



# The Saltshaker

April 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

May Newsletter deadline is  
Wednesday, April 23, 2025

### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Pastor's Pen
- April Birthdays
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- Poem
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- Lenten and Holy Week Worship Schedules
- Preschool Update



## From the Pastor's Pen



We have been travelling through Lent reflecting on the theme: the hand of the Lord. We've seen God's hand at work in giving, saving, freeing, and cleansing. By the time you get and read this newsletter, we'll be considering God's hand in raising the dead. Jesus, like Elijah and Elisha before him, will raise to life a woman's only child (Luke 7:11-17). What a preview of Easter!

For it was on Easter when another only child was raised from the dead. Jesus, the only-begotten son of God the Father was raised from the dead after having been crucified on Good Friday. And while we make much of Jesus' death on the cross for our sins, if he didn't rise from the dead, then his death means nothing, and we are, as the Apostle Paul says, pitiful people. *"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied"* (1 Cor 15:17-19).

But Christ has been raised from the dead! (1 Cor 15:20) This was attested to by his disciples (Acts 10:40-41), with whom he walked and talked for a period of forty days after his resurrection (Acts 1:3), and by over five hundred others who could testify (1 Cor 15:3-6) if needed.

Jesus' resurrection from the dead, at least for me, is a very comforting fact. First, it proves that he is who he says he is: God's Son. He talked on more than one occasion that he was going to Jerusalem to be put to death, but that he would rise from the dead. He even said, *"I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father"* (Jn 10:17-18). Now that is something that even Elijah and Elisha couldn't do! It also proves that his teaching is true (Jn 18:37); that the Father accepted his sacrifice for the reconciliation of the world (Rom 5:10); and that as a believer, I (and all believers) will rise to eternal life (Jn 11:25-26; Jn 14:19; 1 Cor 15:22-23).

Dear baptized and believing child of God, I hope and pray that Jesus' resurrection brings you peace and comfort. *"For you have died [with Christ in your baptism], and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory"* (Col 3:3-4).

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 Saturday, April 5th.**

**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 10:00 am.** A study on the book of Ephesians, led by Lynnata Marttila.

**ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS: Sundays from 12:30-2:00 pm.**

**PHOTOS FOR NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY:** will be taken on Sundays, April 6th & 13th.

**MITE SUNDAY:** The first Sunday of each month is “Mite Sunday”. Don’t forget your mites, Sunday, April 6th.

**INDOOR SPRING CLEANING:** will be on Saturday, April 12th, 10:00-1:00. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Please see Cristi Lysne with any questions.

**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

**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

**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



**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**

- Apr. 06 - Marsha Edin & Janet Baeder
- Apr. 13 - Annette Dixon & Tami Marcos
- Apr. 20 - Easter Breakfast - LWML
- Apr. 27 - Potluck

**ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – APRIL**

**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**

	<b>Elder/Assistant</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Counters</b>
Apr. 06	Doug/Anthony	Connor Dupuis	Corinne Thorsen	Kari Marttila	Anthony/Travis
Apr. 13	Doug/Anthony	Rowan Hogle	Connor Dupuis	Ian McLeod	Wendy/Corinne
Apr. 20	Doug/Anthony	Ian McLeod	Joe Dupuis	Kari Marttila	Jon/Ron
Apr. 27	Doug/Anthony	Connor Dupuis	Ross Abbe	Ian McLeod	Anthony/Travis

# April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>01</b> 6:30 pm: Elders	<b>02</b> Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study 1 & 7 pm: Ash Wednesday Worship/Comm. 6:00 pm: Soup Supper	<b>03</b> 6:30 pm: Young Adult Bible Study	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b> 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>06</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School 12:30 pm: Adult instruction Class	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b> Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study 1 & 7 pm: Lent Worship 6:00 pm: Soup Supper	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00 am: Indoor Spring Cleaning
<b>13</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion 12:30 pm: Adult Instruction Class	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm: Council	<b>16</b> Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Worship /Comm.	<b>18</b> 11:00 am: Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm: Good Friday Worship "Grab & Go" Hot Cross Buns	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:00 am: Easter Breakfast 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Bulletin Deadline Saltshaker Deadline	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School <b>Potluck</b> 12:30 pm: Adult Instruction Class	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Bulletin Deadline			



Photographs for a  
**Church Photo Directory**

will be taken on

Sunday, April 6th and Sunday, April 13th

A photographer will be at church on April 6 and April 13 from 9AM to about 1PM on both days. This will be the only two days that he will be on site. If you are a church member or guest that feels Redeemer is your current church home, please try and make it on at least one of those two days. This will not cost you any money for the photos that will be used in our directory. If you have any questions, please contact Doug Bender.



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.**

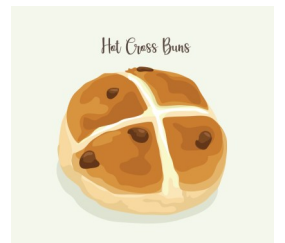
Checks can be made out to Redeemer Lutheran Church.

