



January 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

February Newsletter deadline is
Wednesday, January 19, 2022

IN THIS ISSUE:

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- Stewardship
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HAPPY NEW YEAR

2022

From the Vicar's Pen



It was nearly two years ago I wrote my first message to you in this part of the newsletter called (at that time) "Pastor's Pen." Over the course of my acceptance into the Specific Ministry Pastor program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and upon becoming officially a Vicar, we changed the name to "Vicar's Pen." It has been under that moniker that I have communicated to you some thoughts (some more cogent than others!) rolling around in my head. Lord willing, this will be the final "Vicar's Pen" that I will be writing, and beginning next month, it will return to "Pastor's Pen." It has been quite the journey so far, and it's not over. As I mentioned two years ago that I needed your help in becoming a pastor; I still do!

Two years ago, I wrote to you that "the parish makes the pastor." While the Seminary can provide the potential pastor with knowledge and tools, it is you, God's people in this place, who while at work in the trenches of daily Christian living, He uses to form me into a pastor. It is here, at Redeemer, where the rubber hits the road. And although the title will change on January 23rd, the work remains the same. I still need you, and you... well... you will be stuck with me! As God has been gracious to all of us these past two years, I trust He will continue to be gracious to us all in the years ahead.

I wrote two years ago that my heart's desire and prayer was to learn how, by God's grace, to become a faithful pastor to this congregation. Now that it is coming to fruition (officially becoming the pastor, anyway), this is still my prayer, with one additional note: "Lord, please don't let me mess this up!"

The reality is, we all are going to mess up. It's part of our being human. But God has done something about that. We've been anticipating it for weeks, and we just celebrated the beginning of God's answer to our messed-up lives. Jesus has come! Joy to the world! Jesus was born to take on our human flesh so that He could be our perfect Substitute. You and I mess up, but Jesus didn't, doesn't, and never will. He lived the life we don't (and cannot), died the death we deserved, and rose from the dead, defeating sin, death, and the devil forever. My failures as your pastor, and your failures as my parishioner are all covered by the blood of Christ. Because of that you and I have, not only peace with God (Rom 8:1), but peace amongst one another.

As together we enter into a new calendar year, and a new chapter in the life of Redeemer Lutheran Church, let us keep our eyes, hearts, and minds fixed and focused on the Babe of Bethlehem who has come...come for you and me.

And, as I also wrote two years ago, "I am humbled by your confidence in God. *"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."* (Eph 3:21-22)

See you in church,

Vicar Rex E. Watt



December Council Meeting Briefs

Vicar Rex opened with prayer

Devotions – Vicar Rex read from Zephaniah 3:16, 17

Review of previous month's minutes and accepted by council vote.

Treasurer's Report: Sally reported that the operating account is in the black \$8,913.06 after expenses for the month of November and \$44,061.13 for the year from Jan-Nov. As of December 15, 2021 the roof loan will be paid off.

Vicar's Report: Made a few phone visits, no home visits as appointments, coursework, and service prep filled the time. Sunday am Bible study finished Lutheran Hour Ministries series. Returning to pericope studies. Colin's Thurs eve continues w/3-4 people. Catechesis could start soon with 2 youths. November Sunday attendance average is 50.

Elder's Report: Rod Hanson submitted 6 people as Ushers and starting a list for greeters. Rod also submitted a document "Guidelines for Ushers" for the elders to review. Altar Guild - Vestments are beautiful, suggested Cross runners using same fabric. Eight new communion trays purchased to replace old trays. Reviewed Ordination process for Vicar Rex.

Stewardship Report: Barb reported there will be a kitchen Ingathering in January. January 23rd is Vicar Rex's Ordination reception. 5th Sunday potluck. January 30th. March 2nd is Ash Wednesday.

Property Report: A lighting company is putting together bid to replace all exterior building and parking lot lights with LED lighting – less electricity, brighter light. Exterior paneling on the south side of sanctuary have dry rot will need to be replaced probably in the spring.

Education Report: Preschool is off until January 3rd 2022.

Unfinished Business: Benevolence committee making final adjustments to the policies/procedures for review at January council meeting.

New Business: Profit & Loss Budget for 2022: Sally passed out the proposed budget of \$210,417.00 for 2022. Budget approved by council for submission to congregation at December voters' meeting. RLC's Sponsor child graduated and we have been assigned a new sponsor child that is 2 years old.

Rex closed in prayer @ 8:25 pm



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

'Tis More Blessed to Give Than to Receive

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " (Acts 20:35)

And indeed, it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can't recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself – sparing not even His life in death – in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving you get more because joy is multiplied in giving. The one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. And, what is more, the one who receives only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously in thanksgiving.

So it is with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God's favor. We have God's favor because of His gift of His Son, given through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving so that our tithes and offering are freely given in thanksgiving for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin when it is the place where God continually gives us His forgiveness of sins? Why does the church struggle when God, out of love for us, generously pours out His grace and mercy?

