



# The Saltshaker

May 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**

June Newsletter deadline is  
Monday, May 26, 2026

### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

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



## *From the Pastor's Pen*



Forty days after His resurrection, our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven. At first glance, the Ascension can feel like a departure; a leaving behind. The disciples themselves stood gazing upward, as if something had been lost. Yet the Ascension is not about Christ's absence, but about His gracious and powerful presence for His Church.

When Jesus ascends, He does not withdraw from His people. Rather, He fills all things (Ephesians 4:10). Having taken on our human nature in the incarnation, and having redeemed us through His death and resurrection, Christ now exalts that same human nature to the right hand of the Father. This means that the man Jesus, true God and true man, now reigns over all creation. His Ascension is His enthronement.

For us, this is deeply comforting. The "right hand of God" is not a physical location but a position of divine authority and power. Therefore, Christ's ascension means He is not limited by time or space. He is present wherever He promises to be: especially in His means of grace. In the preaching of the Word, in Holy Baptism, and in the Lord's Supper, the ascended Christ comes to us with forgiveness, life, and salvation.

This is why the Ascension is not an ending, but a beginning. Jesus Himself tells His disciples that it is for their good that He goes away (John 16:7), because He will send the Holy Spirit. From His heavenly throne, Christ pours out the Spirit upon His Church, creating and sustaining faith through the Gospel. The Church's mission flows directly from the Ascension. The risen and reigning Christ sends His people to make disciples of all nations.

The Ascension also assures us that we have a place in heaven. Where Christ has gone, we shall follow. This is our hope in the midst of a fallen world. Our Savior reigns, and nothing can separate us from His love.

Finally, the Ascension directs our eyes forward. The same Jesus who ascended will come again in glory. His reign is already real, though not yet fully revealed to our sight. We live in that tension: confident, expectant, and anchored in His promises.

So we do not stand staring into the sky in confusion. We rejoice. Christ is ascended. Christ reigns. And Christ is still with us, working through His Word and Sacraments until the day we see Him face to face. Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

See you in church,

Pastor Rex E. Watt



# The Bulletin Board

**TITHES AND 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, 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. *Next Meeting will be Saturday, May 2nd.*

**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, May 15th.*

**WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY:** Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am. A study on the book of Mark, led by Lynnata Marttila.

**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](mailto:rlcbhamlcms77@gmail.com).

**VOTERS MEETING:** There will be a voters meeting following the service on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will be for the purpose of electing church officers.



**National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 7th.**

Thank you to *Lynnata Marttila* who will be sending out hourly prayer emails throughout the day.



# Celebrating a



## Elder Care List

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

## April Sunday Attendance

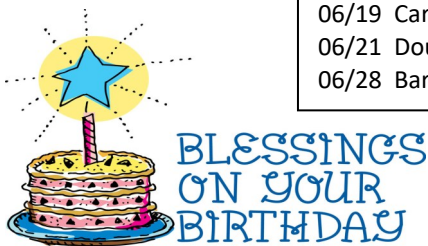
April 05      86  
 April 12      59  
 April 19      58  
 April 26      68

### May Birthdays

05/04 Sherie Hind  
 05/04 Landon Van Berkum  
 05/09 Ian McLeod  
 05/16 Molly Marttila  
 05/24 Jeanette Stroming  
 05/25 Jamie Dupuis  
 05/25 Ron Willand

### June Birthdays

06/02 Sabina Jada  
 06/03 Travis Kimes  
 06/04 Corinne Thorsen  
 06/10 Patrick O'Connor  
 06/12 Alex Strong  
 06/12 Eva Lado  
 06/13 Carson Wright  
 06/17 Janet Baeder  
 06/17 Steven Potvin  
 06/19 Carl Olsen  
 06/21 Doug Bender  
 06/28 Barb 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

May 03- Annette D. & Dee W.  
 May 10 - Mother's Day  
 May 17- Joy A. &  
 May 24- Wedding  
 May 31- 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 – MAY









### Altar Care

Arenda

## Worship Volunteer Schedule

	<u>Elder/Assistant</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Soundboard</u>	<u>Counters</u>
May 03	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	David K.	Travis K.	Anthony/Travis
May 10	Doug/Colin	Ian M.	Corinne T.	Matilda K.	Wendy/Corinne
May 17	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	Carol K.	Ian M.	Jon/Ron
May 24	Doug/Colin	Ian M.	Rachel V.	Kari M.	Anthony/Travis
May 31	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	Ross A.	Travis K.	Wendy/Corinne

