



December 2023

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

January Newsletter deadline is
Friday, December 22, 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

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- Stewardship
- Council Briefs
- December Birthdays
- Bulletin Board Announcements
- RLWML
- Preschool Update



From the Pastor's Pen



As we close out November and move into December, we begin another new church year. This coming Sunday, December 3rd is the First Sunday in Advent. Now Advent is not the beginning of Christmas. Christmas begins on The Nativity of Our Lord, December 24th and concludes twelve days later (hence “The Twelve Days of Christmas”) on January 6th, which is Epiphany. The church marches to a different drumbeat than the world.

Advent, (from Latin *adventus*, “coming”), is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas and also of preparation for his Second Coming. Seems kind of odd doesn’t it, that in one season of the church year we celebrate Christ’s first and second comings? Didn’t we just listen to texts about Jesus’ second coming? Yes, we did. And we’ll hear more! Why? Because the two “comings” go together. You can’t have a second coming if there wasn’t a first. And to talk about a first coming makes no sense unless there is another. Confused? I’ll make it simple. It’s all about Jesus.

While we, as Christians, know that it’s all about Jesus, it is hard to keep that focus while the world around us makes this time of the year all about shopping, catchy jingles, and festivities. Black Friday sales (that started way before Black Friday, and will continue long after), parties, and community activities galore vie for our time, and our money. With all that increased “hubbub” how can we strive to keep the focus on Jesus? Well, how about making some more time for Him? If you haven’t been to church in a while, how about using this Advent season for getting back into the habit? Redeemer has several opportunities this Advent for you to re-engage. There is a schedule of the upcoming Advent Mid-week services as well as the Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carols service listed elsewhere in The Saltshaker.

May we keep our eyes, hearts, and minds fixed and focused upon Jesus this Advent and Christmas season. After all, if it weren’t for his Incarnation, his life, death, resurrection, and ascension there would be no Christmas season. It’s not about shopping, giving and/or getting gifts; not about feel-good jingle tunes, parties, and festivities as fun as all that is. It’s about Jesus. Jesus for you.

See you in church...

Pastor Rex E. Watt





December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					01	02
03 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday school Advent By Candlelight	04 9:00-10:30am: Women's Advent Bible Study	05 6:30 pm: Elders	06 Bulletin Deadline 1 & 7 pm: Advent Worship 6 pm: Soup Supper	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 9:00-10:30am: Women's Advent Bible Study	12 6:30 pm: Council	13 Bulletin Deadline 1 & 7 pm: Advent Worship 6 pm: Soup Supper	14 7:00 pm: PS Christmas Program	15 11:00 am Women's Bible Study 11:30 am RLWML Meeting PS Christmas Break →	16
17 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	18 9:00-10:30am: Women's Advent Bible Study →	19	20 Bulletin Deadline 1 & 7 pm: Advent Worship 6 pm: Soup Supper	22 Evangelism Meeting 1:30 & 7 pm	22 Saltshaker Deadline	23
24 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School 7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas (office closed) →	26	27 Bulletin Deadline	28	29	30
31 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School 7:00pm: New Year's Eve Service	Happy New Year 2024 (office closed)					



Elder Care List

A - G: Doug Bender
H - Li: Rod Hanson (Head Elder)
Lu - Pa: Anthony McLeod
Po - Z: Colin Grabish

November 2023 Budget vs. Offerings

	Monthly	Year to Date
Budget	\$17,636.00	\$207,223.00
Offerings	\$14,556.90	\$197,738.90



December Anniversaries

12/01 Larry & Sharon Schell
12/11 Anthony & Wendy McLeod
12/13 Paul & Marianne Giusti
12/17 David & Sandra Stamps
12/19 Patrick & Kelsey Heavside
12/22 Niko & Molly Marttila
12/28 Landon & Kaarina Van Berkum
12/29 Bruce & Remedios Weeks
12/31 Steven & Micah Potvin



Fellowship Host/Hostess Volunteer Schedule

Dec. 03 - Mary Ann Olsen & Cristi Lysne
Dec. 10 - Marianne Giusti & Corinne Thorsen
Dec. 17 - Marsha E., Tami M. & Janet B.
Dec. 24 - Christmas Cookie Fellowship
Dec. 31 - Potluck

