



The Saltshaker

March 2022

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

9:15 AM: Adult Bible Study

10:30 AM: Worship Service

April Newsletter deadline is
Tuesday, March 22, 2022

IN THIS ISSUE:

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From the Pastor's Pen



Lent. What is it? Why do we practice it? What are you going to “do” for Lent?

As you receive this issue of The Saltshaker, we are entering into the season of the church year we call Lent. The observance of this season is an ancient practice that goes back to the early centuries of the church’s existence. Although not practiced identically as we do today, the church in the first three centuries began to practice a “preparatory fast” leading up to the Easter celebration. The earliest record of it being a 40-day period goes back to Athanasius in 330 A.D. It served two purposes by this time. One was to be a time of intense instruction for catechumens as they prepared for Holy Baptism on the eve before Easter (The Easter Vigil), prior to their reception of the Lord’s Supper on Easter morning. The second was to be a time of repentance and reflection for the already baptized as they followed Jesus to the cross. Many of the early believers would “give up” something for Lent as a visual reminder of what gave up for them: his Son.

Lent is the 40-day season of “festival half” of the church year that follows Jesus’ birth (Advent) and manifestation (Epiphany), during which we follow him to the cross and resurrection (Easter), and ultimately to his ascension. Although not commanded or found in the Bible as a practice of the church, it has (as noted above) a long history in the church. At Redeemer, it has always been observed, and offered as a time of repentance and self-reflection as we follow Jesus to the cross. Since it is neither commanded, nor forbidden, it is as we Lutherans say, adiaphora. As Christians we are free to practice, or not. When the apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians, he focused over and over on Christ crucified (1 Cor 2:2). That is the event that changed the course of

human history. It is the event we focus on during Lent, specifically, our part in the reason Jesus went to the cross. I hope you will join me, and others, as we reflect on Jesus this Lenten season.

Many people give up something for Lent. In the past I have suggested that instead of giving something up for Lent, maybe one could add something to their spiritual walk during Lent: like extra Bible reading, prayer time, or even going to Bible class! May I suggest this year you consider doing both: give up something that brings you pleasure or that you like, and add something that will help you grow spiritually? Whatever you choose to do this Lent, remember that it’s not about your doing something, or giving up something for God. God doesn’t need it. But we do. Giving up something helps discipline our fleshly desires. Adding something to help us spiritually grow helps us focus on Christ and what he has done for us. And I suspect we all could use a little more of that.

Blessings be upon you as we journey together this Lenten season. Join us for our Mid-week journey beginning Ash Wednesday, March 2nd as we look at various witnesses to Christ: people from his Passion. We will offer services at both, 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Beginning on Wednesday, March 9th, soup suppers will held at 6:00 pm.

See you in church,

Pastor Rex E. Watt





Pastor Watt opened in prayer

Devotional referencing Joy read by Pastor Watt – scripture from Luke 6:23

Review and acceptance of previous minutes amended with description as to which shed has the missing shingle from last month's minutes on the property report

Treasurer's Report: Sally reported that the church ended January with \$1,341.18 to the black

Pastor's Report: Alice Lego is now at Mt. Baker Care Center w/ a chance to be moving next door to the assisted living center.

Sunday Bible study is steady with 9-10 people, Thursday Bible study with Colin averaging 2-3 people.

Catechesis continuing with a few youths.

SMP training on break until 2/28/2022.

January average attendance 51.

Elder's Report: Benevolent Fund Guidelines discussed along with how to make communion more reverent and orderly, and reviewed duties of elders.

Also discussed how to make communion more reverent and orderly, and they reviewed the duties of the Elders.

Stewardship Report: Lenten Soup Suppers sign up beginning soon.

Property Report: Les to look at the shingle on the big shed. Gutter guards clogging too easily/quickly. Solutions include installing leaf strainers in downspout drains (in gutter) and cutting down pine tree that is the cause of the clogging.

