

The Redeemer Post

Lenten and Easter Services

Lenten Services began on February 14th with Ash Wednesday and will continue each Wednesday beginning at 5:15 with a simple soup supper and a 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer service .

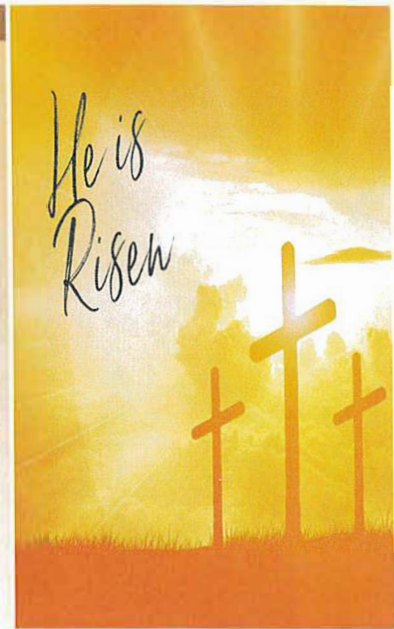
Holy week begins on March 25th. There will be no worship on Wednesday but there will be Maunday Thursday and Good Friday Services. Sunrise Easter service begins at 7:00 a.m. followed by a 9:30 a.m. Easter service on March 31st.

First Communion will also be taking place on Maunday Thursday for those students who have complete the class.

Why Do We Have Soup During Lent

The answer to this question is simple.

We eat soup during Lent because it is a simple, nourishing and wholesome meal that signifies sacrifice and humility. Lent is a season of fasting, repentance and spiritual growth, and soup serves as a reminder of our need to simplify our lives and focus on our spiritual well-being.



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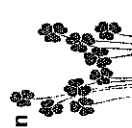

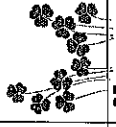
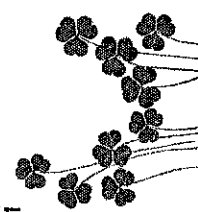
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March 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Redeemer Lutheran Church 1300 E. Nora St Thief River Falls, MN 56701 Phone: 218-681-3390 redeemer@gvtel.com Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm Mon-Fri</p>					1 NO SCHOOL Pastor Sabbath	2
3 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion	4 7:00pm Orchestra Concert @ LHS	5	6 5:15-6:15pm Soup Supper 5:30 pm BLAST/6 th Conf 6:30pm Holden Eve Prayer 7:00Sharing the Vision 7 th & 8 th Grade Conf.	7 6:00pm NWWMN Synod Spring Gathering @ Redeemer ALL Welcome 	8 Pastor Sabbath	9
10 9:30am Worship	11 5:30pm Property committee meeting	12 9:30am Marth Unit 4:30pm Faith & Family Stewardship 6:30pm Worship and Music	13 1:30pm Ruth Unit 5:15-6:15pm Soup Supper 5:30 pm BLAST/6 th Conf 6:30pm Holden Eve Prayer 7:00Sharing the Vision 8 th Grade Conf.	14 4:30 Finance Committee	15 Pastor Sabbath	16 9:30am - 12pm First Communion Class 
17 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 	18 7:00pm Choir Concert @ LHS 	19 6:00pm Council	20 5:15-6:15pm Soup Supper 5:30 pm BLAST/6 th Conf 6:30pm Holden Eve Prayer 7:00Sharing the Vision 7 th Grade Conf.	21 	22 Rekindle - Sr. High Retreat Pastor Sabbath	23 Rekindle - Sr. High Retreat
24 9:30am Worship Palm Sunday Easter Sunday 7am Worship 9:30am Worship	25 <i>Holy Week</i>	26 5:00pm Altar Guild meeting	27 No Worship 5:30 - 8:00pm First Communion Class	28 <i>Mundy Thursday</i> 6:30 Worship With First Communion NO SCHOOL	29 <i>Good Friday</i> 6:30 Worship NO SCHOOL	30
31						



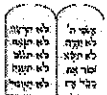
Pastor's Pen

This year throughout the season of LENT, we have been exploring the **Covenants** God makes with humanity on Sundays and the **Community** God designs and desires for us on Wednesday evenings. As we begin March, we are about half-way through LENT on our journey with Jesus to the Cross.

Covenants are significant agreements or promises that parties make with each other. When I bought my first place in Montana, there were simply 5 points to the Covenant for the development I was buying into. Several years later, my son bought a house where the covenant agreements were longer than the purchase agreement itself! Marriage is also a covenant where two people make vows to love, honor and support one another forever. Covenants differ from contracts because they last forever, whereas contracts have an ending.



