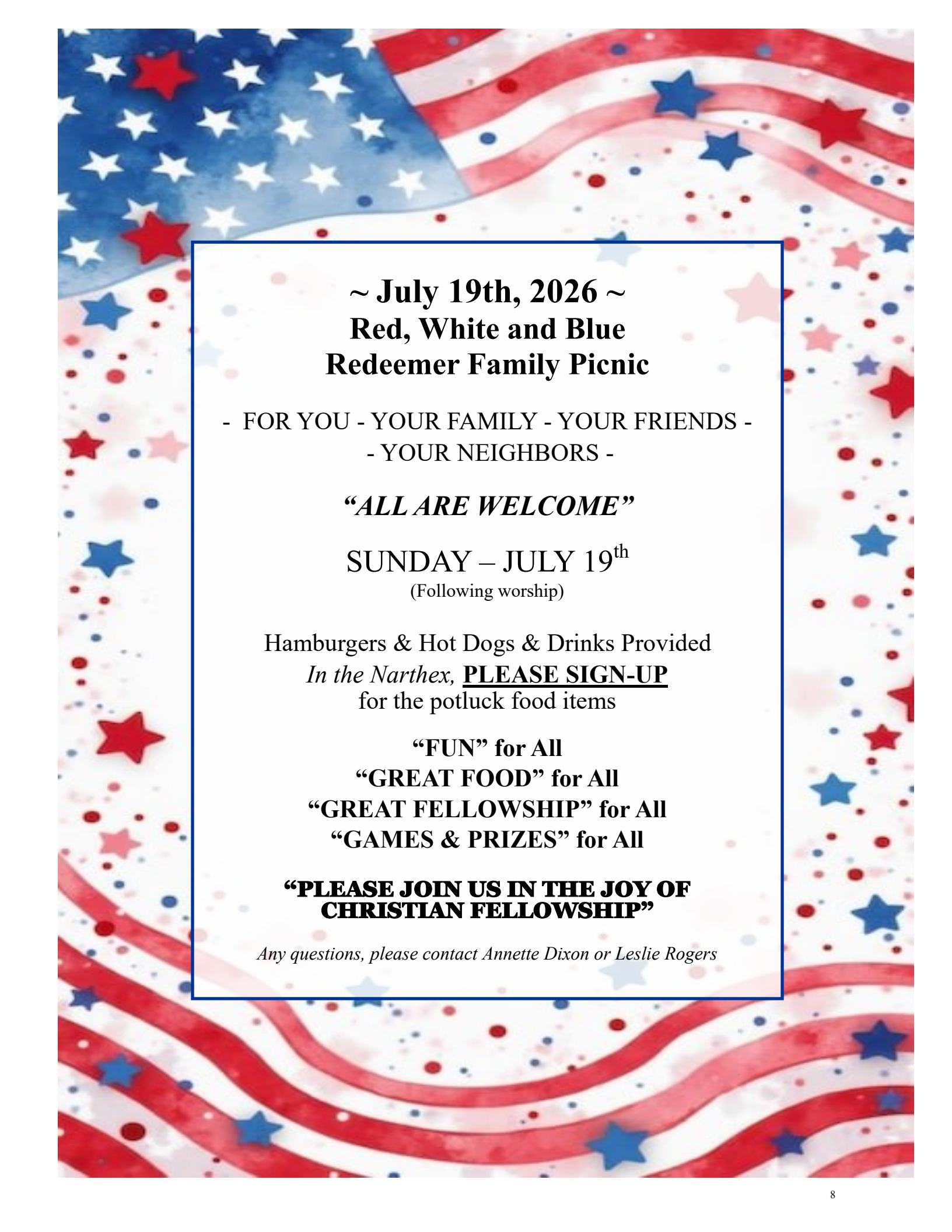
Ingathering for LWML WA-AK District Convention. Spokane, WA July 10 –12, 2026

Christ Kitchen is kicking off an Art Program for the women to express themselves through Art thus the ingathering will focus on Art Supplies:

Markers	Colored Pencils
Cardstock, all colors	Tape, double-sided and regular
Watercolor Paper & Watercolors	Embroidery hoops & thread
Post-it Notes	Colored Notepads
Prayer Journals	

