



*Redeemer Lutheran Church*

# *Voice of Redeemer*



Volume 53—Number 2

February 2024



What’s the most important thing about Lent? It depends on who you ask, but Lent has become a significant time in our Christian calendar, observed by nearly all denominations. The practices will vary, but the common themes include:

## **Pastor’s Message for Lent**

### **A Meaningful Preparation for Easter**

This forty-day season provides time for reflection and meditation leading up to Easter, which is the central event of our faith. The resurrection of Jesus Christ has changed everything and our annual celebration of God’s triumph over death is enhanced by thoughtful preparation.

### **Fasting and Abstinence**

Many Christians observe Lent through acts of self-discipline, including fasting and abstaining from certain foods or activities. Self-denial is almost a heresy in our “be happy” culture but has always been an excellent way to focus on spiritual growth.

### **Repentance and Reflection**

Lent is a time for believers to reflect on their lives, engage in repentance for their sins, and seek spiritual renewal. It often involves a commitment to prayer, penance, and acts of charity.

### **Symbolic and Sacramental Practices**

Different traditions have specific symbolic practices during Lent. For example, the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday symbolizes mortality and repentance. The use of purple, the liturgical color during Lent signifies both sorrow and royalty. Our King dies but will rise again. A renewed focus on the cross is appropriate as well. “We preach Christ crucified.” 1 Corinthians 1:23

### **Renewed Commitment to Christ**

Lent serves as a period for believers to reevaluate our commitment to Christ and to deepen our relationship with God. It is an opportunity for spiritual growth, self-examination, and a renewed focus on living a Christian life.

Ultimately, the most important thing about Lent is the personal and communal journey of faith, self-discipline, and spiritual reflection that it provides for Christians as we eagerly await the celebration of Easter. The specific practices and emphasis will vary among us, but the overarching theme is one of preparation and renewal. May you all have a blessed Lent.

Pastor Jon Christenson

*Please note the times of special services and opportunities we will have during this Lent to aid in your spiritual growth.*



# Applying Bible Principles Stewardship Thoughts

**"You will have all you want to eat, and you will give thanks to the Lord your God for the fertile land that he has given you. . . Remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the power to become rich. . ." (Deut. 8:10, 18).**

The Bible repeatedly says that we are to "praise the Lord," or as some translations read, we are to "bless the Lord." But what does that mean? Whatever else it might mean, it entails having a thankful heart for all that God has done for us. It's easy, you know, to go to an extreme and to emphasize only God's spiritual blessings to the exclusion of His temporal blessings. It's also easy to emphasize only His material blessings and to forget His provisions for us spiritually. In reality, we are to emphasize both the material and spiritual blessings we receive from God, remembering that all that we have comes from His bountiful hand.

As we realize God's provisions for us, day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year, we literally "praise the Lord" by a lifestyle that is marked by thanksgiving for all that God has done for us. And that spirit of gratitude for past, present and future blessings causes us to want to give to the Lord from the bounty He has provided for us. As one unknown author wrote, "Thanksgiving, to be truly Thanksgiving, is first thanks, then giving."

Think about it: As we receive God's blessings, we offer praise and thanksgiving to Him. And as we realize afresh that all that we have is a result of God's goodness, our response to His faithfulness is to give back to God a portion of that which was already His. We do so, not because we have to or out of any sense of obligation or guilt. We give to the Lord because we want to do so, in response to His great love for us and in response to His goodness.

Dwight L. Moody was once reading Psalm 103. When he came to the verse which describes how we are to praise the Lord and to remember His benefits, Mr. Moody stopped short in his inimitable way and exclaimed, "You can't remember them all, of course, but don't forget them all. Remember some of them!" And as you "remember some of them," remember the sequence: First thanks, then giving.



## REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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# SERVICES FOR LENT

# GUIDED *to the* CROSS



*Ash Wednesday*  
**GUIDED TO FORGIVENESS**



*Week 1*  
**GUIDED TO HOPE**



*Week 2*  
**GUIDED TO LOVE**



*Week 3*  
**GUIDED TO PEACE**



*Week 4*  
**GUIDED TO TRUST**



*Week 5*  
**GUIDED TO PERSEVERANCE**

*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,  
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

*1 Corinthians 1:18*



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR LENT

## Our Lenten 2024 theme is **Guided to the Cross**

It is on the cross that we see God's love perfectly revealed to us, so it is appropriate that Lent starts on St. Valentine's Day this year.

### *Ash Wednesday: Guided to Forgiveness*

Join us for the Guided to the Cross special service for Ash Wednesday, as we are drawn to Calvary to receive forgiveness. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of forgiving one another as we have been forgiven by Christ through the cross.

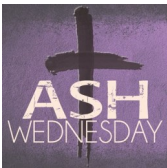
Our worship services that day will be at Noon and 6:00 pm.

Every Friday in Lent we will pray *Stations of the Cross* at Noon. This Lenten devotion will be a 30-minute service of Scripture, prayers, and simple music.

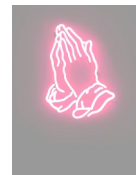
After Ash Wednesday, we will gather every Wednesday at 6:00 for a Soup Supper and worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. The Wednesday services will include a sermon and music.

In addition, Adult Sunday School (11 am in the pastor's office) will focus on each of the week's themes.

By providing both evening and daytime opportunities for devotion, we pray that your Lenten journey would be a meaningful one, and that some or all our worship meets your schedule.



## IN HIS SERVICE



| Area of Service | Feb. 4         | Feb. 11      | Feb. 18 | Feb. 25 |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|---------|---------|
| Pastor's Ass't. | Jan            | Jan          | Jan     | Jan     |
| Acolyte         | Darynne        | Maia         | Darynne | Maia    |
| Altar Guild     | Lyda           | Lyda         | Lyda    | Lyda    |
| Lector          | Bruce          | Judy         | Laura   | Dakota  |
| Greeter         |                |              | Laura   |         |
| Flowers         | Julie Griffith | Laura        | Dakota  | Phyllis |
| Counters        | Bruce/Dakota   | Linda/Dakota | Tammy/  | Tammy/  |
| Coffee hour     | Thompson       |              | Dakota  | Judy    |



Pictured to the left:  
Joe Miller received the  
Sacrament of Holy Baptism  
on January 19th. We  
welcome you into the Lord's  
family!

Wyatt listening intently to  
the singing of Happy  
Birthday as we celebrate his  
special day.



Pictured left: ←

In creating a new pre-teen Sun-  
day School room, the contents  
of the former knitting machine  
room was moved to the  
“storage” room in the Fellowship  
Hall. Knitting can now be with  
the quilting ladies .  
(the storage items are now lo-  
cated in the janitors room.)

Sunday School students  
enjoy their new classroom. Pic-  
tured to thr right are Leath  
Coomer, Darynne Coomer and

The adult class is held in  
Pastor’s office.





