



July 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

August Newsletter deadline is
Friday, July 21, 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Pastor's Pen
- Stewardship
- July Birthdays
- Bulletin Board Announcements
- Poem
- "Redeemer Ravings"
- RLWML
- Board of Education Update
- Preschool Wishlist



From the Pastor's Pen



Happy Fourth of July! On this day we celebrate the ratification of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress, which declared the 13 Colonies to be free and independent states. It is considered to be the birthday of the U.S.A. And like all birthdays, it is celebrated with fun activities, such as: fireworks, parades, barbecues, family gatherings, and other celebrative events. Fundamental to Fourth of July celebrations is the idea of freedom. As Americans, we value freedom! And I hope we never devalue that fundamental idea.

Yet, as Americans, we as a nation, have not always lived up to that concept as well as we might have liked. As I write this, we just passed Juneteenth, the celebration of the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Argue what you will about that chapter of American history, one that included a Civil War over the issue, but one still needs to figure out how that squared with, *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

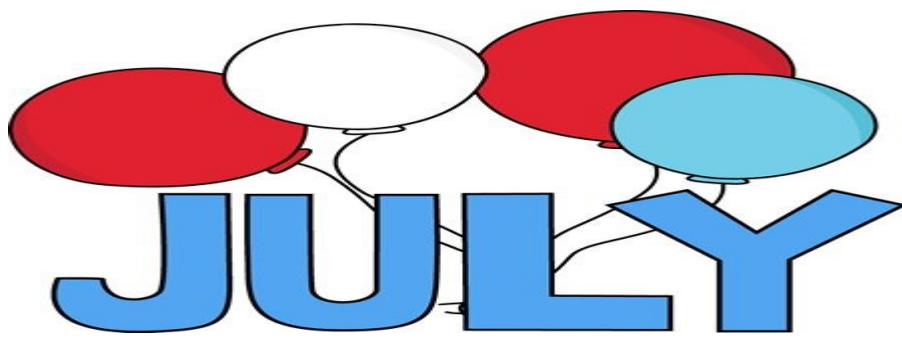
I hope as American citizens we will look at our glass from the "half-full" perspective and not on the "half-empty". I hope that we *all* can emphasize the good and great qualities of our past and not focus only on the ugly baggage. One cannot deny that checkered past, but let us not live in that checkered past. That is "half-empty" glass living.

That's not how we as Christians live. At least it shouldn't be. We shouldn't be living our lives focused on our checkered past. God has forgiven that past in the waters of our Baptism. We have been made new creatures by our new birthday (2 Cor 5:17). We have been emancipated from a slavery far worse than any worldly political/social entity could ever impose upon us: slavery to sin. This doesn't mean that we ignore, or try to deny that checkered past... but it does mean that we don't live in it. For we have been born anew *"to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"* (1 Pet 1:3). That living hope has given us perfect freedom in Christ. Freedom to praise him, love him, and trust him in all things. Freedom to love others over ourselves. Freedom to focus on the rights, and more importantly, the needs of our neighbors.

As you celebrate our nation's birthday, let us never forget what it cost to have that freedom. Also let us never forget what it cost God to give us the ultimate freedom. Jesus has set you free. Live in that freedom.

Pastor Rex E. Watt





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						01
02 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	03	04 Happy 4th of July! Office closed	05 Bulletin Deadline 6:30-8:00 pm Adult Instruction Class	06	07 2-4pm: Chime Choir Practice	08
09 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	10 6:30 pm: Council	11 6:30 pm: Elders	12 Bulletin Deadline 6:30-8:00 pm Adult Instruction Class	13	14 2-4pm: Chime Choir Practice	15
16 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Confirmation Sunday	17	18	19 Bulletin Deadline 6:30-8:00 pm Adult Instruction Class	20 Evangelism Meeting 1:30 & 7 pm	21 Saltshaker Deadline RLWML Meeting: 11:30-1:00 pm 2-4pm: Chime Choir Practice	22
23 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	24	25	26 Bulletin Deadline Saltshaker Deadline 6:30-8:00 pm Adult Instruction Class	27	28 2-4pm: Chime Choir Practice	29
30 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion 5th Sunday Potluck	31					



