



November 2024

Redeemer Lutheran Church

360.384.5923



858 WEST SMITH ROAD
BELLINGHAM, WA 98226
360.384.5923

www.redeemberbellingham.com — Website
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Sunday Worship Service Schedule

9:00 AM: Adult Bible Study

10:30 AM: Worship Service

December Newsletter deadline is
Friday, November 22, 2024

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From the Pastor's Pen



“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!”

As we enter this Thanksgiving season, how often do we remember to thank God? Not just for food, clothing, or shelter, but for his gracious blessings that he pours upon us every day. We tend to take things for granted just like the nine lepers who, after being healed by Jesus, did not return to thank him (Luke 17:12-19). Lord, forgive us for forgetting you.

The prayer *“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever”* is found in a number of psalms (see psalms 106:1; 107:1; 118:1; and 136:1). The repetition of this refrain was intended to drive home the point that all our blessings from God are due to his love for us.

We need to keep in mind that God not only created the world and everything in it, but that he is ruling over all things for the benefit of mankind, especially his people. Contrary to what many suppose these days, it is not “mother nature,” but the Creator who is governing nature.

Whether the situation is good or bad in our eyes, God in his infinite wisdom knows what is best for us, for we often need the chastening hand of God to humble us and draw us ever closer to him.

God is faithful in all our needs of body and soul until, by his grace and mercy in Christ Jesus, we cross over into the promised land of heaven.

“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!”

See you in church,

Pastor Rex E. Watt



The Bulletin Board

DEVOTIONALS: “Our Daily Bread” for September-November and “Portals of Prayer” for October-December are available at the mailbox table.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY: MEETS AT 9:00 am. “The Gospel According to Paul” led by Pastor Watt.

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, November 2nd.**

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, November 15th.**

EVANGELISM MEETING: The next Evangelism Meetings will be Thursday, November 21st, at 1:30 & 7pm. **A NEW EVANGELISM TRAINING STUDY: “How to Talk About Your Faith”,** an introduction on how to have a spiritual conversation. Material provided by Lutheran Hour Ministries.

MITE SUNDAY: The first Sunday of each month is “Mite Sunday”. Don’t forget your mites, Sunday, November 3rd.

CHRISTMON FIXING PARTY: Wednesday, November 6th at 12:00 pm. A delicious lunch of spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and brownies will be provided! Yum! Please contact Lynnata Marttila with any questions.

CUSTODIAL VOLUNTEER SIGN UP SHEET: With our custodian Alex recently resigning, we are looking for volunteers to take over some of the weekly cleaning duties for the time being. Please see the sign up sheet in the fellowship area if you would be willing to help out. Thank you!



**“FALL BACK” DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS!
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD!**

Don’t forget to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed on Saturday night, November 2nd!



November Birthdays

11/02 Karl Noste
 11/06 Spiro Pappacostas
 11/07 Kari Marttila
 11/11 Annie Thorsen
 11/12 Jason Gansler
 11/16 Micah Potvin
 11/18 Dave McKay
 11/21 Draven Cobb
 11/25 Randy Bowen
 11/25 Connor Noste

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



November Anniversaries

11/06 Rowan & Shelby Hogle

*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 - Li: Kari Marttila
 Lu - Pa: Anthony McLeod
 Po - Z: Colin Grabish



Fellowship Host/Hostess Volunteer Schedule

Nov. 03 -Kitchen Committee
 Nov. 10 -Mary Ann Olsen & Cristi Lysne
 Nov. 17 -Annette Dixon & Wendy McLeod
 Nov. 24 -Potluck

ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – NOVEMBER

Altar Care

Arenda Hovde

Worship Volunteer Schedule

	Elder/Assistant	Usher	Lay Reader	Soundboard	Counters
Nov. 03	Doug/Anthony	Rowan Hogle	Tim Bledsoe	Kari Marttila	Wendy/Travis
Nov. 10	Doug/Anthony	Ian McLeod	Ross Abbe	Ian McLeod	Anthony/Tim
Nov. 17	Doug/Anthony	Connor Dupuis	Joe Dupuis	Kari Marttila	Corinne/Jon
Nov. 24	Doug/Anthony	Anthony McLeod	Corinne Thorsen	Ian McLeod	Ron/Travis



