

"A Fresh Start in Christ: A Biblical New Year"

As the calendar turns, we often feel that familiar pull—a desire for a "new you" in the "new year". Does this describe your approach to 2026? While worldly resolutions fade, the Bible offers something more profound: a fresh, God-given opportunity to embrace true transformation and hope in Christ.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in **2 Corinthians 5:17**: **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"**. This isn't about a superficial makeover; it's about a deep, spiritual rebirth. The New Year gives us a chance to lean into this reality, leaving past mistakes behind and looking forward with purpose.

And so, as the New Year approaches, we press onward with purpose. In **Philippians 3:13-14**, Paul writes, **"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus"**. Let this be our motto! Instead of dwelling on what we can't change, let's focus on what we *can* do in Christ—grow, love better, and draw closer to Him.

This year, move beyond empty promises by making reading God's Word a priority. Whether it's a full Bible-in-a-year plan or just consistent daily reading, remember, as Don Whitney notes, "No one is changed by an unread Bible".

Also, focus on our living God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Ultimately, our deepest longings are satisfied not by self-improvement trends, but by knowing the "Living God," who is personal, active, and nearby. May your New Year be marked by:

- **Reflection:** Consider your ways and ask God for guidance (Haggai 1:5-7).
- **Repentance:** A genuine turning from sin to God, seeking forgiveness and a changed heart.
- **Hope:** Anchored not in our own ability, but in Christ, who offers lasting change (Colossians 1:27).

Members of Redeemer, let's embrace this New Year not just for a "new me," but for a more Christ-centered, purposeful, and spiritually vibrant life.

God's Richest Blessings,
~ Pastor Senstad

Redeemer Celebrates Life Sunday

Dear Members and Friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church:



On Thursday, January 15 and Sunday, January 18, during our worship services, we will acknowledge those who have been baptized at Redeemer in 2025. Each

individual will receive a blue carnation, symbolizing the day in which they became a member of God's kingdom and of Redeemer Lutheran Church. In 2025, 15 infants, children, and adults were baptized.

We will also take the time to acknowledge those who have entered eternal life with their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in 2025. Each family will receive a white carnation, symbolizing the day in which their loved one was made completely holy, having entered the heavenly gates of their Father. In 2025, 18 members and non—members entered eternal life.

It is wonderful to know that God knows us and watches over us. He sees us as reclaimed by the outstretched hands of His Son, who died on the cross for our sins and was raised from the dead so that we might have forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We are, indeed, precious to Him! What wonderful news!

Baptisms

2025 baptisms (15 infants, children & Adults)

Nolan Schurke, Jan. 5	Brynn Kirby, June 14
Collins Kasuske, Jan. 19	Randall Kirby, June 14
Bennett Duff, Mar. 2	Dean Barkley, June 14
Karsyn Schuhmacher, Mar. 2	Devon Turner, July 13
Judah Williamson, Mar. 23	Wrenley Ziemba, Aug. 30
Bennet Siegfried, Mar. 30	Asher Camarena, Sept. 21
Azael Sanchez Vazquez, April 4	Levi Hordusky, Nov. 23
Emerson Miller, May 25	

Deaths

2025 deaths (18 funerals)

Thomas McKercher, Jan. 23	Deloris Nitzschke, July 2
Pak Choul Ngut, Jan. 10	Leslie "Leann" Smith, Aug. 2
Jean Kahler, Feb. 16	Thomas Gray, Sept. 13
Dorothy Vander Weil, Feb. 23	Richard Skuya, Sept. 28
Marjorie Milbrodt, April 25	Rodney Rental, Nov. 21
David Parks, May 14	Eva Kemp, Nov. 21
Harriet Doerr, May 25	Betty Roberts, Nov. 23
Craig Pedersen, June 19	Christy Newman, Dec. 12
Lenore Shapiro, June 21	Ryan Ohi, Dec. 12



"... EVERYONE WHO
LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME
WILL NEVER DIE.

JOHN 11:26, NASB

November 2025 Statistics

Date	Church Attendance	Communion Attendance	Bible Study	Children Church	Sudanese Attendance
11/2	296	269	26	46	3
11/9	329	N/A	26	38	4
11/16	315	265	33	30	3
11/23	336	N/A	29	33	3
11/30	102	N/A	12	13	6
TOTAL	1378	534	114	164	18
AVG.	276	267	23	33	4
POTENTIAL	1,415	1,047	1,047	368	N/A
PERCENT	25%	24%	2%	3%	.2%
PRIOR YR.	27%	23%	2%	3%	1%
Membership:			11/2024	11/2025	
Communicants			949	886	
Baptized (unconfirmed)			271	221	
TOTAL			1,220	1,107	

Change from prior year: Loss of 113 people (+10%)

Treasurer's Report Jan.1– Nov. 30, 2025:

Actual Income: \$682,531
 Budgeted Income: \$744,685
 Difference: -\$62,154
 Percentage: 92%
 Actual Expenses: \$708,382

January 2026 Missionary

An old friend and a Mission Central favorite; the **Rev. Micah Wildauer** who serves the Lord as a missionary in Belize, based in the capital city of Belmopan. Please continue to pray for him and his family.

