



The Saltshaker

February 2026

Redeemer Lutheran Church

360.384.5923



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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

March Newsletter deadline is
Monday, February 23, 2026

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Pastor's Pen
- February Birthdays
- Bulletin Board Announcements
- Preschool News
- Stewardship
- Poem
- Council Briefs



From the Pastor's Pen



“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10).

Valentine’s Day often puts love on display with flowers, cards, romance, and heartfelt words. These things can be good gifts, but they can also quietly turn love into something we must earn, perform, or prove. It is a helpful reminder to return to a deeper truth: love begins with God, not with us.

Scripture is clear that our love, whether toward a spouse, family member, or friend, is imperfect. We grow impatient. We expect too much. We fail to love as selflessly as we promise. The Law exposes this honestly. Even on a day devoted to love, we fall short.

But the Gospel speaks louder.

God does not love us because we are lovable. He loves us because He is love. In Christ, God demonstrates the fullest picture of love—not in roses or romance, but in sacrifice. Jesus gives Himself completely, bearing sin and death on the cross, so that we might live. This love is not fragile or fleeting; it is steadfast, faithful, and rooted in grace.

Because we are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, we are free to love others without fear. We no longer love to earn approval, from God, or from one another. Instead, we love because we have already been loved—fully. Whether you celebrate Valentine’s Day with a spouse, long for companionship, or carry grief or loneliness, Christ meets you where you are. Your worth is not defined by your relationship status but by your baptism; by the promise that you belong to Him.

Faith is active in love. Having received Christ’s love, we are sent into our vocations—marriage, family, friendship, community—to reflect that love.

“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Go and serve your God, by serving your neighbor.

See you in church,

Pastor Rex E. Watt

The Bulletin Board

OFFICE CLOSED FOR: Presidents Day - February 16th

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

DEVOTIONALS: “Our Daily Bread” for December-February and “Portals of Prayer” for January – March are available on the offering table.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY: MEETS AT 9:00 am. A Study of Deuteronomy, 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 Saturday, February 7th.**

LWML BIBLE STUDY AND MEETING: The third Friday of each month at 11:00 am. A Bible study followed by a LWML meeting. **January’s meeting will be on Friday, February 20th.**

WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am. “Enough for Now: Unpacking God’s Sufficiency”, led by Lynnata Marttila.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: Looking for Altar Care Volunteers! If you are interested in being part of the Altar Guild and volunteering as an Altar Care Attendant, or would like to find out more about it, **there will be an Altar Guild meeting following the service on Sunday, February 8th.** Couples, families, teams or individuals...all are welcome!

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.

HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these is **love.**

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 NKJV



Celebrating a



Elder Care List

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

February Birthdays

02/03 Kaarina V.
 02/11 Joe D.
 02/11 Roger G.
 02/12 Louie K.
 02/14 Joy A.
 02/18 Heidi K.
 02/24 Madelyn P.
 02/26 Alice L.

March Birthdays

03/05 Pamela H.
 03/07 Mackenzie W.
 03/13 Vivian H.
 03/20 Don S.
 03/22 Ann L.
 03/30 Ross A.
 03/31 Melissa N.



February Anniversaries

02/02 Ronald & Jan W.
 02/06 Don & Alex S.

*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

Feb. 01 - Wendy M. & Leslie R.
 Feb. 08 - Annette D. & Dee Watt
 Feb. 15 - Joy A. & Tami M.
 Feb. 22 - Potluck

ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – FEBRUARY

Altar Care
 Arenda H.

Worship Volunteer Schedule

	Elder/Assistant	Usher	Lay Reader	Soundboard	Counters
Feb. 01	Doug/Colin	Ian M.	Carol K.	Kari M.	Jon/Ron
Feb. 08	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	Ross A.	Ian M.	Anthony/Travis
Feb. 15	Doug/Colin	Ian M.	Joe D.	Kari M.	Wendy/Corinne
Feb. 22	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	David K.	Ian M.	Jon/Ron

