



# The Saltshaker

January 2026

Redeemer Lutheran Church

360.384.5923



**858 WEST SMITH ROAD  
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**

February Newsletter deadline is  
Monday, January 26, 2026

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

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

*Happy  
New Year*

# From the Pastor's Pen



Out with the old, in with the new! Have you ever heard that before? It kind of fits with the transition from December to January. As one year passes away every December, and a new year begins every January, many people try to adopt that “out with the old, in with the new” idea. New Year’s resolutions come to mind.

But if your track record with new year’s resolutions is like mine; the batting average isn’t so good. We try to do away with the “old”, whatever that may be for you, and start with the “new”, but it’s not all that easy to keep the new going, is it? Old habits, old ways of doing things are hard to get rid of. I’ve heard it said that if you want to start a new habit, then you need to do whatever you are wanting to do, at least 30 days in a row. I’ve also heard it said to start small and gradually work up to your goal.

Recently I’ve been trying to get back into scripture memory. That was a habit in my life some decades ago, but had fallen by the wayside. I’ve also heard that trying to establish new habits are more successful if you have someone else to do it with. So, I’ve challenged the Elders of Redeemer to join me in this adventure. We’re starting small: one verse a month.

The first verse we are working on is 2 Corinthians 5:17, which says, “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*”

In examining that verse I find several blessings. First, it says “*if anyone.*” That indefinite pronoun could be translated: whoever/everyone/all who are in Christ. And how is one “in Christ?” Baptism. Galatians 3:27 says, “*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*” Romans 6:3-4 says, “*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*” In Baptism, we are united to Christ.

A second blessing is that those who are “*in Christ*” are a “*new creation.*” Notice it is not “will be” but “is.” And that “*new creation*” can be translated “new creature.” When you were baptized, you were “born again” (Jn 3:5). You are a new person! True, the old nature still clings to us, but in Baptism that old nature is put to death (see the rest of that Romans text: 6:5-11). The Christian life is not about trying to become someone new... you are new! It is a life characterized by a continual putting to death and drowning (by remembering our Baptism) the old nature in us.

A third blessing, and one I had not seen before, is in that last sentence: “*The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*” The old “has passed away.” That verb, in the

Greek text is in what is called the “aorist tense.” It is, in essence, a statement of fact. But what I had not seen before is the verbal tense of “the new has come.” The “has come” is in the “perfect tense” which means it is a past action completed, with present abiding results. In other words, “the new not only has come . . . it still is.” That, dear baptized Christian is what “you currently are: new” no matter how you see yourself.

Maybe I'll try to start some new habits this year. I can think of several I should probably do, or get better at. You probably have some also. As good as those might be for us, they don't hold a candle to the “out with the old, in with the new” that God has provided for us in Jesus Christ. And it's not even something we have to try to do. He's already done it for us. All I need to “do” is thank and praise Him for what He's done. And I cannot think of any better place to do that than with fellow believers on Sunday morning.

See you in church,

Pastor Rex E. Watt



**OFFICE CLOSED FOR: New Year's Day - January 1st, MLK Jr. Day - January 19th**

**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, January 3rd.**

**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, January 16th.**

**WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY:** Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am. “Enough for Now: Unpacking God’s Sufficiency”, led by Lynnata Marttila. **Resuming on Wednesday January 7th.**

**MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BETTY LOU ERICKSON:** a service for Betty Lou Erickson will be held on Friday, January 9th at 11:00 am. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bellingham.

# Celebrating a



## January Birthdays

01/03 Jaxon K.  
01/11 Arenda H.  
01/12 Mary Ann O.  
01/16 Robin S.  
01/19 Jacquelyn S.  
01/26 Adalyn N.

## 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.



## January Anniversaries

01/12 Joseph & Robin S.  
01/13 Les & Joy A.  
01/16 Kari & Lynnata M.

*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.

# Elders

God's faithful shepherds  
God's faithful shepherds

## Elder Care List

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



## Fellowship Host/Hostess Volunteer Schedule

Jan. 04 - not available at this time  
Jan. 11 -  
Jan. 18 -  
Jan. 25 - Potluck

## ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP — JANUARY

Altar Care  
Lynnata M.

