



The Saltshaker

March 2026

Redeemer Lutheran Church

360.384.5923



**858 WEST SMITH ROAD
BELLINGHAM, WA 98226
360.384.5923**

www.redeemberbellingham.com — Website
office@redeemberbellingham.com — Email

Sunday Worship Service Schedule

9:00 AM: Adult Bible Study

10:30 AM: Worship Service

April Newsletter deadline is
Tuesday, March 24, 2026

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Pastor's Pen
- March Birthdays
- Bulletin Board Announcements
- Preschool News
- Stewardship



From the Pastor's Pen



***“Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).***

Lent is a season of repentance, reflection, and return. For forty days, the Church walks with Christ toward the cross. Lent is not about proving our devotion to God through sacrifice, but about hearing again the truth about ourselves, and the greater truth about our Savior.

We begin with ashes and the sobering words, *“Remember that you are dust.”* Lent strips away illusions of self-sufficiency. We confess what Scripture plainly teaches: we are sinners in need of mercy. We cannot fix ourselves. We cannot climb our way back to God. Our fasting, our prayers, our discipline – these do not earn forgiveness. They simply help us to recognize how deeply we need it.

Lent is about more than our spiritual exercises. It is about Christ.

As we meditate on His temptation, His suffering, and His journey to the cross, we see the heart of God revealed. Jesus does not avoid the wilderness; He enters it for us. He does not escape suffering; He embraces it for us. He does not turn away from the cross; He carries it for us.

This is the great comfort of Lent: our salvation rests not on the strength of our repentance, but on the finished work of Christ. We repent because we are forgiven. We turn back because He first came to us.

In this season, let your confession be honest and your hope be bold. Come, confess your sins and hear the absolution spoken in Christ’s name. Receive His body and blood as the sure promise that His sacrifice was for you.

Lent teaches us to die daily – to pride, to self-reliance, to hidden sin – so that we may live daily in Christ. And as we walk this solemn road, we do so with quiet confidence. The cross is not the end of the story. Easter is coming.

See you in church,

Pastor Rex E. Watt

The Bulletin Board

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

DEVOTIONALS: Lent Devotionals as well as “Our Daily Bread” for March-May and “Portals of Prayer” for January –March are available on the offering table.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY: MEETS AT 9:00 am. A Study of the Intertestamental Period, led by Jon Dixon.

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. *March’s meeting will be on the second Saturday, March 14th.*

LWML BIBLE STUDY AND MEETING: The third Friday of each month at 11:00 am. A Bible study followed by a LWML meeting. *March’s meeting will be on the second Friday, March 13th and will be followed with a Bridal Shower for Erin Black at 12:30pm.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am. This Bible study is on break at this time and will be resuming some time in April.

MILITARY PHOTO BOOK: We are going to be compiling another photo book to send to our military families to show our appreciation for their service and the freedoms it allows us! Please send your pictures to rlcbhamlcms77@gmail.com.

INDOOR SPRING CLEANING: will be on Saturday, March 28th, 10:00am-12:00pm. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Please see Cristi Lysne with any questions.



Daylight Saving Time Begins on Sunday, March 08, 2026

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday the 7th!

The last day to bring items for the MILITARY EASTER BOXES is Sunday, March 15th

Along with the five service members, there are 4 wives, 4 little girls and 2 babies on the way who are all special to us as well! Please show your support and love for our service members and their families by filling the boxes with Easter cards and treats!

Celebrating a



Elder Care List

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

March Birthdays

03/05 Pamela H.
 03/07 Mackenzie W.
 03/13 Vivian H.
 03/20 Don S.
 03/22 Ann L.
 03/30 Ross A.
 03/31 Melissa N.

April Birthdays

04/06 Jake P.
 04/08 Lisa M.
 04/12 Reece K.
 04/12 Dylan W.
 04/13 Deanna W.
 04/16 Patrick H.
 04/16 Tami M.
 04/21 Kelsey H.
 04/23 Lynnea F.



March Anniversaries

03/21 Ross & Barb A.