It is because we are sinners. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it, too. Because of sin, we want

God's grace and mercy; we want His blessings of body and soul. But we don't want to share it with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives – without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but to press His eternal and temporal blessings into service to your neighbor.

Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights, heat, and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism as well as bread and wine for Holy Communion. They even ensure that your pastor has food and clothing and presents for his own family. The gifts of God are immeasurable. They multiply and redound to everyone's good as the fish and loaves in the feeding of the five thousand.

So, remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter article - January 2022**



JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						01 Happy New Year! 2022
02 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship	03	04 6:30 pm: Elders	05 Bulletin Deadline PS Chapel 3:30-5:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class	06 PS Chapel 7:00 pm: Ephesians Bible Study	07	08
09 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion with Children's Ministry	10	11 6:30 pm: Council	12 Bulletin Deadline PS Chapel 3:30-5:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class	13 PS Chapel 7:00 pm: Ephesians Bible Study	14	15
16 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	17	18	19 Bulletin Deadline Saltshaker Deadline PS Chapel 3:30-5:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class	20 PS Chapel 7:00 pm: Ephesians Bible Study	21	22
23 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion with Children's Ministry 3:00 pm Ordination & Installation of Vicar Watt	24	25	26 Bulletin Deadline PS Chapel 3:30-5:00 pm Youth Confirmation Class	27 PS Chapel 7:00 pm: Ephesians Bible Study	28	29
30 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion	31					



January Birthdays

01/03 Jaxon Kuljis
 01/12 Mary Ann Olsen
 01/16 Robin Stephens
 01/18 Dennis Urbanec
 01/19 Jaquelyn Smith
 01/26 Adalyn Noste

February Birthdays

02/02 David Stamps
 02/03 Kaarina Van Berkum
 02/11 Roger Granger
 02/11 Joe Dupuis
 02/12 Louis Kuljis
 02/14 Joy Anderson
 02/15 Anthony McLeod
 02/18 Heidi Kuljis
 02/24 Madelyn Potvin
 02/26 Alice Legoe
 02/27 William Baeder
 02/27 Vicki Grabish

Elder Care List

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



January Anniversaries

01/12 Joseph & Robin Stephens
 01/13 Les & Joy Anderson
 01/16 Kari & Lynnata Marttila

*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

Jan. 02 - Dave & Sandy Stamps and Dee Watt
 Jan. 09 - Mary Ann Olsen & Cristi Lysne
 Jan. 16 - Joy Anderson & Heidi Kuljis
 Jan. 23 - Susanne Martinsen & Barb Abbe
 Jan. 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.

Shut-ins: Virginia Blackmore

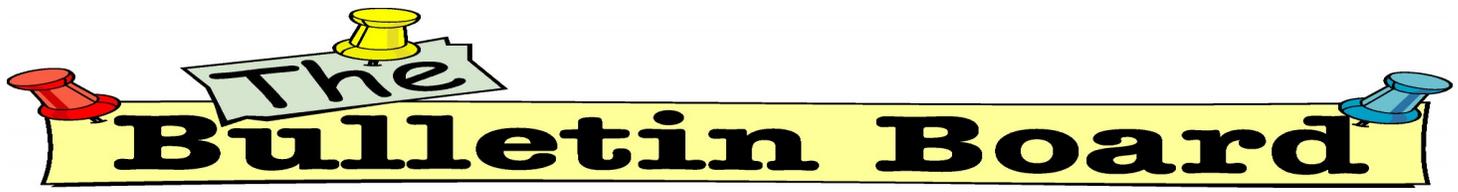
ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – JANUARY

Altar Care
 Mary Ann and Carl Olsen

THE VOLUNTEER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

	<u>ELDER/ASSISTANT</u>	<u>LAY READER</u>	<u>SOUNDBOARD</u>	<u>COUNTERS</u>
Jan. 02	Kari Marttila	Ross Abbe	Kari	Ron/Dale
Jan. 09	Ross/Patrick	Joe Dupuis	Rod	Anthony/Cristi
Jan. 16	Patrick/Vicar Watt	Vicar Watt	Anthony	Cheryl/Spiro
Jan. 23	Larry/Vicar Watt	Vicar Watt	Kari	Ron/Dale
Jan. 30	Kari/Ross	Corinne Thorsen	Rod	Anthony/Cristi

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: The book of Ephesians, led by Colin Grabish.

DEVOTIONALS: "Our Daily Bread" for Dec-Feb. and "Portals of Prayer" for Oct.-Dec. are available at the bulletin table and the mailbox table.

