



May 2025

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

June Newsletter deadline is  
Friday, May 23, 2025

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Pastor's Pen
- May Birthdays
- Bulletin Board Announcements
- Poem
- Council Briefs
- Preschool Update
- WCP Walk for Life Info



## From the Pastor's Pen



April showers bring May flowers! Or so the saying goes. I can't believe it's already May! One would think that with Lent/Easter "behind" us that things would slow down. But then I checked my upcoming calendar. It goes something like this:

- May 1 National Day of Prayer (Sanctuary open all day)
- May 3 LWML Zone Joy Shop in Oak Harbor
- May 6-8 Spring Puget Sound Pastor's Conference in Sequim, WA
- May 11 Mother's Day
- May 16 Redeemer LWML Bible study
- May 17 Redeemer Men's Saturday Breakfast/Bible study
- May 20 Preschool Graduation, at 7:00 pm
- May 26 Memorial Day service at Mount Vernon Cemetery, Mount Vernon, WA
- May 29 Ascension Day Service, at 7:00 pm

Where'd the slow-down go?

Life gets busy and we all have a lot of things to do. When spring/summer comes there is that additional draw to get out of our homes and into the yard, onto the golf course, to the lake, mountains, or seashore. We are certainly blessed to live in an area as beautiful as the Pacific Northwest.

As you gear up for more sunshine in your life, don't forget about the Son who wants to shine on you! He knows where we live and how beautiful it is . . . he created it! And he called you to live here. So, wherever you go this spring/summer in this wonderful, wide, beautiful world, be sure to let the Son shine in your life. You are a baptized child of God. He goes with you wherever you go. *"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"* (Matt 5:16).

And if you are travelling, and want to find a sister congregation in the area where you are going, give me a call or email, and I'll do what I can to locate one for you. We may take vacations: but God doesn't. He's always with us (Matt 28:20) and always wants to shower us with his gifts.

And if you're not travelling...

See you in church,

Pastor Rex E. Watt

# The Bulletin Board

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

**DEVOTIONALS:** “Our Daily Bread” for March-May and “Portals of Prayer” for April-June are available on the offering table.

**SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY: MEETS AT 9:00 am.** A study of the book of Exodus, 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 the third Saturday in May, May 17th.**

**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, April 18th.**

**WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am starting May on 28th.** A study on the book of Ruth, led by Lynnata Marttila. This will run approximately 6 weeks.

**MITE SUNDAY:** The first Sunday of each month is “Mite Sunday”. Don’t forget your mites, Sunday, May 4th.

**OUTDOOR SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY: Saturday, May 17th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** As Sunday School wraps up on May 18th, we want to give a huge **THANK YOU** to our Sunday School teachers and our Board of Education, your time and talents are very appreciated. The Redeemer children are blessed to have such loving and caring teachers!

**THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD:** Please join us for an Ascension Day Service on Thursday, May 29th at 7:00 pm.

THE LORD DELIGHTS IN  
THOSE WHO FEAR HIM,  
WHO PUT THEIR HOPE  
IN HIS UNFAILING LOVE.  
PSALM 147:11

HAPPY  
Mother's  
Day





**Elder Care List**

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

**May Birthdays**

- 05/02 Gail Pappacostas
- 05/04 Sherie Hind
- 05/04 Landon VanBerkum
- 05/09 Ian McLeod
- 05/16 Molly Marttila
- 05/24 Jeanette Stroming
- 05/25 Jamie Dupuis
- 05/25 Ronald Willand

**June Birthdays**

- 06/03 Travis Kimes
- 06/04 Corinne Thorsen
- 06/10 Patrick O'Connor
- 06/12 Alex Strong
- 06/13 Carson Wright
- 06/17 Janet Baeder
- 06/17 Steven Potvin
- 06/19 Carl Olsen
- 06/21 Doug Bender
- 06/28 Barb Abbe
- 06/28 Rachel Hahn



**BLESSINGS  
ON YOUR  
BIRTHDAY**

*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**

- May 04 - Dee Watt
- May 11 - Mother's Day Brunch—Elders
- May 18 - Wendy McLeod
- May 25 - Potluck

**ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – MAY**

**Altar Care**  
Arenda Hovde

**Note:** If your birthday or wedding anniversary is not listed on this page or if it is incorrect, please contact the church

**Worship Volunteer Schedule**

	<b>Elder/Assistant</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Counters</b>
May 04	Doug/Anthony	Anthony McLeod	Corinne Thorsen	Kari Marttila	Jon/Ron
May 11	Doug/Anthony	Rowan Hogle	Connor Dupuis	Ian McLeod	Anthony/Travis
May 18	Doug/Anthony	Ian McLeod	Ross Abbe	Ian McLeod	Wendy/Corinne
May 25	Doug/Anthony	Connor Dupuis	Joe Dupuis	Kari Marttila	Jon/Ron