*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

Mar. 01 - Marsha E., Janet B. & Peggy U.
 Mar. 08 - Wendy M. & Leslie R.
 Mar. 15 - Annette D. & Dee W.
 Mar. 22 - Joy A. & Tami M.
 Mar. 29 - Palm Sunday Potluck

ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – MARCH

Altar Care

Lynnata

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.

Worship Volunteer Schedule

	Elder/Assistant	Usher	Lay Reader	Soundboard	Counters
Mar. 01	Doug/Colin	Ian M.	Corinne T.	Kari M.	Anthony/Travis
Mar. 08	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	Carol K.	Travis K.	Wendy/Corinne
Mar. 15	Doug/Colin	Ian M.	Ross A.	Matilda K.	Jon/Ron
Mar. 22	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	David K.	Ian M.	Anthony/Travis
Mar. 29	Doug/Colin	Ian M.	Corinne T.	Kari M.	Wendy/Corinne

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	02	03	04 Bulletin Deadline 1 & 7 pm: Lent Worship 6:00 pm Soup Supper	05 6:30 pm: Elders	06	07
08 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School 	09	10	11 Bulletin Deadline 1 & 7 pm: Lent Worship 6:00 pm Soup Supper	12	13 11:00 am: LWML Bible Study and Meeting 12:30pm: Bridal Shower for Erin Black	14 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
15 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	16	17 6:30 pm: Council	18 Bulletin Deadline 1 & 7 pm: Lent Worship 6:00 pm Soup Supper	19	20 	21
22 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	23	24 Saltshaker Deadline	25 Bulletin Deadline 1 & 7 pm: Lent Worship 6:00 pm Soup Supper	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Potluck	30	31 				

2026 Mid-week Lenten Worship Schedule

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays at 1 & 7 pm
March 04, 11, 18, 25

**Soup Suppers will be at 6:00 pm preceding the
midweek Lenten Services**



2026 Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday Worship & Communion, March 29th at 10:30am

Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion, April 2nd at 7:00pm

**Good Friday Worship, April 3rd at 7:00pm
“Grab & Go” Hot Cross Buns**

Easter Morning Potluck Breakfast, April 5th at 9:00am

Easter Sunday Worship & Communion, April 5th at 10:30am

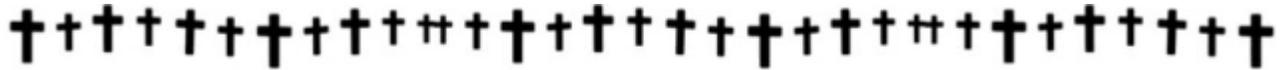
He has been raised.
- Mark 16:6



Easter Lilies

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily to be placed near the altar on Easter Sunday you may place cash or check (clearly marked for Easter Lily) in the offering plate or in the Marttila's mailbox, **the cost of each lily is \$10.**

Checks can be made out to Redeemer Lutheran Church. After Easter you may take your Easter Lily home if you would like.

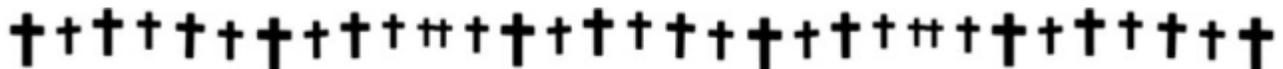


REDEEMER'S EASTER BREAKFAST EASTER SUNDAY - April 5th, 9:00-10:00 AM

**Please join us!
Look for more details to follow!**

Family, friends and neighbors are welcome to join us for this special time of fellowship prior to our Easter Sunday Service at 10:30 am. Please contact Cristi Lysne if you have any questions.

HE IS RISEN!!!!!!



Indoor Spring Cleaning

Saturday, March 28th

10:00am - 12:00pm

Coffee and Donuts will be provided!
Contact Cristi Lysne with any questions.



FOR THRIVENT MEMBERS

Redeemer Lutheran Church is enrolled as an organization with the Thrivent Choice Dollars Program and would be grateful to receive your Thrivent Choice Dollars! Don't forget to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars by the deadline of March 31, 2026!