January Bible Verse:

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."
Matthew 5:4 (ESV)

November 2025

Baptism:

✠ Levi Hordusky

Death

✠ Rod Rentel

✠ Betty Roberts

FAITHFUL followers

Play these fun variations on Follow the Leader — and remember to follow Jesus wherever you go!

What you need:

- Bean bags
- Tables, chairs, pillows
- Painter's tape

What you do:

Players line up behind the Leader, who moves around in various ways. Followers must copy the Leader's movements faithfully. Try these variations:

1. Players must balance a bean bag on their head as they follow the Leader.
2. Set up an obstacle course, and follow the Leader by crawling under tables and chairs, hopping over pillows and so on.
3. With tape, make zigzags and curves on the floor. Then follow the Leader as if walking on a tightrope.
4. The Leader designates types of terrain to imagine, such as mud, snow, ice and a mountain.
5. Also try animal movements, mirrored movements and dancing movements.

KinderCottage Preschool

January 2026

A Ministry of Redeemer Lutheran Church
3204 S. Lakeport Sioux City, IA 51106 (712)276-1123
KinderCottage Direct line (712)224-2273

Happy New Year and praying that 2026 is a BLESSED year for everyone!

We pray that everyone had a wonderful Christmas! Everyone is excited to start a New Year, and they will continue to learn all kinds of new things!

The MWF classes will be working on the letters, "K", "H", "L" and "D", as well as the colors gold and grey, the numbers 3 and 12 and the shapes of a star and hexagon. The T/Th classes will be introduced to the letters B-H.

As a reminder to all parents, **KinderCottage Preschool follows the Sioux City Community Schools for weather cancellations.** If they have a 2 hour late start, our morning preschool class is cancelled and those enrolled in the extended day program can arrive at 10:45 AM. If a 2 hour early out is called, extended day kids would need to be picked up at 1:15 PM. If they are closed for the day, so is KinderCottage Preschool.

Both classes will hear the Bible stories about The Bright Star and Three Visitors, An Angry King, Jesus is Lost, and Jesus Chooses his Disciples.

New Year Blessings*

January Dates to Remember

1-4 Winter Break-
NO SCHOOL

5 Classes resume
for MWF students

6 Classes resume
for T/Th students

16 No Preschool-
Staff attending
workshop

January Birthdays 17 Rosalie Warren

Christmas Show and Tell

Our first day back to preschool is in January. **EVERYONE** is encouraged to bring **ONE** item they received for Christmas to show their classmates. The only rules are that they bring just **ONE** item, and it **MUST** fit in their back pack!
Thank You!

2025 Annual Voters' Meeting Results

Redeemer's new members of the Leadership Council, elected to two-year terms at the Dec. 7, 2025, Annual Voters Meeting are Aaron Becker, our new treasurer, Marc Benson, Buffy Shrauner & Justin Wulf
They join current Leadership Council members Doug Camarigg, Angie Corderman, Steve Dirks, Mike Koehler and Bob Wilcke. All were elected to two-year terms in December 2023.

The 2026 Leadership Council will be introduced at worship Thursday, Jan. 8th at 6:30 PM and Installed on Sunday, Jan. 11th.

The Leadership Council typically meets at 7:30 p.m., the second Thursday of the month in the Conference Room. Meetings are open to the congregation. To have an issue placed on the agenda, contact any council or staff member.

410.000 · BUDGET INCOME ITEMS		
415.245	Interest	4,500.00
415.253	· Sudanese Offering	2,400.00
415.101	· Envelopes Regular	743,680.29
415.102	· Loose Plate Offerings	18,000.00
415.237	· KC Preschool Income	42,300.00
421.110	· Facility Rental Fees	3,300.00
415.122	· New Year's Eve Offerings	1,800.00
415.128	· Lent Offerings	4,500.00
415.108	· Ash Wednesday	2,400.00
415.133	· Maundy Thursday Offerings	1,800.00
415.136	· Good Friday Offerings	1,300.00
415.114	· Advent Offerings	2,600.00
415.117	· Christmas Day Offerings	1,000.00
415.248	· Midweek Materials	0.00
415.251	· VBS Registration	0.00
Total 410.000 · BUDGET INCOME ITEMS		829,580.29
570.100 · ADMIN SALARIES EXPENSE		
580.000	· Administrative Fees for Health	-
570.852	· IRA Match	4,202.15
570.101	· Senior Pastor Salary	57,962.33
570.103	· Senior Pastor Housing	24,046.97
570.104	· Senior Pastor Utilities	3,169.82
570.105	· Senior Pastor Salary Other	23,308.68
570.107	· Senior Pastor FICA Offset	6,516.20
570.109	· Senior Pastor Concordia	23,502.40
570.201	· Associate Pastor Salary	28,842.00
570.203	· Associate Pastor Housing	48,000.00
570.204	· Associate Pastor Utilities	3,169.82
570.205	· Associate Pastor Salary Other	15,922.56
570.207	· Associate Pastor FICA Offset	6,120.95
570.209	· Associate Pastor Concordia	21,876.89
570.501	· DCE Salary	25,845.80
570.503	· DCE Housing	25,517.04