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>01</b> National Day of Prayer 	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>04</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School 12:30 pm: Adult instruction Class	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b> 6:30 pm: Elders	<b>07</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Mother's Day</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School Mother's Day Brunch	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 11:00 am: Ladies Bible Study	<b>17</b> 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 9:00 am: Outdoor Spring Clean-up WPC Walk for Life
<b>18</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm: Council 7:00 pm: Preschool Graduation	<b>21</b> Bulletin Deadline	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Saltshaker Deadline	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Potluck	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00 am: Ladies Bible Study	<b>29</b> 7:00 pm Ascension Day Service	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

For more information  
please call

**The Whatcom  
Pregnancy Clinic**

at

360-671-9057

or email

info@whatcomclinic.com.

We have pledge forms  
available at the church!

WWW.WALKWPC.COM



**SATURDAY, MAY 17 AT GRACE CHURCH BELLINGHAM**  
3220 Meridian Street (just south of Cornwall Park)  
Parking available in church parking lot and along Meridian.

### *What Do I Need to Know?*

To register, you can sign up and create your own webpage at [www.walkwpc.com](http://www.walkwpc.com). It's easy to do! The program has a default goal, but feel free to increase it. Be bold and courageous! Those who prefer not to use the FundEasy online service can use this printed pledge form instead.

Please contact your friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors and ask them to help support you in raising funds for the Whatcom Pregnancy Clinic. Email and Facebook can be great ways to communicate! Use your unique link to send them directly to your personal FundEasy webpage.

The Walk is a family-friendly, easy 2 miles, so all ages can participate! There will be games, bouncy houses, food, and fun!

**Check in:** On the day of the event, please bring your pledge form and online donation print-out to the event and check in by your last name.

There is No Entry Fee. Each participant who raises \$150 in pledges will receive a free 2025 event T-shirt.

### *Event Schedule:*

**Register: 8:30-9:15 am**

- Continental Breakfast
- Face Painting
- Kids Games

**Program: 9:15 am**

**Begin Walk: 9:30 am**

**Celebration: 10:30 am-12 pm**

- Bouncy Houses
- Hot Dogs and Drinks
- Face Painting
- Kids Games

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- Hot Dogs and Drinks
- Face Painting
- Kids Games

If you'd like to participate, but aren't available on May 17, feel free to walk on your own and mail your Pledge Form and donations to: WPC, P.O. Box 1663, Bellingham, WA 98227 by May 12. Or drop it off in person May 12 - 15 at the Clinic.



## Mother

How may heartaches, how may cares,  
How may fated blows,  
How many joys and how many tears  
The heart of a mother knows.

How many lonely, sleepless nights,  
How many tears are shed,  
How many prayers does a mother pray  
There, by a sick child's bed?

How many times does a mother's kiss  
Banish a youngster's woes,  
How much love in a mother's heart?  
None but a mother knows.

How many hours does she reminisce  
After the young have grown  
Out of the need of her loving arms  
Into a world of their own?

How many stars do the angels save  
For those of great renown?  
Surely a million sparkling jewels  
Will shine in a mother's crown.

Submitted  
by 

Marianne Giusti



## Meditation

As long as I can touch a rose  
Bathed in bright morning dew,  
Or feel the southwind's flirty kiss  
As she glides softly through;