After Easter you may take your Easter Lily home if you would like.



*“Grab & Go”* **HOT CROSS BUNS**

**Good Friday, April 18th**  
**following Good Friday Worship**



## OVER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY

Over the hills and far away,  
A little boy steals from his morning play,  
And under the blossoming apple-tree  
He lies and he dreams of the things to be:  
Of battles fought and of victories won,  
Of wrongs o'erthrown and of great deeds  
done—  
Of the valor that he shall prove some day,  
Over the hills and far away—  
Over the hills and far away!

Over the hills and far away  
It's, oh, for the toil the livelong day!  
But it mattereth not to the soul aflame  
With a love for riches and power and fame!  
On, O man! while the sun is high—  
On to the certain joys that lie  
Yonder where blazeth the noon of day.  
Over the hills and far away—  
Over the hills and far away!

Over the hills and far away,  
An old man lingers at close of day;  
Now that his journey is almost done,  
His battles fought and his victories won—  
The old-time honesty and truth,  
The trustfulness and the friends of youth,  
Home and mother—where are they?  
Over the hills and far away—  
Over the years and far away!

**Eugene Field**



Submitted  
by   
Marianne Giusti



## EVENING PRAYER

We thank you, Lord, for everything  
You've given us today,  
For shielding us from every harm  
Each step along the way..

Forgive us now for every time  
We've put you, Lord, to shame,  
For every chance we didn't take  
To glorify your name.

For troubled hearts we didn't try  
To ease or understand,  
For drifting souls we didn't try  
To lift from sinking sand.

Forgive us, Lord, for each mistake  
That we have surely made  
And help us brave the storms of life  
And face them unafraid.

Be with us on the morrow, lord,  
And when the day is through  
May Heaven's records verify  
We've done our best for you.

**Amen**

**...Poetry from the Ozarks by May Krone**

# Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



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



Happy Spring! I can't believe I am writing that our preschool year is almost over! We have had a really busy and challenging year! These students have come with a lot of energy! I have had the opportunity to have Miss Katie, who is Tabatha's daughter, come and teach a couple days a week for the past couple months. She has been doing a wonderful job and enjoying getting to know these energetic students! We will be heading into Spring Break next week and we are trying to fit in three field trips to the fire station, scrap yard and cheese farm! We have been doing lots of learning and have been hearing about one of the most important bible stories of the Bible...the Easter Story! He has Risen! He has Risen indeed!

We are going to be having a 4 day preschool next year, Monday through Thursday, from 9am to 1pm. At this moment I have 5 returners for next year. I will have 5 graduates this year who will continue onto kindergarten next year. Our graduation celebration is on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm.

I hope this Spring you are staying dry and looking forward to some more sunshine like I am! We have been trying to get outside to play as much as possible and when that sun comes out it warms my bones! I pray you all are well and rejoicing in the season of our Risen Lord!

Love and Blessings,  
Heidi

## 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



Please join us for  
**Lenten Worship**

**“The Hand of the Lord”**

**Midweek Lenten Worship**

**Wednesdays at 1 & 7pm**

**Soup Suppers at 6 pm**

**April 02, 09**

**Holy Week**

**Palm Sunday Worship & Communion April 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**

**Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

**Good Friday Worship April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

**“Grab & Go” Hot Cross Buns**

**Easter Morning Breakfast April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**

**Easter Sunday Worship & Communion April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30pm**

**REDEEMER'S EASTER BREAKFAST  
EASTER SUNDAY - April 20th, 9:00-10:00 AM**

**Please join us, breakfast will be provided!**

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!!!!!!!**



## Redeemer Lutheran Church February 2025 Council Briefs

Pastor opened with a prayer and devotion.

**Secretary Report:** Council meeting Minutes for January were slightly corrected and accepted by council

**Treasurer's Report:** Giving was down in January. Hopefully will rebound next month.

**Pastor's Report:** For the month of January, Pastor Watt preached 4 out of 4 Sundays, taught one Young Adult Bible study, taught one Redeemer LWML Bible Study, and taught 4 Adult Bible Study sessions. Also made 3 shut-in visits and 5 pastoral visits, and one hospital call. Pastor noted that since last January 2024, Redeemer has had a slow downward trickle in attendance, averaging 59 per week.

**Elders Report:** Elders are continuing to work on a photo member directory for the congregation. A photographer has been found (a friend of an elder) and photoshoot dates in March or April are being considered. The Elders are requesting "groups" to host the upcoming Soup Suppers, instead of individuals. For example, the Elders are doing one Soup Supper, Council is doing one, the Choir is doing one, etc. If you or a group you belong to would like to volunteer, please let an Elder know.

**Stewardship Report:** None.

**Property Report:** There had been a small leak in the Preschool boys' bathroom that has been repaired. The fly status has been better since the cold weather. The church received a gift of a snowblower. The contents of the shed behind the church was reviewed and it seems there is a lot of stuff to remove. The council will find the people who should know why items are there so items aren't wrongfully removed.