# May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					01 	02 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
03 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	04	05	06 Bulletin Deadline	07 National Day of Prayer  6:30 pm: Elders	08	09
10 Mother's day 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	11	12	13 Bulletin Deadline	14	15 11:00 am: LWML Bible Study and Meeting	16
17 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Last day of Sunday School Voters Meeting	18	19 7:00 pm: Preschool Graduation  6:30 pm: Council	20 Bulletin Deadline	21	22	23
24 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Wedding of Ian & Zhaniece	25 Memorial Day (office closed)	26 Saltshaker Deadline	27 Bulletin Deadline	28	29	30
31 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Potluck			 		 	



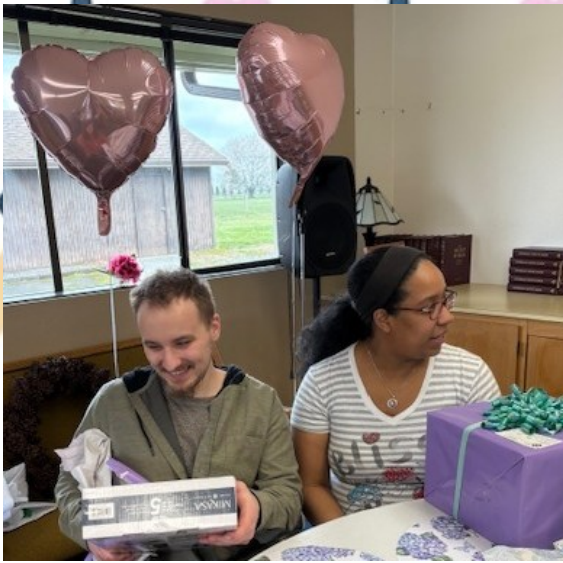
# Easter Morning Breakfast & Fellowship





**He is risen indeed!**





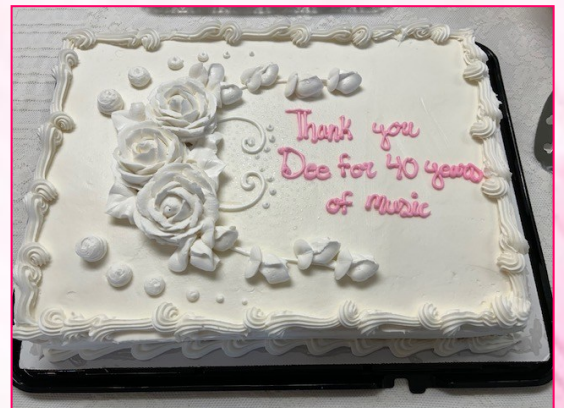
Wedding Shower  
for Ian and Zhaniece  
Congratulations!



**HAPPY RETIREMENT TO OUR BELOVED ORGANIST DEE WATT!**



**Thank you Dee for your  
MANY years of dedicated  
service!**





**Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2026**

**President: Anthony McLeod  
Vice Pres: Travis Kimes  
Treasurer: Carl Olsen  
Secretary: Tonya Lysne**

In Attendance: Anthony McLeod, Carl Olsen, Tonya Lysne, Cristi Lysne, Doug Bender, Pastor Watt, Ross Abbe, Travis Kimes. Wendy McLeod (observed.) Absent: Cindy McKay  
Pastor opened the council meeting with a prayer and devotion at 6:34 pm.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to Council members. Carl moved and Cristi 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the previous minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Redeemer received a large gift. With tithes and donations we are on track with our projected tithes and offerings for the month. Pastor moved and Carl 2<sup>nd</sup> to pass the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor submitted his report via email. In addition to his regularly scheduled duties, Pastor will lead services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7:00 pm. Easter morning services will be at the normal worship time of 10:30 am.

Elders Report: The Elders will have a cross which members can bring flowers to decorate for Easter. Doug is finishing up the final details for the new church directory. John Dixon will become a new usher, bringing our total to 3.

Stewardship: Redeemer's annual Spring Cleaning is scheduled for Saturday, March 28 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Coffee and Donuts will be served.

There will be an Easter Breakfast before church on Easter Sunday from 9:00-10:00 am.

Property Report: The drywall work in the Fellowship room is still in progress. Lawn mowing service is in need again. Les will be contacted to resume services. The new microphones are not working out and will be returned. Another option will be researched. A yard cleaning party will be organized for this spring and members will be asked to "adopt" an area of the grounds to care for throughout the year.