Education Report: New pre-school student for Tuesday/ Thursday which makes the census for those days at 11 – M/W/F census at 19. Library field trip for each class was this week. Currently have three students signed up for next fall. (22/23) Sunday School schedule is for the 2nd and 4th Sundays

Unfinished Business: Benevolent fund guidelines approved by council with provision to make amendments as needed. Ross, as head Elder, will find 2 lay people willing to serve on the Benevolent Fund Committee to bring to council for appointment. Council approved to start funding Benevolence Fund with 5000.00 from 2021 excess funds with the remaining funds to be donated by congregation.

No more issues with the boiler switch. Meeting pending w/Jason in regard to more detail to the lighting bid/PSE grant

Security System malfunctioning – Security Systems changed the smoke detectors. False alarms haven't reoccurred.

New business:

The Lawn Maintenance agreement expires in March – discussion to renew contract or buy church owned commercial mower and have a church member (who has volunteered to mow) use it to mow. Further discussion at March council meeting.

Council approved (with a \$10 fee per each session) a request by previous substitute organist Gabe to give pipe organ lessons to one student of his.

Council approved to have job descriptions of each position in the policy manual examined and updated as necessary.

Pastor Watt closed in prayer at 8:00 p.m



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

God's Providential Care

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves, that we could not exist without those who have gone before us and are alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know that God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers of all sorts so that we can eat. But more than that God created and gave us all the things that those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things, properties for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste and their nutritional value, we would not exist.

He gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments. Again, he gave us all things that go into making those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties that can be utilized for that purpose. Without God creating and instilling those healing properties into those things, and without God creating the ability within man to find this out and press it into service of our medical needs, we would not enjoy the kind of health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands: "Then Moses said to the people of Israel, 'See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.' " (Exodus 35:30-34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands. And attached to those hands are arms with

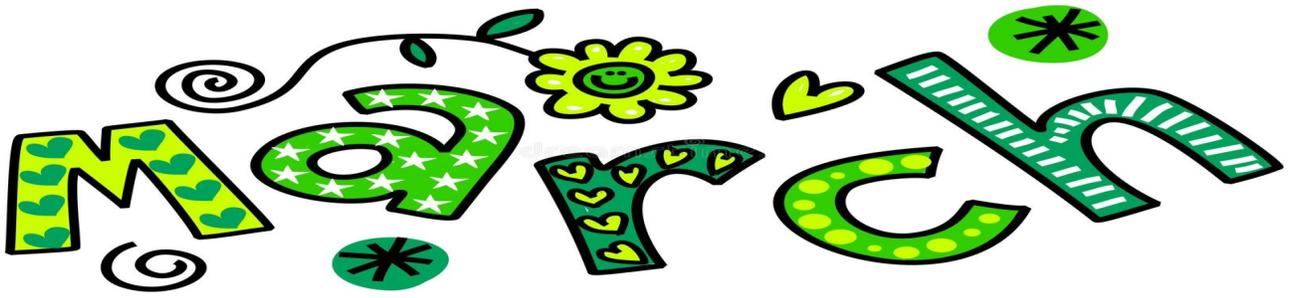
strength. He created us with minds in order to make those arms and hands move to accomplish the work set before us. And He has given us reason and senses. That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes as well as the accomplishments of others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us. So that everything we have AND everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. That He sent His son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. That He delivers that justification through the Means of Grace (Baptism, preaching, the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those Means of Grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Again, this could be expanded and expounded upon. So that literally everything that we have and everything that we are – in this life and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about – giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts. It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church. "For all this is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (Luther's Small Catechism, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gift – for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not in word only but also in deed.