Elder Care List

A - Hal: Doug Bender
 Hal - Mc: Rod Hanson (Head Elder)
 Mo - Z: Colin Grabish



July Birthdays

07/02 Brian Cobb
 07/05 Linda Montgomery
 07/08 Dale Kloes
 07/08 Tonya Lysne
 07/15 John Flarry
 07/19 Sharon Schell
 07/19 Susanne Martinsen
 07/21 Glen Kortlever
 07/21 Colin Grabish
 07/24 Peggy Hind
 07/27 Carol Kloes
 07/28 Wendy McLeod

August Birthdays

08/02 Helen Granger
 08/06 Larry Schell
 08/09 Shelby Hogle
 08/11 Joseph Stephens
 08/13 Dale Harshman
 08/17 Marianne Giusti
 08/20 Richard Hallmark
 08/22 Hunter Kuljis
 08/23 Cheryl Kortlever
 08/25 Cindy McKay
 08/26 Jan Willand
 08/29 George Leonard



July Anniversaries

07/04 George & Ann Leonard
 07/04 Dennis & Sue Urbanec
 07/10 Louis & Heidi Kuljis
 07/10 Spiro & Gail Pappacostas
 07/25 Joe & Jamie Dupuis
 07/27 Carl & Mary Ann Olsen

*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!**

Fellowship Host/Hostess Volunteer Schedule

July 02 - Colin & Ingrid Grabish
 July 09 - Sandy Stamps & Dee Watt
 July 16 - LWML
 July 23 - Marianne Giusti & Tami Marcos
 July 30 - 5th Sunday Potluck

ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – JULY

Altar Care

Carl & Mary Ann Olsen

Worship Volunteer Schedule

	Elder/Assistant	Usher	Lay Reader	Soundboard	Counters
July 02	Rod Hanson	Anthony McLeod	Pastor Watt	Kari Marttila	Cheryl/Ron
July 09	Rod Hanson	Bill Baeder	Ross Abbe	Anthony McLeod	Anthony/Bill
July 16	Rod Hanson	Rowan Hogle	Lynnata Marttila	Colin Grabish	Corinne/Spiro
July 23	Rod Hanson	Ian McLeod	Carol Kloes	Kari Marttila	Barb/Ron
July 30	Rod Hanson	Connor Dupuis	Joe Dupuis	Anthony McLeod	Anthony/Bill

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.

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY MEETS AT 9:00 am: “Liturgy: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow”

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS: Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm

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.kfu.org

Radio: 550AM KARI 11:30 am

RLWML: The next scheduled meeting will be Friday, July 21st, at 11:30am.

EVANGELISM MEETING: The next scheduled Evangelism Meetings will be Thursday, July 20th, at 1:30 & 7pm.

LCMS GIVING OPPORTUNITY: The **2023 LCMS National Offering** will support the translation and production of meaningful Lutheran resources in languages other than English. If you would like to contribute, cash and checks (made payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church) will be accepted through July 16th. Please mark your offering for “LCMS National Offering”. Offerings will be delivered to the LCMS Synod Convention, July 29-August 03, by our delegates.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: On Sunday, **July 16th**. Our confirmands are Adalyn Noste, Matilda Kimes and Jaxon & Reece Kuljis.



Congratulations

Colin & Ingrid

married June 16, 2023

Blessings to you as you start your
life as husband and wife!

Pictured with Pastor Watt



Go ... Sell All You Have?