Education Report: No report.

Evangelism: No report.

Unfinished Business: Council is seeking a bid for new windows and trim to be installed in the Fellowship Room. Cristi has offered to work on this project and to gather bids for Council to review.

New Business: Pastor would like Redeemer to recognize the Monday after Easter as a church holiday and close the church office. Pastor also asked that the Church Secretary be paid for that day as a church holiday. Pastor has spoken with the Redeemer Pre-School teacher and they will close the Pre-School on that day. Tony moved to approve the request, Doug 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. Dee has tendered her resignation as Principal Organist to the Elders. Doug, Heidi, and Cristi are working on a celebration for her after Easter.

Pastor closed in prayer at 7:28 pm.

## The 2026–2029 LCMS National Offering



**We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.**

**Psalm 78:4**

The 2026–2029 LCMS National Offering, “Christ Is Risen! Tell the Next Generation,” will support the work of congregations, districts and RSOs vigorously to make known the Good News of Jesus Christ among families, young people and children. For more information on how you and your congregation can support the 2026–2029 National Offering, visit [lcms.org/national-offering](https://lcms.org/national-offering).



# Redeemer Lutheran Preschool

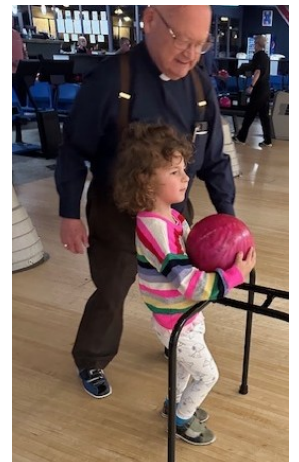


## Spring Field Trips!

The Fire Station



Bowling with Pastor Rex



# LEAVING PRESCHOOL WITH JESUS BY MY SIDE



## ALOHA KINDERGARTEN!

Preschool graduation

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Please join us to celebrate the  
2025-2026 Preschool graduates!  
Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 pm

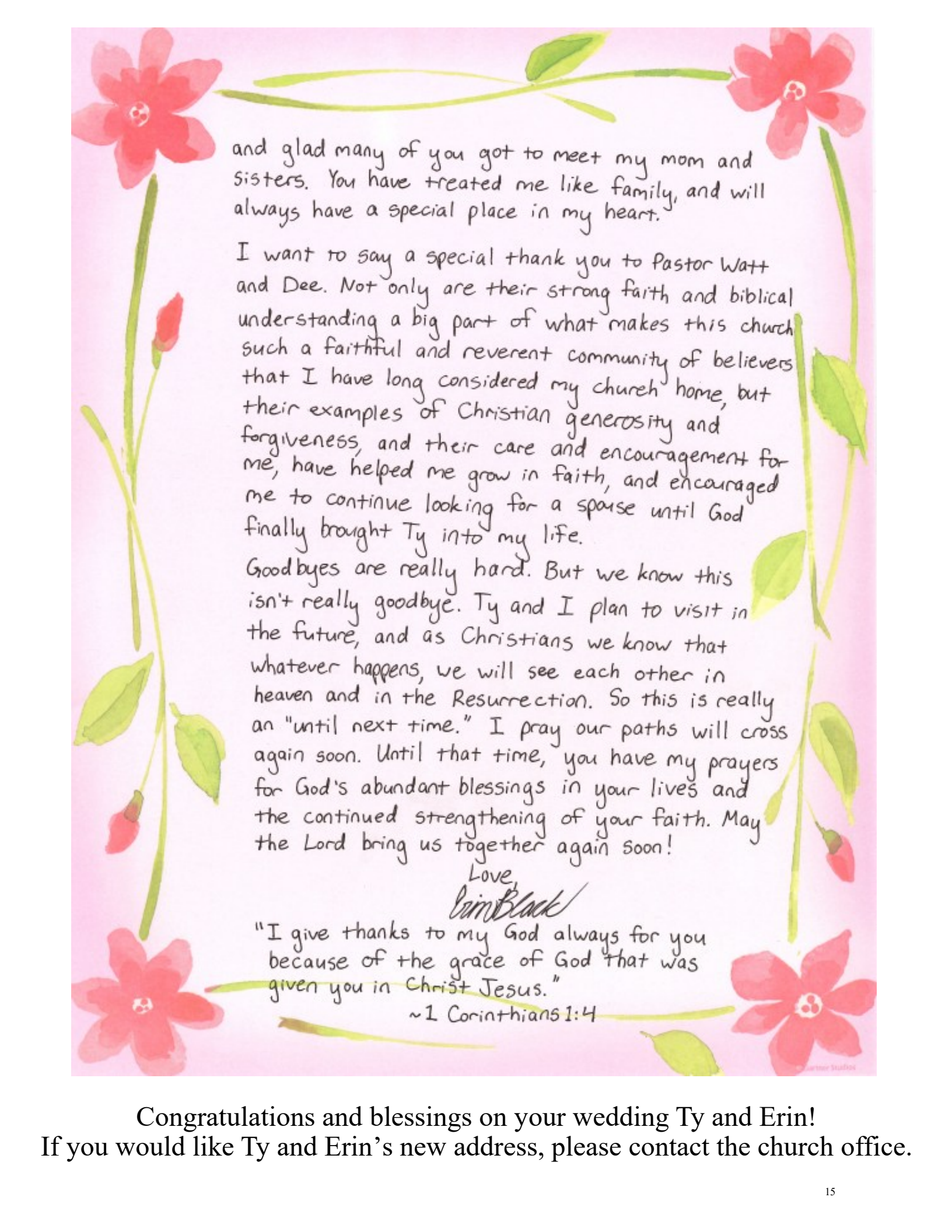
A letter from Erin Black as she will soon be getting married and moving to Oregon.