**The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article - March 2022**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		01	02 Bulletin Deadline PS Chapel Ash Wednesday Service 1 & 7pm 3:30-5:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class	03 PS Chapel 7:00 pm: 1&2 Samuel Bible Study	04	05
06 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	07	08 6:30 pm: Elders	09 Bulletin Deadline PS Chapel Lent Service 1 & 7pm Soup Supper 6pm 3:30-5:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class	10 PS Chapel 7:00 pm: 1&2 Samuel Bible Study	11	12
13 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion with Children's Minisrty 	14	15 6:30 pm: Council	16 Bulletin Deadline PS Chapel Lent Service 1 & 7pm Soup Supper 6pm 3:30-5:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class	17 St .Patrick's Day PS Chapel 7:00 pm: 1&2 Samuel Bible Study	18	19 Spring Yardwork Party 10am-1pm (weather permitting)
20 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	21	22 Saltshaker Deadline	23 Bulletin Deadline PS Chapel Lent Service 1 & 7pm Soup Supper 6pm 3:30-5:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class	24 PS Chapel 7:00 pm: 1&2 Samuel Bible Study	25	26 Spring Yardwork Party 10am-1pm (weather permitting)
27 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion with Children's Minisrty	28	29	30 Bulletin Deadline PS Chapel Lent Service 1 & 7pm Soup Supper 6pm 3:30-5:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class	31 PS Chapel 7:00 pm: 1&2 Samuel Bible Study		



March Birthdays
 03/05 Pamela Hallmark
 03/13 Vivian Hallmark
 03/20 Don Strong
 03/22 Anne Leonard
 03/25 Arlene Lund
 03/30 Ross Abbe
 03/31 Melissa Noste

April Birthdays
 04/06 Jake Potvin
 04/07 NaDean Hanson
 04/08 Lisa Montgomery
 04/12 Dylan Watt
 04/12 Reece Kuljis
 04/13 Deanna Watt
 04/16 Patrick Heaviside
 04/21 Kelsey Heaviside

Elder Care List

A—Hah: Larry Schell
 Hal—Leg: Ross Abbe
 Leo—P: Kari Marttila
 R—Wri: Patrick O'Connor



March Anniversaries

03/21 Ross & Barb Abbe

*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.

Shut-ins: Virginia Blackmore

Fellowship Host/Hostess Volunteer Schedule

Mar. 06 - Mary Ann Olsen & Cristi Lysne
 Mar. 13 - Joy Anderson & Heidi Kuljis
 Mar. 20 - Susanne Martinsen & Barb Abbe
 Mar. 27 - Cheryl Kortlever & Jamie Dupuis

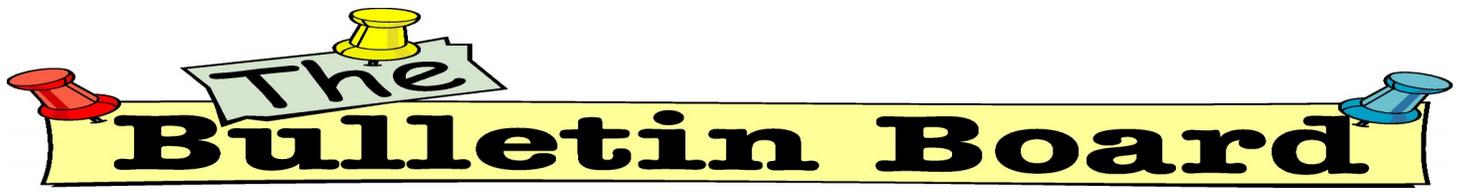
ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – MARCH
Altar Care

Cristi Lysne & Sandy Stamps

THE VOLUNTEER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<u>ELDER/ASSISTANT</u>	<u>LAY READER</u>	<u>SOUNDBOARD</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>
Mar. 02 - Ash Wednesday Elder - Larry Assistant - Ross			
Mar. 06 Patrick/Kari	Joe Dupuis	Kari	Ron/Cheryl
Mar. 13 Larry	Pastor Watt	Rod	Barb/Spiro
Mar. 20 Kari/Ross	Corinne Thorsen	Anthony	Dale/Anthony
Mar. 27 Ross	Pastor Watt	Kari	Cristi/Ron

Should you have any questions, please contact Dee for Host/Hostesses and Tabatha for the rest.
 Thank you!