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 alter for a special occasion, please place your name and phone number on the line corresponding with the date on the alter 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

OUR QUARTERLY KITCHEN INGATHERING: This will take place throughout the month of January. A list of specific needs will be posted next to the ingathering box in the fellowship area. The Lord is faithful to provide through you and your generous giving to provide for our Sunday fellowship and other church events. Thank you for your ongoing support. Should you have any questions please contact Barb Abbe.

5TH SUNDAY POTLUCK January 30, 2022: Following the morning worship.

5th Sunday lunch is a great way to meet new people or get to know each other better. Bring your friends, family, and a dish to share! A great opportunity for fellowship and great food! A Sign-up sheet will be posted in January.





HOSTESS VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

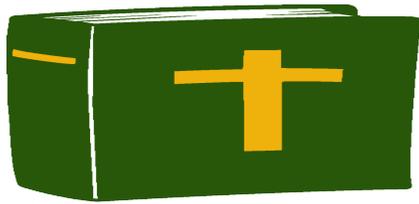
January through April 2022



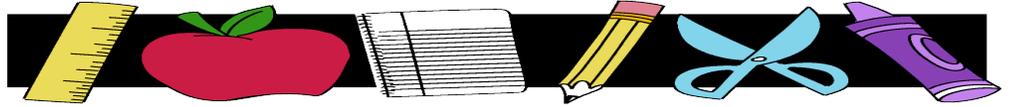
January 02	Dave & Sandy Stamps and Dee Watt	
January 09	Mary Ann Olsen & Cristi Lysne	
January 16	Joy Anderson & Heidi Kuljis	
January 23	Susanne Martinsen & Barb Abbe	(Ordination/Installation at 3 pm)
January 30	5th Sunday Potluck	
February 06	Cheryl Kortlever & Jamie DuPuis	
February 13	Marianne Guisti & Sally Pinski	
February 20	Marsha Edin & Janet Baeder	
February 27	Dave & Sandy Stamps & Dee Watt	
March 06	Mary Ann Olsen & Cristi Lysne	
March 13	Joy Anderson & Heidi Kuljis	
March 20	Susanne Martinsen & Barb Abbe	
March 27	Cheryl Kortlever & Jamie DuPuis	
April 03	Marianne Guisti & Sally Pinski	
April 10	Marsha Edin & Janet Baeder	
April 17	Easter Sunday Breakfast Potluck	
April 24	Dave & Sandy Stamps and Dee Watt	

Please know if your scheduled Sunday does not work or “life happens” and you need to make a change, please contact Dee. You are all so very gracious about making a change when needed. Thank you!





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!

Meet Rhian

We now have the opportunity to offer support and make a difference in another child's life. We will be sponsoring Rhian. Rhian lives in Philippines and is two years old. We look forward to learning more about Rhian and watching her grow up in the Compassion program. Please pray for Rhian.

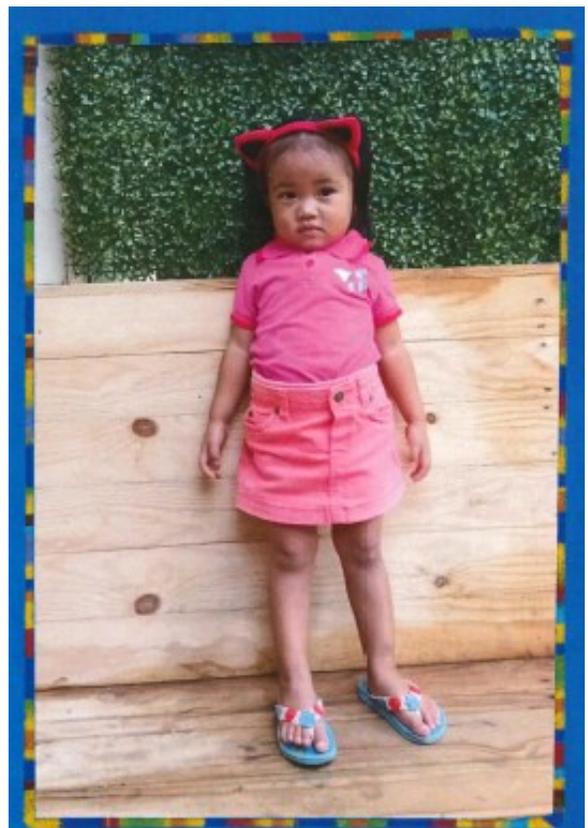


COMPASSION CLASS
OF 2021

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Congratulations to Keziah Nicole!

Keziah Nicole has recently graduated from the Compassion program. Redeemer has been her sponsor since 2012. Keziah Nicole's time at Compassion has given her educational and spiritual support that will help her to succeed. Thank you for your prayers and support, it has made a difference in this young lady's life. We pray God's blessings for her as she starts the next chapter of her life.



