



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

March 2025

Lent Begins March 5

Every year it seems like we wrap up the Christmas season, catch our breath, and then we dive head first into the season of Lent. With Easter being a little later than usual we have a little more space. However, our Lenten journey begins very soon. On March 4, Redeemer will host a Community Pancake Supper for Shrove Tuesday. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm and the 525 players will provide entertainment. Ash Wednesday begins early, 7:30-8:30 am, with the opportunity for drive-through imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. At 12:15 pm there is Quiet Communion and imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary. Our evening Ash Wednesday starts at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary and will include Holy Communion.



Lenten Schedule and Themes

- March 5, Ash Wednesday - Invitation
- March 12 - Study
- March 19 - Worship
- March 26 - Prayer
- April 2 - Encouragement
- April 9 - Giving
- April 17, Maundy Thursday - Serving
- April 18, Good Friday Tenebrae Worship

And it's just that quickly that Lent begins. One of the pieces of this church season that I find so valuable is the opportunity for worship and reflection on Wednesday nights. Each Wednesday during Lent at 7 pm we'll gather in the sanctuary and ponder faith practices. This year our series is Practicing but not Perfect. There are so many ways that we engage with our faith. But at times, we find ourselves relying on just a few opportunities. During Lent this year, we're challenging ourselves to stretch out and explore the various ways we practice and grow in our faith.

Join us beginning Ash Wednesday on March 5 and every Wednesday in Lent.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper March 4

Join us for pancakes and fun on Shrove Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00pm. The 525 Players will present two ten minutes plays as our entertainment. A free will offering to defray expenses will be received.



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In February, Nan and I went to Texas to see our son and his wife, and especially to see Hannah, our eighteen month old granddaughter. It was stormy on the day we flew out, making travel difficult with just about every plane delayed, and just about every plane full. As we taxied to take off one time, we talked about what a taxing day it had been. As we were on the plane while others boarded before the longest part of our flight, Nan got out her book to read. That's a miracle itself: Since her stroke, reading has been difficult for her, but now she can. So, I was interested in what she was reading and asked about it.



She was completing a book Michael had loaned her, so she was finishing the book with the plan to return it to him while we were there. I looked at it. The title was *A Dog's Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron. I like dogs, so I read the back cover. It described a fanciful tale about a

dog who is looking for his purpose in life, and when, for one reason or another, the dog dies, he is somehow reincarnated to live another life and continue his search for his purpose. The back cover went on to say that it was a humorous tale about pets and people and finding love. However, when I asked Nan what it was about, she said simply, It's about a puppy who gets rescued over, and over, and over.

You know, what she said is a pretty good description of Lent. During Lent, we think about our sin, our need for God to save us, and the lengths Jesus goes to in order to do that. In puppy terms, we need rescuing over, and over, and over.



And that IS our story. Not only do we fail to obey God or apply God to every aspect of life, not only do we sin—as one of our liturgies says – “...by our own fault, by our own grievous fault,” but we do it repeatedly, over, and over, and over again.

Lent calls us to remember: to remember our need for Jesus to come; to forsake our pride, complacency, self-satisfaction, and hubris that imply we don't need Jesus; to remember that it was our sin — our very own sin — that put Jesus on that cross; to forsake striving for our way and instead seek God's way. We can't do it alone. We need rescuing, over, and over, and over again.

Maybe it's time for a new book, not about a dog, but about us.

Perhaps it should be called “A Sinner's Purpose.” Repent. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.



Love. The back of the book Nan was reading said that in the end, the book was a story about love. Rest assured, Lent is too.

Joseph May	3/1
Michelle Busch	3/3
Kaitlin Harring	3/4
Jody Byrd	3/6
Travis Cowan	3/6
Layne Smith	3/6
Paul Fazzio	3/7
Brady Davis	3/9
Graham Mitchell	3/9
Connie Davis	3/10
Stephanie Cowan	3/11
Sarah Drake	3/11



Allison Burgess	3/12
Suzanne Harmon	3/12
Jason Roddey	3/13
McKenzie Bachman	3/17
Matthew Epting	3/18
Ryan Willingham	3/18

Brenda Boyd	3/21
William Murphy	3/22
Carroll Lorick	3/23
Mitch Plemmons	3/26
Martha Summer	3/26
Gregory Harmon	3/27
Mike Bachman	3/29
Kirby Byrd	3/29
Ernest Nix	3/29
Hugh Davis Jr.	3/30
Adelaide Frey	3/31



Home Communion Visits In March

Home Communion Team! March is your month to take communion to the Redeemer Family's homebound members. Please refill your communion kits if needed. On the first or second Sunday this month place your kits on the altar to be blessed. Please check in with Pastor Amanda to make sure that all our information is accurate. Thank you for your ministry!