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, every-thing we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to oth-ers in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our du-ties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other mem-bers of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to sup-port and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and so-ciety are more im-mediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immedi-ate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemploy-ment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of for-giveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it,

just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – July 2023**

Baptism

Aurora Astrid Blackstock



**Congratulations Aurora on the joyous and
blessed event of your baptism!**

June 11, 2023

Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



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



Wish List

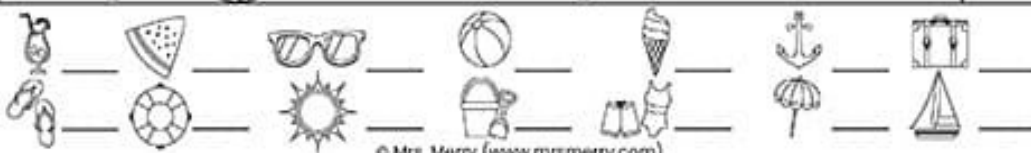
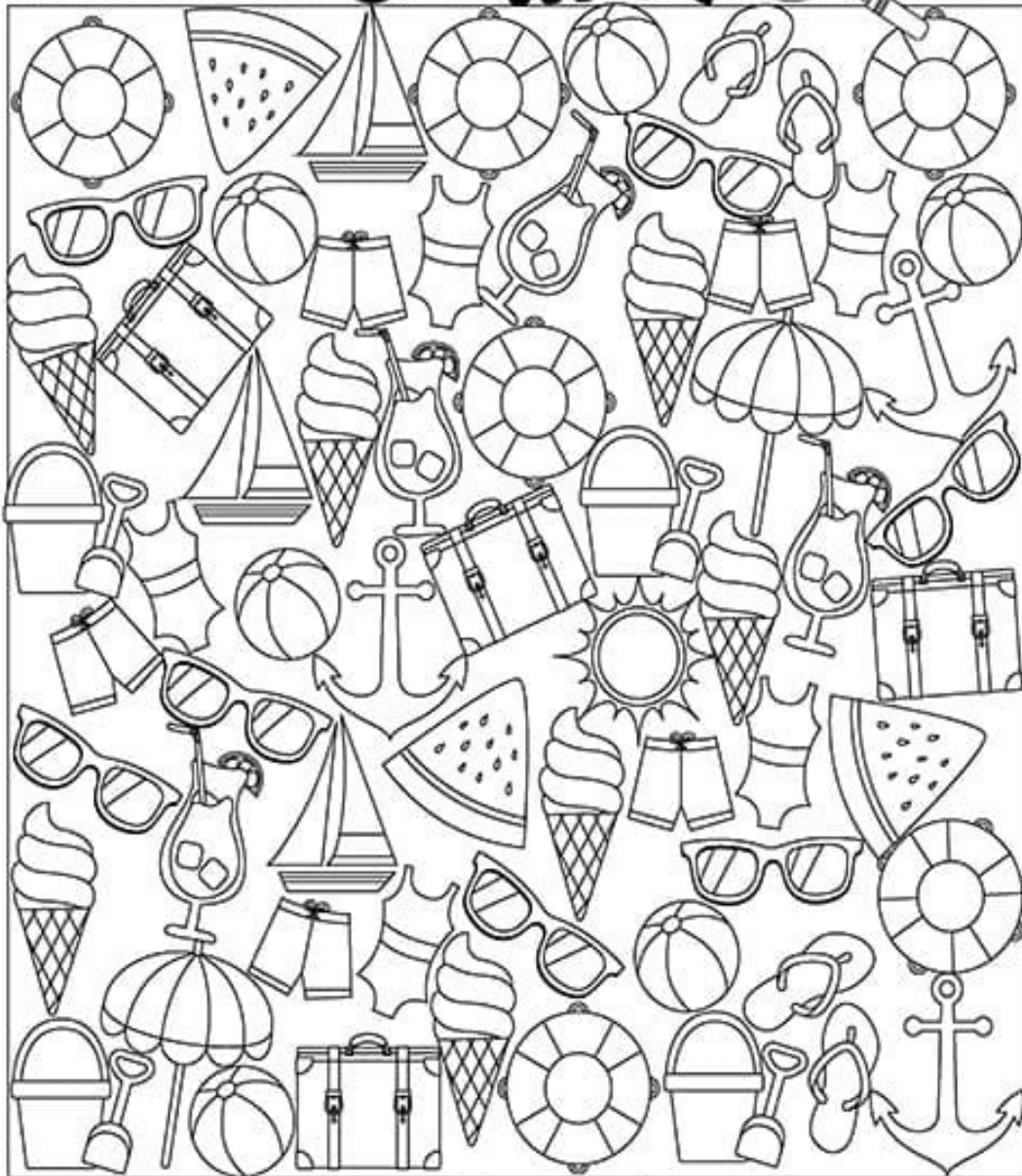
Wish List for the 2023-2024 Preschool Year

