

Redeemer's Christian Connection

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February Newsletter



Pastor's Page

February comes from the Latin word *februa*, which means “to cleanse.” The month was named after the Roman Februalia, which was a month-long period of sacrifice and atonement involving offering sacrifices to the gods. If you were a wealthy Roman who didn't have to go out and work, you could literally spend the entire month of February atoning for the sins you committed during the other eleven months of the year.

Thank God in Jesus Christ who saved us from such damning works-righteous beliefs and useless acts of atonement through the Good News of His once for all sacrifice on the cross, which sets us free from our sins and enables us through the gift of faith to live a life of repentance and faith in Him, and consequently a life which seeks to save others through

the message of our salvation through Jesus Christ. We can also thank God for all the fellow saints we remember during the month of February, and the ways He served others through them, including:

February 2 - The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord -

Thirty-two days after Jesus' circumcision and seventy weeks after the announcement of John's birth to Zechariah by the angel Gabriel, the Lord is brought to His temple to fulfill the Torah (Luke 2:22-38). The days are indeed fulfilled with the presentation. Through Joseph and Mary God fulfills the Torah by bringing Jesus to His true home. Joseph and Mary also offer the alternative sacrifice of two turtledoves or two pigeons. Leviticus 12:8 allows this instead of a lamb, since not everyone could afford a lamb (showing the poverty and humility of Joseph and Mary). Yet no lamb was necessary because already here at forty days old, Jesus is the Lamb brought to His temple for sacrifice. Simeon's Nunc Dimittis is a beautiful example of the immediate response to this inauguration of God's consolation and redemption in the Christ Child. Speaking to Mary, Simeon also prophesies about Jesus' destiny.

February 5 - Jacob (Israel), Patriarch - Jacob, the third of the three Hebrew patriarchs, was the younger of the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah. After wrestling with the LORD, Jacob (whose name means "deceiver"), was renamed Israel (which means, "he strives with God." Genesis 25:26; 32:28). His family life was filled with trouble, caused by his acts of deception toward his father and his brother, Esau, and his parental favoritism toward his son Joseph. Much of his adult life was spent grieving over the death of his beloved wife, Rachael, and the presumed death of Joseph, who had been appointed by the Egyptian pharaoh to be in charge of food distribution during a time of famine in the land. Prior to Jacob's death, through the blessing of his sons, God gave the promise that the Messiah would come through the line of Jacob's fourth son, Judah (Genesis 49).

February 10 - Silas, Fellow Worker of Peter and Paul - Silas, a leader in the Church at Jerusalem, was chosen by Paul (Acts 15:40) to accompany him on his second missionary journey from Antioch to Asia Minor and Macedonia. Silas, also known as Silvanus, was imprisoned with Paul in Philippi and experienced the riots in Thessalonica and Berea. After rejoining Paul in Corinth, Silas apparently remained there for an extended time. Sometime later he apparently joined the apostle Peter, likely serving as Peter's secretary (1 Peter 5:12). Tradition says that Silas was the first bishop at Corinth.

February 13 - Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos - Aquila and his wife, Priscilla (Prisca), Jewish contemporaries of Paul, traveled widely. Because of persecution in Rome, they went to Corinth where they met the apostle Paul, who joined them in their trade of tent making (Acts 18:1-3). In turn, they joined Paul in his mission of proclaiming the Christian Gospel. The couple later traveled with Paul from Corinth to Ephesus (Acts 18:18), where the two of them established a home that served as hospitality headquarters for new converts to Christianity. Apollos was one of their numerous Jewish pupils in the faith. An eloquent man, Apollos, *"being fervent in spirit...spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus"* (Acts 18:25). He later traveled from Corinth to the province of Achaia, *"showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus"* (Acts 18:28). Aquila, Priscilla, and Apollos are all remembered and honored for their great missionary zeal.

February 14 - Valentine, Martyr - A physician and priest living in Rome during the rule of Emperor Claudius, Valentine became one of the noted martyrs of the third century. The commemoration of his death, which occurred in AD 270, became part of the calendar of remembrance in the Early Church of the West. Tradition suggests that on the day of his execution for his Christian faith, Valentine left a note of encouragement for a child of his jailer, written on an irregularly shaped piece of paper. This greeting became a pattern for millions of written expressions of love and caring that now are the highlight of Valentine's Day in many nations.

February 15 - Philemon and Onesimus - Philemon was a prominent first-century Christian who owned a slave named Onesimus. Although the name means "useful," Onesimus proved himself "useless" when he ran away from his master and perhaps even stole from him (Philemon 18). Somehow Onesimus came into contact with the apostle Paul while Paul was in prison (possibly in Rome), and through Paul's proclamation of the Gospel, he became a Christian. After confessing to the apostle that he was a runaway slave, Onesimus was directed by Paul to return to his master and become "useful." In order to help pave the way for Onesimus's peaceful return home, Paul sent him on his way with a letter addressed to Philemon, a letter in which he urged Philemon to forgive his slave for running away and to "*receive him as you would receive me*" (v. 17), "*no longer as a slave but...as a beloved brother*" (v. 16). The letter was eventually included by the Church as one of the books of the New Testament.

