



The Saltshaker

February ♥ 2025

Redeemer Lutheran Church



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

March Newsletter deadline is
Friday, February 21, 2025

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From the Pastor's Pen



Valentine's Day is just around the corner. It's a day we do something special for that "special one" we love. When you were a kid you probably passed out Valentine cards to classmates. You remember those cards, they came in a box of 15, 25 or 50. When you grew older, maybe you bought a special Valentine card for a special someone. If that special someone is now your spouse, you might still purchase a card, but probably give them something more substantial, like a box of chocolates, a dozen roses, or maybe even take them out for a really nice dinner and evening on the town. What do you do for the one you love?

Whatever it is, it pales in comparison to how God shows his love for us. I'm sure you all know that most famous Bible verse, John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* Many read that verse and conclude it tells us "how much" God loved us. He loved us "so much" that he gave his only Son. But that little Greek word translated "so" can also mean "in this way." In fact, according to the most highly respected dictionaries of Biblical Greek, that second meaning is the most common.

For us as Lutheran Christians, that distinction between "so much" and "in this way" is not a problem. It's not an "either/or" but a "both/and." What should blow our minds is that God loves us poor, miserable, unlovable sinners at all! *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way"* Isaiah says (53:6a). *"The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one"* the Psalmist wrote (Psa 14:2-3; quoted by Paul in Romans 3:10-12). *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* Paul concludes (Rom 3:23).

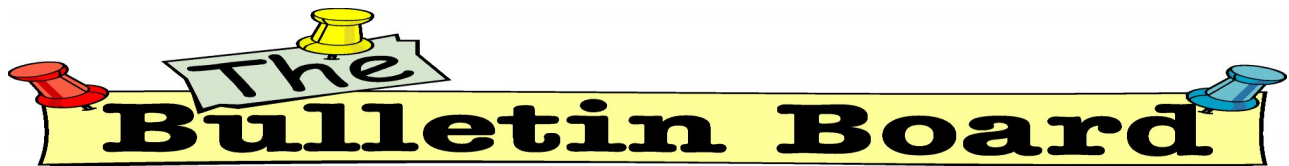
But then Paul writes, *"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Rom 5:8). And Isaiah finishes the statement he began with *"and [yet] the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all"* (53:6b). And Paul, in another letter, tells us, *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"* (2 Cor 5:21). It's not an "either/or." It's a "both/and."

God's great love for us lost, poor, miserable, unlovable sinners was not only so much that he *"sent his one and only Son"* it was in this way: he sent his only Son. He gave up his one and only Son, for you! He didn't just send a card, or a box of chocolates, flowers or even a gift card to a fancy restaurant that you use once and your done. He sent his Son. And he continues to send his Son. He comes to you and me every time we hear God's Word read to us and proclaimed to us. He comes to you and me, in a real, tangible way, every time we come to the Altar to receive his body and blood, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. God loves you and me so much, and in this way, that he sends us his Valentine love every week in his Divine service to us.

¹Bauer, Walter, et al. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, rev. and ed. Frederick W. Danker, 3rd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000)

So, whatever you have planned for your Valentine this year, I hope and pray that you do it. I hope and pray that it is received with appreciation. I hope and pray that it strengthens your relationship with your Valentine. But you don't have to wait another whole year to experience Valentine's day. A valentine is awaiting you each and every week. You know where...

See you in church,
Pastor Rex E. Watt



The Bulletin Board

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY: MEETS AT 9:00 am. "Letters to the Seven Churches in Revelation Chapter 3", led by Jon Dixon.

MEN'S SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY & BREAKFAST: A Study of Proverbs led by Anthony McLeod. 8:00 am the first Saturday of each month here at the church. **The next meeting will be on Saturday, February 1st.**

LADIES BIBLE STUDY: The third Friday of each month at 11:00 am. A study of Luther's Small Catechism. **The next meeting will be on Friday, February 21st.**

WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY: Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am. A study on the book of Ephesians, led by Lynnata Marttila. This bible study will end some time before Easter. Contact Lynnata with any questions.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: Looking for Altar Care Volunteers! If you are interested in being part of the Altar Guild and volunteering as an Altar Care Attendant, or would like to find out more about it, **there will be an Altar Guild meeting following the service on Sunday February 2nd.** Couples, families, teams or individuals...all are welcome!

VOTERS MEETING: to review 2024 year end financial information, following the service and fellowship time on **Sunday, February 2nd.**

MITE SUNDAY: The first Sunday of each month is "Mite Sunday". Don't forget your mites, Sunday, February 2nd.

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

EVANGELISM TRAINING STUDY: "How to Talk About Your Faith", an introduction on how to have a spiritual conversation. Material provided by Lutheran Hour Ministries.