**Education Committee Report:** Sunday School is going great! There are 3-8 students each week. There will be no Sunday School over the summer but they plan to have coloring pages for the students to pick up before the service on Sundays. They are hoping that the Sunday services this summer might open with some old time Sunday School songs.

The Pre-school missed one week of school due to the snow. Redeemer policy is to not make up snow days but does leave it to teacher discretion if they want to add extra days at the end of the year. There is a new teacher, Katie. Cindy has spoken with all three teachers- Heidi, Payton, and Katie and reports that classes seem to be going well. The students are happy and very accepting of the new situation and teacher.

**Evangelism Report:** Ross Abbe reported that one person attended the recent Evangelism meeting.

**Unfinished Business:** Pastor submitted the District Application and reported that the Circuit meeting had been pushed back one week. Pastor and Dee will attend the Circuit meeting. Redeemer received a thank you card from Bellingham Christian School ("BCS"). BCS is one of the local missions Redeemer supports. Pastor edited the application for members to apply for Benevolence funds indicating that it comes from the Elders budget.

**New Business:** The church received a large contribution in February. It is an annual tithe and council is considering spreading it out over 12 months in our internal reporting so we have an accurate picture of our finances month to month. The council is considering an audit of our accounting. No concerns etc....just due diligence to make sure our accounting is in good order.

Pastor gave a closing prayer.

Meeting concluded at 7:52 pm.

## Redeemer Lutheran Church March 2025 Council Briefs

Pastor opened with prayer and devotion.

**Secretary Report:** February council minutes were accepted by council after minor corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Giving is down again this month. Attendance is down slightly which might correlate. The large annual contribution received last month will be reported monthly in the church's internal reporting to reflect an accurate financial position for each month. For tax reporting and any other reporting to government agencies it will be properly reported as an annual contribution.

**Pastor's Report:** For the month of February, Pastor Watt preached 3 out of 4 Sundays, taught one Redeemer LWML Bible Study, 2 Adult Instruction classes, and one Sunday morning Bible class. Pastor Watt also made 3 shut in visits, 4 pastoral visits, and one marriage counseling session. Pastor noted that the attendance for February averaged 55.

**Elders Report:** The Elders have the Palms ordered for Palm Sunday and the Elders will be cooking for Mother's Day.

**Stewardship Report:** The Kitchen Committee had a meeting regarding cost saving measures. This will hopefully help to keep spending within the budget this year. Easter Breakfast will be Easter morning before services and will include pancakes and sausage. Stewardship is considering a tea, possibly around Mother's Day. April 12, 2025 is the Spring Cleaning event at Redeemer. Please mark your calendars to join in!

**Property Report:** A Ring Doorbell was discussed for the Pre-school entry and maybe a couple of cameras to put in the eaves to see cars coming through the parking lot. The Quilting Room door was also discussed as it has one knob lock and opens to the outside. Discussion of installing additional locks on all of the doors in the preschool wing ensued and will be explored by the Education Chairwoman.

**Education Committee Report:** Board of Education are looking into how we want to proceed next year as the public school system is offering free preschool and this appears to have affected our numbers (lower) this school year.

**Evangelism Report:** Ross Abbe lost his connection to the online meeting and was unable to report.

**Unfinished Business:** Pastor reported that we received a thank you note from the Whatcom Pregnancy Clinic for our kind donations. When our Vice President of the council was appointed a concern was raised regarding conflicts of interest as his wife is a paid organist for the church. Council voted at that time (October 2024) to appoint the Vice President but have him not be on any committees regarding church finances. This month after much discussion and reviewing the church constitution and bylaws, a council majority voted to restore the Vice President to all committees as assigned in the constitution and bylaws (mainly the budget committee). The reasoning is that our church is too small to limit council members from performing their duties as assigned in the constitution and bylaws. This creates a strain on our council as more work is placed on fewer people etc....

**New Business:** Pastor received a call from a church in Liberia, Africa, that has received some of the items Redeemer has donated in the past (paraments, etc.). He was very appreciative. During the call, the pastor from Liberia explained that his son wants to study at Concordia in the United States and wonders if Redeemer would sponsor him. Pastor is going to ask what sponsoring would entale.

Pastor closed in prayer.

Meeting concluded at 8:03 pm.



# Lent Soup Supper



Leslie Rogers (above) doing some spring clean-up, and Barb Abbe working on another beautiful display board!

# INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK



Great food, joy in fellowship and a blessing to all!



## Lutheran's For Life Quotes: April 20 & 27

“Perhaps as our culture seems to be increasingly more challenging, it may help to think of hope as the complete opposite of despair. Hope is not optional for the believer. Our hope is secure because, as we all say again, ‘Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!’”

*John Stonestreet – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

“Knowing that God is always near as our Help moves us to reflect the Savior’s love in helping others. ‘Carry each other’s burdens’ (Galatians 6:2).”

*Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – 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), Instagram (thelcms) and Periscope.

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

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

*Lutherans Engage the World* ([lcms.org/lutheransengage](http://lcms.org/lutheransengage))

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

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

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

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