God makes several covenants with humanity – many through the relationship with the Israelites. Some have responsibilities for both sides – many of which were broken by the inhabitants of earth. Yet God remains faithful to the promises God makes. The 5 we are considering this LENT are the **Covenant of the Rainbow** – where God promises never to destroy the whole earth again; **the Abrahamic Covenant** – giving Abraham and Sarah– ones through whom God will bless all nations; **the Mosaic Covenant** – which God gives the people a Law to live by through Moses – known as the 10 Commandments; **the Promise of healing** – first through the serpent lifted up on a pole – foreshadowing Jesus’ being lifted up on the cross for the healing of the sins of the world; and the **New Covenant** promised by the prophet Jeremiah and fulfilled in Jesus where we can know God directly – by heart – in a renewed relationship – being filled with God’s love and truth in our hearts.



Wednesdays we have been considering the ways God is a God of Community – within God’s self – and with the whole of Creation. We, too, are called into Community – not just with the people closest to us – but in fulfilling the desire of God for relationship with all creation – and especially those created in God’s image and likeness: Creation; the Saints; our neighbors around the world; those on the margins; and in community with Christ.



So this is a good time for us to reflect on the promises we made as we began our journey – a half-way check-in on how we are doing in keeping our promises to God and to one another. On Ash Wednesday we gathered to remember that life on earth is finite – but our true home is in Christ – beginning in our baptism. We grow up into Christ as we walk daily with Jesus, study and reflect together on God’s Word, and live in ways that are forgiving and loving with those around us. The Lenten disciplines include **Fasting** – perhaps from hurtful words and attitudes, social media, complaining, sarcasm, fault-finding; **Prayer** – beginning a set time, increasing our time or scope, or trying new ways of communicating with God; **Works of Love and Service** for others to share the love God has already shown you; **Self-Examination** – recognizing how you have fallen short or neglected the commitments you have made to God in your Baptism (*as humans we are usually far better at naming this for others rather than ourselves*); and **Gathering in Community** to give God thanks and praise for the gift of Jesus, forgiveness and new life.

Wednesday nights we have set aside time to come together following worship (7:00-7:30 or so) to share this visions and dreams God has placed in the hearts of this community of Redeemer. Where and how is God desiring us to respond to the needs of our Redeemer family and of the larger Thief River Falls community? What is stirring in your mind and heart? Share your thoughts and dreams, your concerns and fears, your joys and thanksgivings for the ministry we have already shared.

This season of Lent ends as we enter into **Holy Week** with **Palm Sunday** worship on March 24, **Maudy Thursday** worship on March 28 and **Good Friday’s** somber Tenebrae Service of darkness on the 29th. There will also be a time for reflections on the **Stations of the Cross** during the week leading up Good Friday. All of this prepares us for the glorious celebration of our **Lord’s Resurrection on March 31 – Easter Sunday!**

Pastor Steph

A note from the Council President February 2024,



Thank you to everyone that participated in the Annual Meeting. Thank you, Dianne, for organizing and printing the annual reports and council members for their assistance in making the meeting run smoothly.

Thank you Brenda for organizing the baked potato bar. It was delicious!

Thank you to outgoing council members LeAnn Lund & Penny Harder. And...thank you to council members staying for a second term—Wenda Sumrall & Terri Cuppett. Finally, welcome new council member Scott D Camp!

Council members participated in a leadership retreat on February 10th. Committee members were also encouraged to attend as plans and dreams were imagined for the year.

GOD’S WORK—OUR HANDS

The Meals on Wheels Ministry is important stewardship work. Thank you to all that delivered meals last week to our neighbors that look forward to a hot meal.

Redeemer in action!!



Ash Wednesday—

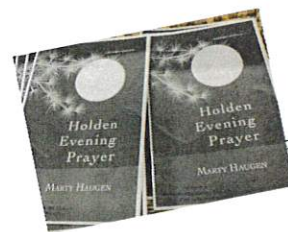
Thank you Senior Choir and Reid for the beautiful music ministry.



Lenten Soup Supper served from 5:15 to 6:16 pm each Wednesday during lent. Confirmation students and parents will serve. Freewill offering—fresh warm buns are included!!



Holy Baptism -
God has called you and named you Children of God!
Andi Marie Efteland
Archie Dale Nelson



Holden Evening Prayer is the service used each week during lent. The music is beautiful, easy to sing, and interactive!



