



April 2023

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

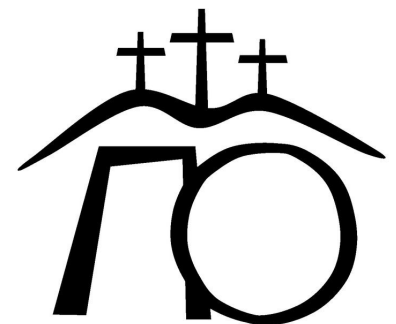
9:00 AM: Adult Bible Study

10:30 AM: Worship Service

May Newsletter deadline is
Friday, April 21, 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Pastor's Pen
- Stewardship
- April Birthdays
- Bulletin Board Announcements
- Altar Flower sign-up
- Poem
- Preschool News
- Holy Week Worship Schedule
- "Redeemer Ravings"



From the Pastor's Pen



It's Easter. For the Church, this is "our Day!" It's the day we celebrate the greatest of all events in history, even if history tries to ignore it. I get a kick out of explaining to the Confirmands the difference between B.C./A.D. and B.C.E./C.E. They are too young to remember when we all used B.C. and A.D. when talking about events before Christ, and after his death. The secular world, wanting to limit any reference to Christ, has changed those nomenclatures to B.C.E. (before common era) and C.E. (common era, ie. the time we currently live in). But I ask them, what is the basis for the division between B.C.E. and C.E.? It's the same as the basis for the division between B.C. and A.D.! Seems like you just can't get away from Christ.

Easter is reason to celebrate! Why? Because Easter is the celebration of Jesus' victory over death and the grave. Jesus said, "*Because I live, you also will live* (Jn 14:19). This is certainly reason enough to celebrate. It proves that Jesus has power over even death.

And, what's more, he promises that he has power over your death. I know...thinking about our death at Eastertime is a bit odd. Who likes to think about death? Still, we all are facing that reality sooner or later. If my 31 years in funeral service taught me anything, it is that sooner or later, our lives will end.

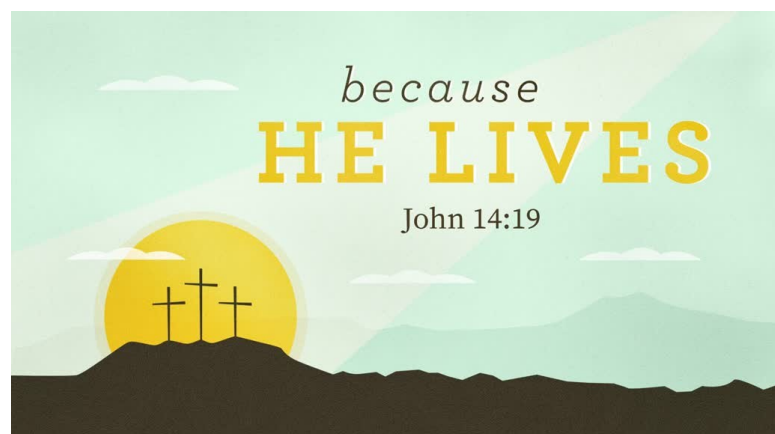
Then what? Many people have had many ideas about what happens after we die. But there is only one person who can tell us with certainty what will happen, because he's already been there and done that. Jesus experience death...and came back to life! Now listen again to what he promises his followers, "*Because I live, you also will live.*"

Could there be any better news? Could there be anything better to celebrate? Because of Jesus you do not need to be afraid of death. He's been there and done that for you so that when you do take your final breath in this vale of tears, you will rest in his arms. And one day, your body will come back to life, and you will never die again.

Isn't that worth celebrating?

