



March 2025

Redeemer Lutheran Church

360.384.5923



858 WEST SMITH ROAD
BELLINGHAM, WA 98226
360.384.5923

www.redeemberbellingham.com — Website
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Sunday Worship Service Schedule

9:00 AM: Adult Bible Study

10:30 AM: Worship Service

April Newsletter deadline is
Friday, March 21, 2025

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- Stewardship
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- Lenten and Holy Week Worship Schedules



From the Pastor's Pen



We recently heard in our Sunday Divine service that Jesus said, *“Blessed are you who are poor...”* (Lk 6:20). It’s hard to think one is blessed if they are poor. We see them all around us; their hands are out, their faces are pleading, their need is real. When one has run out of options and is desperate for help, begging seems the only choice.

It’s hard to imagine that one who is forced to beg would feel happy about it, or see it as a blessing. Being poor in physical things can make life hard.

Yet, when it comes on one’s spiritual condition, God says that it is very important to be a beggar. In fact, true happiness only comes when you see yourself as a beggar. Do you see yourself as a spiritual beggar? Or are you relying on some sort of spiritual bank account? Do you think that striving to be a good person counts for something before God, or makes “deposits” in your spiritual bank account? You know you’re not perfect, but are you counting on your account showing more “I tried my best” than “I’ve failed?”

James tells us, *“whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it”* (Ja 2:10). This makes it quite clear that we are all spiritually bankrupt. For God demands perfection. *“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect”* Jesus says in his Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:48). Should that strike fear in our hearts and cause us to be sad and afraid?

Yes! But we need to hear the rest of Luke 6:20: *“...for yours is the kingdom of God.”* How? The Apostle Paul put it this way, *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich”* (2 Cor 8:9).

When you and I see that we have nothing to give God, we become grateful that God has lavished us with spiritual riches. Jesus freely came to earth and took on all our sin upon himself. *He* became poor; he humbled himself to become the victim of the greatest suffering of all, death on a cross to pay the penalty of all our sin. He now tells us our sins are forgiven! With sins forgiven and the eternal kingdom ours because of Jesus, we are truly rich!

Blessings this Lenten season, and see you in church!

Pastor Rex E. Watt

The Bulletin Board

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY: MEETS AT 9:00 am. “Letters to the Seven Churches in Revelation Chapter 3”, 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. **The next meeting will be on Saturday, March 1st.**

LADIES BIBLE STUDY: The third Friday of each month at 11:00 am. A study of Luther’s Small Catechism. **The next meeting will be on Friday, March 21st.**

WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. A study on the book of Ephesians, led by Lynnata Marttila. This bible study will end some time before Easter. Contact Lynnata with any questions.

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS: Sundays from 12:30-2:00 pm. The class will run for 9 weeks, ending on Sunday, April 13th.

MITE SUNDAY: The first Sunday of each month is “Mite Sunday”. Don’t forget your mites, Sunday, March 2nd.

EVANGELISM MEETING: The next Evangelism Meetings will be Thursday, March 20th, at 1:30 & 7pm.

INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK: On Sunday, March 30th, there will be an “international” potluck following the morning service. Please bring a favorite dish of any background or tradition to share.

SAVE THE DATE: Indoor spring cleaning will be on Saturday, April 12th at 10:00. Look for more details to follow!



Daylight Saving Time Begins on Sunday March 09, 2025

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday the 8th!

The last day to bring items for the MILITARY EASTER BOXES is Sunday, April 6th.

Along with the six service members, there are 2 baby girls, 4 wives and 1 husband 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!



