



# OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

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**JANUARY 2026**

## Singing, Teaching, Confessing

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

*-Colossians 3:16-17 7:14*

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

You might have realized by now that I love the Church's hymnody. Whether I am in tune or out of tune, good or bad, perfect or horribly off of pitch, I'm going to sing and I'm going to sing loud. I love to sing with the Church and I love to hear the Church sing and make a joyful noise to the Lord. The value and usefulness of music and hymnody have been important to me and played a significant role in the Reformation, as well. Luther was a prolific hymn writer among all the other things he did and wrote. There have been other famous Lutheran musicians and hymn writers since Luther such as George Handel (who composed Handel's Messiah), Johann Sebastian Bach, Dietrich Buxtehude, Johannes Brahms, Felix Mendelssohn, Philipp Nicolai, Paul Gerhardt, and the list goes on (sorry if I missed your favorite) even to the modern day.

This is not by accident or coincidence. The Lutheran church has, from its beginning, valued and used music along with theology. Luther is famously quoted saying, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music." So the use of music throughout the Lutheran liturgy and the explosion of Lutheran hymnody took off and continues to "proclaim the Word of God."

Singing the faith, our hymnody, is more than just entertainment, but it is theology. In it we confess and teach the faith. Different professors or teachers I have had attribute different things to our music, one saying that "it is a sung confession of the faith" and another that it is "a sermon from the past," yet another that "our hymnody is an extension of the sermon."

Perhaps one of the greatest and most unique uses of music in general is not only that it has the ability to move our emotions and our bodies, but that music plays a foundational role in teaching and learning. We learn our "ABCs" by singing. Maybe you learned the books of the Bible or the Presidents by singing. The combination of a text and tune married perfectly together have a way of sticking in your head long after the song is over.

So, we are going to take advantage of the way music and hymnody teach the faith by using a "Hymn of the Month/Season." Our Sunday school began this at the beginning of this year, singing and learning a new hymn each month. Now, our church, together with our Sunday school, will learn a hymn together as we will sing the same hymn each Sunday, similar to what we have done for our Advent and Lent midweek services.

I will be choosing one hymn each month (or season of the Church Year) that I hope ties together all the readings and applies to each Sunday it will be used. Some hymns will be favorites that we know and love. Others will be newer hymns that we will learn and have the chance to hear how they preach the Gospel to us.

Our first hymn will be "At the Name of Jesus" (LSB 512) which teaches, preaches, and proclaims Christ, the Word from the beginning, at creation, incarnation, atoning death and resurrection, ascension, and with us now until He returns again in glory.

Singing of Christ,  
Pastor Simek



FROM THE  
*Pulpit*

**January Hymn of the Month | At the Name of Jesus (LSB 512)**

**1/4 | Second Sunday after Christmas**

Text: Luke 2:40-52

**1/6 | The Epiphany of Our Lord**

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

**1/11 | The Baptism of Our Lord**

Text: Matthew 3:13-17

**1/18 | The Confession of St. Peter**

Text: Mark 8:27-35

**1/25 | The Conversion of St. Paul**

Text: Acts 9:1-22

**Organist / Accompanist**



1/4	Mary Sandbulte
1/6	Rev. Howard Shane
1/11	Rev. Howard Shane
1/18	Mary Sandbulte
1/25	Rev. Howard Shane

**Acolytes**

1/4	<i>Acolyte Needed</i> Joel Simek & Elijah Simek
1/6	Joel Simek & Elijah Simek
1/11	Jacob Rieck Ellis Dewitz
1/18	Elliott Leonard Joel Simek & Elijah Simek
1/25	Joel Simek & Elijah Simek Lucas Birger



**Altar Flowers**

1/4	None
1/11	None
1/18	None
1/25	None

*If you'd like to provide flowers for the altar, please see the sign up sheet in the narthex.*



*“Main Street Living” is a liturgical worship service broadcasting a different local pastor each Sunday morning. It airs along with the classic Lutheran Hour program, “This is the Life.” Both can be viewed on KDLT (NBC).*

*This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information visit: [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com)*

Sun 1/4	<p><b>10:00am - “The Other Wiseman”</b> - Another Magi, making his journey to the Christ child, encounters others and shows kindness along the way.</p> <p><b>10:30 AM - Rev. Joshua Jones</b>, pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Rapid City, SD, presents a message titled “Behold, Your King!”. The sermon is based on Matthew 2:1-12.</p>	Sun 1/18	<p><b>10:00am - “Live Option”</b> - A 15-year-old pregnant daughter and her mother disagree on the future of her child.</p> <p><b>10:30 AM - Rev. Michael Salemink</b>, from Lutherans For Life presents a message titled ”From Invisible to Indispensable“. The sermon is based on 1 Corinthians 12:22.</p>
Sun 1/11	<p><b>10:00am - “The Christ We Share”</b> - Sharing the Gospel is neither swift nor easy, but truly rewarding in the end.</p> <p><b>10:30 AM - Rev. Albert Sutton</b>, pastor at Evergreen Lutheran Church in Evergreen, SD, presents a message titled ”What is true Spirituality?“. The sermon is based on Matthew 3:13-17.</p>	Sun 1/25	<p><b>10:00am - “Missing Ingredient”</b> - Bob (Jack Nicholson) and his fiancee Lynn (Susan Crane) are planning their wedding when she overhears her parents planning to separate shortly after.</p> <p><b>10:30 AM - Rev. Norman Wacker</b>, pastor at Mount Calvary and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches in Sundance and Moorcroft, WY, presents a message titled ”The Word Brings Light!“. The sermon is based on Matthew 4:12-25.</p>