February 16 - Philipp Melanchthon (birth), Confessor - Philipp Melanchthon (1497-1560) was a brilliant student of the classics and a humanist scholar. In 1518, he was appointed to teach along with Martin Luther at the University of Wittenberg. At Luther's urging, Melanchthon began teaching theology and Scripture in addition to his courses in classical studies. In April 1530, Emperor Charles V called an official meeting between the representatives of Lutheranism and Roman Catholicism, hoping to effect a meeting of minds between two opposing groups. Since Luther was at that time under papal excommunication and an imperial ban, Melanchthon was assigned the duty of being the chief Lutheran representative at this meeting. He is especially remembered and honored as the author of the Augsburg Confession, which was officially presented by the German princes to the emperor on June 25, 1530, as the defining document of Lutheranism within Christendom. Melanchthon died on April 19, 1560.

February 18 - Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor - Martin Luther, born November 10, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany, initially began studies leading toward a degree in law. However, after a close encounter with death, he switched to the study of theology, entered an Augustinian monastery, was ordained a priest in 1505, and received a doctorate in theology in 1512. As a professor at the newly established University of Wittenberg, Luther's scriptural studies led him to question many of the Church's teachings and practices, especially the selling of indulgences. His refusal to back down from his convictions resulted in his excommunication from the Roman Catholic church in 1521. Following a period of seclusion at the Wartburg castle, Luther returned to Wittenberg, where he spent the rest of his life preaching and teaching, translating the Scriptures into German, and writing hymns and numerous theological treatises. He is remembered and honored for his lifelong emphasis on the biblical truth that for Christ's sake God declares us righteous by grace through faith alone. Luther died on February 18, 1546, while visiting the town of his birth.

February 23 - Polycarp of Smyrna, Pastor and Martyr - Born around AD 69, Polycarp was a central figure in the early Church. A disciple of the evangelist John, he linked the first generation of believers to later Christians. After serving for many years as a bishop of Smyrna (the second city to receive a letter from the apostle John in the book of Revelation 2:8), Polycarp was arrested, tried, and executed for his faith on February 23, in AD 155 or 156. An eyewitness narrative of his death, *The Martyrdom of Polycarp* continues to encourage believers in times of persecution.

[adapted from Treasury of Daily Prayer, CPH 2008]



“Jesus on the Mountain Peak”

415 LSB/194 OAR

Through the majority of this month we celebrate the season of Epiphany, which focuses on some of the ways Jesus revealed His glory as the Holy Son of God, our Savior. While all Jesus’ miracles reveal this truth, His transfiguration is especially revealing of Jesus’ divine nature. Therefore, our Hymn of the Month for February is about Jesus’ transfiguration (which we will celebrate on the 27th of this month). This hymn is in both hymnals, The Lutheran Service Book (LSB) and our new children’s hymnal, One and All Rejoice (OAR), which highlights its importance as a hymn to be learned by both young and old.



This same almighty Savior is with us during the Divine Service to fulfill in us His Law and Gospel, and our eternal salvation. We ascend each Sunday to the mountain peak to bow before our triune God in awe and wonder, thanking Him for His underserved gifts and singing “Alleluia” with all creation!

NEWS FROM RLS AND TINY TREASURES

National Lutheran Schools Week was January 23-27, with the theme “Making Disciples for Life.” There was a lot of enthusiasm and special activities, games, and snacks, along with sincere gratitude and appreciation for our elementary school and preschool. The students learned what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and the Great Commission that Jesus has given His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations.

Do you know only 2 percent of the population of India are Christians? Most practice Buddhism or Hinduism. And are you aware that one-third of all children who live in extreme poverty in the world live in India? We discovered a lot about the people of India and the country’s rich culture, history, landscape and different ways of life through Gospel Adventures, an online interactive experience for children available through Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Most importantly, the mission program helped the students realize they can help share the Gospel in India--through their prayers and offerings. The children are contributing money for Lutheran Hour Ministries’ Youth Clubs in India, which offer programs and activities for children while also focusing on their spiritual needs. The amount of \$50 will supply one Youth Club with a blackboard, carrom board (an Indian board game), chess set, volleyball, tennikoit (ring tennis), and badminton rackets, net, and cork. If you would like to contribute, there is a donation jar in the Family Life Center. We will be collecting funds through the end of February.

