

Redeemer's Christian Connection

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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February Newsletter

Pastor's Corner

Symbols of Salvation

This month begins with the last two Sunday's of Epiphany which includes Jesus' Transfiguration. We will celebrate Jesus' Transfiguration on Sunday, February 14th (St. Valentine's Day), which is a good day to remember God the Father's words of love with regard to His Son on the Mt. of Transfiguration: "*This is my beloved Son*" (Mark 9:7). Similar words were spoken by God the Father at His Son's baptism, but now, as Jesus makes His final approach to Jerusalem and the cross, it's important that He and we hear them again. Think also what these words mean with regard to God's love for each one of us; that God loves us so much that He was willing to send His beloved Son to become flesh and blood on this earth so that He could die on a cross to deliver us from eternal suffering and death!

During the latter part of February, which includes three Wednesday midweek services (two on Ash Wednesday, 12noon and 7pm, and one on the following Wednesday at 7pm), we will begin the first two of eight midweek services in Lent which will focus on some of the symbols which remind us of Jesus Christ's willingness to suffer and die on our behalf for our salvation.

On Ash Wednesday we will begin with a not so familiar symbol, "The Cross in the Cup." We will also consider Christ's blood in the Cup. What does His blood cry out?



The second Wednesday in Lent will focus on “The Crowing Rooster.” This symbol reminds me of my mother, who in her later years began a small collection of roosters. I don’t think this was a random choice, but something that reminded her of some important things about Christ.



The third Wednesday in Lent will focus on “The Thirty Pieces of Silver.” This amount, which was given to Judas for betraying Jesus, tells us something about our times of betrayal.



On the fourth Wednesday in Lent we will consider “The Pillar and Whip.” Why this extra suffering before Jesus death?



The fifth Wednesday will focus on “The Crown of Thorns” that was put on Jesus’ head. An unusual crown for an unusual King.



On the sixth Wednesday of Lent we will consider “The Four Nails” of the cross.



Don't you mean three?



No, four.

On Maundy Thursday we will focus on one of the most common symbols for Jesus, “The Lamb.” This symbol, copied below from our last stained glass window, takes us back to “The Cross in the Cup” and beyond!



Finally, on Good Friday, the most common symbol which reminds us of Jesus: “The Cross.”
What is the cross meant to remind us most, Jesus’ death or His resurrection from the dead?



Join us at our extra **Wednesday evening services during Lent (7pm)**, for a time of extra reflection and spiritual nourishment from God. On each Wednesday in Lent after Ash Wednesday (not including Ash Wednesday) there will also be a time of physical nourishment from our **Soup & Sandwich Suppers and fellowship at 6pm.**

Board of Evangelism

The Board of Evangelism invites you to Friendship Sunday on February 7th. We will have special treats and crafts for all!!

A special thanks to our outgoing members: Karen Jetley and Elly Olson. If you are interested in joining the committee let Amber Miller, Holly Kruger or Tim Hinz know. We would love to have you!

M & M's



We will attempt to have our Soup and Sandwich meals prior to the Midweek Lent Services starting on February 24th at 6:00pm with service to follow at 7:00pm.



Hymn of the Month



"TEN THOUSAND REASONS"

Our Hymn of the Month for February comes from our new hymnal, One and All Rejoice (OAR), and may already be familiar to some since in 2013 it won two Grammy Awards for "Best Contemporary Christian Music Song" and "Best Gospel/Contemporary Christian Music Performance." "Ten Thousand Reasons" is a song co-written by British Christian singer/songwriter Matt Redman and Swedish songwriter Jonas Myrin.

The song is based on the opening verse of Psalm 103: *"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!"* (see also Ps 30:5, *"For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime."*)

This song focuses on some of God's gifts to mankind which make Him worthy of "praise unending," worship for "ten thousand years and then forevermore." For example, God's holiness, lovingkindness, slowness to anger, kind heart, and His gift of "a new day dawning" with the rising of His Son, Jesus Christ. "Bless the Lord, O my soul!"

[Chorus]

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

[Stanza 1]

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

[Chorus]

[Stanza 2]

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

[Chorus]

[Stanza 3]

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Forevermore

[Chorus]

Life Thoughts In The Church Year

February 7 – Epiphany V – “The Lord heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” (Psalm 147:3). Didn’t Jesus atone for the sins of abortion and assisted suicide? Doesn’t the Heavenly Father love those who promote or participate in them just as much as the lives they have taken? For their sake, let us not hesitate to directly apply both the diagnosis of sinfulness and the medicine of forgiveness in our congregations and our conversations.

February 14 – Transfiguration of Our Lord/St. Valentine’s Day – “God shines forth out of Zion” (Psalm 50:2), not from outer space or some other dimension. He adorns human faces with His own glory. It isn’t angels, superheroes, or celebrities only that He makes so sacred, but sinners like Moses (Exodus 34:29-30) and peasants like Jesus (Mark 9:2-3). The Almighty Father holds every human life open, no matter how embryonic or elderly, as a window to heaven. Who are we to pull the shades?

February 21 – Lent I – “Do not lay your hand on the boy ... the Lord will provide” (Genesis 22:12-14). Don’t mothers and fathers experiencing surprise pregnancies have the need—and the right—to hear this plea from God Himself? And what a privilege we have to repeat the holy prohibition and promise! Jesus Christ has stepped into every sinner’s place (Mark 1:9, 13), and no other death is necessary or sufficient. His alone will atone for all of our shortcomings.

February 28 – Lent II – What “rejoicing” (Romans 5:3) can we do when abuse, abandonment, and poverty complicate pregnancy? What “hope” (Romans 5:4) can we have when terminal illness takes a loved one’s faculties, functions, and future? Just this: Through Jesus, God takes up our crosses (Mark 8:34) that we may live under His—and live immediately, abundantly, and eternally (Mark 8:35).



Birthdays of the Month

Rebecca Cumins—February 3rd
 Paul Senteney—February 4th
 Benjamin Cumins—February 5th
 Lyn Hinz—February 8th
 A.J. Wilks—February 9th
 Harold Wacker—February 15th
 Judy Colvin—February 15th
 Drew Miller—February 16th
 Jackson Heinecke—February 21st
 Eliot Boyles—February 21st
 Tina Oeltjenbruns—February 24th

Wedding Anniversaries

Tim & Lyn Hinz—February 1st
 Ken & Sarah Weber—February 3rd
 Klaus & Elsa Winkelmann—February 17th

Baptismal Birthdays

Kathy Wacker—February 1st
 Jo Ann Wilks—February 5th
 Marion Wilson—February 8th
 Christopher Rivas—February 18th
 Harold Wacker—February 22nd
 Dennis Oeltjenbruns—February 24th
 Eliot Boyles—February 26th
 Jackson Heinecke—February 28th
 Cooper Fischer—February 28th
 Sarah Tunget—February ?

THE LORD'S MINISTRY

Redeemer Lutherans attendance figures and financial blessings that were given for the month of January to further maintain the Lord's ministry.

Date	Attendance	Communicants	Offerings Received Gen./Designated Funds	Needed Operating Budget
1-2 & 3- 2021	88	66	\$2,312.50/\$506.00	\$4,455.06
1-9 & 10-2021	83	65	\$2,515.25/\$1,121.50	\$4,455.06
1-16 & 17-2021	77	19	\$5,947.50/\$585.00	\$4,455.06
1-23 & 24-2021	83	42	\$1,910.75/\$1,172.00	\$4,455.06