February

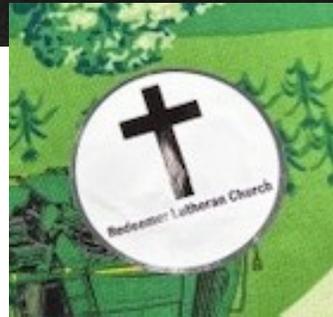
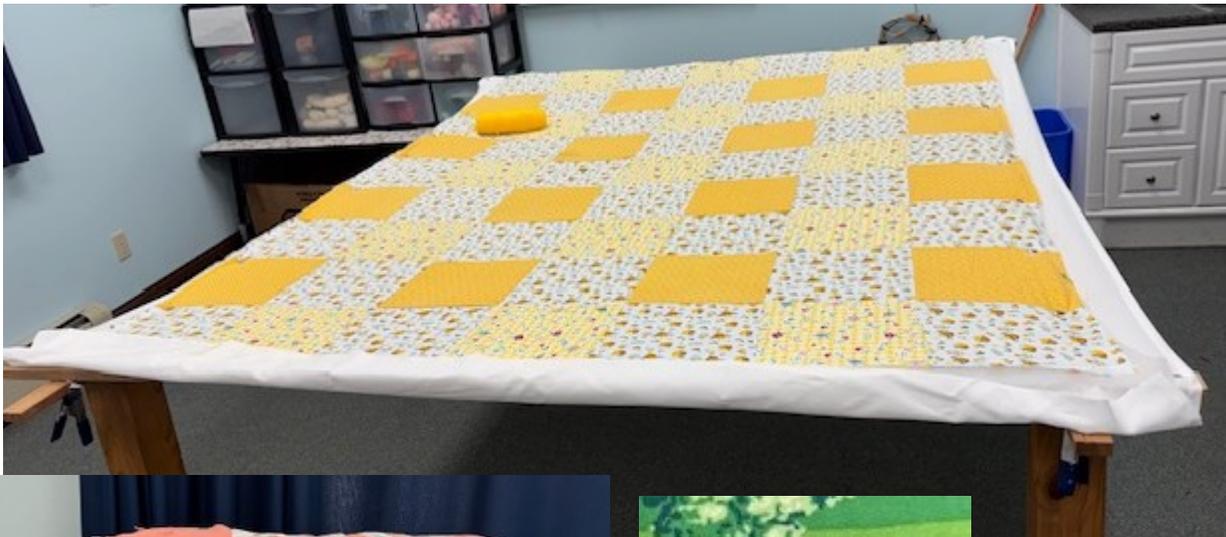
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	02 Groundhog Day 	03	04	05 6:30 pm: Elders	06	07 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
08 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	09	10	11 Bulletin Deadline 9:00am: Women's Bible Study	12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day! 
15 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	16 Presidents Day office closed	17 6:30 pm: Council	18 Bulletin Deadline 9:00am: Women's Bible Study 1 & 7 pm: Ash Wednesday Worship	19	20 11:00 am: LWML Bible Study and Meeting	21
22 First Sunday in Lent 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Potluck	23 Saltshaker Deadline	24 Saltshaker Deadline	25 Bulletin Deadline 9:00am: Women's Bible Study 1 & 7 pm: Lent Worship 6:00 pm Soup Supper	28	27	28
						

LADIES THAT QUILT- Many hands make light work.

For over 35 years Redeemer has had a group of ladies that gather to make quilts for charities. This group of ladies has made thousands of quilts for Lutheran World Relief, local social services and schools.

The ladies meet on Tuesday mornings for fellowship and to tie quilts on a wooden frame. This dedicated group of ladies would love to have a few more pair of hands to help with this mission work. There is no experience needed, they will be happy to show you how to tie. If you would like more information contact Marianne or Marsha. Or stop in on a Tuesday morning and check out the quilts in process.

NEEDED: The quilters are in need of flat double or queen size sheets, or fitted and flat kind size sheets. And color or pattern works. Please be sure the sheets are clean and free of stains or tears.



These quilts are being made to be given to each of our graduating preschoolers. Any additional quilts will be donated to the Meridian School District Family Resource Center for families in our community.