Elder Care List

A - Hah: Doug Bender (Head Elder)
 Hal - Li: Kari Marttila
 Lu - Pa: Anthony McLeod
 Po - Z: Colin Grabish

March Birthdays
 03/05 Pamela Hallmark
 03/07 Mackenzie Wright
 03/13 Vivian Hallmark
 03/20 Don Strong
 03/22 Ann Leonard
 03/25 Arlene Lund
 03/30 Ross Abbe
 03/31 Melissa Noste

April Birthdays
 04/06 Jake Potvin
 04/08 Lisa Montgomery
 04/12 Reece Kuljis
 04/12 Dylan Watt
 04/13 Deanna Watt
 04/16 Patrick Heaviside
 04/16 Tami Marcos
 04/21 Kelsey Heaviside
 04/23 Lynnea Flarry



March Anniversaries

03/21 Ross & Barbara Abbe

*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. 02 - Kitchen Committee
 Mar. 09 - Dee Watt & Leslie Rogers
 Mar. 16 - Joy Anderson & Wendy McLeod
 Mar. 23 - Mary Ann Olsen & Cristi Lysne
 Mar. 30 - "International" Potluck

ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – MARCH
Altar Care
 Lynnata Marttila

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. 02	Doug/Anthony	Ian McLeod	Joe Dupuis	Ian McLeod	Jon/Ron
Mar. 09	Doug/Anthony	Connor Dupuis	Corinne Thorsen	Kari Marttila	Anthony/Travis
Mar. 16	Doug/Anthony	Rowan Hogle	Connor Dupuis	Ian McLeod	Wendy/Corinne
Mar. 23	Doug/Anthony	Ian McLeod	Ross Abbe	Kari Marttila	Jon/Ron
Mar. 30	Doug/Anthony	Connor Dupuis	Joe Dupuis	Ian McLeod	Anthony/Travis

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						01 8:00 am: Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
02 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School 12:30 pm: Adult instruction Class	03	04 6:30 pm: Elders	05 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study 1 & 7 pm: Ash Wednesday Worship/Comm.	06 6:30 pm: Young Adult Bible Study	07	08
09 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School 12:30 pm: Adult instruction Class Daylight Saving Time Begins	10	11	12 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study 1 & 7 pm: Lent Worship 6:00 pm: Soup Supper	13	14	15
16 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School 12:30 pm: Adult Instruction Class	17	18 6:30 pm: Council	19 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study 1 & 7 pm: Lent Worship 6:00 pm: Soup Supper	20 Evangelism Meeting 1:30 & 7 pm	21 Saltshaker Deadline 11:00 am: Ladies Bible Study	22 11:00 am: Bill Baeder Memorial Service
23 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School 12:30 pm: Adult instruction Class	24	25	26 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study 1 & 7 pm: Lent Worship 6:00 pm: Soup Supper	27	28 1:00 pm: Sue Urbanec Memorial Service	29
30 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School "International" Potluck 12:30 pm: Adult instruction Class	31					



God's Instruments, God's Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

THE SECRET

I met God in the morning,
When my day was at its best,
And His presence came like sunrise,
Like a glory in my breast.


All day long the Presence lingered,
All day long He stayed with me,
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered,
Other ships were sore distressed,
But the winds that seemed to drive them
Brought to us a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings,
With a keen remorse of mind,
When I too had loosed the moorings,
With the Presence left behind.

So, I think I know the secret,
Learned from many a troubled way:
You must seek Him in the morning
If you want Him through the day!

Raph Spaulding Cushman

Submitted
by 

Marianne Giusti



R L W M L



The mission goal for this 2-year cycle is \$2,350,000.00, supporting 31 grants. Of the 31 grants, 23 are paid in full. Two-thirds of the total grants will pay for grant requests in the United States, 8 grants are based in other countries and 1 grant will support Missouri Synod Braille efforts where offered.

One U.S. grant, requesting \$85,000.00, is Mobile Kitchen - Forged by Fire Services, Gulf Coast Region, U.S. Christ's love is shared through its actions and words. Warm meals and bottled water are provided, as well as spiritual care to those in need due to a disaster. Prayers with individuals, Bibles, devotionals and other resources are offered to those they serve. This grant will allow the purchase of a mobile self-contained kitchen trailer unit to provide meals in communities affected by disaster. Smaller communities that are often overlooked will benefit by this mobile kitchen.



