



December 2025

Redeemer Lutheran Church

360.384.5923



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360.384.5923**

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**Sunday Worship Service Schedule**

**9:00 AM: Adult Bible Study**

**10:30 AM: Worship Service**

January Newsletter deadline is  
Tuesday, December 23, 2025

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*"This will be a sign for you:  
you will find a child  
wrapped in bands of cloth  
and lying in a manger."*



Luke 2:12, NRSV

## From the Pastor's Pen



Advent is upon us. Advent is an English word that comes from the Latin: *Adventus*, which means “arrival” or “coming.” The first “season” of the church year is Advent, because the church year begins where Jesus’ life on earth begins: His incarnation (His coming into our flesh).

During the Advent season we will hear some of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah and Gospel lessons which will focus our attention on the three ways Jesus comes: past, present, and future.

In the Western church, Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and lasts for four Sundays. It ends on Christmas Eve when we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh.

It is a period of waiting. We are not very good at waiting in our modern culture. We want everything “now!” Modern technology feeds this impatience. We have instantaneous access to information via the Internet, whether that be movies, news, or communication via social media. Heck, we can even get hot food delivered to our door in an hour if we don’t feel like cooking.

But God promises blessings to those who wait for Him. *“The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him”* (Lam 3:25). The prophecy of Isaiah 64:4, which says, *“From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him”* the Apostle Paul recites as, *“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”* (1 Cor 2:9). God has immeasurable blessings in store for those who wait upon Him.

So let’s not rush through Advent, just putting in time eagerly awaiting Christmas. Christmas will come. Let’s take time in Advent to “wait upon the Lord” to lead us into the gifts He wants to give to us. Forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor (1906-1945) said in a sermon he preached for the First Sunday in Advent in 1928, *“The waiting of Advent isn’t just for Christmas; it’s for God’s reversal of all sin and evil and his renewal of all things.”*<sup>1</sup>

While we await that renewal of all things, we receive, by faith, the redemption Christ has won for us on the cross. He who was born into our flesh. He who took upon Himself all our sins and iniquities (Isa 53:6). He who died for us and rose for us. Who comes to us now, in His Word and Sacraments; and will come again on the Last Day to bring to completion what He has begun in us (Phil 1:6). Until then, we await patiently the promise of Jesus, *“Surely I am coming soon”* (Rev 22:20). To which we say, *“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”*

See you in church,

Pastor Rex E. Watt

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.1517.org/articles/advent-the-season-of-expectant-waiting>

# The Bulletin Board

**OFFICE CLOSED FOR:** Christmas Day - December 25th

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

**DEVOTIONALS:** “Our Daily Bread” for December-February and “Portals of Prayer” for October–December 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, December 6th.**

**LWML BIBLE STUDY AND MEETING: The third Friday of each month at 11:00 am.** A study of Luther’s Small Catechism, followed by a LWML meeting. **December’s meeting will be on Friday, December 19th.**

**WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am.** “Enough for Now: Unpacking God’s Sufficiency”, led by Lynnata Marttila. Not meeting on December 03, 24, or 31.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING OPPORTUNITY: Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at Pioneer Park in Ferndale.**

Meeting at the park at 6:15 pm or meeting at the church at 5:45 pm if you would like to carpool. Please contact Corinne Thorsen (360-224-8619) with any questions.

**VOTERS MEETING:** Sunday, December 07, following morning worship. The 2026 budget will be reviewed and approved and delegates will be chosen for the synodical president election.

**OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE** as a Sunday Fellowship Hostess! Should you wish to participate and join in the joy of serving others with a snack or light lunch on Sundays following worship, a new schedule will be coming out for January - June 2026. Please contact Leslie or Tami with any questions and/or if you would like to be included in the New Year schedule.





#### December Birthdays

12/01 Niko Marttila  
12/03 Matilda Kimes  
12/13 Lynnata Marttila  
12/13 Jesse Potvin  
12/27 Marsha Edin  
12/27 Rex Watt  
12/31 Joel Lado

#### January Birthdays

01/03 Jaxon Kuljis  
01/11 Arenda Hovde  
01/12 Mary Ann Olsen  
01/16 Robin Stephens  
01/19 Jacquelyn Smith  
01/26 Adalyn Noste



#### December Anniversaries

12/11 Anthony & Wendy McLeod  
12/13 Paul & Marianne Giusti  
12/19 Patrick & Kelsey Heaviside  
12/22 Niko & Molly Marttila  
12/28 Landon & Kaarina VanBerkum  
12/31 Steven & Micah Potvin

*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.