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					01 7:00 pm: All Saints' Day Service	02 8:00 am: Men's Bible Study & Breakfast "Fall back" one hour tonight!
03 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School Daylight Saving Time ends.	04	05 Election Day 6:30 pm: Elders	06 Bulletin Deadline	07 6:30 pm: Young Adult Bible Study	08	09
10 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	11 Veterans Day office closed	12	13 Bulletin Deadline	14	15 11:00 am: Ladies Bible Study	16
17 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	18	19 6:30 pm: Council	20 Bulletin Deadline	21 Evangelism Meeting 1:30 & 7 pm "How to Talk about Your Faith"	22 Saltshaker Deadline	23
24 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School Potluck	25	26	27 Bulletin Deadline 7:00 pm: Thanksgiving Eve Service	28 Happy Thanksgiving office closed	29	30



Let Something Good Be Said

When over the fair fame of friend or foe
The shadow of disgrace shall fall; instead
Of words of blame, or proof of this and so,
Let something good be said.

Forget not that no fellow being yet
May fall so low but love may lift his head;
Even the cheek of shame with tears is wet,
If something good be said.

No generous hear may vainly turn aside
In ways of sympathy; no soul so dead
But may awaken strong and glorified,
If something good be said.

And so I charge ye, by the thorny crown,
And by the cross on which the Savior bled,
And by your own soul's hope for fair renown,
Let something good be said.

James Whitcomb Riley

- from Heart Throbs

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Boston, Mass.

Submitted
by 
Marianne Giusti

Let us, then, learn that we can never be lonely or forsaken in this life. Shall they forget us because that are "made perfect"? Shall thy love us less because they have power to love us more? If we forget them not, shall they not remember us with God? No trial, then, can isolate us, no sorrow can cut us off from the Communion of Saints. Kneel down, and you are with them; lift up your eyes, and the heavenly world high above all perturbation, hangs serenely overhead; only a thin veil, it may be, floats between. All whom we loved, and all who loved us, whom we still love no less, while they love us yet more, are ever near, because ever in His presence in whom we live and dwell. ***H. E. Manning***

-from Daily Strengths for Daily Needs, Mary W. Tileston



ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays at 1:00 & 7:00 pm

December 4th, 11th & 18th

**Soup Suppers will be at 6:00 pm,
preceding the evening service.**

Why do we celebrate Advent?

The word Advent means "coming". During Advent, we prepare for the coming of the One who was born that first Christmas in a stable. We prepare for the One who saved us from sin, death and the power of the devil: our Lord Jesus Christ! What a wonderful and exciting time of preparation!

ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS SIGN-UP

Look for a sign up sheet to be posted in Fellowship Hall. Opportunities to bring soup, bread/crackers, milk or cookies for this wonderful time of fellowship will be available.

Soup suppers will be at 6:00 pm preceding the
Wednesday Evening Advent Services
December 4th, 11th & 18th





The Consequences of Shallow Thankfulness

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, "Tell grandma thank you." This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: "Look at me! Aren't I special?" No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

For words that speak at variance with deeds ...

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or

following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways unmindful of a broken brother's need ...

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – October 2024



Please join us for
Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 pm

Preschool Family Harvest Party



A harvest party for our preschoolers and their families! With pizza, pumpkin carving and lots of games, it was a fun evening for everyone!

We are thankful for these children and thankful for our preschool teachers and helpers that made this harvest party possible.

We thank God for blessing us with this fun evening spent together!



The happy winner who guessed the number of cheese balls there were in this container!



Pastor opened the council meeting with a prayer and devotion.

Secretary Report: September Council meeting minutes were accepted by council.

Treasurer's Report: Giving was up in September, largely due to a relatively large offering from one of our members. Year to Date, Offerings and Tithes are short of the Planned budget by \$1,163.22 however, the September Offerings and Tithes exceed the plan by 5,769.26 due to the large offering. Compensation and Budget Committees are gearing up to do their part to put together the 2025 compensation/budget. Council accepted the treasurer's report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Watt preached 5 out of 5 Sundays, conducted one service at Woodway, taught 2 Adult Instruction classes that are completed, made 4 pastoral visits, and 1 hospital visit. The Young Adult Bible Study was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. Average worship attendance in September was 52.

