



The Saltshaker

January 2025

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

February Newsletter deadline is
Friday, January 24, 2025

IN THIS ISSUE:

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- Stewardship
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- Bulletin Board Announcements
- Preschool News
- Poem
- Christmas Program Pictures



From the Pastor's Pen



About this time of the year, millions of people make New Year's resolutions. We make them because there is some area of our lives that we would like to change. We want to stop doing something (overeating, spending too much time on social media, smoking, drinking too much) and start doing something else (being a better parent, doing a better job at work, living a healthier lifestyle). Can we find satisfaction in keeping our resolutions? Maybe, for a while.

Most people end up not keeping their resolutions. Then what kind of emotions set in? Frustration: "Oh, I can't believe it is January 5th, and I am already back to my same old unhealthy diet." Despair: "I am never going to be able to stop doing that (whatever that may be)." Failure: "Why even try? There is no way I will ever be able to do it. I'm a loser."

There is another problem that causes us to feel a lack of satisfaction and fulfillment in our lives. We can't control things. The storm hits and causes damage to the roof. The interest rates go up and cause that loan to be a little more stressful to pay off. The boss decides that he is going to give the other person the promotion even though you worked harder and did better work. Do we wonder if we can ever find true and lasting satisfaction in this kind of world? Thank God the answer is a resounding "Yes!"

In Psalm 107:9, God tells us that *"he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul with good things."* Here is the catch, but it is a good one. The "good things" God gives us are not the good things we normally are looking for. Certainly, God can give us a good job, the willpower to keep our resolutions, and the good fortune not to have unforeseen accidents come into our lives. However, those things are minor compared to the real soul-satisfying good thing God gives us. God truly satisfies us and gives us fulfillment in life when he shows us, in his Word, that we have a Savior in Jesus. No job, no relationship, no possession, nor any person can give us the satisfaction and fulfillment God offers us in Jesus. In Jesus, we are assured of the forgiveness of our sins. In Jesus, we know that God is our loving Father. In Jesus, we are confident that we will be in heaven one day because of what he has done for us. Jesus lived and died for you. He has opened heaven to you. Believe in him and find the peace and fulfillment he wants you to have in life; this year, next year, and in the life to come.

Happy New Year!

See you in church...
Pastor Rex E. Watt



Elder Care List

A - Hah: Doug Bender (Head Elder)
 Hal - Li: Kari Marttila
 Lu - Pa: Anthony McLeod
 Po - Z: Colin Grabish

January Birthdays
 01/03 Jaxon Kuljis
 01/11 Arenda Hovde
 01/12 Mary Ann Olsen
 01/16 Robin Stephens
 01/18 Dennis Urbanec
 01/19 Jacquelyn Smith
 01/26 Adalyn Noste

February Birthdays
 02/03 Kaarina VanBerkum
 02/11 Joe Dupuis
 02/11 Roger Granger
 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



January Anniversaries

01/13 Les & Joy Anderson
 01/12 Joseph & Robin Stephens
 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. 05 - not available at this time
 Jan. 12 -
 Jan. 19 -
 Jan. 26 -

ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – JANUARY
Altar Care
 Lynnata Marttila

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.

Worship Volunteer Schedule

| | Elder/Assistant | Usher | Lay Reader | Soundboard | Counters |
|---------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Jan. 05 | Doug/Anthony | Rowan Hogle | Connor Dupuis | Kari Marttila | Wendy/Tim |
| Jan. 12 | Doug/Anthony | Ian McLeod | Tim Bledsoe | Ian McLeod | Anthony/Corinne |
| Jan. 19 | Doug/Anthony | Connor Dupuis | Ross Abbe | Kari Marttila | Ron/Jon |
| Jan. 26 | Doug/Anthony | Anthony McLeod | Joe Dupuis | Ian McLeod | Wendy/Travis |

January

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 01 Bulletin Deadline Happy New Year! office closed | 02 6:30 pm: Young Adult Bible Study | 03 | 04 8:00 am: Men's Bible Study & Breakfast |
| 05 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School | 06 Epiphany | 07 6:30 pm: Elders | 08 Bulletin Deadline | 09 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School | 13 | 14 | 15 Bulletin Deadline | 16 Evangelism Meeting 1:30 & 7 pm | 17 11:00 am: Ladies Bible Study | 18 |
| 19 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School | 20 MLK Jr. Day office closed | 21 6:30 pm: Council | 22 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study | 23 | 24 Saltshaker Deadline | 25 |
| 26 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School Potluck | 27 | 28 | 29 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study | 30 | 31 | |
| | | | | | | |



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

Repenting of “Feasts that Know No Fast”

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December’s celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunkered down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

“Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ...” This hits us hard, doesn’t it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

“For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ...” In “The Parable of the Sower,” we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure and do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul.

But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn’t take its corporate responsibility seriously?