Since its beginning, **Forged by Fire** has prepared and served food for over 150,000 people. Because of generous donations from individuals and organizations like LWML, we have never had to stop cooking due to lack of funding. God truly provides for all our needs!



Exterior and interior images of proposed mobile self-contained kitchen trailer unit.

Coming again soon...



SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH
FOLLOWING THE
MORNING SERVICE
**INTERNATIONAL
POTLUCK**



For Redeemer's monthly potluck, you are invited to bring an "international" food dish to share
OR
a favorite family dish of any tradition or background.

A sign-up will be available Sunday, March 2nd, and you may indicate the dish you will be bringing and it's background or heritage. (German, Swedish, Filipino, Sudanese, American, Mexican, etc.)

PLEASE JOIN US

as we look forward to this time of sharing different international foods and the joy of fellowship.

Should you have any questions, please contact Annette Dixon, Tami Marcos, Wendy McLeod or Dee Watt.



Doug using the snowblower (donated by a church member) to clear sidewalks at church during our February snow and cold. And a big **thank you** to Dennis Urbanec for always being willing to clear snow from the parking lot.



+ + +
**KIDS IN THE
DIVINE SERVICE**
+ + +

What is “Lent”?

Lent is a season of the Church Year that lasts six weeks. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the day before Easter Sunday. During these six weeks we look forward to Good Friday, the day our Lord died on the cross to pay for our sins, and to Easter Sunday, the day He rose from the dead to prove it!



How can I remember to think about Jesus during Lent?

You can give up something you enjoy during Lent. You might see your parents give up their morning coffee. Maybe your brother or sister has decided not to eat candy during Lent. Every time you think about doing what you gave up for Lent, it will remind you of what Jesus gave up for you — His life! Blessings to you as you experience the wonderful journey of Lent!



Parents:

We encourage you to help your child decide on something in their life that they can give up during Lent. Be sure to give up something too. Being their example and companion on this journey makes a big difference!



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Please join us for
Lenten Worship

“The Hand of the Lord”

Ash Wednesday

Worship with Communion

March 5th at 1 & 7pm

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays at 1 & 7pm

Soup Suppers at 6 pm

March 12, 19, 26; April 02, 09

Holy Week

Palm Sunday Worship & Communion April 13th at 10:30am

Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion April 17th at 7:00pm

Good Friday Worship April 18th at 7:00pm

“Grab & Go” Hot Cross Buns

Easter Morning Potluck Breakfast April 20th at 9:00am

Easter Sunday Worship & Communion April 20th at 10:30pm



January 2025 Council Briefs

Pastor opened with a prayer and devotion.

December council meeting minutes were accepted by council.

Treasurer's Report: Council approved the treasurer's report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Watt preached 4 out of 5 Sundays, taught one Young Adult Bible study in his home, conducted one service at Woodway Senior Living, taught one Redeemer LWML Bible Study and 5 Adult Bible Studies, and conducted 6 Mid-Week Advent services. Pastor also conducted 1 Christmas Eve service and 1 New Years Eve service, made 2 shut-in visits, 4 pastoral visits, and 3 hospital calls. The average worship attendance in December was 59.

Elders Report: The Elders are exploring the idea of doing a community event. Ideas they have considered to date are a Movie/spaghetti night, Summer BBQ night, Vacation Bible School Day with a BBQ, and a Car Show with a BBQ. They continue to brainstorm ideas. The Elders are the nomination committee for Redeemer and will begin looking for a new Council President for the May 2025 election.

Stewardship Report: We received a number of donations for Kitchen and Preschool supplies through the Advent Giving Tree. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

Property Report: New light bulbs and dimmer switches for the Sanctuary that they will be installed soon. Still looking to repair the ceiling and the wall in the Fellowship room.