December 28, 2023

January 23, 2024

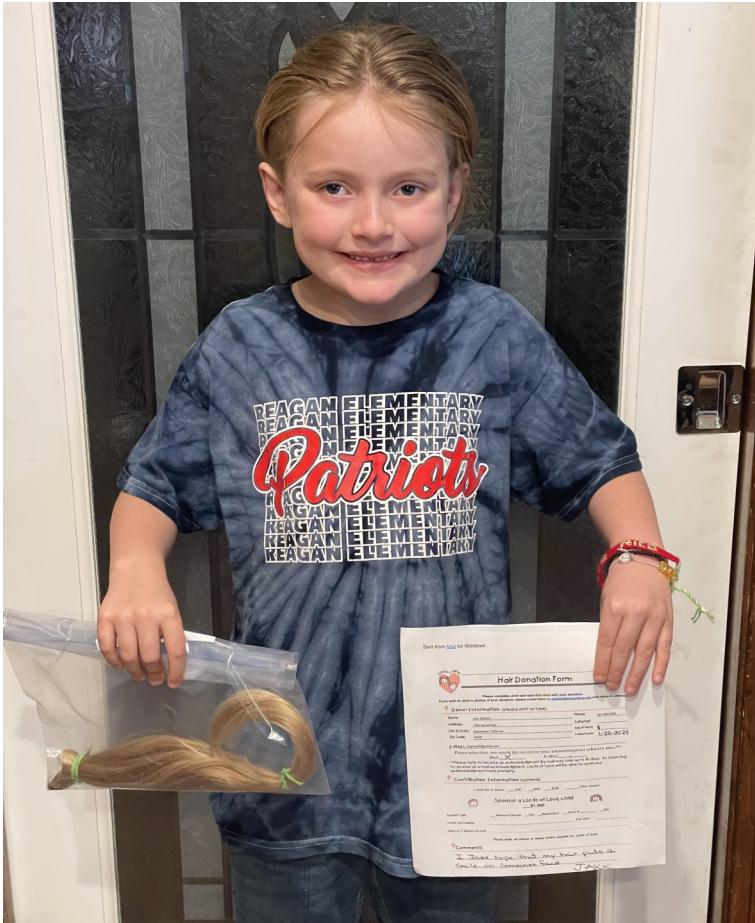
|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Jim Howard-<br>Money Penny<br>(Dakota's<br>dog)<br>June Evans | Caylin<br>Dakota's dad<br><br>Prayers for<br>Peace & com- | fort for the<br>families of:<br>Jim Howard,<br>Dave Coomer,<br>Stephanie | and "Uncle"<br>Bishop Roger<br>Anderson. |
|---|---|--|--|

Please know that your prayers are so very much appreciated. Thanks and Blessings to all!



# ALTAR GUILD

Anyone interested volunteering for Altar Guild please let the office know and Pastor Jon will schedule a training session. *We need help in this area of service and ask that you would prayerfully consider being a part of the Altar Guild.*



Pictured above is 8 year old Jaxx Spillers holding his golden locks and the Hair Donation Form. Two years ago Jaxx decided he wanted to grow his hair out so that he could donate his hair to *Locks of Love*. **HE DONATED 13"**! This nation-wide (maybe world-wide) non-profit charity uses human hair for making wigs and hairpieces for, patients ages 21 and under, who have lost their hair permanently due to various medical conditions and do not have the resources to purchase these confidence building wigs and hair pieces. It is truly a gift of love when you donate hair to *Locks of Life*, and we are so proud of Jaxx for setting such a great goal and the determination to complete the job!

**WAY TO GO, JAXX!!!**



**WAYS FOR YOU TO GET INVOLVED BY OFFERING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS TO REDEEMER. WE NEED YOU!**



George will be retiring from his treasurer duties on March 1, 2024. This leaves a void in offering counters. It's not difficult and there will always be someone familiar with the process

willing to help you.



We are always needing coffee hour volunteers. Again, if you "don't know how", ask questions of most any of the ladies and they will be happy to show you how. Plan to join us for fun and fellowship after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

**USHERS NEEDED.** Ladies and gentlemen can handle this volunteer position. Talk to John or Mark and they will provide the particulars.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## PASTOR'S ASSISTANT, AND ACOYTES

Great opportunities to join the worship team of volunteers. Talk to Pastor Jon or Jan if you would like to serve. There is the Worship and Music committee that can always use your help.



# FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

**DATES TO REMEMBER**



**LUNCH BUNCH** is Wednesday, 2/7/24 -11am at Country Kitchen Bar & Grill, 8251 East Brundage Lane. Please make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson.

Quilting & Prayer Shawl Ministry is Wednesday 2-14-24 9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will take a break for Ash Wednesday worship. Phyllis Elrod will bring snacks, & please bring your own sack lunch.

Afternoon Circle is Wednesday 2-21-24 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Scripture & Nature: Teachers of Faith - Creatures from Genesis 7:15 & Gather magazine. Anne-Marie Truax will bring refreshments. All ladies are invited!