## Soup & Pie Luncheon

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
2200 S Western Ave, Sioux Falls

**Saturday, January 10, 2026**

**11AM-1PM**



**Variety of Soups and Pies**

Your freewill donation will go toward future events sponsored by the Our Redeemer Discipleship Committee.

Sign Up Here!





# NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Since 1970, January has been designated as a month to honor and celebrate the incredible generosity of America's volunteer blood donors. The designation came at a time when the need for safe, reliable blood donations was becoming increasingly important for modern medical care.

January was chosen as the month to celebrate blood donors because winter is traditionally a time when blood donations decline due to weather conditions, holiday travel, and seasonal illnesses. By focusing national attention on blood donation during this challenging time, organizers hoped to encourage more people to donate when the need was greatest.

The initiative was born from the recognition that volunteer blood donors are the sole source of life-saving blood products. According to the World Health Organization, "blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person- the gift of life. A decision to donate your blood can save a life, or even several if your blood is separated into its components. Unlike many medical treatments that can be

manufactured or synthesized, blood can only come from generous human donors willing to help their fellow Americans in times of medical crisis.

More than 50 years after its establishment, National Blood Donor Month continues to play a vital role in America's healthcare system. Every January the heroes who roll up their sleeves to save lives are celebrated.

The annual blood donations needed exceeds 6.8 million and there are over 13.6 million donors who give annually. According to the American Red Cross, about 38 percent of the U.S. population can donate blood but only 10 percent actually do. Every 2 seconds in America someone needs blood.

If you are a blood donor we celebrate you! If not maybe consider becoming a donor. With your help you can ensure there's blood on the shelf when it's most needed. Every time we donate one pint of blood, there is the potential to save three lives.

*Karen Morfitt, RN,  
ORLC Parish Nurse*

## There are two ways to give tithes and offerings electronically!



**Download the Vanco Mobile App**—found on your phone's app store. This is the easiest way to give just once, or set up recurring gifts to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.



**TXT2Give**—Text (833)610-0639 the amount you want to give and you will be linked to an easy one-time setup so it will be even easier the next time! Or—scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to get started!

# JANUARY WORLD WATCH LIST COUNTRIES

## Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is a former soviet state, and it's still ruled by an authoritarian government that heavily monitors the population, especially religious groups. A country expert shared that in one part of Uzbekistan, "every pastor and his family were surveilled by about 30 people. Practically every step was watched."

The historic Russian Orthodox churches experience the least persecution from the government, but they are not permitted to share their faith with the rest of the Uzbek population. All other Christian communities face some sort of monitoring and pressure. Churches that are not approved of and registered by the state are often raided by the police, with people arrested, threatened and fined for having an illegal meeting.

The vast majority of people in Uzbekistan are Muslim, and new Christian believers from Muslim families bear the brunt of persecution—from both the state and also from their own families and communities. It's perceived as a betrayal to leave Islam and brings great shame on the family. These new believers may be threatened, locked away, divorced, disowned or physically abused.

- As the government continues to target Christians and churches for abuse, ask God to help them to persevere and be witnesses to Christ's love.
- Pray that unregistered churches will not be targeted or harassed by authorities.
- Ask God to be with converts from Islam, who can experience pressure from their families and communities.

## Cuba

Since 1959, Cuba has been ruled by the Communist Party, which tries to control the church. The government reacts harshly to anyone who opposes it. Church leaders and Christian activists who criticize the regime can face interrogation, arrest and imprisonment. They also suffer smear campaigns, travel restrictions, and harassment (which can include physical violence and damage to church buildings).

These leaders' family members also face threats, including losing custody of their children. The government often refuses to register new churches, forcing many to operate illegally. These churches are vulnerable to fines, property confiscation and even demolition.

- Pray for church leaders in Cuba who can be targeted for surveillance and abuse from state authorities. Ask God to provide strength and wisdom.
- Pray that all churches – both registered and unregistered – will be allowed to remain open. Pray that authorities who monitor these churches will be touched by the message they hear.
- Ask God to provide strength and encouragement to Cuban believers as they walk with Him despite the pressure.