570.504 · DCE Utilities	3,360.00	572.437 · Worker's Comp Insurance	3,600.00
570.505 · DCE Salary Other	23,308.68	Total 570.001 · ADMIN OTHER	44,110.00
570.507 · DCE FICA	4,186.29	570.002 · EDUCATION EXPENSE	
570.509 · DCE Concordia	19,558.37	540.216 · KC Continuing Education	275.00
570.401 · Receptionist	19,765.20	540.201 · KC Advertising	300.00
570.409 · Receptionist Concordia	2,559.60	540.207 · KC Cooking Supplies	350.00
570.601 · Office Manager	33,300.80	540.204 · KC Miscellaneous	1,500.00
570.602 · Office Manager Vacation	1,000.00	540.302 · Sunday School Materials	2,000.00
570.609 · Office Manager Concordia	11,365.68	540.305 · Midweek Materials	1,100.00
570.701 · Custodian Salary	41,371.20	540.308 · Vacation Bible School	2,400.00
570.702 · Custodian Vacation	1,000.00	540.310 · Family Fellowship	800.00
570.709 · Custodian Concordia	12410.76	540.311 · Bible Study Materials	1,000.00
570.802 · Exalt Director	3,509	540.317 · Library	800.00
570.804 · Choir Director Salary	6,120	540.328 · Christmas Eve Treat Bags	100.00
570.806 · Technology Salary	5,034	540.340 · Conventions & Seminars - Staff	400.00
570.809 · Music Director Concordia	0	540.611 · Continuing Education/Training	200.00
570.811 · Choir Accompanist Salary	2,500.00	Total 570.002 · EDUCATION EXPENSE	11,225.00
570.821 · Organists Salaries	6,656.65	525.002 · SHEPHERDING EXPENSES	
570.851 · Exalt Keyboardist Salary	2,602.60	530.302 · ConnecTeam	1,000.00
570.411 · KC Director Salary	29,028.63	530.301 · Elders Supplies	500.00
570.419 · KC Director Concordia	3,759.24	530.304 · Outdoor Christas Lights	900.00
570.421 · KC Teacher 2 Salary	15,073.20	530.306 · Communion Supplies	1,000.00
570.429 · KC Teacher 2 Concordia	2,503.08	530.349 · Worship	3,000.00
570.433 · Extended Day Helper	5,000.00	530.312 · Taxi Service	500.00
570.438 · KC Preschool Sub Salary	1,000.0	530.327 · Lutheran Witness Subscription	1,400.00
570.902 · Children's Ministry Asst	6,442.8	530.332 · Portals of Prayer	2,200.00
570.901 · Worship Technology Operator	1,653.9	530.339 · Miscellaneous	1,000.00
570.903 · Volunteer Coordinator	11,232.0	530.503 · Choir Music	400.00
579.999 · Employee-paid liabilities	-	530.511 · Exalt Music	300.00
Total 570.100 · ADMIN SALARIES EXPENSE	593,305.2	530.519 · Copyright Fees	550.00
570.003 · PROPERTY EXPENSES		Total 525.002 · SHEPHERDING EXPENSES	12,750.00
560.603 · Maint & Operations-Building	10,600.0	570.012 · LYF YOUTH-BUDGETED	
560.621 · Equipment & Improvements	2,400.0	530.601 · Senior LYF	1,500.00
560.624 · Grounds	5,500.0	530.604 · Junior LYF	1,300.00
560.643 · Custodial Supplies	3,000.0	530.610 · District Gathering Youth	1,300.00
560.627 · Utilities - MidAmerican Energy	23,000.0	530.612 · National Youth Gathering	1,000.00
560.633 · Utilities-Water - City SC	5,500.0	530.613 · Camp Fees	1,000.00
560.630 · Telephone Service	1,809.0	Total 570.012 · LYF YOUTH-BUDGETED	6,100.00
560.636 · Service Contracts	7,500.0	570.005 · OUTREACH EXPENSE	
560.646 · Waste Management	3,262.0	580.801 · Iowa District West	50,000.00
560.655 · Snow Removal	3,000.0	580.804 · Missions	5,000.00
560.651 · Insurance - Property	35,369.0	580.807 · Lutheran Family Services	750.00
Total 570.003 · PROPERTY EXPENSES	100,940.0	580.819 · Advertising & Publicity	3,500.00
570.001 · ADMIN OTHER		580.821 · Missionary Expense	1,000.00
572.420 · Payroll Services	3,400.00	Total 570.005 · OUTREACH EXPENSE	60,250.00
572.110 · Mileage- Pastors	3,000.00	105.000 · ACCOUNTING	
572.112 · Mileage-DCE	450.00	105.110 · Interest	
572.113 · Mileage-Office	500.00	105.300 · Credit Card Services Fee	900.00
572.115 · Assessment-Synod/District	1,500.00	Total Expense	829,580.29
572.413 · Internet Service	1,560.00		
572.419 · Technology	1,900.00		
572.422 · Office Supplies	3,000.00		
572.425 · Paper	2,000.00		
572.428 · Postage	4,000.00		
660.000 · Payroll Taxes	17,300.00		
572.434 · Offering Envelopes	1,900.00		