*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!*

ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – DECEMBER

Altar Care

Lynnata Marttila

Worship Volunteer Schedule

	Elder/Assistant	Usher	Lay Reader	Soundboard	Counters
Dec. 03	Rod/Doug	Connor Dupuis	Ross Abbe	Anthony McLeod	Anthony/Bill
Dec. 10	Anthony/Colin	David Stamps	Corinne Thorsen	Rod Hanson	Corinne/Ron
Dec. 17	Rod/Doug	Anthony McLeod	Joe Dupuis	Kari Marttila	Cheryl/Jon
Dec. 24	Rod/Colin	Rowan Hogle	Lynnata Marttila	Anthony McLeod	Anthony/Bill
Dec. 31	Rod/ Doug	Bill Baeder	Carol Kloes	Kari Marttila	Corinne/Jackie

The Bulletin Board

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

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY MEETS AT 9:00 am.

WOMEN’S ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Mondays, December 4, 11 & 18 from 9:00-10:30 am.

EVANGELISM MEETING: The next scheduled Evangelism Meetings will be Thursday, December 21st, at 1:30 & 7pm.

RLWML: The next scheduled meeting will be Friday, December 15th, at 11:30 am. Bible study starting at 11:00 am.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES: Please join us Wednesdays, December 6, 13 & 20 at 1 & 7pm. Soup Suppers starting a 6:00 pm.

SOUP SUPPER SIGN-UP: If you would like to bring items for Soup Suppers, please see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall near the kitchen.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: The children at Redeemer have been practicing and will be presenting a Christmas program for us during the morning service on Christmas Eve.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 pm.

NEW YEAR’S EVE WORSHIP: Celebrate New Year’s Eve with Worship and Communion, Sunday December 31st at 7:00 pm.





The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

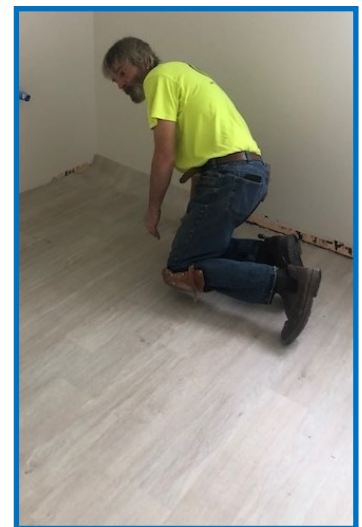
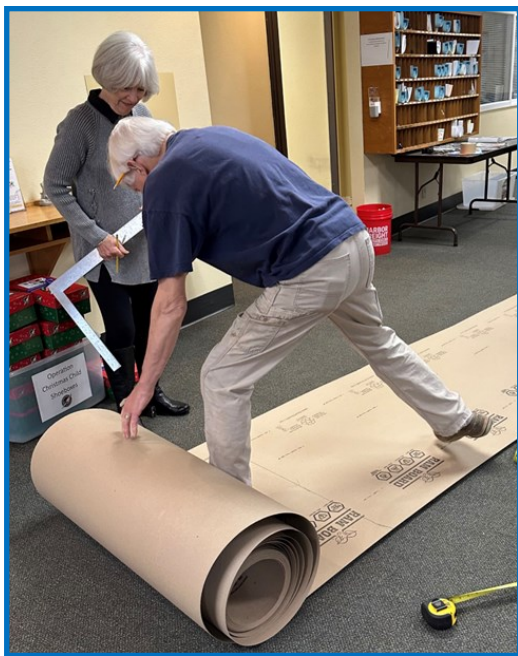
The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – December 2023

Work Around Redeemer — Thank you to all who volunteer their time!



Abby Anderson & David Stamps hard at work keeping the moles out of the lawn!



The bathroom remodel is moving right along with David and Sandi Stamps helping out. The floors and cabinets have been installed!



Fall prep for the joy of spring to come! Kari and Lynnata Marttila working on keeping the church grounds beautiful. I can't wait to see these flowers in the spring!