- Crayola crayons - 24 count (40 boxes)
 - Crayola markers - 10 count (20 boxes)
 - clear storage bins - 6 qt. (8) 16 qt. (12)
 - storage bins 18 gallon - any color (6)
 - play toaster
 - play cell phones
 - play cash register
 - Ziploc bags (snack size)
- Gift Cards**
- Dollar Tree
 - Hobby Lobby
 - Michael's





I SPY SUMMER



© Mrs. Merry (www.mrsmerry.com)





Redeemer Lutheran Church
Council Briefs June 13, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Pastor opened in prayer.

Pastor presented a devotional from Exodus 3 verses 9 and 10.

May council meeting minutes were amended for corrections and approved.

Treasurer's Report: The church year to date shows a deficit of -\$11,849.26. The deficit is a decrease in Tithes and offerings. Council voted to cancel QuickBooks payroll and hire the services of PAYCHEX for the monthly payroll. The cost will be \$281.08 over the cost of QuickBooks. PAYCHEX will also be doing all of the IRS documents in addition to payroll.

Pastor's Report: Pastor taught 4 Sunday morning Adult Bible classes and 2 confirmation classes (1 was cancelled due to Mother's Day, and one other due to absences). Pastor had one hospital call, 1 shut in, 3 phone consultations and 3 pre-marriage counseling sessions. SMP training has started with the last course in the program. Adult information classes on June 7, 14 and 21, and leave for St. Louis June 22nd, back on June 30th. Attended Pastor's conference May 1-3, Church was open for National Day of Prayer and was appreciated by those that came. Planning once a month meeting with young adults. Pastor Wildermuth will cover June 25th, and July 2nd

Elder's Report: Rod reported: One church member is willing to serve on the Elder board if needed, two other members have not been contracted yet to serve but are on the list of eligible members. Heidi Kuljis has accepted the stewardship nomination as was appointed. The next Elder meeting will be July 10, due to the 4th of July holiday.

Property Report: The exterior door lights have been changed out, and the photocell entrance lights are updated.

Education Report: There were only a couple of folks to volunteer for VBS, to do a July VBS is past the deadline now, and perhaps next year only do a one day VBS.

Evangelism report: There are now 10 subscriptions for "Focus on the Family" and those will be passed out to the young families.

Unfinished Business: Mount Baker Lawn care service was at the church trimming trees. Mount Baker is still doing a month to month basis. The lawn bill might be higher this month due to this.

New Business: There was discussion regarding the church is currently working with a 43 year old constitution and bylaws, and would be wise for the council to review and update where needed. The possibility of a council leadership retreat was briefly discussed to strengthen and inspire council members.

Pastor closed in prayer at 7:50 p.m.



REDEEMER RAVINGS!

Redeemer Ravings! continues to highlight various people and groups faithfully serving our Lord at Redeemer as a way for us to continue to learn more about each other! This month, we are 'raving" about our Counters at Redeemer! Tune in next month for our exciting new **Redeemer Ravings!**

Meet the Redeemer counters!!



