



September 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

October Newsletter deadline is
Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Pastor's Pen
- September Birthdays
- Bulletin Board
- Announcements
- Stewardship
- Calendar
- Preschool Wishlist



From the Pastor's Pen



A few months back, I posted a devotion from a devotional book I am reading each day called “Book of Prayer and Meditations on the Scriptures: Devotions for Every Day of the Year” by Bishop N.J. Laache. Over and over I find these daily devotional readings to be a blessing. Below is a devotion based upon Psalm 73:23-28, which reads: *Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works.*

No matter how long the glory of the ungodly lasts, be assured it has a miserable end. We do not expect to see truth and justice prevail in the present course of this world. We know very well that lying will prosper, adorn itself with the name of truth, and trod the saints underfoot as enemies of happiness. Yet we have a hard time accepting this. Our heart becomes embittered and our feet grow weary from the journey of faith and patience. But God’s Word gives us light and strength. It teaches us that visible things are temporal, but the invisible are eternal, and that all the world’s glory is nothing compared to our fellowship with God and our heavenly salvation. Temptation’s way is to create a poisonous thought: “How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High” (Psa 73:11)? Can there be a righteous God who rules thus? But when we enter into the sanctuary of the Word and from there look out over heaven and earth, we discern God’s will and plan enough that we become silent and rejoice. We may be trodden under, yet our justice and fortune are intact! Through suffering we learn patience; through temptation, we obtain victory! So we have no reason to be troubled over those who let themselves be deceived by the devil. For that is tragic, that people, who are created for loving fellowship with God and are unhappy without Him, regard His revelation as foolishness and eternal life as a lie!

O child of God, you are continually before the Lord. He Himself holds you with His right hand, with His almighty power. Think about it! It will strengthen your faith. He leads you with His counsel. Then all is well, even if it goes differently than you would expect. Could you wish for something better than to be led by the counsel of Him who is eternal wisdom? Then He receives you into glory. You are chosen and anointed for this. What does the scorn and oppression of the world mean? Your portion is in heaven; your life is in God. Let flesh and heart languish; let things be worse for you than for anyone else ever.

Love is strong, and does not die, does not let go. God is eternally the same, but He is in you and you are in Him. How can you perish? He is the rock of your salvation and your blessed reward. Such love is loved in return and is purified through temptation, and so everything must work for good for those who love God.

We pray: Lord, let me always remain with You. Hold me by Your right hand, and be the portion of my heart forever. Amen.

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 September-November and “Portals of Prayer” for July-September are available on the offering table.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY: MEETS AT 9:00 am, a study of the book of Romans.

MEN’S SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY & BREAKFAST: 8:00 am the first Saturday of each month here at the church. A Study of Matthew led by Anthony McLeod. **September’s meeting will be on the second Saturday, September 12th.**

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, September 18th.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am. “God’s Word for Today: Psalms”, led by Lynnata Marttila.

OUTDOOR CLEAN UP WORK DAY: Saturday, September 12th at 10:00 am.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon celebrates 100 years!

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Mount Vernon, WA, is celebrating 100 years of “Generations of Faith.” Kicking off Trinity’s centennial milestone is the first of 4 events spanning a year beginning on September 13, 2026. Surely, it will be a triumphant time including a special reception in our Fellowship Hall.

We’d love to hear your story. Do you have a personal connection to Trinity’s history? Perhaps a relative that was a founding member, founded a ministry, or helped in construction of our buildings. If so, we’d be honored to learn more. Please share your story and any photos to office@tlcmv.com.



September Birthdays

09/05 Annette Dixon
09/05 Cristi Lysne
09/14 Aurora Blackstock
09/15 Kendra Anderson
09/19 Shannon Kimes
09/20 Robert Burger
09/20 Abby Anderson
09/24 Norma Ketah

October Birthdays

10/08 Linda Reinikka
10/10 Darryl Edin
10/10 Rowan Hogle
10/12 Elsie Werre
10/12 Connor Dupuis
10/13 Les Anderson
10/31 Deanne Bowen



Elder Care List

A - D: Doug Bender (Head Elder)
E - Hog: Kari Marttila
Hov - Ma: Les Anderson
McK - R: Colin Grabish
S - W: Jon Dixon

August Sunday Attendance to Date

August 02	60
August 09	62
August 16	58
August 23	54



September Anniversaries

09/06 Dave & Cindy McKay
09/12 Dale & Carol Kloes

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!

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.