The Bulletin Board

TITHE ENVELOPES — Thank you for your continued tithe offerings. Just a reminder to write out **Redeemer Lutheran Church** on your check. Thank you. You may continue to drop off your tithe envelopes to the secure Prayer Box.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY MEETS AT 9:15 am: "Today's Bible Readings", led by Larry Schell. Gain a better understanding and deeper appreciation for today's Bible Readings as we study and discuss them prior to the Service.

THURSDAY NIGHT ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT 7:00 PM: Study of 1st & 2nd Samuel, led by Colin Grabish.

DEVOTIONALS: "Our Daily Bread" for Mar.-May and "Portals of Prayer" for Jan.-Mar. are available at the bulletin table and the mailbox table. **Lent Devotionals** are also available.

2022 ALTAR FLOWERS SIGN-UP SHEET is posted on the bulletin board by the office. This is an opportunity for you to have flowers placed on the altar in honor of a birthday, anniversary, memory, etc. If you would like to place flowers on the altar for a special occasion, please place your name and phone number on the line corresponding with the date on the altar flower sign-up sheet. If you would like Lynnata to purchase flowers for you, please contact her - 360-318-5298.

TUNE INTO THE LUTHERAN HOUR: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Lutheran Hour Speaker, gives a sermon each Sunday. The program also features hymns and reflections on the texts.

Online: www.kfuo.org Radio: 550AM KARI 11:30 am

SAVE THE DATE: for Indoor Spring Clean-up, Saturday, **April 9th.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LAWN CARE TEAM: We are considering the purchase of a lawn mower and having an "in house" lawn care team. This would replace the need to hire out a lawn care service. We have one volunteer at this time but are looking for others to create a lawn care team. If you are interested please contact the church office.

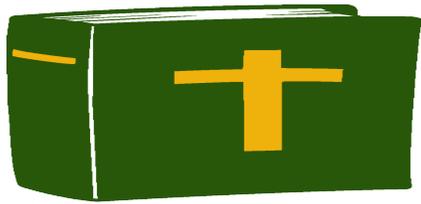
CHURCH TREASURER: We are looking for a congregation member with basic bookkeeping skills to take over the roll of Treasurer. If you are interested or have any questions about this volunteer position please contact the church office.

THANK YOU

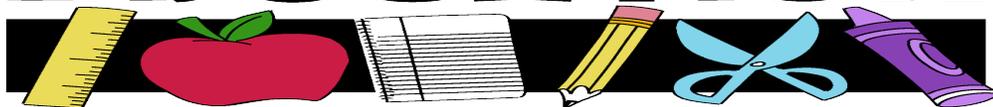
Dear People of Redeemer,

Thank you for your many loving prayers, beautiful cards, words of encouragement, texts and phone calls as I wait upon the Lord and His timing for surgery, healing and recovery of my broken ankle. He is faithful and His mercies are new each morning.

Love in Christ always, Dee



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Sunday School will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month for elementary aged children. If you would like to help out with Sunday School or teach, please let Heidi know!



Valentine's Day Potluck

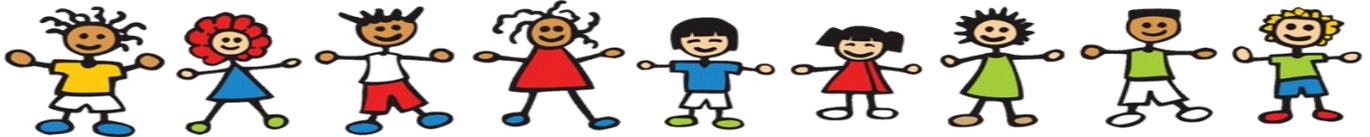


Fellowship & Food

Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



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



Happy Spring! Almost! I cannot wait for Spring and some sunshine to get here! The preschoolers will be so happy once we can go outside and play more often without rain, snow, or the bitter cold! We had a very busy February with Valentine's Day, library field trip and pajama, popcorn and a movie day for the letter "Pp!" I know these next less than 3 months are going to be gone in no time! Spring is always a fun time at preschool being able to be outside more often, planting seeds, getting ready for graduation celebration and kindergarten! I'm hoping to have a few more field trips as well before the year is over!