See you in church,

Pastor Rex E. Watt





| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | | | 01 Indoor Spring Cleaning 10am-1pm |
| 02 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion/ Sunday School Palm Sunday | 03 PS Spring Break | 04 | 05 Bulletin Deadline | 06 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion | 07 1-3pm: Chime Choir Practice 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship | 08 |
| 09 9:00 am: Easter Potluck Breakfast 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Easter Sunday | 10 6:30 pm: Elders | 11 6:30 pm: Council | 12 Bulletin Deadline PS Chapel 6:00 pm Bible Study | 13 PS Chapel | 14 1-3pm: Chime Choir Practice | 15 |
| 16 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion/ Sunday School | 17 | 18 | 19 Bulletin Deadline PS Chapel 6:00 pm Bible Study | 20 PS Chapel Evangelism Meeting 1:30 & 7 pm | 21 Saltshaker Deadline RLWML Meeting: 11:30-1:00 pm 1-3pm: Chime Chime Practice | 22 |
| 23 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion/ Sunday School | 24 | 25 | 26 Bulletin Deadline PS Chapel 6:00 pm Bible Study | 27 PS Chapel | 28 1-3pm: Chime Choir Practice | 29 |
| 30 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion/ Sunday School | | | | | | |



April Birthdays

04/06 Jake Potvin
 04/07 NaDean Hanson
 04/08 Lisa Montgomery
 04/12 Dylan Watt
 04/12 Reece Kuljis
 04/12 Deanna Watt
 04/16 Patrick Heaviside
 04/21 Kelsey Heaviside
 04/23 Lynnea Flarry

May Birthdays

05/02 Gail Pappacostas
 05/04 Sherrie Hind
 05/04 Landon VanBerkum
 05/09 Ian McLeod
 05/16 Molly Marttila
 05/24 Jeanette Stroming
 05/25 Ronald Willand
 05/25 Jamie Dupuis
 05/31 Sandra Stamps



Elder Care List

A - Ga: (vacant)
 Gi - Hog: (vacant)
 Hov - Ma: Rod Hanson (Head Elder)
 Mc - Sch: Colin Grabish
 Sm - Z: Patrick O'Connor



April Anniversaries

04/13 Richard & Pamela Hallmark

*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

Apr. 02 - David & Sandy Stamps & Dee Watt
 Apr. 09 - Easter Breakfast Potluck at 9am
 Apr. 16 - Marsha Edin & Janet Baeder
 Apr. 23 - Joy Anderson & Heidi Kuljis
 Apr. 30 - 5th Sunday Potluck

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.

ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – APRIL

Altar Care

Lynnata Marttila

Worship Volunteer Schedule

| | Elder/Assistant | Usher | Lay Reader | Soundboard | Counters |
|---------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Apr. 02 | Rod Hanson | David Stamps | Pastor Watt | Colin Grabish | Anthony/Bill |
| Apr. 09 | Rod Hanson | Anthony McLeod | Corinne Thorsen | Kari Marttila | Cheryl/Ron |
| Apr. 16 | Rod Hanson | Rowan Hogle | Ross Abbe | Anthony McLeod | Corinne/Spiro |
| Apr. 23 | Rod Hanson | Bill Baeder | Carol Kloes | Colin Grabish | Anthony/Bill |
| Apr. 30 | Rod Hanson | Ian McLeod | Lynnata Marttila | Kari Marttila | Cheryl/Ron |

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: "Exploring God's Word—The New Testament"

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT BIBLE STUDY AT 6:00 PM: led by Colin Grabish.

To allow for mid-week lent services, this bible study will be taking a break starting on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. It will resume following Easter on Wednesday, April 12th.

2023 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 at 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

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

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

"Grab & Go" **HOT CROSS BUNS**

Good Friday, April 7th
Following Good Friday Worship



REDEEMER'S EASTER BREAKFAST
EASTER SUNDAY
April 9th 9:00-10:00 AM



Ham will be provided. A sign-up for other breakfast items is available in the fellowship area. Family, friends and neighbors are welcome to join us for this special time of fellowship prior to our Easter Sunday Service at 10:30 am. Please contact Heidi Kuljis if you have any questions. **HE IS RISEN!!!!!!**



I reported in last month's newsletter that the LWML national goals to fund all grants were met, with either total funding for some grants or more than 50% of a number of grant requests funded. Now I am bringing you up to date on our WA-Alaska Region grant requests of \$75,000. Our district has collected \$14,000. So we are behind. We can fix that! There are new mite boxes available to you on the table beneath the LWML bulletin board in the area by the dining tables. Also, if you wish to donate bills, the larger collection box on the table will accommodate those along with coins.