Rhian

Birthday: July 7, 2019
Lives in: Philippines

Redeemer Lutheran Preschool



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



Wow! What a wild 2021 we had not only with COVID but the flooding, snow, and other obstacles that we all have had to deal with. God certainly gives us many challenges but that is when we have to anchor ourselves in Him and remember He is in control! I certainly felt the challenge with many obstacles that came my way a month before our Christmas program. I seriously thought about cancelling the program but after not having one last year and many prayers I prayed for the best and God certainly was in control and I was so pleased with how well all the preschoolers did! Our program was "Still, Still, Still" and we told the story of the birth of Jesus, our Savior, the true reason for the season!

I am looking forward to the new year and focusing on learning our letters, numbers, and name writing! We look forward to chapel with Pastor Rex which all the children look forward to. Along with many fun activities and projects through the end of the school year. Every year I am blessed with amazing children and unique in their own individual way that God created them to be! I truly love each and every child in their own special way!

I thank you for all your prayers and support for our preschool. I pray that each one of you are blessed with health and happiness this new year! May the Lord continue to bless our preschool and church families!

Love and New Year Blessings,

Heidi



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

-yellow

-brown

-white

-purple

-black

-green

-blue

GIFT CARDS: Dollar Tree, Hobby Lobby, Michaels

Innocent Child and Snow-White Flower

Innocent child and snow-white flower!
Well are ye paired in your opening hour.
Thus should the pure and the lovely meet,
Stainless with stainless, and sweet with sweet.

White as those leaves, just blown apart,
Are the folds of thy own young heart;
Guilty passion and cankering care
Never have left their traces there.

Artless one! though thou gazest now
O'er the white blossom with earnest brow,
Soon will it tire thy childish eye;
Fair as it is, thou wilt throw it by.

Throw it aside in thy weary hour,
Throw to the ground the fair white flower;
Yet, as thy tender years depart,
Keep that white and innocent heart.

~William Cullen Bryant~



The White Helleborus
blooms in January and is
known as the
“Christmas Rose”

It is also known as a
symbol of the birth of
Christ.

Submitted
by



Marianne Giusti

Ordination and Installation

Sunday, January 23rd, 3:00 pm

**Please join us as Vicar Rex Watt is ordained and installed
as the pastor of
Redeemer Lutheran Church**

Following the ceremony there will be a small reception (sandwiches, cake, punch). We would appreciate any ladies that would like to help in the kitchen with serving and clean-up that day. If you are interested please contact Barb Abbe at 206-799-5308.

Congratulations to the happy couples!

And congratulations to the Marttila family as both Niko and Kaarina were married at the end of December. A wedding three days before Christmas and another three days after! A very busy but very blessed time! We pray for happiness and blessings to both couples as they begin their married lives together.



Niko & Molly Marttila
Married December 22, 2021



Landon & Kaarina Van Berkum
Married December 28, 2021

With very thankful hearts,

...can't help
but be
grateful.



We Love You

Thank You
Aayah Sofia

We have shared together the blessings of God.

PHILIPPIANS 1:7 NLT

Words cannot express our sincerest gratitude for all the support we have received from this church. The generosity shown has been absolutely amazing. We are beyond blessed. Thank you to everyone for their support and prayers during these difficult times.

God is great and we appreciate every
Nikolas Marcos Single person Terra Dakota Payten Aayah

Flood Recovery Assistance



Thank You

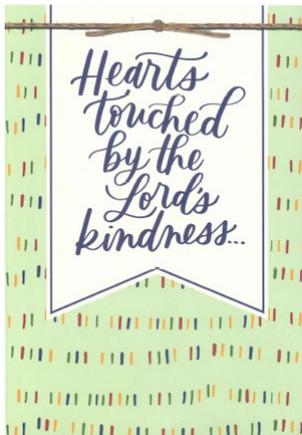
We are very thankful for all you have provided for our family. God is great and we are grateful. Even through all of this devastation, we are so blessed because of each and every person that has helped us along this journey. There is always something to be thankful for in life, and today we are very thankful, our hearts are full of love and gratitude. We lost everything in the flood, but are gaining so much more in faith, love and compassion.

With Love

REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING,
GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR
THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR
YOU.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Dakota Payten Terra Aayah Sofia Nikolas



Thank you so much for your support of the **Marcos Family**. Your generosity and love are very much appreciated!



Thank You!





Redeemer Preschool Christmas Program 2021 ~Still, Still, Still~



A wonderful evening of watching the preschool children sing and speak about the birth of Jesus. Followed by fellowship and fun!





Lutheran's For Life Quote: January 2

“Friend of Jesus, no matter what painful or wonderful endings you marked in the past year, please watch for the early signs of new beginnings. Seize them as opportunities for you and God to develop together. Think about what the Bible teaches about life, appreciate God’s love for you, gather up bits and pieces of experience, and put them in a file named ‘lessons learned.’ Then keep it handy.”

Jason Nelson, Time of Grace – 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](https://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.