Fellowship Host/Hostess Volunteer Schedule

September 06 – Kitchen Committee
September 13 – Joy and Heidi
September 20 – Dave and Cindy
September 27 – Potluck

ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – AUGUST

Altar Care
Olsens

Worship Volunteer Schedule

	Elder/Assistant	Usher	Lay Reader	Soundboard	Counters
Sept. 06	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	Corinne T.	Ian M.	Anthony/Travis
Sept. 13	Doug/Colin	Ian M.	Lowell M.	Kari M.	Wendy/Corinne
Sept. 20	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	Rachel V.	Travis K.	Ron/Jon
Sept. 27	Doug/Colin	Ian M.	Ross A.	Matilda K.	Anthony/Travis



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		01 6:30 pm: Elders	02 Bulletin Deadline	03	04 office closed	05
06 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	07 Labor Day office closed	08	09 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 Women's Bible Study	10	11 office closed	12 8:00 am: Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 10:00am: Outdoor Clean-up Work Day
13 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	14	15 6:30 pm: Council	16 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 Women's Bible Study	17	18 11:00 am: LWML Bible Study and Meeting office closed	19
20 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	21 First Day of Preschool	22 Saltshaker Deadline	23 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 Women's Bible Study	24	25 office closed	26
27 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Potluck	28	29	30 Bulletin Deadline 9:00 Women's Bible Study			





Stewardship in the First Commandment

LCMS Stewardship - Originally published in September 2023

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the

other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect this belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.



Sunday School 2026

After much prayer, discussion and more prayer the Board of Education has decided to suspend our children's Sunday School classes. The Board of Ed has discussed this over many months and also with the Church Council and Pastor Watt.

This is not a decision that we have made easily. At this time there are so few young students and they do not attend on a regular basis, that we feel it not fair to those who volunteer and prepare for classes. It becomes discouraging to the teachers after preparing for Sunday classes to have no students show up.

We are praying that this will be a temporary break, and that some time in the future we will be able to again share God's love and message with our youngest congregation members. Until that time the Board of Education will provide weekly lessons that those children that do show up can take home to go over with their family.

We are heartbroken over this situation but ask that you pray for our Sunday School students and the future of our program.

Cindy McKay
Marsha Eden
Wendy McCloud



Women in Missions Ingathering Final Weeks of Gathering

Redeemer has been collecting new and gently used coffee mugs for Lighthouse Mission. On **Sunday, September 20th**, we will ask the congregation to help fill these cups with packets of instant coffee, tea and soup along with a granola bar and other goodies before gifting them to LHM for distribution to those in need. The added goodies will be provided by the Ladies Group. Your mugs can be left in the box on the Mite Box shelf in the fellowship area.



THANK YOU to Lynnata Marttila for working hard to keep the church flower beds looking great! Weeding, watering, trimming... Lynnata's talents are a blessing to Redeemer all year long!



Thank you Dennis!

For sharing your peach
harvest with your Redeemer
church family!!





Preschool Play-ground Clean-up!



Thank you Anderson Family and Kuljis Boys for your helping hands and "team work" to clean-up our preschool playground.



Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



SEPTEMBER



As we approach the new school year I am asking for prayer that God will let the little children come to preschool to learn about His word, love and compassion. The T-K program in public schools which are free and all day every day has been an issue for private church preschools. I am hearing that things might turn around because of public school funding so please pray that this will be the case and bring children back to the private church preschools.

I am happy to announce that I have a new assistant this year that is very eager to help and spread the word of God to these little ones. Her name is Melinda and she has lots of background in church children missions and home schooling. I look forward to working with her this year and the fun we are going to have.

This months wish list:

- Crayola Washable Markers (10 pk) 24 ea
- Crayola Colored Pencils (12 pk) 19 ea
- Dollar Tree Gift Cards
- Hobby Lobby Gift Cards
- Michaels Gift Cards
- Kitchen set
- Barbie/Doll House





OUTDOOR CLEAN UP WORK DAY
Saturday, September 12th at 10:00am
Please bring any tools you have and join us!
Donuts and Pizza will be provided!

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY
To Plan Ahead For
REDEEMER'S ADVENT SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP
DECEMBER 6TH, 2026

PUBLICITY ~ HOSTESS COORDINATOR
PROGRAM ~ DECORATIONS
FOOD ~ KITCHEN ASSISTANCE/SERVERS
SET-UP & CLEAN-UP
INGATHERING PROJECT

Prayerfully consider how you might
use your gifts and talents to help
plan and prepare Redeemer's
Advent Fellowship Sunday.
Should you have questions or wish
to volunteer, please contact
Annette Dixon or Dee Watt.



Lutheran's For Life Quotes: September 13



"Again, our worth is never determined by what we do. God has given us value by creating, redeeming, and calling us as His own. Still, we can be comforted knowing that even as we age and reach the point where we can no longer be active, God not only watches over us and cares for us, He accomplishes great and wonderful things through us. May the Lord of life grant us the faith and the strength to bear the crosses of aging in such a way that others are led to see the love of Christ manifest in us!"

Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – 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), Instagram (thelcms) and Periscope.

IF YOU WANT TO HEAR from LCMS leadership: Leader blog (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.