April 19, 2026

Dear Redeemer family,

As I prepare for my fast-approaching marriage, I'm in a season of my life full of joy and excitement! And yet it's also bittersweet, because my moving to Oregon means saying goodbye (at least for now) to so many people who I have loved for so many years. That includes all of you, some of whom I've known for nearly ten years now going back to my days attending Trinity, and many of you for nine years since I began worshipping here.

I can't begin to express how grateful I am to all of you for the love you've shown me over the years. My time with you in worship, Bible Studies, choir, and fellowship (both at church and in some of your homes and the community) has been an incredible blessing and I will always treasure the memories we've made. The support you've given me — from your faithful prayers, unwavering kindness, and wise counsel; to sharing meals, books, jokes, and stories; to generously supporting my ability to participate in LWML events; to simply helping me out with rides to and from church — has truly reflected the love of Christ. I was so touched by the lovely bridal shower you gave me last month,



and glad many of you got to meet my mom and sisters. You have treated me like family, and will always have a special place in my heart.

I want to say a special thank you to Pastor Watt and Dee. Not only are their strong faith and biblical understanding a big part of what makes this church such a faithful and reverent community of believers that I have long considered my church home, but their examples of Christian generosity and forgiveness, and their care and encouragement for me, have helped me grow in faith, and encouraged me to continue looking for a spouse until God finally brought Ty into my life.

Goodbyes are really hard. But we know this isn't really goodbye. Ty and I plan to visit in the future, and as Christians we know that whatever happens, we will see each other in heaven and in the Resurrection. So this is really an "until next time." I pray our paths will cross again soon. Until that time, you have my prayers for God's abundant blessings in your lives and the continued strengthening of your faith. May the Lord bring us together again soon!

Love,

*Erin Black*

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus."

~1 Corinthians 1:4

**Congratulations and blessings on your wedding Ty and Erin!  
If you would like Ty and Erin's new address, please contact the church office.**



## **LCMS Stewardship May 2026 Newsletter Article**

Originally published in May 2023

### **Follow Him in Generosity**

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offer-

ings to support the Lord's work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, re-dedicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

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## *A Prayer in Spring*

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;  
And give us not to think so far away  
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here  
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,  
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;  
And make us happy in the happy bees,  
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird  
That suddenly above the bees is heard,  
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,  
And off a blossom in mid-air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,  
The which it is reserved for God above  
To sanctify to what far ends He will,  
But which it only needs that we fulfill.

~Robert Frost

Submitted  
by



Marianne Giusti

*Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God  
on the lyre! He covers the heavens with clouds; he  
prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills.*

*Psalm 147:7-8*

## Lutheran's For Life Quotes: May 24



“In grief, the world often feels empty. The absence of loved ones weighs heavily, leaving our days feeling hollow and incomplete without their presence. And yet, Scripture tells us that in these moments of deep sorrow, God draws near. He does not stand at a distance, waiting for us to be strong enough to move on with our life. He comes to us, holds us in our brokenness, and carries us when we cannot stand.”

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



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