Is God nudging you to join a committee, help with quilting, read the lessons, usher, serve communion or any of the different tasks that need to be done at Redeemer Lutheran Church? If so, call the church office or talk to one of the council members. It also works to just show up at a meeting as listed in the weekly bulletins. Hope to see you soon!



Pastor Steph’s Treasure Chest comes out during the message at Lenten Services. The students enjoy listening to and answering questions about the story and, then connecting the message with a special something to remind them during the week.



Pastor Steph explains the sermon text to the children (and the rest of us) to help us better understand what God is telling us.



Stewardship Opportunities

Are you looking for stewardship resources to fuel your ministries and imagination? Here are a few places to find guidance and support:

With dips in worship attendance, doing “more with less” takes energy, finances and volunteers. All of it can feel overwhelming. The Rev. Mark Elsdon not only speaks to this reality but also breathes into it a sense of possibility, hope and “sufficiency thinking” in his book [*We Aren't Broke: Uncovering Hidden Resources for Mission and Ministry*](#) (Eerdmans, 2021). In this deep but accessible work Rev. Elsdon invites us to think in new ways about what we've been gifted by God. Discussion questions at the end of the book make it an ideal read for church councils or leadership teams.

Rev. Elsdon gets a double entry in this month's resources column: his newest book (as editor), [*Gone for Good?: Negotiating the Coming Wave of Church Property Transition*](#) (Eerdmans, 2024), compiles different essays from pastors, preachers and thought leaders on the ins and outs of having a mission outpost (building), using it to capacity and sometimes reevaluating its necessity. The book addresses just about every stage in a congregation or community's thinking as it weighs the advantages and disadvantages of brick-and-mortar ministry sites. It provides new ways of looking at the increasingly urgent question of how to handle aging churches.

It's not too early to start thinking about an annual appeal for your community, especially if you're planning out a stewardship calendar in these early days of the year. [*“Because of God's Great Mercy,”*](#) a wonderful resource compiled by Chick Lane, was recently offered free of charge on the ELCA Stewardship site and comes with customizable resources that can be tailored to your community. Take a look and utilize them as needed!

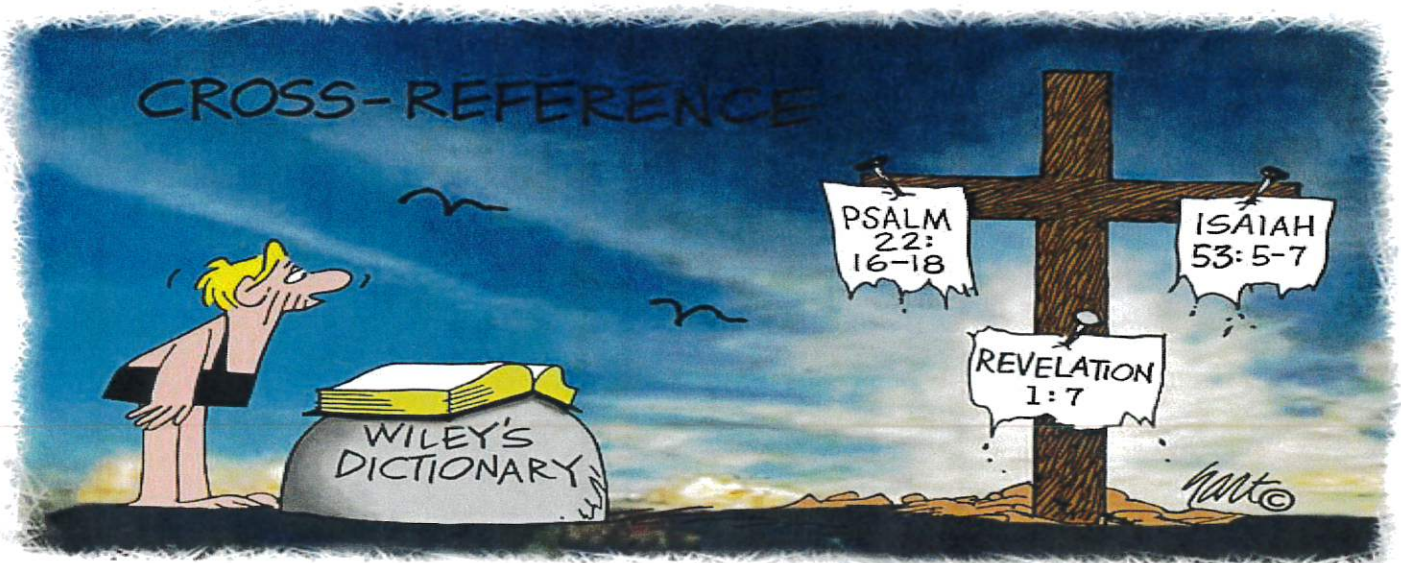


How as Lutherans should we understand our relationship to civic life — including government — as individuals and as a church body? After studying the questions for the past three years, a social statement task force has posted a draft social statement on civic life and faith.