LWML News

LWML November Meeting

The scripture for the Bible lesson was Philippians 3:12. The December lesson will continue using Philippians chapter 3. The lesson based on the scripture is found in the Lutheran Witness. Please bring your November Lutheran Witness to the December Bible Study, on December 15th from 11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

On December 3rd we will be celebrating the beginning of Advent with our annual Advent By Candlelight Event. After our regular service we will have a short transition program in the Sanctuary and then our table hosts will lead us to the fellowship room for a ham dinner and dessert buffet. We will present our Angel tree and describe its meaning and finish with a Carol singalong. You won't want to miss this meaningful and fun event presented to you by The Redeemer Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

The first Sunday of each month is "mite Sunday" thank you for your mites giving.

The next scheduled meeting will be Friday, December 15th. Bible Study will begin at 11:00 a.m. with the meeting following at 11:30 a.m.



Mite Explanation

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program.

The Widow's Mite

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on".

(Mark 12:41–43)

Christ-Centered Materials for Hmong Language School and Outreach

St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries — \$70,208

St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries in Merced, California, has been actively involved in outreach to Hmong communities in their native tongue for 15 years. In 2015 and 2018, Hmong language schools were founded. They are connected with host churches, St. Paul Lutheran in Merced and Redeemer Lutheran in Fresno, California. Through the schools and outreach at New Year's festivals, the Gospel is being heard and families are being baptized and confirmed. Funds will be used to continue mission programs, develop new training modules, and support training implementation of Christ-centered educational materials in the Hmong language to be used in the schools, for festival outreach, and to share with other LCMS churches and districts.

The Hmong people came to the United States as refugees following the Vietnam war. After living in the US for over forty years, the children and young adults are losing Hmong language skills which are important to their elders. The Hmong Language School teaches language skills using Hmong



Fresno Hmong Language School Spring 2019 Group Picture.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services

**Wednesdays at 1:00 & 7:00 pm
December 6th, 13th & 20th**

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



ADVENT 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 Advent Services
December 6th, 13th & 20th



New Year's Eve Service

Worship and Communion
Sunday, December 31, 2023
7:00 pm

[illegible]

CONGRATULATIONS
&
BLESSINGS
to *Ingrid Grabish*
Confirmed November 19, 2023

Pictured with Pastor Watt, and with Pastor Watt and her family below.



"Bake and Make"

Annette Dixon taught everyone how to "bake" a delicious Spinach Strudel, and "make" a Christmas pillowcase!





While the strudel was baking, pillowcases were made to be sent to our military service members as part of their Christmas care packages. A very fun, and productive, afternoon of fellowship! Thank you Annette!



Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



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



Well preschool in November was a different one! Unfortunately I was only there for two days in November. I was very thankful for Isabella stepping up and heading the class for me while I was gone. I also had many parent volunteers and the Board of Education helping out! I think the change was a bit hard for some of the students and definitely a struggle for me to be away for so long. God provided and got us through!

We are practicing songs to sing for a Christmas program! I am hopeful with lots of practice we can have our program on Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 pm! We will tell the Christmas story of Jesus' birth and sing songs to celebrate His birth! We will also have our Christmas cookie and movie day with a special holiday lunch! I look forward to being back at preschool in time to sing these fun Christmas songs with the preschoolers!

May you all have a warm holiday season and enjoy time with family and friends! Jesus is the reason for the season!

Love & Blessings,

Heidi

Wish List

Wish List for the 2023-2024 Preschool Year

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• clear storage bins - 6 qt. (8) 16 qt. (12)• storage bins 18 gallon - any color (6)• play toaster• play cell phones• play cash register• Do-A-Dot Art Sponge Applicators (2 boxes) | Gift Cards <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dollar Tree• Hobby Lobby• Michael's |
|--|---|

Thank you from the Kuljis Family

WOW! How do I find the words or express our appreciation for our amazing Redeemer church family! Louie and I were blessed with Jaxon 16 years ago and God has given us strength we never knew we had. Through all of the ups and downs, health issues, physical challenges, financial challenges and mental challenges, there has always been a constant and that is our family, including our church family. This past month has been very challenging and not what we were anticipating but I had trust in God's plan for Jaxon. His recovery is going take lots of therapy and time to get him back to our strong Jaxon! There are many new tools and equipment that will be needed for Jaxon's therapy and recovery and your gracious giving hearts are appreciated beyond words. We cannot tell you how much your prayers, love for us, and giving hearts mean to us! We thank you so much and are wishing you lots of love and many blessings this holiday season!