2025 Elders' Report

We are Blessed here at Redeemer in so many ways. We take very seriously the need to be faithful in our Worship and in all that we do, being obedient to God's Word, Sacraments, and Lutheran doctrine.

We continue to stress the importance of Christian education and instruction for our members of all ages, whether it be through our Sunday School and mid-week programs, summer VBS, or several different Bible studies that are offered throughout the year.

We are a body of believers who are heavily involved in service as well as supporting missionaries and mission projects, not only in our community but also through ministries in regions all around the world. We are a congregation that is made up of many different members with many different and unique talents and abilities in which we are able to use in very special ways to serve our Lord.

The elders continue to review our membership attendance and other demographic statistics to remove members for various reasons. We removed around 100 again this year which leaves our total membership right now close to 1100. We generally have a weekly worship attendance close to 25% of our membership. We would love to see this continue to improve. On a bright note, it is encouraging when we have a church service where we have numerous children go up front for the children's sermon!

Some of the Elder-led initiatives that we offered this past year include:

- **a prayer vigil last March during Lent.** Our staff put together a really nice prayer booklet that contained prayer requests that were submitted from our members. This was nice for participants to use during their prayer time. We had a nice turnout for this event.

- **we also held a prayer vigil on the last Sunday of Oct.** This vigil was not well attended so maybe we will try to do it in November as part of our Stewardship focus next year.

- **soup supper and caroling event.** This was our second year with this event, and it continues to be very much enjoyed by

those participating, and very much appreciated by those who we visited. It was a chilly evening, but it is always going to be difficult to have perfect weather this time of the year. We had around 25-30 singers, and we visited 20-25 different homes, as well as a nursing home. Thanks to Jackie and everyone else who helped prepare the meal and clean-up afterwards!

- I would like to make sure to mention that the Thrivent Choice committee here at Redeemer made several beautiful Christmas wreaths that could be hung on the outside of a door. They also made patriotic blankets that were delivered by many of their members as well as a few of us elders. These were taken to some of our shut-in members as well as some who reside in a nursing home or care facility.

- we plan on holding an outreach event perhaps in Feb. or March during Lent to focus on reaching out to our members in nursing homes or other care facilities.

Please pray for all of our dear members or their loved ones who are going through difficult times (loss of loved ones, health issues, other)

- Pray for our members who are inactive or who seldom come to worship with us. May we all be diligent in reaching out to them in any way we can.

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Thrivent Members Who Have Choice Dollars

NEW Choice Dollars for the 4th Quarter of 2025 will be available after January 6th, 2026. You can call the Home Office at 1-800-847-4836 or go online to direct them www.thrivent.com.

Thanks to all of you who have been directing your Choice Dollars to Redeemer after each quarter!

thrivent



'Glory to the New Born King'

Redeemer Library Committee:

Michelle Callahan, Lisa Gottburg,
Jeannette Johnson, Sylvia Johnson,
& Andrea VanPeursesem



The Family of Jesus: *The Heart of the Story*

by Karen Kingsbury

In *The Family of Jesus*, bestselling novelist Karen Kingsbury will make you laugh, cry, and ultimately care more deeply about the Bible by helping you grasp the truths in Scripture not just with your mind, but with your heart. The characters in these short stories were among those closest to Jesus—Mary, Joseph, Jesus' brother James, John the Baptist, Zechariah, and Elizabeth. Each has a compelling tale to tell. Kingsbury intersperses fictional, emotionally gripping details anchored in Scripture with historical and theological insights and questions that will guide soul-searching and reflection.

A Boy Names Jesus

by Robert Aron

Offers a view of the childhood and adolescence of Jesus Christ through a presentation of the language, culture, and prayers of the times and examines the young man's growing relationship with God



Silver Boxes: *The Gift of Encouragement*

by Florence Littauer

Humorous anecdotes and touching insights inspire readers to reach out with encouragement to people who are hurting and need help. Learn how to make others feel special, mend broken dreams and share the affirming message of the gospel through encouragement.