Social statements are important documents because they govern church teaching and policies, and support ministries. They also serve as discernment tools for ELCA members as they think about social issues such as civic life.

Between now and Sept. 30, 2024, you are invited to study and give feedback on the draft by filling out an [online survey](#) or attending a hearing in your synod, as available. To access the draft and the survey, and to find information on how to host a hearing in your synod, go to www.elca.org/civicsandfaith.

After the feedback period has closed, the task force will revise the draft with attention to the public input and submit a proposed version of the social statement to the ELCA Church Council, which will vote on sending it to the ELCA 2025 Churchwide Assembly for consideration. If adopted at the assembly by a two-thirds margin, the social statement will become official social teaching of this church.





The following memorials were in memory of Julie Bakke:

Mike and Sandy Parker
Ken and Marlys Kain
Alan and Phyllis Johnson
Dale and Jan Dillon
Gary and Brenda Tischer
Darlene Kelley
Enid Sande

Undesignated
Undesignated
Quilt Fund
Flower Fund
Flower Fund
Stained Glass Fund
WELCA

In Memory of Eloda Knutson

Darlene Kelley Stained Glass

In Memory of Lillian Richards

Alan & Phyllis Johnson Altar Guild

In Memory of Karen Steahl

Jan & Diedre Nordin Quilt Fund

In Memory of Mike Parker

Darrel Cory
Rocky & Barb Ammerman
Alan & Phyllis Johnson
Nate & Dianne Stroh
Dave Stroh

Music Fund
Undesignated
Bible Fund
Youth Fund
Youth Fund



In Honor of June Johnson's 90th birthday from Ken & Marlys Kain to the Quilters! Happy 90th June!

"For this is the message you Heard from the beginning: We should love one another." 1 John 3:11