With love and thankful hearts,

Love,

Louie, Heidi, Jaxon, Reece & Hunter





November 14, 2023

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council Briefs

Pastor Rex Watt opened with prayer.

Devotional by Pastor Rex Watt from Thessalonians 1:5.

October council meeting minutes reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Council approved the treasurers report for October 2023. Council also approved the 2024 church budget that the budget committee passed earlier this month. The 2024 budget will be presented to the congregation at a voters meeting on December 10th. A discussion was held regarding the endowment fund and possible diversification due to a continued downward trend in the fund's market performance. Council decided to put this discussion on hold until next month.

The bathroom remodel is underway and council approved that the bathroom remodel manager report monthly to the property chairmen on the progress of the project. The purpose of this is to reduce scope creep and be good stewards of the project funds

Pastor's Report: October was relatively routine with the addition of a memorial service, 2 confirmations, and welcoming 6 new members. Advent midweek services will be held at 1pm and 7pm on December 6th, 13th, and 20th. Soup supper will be held these same evenings at 6pm.

Elder's Report: Two new youth acolytes have been trained and are serving the church, Alton and Matilda. Ian McLeod is training and supervising their progress.

Christmas Eve morning will be a normal Sunday morning service including communion. The Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be at 7:00pm consisting of carols and readings but not include communion. No service for Monday, Christmas Day. New Year's Eve service which falls on a Sunday will be a normal church service including communion.

Elders have approved for Pastor Wildermuth to continue preaching once a month at Redeemer. Pastor Watt and Pastor Wildermuth will create an appropriate schedule for him. Budgetarily, this service work has already been accounted for.

Property Report: A thermostat for one of the children's rooms was replaced. We are purchasing a Blink video doorbell unit to improve the safety security of the front door area. Church staff will have the ability see who is requesting entry before coming out to the front door. The children's septic tank was repaired underbudget by Baker Septic.

Education Report: Sunday School Christmas Program is progressing and will be performed during the Christmas Eve church service. Preschool assistants have been leading the preschool as the head teacher is on leave of absence to attend to her son's recovery from surgery. Sunday school will be starting the children's edition of Luther's Small Catechism in January. The Board of Ed. Will meet in January to discuss the possibility of VBS in the summer of 2024.

Evangelism Report: Focus on the Family magazines came in for October and soon will arrive for November. This information is distributed in church mailboxes and by postal mail.

Unfinished Business: Nothing to Report.

New Business: Nothing to Report

Pastor Closed in prayer at 8:15pm

Thank you to all who participated in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child!



We appreciate you!

Thank you for making it possible for more children around the world to hear about God's Greatest Gift, Jesus Christ. We value your prayers as shoebox gifts go to over 100 countries. Trained volunteers share the Gospel and hand out the shoebox gifts at outreach events. Praise the Lord that 209 million boys and girls have heard God's Word through Operation Christmas Child and that 50 million children have been disciplined through programs such as The Greatest Journey. We give the Lord all the glory!

May God bless you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely of Franklin Graham.

Franklin Graham | President, Samaritan's Purse



"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ACTS 1:8, ESV

08-07-582



Lutheran's For Life Quote: December 24

“This time of the year always fills us with cheer | But the reason we celebrate is not always clear | The cookies, the lights, the presents, the tree | The carols, the decorations, the family parties | But all of the delight and all of the fun | Does not mean a thing if we don't know God's Son | The tiny baby that was born to die | Can sometimes cause us to stop and ask why | Do we really deserve the sacrifice He made? | Are we worth the offering and the price that was paid? | In His eyes, we are, because He made us His own | And on the cross, the ultimate love was shown | So take joy in the season and spread His true love | But always remember the gift from above!”

Jerrod Nelson – 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.