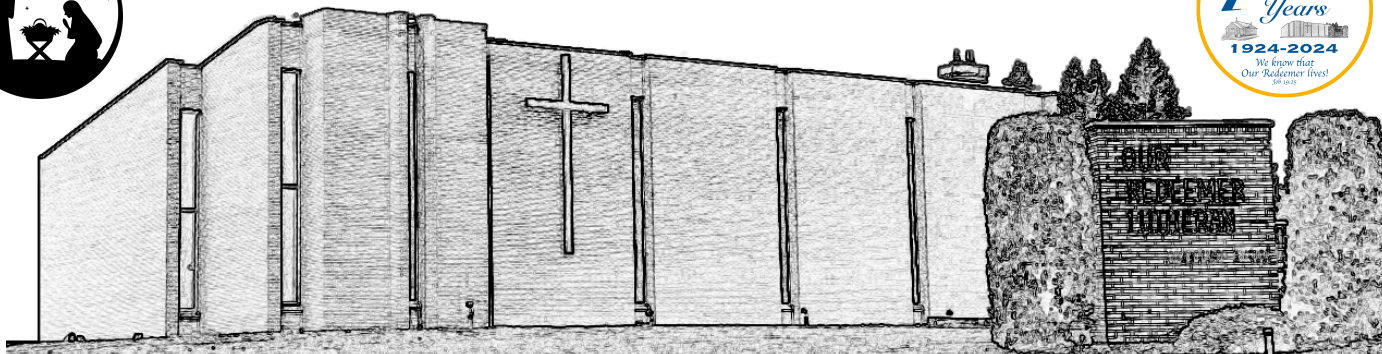


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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks." (Luke 12:35-36, ESV)

A blessed and happy "New Year" to all of you!

I've noticed that in the past several years, we meet the new year with a bit of a wary eye. Who among us would have thought that 2020 would have turned into the crazy year that it was... with a worldwide pandemic, racial discord, and a very contentious presidential election. Now we're entering yet another election year and perhaps we're a little more guarded at how we greet the change in the calendar. I know that I've made the comment that for some reason the darkness of winter feels more palpable... more "crushing" than it has in the past.

It's natural that we would have such skepticism about our world. It's fallen... it's broken. And as we move closer and closer to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Last Day, indeed the "birth pains" are increasing. (Matt. 24:8)

But YOU, dear Christian...you don't need to fear the darkness. You have the Light of the World, the "light no darkness can overcome!" (John 1:5, LSB 243) The Good News that Christ has entered this world to be our Savior changes our entire outlook on things...no matter how "dark" and "dire" they may seem.

Jesus reminded His disciples in the appointed Gospel for New Year's Eve, "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning." Our readiness for 2024 and whatever this world brings at us is Jesus Himself: "the Light of the World." Our readiness is found in His Word and in His gifts. His Word is "a lamp to our feet and a light to our path." (Ps. 119:105) When we face obstacles of whatever kind—be it as individuals, as families, as a congregation, as a community—God grant that His Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, would "dress us for action."

We stand...dear brothers and sisters... ready. Christ has entered our world and claimed us as His own by His taking on our flesh, dying for our sin, and rising victorious from the grave. We know that when this world meets its end, we will stand with Jesus victorious as well. No matter how darkness invades our lives, we will be hopeful, joyful, and confident...made ready with lamps burning!

In Christ our Lord,

Pastor Ruesch
Pastor Ruesch



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 A.M. Divine Service
10:30 A.M. Bible Study, Sunday School, & Youth Group

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5:30 P.M. Catechism Vespers
7:00 P.M. Divine Service

Our Redeemer is a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, a denomination of nearly 2 million members in the United States and Canada. Learn more about The LCMS by visiting LCMS.org or on Facebook at facebook.com/TheLCMS.

MINISTRY STAFF

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HERE TO SERVE!