Redeemer's Advent Ingathering Project...Foster Hearts

Redeemers' Advent Ingathering Project this year was Foster Hearts. Foster Hearts is a local non-profit here in Bellingham that supports children from Whatcom County and surrounding areas, as they enter Foster Care for the first time. On any given day in the state of Washington, 7,500 children or more are in Foster Care. Of those, approximately 40% of them are under the age of 4. Foster Hearts supports these children in a variety of ways. After meeting with the Director of Foster Hearts, she explained that their greatest need at this time is "Care Backpacks" for infants and toddlers. Care backpacks are designed to go with the child as they enter Foster Care for the first time and provide the essentials for their first night. These backpacks are tailored to a child's age. For instance, for an infant it would include diapers, diaper cream and diaper wipes, a bottle, a pacifier, a teething ring, baby wash, a sleeper and a blanket.

Thanks to the generosity and compassion of Redeemer members, we were able to provide 24 backpacks to Foster Hearts to support 24 infants and toddlers entering Foster Care in our community. That is nearly enough for a month of placements here at home. Foster Hearts was both thrilled and extremely grateful for our loving donation. Foster Hearts has a mission- Help Every Child Thrive. Thanks to all of you, we have certainly helped to accomplish that mission!



Phone: 360-220-3785 Email: contact@foster-hearts.com



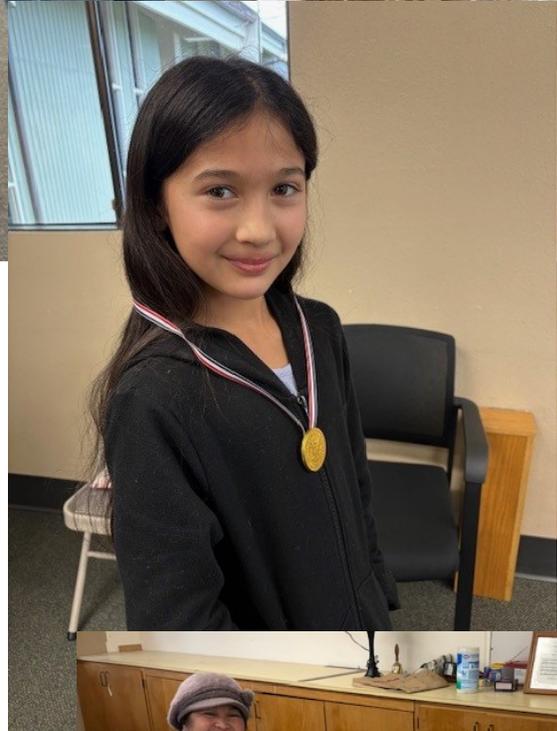
Thank you!



Family Game Day

**Redeemer had a family game day on Saturday, January 31st!
Thank you Doug and Annette for an afternoon of Great Food!
Great Fun! Great Fellowship!**







**Redeemer Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2026**

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

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm

In Attendance: Anthony McLeod, Carl Olsen, Tonya Lysne, Cristi Lysne, Doug Bender, Ross Abbe, Travis Kimes. Wendy McLeod (observed.) Absent: Pastor Watt, Cindy McKay

Meeting called to order 6:36 pm

Doug opened the council meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes from the previous meeting were emailed to Council members. Carl moved and Doug 2nd to approve the previous minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's reports were submitted to Council members. Travis moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Carl 2nd. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor submitted his report via email. Pastor preached 4 out of 4 Sundays and taught 1 LIM Bible study. He conducted 6 Advent Services, 1 Christmas Eve service, and 1 New Years Eve service. He also attended the Men's Bible Study, the Pre-school Christmas Program and the Bellingham Christian School Christmas Program. He did one baptism.

Elders Report:

The Elders are planning to host a Game Night on Saturday, January 31, 2026.

Stewardship Report:

No report.

Property Report:

The lights in the parking lot have been fixed. The battery in the automatic door was replaced.

Education Report:

No report.

Evangelism Report:

There will be an Evangelism meeting scheduled in the future to view a video tour of the Holy Land. It will be shown at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on a date to be announced.

Unfinished Business:

The review of the Secretarial contract was tabled for next meeting. A new set of headset microphones backordered and are expected to arrive in late February.

New Business:

Elders are verifying the year for Redeemer Church's 50th Anniversary so we may plan commemorations accordingly.