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS

There will be a new Adult Instruction Class on Sundays from 12:30-2:00 pm. The class will begin on Sunday, February 16th, and it will run for 9 weeks, ending on Sunday, April 13th. Please contact the church office with any questions.



Elder Care List

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



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

March Birthdays

03/05 Pamela Hallmark
 03/07 Mackenzie Wright
 03/13 Vivian Hallmark
 03/20 Don Strong
 03/22 Anne Leonard
 03/25 Arlene Lund
 03/30 Ross Abbe
 03/31 Melissa Noste



February Anniversaries

02/02 Ron & Jan Willand
 02/06 Don & Alex Strong

*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

Feb. 02 - Marsha Edin & Janet Baeder
 Feb. 09 - Mary Ann Olsen & Cristi Lysne
 Feb. 16 - Dee Watt & Wendy McLeod
 Feb. 23 - Potluck

ASSISTING US IN WORSHIP – FEBRUARY






Altar Care
 Jamie Dupuis

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
Feb. 02	Doug/Anthony	Ian McLeod	Corinne Thorsen	Ian McLeod	Corinne/Ron
Feb. 09	Doug/Anthony	Connor Dupuis	Connor Dupuis	Kari Marttila	Anthony/Jon
Feb. 16	Doug/Anthony	Anthony McLeod	Tim Bledsoe	Ian McLeod	Wendy/Travis
Feb. 23	Doug/Anthony	Rowan Hogle	Ross Abbe	Kari Marttila	Corinne/

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						01 8:00 am: Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
02 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School Altar Guild Meeting Voters Meeting	03	04 6:30 pm: Elders	05 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study	06 6:30 pm: Young Adult Bible Study	07	08
09 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School	10	11	12 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day!	15
16 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School 12:30 pm: Adult Instruction Class	17 Presidents Day office closed	18 6:30 pm: Council	19 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study	20 Evangelism Meeting 1:30 & 7 pm	21 Saltshaker Deadline 11:00 am: Ladies Bible Study	22
23 9:00 am: Adult Bible Study 10:30 am: Worship /Communion Sunday School Potluck 12:30 pm: Adult instruction Class	24	26	27 Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am: Ladies Bible Study	28		



“Christ’s Life, and Love, and Light”

Open our eyes Lord to see Your love’s intent,

To know with minds and hearts its depth and height

May thankfulness be days in service spent

Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light. (LSB 788)

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don’t see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would “Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love’s intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.”

Only when we are immersed in God’s Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism’s life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord’s loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ's servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

May thankfulness be days in service spent

Reflection of Christ's life, and love, and light.

This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ's love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking! Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!

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



YOUR GIFTS CAN HELP US HELP



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD
Disaster Response



Online giving and text-to-give opportunities:

Disaster Response—Strategic Use
Providing for disaster victims today and tomorrow.

lcms.org/givenow/disaster
Text LCMSDISASTERS to 41444

Current areas being served by LCMS Disaster Response include:

- California Wildfires**
- Hurricanes Helene and Milton**
Florida, Georgia, North Carolina

Give by credit/debit card over the phone:

Call 888-930-4438
(LCMS Donor Care Line)

Donate by Check:

Make your check payable to *LCMS*, or *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*. On the memo line write "Disaster Response—Strategic Use (TR9206)." Or contact Mission Advancement for other options by calling 888-930-4438 or by email to mission.advancement@lcms.org

Mail your gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
PO Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

View the latest stories, videos and podcasts, as they become available, at lcms.org/hurricane-response.



More ways to give to specific areas effected by recent disasters...

LOS ANGELES FIRE DISASTER RELIEF: If you desire to give a donation to the disaster relief efforts in Los Angeles, you can donate at the LCMS website below.

LCMS Pacific Southwest District: <https://www.psd-lcms.org/disaster-response>

RELIEF FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANES HELENE and MILTON: If you would like to contribute to the ongoing effort to help those affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton in North Carolina, Georgia, Florida and surrounding areas, you can donate at the LCMS websites below.

LCMS Southeastern District: <https://www.se.lcms.org>

LCMS Florida Georgia District: <https://www.flgadistrict.org>



We recently received our quarterly “reward” for **\$29.22!** If you have not yet linked your Fred Meyer Reward card to Redeemer Lutheran Church, please consider doing so. It’s easy to do and every little bit helps! See more information below.

Another way to give to Redeemer!

Did you know that you can earn “community rewards” for Redeemer Lutheran church when you shop at Fred Meyer?

If you shop at Fred Meyer, you can sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Redeemer Lutheran church. You must have your own Fred Meyer login.