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2024

"For I know the plans I have for you," Declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

Happy
New
Year

OFFICIAL ACTS

BAPTISMS

*Eleanor Woller

AFFIRMATION OF FATIH

ADULT CONFIRMATION

FUNERAL

*Allen Peterson

FIRST COMMUNION

ADDED TO MEMBERSHIP

TRANSFERS IN

TRANSFERS OUT

RELEASES

*Sandy Rozell (Death)

ATTENDANCE

TOTALS

DECEMBER 3RD 9AM	92
DECEMBER 6TH 7PM	17
DECEMBER 10TH 9AM	74
DECEMBER 17TH 9AM	91
DECEMBER 24TH 9AM	78
DECEMBER 24TH 7PM	139
DECEMBER 25TH 9AM	42
DECEMBER 31ST 9AM	95



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NEWSLETTER CONTENT

If you or anyone you are close to are passionate about something or have an event you would like us to highlight that aligns with our values please send it to secretary@ourredeemerkingsford.org!!
The NEW newsletter is meant to bring us together and talk about things that are important to the congregation!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

-From our youth group as they continue to raise money for their Ark Encounter!!

ENVELOPES!!

Please start using your new 2024 envelopes! All envelopes have been placed in your mailbox located in the narthex!
Need Envelopes?? Let Pastor or the office know and we will get those to you!



HERE TO SERVE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 James D.
2 Katie P.
3 Gary P.
4 Kevin M.
5 Michael T.
6 James H.
6 Caren E.
9 Arden S.
11 Kathleen M.
12 Matthew R.
12 Eric L.
13 Sydney S.
16 Brett S.
17 Hayden M.
18 Shirley M.
19 Edward S.
20 Jon O.
20 Bradley H.
22 Chelsea N.
22 Everett O.
23 Barbara M.
24 Nora R.
27 Kelsey S.
30 Ezra M.

ANNIVERSARIES

3rd Gary & Marsha S.
15th David & Kim M.
20th David & Kathleen M.
22nd Sally & Terry C.

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LWML RECAP & INFO.

Our December 11th LWML Christmas luncheon was held at the Holiday Kitchen. And, we didn't just eat! Barb C. inspired us with a devotion, as well as providing gift tags printed with Bible verses. Sherry C. handed out colorful prayer boxes inspired on the top, "Give It To God." A lesson that I have to re-learn almost every day! Our prayers and hymns reached not only our ears, but fellow diners as well. It's interesting how some folks just continue to eat, but others turn towards us and listen.

"Witnessing" like this reminds me of one stanza in the "Lutheran Women, One and All" song:

"Help to take the Gospel light, To a world in darkest night, By example in the home, By inviting those who roam, By your prayers for sinners lost, By your gifts for missions' cost."

Our Love offering was given to "The Cure" a local outreach to teens administered by Heather Ruesch and Pastor Matt. Their program affirms that every child matters and teaches simple skills to help improved their quality of life.

Our next LWML meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2024, at 1:00 pm at the church. We will be discussing all the topics we didn't get around to at the luncheon! All ladies, young and old, are welcome to join us. We'd appreciate your input and perspective, and especially prayers.

We ask for God's blessing this year ahead.

Your sisters in Christ,

*Joan and LWML
ladies*

STAMPS FOR A MISSION

Our Lutheran women's Missionary League began collecting used postage stamps in 1993 when The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod office in St. Louis, Missouri, ended this project. Our North Wisconsin District has worked with many different gentlemen over the years to sell our stamps. We are currently taking our stamps to a gentleman in Green Bay.

Our stamps were sold five different times in 1994 and the total amount sold to help support our missions was \$345.49. The year-to-date total now is \$13,897.66 Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Please continue to collect your stamps within your societies and encourage others from your church to join. Please share with them how to trim the stamps leaving a quarter inch around the stamp. The perforation on the stamp must be intact, if the perforation is missing the stamps cannot be sold.

What a blessing to have the opportunity to collect our stamps and help those in need. Please continue in this mission as we serve the Lord with gladness! In Christ, Shirley H. & Mary S.

Please place the stamps in the LWML MITE box!! Thank so much!

TADYCH'S/SUPERONE RECIEPTS

Have you been saving grocery slips? Have you been turning them into Our Redeemer? There is a large white bucket under the LWML card table labeled for Econo/Super One slips. We receive 1% of each \$1.00 you spend on groceries through their rebate programs. Sherry C. has graciously been tallying them up. The money goes into the Youth Program checking account. We use the money to sponsor our Compassion Child which is \$480 a year. There is also a container for stamps & ink cartridges however, they only accept Inkjets (they DO NOT accept Laser/Toner cartridges). Your support is greatly appreciated.

ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME TO ALL ACTIVITIES

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Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

LIFE NEWS—JANUARY 2024



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers Have Helped 1 Million More Women Since Roe Overturned – On December 15, 2023, Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI), the research arm of SBA Pro-Life America and America's premier scientific institute on life issues, released the findings of a robust survey of 2,750 pregnancy centers in the United States to calculate their extraordinary services, material support, and health care contributions to women and families across the country since the landmark Supreme Court Dobbs decision that took down *Roe v. Wade*. As preliminary CDC data suggests 32,000 more babies are born annually ... Key findings in the new report include: In 2022, pregnancy centers met with clients over 16 million times, both in person and virtually, with an estimated total service value of at least \$358 million annually. Pregnancy centers provided services to almost 975,000 new clients. Vital services provided at no cost: pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, parenting education programs, baby diapers, wipes, formula, outfits, and more. Of the over 16 million client sessions that took place, 97% self-reported a positive experience. These numbers speak to why 91% of Americans support pregnancy centers, according to a 2023 Knights of Columbus-Marist Poll. (*LifeNews.com*, 12/15/23)

Speaking up For Life

"When an abortion is performed, we proclaim that we know better than God. We disregard His wisdom, for He taught us that we should never kill innocent human beings. We proclaim that we do not want or need a gift from God. And in doing so, we seek to make ourselves more powerful than God. We seek to make ourselves God." *Archbishop Samuel Aquila*

"When someone struggles with the overwhelming guilt of a past sin, like abortion, repentance and reconciliation are the only source of relief. There is hope! 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:9). Through all our days, the Lord never leaves us nor forsakes us. He is a patient God, waiting and wanting all to come to repentance and be saved." *Deaconess Pamela Buhler and Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, Word of Hope*

"Pre-born babies are patients who deserve the rights and protections applicable to children and adults." *Dr. William Lile, Pensacola, Florida*

lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes



ORDER LFL RESOURCES AT
WWW.CPH.ORG

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

~SUNDAY SCHOOL - SUNDAYS
AT 10:30 A.M.

~CATECHISM VESPERS -
WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30P.M.

~BIBLE STUDY - SUNDAY AT
10:30 A.M. & THURSDAYS AT
10 A.M.



Lutheran Witness

Sign up to receive the Lutheran Witness Magazine! Please contact the office for more information.

HERE TO SERVE!

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STEWARDSHIP

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment.

The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God.

This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.

THIS MONTH'S SCHEDULE

JANUARY 3RD 7PM
ELDER JIM SLEIK

JANUARY 7TH 9AM
ELDER ROB KUEHL
ELDER SKIP SCHOENBORN

JANUARY 10TH 7PM
ELDER JIM SLEIK

JANUARY 14TH 9AM
ELDER ROB KUEHL
ELDER JIM REED

JANUARY 17TH 7PM
ELDER JIM REED

JANUARY 21ST 9AM
ELDER JIM REED
ELDER JIM SLEIK

JANUARY 24TH 7PM
ELDER BRADLEY L.

JANUARY 28TH 9AM
ELDER DANA BEY
ELDER BRADLEY L.

JANUARY 31ST 7PM
ELDER DANA BEY

LOOKING TO SERVE? CONTACT THE OFFICE OR TALK TO PASTOR!

January 2024

January 2024							February 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29		
	29	30	31										

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 31	Jan 1, 24	2	3	4	5	6
		6:30pm Board of Elders	5:30pm Catechism Vespers 7:00pm Divine Service	10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Men's Group	Pastor's Day Off	9:00am Christmas Decoraction Takedown & Cleaning
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
The Baptism of Our Lord 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, & Sunday School	1:00pm Ladies' Guild	9:00am Circuit Pastors' Meeting at Escanaba	5:30pm Catechism Vespers 7:00pm Divine Service	10:00am Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Second Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study, Youth Group,			5:30pm Catechism Vespers 7:00pm Divine Service	10:00am Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
The Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study, Youth Group,	6:30pm Church Council (Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kingsford, MI)		5:30pm Catechism Vespers 7:00pm Divine Service	10:00am Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	7:00am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study
28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
Septuagesima 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Quarterly Voters' Meeting 10:30am Sunday School			5:30pm Catechism Vespers 7:00pm Divine Service			



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
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