We will be hosting our Dads, Donuts and Devotion this month. This is fun for the children to invite their dad to come to preschool in the morning before work to have a donut and listen to a devotion. The children have fun making a gift for their dad and spending a little time with them at school! We will also be doing some fun Spring activities and crafts. Our bible stories will be following the Easter story and events leading up to Jesus' resurrection.

I pray you all are doing well and looking forward to the changes God blesses us with come Spring time! I always look forward to Al's tulips and daffodils popping up in front of the preschool. He continues to watch over me and bless me with his dedication and faithfulness he had to our church and preschool!

God's Blessings and Love,
Heidi



Wish List



Wish List for the 2021-2022 Preschool Year

24 pack of Crayola crayons (**18 boxes**)
Construction Paper 12 x 18in (**2 packs each**)
-black
-white
-tan
Pom poms (**assorted colors and sizes**)
6 qt Sterilite bins – clear bins with colored lids (**8 bins**)
16 qt Sterilite bins – clear bins with colored lids (**8 bins**)

Pipe Cleaners 50pk (**1 pack each**)
-orange -purple
-yellow -black
-brown -green
-white -blue

GIFT CARDS: Dollar Tree, Hobby Lobby, Michaels

Piece by Piece

He Who Began a Good Work is Faithful to Complete It

Each day has enough trouble of its own.

~Matthew 6:36~

Sharon planned to spend most of the day pulling together the final stages of her current quilting project, a special gift for her mother- and father-in-law for their 50th wedding anniversary. She spent months contacting friends and family, collecting special messages to incorporate into the design. Each message would be in the donator's own handwriting and hand-stitched onto ten-inch squares. One beautiful, final project held generations of love.

The day started as planned but quickly deteriorated. One thing after another took time and mental energy, and before long, half the day was gone with no end to her project in sight.

"Life isn't long enough to get done all that I have to do. I'll never finish this project," Sharon exclaimed. "Enough is enough."

Tell me you haven't felt that way too. You look at the enormity of the task ahead, and it's overwhelming. This was supposed to be fun, relaxing, enjoyable, but it takes forever to finish. *What was I thinking?* One more project is pushed aside for another day.

Did God feel that way when He started to create? He had the entire universe for a final project and just seven days to complete it. Was it too big a job for Him? Absolutely not. "Little" human projects, our hurts...desires...prayers are not too hard for Him to handle. He knows we are finite. We have issues and problems that can overwhelm us, even if it's just a simple quilt project. God knows we get derailed by life. However, if we proceed one day at a time with His strength and help, nothing is too difficult. As we continue, God reminds us not to get worked up about tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever difficulties that might come, and He will guide you when the time comes.

Promise

He who began a good work in you is faithful to complete it.