Here at Redeemer, we are reaching 61 children and their families with the Gospel message. In addition, the children are excelling academically with our Bible-based curriculum and gifted and versatile staff. Our present RLS enrollment stands at 33 students, and the preschool has 28 students and a waiting list.



“RAISE THE RAMS’ ROOF” UPDATE

God continues to bless our capital campaign efforts to expand our school ministry! Current pledges and donations total more than half a million dollars. There are 17 families from our congregation who have turned in pledges. You can double the impact of your donation/pledge through a new \$40,000 gift-matching challenge. The previous \$100,000 challenge was matched through the generosity of our donors. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this important ministry.

The Parish School Board will provide updated information later this month to members of Redeemer regarding projected numbers for student enrollment and staff and facility needs in the coming years. Special thanks to the Building Committee for their hard work and diligent efforts gathering data and cost estimates and working with the City of Delta planning officials.

February 2023

What's Happening at Tiny Treasures Preschool

Redeemer Lutheran Church is committed to providing a nurturing, stimulating, Christian environment where active learning flourishes and the physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and social development of children is promoted with the recognition that they are truly God's precious gifts. We want to provide support to parents by supplementing and enhancing their child's entire development.

The tool to help us positively influence a child's development is observation and assessments. The assessments that the preschoolers are working on in February revolve around social and emotional development: separating from parents, working with others, using words to solve conflicts and identifying feelings. Learning to get along with yourself and others is a necessary skill for any lifelong success.

Finally, a few reminders: There is hot lunch on Wednesdays and we are asking for a donation of three dollars per child to help cover costs. The dates to remember that are upcoming are that there is no school on the week of February 20-24 for Winter Break. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd.

Life Thoughts In The Church Year

February 5 – Epiphany V – Do abortion and physician-assisted suicide rest our faith in God's power or men's wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:5)? Has not Christ crucified proved the beauty of being with one another even in weakness and trembling (1 Corinthians 2:3) rather than hiding from our own flesh (Isaiah 58:7)? And will not what God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9) ease fears about surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis (Psalm 112:7)?

February 12 – Epiphany VI – Jesus affirms that God forbids both murder and adultery (Matthew 5:21, 27). The Lord categorically says, "No!" to abortion because He emphatically says, "Yes!" to marriage, family, and community. His "Yes!" even extends forgiveness and salvation to those who have aborted their own children. We may advocate the sanctity of human life with the same courage and compassion (Matthew 5:37)—no matter who calls us a fool (Matthew 5:22).

February 19 – Transfiguration of Our Lord – The transfigured Jesus came down the mountain. He did not camp His glory in a comfortable status quo but put it to work accompanying His loved ones into adversity. So let us take hold of this Gospel and invite our neighbors to leave behind the seeming ease of abortion or assisted suicide. And let us find the blessed life Jesus reveals even in surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis.

February 26 – Lent I – The devil suggested Jesus attempt death as a solution (Matthew 4:6). Our Savior rejected the deception and rested Himself in the hands of the Heavenly Father. Death only delivers oppression because it serves sinfulness (Romans 5:14). But the victory Jesus gives over our ultimate enemies—Satan and the grave—frees us to leave life-and-death decisions to the Lord our God.



LADIES AFTERNOON TEA

Please join us at Redeemer Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 11th 2023 @ 2 P.M.

Dress is NICE CASUAL

This afternoon 'Tea' is all about experiencing a fun Colorado style English Afternoon Tea
Socializing and Relaxing
Babysitting available

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LADIES LUNCHEON 2023

April 1st 11 a.m.

Here At Redeemer Lutheran Church

You are invited to join us for

DEVOTION

HELPING MAKE/CREATE OUR EASTER TABLE DECORATIONS

FELLOWSHIP

BRING AND SHARE SALADS FOR LUNCH

BABY SITTING AVAILABLE

EASTER SUNDAY (BRUNCH/BREAKFAST) IS APRIL 12TH



Birthdays of the Month

Rebecca Cumins—February 3rd
 Benjamin Cumins—February 5th
 Lyn Hinz—February 8th
 Thomas Howell—February 12th
 Lloyd Liebetrau—February 13th
 Judy Colvin—February 15th
 Drew Miller—February 16th
 Pam Nickel—February 18th
 Jackson Heinecke—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
 Marion Wilson—February 8th
 Dennis Oeltjenbruns—February 24th
 Amber Jordan—February 27th
 Tyler Jordan—February 27th
 Kenny Andasola—February 27th
 Jackson Heinecke—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	Needed Operating
			Gen./Designated Funds	Budget
1-1 - 2023	59		\$2,458.00/\$224.00	\$4,455.06
1-8 -2023	105	83	\$6,206.75/\$5,327.00	\$4,455.06
1-15 -2023	92	76	\$5,309.00/\$1682.50	\$4,455.06