Life! Celebrate It: *Listen, Learn, Laugh, Love*

By Luci Swindoll

Life. There are so many decisions. So much to think of, remember, plan, do, be, and accomplish. If only there was someone with wise words, a plan, some "direction" for our lives. Luci finds reason for laughter in the midst of tears. She also knows—from experience—the importance of listening, learning, laughing, and loving her way through life. Between laughing with friends and adopting humor as a basic lifestyle, Luci brings balance and wisdom your way as she openly shares her life. For more than 60 years, she's maintained a joyful spirit, a grateful heart, and a rich, purposeful relationship with God.

Uncertain Choice:

Uncertain Choice Series Book #1

by Jody Hedlund



Due to her parents' promise at her birth, Lady Rosemarie has been prepared to become a nun on the day she turns eighteen. Then, a month before her birthday, a friend of her father's enters the kingdom and proclaims her parents' will left a second choice. If Rosemarie can marry before the eve of her eighteenth year, she will be exempt from the ancient vow. Before long, Rosemarie is presented with the three most handsome and brave knights in the land. But when the competition for her heart seemingly results in a knight playing foul, she begins to wonder if the cloister is the best place after all. If only one of the knights the one who appears the most guilty had not already captured her heart.

A Loyal Heart: Uncertain Choice Book #4

by Jody Hedlund



He's taken her as his prisoner. But she's holding his heart captive. In gaining their freedom, will they lose what matters most? When Lady Olivia's castle is besieged, she and her sister are taken captive and held for ransom by her father's enemy, Lord Pitt. Loyalty to family means everything to Olivia. She'll save her sister at any cost and do whatever her father asks. As Lord Pitt's commander, Sir Aldric is in charge of the beautiful but feisty new prisoner. He has his hands full attempting to keep Lady Olivia out of trouble. Can Olivia give up the prestigious match her father has arranged with a wealthy marquess in order to marry a lowly knight like Aldric? And can Aldric move beyond his past mistakes? When loyalties are tested, they're thrust into danger that could cost them their love and their lives.

More Holy Humor:

The Holy Humor Series

by Cal Samra, Rose Samra

Effectively disproving any notion that Christians are relentlessly dour, melancholy, humorless, and joyless, these books from Cal and Rose Samra offer a rib-tickling treasury of Christian joy and humor. They're as ideally suited to individuals and families looking for a laugh as they are to pastors, speakers, and all those who seek to spice up their presentations - and their lives—with a few power-packed moments of Holy Humor. For more than a decade, the interdenominational Fellowship of Merry Christians has been publishing The Joyful Noiseletter, an award-winning newsletter filled with church life humor by some of the world's top comedians, humorists, clowns, and cartoonists. Now, the most snicker-spurring and laughter-inciting of these comical contributions are available in four uproarious trade paperback collections and four mini-gift books!



You will be able to hibernate all winter long with a cup of hot cocoa, a bowl of popcorn and a book from one of our many book series.

Series authors include

Janette Oke
Gilbert Morris
Lauraine Snelling
Karen Kingsbury
Teri Blackstock
Traci Peterson
Francine Rivers
And many more, too numerous to list!

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
EVERY SUNDAY: († = Holy Communion Sunday) 8:15 AM: Traditional Worship; 10:45 AM: Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM: Adult Bible Study; 9:30 AM: ROCK Sun.		
4 † SEE EVERY SUNDAY 8:15 & 10:45 AM Worship Services 9:30 AM ROCK Sunday 9:30 AM Adult Confirmation 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study 1-3 PM Sudanese Worship Youth Committee Mtg	5 <i>Preschool classes resume for M/W/F</i> 9 AM Quilting Starts 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6:30 PM Pickleball 6:30 PM Congregational -Vision Mtg	6 <i>Preschool classes resume for T/TH</i> 10 AM Devotions w/Pastor Zirpel-Bickford Assist. 10:45 AM-Bickford Memory 1:30 PM Staff Bible Study/Mtg 5 PM Take Down Decorations -Parish Hall 6 PM LWML Board Mtg
11 SEE EVERY SUNDAY 8:15 & 10:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM ROCK Sunday 9:30 AM Adult Confirmation 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study 1-3 PM Sudanese Worship *Order Your Super Bowl Subs	12 9 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6:30 PM Pickleball	13 1:30 PM Staff/ Bible Study/Mtg 5 PM Aktion Meal/MWM
18 † SEE EVERY SUNDAY LIFE SUNDAY 8:15 & 10:45 AM Worship Services 9:30 AM ROCK Sunday 9:30 AM Adult Confirmation 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study 1-3 PM Sudanese Worship	19 9 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6:30 PM Pickleball	20 11 AM Retired Educators Meal / MWM 1:30 PM Staff/Bible Study/Mtg 7 PM Life Light Bible Study at Whispering Creek starts
25 SEE EVERY SUNDAY FOOD SUNDAY 8:15 & 10:45 AM Worship Services 9:30 AM ROCK Sunday 9:30 AM Adult Confirmation 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study 1-3 PM Sudanese Worship	26 9 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6:30 PM Pickleball	27 1:30 PM Staff/Bible Study/Mtg 5 PM Aktion Meal/MWM 7 PM Life Light Bible Study at Whispering Creek



