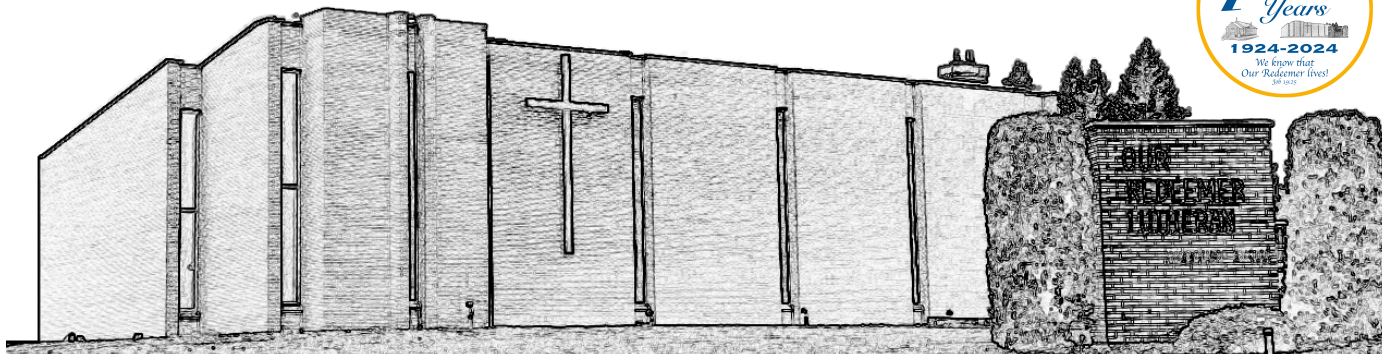


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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." (John 17:14, ESV)*

Pastors have a strange relationship with the season of Lent. We enjoy the rhythm of the Church Year with its different seasons and its different themes. There's always a bit of variance with that rhythm since the date of Easter changes every year. This year, Easter falls fairly early on the calendar (March 31st) which means that Lent begins a bit earlier. This is one of those years where it feels like the little "break" after Advent and Christmas has barely happened. Already in late January, I needed to make plans for midweek Lenten services and even start looking toward Holy Week and Easter.

Do you enjoy Lent? That may seem like a strange question in and of itself. Perhaps you enjoy the Lenten suppers offered each week and the special services. Maybe you even find joy in "giving something up" during the Lenten season: fast food or alcohol or social media or some other thing you think gets too big of a footing in your life.

Lent is strange because God's people are strange...at least "strange" in the eyes of the world in which we live. Lent is a penitential season. Though we are always to repent and turn our hearts and minds away from sin and "return to the Lord our God," we sharpen our focus on that call during this season.

The world doesn't understand repentance. The world seeks its own pleasure and meaning, chasing after its own will.

Lent is also a time when we remember that our kingdom, like that of Jesus, is "not of this world." The Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are meant to remind us that we have riches and wealth that endure for eternity...not that those fade away like riches here on earth. The world has no regard for the things of eternity because the world believes that this present world is all there is.

Before His passion and death in John 17, Jesus prayed His "High Priestly Prayer," interceding for His disciples. "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." (John 17:14) Lent is a time for us to remember this truth prayed by our Lord Jesus: we are hated by the world because we are not of the world. We are indeed strange. But with that "strangeness" comes true joy: the world to which we belong is an eternal one that endures forever.

God grant us, His "strange" people, to hear His Word, return to Him in repentance, and joyfully undergo our Lenten journey with eyes and hearts fixed on His kingdom that never ends.

**In Christ our Lord,**

  
**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](http://LCMS.org) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/TheLCMS](https://facebook.com/TheLCMS).

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Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9 A.M. - 2 A.M.

HERE TO SERVE!

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# The Season of Lent

**“Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.”  
 (Joel 2:13)**

## Join Us for Our 2024 Midweek Lent Suppers & Services

### Wednesday, February 14th

6:00 P.M. Supper (*hosted by Ladies' Guild*)

7:00 P.M. Ash Wednesday Divine Service

### Wednesday, February 21st

6:00 P.M. Supper (*hosted by the Church Council*)

7:00 P.M. Service - “Jesus Suffered Under Pontius Pilate”

### Wednesday, February 28th

6:00 P.M. Supper (*hosted by the Altar Guild*)

7:00 P.M. Service - “Jesus Was Crucified”

### Wednesday, March 6th

6:00 P.M. Supper (*hosted by the Men's Group*)

7:00 P.M. Service - “Jesus Died”

### Wednesday, March 13th

6:00 P.M. Supper (*hosted by the Board of Elders*)

7:00 P.M. Service - “Jesus Was Buried”

### Wednesday, March 20th

6:00 Supper (*Congregational Potluck*)

7:00 P.M. Service - “Jesus Descended into Hell”

## OFFICIAL ACTS

### BAPTISMS

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

### ADULT CONFIRMATION

### FUNERAL

### FIRST COMMUNION

### ADDED TO MEMBERSHIP

### TRANSFERS IN

### TRANSFERS OUT

- Roxanne Miller

### RELEASES

- Carol Thornton
- Preston Thornton

## ATTENDANCE

### TOTALS

January 3rd 7PM	14
January 7th 9AM	66
January 10th 7PM	8
January 14th 9AM	51
January 17th 7PM	8
January 21st 9AM	84
January 24th 7PM	22
January 28th 9AM	87
January 31st 7PM	22