We heard a brief mission report on an international grant request. The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk and Parish of St. Andrew are fully operating. Education and training continue to further establish connections in this region. The seminary has a first-class faculty and as a confessional Lutheran seminary, standards are high. Some faculty members have received their theological education in part at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. Each year seminary professors host seminars for adults throughout Russia and neighboring countries like Ukraine. Our mites support a mighty need and purpose in a war-torn region where knowledge of Jesus Christ and Scripture's message of truth and hope are being declared.

Next LWML meeting will be April 21.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The LWML will hold its 40th Biennial LWML Convention on June 22-25, 2023 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We have a young woman, Erin Black, who is active in our Redeemer congregation in attendance and as a choir member. Erin has also been very active for several years in the Lutheran Women Missionary League. She attended the Biennial Convention in Lexington, KY in 2021. She also attended our District Convention in Wenatchee, as well as our zone meetings. She served as the District convention committee chair for Young Women.

Alaska-WA District president, Carolyn Holbrook shared that Erin has served her two-year responsibilities and presented an excellent program to the whole audience at the District Convention in Wenatchee last summer. Carolyn states, "I would love to see Erin continue to develop relationships with the young women in our District."

Erin has expressed interest in attending the Convention where she looks forward to nurturing young women to be involved in LWML at their local level.

As a young working woman, Erin will need monetary support. At our last LWML meeting, we unanimously approved to support Erin as we look to her continued interest and involvement in LWML. We will have a silent auction for two quilts and a bake sale. Erin will speak to the congregation on April 23.

We will keep you aware of dates for these events in the church bulletin and announcements. Thank you for your support!

LWML Vice President, Gail Pappacostas



Erin Black and Gail Pappacostas, LWML members, are holding a beautifully crafted quilt by Annette Dixon with a NW wilderness design. This quilt and one other will go to the highest Silent Auction bidders in May. (See LWML news article in this Salt Shaker edition).



This quilt also to be auctioned was made by Redeemer Lutheran Quilter's Group.



Redeemer Chime Choir



A wonderful new addition to our Sunday worship.



Thank you to Rod, Wendy, Mathilda, Jon, Cristi, Janet, Annette, Tonya, Julie and NaDean for blessing us with beautiful worship music!



Lenten Soup Suppers



A great time of fellowship at Redeemer during the season of Lent.

Also an opportunity to enjoy the blessing of our beautiful new kitchen!



Thank you to all the talented cooks that provided delicious meals!



Redeemer Lutheran Church Council Briefs
March 14, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Pastor opened in prayer.

Pastor presented a devotional from John 4 verses 6 and 7.

January Council Minutes were reviewed and accepted. (February meeting cancelled due to illnesses.)

Treasurer's Report: The January and February treasurer's reports were reviewed and accepted. The council discussed the complexity of our church's accounting system and approved a simplification process that will be less time consuming to manage. Council also discussed and approved for Carl to participate in a QuickBooks training to learn how to build reports and modify existing reports more in line with our church's needs.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation classes continue. Pastoral care included one family, 2 phone counseling sessions, one office counseling session and one private confession/absolution meeting. He started class #15 out of 16 for SMP training. The average attendance in January was 60 and February 53. Lenten services are going well.

Elder's Report: Nominations for council positions are coming up to vote on in May voters meeting. There will be one usher instead of two for Sunday service. The Elders will be doing an omelet bar for Mother's Day.