We are still looking for a couple more folks to take communion to our homebound members. This involves taking communion to one person every other month at a time that works best for you and the one you are delivering to. For more information contact Pastor Amanda, 803.465.3773.



In Appreciation

Each month the Church Council recognizes and thanks those among us who have offered themselves to the work of the church in special ways. This month the council appreciated:

Choral Scholar **Bailey Walker** who took on leadership of the Choir during our interim after Jim's **retirement**,

Judy Urso, who took on management of the behind the scene organization for our choir **during our interim**,

Steve Summer who oversaw the Property Action Team for the past couple of years, and to **Mike Parker**, who has taken that role now, and to

Jean Taylor who is taking on leadership of our Altar Guild.



Leisure Timers "March Madness Book Swap"

We hope that you will join us on Thursday, March 20th for lunch and our "March Madness Book Swap." If you have any book(s) that you would like to swap, bring them along. Cookbooks are

great, too. Don't have a book? No problem. Come browse our collection. Find some of interest to you. Any books that are left will be donated to Williamsburg County. This is a great time of the year to surround yourself with some good books! Friends are always welcome. All attending will need to sign up in the Narthex. Lunch will be \$6.50 per person. Questions or need help signing up, email Connieda-

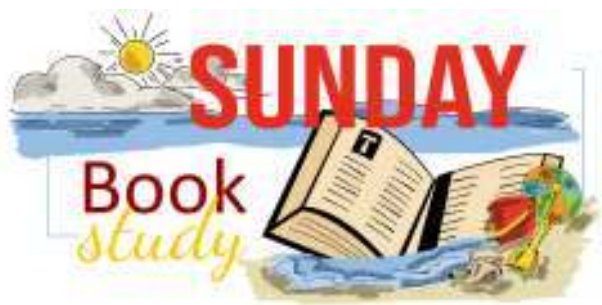


vis@sc.rr.com or call/text (803)317-7631

Sunday Book Study Schedule

Redeemer's online book study continues through March! We're reading *The Search to Belong* by Joseph R Myers. We'll chat about community, outreach, and how we develop a sense of belonging. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join in. Invite others. We meet via Zoom at 2 pm on Sundays. <https://relu.link/BookStudy>. For more information contact Pastor Amanda at aburke@relu.church.

- March 2 – No Meeting
- March 9 - Ch 4 Group Chemistry
- March 16 - Ch 5 Trading Spaces
- March 23 - Ch 6 Searching for a Front Porch



Daylight Savings Time Begins March 9

Set Your Clocks Ahead One Hour Before Going to Bed on Saturday night!

Thank You to Choral Scholars; Program Funded for Another Year

On behalf of the choir and Choral Scholars Gala committee we wish to express our appreciation to the congregation for your financial support of the program. We are grateful for our four choral scholars. They are as follows: soprano -

Desiree Richardson; alto - Amanda Walker; tenor - Austin Hinen; and bass - Bailey Walker.



They help the choir members learn music at rehearsals and lead the worship service in singing and offering the anthem. Because of your financial contributions the Choral Scholars program is funded for another year.

With gratitude on behalf of the Choral Scholars Gala Committee:

- Janet Boatwright
- Jean Cook
- Jane Long
- Fauni Lowe
- Martha Summer
- Judy Urso



When I went to seminary I felt like one of my primary textbooks should be a dictionary. There were so many long words that often had a much simpler meaning. There are also many concepts that I had to wrap my mind around as well. So, I figured we could look at these words and ideas together in a monthly newsletter article.

Let's look at *Messiah*

The word "Messiah" comes from the Hebrew word *mashiach* (מָשִׁיחַ), which literally means "anointed one." In ancient Israel, a person who was anointed with oil—such as a king or priest—was set apart for a special purpose. In the context of Scripture, the Messiah is the promised deliverer who would bring salvation to

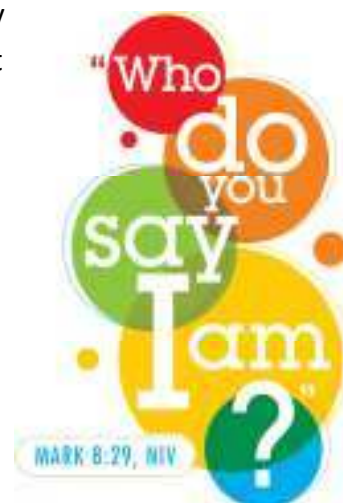
God's people.

In the Old Testament, there are prophecies about the coming Messiah, who would restore Israel and bring peace and justice to the world. This word is important because, for some, it directly points to Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Christians believe He is the fulfillment of these messianic prophecies.