Redeemer Lutheran Church & KinderCottage Preschool

3204 S. Lakeport, Sioux City, IA ❖ Ph. 712-276-1125

E-mail: redeemerchurchsc@gmail.com ❖ Website: redeemersiouxcity.com

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day <i>Office is Closed</i> No Evening Worship Service	2 9-noon Food Shelf	3
7 9:30 AM Lamplighters at <i>Hope</i> 5-5:40 PM Midweek Meal— <i>Chicken Noodle Soup</i> 5-7 PM Midweek / ROCK Wednesday 6:15 PM Handbells 7:15 PM Adult Choir 7:30-9 PM Youth Group	8 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6 PM BSF Bible Study (Lower Level) 6:30 PM Worship 7:30 PM Leadership Council Mtg.	9 9-noon Food Shelf	10 7:30 AM Red M&M's Bible Study & Breakfast
14 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study— <i>Conference Rm.</i> 5-5:40 PM Midweek Meal— <i>Nachos</i> 5-7 PM Midweek / ROCK Wednesday 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study— <i>Redeemer- Downstairs</i> 6:15 PM Handbells 7:15 PM Adult Choir 7:30-9 PM Youth Group	15 10 AM Thrivent Choice Mt 1 PM "Women Serving in Christ" 5:30 PM Adult Fit. 6 PM BSF Bible Study (Lower Level) 6:30 PM Worship w/Holy Communion	16 <i>No Preschool</i> - <i>Staff</i> <i>attending</i> <i>workshop</i> 9-noon Food Shelf 6:30-8:30 PM Youth Group - <i>Ice Skating</i>	17 9 AM Siouxland Foster Child – Fellowship Hall
21 10:30 AM Devotions w/Pastor Senstad at <i>Whispering Creek</i> 5-5:40 PM Midweek Meal— <i>Tator Tot</i> <i>Hot Dish</i> 5-7 PM Midweek / ROCK Wednesday 6:15 PM Handbells 7:15 PM Adult Choir 7:30-9 PM Youth Group	22 1 PM Altar Guild 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6 PM BSF Bible Study (Lower Level) 6:30 PM Worship 7 PM Elders Mtg	23 9-noon Food Shelf	24
28 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study— <i>Conference Rm.</i> 5-5:40 PM Midweek Meal— <i>Tacos</i> 5-7 PM Midweek / ROCK Wed. 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study— <i>Redeemer- Downstairs</i> 6:15 PM Handbells 7:15 PM Adult Choir 7:30-9 PM Youth Group— <i>Raising Caine Chicken Fingers</i>	29 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6 PM BSF Bible Study (Lower Level) 6:30 PM Worship w/Holy Communion	30 9-noon Food Shelf 6 PM-12 AM <i>Confirmation</i> <i>Lock-In</i>	31

Redeemer Family News & Events See DCE Jonathon Bailey with any Questions

JANUARY

Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser! The youth will once again be selling delicious subs for the Super Bowl! Order forms will be available beginning **January 11th**. Please fill out **one order form per sub** you would like to purchase. Completed forms should be returned by **February 1st**. Sub orders may be picked up on the **morning of February 8th**. All proceeds will support the youth mission trip to **Sulphur, Oklahoma**, in **June 2026**. Thank you for your continued support of the youth of our congregation!

Ice Skating - Inviting all High School Youth to an evening of Ice Skating. **Friday January 16th**. Doors open at 6:00 pm Skating From 7-9pm. The IBP Ice Center is located at 3808 Stadium Drive. Cost is \$8 per person. Concessions are available at an additional cost.

Middle School Half Lock-In! Calling all Middle School students! Let's have a lock-in! Join us on **January 30th** from **6:00–11:30 PM** for a fun night filled with games, devotions, snacks, and plenty of candy. Feel free to bring a friend! Please let us know you're coming by **January 25th**. We hope to see you there! To RSVP- Call DCE Jonathon Bailey or the church office 712-276-1125.

REDEEMER TURNS 100!

In the year of our Lord, 2026, Redeemer Lutheran turns 100 years old. We have formed a committee to plan a celebration. We'll pick a Sunday to celebrate and focus on the blessings of the past 100 years. It will definitely be when warmer and more 'travel friendly' weather returns to us. But please note, this is the year!



Canned Goods for Mission Projects Update: We have the following items available for the New Year: Dill Pickles: Pints (\$6) and Quarts (\$8). Hamburger Sweet Dills: Quarts (\$8); \$8 each or 5 for \$35.

40 different flavors of Jams & Jellies (\$6) - Mix & Match: \$6 each or 5 for \$25. Rhubarb Strawberry Ice Cream Topping: \$6. If you ever need pies or cakes for a special occasion (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.), feel free to contact Pastor Zirpel.