Stewardship Report: An Easter breakfast board will be up by this Sunday. Folks have been asking for more fellowship activities perhaps once a month like crafting, cooking, movies, games, cleaning and tidying up areas in the church.

Property Report: The current lawn service has increased their service by about \$250 a month. The option of buying a zero turn lawnmower and have congregants mow is being considered. Three other contractors are also being contacted for bids.

Education Report: Carol reported Sunday school is going well. There was discussion regarding announcing when it is time for the children to head out to Sunday school. It is in the bulletin and on the overhead, on the next Sunday the reader will make an announcement before the readings begin. Council decided to have the reader for Sunday service "excuse" the children from the sanctuary to let them know

Evangelism report: Ross discussed publications regarding political issues affecting religious freedom and negatively affecting the unity of our country. These topics are important for evangelists to know so they can have a knowledgeable interaction with anyone they encounter. Evangelism meetings are Thursdays 1:30 and 7:00.

Unfinished Business: Council approved continuing with Creed Technologies for another annual contract for church computer security. Council approved bringing a revised church vision statement to voters meeting for discussion and a vote.

New Business: Council discussed and decided to decline applying for ERC Tax Credit for employee retention as our church was not negatively affected financially by the pandemic.

Pastor closed in prayer



REDEEMER RAVINGS!



Welcome to a new addition to the Saltshaker, Redeemer Ravings! The dictionary defines “Raving” as “writing with extreme enthusiasm and admiration.” The purpose of our new Redeemer Ravings! section of the Saltshaker is to highlight various people and groups faithfully serving our Lord at Redeemer. Each month, we will highlight a different group and include their picture as a way to learn more about each other! This month, we are “raving” about our Ushers at Redeemer! Tune in next month for our exciting new Redeemer Ravings!



Redeemer is blessed with six Ushers! Starting with the front row from left to right in the picture above, they are: Ian McLeod, David Stamps, Anthony McLeod, and Bill Baeder. In the second row, left to right, are Conner Dupuis and Rowan Hogle. We asked each of them to provide a couple of fun facts about themselves to share with our Redeemer family.

Ian McLeod is a Welder and Safety Coordinator with Marcon Metal Fabricators. His favorite things to do on time off are video editing and playing Dungeons and Dragons!

David Stamps is retired from a 40 year career in journalism. He is a Vietnam combat Veteran and we thank him for his service!

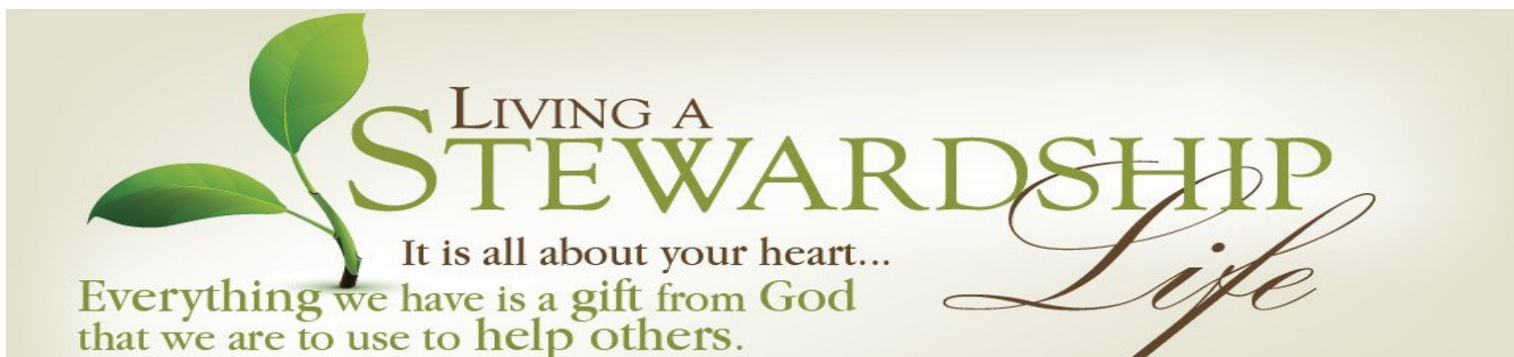
Anthony McLeod works at the Sinclair Oil Refinery in Anacortes as an Instrumentation and Controls Tech. He enjoys gardening and spending his free time with his wife, Wendy, and their sons.