Isaiah 9:6, tells us, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." This verse, among many others, speaks to the anticipation of a Messiah who would bring about God's reign in a new way.

When we use the word *Messiah* today, we think of Jesus Christ. It's worth asking:

- What does it mean for Jesus to be the *anointed one*?
- How does recognizing Jesus as the Messiah shape our understanding of His mission in the world?



Let's continue to explore these big churchy words and ideas!

Pastor Amanda

Communication Card Insights



We love it when you share your thoughts and experiences on the weekly Communication Cards! We really do read all of those communication cards each week! We've found that our faith family has a lot of wisdom to share. Here is just a bit...

We're moving into a new season of the church year, Lent. We've asked folks, what the most meaningful part of lent is for them. The opportunity for reflection and quietness. Being moved by the love I feel from Christ when I think of all he went through for me. The upper room experience on Maundy Thursday. I enjoy the history and recognizing the wonders of God's love.



Council Pursues New Website for the Church; Develops Memorial Fund Policy

Redeemer Church Council met in February.

Minutes from were approved. The council heard reports from the treasurer and both pastors.

Council members discussed the start of our new music director, Jeff Clearman. His first Sunday with us will be March 2. We are very thankful for the musicians that filled in during the interim.

It has been a while since the congregation member's addresses and phone numbers have been updated in our office software. Pastor Amanda is working on this very tedious project. There will be updated directories with addresses, phone numbers, and emails when she is finished.

Council discussed and celebrated the process that developed the congregation's core values. A cursory look at Redeemer's statement prompted conversation around the process of evaluating our current mission statement over the course of this year.



There was a lengthy conversation about the state of our current website. From what council members learned at a recent synod communications event, our website needs a lot of work to be effective. Council voted to begin the process of building a new website.

There was also a conversation about developing a Memorial Fund Policy and representation at the 2025 Synod Assembly.

There is a printer that can provide pew envelopes for a very reasonable price. Council will continue the discussion on how to move forward.

The meeting closed with prayer and the sharing of the peace.

- Welcoming our new Music Director, Jeff Clearman
- Redeemer database update continues
- Mission statement conversation begun
- A new website is being developed
- Printing pew envelopes explored

By the Numbers

	January YTD 2025	January YTD 2024	January YTD 2023
Total income	\$ 21,980	\$ 26,848	\$ 33,698
Total expenses	<u>\$ 36,883</u>	<u>\$ 46,167</u>	<u>\$ 53,541</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ (14,903)</u>	<u>\$ (19,319)</u>	<u>\$ (19,843)</u>
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 271,737	\$271,737	\$ 165,375
Attendance	Onsite: 105 Online: 80	Onsite: 109 Online: 98	Onsite:91 Online: 92

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>23</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:15am - Choir practice @ 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 6pm - NAMI support group @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian 6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>
<p>2</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice @ 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 11:15am - Worship & Music @ 12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian 1pm - Confirmation Class @ Zion</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6pm - Shrove Tuesday Community</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30am - Drive through Ashes and 12:15pm - Ash Wednesday Quiet 6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7pm - Ash Wednesday Worship</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 6pm - NAMI support group @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian 6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice @ 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>	<p>11</p> <p>SOFA Meeting @ Fellowship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7am - SOFA Meeting @ Fellowship 6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian 6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice @ 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom 6pm - Church Council @ Large</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10am - Little Learners LexRich 5 6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 12pm - Leisure Timers @ 6pm - NAMI support group @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian 6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>
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<p>30</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice @ 10am - Worship @ Sanctuary 12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 6pm - NAMI support group @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian 6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>



Redeemer Lutheran Church

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(803) 772-5419
www.relu.church

Address Service Requested

Rev. Gary Loadholdt, Senior Pastor

Cell Telephone: 803-528-5693

pastorgary@relu.church

Rev. Amanda Burke, Associate Pastor

aburke@relu.church

Yvonne Krouse, Parish Financial

Administrator

ykrouse@relu.church

Jim Boatwright, Director of Music

jboat@relu.church

Judy Chapman, Parish Secretary

judy@relu.church

Sunday Services

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Executive Committee

President	Kai Jørgensen
Vice President	Diane Hunt
Treasurer	Todd Anderson
Secretary	Donna Nunamaker

Online Giving

Scan this symbol with your smart phone to be connected to our online giving



2025 Congregation Council

Term Expires End of 2025

Kai Jørgensen

Fauni Lowe

Mike Parker

Term Expires End of 2026

Diane Hunt

Donna Nunamaker

Shannon Smith

Term Expires End of 2027

Gary Byrd

Martie Newmyer

Martha Summer