Aronia Jam	Gooseberry Jelly	Strawberry Rhubarb Jam
Aronia Blueberry Jam	Gooseberry—	Tart Cherry Jam
Aronia Berry Jelly	Jalapeno Jam	Wild Grape Jelly
Aronia Jalapeno Jam	Gooseberry—	Wild Plum Jalapeno Jam
Aronia Peach Jam	Rhubarb Jam	Wild Plum Jam
Aronia Rhubarb Jam	Red Currant Jelly	Wild Plum Jelly
Blackberry Jalapeno Jam	Red Raspberry Jam	Wild Plum Rhubarb Jam
Blackberry Jam	Red Raspberry Rhubarb-	Wild Raspberry Jam
Blackberry Jelly	Jalapeno Jam	Wild Raspberry Rhubarb-
Blueberry Jam	Red Raspberry—	Jalapeno Jam
Blueberry Rhubarb Jam	Rhubarb Jam	Wild Raspberry—
Cherry Jalapeno Jam	Rhubarb Aronia—	Rhubarb Jam
Cherry Rhubarb Jam	Jalapeno Jam	
Choke Cherry Jelly	Rhubarb Jam	PICKLES
Elderberry Jelly	Rhubarb Jalapeno Jam	Dill
Fruit Juice Jalapeno Jam	Strawberry Jalapeno Jam	Hamburger Sweet Dills
Fruit Juice Jelly	Strawberry Jam	Sweet Pickles
Ginger Rhubarb Jam	Strawberry Rhubarb—	

Redeemer News and Events

2025 Giving Statements

Giving statements for the 2025 calendar year will be mailed on or before Friday, Jan. 16. Look for yours to arrive by mid-month. If you

have any questions about your statement, please contact Angie in the main office. Thank you!

Offering Envelopes

Your 2025 Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up. They are located in the hallway under the coat rack next to the Office.

SUMMARY OF LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:28 P.M. Opening devotion was led by Pastor Senstad.

Financial report reviewed. At this time, we are down \$26,000 year-to-date. Currently are over budget by \$135,000.

Pastor Senstad: Pastor Senstad shared that Steve Ebsen is helping with the 'My UC App' that is available to members who had their pictures taken. Steve is adding members to the application who did not take their picture. It offers the Bible on line, as well.

Pastor Zirpel: No Report.

Jonathon Bailey: Christmas program and events are coming up. Mission trip to Jonathon's home town, Sulfur, OK, is June 21-28, 2026. Around 1 ½ yrs ago a tornado hit the area. Fundraising for this trip is going well.

Elder's Report: No Report

Dividers were put up on the east side of the fellowship hall during the annual voter's meeting. Everyone felt it helped. Discussion regarding that sound panels midway up the wall would be helpful. Also, discussed Bluetooth to help with hearing and echo issues in the sanctuary.

Ann Schauer has accepted to be co-chair for Redeemer Lutheran's 100th Anniversary celebration(s) in 2026.

Gary Flammang and Ann Schauer shared notes and discussion from the annual voter's meeting that will want to be discussed in upcoming council meetings. Discussion of roof leaks, furnace needing to be replaced, Bluetooth option to help with hearing and echo in the sanctuary, insurance for staff.

Pastor Senstad shared that the CPH Retirement plan has had a 1% increase each year. Pastor wanted leadership council to understand that the budget voted on at the Annual Voter's meeting was on a 9.7% rate but really is a 10.7% rate. Cost of this increase is around \$8,000 more of what the voters passed. Options were discussed. Leadership Council will review in January.

Visioning meeting will be January 5, 2026, at 6:30pm. To avoid going over what has been discussed at the last 2 meetings with Dr. Rev Keith Haney, we are encouraged to come prepared with constructive conversation. Committee can decide what population we want to focus on.

Voting for new Chair, Vice Chair and secretary was done. Marc Benson, Chairman, Angie Corderman, Vice Chair, and Buffy Schrauner, Secretary.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:50 P.M.

Cooking with Pastor Senstad

~ SERTOMA Breakfast Casserole ~

A few weeks ago, a friend and fellow SERTOMA invited me to a morning meeting concerning new hearing devices. The meeting was alright, and 'looping' might be a great way to help people hear, but the breakfast casserole was great. I asked for the recipe and here is what I was sent:



Ingredients:

1 tablespoon unsalted butter, softened, for greasing the dish	1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
1 loaf rustic Italian, challah, or brioche bread, cut into 1-inch cubes (about 8 cups)	6 large eggs
8 ounces deli ham, roughly chopped	2 cups whole milk
2 cups shredded Gruyère or Swiss cheese, divided	1 cup heavy cream
	1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
	1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
	1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
	1 pinch ground nutmeg, optional

Directions:

Assemble the casserole: Butter a 9x13-inch baking dish. Layer half of the bread cubes in the greased dish, followed by half of the ham and 3/4 cup of the Gruyère. Repeat with the remaining bread, ham, and another 3/4 cup cheese. Combine the parmesan and the remaining 1/2 cup Gruyère in an airtight container and set aside in the refrigerator for topping the casserole later.