Bill Baeder is retired from the U.S. Army Reserves and he enjoys hunting. We thank you, Bill, for your service!

Connor Dupuis will soon begin working in the electrical field as an “inside wireman.” During his free time, Connor enjoys spending time with friends. He also finds great peace in time spent alone or with a cat and a book!

Rowan Hogle is an HVAC installer for LSM and is passionate about edible native plants!

We thank each of our Ushers for their servant hearts and faithful service to the Lord each Sunday at Redeemer. They will rotate as Ushers each week so there will be plenty of opportunities to meet and greet them! Stop and say Hi!



A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won’t be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one’s income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of for-

givenness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do bet-ter, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disap-point.

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



Palm Sunday

Worship & Communion
Sunday, April 2, 10:30 am

Good Friday

Worship
Friday, April 7, 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday

Worship & Communion
Thursday, April 6, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday

Worship & Communion
Sunday, April 9, 10:30 am

Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



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



Spring greetings from the preschool! We get to start our April with Spring break! We finished up March with the story of Easter and Jesus dying on the cross to save us from our sins. I love teaching these children the Easter story and sharing the true reason we get to celebrate the Easter holiday! They always start by saying “candy”, “Easter bunny”, “egg hunt” for reasons we celebrate Easter but by the resurrection story they know Jesus died on the cross for our sins! There was a great turn out for our donuts and a devotion with Dads! We had a fishing theme going this year and our devotion was on John 21:6, I’m Going Fishing, from the Portals of Prayer.

We had a lot of fun on our field trip to the Northwest Road fire station. The children love getting to climb in the fire truck and learn about all the things firefighters do and use! We will be finishing up our weekly alphabet letters in the next couple of weeks and then on to review time! We also get to do more fun crafts, a nature walk, planting seeds and visit the recycling center! All the fun things of Spring!

I am very hopeful our new playset will be installed this month! The children and I were so excited when it was delivered in November! Due to the weather we have had this year and other obstacles it’s been delayed. I’m really hoping the kids will be able to use it before our year is over! It will be so nice to have a brand new playset, what a blessing!

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in my shall never die.” John 11:25-26

Easter Love and Blessings,
Heidi

“Alleluia, He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!”



There are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

~1 Corinthians 12:6

I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.

~Isaiah 45:7

“All is of God that is, and is to be;’
And God is good.” Let this suffice us still,
Resting in childlike trust upon His will,
Who moves to His great ends, unthwarted by the ill.

J.G. Whittier



This, then, is of faith, that everything, the very least, or what seems to us great, every change of the seasons, everything which touches us in mind, body, or estate, whether brought about through this outward senseless nature, or by the will of man, good or bad, is overruled to each of us by the all-holy and all-loving will of God. Whatever befalls us, however it befalls us, we must receive as the will of God. If it befalls us through man's negligence, or ill-will, or anger, still it is, in every least circumstance, to *us* the will of God. For if the last thing could happen to us without God's permission, it would be something out of God's control. God's providence or His love would not be what they are. Almighty God Himself would not be the same God; not the God whom we believe, adore, and love.

E.B. Pusey

From Daily Strength for Daily Needs by Mary W. Tileston, 1905

Submitted
by



Marianne Giusti





Lutheran's For Life Quote: April 09

“Our true identity turns us back toward our Creator, the one who not only made us but also defines us in His Word. So, permit me to remind you of that truth once more: You are a created child of God. You are handmade by Him, loved by Him, redeemed by Him, and sustained by Him. The gifts you possess are gifts He’s given you; all that is good comes from Him. Your identity and your value are, always were, and always will be, found in 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.