In Christ,
Ruth Ann
LWML WA-AK Mission Servant Chair

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
"Whom shall I send, and who will go for
us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."
Isaiah 6:8*



~ July 19th, 2026 ~
Red, White and Blue
Redeemer Family Picnic

- FOR YOU - YOUR FAMILY - YOUR FRIENDS -
- YOUR NEIGHBORS -

“ALL ARE WELCOME”

SUNDAY – JULY 19th
(Following worship)

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs & Drinks Provided
*In the Narthex, **PLEASE SIGN-UP***
for the potluck food items

“FUN” for All
“GREAT FOOD” for All
“GREAT FELLOWSHIP” for All
“GAMES & PRIZES” for All

**“PLEASE JOIN US IN THE JOY OF
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP”**

Any questions, please contact Annette Dixon or Leslie Rogers

A Prayer for Faith

God, give me back the simple faith
that I so long have clung to,
My simple faith is peace and hope,
in loveliness and light—
Because without this faith of mine,
the rhythms I have sung to
Become as empty as the sky upon a starless night.

God, let me feel that right is right,
that reason dwells with reason,
And let me feel that something grows
whenever there is rain—
And let me sense that splendid truth
that season follows season,
And let me dare to dream
that there is tenderness in pain.

God, give me back my simple faith
because my soul is straying
Away from all the little creeds
that I so long have known;
Oh, answer me while still I have
at least the strength for praying,
For if the prayer dies from my heart
I will be quite alone.

Margaret Sangster
-Pocket Book of Inspirational Verse

Submitted
by



Marianne Giusti



LCMS Stewardship July 2026 Newsletter Article

Originally published in July 2023

Go...Sell All You Have?

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

Have you noticed??



For a few months, this “Kitchen Donation” box has been mounted on the wall next to the kitchen window. Once a month, these donations are being used to provide Sunday Fellowship lunch by Redeemer’s Kitchen Committee; thus allowing servers a less frequent serving schedule and monetary savings. The “Kitchen Donation” box monies are used “only for food” by the kitchen committee. These monies are not included in the Redeemer Church Budget for kitchen needs. Church budget monies are used for kitchen supplies (ie. paper plates, napkins, cups, coffee, tea, sugar, creamer, dish soap, etc).

These lovely little cards are “Thank You’s” and “Reminders” of God’s provision and blessings He provides through your contributions to the “Kitchen Donation Box.”

With grateful hearts we thank our Lord for faithful ladies who serve with joy each Sunday and for your ongoing support to provide the joy of Sunday Fellowship here at Redeemer each week.

*Redeemer Kitchen Committee
Annette Dixon, Leslie Rogers,
Wendy McLeod, and Dee Watt.*

Lutheran's For Life Quotes: July 05



“The Fourth of July is an ideal time to thank God if you have a good homeland ... or in the U.S., a free country. What a blessing! Just like Job or Jonah, this isn't the case for everyone. And we should continually pray for those whose homelands or countries are ravaged by war, politics, or disease. Praise God for giving us a country where we can worship Him and live our lives in relative freedom and peace.”

Katrina Harrmann, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Stay connected to the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

IF YOU WANT HELP UNDERSTANDING the world from a Lutheran perspective:

The Lutheran Witness (lcms.org/witness)

IF YOU LIKE HEARING directly from the president and other members of the president's office: Witness, Mercy, Life Together blog (wmltblog.org)

IF YOU WANT TO CONNECT with other LCMS Lutherans: LCMS Facebook (facebook.com/thelcms), Twitter ([!thelcms](https://twitter.com/thelcms)), Instagram ([thelcms](https://instagram.com/thelcms)) and Periscope.



IF YOU WANT TO HEAR from LCMS leadership: Leader blog (blogs.lcms.org, category/leader-blog)

IF YOU'RE SEARCHING for stories of the Church in action:

Lutherans Engage the World (lcms.org/lutheransengage)

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR NEWS: *Reporter* (blogs.lcms.org/reporter)

IF YOU CAN'T GET ENOUGH of all things mission:

Journal of Lutheran Mission (lcms.org/journaloflutheranmission)

IF YOU WANT IT ALL: LCMS News and Publications (blogs.lcms.org)



Please find the monthly edition of **The Lutheran Witness** available on the mailbox table.