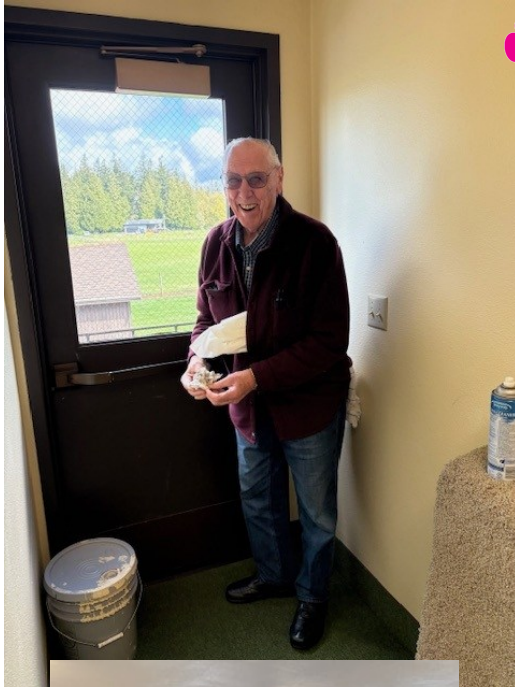
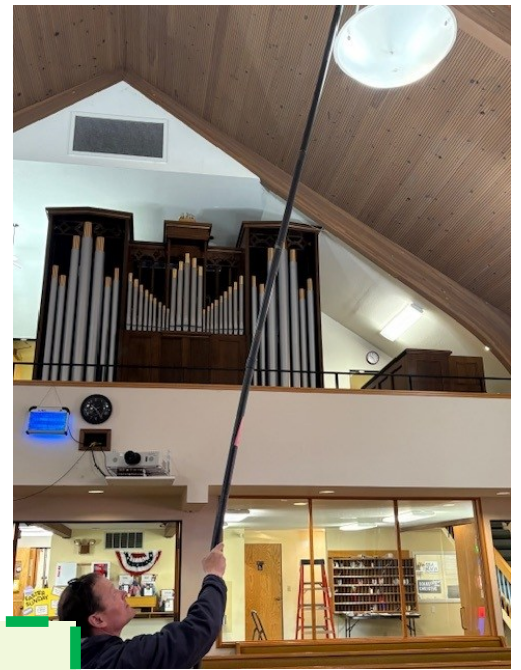
As long as songbirds, glad and free,  
Waft music on the air,  
And gentle raindrops tap my roof  
Like fairies dancing there;

As long as I can know the joy  
Of loved ones by my side,  
Or watch the red-gold setting sun  
Dip low at eventide;

As long as I can talk with God  
In prayer upon my knees,  
I shall not long for greater wealth  
Than blessings such as these.

...Poetry from the Ozarks by May Krone

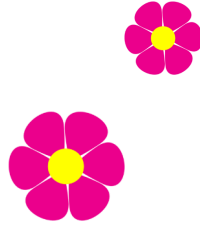




Spring  
Cleaning







Thank you to all who help out to keep our church looking great inside and out!



Thank you to Kari and Lynnata for maintaining the front flower bed and planting the beautiful flower cross!





# Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



As I sit her and ponder this last year at preschool, I was given many challenges personally and professionally so I took some time to sit with myself and think about why God challenged me so many times this year and all that keeps coming into my head was to make me stronger on the other side. Then as I was thinking about this class of students heading into kindergarten and what verse I wanted to choose for them I happened to be driving to school one day and noticed my neighbor had a huge sign in his field with the verse, *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”* James 4:8. I thought, how perfect and fitting for this year. In all the challenges of life if we can draw near to God and lean on Him then He will help us get through those tough times!

I had to get a bit creative with this years graduation celebration as I only have 6 graduates! Our celebration will be Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We had 3 fun field trips this past month and I look forward to some fun activities, reviewing what we’ve learned, Mother’s Day and getting those ready for kindergarten!

Thank you all for the prayers upon me and our preschool this year. I am looking forward to the warm sunshine of summer that God provides to us during the season!

I wish all of you “mother’s” a Blessed Mother’s Day! May you feel the blessings of being a mom and how truly special you are to your children!

Love and Blessings, Heidi



**Fun field trips to the fire station,  
Appel Cheese Farm  
and Scrap-it Recycling!**







## **Redeemer Lutheran Church April 2025 Council Briefs**

Pastor opened the council meeting with a prayer and devotion.

Secretary's Report: March 2025 council minutes were reviewed and approved by council.

Treasurer's Report: Carl Olsen reported that giving was down in March. While the General Fund had a surplus in March due to a large one- time donation that is actually being reported monthly, overall giving was down.

Pastor's Report: For the month of March, Pastor Watt preached 4 out of 5 Sundays and 8 mid-week Lenton services. He taught one Young Adult Bible study, one Redeemer LWML Bible Study, 5 Adult Study classes, and one Saturday Men's Bible Study. He also conducted 2 private confession/absolutions, 2 funeral planning meetings, 2 memorial services, 2 Pre-marital counseling sessions, and 3 shut in visits. The average worship attendance in March was 61.

Elders Report: The Lenton Soup Suppers are over and they appeared to go well having various groups within the church each sponsoring one night. This will most likely be how soup suppers are done in the future.

The Elders are also investigating whether the sound system could be moved upstairs in order to create a second wheelchair spot in the sanctuary. They are also looking into a wireless sound system which would be designed to help assist the needs of hearing- impaired members. Lastly, elections are coming up. If you have any interest in serving on council, please contact an Elder or a Council Member.

Stewardship Report: The Spring Cleaning inside the church was completed. Thank you to all who came to clean! The Easter breakfast is being organized and Tony and Doug volunteered to make pancakes. Thank you both! 7 volunteers came to help set up the day before. Thank you all for all of your help!