#### Elder Care List

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



#### Fellowship Host/Hostess Volunteer Schedule

Dec. 07 - Marsha Edin & Tami Marcos  
Dec. 14 - Dee Watt & Annette Dixon  
Dec. 21 - Wendy McLeod & Joy Anderson  
Dec. 28 - Potluck

#### ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – DECEMBER

##### Altar Care

Lynnata Marttila

### **Worship Volunteer Schedule**

	<b>Elder/Assistant</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Counters</b>
Dec. 07	Doug/Colin	Connor Dupuis	Joe Dupuis	Kari Marttila	Anthony/Travis
Dec. 14	Doug/Colin	Anthony McLeod	Connor Dupuis	Ian McLeod	Wendy/Corinne
Dec. 21	Doug/Colin	Ian McLeod	Corinne Thorsen	Kari Marttila	Jon/Ron
Dec. 28	Doug/Colin	Connor Dupuis	Ross Abbe	Ian McLeod	Anthony/Travis





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b> Bulletin Deadline  1 & 7 pm: Midweek Advent Worship 6:00pm: Soup Supper  8:10 pm: Elders	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>  <b>Christmas Caroling</b> 6:15 pm at Pioneer Park (5:45 pm at church to carpool)	<b>06</b> 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
<b>07</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b> Bulletin Deadline  9:00am: Women's Bible Study  1 & 7 pm: Midweek Advent Worship 6:00pm: Soup Supper	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  6:30 pm: Council	<b>17</b> Bulletin Deadline  9:00am: Women's Bible Study  1 & 7 pm: Midweek Advent Worship 6:00pm: Soup Supper	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  11:00 am: LWML Bible Study and Meeting	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion <b>Sunday School Christmas Program</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Saltshaker Deadline	<b>24</b> Bulletin Deadline  6:30 pm: Christmas Music 7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b>  <b>Merry Christmas!</b>  ★ (office closed)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion <b>Potluck</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Bulletin Deadline  7:00 pm: New Year's Eve Service	<b>HAPPY</b>	<b>NEW</b>	<b>YEAR!</b>

An illustration of five lit candles in purple and pink holders, with a central white candle, surrounded by green pine branches and brown pinecones.

# *Advent Schedule*

## **Midweek Advent Services**

**Wednesdays at 1:00 & 7:00 pm**

**December 3rd, 10th & 17th**

**Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm**

A decorative border of green pine branches frames the text. In the bottom right corner, there are two lit candles, one yellow and one white, with a red ribbon tied around them.

## *Christmas Eve*

### **Candlelight Service**

**December 24th at 7:00 pm**

Arrive at 6:30 pm and enjoy  
listening to your favorite  
Christmas hymns played  
by our organists!



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

THANK YOU to all who participated!!

31 filled boxes were delivered from Redeemer to Immanuel Bible Church in Bellingham. From there they will make their way to children around the world spreading the good news of Jesus!







# Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



Please join us for the  
Redeemer Preschool  
Christmas Program

Thursday, December 11th at 7:00 pm



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:11*





Some of our  
Redeemer Veterans!



We are  
thankful  
for our  
Veterans!



Thank you Barb,  
for our beautiful  
Advent board!  
We are blessed by  
your talents!





Redeemer **LWML**  
preparing Christmas bags to be  
delivered to those who are  
homebound.



Wednesday morning  
**Women's Bible Study**







The  
**Redeemer  
Children's  
Choir**  
performing on  
Thanksgiving Eve.



The Baptism of  
**Wilma Irene Rowley**  
November 11, 2025

Pictured with Pastor Watt  
and her family.



Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1–6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, a craving that, when indulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease.

And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to His Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it's a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, “we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches ... the more eagerly he desires them” (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not to be consumed by money. “No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money” (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We think, “If I just had this much then I would be happy.”

But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, happiness evades us. The desire for more is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician's diagnosis and a physician's remedy. And our Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as He did to the man healed of dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things.



In essence, He says, “Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!” And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? “By no means!” St. Paul says (Rom. 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God toward us. And God’s great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us.

So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society and our church. For money is God’s gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
Newsletter Article

The poster features a light gray background with a repeating pattern of small, five-pointed gold stars. The corners and sides are decorated with illustrations of green holly leaves and clusters of red berries. A central white rectangular box with a thin red border contains the text.

# **New Year's Eve Worship with Communion**

Wednesday, December 31st  
7:00 pm



## Lutheran's For Life Quotes: December 14

“And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God.”

***Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE – 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.