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

Online

1. Visit **Thrivent.com/thriventchoice**.
2. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, click **“Get started now.”**
3. Log in, enter your user ID and password, and answer your security question. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click **“Register for account access.”**)
4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct.
5. Locate the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - Click **“Direct Now”** next to the organization's name, or
 - Click on the **“View activity history”** link, scroll down and click on the **name of the desired organization**.
 - b. To direct to a new organization, **enter keyword(s)** like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click **“Search.”**
6. Choose **“Direct All”** or **enter a specific number** and click **“Direct Now.”** Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.



David Ketah is now our Food Bank liaison. David volunteers at Ferndale Food and will be delivering Redeemer's contributions on a regular basis. **Thank you, David!**



Thank you to **Anthony McLeod** for his time and talents to repair the ceiling and wall in our fellowship area!

THANK YOU!



FAMILY FAVORITE POTLUCK SUNDAY ~ MARCH 29th

You are invited to bring a
“Family Favorite”

Hot Dish or Salad or Dessert

to share during our Sunday Fellowship time
following worship.

Please join us!

Great Joy in Fellowship and Food.

Should you have any questions, please contact Annette, Leslie, Tami or Wendy.

March



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Happy March! What a mild winter we have had but I am definitely ready for some warm Spring sunshine! We have had so much fun at preschool this past month! We had a pajama and popcorn day for the letter Pp, a Superbowl party since the Seahawks went to the Superbowl, GO HAWKS! We had our Valentine's party and we have been celebrating the Olympics with some fun activities! We have a fun month ahead with a brown bag lunch, a couple of field trips and our donuts and a devotion with our dads. We hope you are all healthy and enjoying this Easter season as we get to celebrate and be thankful for our risen Lord and Savior!
Love and Blessings, Heidi

Bible Stories:

- Poor widow
- Jesus Rides Into Town
- Last Supper/Wash Feet
- Jesus prays in the garden
- Jesus Dies on the Cross

Letters: Ss, Tt, Uu, Vv, Ww

Numbers: 1-10, teen numbers



Important Dates:

- 5- Brown Bag Lunch
- 17 - Field trip to Marine Life Center
- 24 - Devotion and Donuts with Dads
- 31 - Field trip to the Ferndale Library



Birthday Blessings to:

- 30 - Elsie
- 31 - Oliva Mae



The preschool students, in keeping with the tradition of Al Reinikka, planted flower bulbs near the bench dedicated in Al's memory. Al always kept the preschool flower beds bright with flowers!
Pictured below are the kids sitting on Al's bench.
His dedication to the education program at Redeemer will always be remembered!





LCMS Stewardship March 2026 Newsletter Article

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use LSB 785 "We Praise You, O God."

We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.
We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!



A THANK YOU from FOSTER HEARTS for our Advent Ingathering donations

Dear Redeemer Lutheran Church Congregation,

I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone at Redeemer Lutheran Church for the incredible care, generosity, and thoughtfulness shown through your recent donation.

The Care Kits you assembled were filled with truly high-quality, meaningful items that will make a real difference for children entering foster care—often at one of the most difficult moments of their lives. In addition, the cases of diapers and snacks you delivered will directly support children awaiting placement in CPS offices, ensuring their basic needs are met during stressful transitions.

Your generosity does more than provide supplies—it communicates dignity, compassion, and community to children and families who need it most. We are deeply grateful for the time, effort, and heart your congregation poured into this project, and we are honored to partner with a church so committed to caring for vulnerable children.

Please extend our sincere thanks to everyone involved. Your support is already making an immediate and lasting impact.

With gratitude,

Shala Crow

Foster Hearts | Executive Director



Foster Hearts

Our Community...Our Children

Lutheran's For Life Quotes: March 22



"Grief is a road no one chooses, yet in this fallen world, it is a path we must all tread. There are no words that can fully capture the sorrow of losing someone we love—no explanations that can make death seem natural or right. It wasn't meant to be this way. Death is the great intruder, a bitter consequence of sin's curse. And yet, even in the depths of sorrow, the Lord gives us this promise: He is near."

Rev. M.L. Smith, Director of International Missions of Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) – 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](https://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.