Education Committee Report: Sunday School lessons are completed through Easter. There will be no Sunday School during the summer but there will be lessons and coloring pages available for students to pick up before Sunday services.

Preschool: Heidi will be taking Mondays and Wednesdays off for the rest of the year due to family needs. A new preschool teacher has been hired to teach Mondays and Wednesdays with Payton. Heidi will be teaching the Tuesday and Thursday classes and will meet with the new teacher on Fridays regarding prep for the following week.

Evangelism Report: No report.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. We received a request to allow an outside entity to use the Fellowship area for an outside meeting, after discussion the Council voted not to allow due to no connection to the church.
2. Council will be reviewing the Redeemer Constitution and Bylaws to assure we are all familiar with them.
3. The District Convention will be June 19-21, 2025 in Spokane. We are invited to send one Pastor delegate and one lay person delegate. Pastor Watt will attend and there are two who have expressed an interest in going as the lay person delegate.

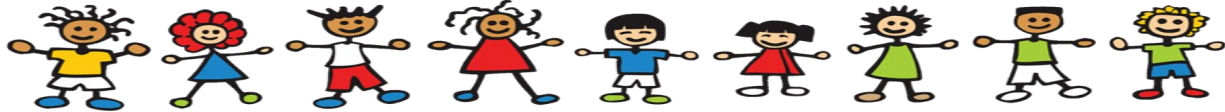
4. There is a Mt. Baker LCMS Circuit meeting on February 16, 2025 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon. Pastor Watt will attend. We are also eligible to bring a lay person to the meeting.
5. The idea of a “Benevolence Fund” was refined and council decided to have it in the Elder’s budget. The head elder and two lay people will be overseeing this. The idea is to have money for members who fall on hard times and need a one time financial helping hand. There is an application/ screening process to ensure wise stewardship of this money.

Pastor closed in prayer.

Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



Redeemer Lutheran Preschool
858 W. Smith Rd.
Bellingham, WA 98226



Wish List

Wish List for the 2024-2025 Preschool Year

- Sand (bags of sand from Dollar tree or wherever) 24 bags
- Box of fishy crackers (Costco box of individual packs) 2 boxes
- Box of fruit snacks (Costco box) 1 box
- Box of Pirate Booty (Grocery Outlet box of individual packs) 2 boxes
- Clorox wipes (Costco packs)
- Kleenex boxes 5 ea
- Dollar Tree gift cards
- Michaels gift cards
- Hobby Lobby gift cards

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6



Lutheran's For Life Quotes: March 09 & 23

“Brothers and sisters, in Christ you are God’s masterpiece. You were created for a purpose. You are the hands and feet of Christ demonstrating His love in a world that desperately needs it. Live out that purpose in the strength that comes from Him and wait joyfully for the day where we get to see His finished product.”

Rev. Adam Osier, Dean, Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

“Think of how important we as human beings must be in the eyes of God, if He—as the almighty creator and Lord of the entire universe—was willing to take on human flesh and become one of us. God loves the human race so much He decided to become our brother.”

Thomas P. Nass, CELC President – 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)



Free Cards



SHARE GOD’S WORD BY USING FREE GIDEON CARDS

How would you like to extend the missionary outreach of our church to some 200 countries around the world? You are encouraged to use Gideon cards to send the Word and Change a Life!

Every time you send a Gideon card, your donation for Bibles will send God’s Word to someone who desperately needs it—perhaps in your own neighborhood or somewhere else around the world.

Gideon cards can be given in the memory of someone special (sympathy cards) or for any special occasion, and that’s a life-changing difference!

Check out the display of free Gideon cards in our church. Where are they? They are on the wooden shelf at the back wall in the fellowship room. Help yourself. Then, let these cards acknowledge your gift in memory or in honor of someone, and provide Bibles, helping fulfill the Great Commission. Thank you for sharing God’s Word around the world.