Wine & Dine is Thursday 2/22/24, 6pm. at Frugatti's, 8109 Brimhall Road. Please make reservations with Linda Cohen.



Saturday Feb. 10 @ 9 am  
Helpers needed!



February 15  
6 pm



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Kathy McKnight** 02
- Azeadra Johnson-Haley** 10
- Hollie Schindler** 13
- Ella Dommer** 14
- Anne Benson** 16
- Susan Petty** 22
- Phyllis Elrod** 25
- Asher Schindler** 26
- Bill Schroeder** 26
- John Werts** 28

### *ONLY WHAT IS DONE FOR GOD'S KINGDOM WILL LAST*

Daniel 2:19-45

Daniel had already received God's interpretation of the king's dream. He could have used it to elevate himself to a place of prominence, but instead he chose to give witness to God. The dream and its interpretation provided a sweeping view of history: Human kingdoms were in decline; God's kingdom would be established forever. The purpose of the dream was to shift the center of trust from what *humans* do to what *God* does.

All human kingdoms are indeed in decline including your kingdom and mine. Only what is done for God's kingdom will last, And the sooner we shift the center of trust from what we're doing to what God is doing, the better off we'll be, both here on earth and hereafter in eternity.

Eugene Peterson

*Alvin (Vernon) Fike asked me to reprint this in the newsletter. It is only a small portion of a Bible study of Daniel and is certainly a reminder of the power of God's kingdom.*

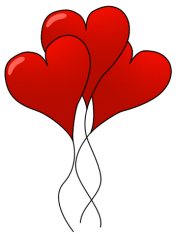


Soup Suppers will be held during Lent, beginning on February 21 @ 6 pm, and continue every Wed. through March 17. There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Join us for supper and fellowship prior to Lenten services.

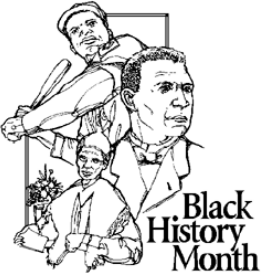









We have ordered Easter Lilies for you to purchase for Easter Sunday. Sign-up inserts will be in the bulletin.

**TIJUANA ORPHANAGE**  
Is the designated charity for January and February. Please make your checks out to Redeemer with a note "for Orphanage".



# FEBRUARY 2024

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY                                   |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
|  <p><b>Black History Month</b></p>  |   |  |   | 1   |  | 3<br>AA 5:30                               |
| 4<br>Worship 9:30<br>10:30 coffee hour<br>S.S. 10:30<br>Adult S.S. 10:50  | 5   | 6<br>Al-Anon<br>6:30-7:30  | 7<br>Lunch Bunch<br>11 am<br>Sack supper 5 pm<br>Bible Study<br>6 pm  | 8   | 9   | 10<br>Work Day 9 am<br><br>AA 5:30         |
| 11<br>Worship 9:30<br>  | 12<br> | 13 Al-Anon<br>6:30-7:30<br><br>Valentine's Day<br>February 14 | 14<br>Ash Wednesday<br>worship:12:00<br><br>ASH WEDNESDAY<br>Lent begins | 15<br>Martin Luther<br>11/10/1483—<br>2/18/1543 | 16<br>Lenten<br>Services  | 17<br>Garden Club<br>9-noon<br><br>AA 5:30 |
| 18<br>Worship 9:30<br>10:30 coffee hour<br>S.S. 10:30<br>Adult S.S. 10:50<br> | 19  | 20<br>Al-Anon<br>6:30-7:30   | 21<br>Afternoon<br>Circle 1:30<br><br>Soup supper<br>Vesper service   | 22  | 23<br>Lenten<br>Services  | 24<br><br>AA 5:30                          |
| 25<br>Worship 9:30<br>10:30 coffee hour<br>S.S. 10:30<br>Adult S.S. 10:50<br> | 26  | 27<br>Al-Anon<br>6:30-7:30   | 28<br>Soup supper<br><br>Vesper<br>service  | 29  |   |  |