Simply go to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and search for Redeemer Lutheran Church of Bellingham, WA (or our organization non-profit number: KI394) and connect your card to our church.

2025 Lenten Mid-week Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday Worship & Communion

Wednesday, March 5th at 1 & 7 pm

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays at 1 & 7 pm

March 12, 19, 26

April 02, 09

Maundy Thursday Worship and Communion

Thursday, April 17th

7 pm

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 18th

7 pm



What is “Lent”? Lent is a season of the Church Year that lasts six weeks. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the day before Easter Sunday. During these six weeks we look forward to Good Friday, the day our Lord died on the cross to pay for our sins, and to Easter Sunday, the day He rose from the dead to prove it!



Psalm of Spring

Nature robed in spring
 green awakens
To warming skies;
 and rising up she shakes
The last brown leaf
 from off the stubborn oak
Then gently blows away
 the drifts that choke
Young greening fingers
 breaking through the sod
To lift a song of silent
 praise to God.

Standing ankle deep
 within a cup
Of budding flowers,
 spring reaches up.
Refreshed with sleep,
 she stretches flowing limbs
Where nesting friends are singing
 joyful hymns,
Each lovely tree a green
 cathedral where
The leaves are still half-folded
 as in prayer.

Ruth L. Erickson

Submitted
by 

Marianne Giusti



Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8



Council Briefs December 2024

Pastor Watt opened the meeting with prayer and a devotion.

Secretary Report: The November 2024 minutes were reviewed and accepted by the council.

Treasurer's Report: The church received a \$30,000 gift from a member and will finish 2024 with a surplus.

Pastor's Report: For the month of November, Pastor Watt preached 3 out of 4 Sundays, taught one Young Adult Bible study in his home, conducted one service at Woodway Senior Living, taught one Redeemer LWML Bible Study, taught 4 Adult Bible Study sessions, and conducted an All Saints Day service on November 1 and a Thanksgiving Eve service on November 27. Pastor Watt also presided over a Graveside service for Syble Strong, attended the LWML Zone Board meeting, and the Advent Brunch, made 4 shut-in visits and 4 pastoral visits. The average worship attendance in November was 57.

Elders Report: The Elder Board is continuing to work on a Donation schedule for members wanting to hold events at Redeemer. There will also be guidance on the types of events that would be allowed. The survey results regarding a church member photo directory were 0 votes for an online directory, 28 votes for a printed directory, 10 votes for both online and printed, 1 vote for neither version, and 2 votes for a PDF version. They plan to proceed with a print and pdf version. 3 new members were welcomed: Donna Christianson, Sheri Carlson, and Toby Carlson. Each of the 3 were members of Redeemer many years ago.

Stewardship Report: The Advent Brunch was a success. There were more than 50 people in attendance, and they even had to add a table at the last minute to accommodate additional attendees.

Property Report: The fly zappers are working very well. There is a plan to repair the water damage to the ceiling and repair and paint the wall where the book shelves used to be in the Fellowship room. Lynden Sheet Metal inspected the attic ventilation for possible maintenance needs. No need was found. The tree project removing the trees behind the Education wing went well, and the compost pile will be dealt with next. The project to trim the bushes in the front of building near the road will begin soon. There was also a water leak in the sink in the Janitor's closet. Plumber Matt McKay fixed the leak the day it was discovered.

Education Committee Report: The preschool and Sunday school are doing well. There is a simple Sunday School Christmas program planned for the Sunday service before Christmas. Pastor met with the Board of Education to discuss the idea of offering daycare as a way to generate revenue if preschool attendance continues to decline in the coming years.

Unfinished Business: Redeemer received two bids for the cleaning services at Redeemer. One from Steph's Cleaning and one from Kulshan Supported Employment. Council voted 4-3 in favor of Kulshan to clean the church. Kulshan will start cleaning the first week in January.

New Business: Council discussed meeting during the winter using Zoom or a similar online meeting program so we could avoid driving in inclement weather and the dark. This will be organized in the next month for the January meeting.

Pastor closed the meeting in prayer.

Sanctity of Life Sunday Ingathering in support of the Whatcom County Pregnancy Center



In celebration of
Sanctity of Life Sunday,
Redeemer had an
ingathering for the
WCPC.
Thank you to all who
contributed!!



Lutheran's For Life Quotes: February 2 & 23

“All life is sacred. Your life is sacred. Every life has infinite worth and eternal value. Your life matters—from conception to natural death to eternity. The psalmist declares: ‘I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well’ (Psalm 139:14).”

Rev. Robert Mohns, Lutheran Church—Canada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

“Handmade by the one true God and designed in His image, we are inherently valuable, not only for this life but for all of eternity.” **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](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](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.