Doug closed in prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 17th, 2026

2026 Mid-week Lenten Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday Worship & Communion

Wednesday, February 22nd at 1 & 7 pm

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays at 1 & 7 pm

February 25;

March 04, 11, 18, 25

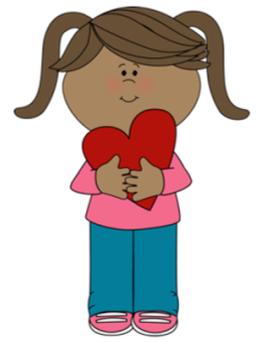
Soup Suppers will be at 6:00 pm preceding the midweek Lenten Services (not Ash Wednesday)



February



Preschod Newsletter



I apologize it has been a couple months since I have written an update from the preschool. Our December was busy and the children did an amazing job at their Christmas program! I was so proud of them! Our January has been busy getting back into our routine and many activities, science projects, learning, bible stories, crafts, and being outside when we can! Happy Valentines Day to everyone and know that Jesus loves you!

Letters: Oo, Pp, Qq, Rr

Bible Stories:

- The Good Samaritan
- The Lost Son
- Jesus Loves the Little Children
- Zacchaeus

Numbers: 10, 11, 12, 13

Shapes: Triangle, Heart



Important Dates:

5 - Superbowl Party

10 - Popcorn, Pajamas and a Movie

16 - NO School (Presidents Day)



Birthdays this month:

18 - Stevie

22 - Emmy and Finnley

25 - Brody

VALENTINE'S DAY

WORD SEARCH

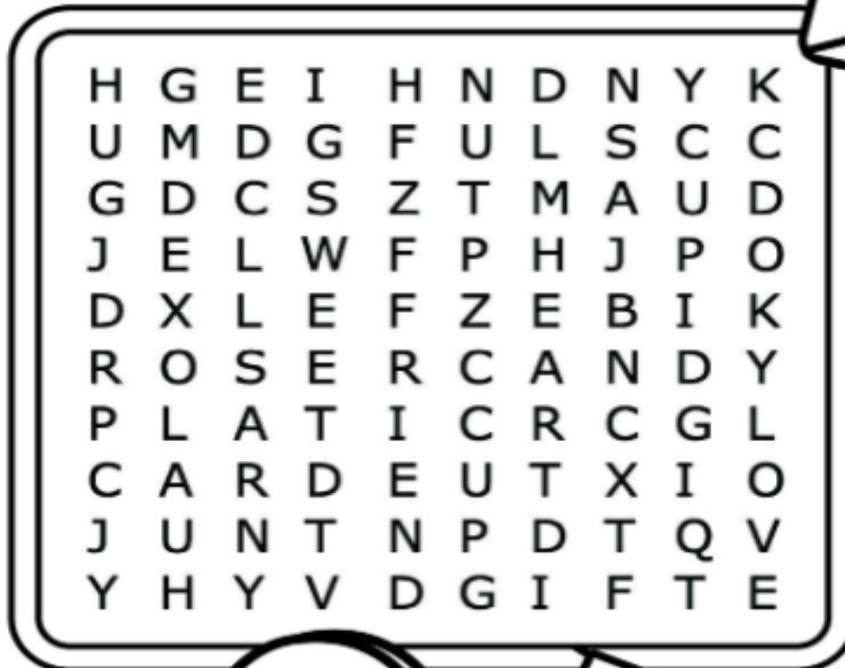




Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

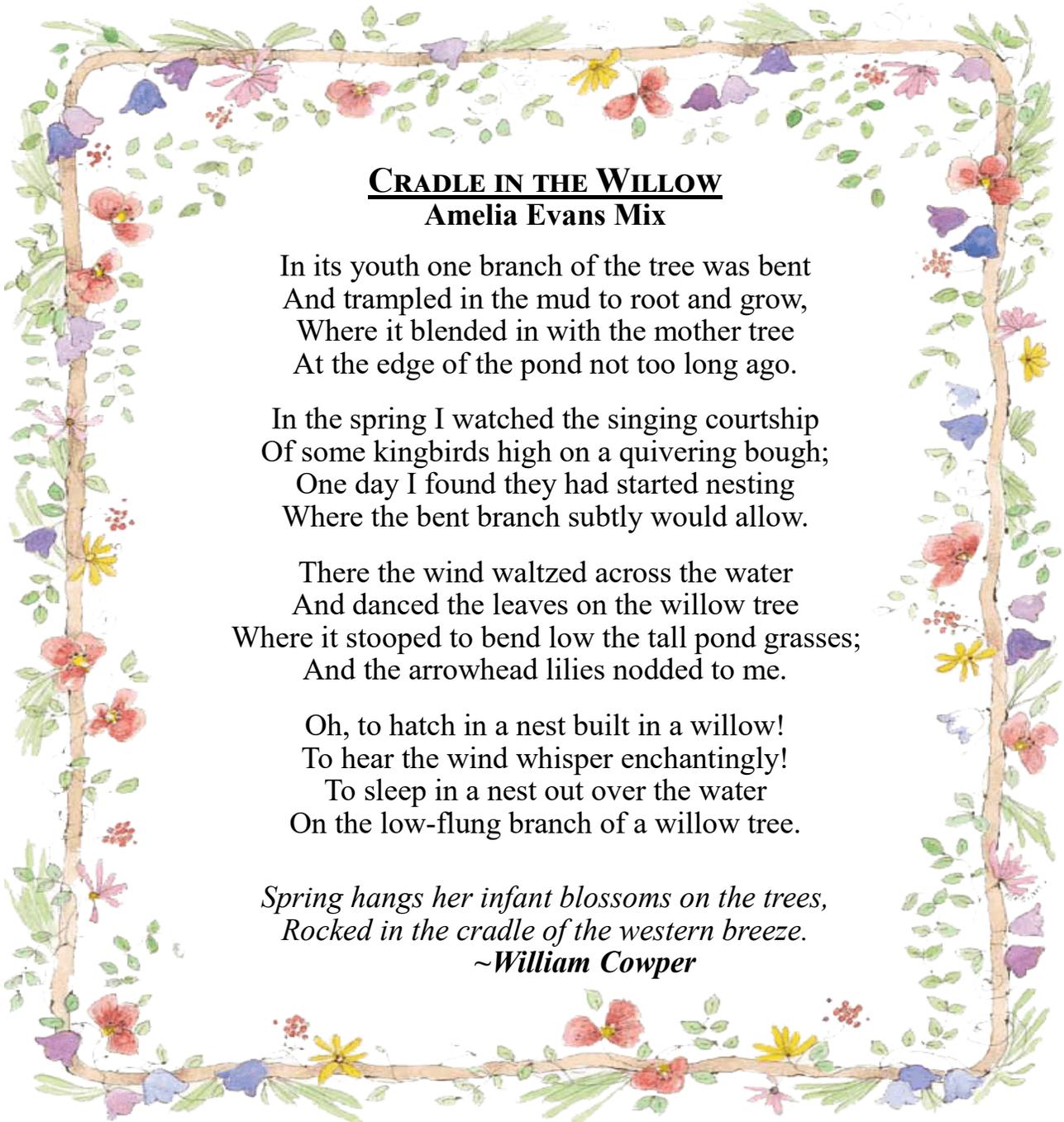
Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a “me and Jesus thing!” In fact, it ends with these words: “Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare.” This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.

LCMS Stewardship February Newsletter Article



CRADLE IN THE WILLOW Amelia Evans Mix

In its youth one branch of the tree was bent
And trampled in the mud to root and grow,
Where it blended in with the mother tree
At the edge of the pond not too long ago.

In the spring I watched the singing courtship
Of some kingbirds high on a quivering bough;
One day I found they had started nesting
Where the bent branch subtly would allow.

There the wind waltzed across the water
And danced the leaves on the willow tree
Where it stooped to bend low the tall pond grasses;
And the arrowhead lilies nodded to me.

Oh, to hatch in a nest built in a willow!
To hear the wind whisper enchantingly!
To sleep in a nest out over the water
On the low-flung branch of a willow tree.

*Spring hangs her infant blossoms on the trees,
Rocked in the cradle of the western breeze.*

~William Cowper

Lutheran's For Life Quotes: February 15



“The message of Jesus’ transfiguration—the fact that Jesus is God and Savior—has the power to transfigure you, to give you metamorphosis, to transform you from a bug to a butterfly! That’s what metamorphosis means. So, this week—and forever!—live a new life, one worthy of Christ, in whose sunshine and light, in whose transfiguration, you now bask.”

Rev. Paul Marggraf – 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)



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