Education Committee Report: There was one new student in the preschool. The new schedule And method of offering an additional hour of "Pre-Kindergarten" instruction seems to be working. Sunday School: Volunteer teachers have been found for most Sundays through Christmas. There are still a few weeks with no volunteer teacher so if you are interested, please see the sign up sheet near the mailboxes.

Elders Report: The Elder Board is continuing to work on a Donation schedule for members wanting to hold events at Redeemer. There will also be guidance on the types of events that would be allowed. The Elders are continuing to work on a photo member directory for the congregation. The Elders are also working to update the Elder Handbook.

Stewardship Report: The Advent By Candle Light event will be a brunch after the December 1 service this year. There will be a special program, an in-gathering, and a Christmas Carol sing-along.

Property Report: The heating system boiler is set to have an annual inspection on October 16th. The septic system malfunction indicator light is coming on signaling the need for a call to Mt. Baker Septic.

Evangelism Report: The next meeting, there will be a focus on "How to talk about your Faith to others."

Unfinished Business: Two cleaning services will be turning in bids in the coming week or so. For now, we continue to rely on member volunteers to help with basic cleaning tasks. Two Roomba robotic vacuums have been donated and will be set up to begin vacuuming next week. One will

operate in the preschool wing and the other will operate in the church. They will be set to operate during normal church office hours to not set off any alarms.

New Business: Travis Kimes was approved by council to serve as Vice President. Due to the potential conflict of interest with his wife holding a paid position by the church, Travis has agreed to recuse himself from Budget Committee Chairman. Council approved Tonya Lysne as Chairwoman of the Budget Committee to fill the position.

Pastor gave a closing prayer.



We are again be participating in Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child. Sending shoebox gifts and the good news of Jesus to children around the world. Boxes will need to be returned by Sunday, November 17th. More information and boxes are located on the table near the stairs. Please direct any questions to Dee Watt or Marianne Giusti.



Confirmation



Travis Paul Kimes
confirmed October 20, 2024

Congratulations Travis!
Blessings to you as you
continue your walk with
the Lord.

A photograph of a Christmas tree branch with green needles. A round, textured ornament with an American flag design (stars and stripes) is hanging from the branch. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

Remember our Service Members at Christmas Time

The holidays can be especially hard for military service members and their spouses that are away from loved ones at Christmas. A Christmas card is a perfect way to send a reminder to our military men and women that we are thinking of them and praying for them as they serve our country.

Please remember to drop Christmas cards and/or other gifts in our 6 service member care packages. The last Sunday to include items will be

December 1st!



“Mark Your Calendar”

ADVENT FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH



SUNDAY – December 1st

11:45 (Following Worship)

Brunch Provided

Dessert Buffet Sign-Up

Carol Singing ~ Fellowship ~ Advent Joy



Our “Ingathering Project” will be Redeemer Church Kitchen and Preschool...charity begins at home in support of our own church needs. A tree will be placed in the Fellowship Hall decorated with tags that indicate “specific” needs for Redeemer’s kitchen and Preschool). Should you wish to participate, you may take a tag from the tree with the specific item needed and bring the item to church. A Kitchen Supply Bin and a Preschool Bin will be provided for your contributions.

HOST A TABLE: Hosting a table involves decorating and setting a table for eight. If you wish to host a table please see the Advent Brunch Display and Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. Tables will be decorated on Saturday, November 30, from 10 am to 2 pm. Should that not be a convenient time for set-up, please contact Dee to arrange for an alternative time.

For planning purposes, please RSVP by Sunday, November 24th.

SIGN-UP if you plan to attend and how many guests you will be bringing

SIGN-UP if you wish to be a table hostess

SIGN-UP if you wish to provide a dessert for the buffet

PLEASE JOIN US in fellowship this Advent Season
as we prepare our hearts and lives to celebrate our Savior’s birth.

***“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;...and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Is. 9:6***

Should you have any questions, please contact Cristi Lysne or Dee Watt.



Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



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



Well, fall is definitely in the air! We have been trying to enjoy as many fall days outside as possible! We had a field trip to Bellewood Apple Farm which was so much fun! We have been busy learning our letters, numbers, shapes, and colors along with our great Bible stories! The children always love to go to chapel! We do have quite the wiggly bunch this year so everyday is learning about being a five star listener! Mouths are quiet, ears are listening, legs are quiet, hands are quiet, eyes are watching!