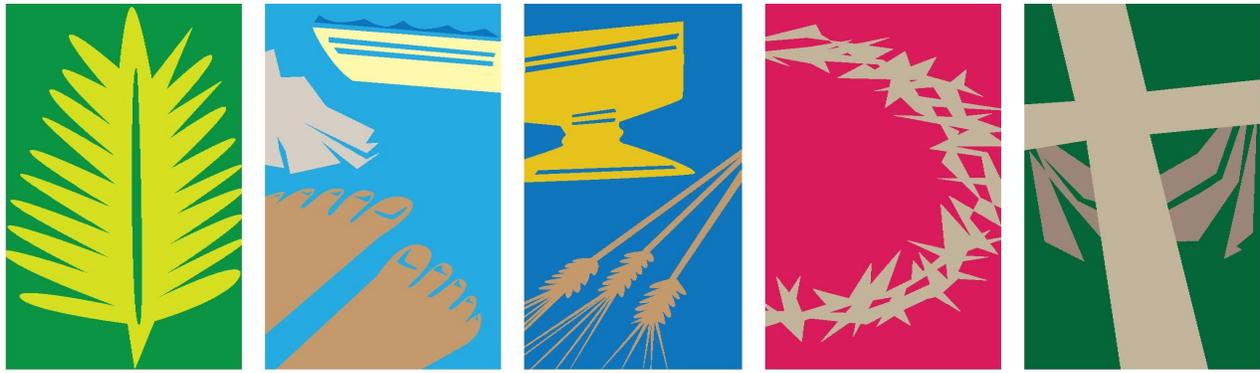
~Philippians 1:6~

Submitted
by



Marianne Giusti

From A Patchwork of Promises
Devotions for Quilters
By Gayle Ottemiller



Lenten and Holy Week Calendar

Holy Week

Mid-week Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday - March 02
 Worship/Communion
 1 & 7 pm

Wednesdays
March 09, 16, 23, 30
April 06
 Worship at 1 & 7 pm
 Soup Suppers at 6 pm

Sunday, April 10

Palm Sunday

10:30 am: Worship/Communion

Thursday, April 14

Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm: Worship/Communion

Friday, April 15

Good Friday

7:00 pm: Worship

Sunday, April 17

Easter

10:30 am: Worship/Communion
Easter Morning Breakfast Potluck
 Following the service



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS SIGN-UP

A sign up sheet is now posted in Fellowship Hall. Opportunities to bring soup, bread/crackers, milk or cookies for this wonderful time of fellowship are available. Soup suppers are at 6:00 pm preceding the Wednesday evening Lenten Services March 9th – April 6th.



Service Member Update



A letter of thanks from Ryan Pitcher...

Carl and Mary Ann,

Happy Thanksgiving!! Hope you, your family, and the redeemer family have an amazing thanksgiving!

I apologize on the extremely late response to the care package that I received in September! It has been extremely busy for me the last few months as I finish up in my position here and begin transitioning to the States. I really appreciate the thoughtfulness of everyone's cards and encouragement. I was able to take a lot of the snacks/candy and hand it out to my Soldiers prior to them performing a month long rotation in a simulated war environment. It was very well received so thank you for helping lift the spirits of my Soldiers as well.

I have very fond memories of Redeemer as I'm sure you know I grew up in the church for about 17 years. I will definitely stop by on a Sunday in the beginning of February as I am in the area to visit with my family.

Currently I am about 1.5 months away from coming back to the states to Fort Benning, Georgia where I will be from about February to July of 2022. I will definitely keep you and the church updated as I begin my travels. That being said it would be much appreciated for prayers for a smooth and safe transition back to the states.

Again, thank you so much for the care package. It was very thoughtful.

Blessings,

Ryan Pitcher



SERVICE MEMBER CARE PACKAGES

The next shipment of care packages will be going out in March, just in time for Easter! The last Sunday to bring items for the care packages will be **March 20th**. Thank you for your support of these men and women that are very dear to the Redeemer Family.



Spring Outdoor Yard Work Party

is scheduled for Saturday, **March 19th & 26th**

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

(weather permitting)

ALL HANDS ON DECK!!!

We invite all helping hands to participate in a time to gather and clean the grounds outside. Should you have any questions, please contact Barb Abbe.



Lutheran’s For Life Quote: March 13

“Paul kept his eyes on Christ who came and faced all the same heartaches, burdens, and sadness we do, and came through victorious. He shouldered our guilt and punishment on the cross and died that we might have life to the full.”

Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – 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 ([lthelcms](https://twitter.com/lthelcms)), 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.