## Worship Volunteer Schedule

	Elder/Assistant	Usher	Lay Reader	Soundboard	Counters
Jan. 04	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	Joe D.	Kari M.	Wendy/Corinne
Jan. 11	Doug/Colin	Ian M.	Connor D.	Ian M.	Jon/Ron
Jan. 18	Doug/Colin	Connor D.	David K.	Kari M.	Anthony/Travis
Jan. 25	Doug/Colin	Anthony M.	Corinne T.	Ian M.	Wendy/Corinne

# January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>02</b>	<b>03</b> 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study	<b>04</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b> Epiphany	<b>07</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00am: Women's Bible Study	<b>08</b> 6:30 pm: Elders
<b>11</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm: Council	<b>14</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00am: Women's Bible Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 11:00 am: LWML Bible Study and Meeting	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	<b>19</b> MLK Jr. Day office closed	<b>20</b> Saltshaker Deadline	<b>21</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00am: Women's Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 1:00 pm: Roberto Lara Memorial
<b>25</b> 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion <b>Potluck</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Bulletin Deadline 9:00am: Women's Bible Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Game Day time TBD



## **Ring Out, Wild Bells**

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

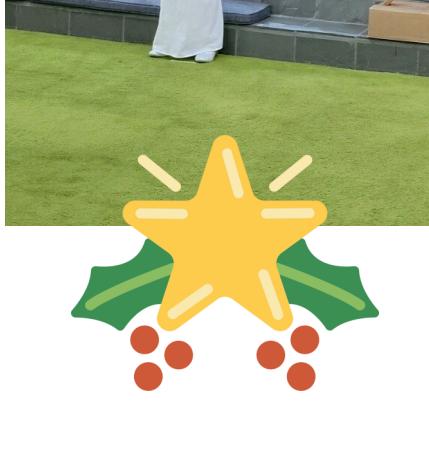
Ring out old shapes of foul disease;  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

**~Alfred Lord Tennyson**



# Redeemer Sunday School Christmas Program



## GAME DAY: January 31, 2026

Time to be announced at a later date. If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Doug or Annette.

Stay tuned for more information coming.

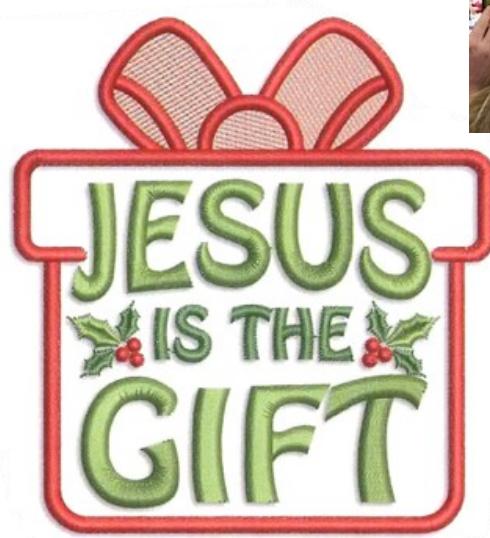


# Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



Redeemer Lutheran Preschool

**A** Ages 3 1/2 to 5 YRS  
**B** Call 384-5923  
**C**



**Redeemer Preschool  
Christmas Program  
2025  
"Jesus is the Gift"**



# 2025 Advent Fellowship Gathering







# LIVING A STEWARDSHIP

It is all about your heart...

Everything we have is a gift from God  
that we are to use to help others.

*Life*

***“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true” (Revelation 21:5).***

In January there is a great deal of “new” talk. Parties are held to ring in the “new” year. “New” year’s resolutions are made to set a “new” course of life in the “new” year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the “new” year on the dateline.

We use all this “new” talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the “new” resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That “new” person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The “new” habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The “new” person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need “new” talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of “new” is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This “new” comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of “new” is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary’s cross and

buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God’s creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in steward-

ship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry**  
**January 2026**



**Mira Jane Marttila**  
Baptized on December 28, 2025  
Daughter of Niko and Molly Marttila





## Lutheran's For Life Quotes: January 18

"Our task is to make sure that our fellow Lutherans and our neighbors know how much God loves us just as we are. Look at this fingerprint: God made each of us unique. There is no one else just like you. God knew you before you were born (Jeremiah 1:5). He knitted you together in your mother's womb. You were fearfully and wonderfully made, and God had a plan for your life even before you took a breath in this sinful, beautiful world that He created for you (Psalm 139:13-16)."

**Diane Albers, President of Lutherans For Life – 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](http://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.