*Find more information at: <https://www.opendoors.org/en-US/persecution/countries/>*



# IN OUR *Prayers*

**Members:**

Marge Dreesman	George Sagissor
Mike Gabel	John Severson
Duane Genzlinger	Larry Sroufe
Duane Hartmann	James Streyle
Don Hennies	Rhoda Thomas
Ella May Kelly	Jeanne Toay
Louise Lafrentz	Kendra Voss
Carole Lang	Mary Warns
Mary Muchow	

**Loved Ones:**

Glenda; Mother of Jason Consoer
Nicole; Aunt of Ashley Consoer
Lorraine; Mother of Carol Daniels
Matt; Barb Ewoldt's Son
Mark; Son of Bob Graham
Pat; Friend of Bob Graham
Chuck; Family of Ed & Jean Harmdierks
Ruby; Ed Harmdierks' Sister
Dan; Duane & Helen Hartmann's Son-in-Law
Joan; AJ Holtz's Grandmother
Dennis; Son of Phyllis Joyce
Byron; Roberta Mathiason's Son
Kolbe; Friend of Roberta Mathiason
Randy; Karen Morfitt's Brother
Michael; Son of David Olson
Bernice; Mother of Nathan Sandbulte
Susie; Daughter-in-Law of Helen Schauer
Aislyn; Daughter of David Wacker
Gaylon, Audrey Wintersteen's Son-in-Law
Arnie; Father of Missionary Barb Rebentisch
Jim Wegehaupt; Former Member

**Our Homebound Members**

Betty Berry	Roberta Mathiason
Dan Clauson	Dorothy Oleson
Mary Clauson	Maxine Owens Larry
Marge Dreesman	Sroufe Jeanne Toay
Dorothy Dueis	Mariea Warns
Cib Gaffer	Audrey Wintersteen
Duane Genzlinger	
Ella May Kelly	

**Serving in the Military**

Joshua Bohling	Andrew Quam
William East	Matthew VanTassel
Curtis Furry	Tyler VanTassel
Jordy Martinez	Caleb Wosje
Luis Martinez	

*Please Note:*

*Those on the prayer list will be removed after 3 months unless we are otherwise notified.*

# “How can I get involved?”

## Children:

Sunday School—We have Sunday School for PreK-High School on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM. Our Sunday School teachers are:

Preschool: Mrs. Kristy Eden & Mrs. Kris Leonhardt  
 5 yrs-2nd Grade: Mrs. Deb Huntsinger  
 3rd-5th Grade: Mr. Bryan Eden  
 6th-8th Grade: Mr. Tim Eden  
 9th-12th Grade: Mr. & Mrs. Craig & Stephanie Eden

Kids 4 Christ—Mrs. Janelle Lafrentz, Mrs. Jody Rieck, and Mr. Derek Greenwaldt lead our children

Kindergarten—5th grade at Kids 4 Christ (K4C) every 1st and 3rd Friday. A meal will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by our K4C program. The program ends at 7:30 p.m.

## Middle School Youth:

Catechesis Classes—We have catechesis classes every Wednesday during the school year from 6PM-7PM for 5th—8th graders except during Advent and Lent. Mr. Bryan Eden teaches the 5th grade class, and Rev. Brett Simek teaches the 6th-8th grade class. There is a church family meal before class at 5PM for anyone who may wish to eat at the church.

## Junior and High School Youth:

Youth Group—Mr. and Mrs. Craig & Stephanie Eden lead our youth group on Wednesday evenings 6PM—7PM for 8th—12th graders, as well as monthly activities throughout the year for 6th—12th graders.

## High School and Adults:

Vocal Choir—Choir rehearsals are each Wednesday evening at 7PM (7:30 during Advent and Lent). If you are interested in joining choir, please speak with or email Rev. Shane—HShane101@gmail.com.

Handbell Choir—We meet each Tuesday at 6:45PM. If you are interested in joining the handbell choir, please contact Matt Nussbaum.

## Adults:

Sunday Morning Bible Study—Sunday morning Bible study is led by Rev. Brett Simek each Sunday at 9:15AM. Join us in the Fellowship Hall downstairs!

Wednesday Adult Bible Study—We have Bible Study each Wednesday at 6PM except during Advent and Lent, led by Rev. David Morfitt.

Healing Hearts—Healing Hearts is a group of men and women who are at any stage of grieving the loss of a loved one. The purpose is to share in loss, get to know others, and find support within our church family. We meet monthly on the first Thursday at 10AM.

S.A.I.L. Classes—Parish Nurse Karen Morfitt leads our SAIL class, an exercise class focused on strength and balance every Monday and Thursday at 1:30PM.

## Senior Members:

Senior Saints Bible Study—We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1PM.

Senior Saints Brunch—We meet at Perkins on 41st Street the second Thursday of every month at 9:30AM.

## Men:

Guys’ Garage—Mr. Tim Goettsch leads the Guys’ Garage group. They meet the first Monday of each month at 6PM. There are different activities each month.

## Women:

LWML—We have two LWML groups at ORLC. Evening LWML meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM. Ebenezer LWML meets the third Thursday of each month at 1:30PM.

Women’s Bible Study—We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month at 6:30PM.

## All members:

Volunteering—We are looking for people of all ages to help serve on Sunday mornings - greeters, ushers, altar guild members, acolytes, and help running presentations. If you are interested, contact the church office!