2024-2025 Church Council

President—Jan Anderson

Vice President—Wenda Sumrall

Secretary—Angie Westling

Treasurer— Gary Hintz

Jan Nordin

Leona Bugge

Terri Cuppett

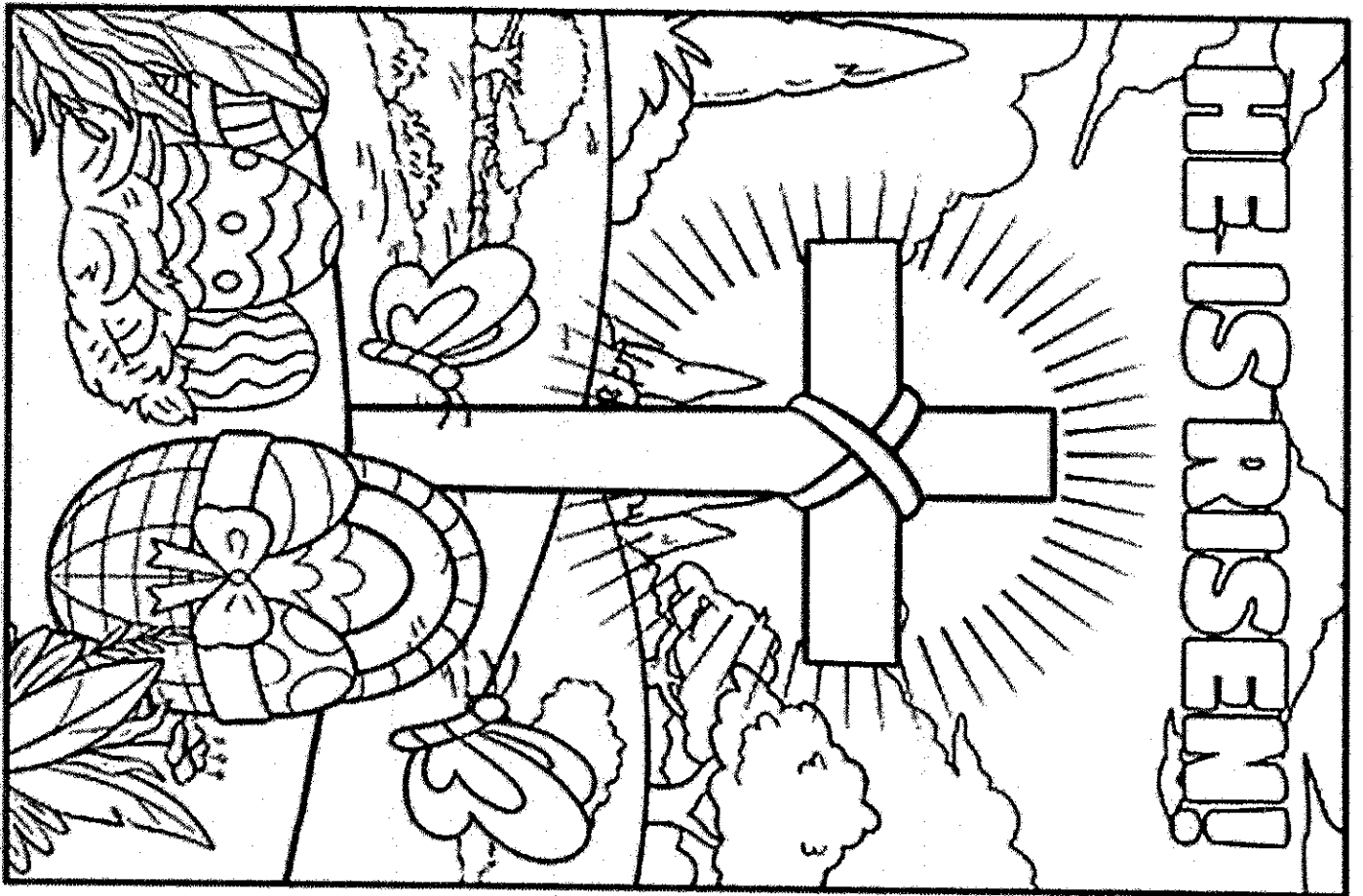
Tony McLean

Scott D Camp

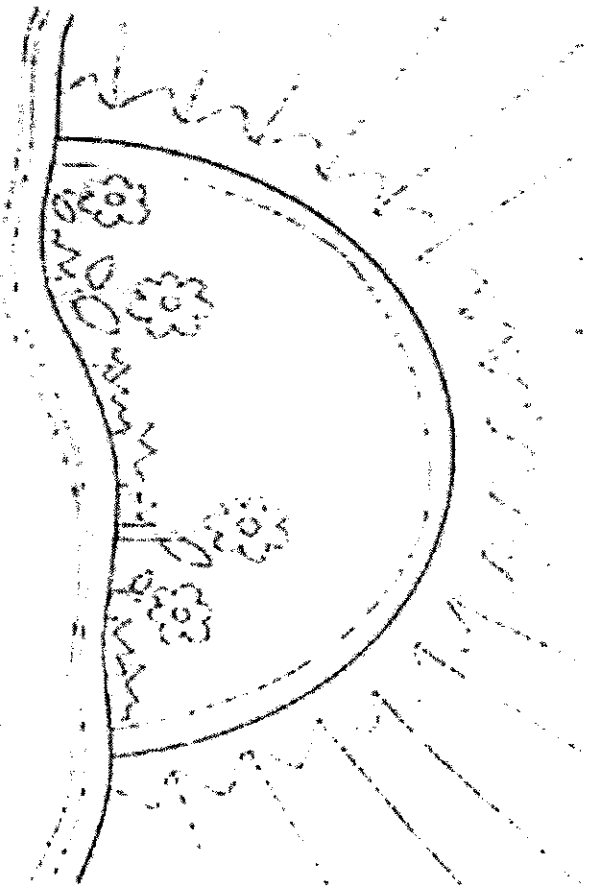
Pastor Steph

Father,
We thank you, that You have called these people to serve as members of this church council. We ask that you guide them and help them to make wise decisions and act in accordance with your will. We pray that their deliberations are Christ-centered and productive. We are grateful that You have chosen them to serve in this capacity. May they look back with pride and satisfaction on all they accomplish. Amen.





Happy
Easter
Blessed



Name: _____

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash

Wednesday

Sacrifice

Almsgiving

Prayer

Fasting

Lent

Holy Week

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter

Palm Sunday

Purple

Palm Branch

Forty Days

Jesus

Passover

Foot Washing

Resurrection

Love