We had our first Harvest Festival this year! I was unfortunately not able to find a pumpkin patch for us to visit this year so I decided to incorporate a night of fun games and prizes along with our pumpkin carving night! I think everyone had a really fun time so we'll see if this becomes an annual activity!

This month we will have an Open House where preschool families can come see the classroom and what we do during school. A fun opportunity for the preschoolers to show their families around!

Bible Stories this month:

Jericho's Falling Walls
David and Goliath
Fiery Furnace
Daniel and the Lions Den

Letters of the Week:

Gg, Hh, Ii, Jj

Thank you for your contributions to the preschool. They are much appreciated! Thank you to Kevin for painting our bathrooms, they look beautiful! I hope you all have a blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends and yummy food! May we be thankful for our many veterans for their service especially on this election year! God Bless America!

Love and Blessings,
Heidi



Thank you to all who brought in donations of coats and warm weather accessories. Together, we were able to deliver 3 large bags of coats to the Interfaith Coat Drive. Thank you Wendy, for organizing and also for delivering the donations!!

We pray these coats will be a blessing to our community members in need.



We recently received our quarterly "reward" for **\$29.28**! If you have not yet linked your Fred Meyer Reward card to Redeemer Lutheran Church, please consider doing so. It's easy to do and every little bit helps! See more information below.

Another way to give to Redeemer!

Did you know that you can earn "community rewards" for Redeemer Lutheran church when you shop at Fred Meyer?

If you shop at Fred Meyer, you can sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Redeemer Lutheran church. You must have your own Fred Meyer login.

Simply go to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and search for Redeemer Lutheran Church of Bellingham, WA (or our organization non-profit number: KI394) and connect your card to our church.



LWML Fall Rally



On October 5th, the Redeemer LWML hosted the Mt. Baker Zone LWML Fall Rally. There was a presentation and in-gathering for the Whatcom County Pregnancy Center, a message from Pastor Watt, and lunch was served. More than 40 ladies from the Mt Baker Zone were in attendance. Pictured to the left are the Redeemer LWML officers receiving their official Certificate of Membership from Mt. Baker Zone President Judy Peraino.





RLWML



Mission Grant #20 - \$100,000 Sharing Christ With Women and Children in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan, a large landlocked country in central Asia, is a former member of the USSR. The population of over 20,000 is 70% Muslim and about 26% Christian. Lutheran Hour Ministries is working with local churches to serve women and children and uses outreach and printed Christian resources to reach the unchurched.

Government restrictions allow spreading the Gospel only through local churches or house churches. Harassment continues from non-Christian religious authorities and unbelieving family members, making the outreach efforts so important to the training programs for youth and women church leaders and their programs.

The LHM staff and other Christian women meet with non-Christian women in special classes at churches to study the Bible, pray and receive quality Christian materials published at the ministry center. The children receive Bible story and activity booklets, and they attend vacation Bible school and Sunday school.

Thred.asia, LHM's digital outreach platform for youth, deepens relationships with non-Christians and is a safe place to share the hope in Jesus. LHM Kazakhstan will expand their Gospel outreach to share the hope and love of Jesus to a country of spiritual and physical poverty.

The gifts of your money and all Lutheran Missouri Synod churches across the nation are called mites. The parable of the widow's mite is found in Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4. Your gifts are appreciated in the funding for grant proposals.

Lutheran Hour Ministries-Kazakhstan publishes and distributes Christian materials in the Kazakh and Russian languages introducing people to the Christian faith.



Food packages and Christian booklets are given to needy children and their families in remote villages, sharing the love and hope of Jesus.



Your Mites at work!



Special evangelistic events for children are held at Christmas, distributing Christian literature to them and their parents.



Lutheran's For Life Quote: November 03

“In the fullness of time, our Lord was born for our sake. In the fullness of time, He will bring all the faithful into eternal fellowship with Him. In the fullness of time, He will dry every tear and fulfill His will for all mankind, as John the Evangelist witnessed in the Revelation God granted him.”

Deaconess Bethany Stoevers, Director-at-Large, LFL of Kansas – 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)



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.