Property Report: A Spring outside clean- up day is in the works. Please watch for more details on the date and plan to join us! We are also looking into cameras for the pre-school area and additional locks for security.

Education Committee Report: As of now it looks as though we will continue offering Pre-school next year. This is an important ministry of the church. Heidi will return to teaching however, the assistant Peyton has decided not to return.

Evangelism Report: Ross Abbe was unable to attend the Council Meeting.

Unfinished Business: None.



New Business: Pastor has asked Council to put the budgeted amount for conferences, mileage etc...back into the elders' budget and not his salary so the money isn't taxed and all of it can be used for its' intended purpose. This will be looked into and brought back to council in May. Free Will Offerings for Kitchen supplies will be going to the stewardship account instead of the general fund so it is readily available for the kitchen committee to use when needed Stacking the chairs against the wall in the Fellowship area has begun causing damage to the walls. A chair rack might be stored in the shed and could be used. If the church doesn't have a chair rack, purchasing one will be discussed by council.

Pastor gave a closing prayer.

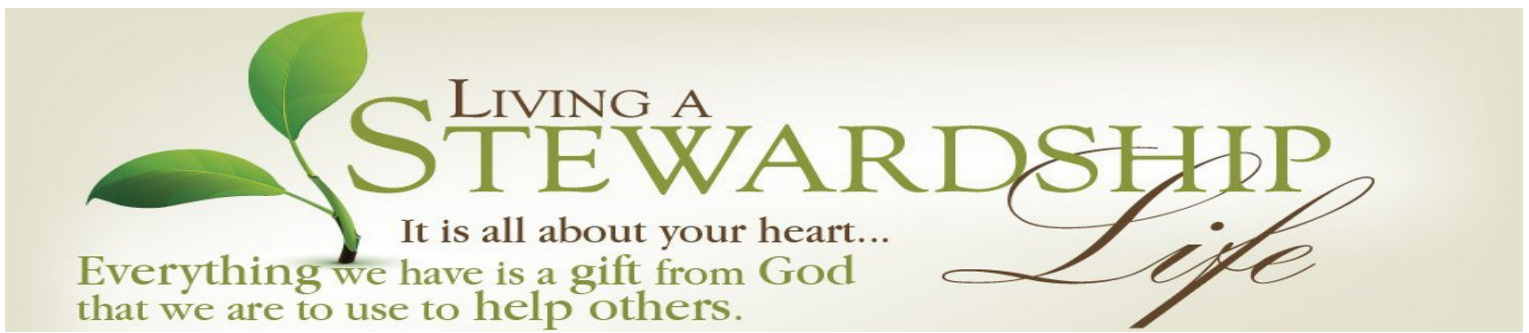


*Hosanna*  
IN THE HIGHEST  
**Palm Sunday**



*The Lord is Risen!*  
**Easter Sunday**





## Stewardship in the Body of Christ

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope “springs” eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner. Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.

Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose.

Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will.

Verse 3: “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.” This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational chair cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus.

Verses 4–5: “For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual.



Verses 6–8: “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.” Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry – [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)  
Stewardship Thoughts – May 2025**



**SPECIAL  
MUSIC  
PRESENTATION**



We were blessed to have visitors from Trinity Lutheran Church (LCC) in Abbotsford, BC, Canada. We were joined by Pastor Henock Teklemariam, his wife, children and his siblings as well. Pictured above are Pastor Teklemariam (on the far right) and his siblings who sang for us in English and also in their native language.



## Lutheran's For Life Quotes: May 04 & 18

“By the washing of water, John made God’s divine intentions clear. Jesus was our brother indeed, on a heavenly mission to rescue and purify us from all sin. Dear Lord, keep us patient as we wait for You. Amen.”

*Rev. Paul Koelpin, Martin Luther College – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

“Live abundantly, friends, graduates, loved ones, and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ! Know who you are and to whom you belong.”

*Deaconess Janet Nicol, Word of Hope – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://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](http://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](http://wmltblog.org))

**IF YOU WANT TO CONNECT with other LCMS Lutherans:** LCMS Facebook ([facebook.com/thelcms](https://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](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](https://lcms.org/lutheransengage))

**IF YOU’RE LOOKING FOR NEWS:** *Reporter* ([blogs.lcms.org/reporter](https://blogs.lcms.org/reporter))

**IF YOU CAN’T GET ENOUGH of all things mission:**

*Journal of Lutheran Mission* ([lcms.org/journaloflutheranmission](https://lcms.org/journaloflutheranmission))

**IF YOU WANT IT ALL:** LCMS News and Publications ([blogs.lcms.org](https://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.