“For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal.” This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again.

**LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship
Newsletter Article – January 2025**

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Advent Soup Suppers



My Mother's Bible

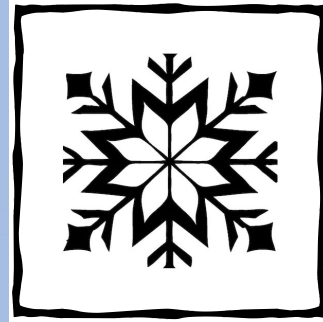
This book is all that 's left me now!
Tears will unbidden start,—
With faltering lip and throbbing brow
I press it to my heart.
For many generations past,
Here is our family tree:
My mother's hands this Bible clasped;
She, dying, gave it me.

Ah! well do I remember those
Whose names these records bear,
Who round the hearth-stone used to close
After the evening prayer,
And speak of what these pages said,
In tones my heart would thrill!
Though they are with the silent dead,
Here are they living still!

My father read this holy book
To brothers, sisters dear;
How calm was my poor mother's look
Who leaned God's word to hear!
Her angel face—I see it yet!
What vivid memories come!
Again that little group is met
Within the halls of home!

Thou truest friend man ever knew,
Thy constancy I 've tried;
Where all were false I found thee true,
My counsellor and guide.
The mines of earth no treasures give
That could this volume buy:
In teaching me the way to live,
It taught me how to die.

George P. Morris



"For as the rain and the snow
come down from heaven and
do not return there but water
the earth, making it bring
forth and sprout, giving seed
to the sower and bread to the
eater, so shall my word be
that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me emp-
ty, but it shall accomplish that
which I purpose, and shall
succeed in the thing for which
I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11



Submitted
by



Marianne Giusti



2023-2025 LWML Mission Grant #3
Serving God's Children with Special Needs
Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee WI
Grant request - \$100,000 - PAID in FULL



As God's children, with our differences and life experiences, the Journeys Lutheran School's mission is to serve God's children age 8 to 21 with special needs. These needs include attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, autism, anxiety, trauma, emotional behavior disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

For 60 years the school, located in the Milwaukee area, has prepared students to maximize their spiritual, academic, physical, emotional, and social potential to become successful Christian members of society. Students are able to earn a high school diploma and participate in meaningful cultural, historical and spiritual events. The enrollment in the high school is growing. The grant will help purchase two vans to transport high school students enrolled in the School-to-Work internship Program and students taking elective classes at nearby Martin Luther High School.

Your contribution of pocket change to Redeemer's Mites box located on the table where the Sunday Greeter stands is sent to Missouri Lutheran Synod where it is included with Mites gifts from all Lutheran churches across the nation. **Thank you for participating!**



Graduation is BIG day for Journeys Lutheran students, just like kids at other schools. They are excited that one journey is ending and another is just beginning.



Praising God! Do you know Him? These students do. Journeys students learn about Jesus in every educational opportunity in and out of class.



Students enjoying music and art!

Music and art are important educational tools for special needs students.



Redeemer Preschool Christmas Program



THE
**MANY SHAPES
OF CHRISTMAS**





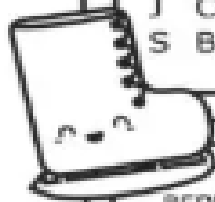


WINTER

WORD SEARCH



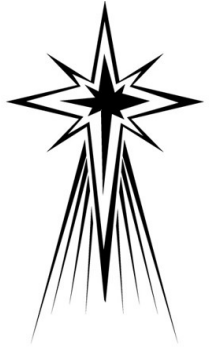
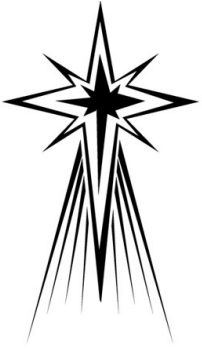
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| B | O | C | T | K | M | V | A | E | D | B | S | K | O | J | M | W | J |
| C | R | A | Y | E | X | E | C | R | R | V | A | Y | B | H | P | G | A |
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| BERRIES | COLD | HAT | JACKET | SLED |
| BLIZZARD | DARK | ICE | MITTENS | SNOW |
| BOOTS | FIREPLACE | ICESKATE | PLOW | SNOWFLAKE |
| COCOA | FROZEN | ICICLE | SCARF | SNOWMAN |

Redeemer Sunday School Christmas Program

“Crismons for Christmas”





Lutheran’s For Life Quote: January 05

“Let the peace of Christ change how you live—clothing yourself with godly virtues reflecting a thankful heart. Carry this peace that the angels proclaimed and Simeon saw. It sets the tone for the coming year, another year you get to live as God’s child in the peace of Jesus.”

Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – 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](https://twitter.com/thelcms)), Instagram ([thelcms](https://instagram.com/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.