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# FEBRUARY

## COMMUNITY EVENTS THIS MONTH!!

**FEBRUARY 5TH: Learn to Skate/Join Roller Derby**

**FEBRUARY 8TH-9TH: Kites Over Awesome Lake  
 Antoine (KOALA)**

**FEBRUARY 10TH: ValentAILS**

**FEBRUARY 12TH: 1ST Quarterly Meeting 100+ Women**

**February 14th: Valentine's Day Dinner and Music at  
 Venue 906**

**FEBRUARY 17TH: Winter Wonderland @ Cedar's  
 Edge Wine**

**FEBRUARY 23-25TH: FIS Continental Cup Ski Jumps**



### THIS MONTHS WORKSHOPS!

**FEBRUARY 3RD: Sushi Symphony Workshop**

**FEBRUARY 8TH: Frosty Footsteps: Snowshoeing Workshop**

**FEBRUARY 16TH: Late Night Game Night Workshop**

**FEBRUARY 17TH: Snowman Showdown Workshop**

**FEBRUARY 26TH: The ultimate LEGO Odyssey Workshop**

For more information or to register go to  
[www.YouMatterTour.org](http://www.YouMatterTour.org)

HERE TO SERVE!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1st Joe P.  
 1st Wyatt H.  
 4th Joe H.  
 4th Owen L.  
 5th Jennifer W.  
 6th Gina H.  
 6th Katie M.  
 7th Edward W.  
 7th Ondrea P.  
 7th Pamela P.  
 8th Will Jr. P.  
 13th Courtney W.  
 14th Jeff S.  
 16th Toni W.  
 18th Cynthia W.  
 19th Layla M.  
 21st Beverly H.  
 25th Sharon T.  
 27th Rob K.  
 28th Keegan C.

## ANNIVERSARIES

14th Curtis & Tracy V.  
 17th Bob & Sharon T.  
 25th Robert & Carol G.  
 25th Eric & Ashely L.  
 26th John & Kim K.



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### LWML RECAP & INFO.

Our ladies met on January 8th in the fellowship hall. Joan L. opened with Mite Box dedication. Joan L. is our new VP & did a nice job. Also thank you for last month's newsletter article, it was wonderful!

New Secretary, Maridol B. read minutes from last meeting and highlighted Christmas Luncheon at Holiday Kitchen. A good time was had by all!

Sherry C. lead several discussions. It's hard to believe that Ash Wednesday is February 14th - Valentine's Day - LWML will be serving the Lenten supper at 5:30PM with church to follow at 7PM. First we feed our bellies, then we feed our souls, see you there!

Other items discussed was our Ladies Banquet in May and the church's 100th Celebration in August. We would like to put together a display for the 100th celebration and need any old photos you may have!

We invite all ladies of the congregation to join us at our next meeting February 12th in the Fellowship Hall. We are also looking for a new President to lead our group!

#### Upcoming Events:

February 12th - Regular Meeting

February 14th - Ash

Wednesday Supper & Service  
April 5-6th - Spring Retreat at Camp Luther

Spring Rally - Hosted in Houghton

June 13-15th - Northern Wisconsin District Convention  
- Paper Valley Hilton, Appleton, WI

Your sisters in Christ,

*Caren and Gals*

### 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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## Here We Stand For Life

**“U**nless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason ... I am bound by the Scriptures ... and my conscience is captive to the Word of God.

“I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.

“I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen.”

*Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms, 1521*



### 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.

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## **STEWARDSHIP CARING FOR MY NEIGHBOR**

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ

## **THIS MONTH’S SCHEDULE**

**FEBRUARY 4TH**  
**Skip Schoenborn & Jim Reed**  
**Alter Guild: Sue Rochon**

**FEBRUARY 7TH**  
**Bradley Linsmeyer**  
**Alter Guild: Sue Rochon**

**FEBRUARY 11TH**  
**Rob Kuehl & Jim Reed**  
**Alter Guild: Jenna Long**

**FEBRUARY 14TH**  
**Dana Bey**  
**Alter Guild: Jenna Long**

**FEBRUARY 18TH**  
**Dana Bey & Jim Reed**  
**Alter Guild: Debbie Sleik**

**FEBRUARY 21ST**  
**Jim Sleik**  
**Alter Guild: Debbie Sleik**

**FEBRUARY 25TH**  
**Rob Kuehl & Bradley Linsmeyer**  
**Alter Guild: Lisa Swanson**

**FEBRUARY 28TH**  
**Jim Sleik**  
**Alter Guild: Lisa Swanson**

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

# February 2024

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
				12:00pm Pauline Lemke Funeral	Pastor's Day Off	9:00am Altar Guild Meeting
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Seagesima 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, & Sunday School	6:30pm Board of Elders		9:00am Service at Optalis Rehab & Care 5:30pm Catechism Vespers 7:00pm Divine Service	10:00am Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Quinquagesima 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, & Sunday School	1:00pm Ladies' Guild	9:00am Circuit Pastors Meeting at Marquette	Ash Wednesday 5:00pm Catechism Vespers 6:00pm Lenten Supper 7:00pm Divine Service	10:00am Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
First Sunday in Lent 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, & Sunday School			5:00pm Catechism Vespers 6:00pm Lenten Supper 7:00pm Divine Service	10:00am Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	7:00am Men's Group Breakfast and Bible Study
25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2
Second Sunday in Lent 9:00am Divine Service 10:30am Adult Bible Study, Youth Group, & Sunday School			5:00pm Catechism Vespers 6:00pm Lenten Supper 7:00pm Divine Service	10:00am Bible Study		



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
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