The Counters meet on Sundays after church and count the donations that have come into the church over the previous week and on Sunday. Once they count the donations, they complete a report showing which donations are general donations and which are earmarked for specific use. They work in teams of two unrelated people so that they can each count and verify the donations. We are thankful to our Counters and are blessed they manage this process with such integrity.

In the group picture above, in the front row from left to right, are Spiro Pappacostas and Cheryl Kortlever. In the second row, from left to right, are Barbara Abbe, Bill Baeder, and Anthony McLeod. Corrine Thorsen is in the second picture and Ron Willand is in the third picture. We asked each of the Counters to provide a couple of fun facts about themselves to share with our Redeemer family.

Spiro enjoys boating in the San Juan Islands and Gulf Islands. He was born in Salt Lake, lived in Atlanta for 30 years and then moved to Blaine 13 years ago. Spiro also enjoys traveling to Canada!

Cheryl was born on a farm in Kansas! She is retired now and enjoys having the time to spend gardening, sewing, knitting, baking, and cooking.

Barb was born and raised in Seattle. Her Great Great Grandfather was a Duke of the Waldeck estate in Germany. The castle has now been turned into a museum and hotel. Barb is described by many as a "workaholic!"

Bill is a dedicated Nebraska Cornhusker's fan and even though they live here now, Bill and Janet attend several Cornhusker games each year! Bill has enjoyed hunting and fishing since he was young. Go Big Red!!

Anthony loves to spend time with his family and really enjoys gardening!

Corrine was confirmed by Pastor Fisher. She is Annie's mom and is really looking forward to attending Annie's graduation in July!

Ron restored a 1929 Ford Model A and enters it in car shows! He is also a member of the Street Deacons Car Club!

We thank each of our Counters for their servant hearts and for blessing Redeemer with their diligent efforts. If you would like to learn more about the Counters, please contact Pastor Watt.

Board of Education Update

The Board of Education has decided to not present a VBS program this summer but will be working towards a one day program for next summer. We hope to provide an all day or longer hour program for the children in our community concluding with a light dinner with parents and family present. We will keep you posted as we work on this idea.

Preschool has a total of 19 children registered for the 2023/24 school year and they hope to have the playground completed before school starts in the fall.

The Sunday school lessons have been planned for the first half of the year - through Christmas and we are working on the second half. Pastor Watt suggested sharing the Small Catechism with the students so we will be using the Illustrated version of "My First Catechism". We plan on having the lessons organized before September.

One of the suggestions for Sunday school was to hold children's class during the Adult Class on Sunday mornings. This would be wonderful but it would depend on parents being committed to bringing their children to class. We would love to have an old fashion Sunday school opening and could provide classes for different age groups if we had enough teachers/volunteers.

If you are interested in helping with this important education program as a Sunday school teacher or classroom assistant, please contact Marsha or Cindy. We will provide all materials needed: lessons, books and craft items but need to have a list of teachers before we can move forward with Sunday school classes.



Children's Books

LWML members are donating books for ages 3-6 to Redeemer Pre-School. The books for this age have been used for years and are in great need of being replaced. This donation fulfills one of our LWML objectives – To assist RLC in its ministry to build the kingdom of God.

We are still collecting your coins (Mites) for monetary support of the 21-23 approved grant requests. The July Biennial LWML Convention, 2023, will approve and announce grant proposals for 2024-2026. This great Missouri Synod missions work is ongoing. LWML asks that you continue to donate to support grant projects. You may find new mite boxes as well as the larger donation box on the table beneath the LWML bulletin board in the Fellowship room.

George Washington's Prayer for the United States

Almighty God: We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government, and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow-citizens of the United States at large.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation.

Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Matthew 7:7

Submitted
by 

Marianne Giusti



Lutheran's For Life Quote: July 16

"Waiting is difficult; in Christ, we have the now and not yet. But as we learn and relearn to wait on Him, we find joy in His good work and patient craftsmanship in our lives. Though under construction, God works through us to bless the world. May you find great joy in fruit-bearing as you faithfully wait on HIM."

Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – 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.