Add the custard: In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, cream, Dijon mustard, salt, pepper, and nutmeg, if using, until well combined. Pour the mixture evenly over the casserole, pressing the bread down slightly so it absorbs the liquid. Cover tightly and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or overnight.

Bake: When ready to bake, preheat the oven to 350°F. Uncover the casserole and sprinkle the reserved cheeses evenly over the top. Bake until puffed, golden, and set in the center, 45 to 50 minutes. If the top browns too quickly, tent with foil during the last 10 minutes of baking.

Cool and serve: Let the casserole rest for 10 minutes before slicing. Serve warm.

Full disclosure...my wife and I have not had time to try making it...but I can tell you that it is good. You and those you are feeding will enjoy it!

God Bless, Pastor Senstad



January 2026



Ephesians 5:1-2

"1 Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God"

- | | | |
|---------------|----------|--|
| Mon. Jan. 5 | 9:00 AM | Calling All Quilters! - Lower Level (Center Rm) |
| Tues. Jan. 6 | 5:00 PM | Take Down Decorations in Parish Hall |
| | 6:00 PM | LWML Board Mtg - Conference Rm.
(All are invited to attend) |
| Wed. Jan. 14 | 10:00 AM | Women's Bible Study—Conference Rm.
"Forgiveness" - Lesson 7
'Forgiving Your Prodigals'
Pgs. 185-199 |
| Wed. Jan. 14 | 5:30 PM | Women's Bible Study—Lower Level—Redeemer
"Leaning on Jesus" (Vineyard Closed in January)
A Study on God's Strength.
Week 3—'Leaning on Jesus When We Are Weary', pgs. 77-92 |
| Thur. Jan. 15 | 1:00 PM | Women Serving Christ Bible Study
"Not the World's Peace"
Pg. 16, Winter 2025 Quarterly
Bible Study Leader: Myrtie Allen
Hosts: Shirley Barth and Anita Stansell |
| Sat. Jan. 17 | 9:00 AM | Siouxland Foster Closet—Fellowship Hall
Speaker: Rochelle Pfiefer, Founder & Director
Come join us in learning more about this Community Resource

Ingathering: to support organizations mission.
https://siouxlandfostercloset.square.site/donation-guidelines |
| Wed. Jan. 28 | 10:00 AM | Women's Bible Study—Conference Rm.
"Forgiveness" - Lesson 7
'Forgiving Your Prodigals'
Pgs. 200-209 |

Wed. Jan. 28 5:30 PM Women's Bible Study—Lower Level— Redeemer
"Leaning on Jesus" (Vineyard Closed in January)
A Study on God's Strength.
Week 4—'Leaning on Jesus When We Are
Weak', pgs. 93-100

*All Women of the congregation are invited to participate in any of the events.
Please join us as we "Serve the Lord with Gladness" ~Psalms 100:2*

SAVE THE DATE!

- ✦ Feburary 18th, 2026—Ash Wednesday Soup & Pie Lenten Meal
- ✦ April 11th, 2026, at 9:00 AM—Sioux City Zone Spring Gathering at Calvary—HER Health Women's Center
- ✦ June 11-13th, 2026—the 41st Iowa West District Biennial District LWML Convention
- ✦ October 3rd, 2026—Sioux City Zone Fall Festival at Faith
- ✦ July 8-11th, 2027—42nd Biennial LWML Convention, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Siouxland Foster Closet

Siouxland Foster closet provides a welcoming environment where children in care can choose their own clothing,

necessities and just-for-fun items. All items are free of charge. Younger children can play with toys while caregivers choose the items for the child, and older children can choose and try on their own items. Drop-in shopping is available during our open hours (Tues/Thur 10am-2pm) and by appointment. New placements receive up to 10 outfits + other necessities while seasonal and size updates receive up to 5 outfits. Caregivers (foster and kinship), caseworkers, CASA volunteers, and other workers in the system are eligible to shop the closet for children in out-of-home placement. **Saturday January 17, 2026 Rochelle Pfiefer the founder and director of the Siouxland Foster Closet since 2018 will be speaking at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall to the LWML and all are invited!** We will be collecting an ingathering of items in their need list to send back with her. Watch the bulletin for items needed. We will have fruit, pastries, juice and coffee!



If you are cleaning out, Quilters will always take blankets, sheets, material etc. When in doubt, don't throw it out, bring it to the Quilters!!!



"Rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances." 1 Thess. 5:16-18

Thank you to all who provided prayers, financial support, donations, time, and talents with the recent Lutheran Women in Mission events. Our Redeemer family is truly blessed!!!!

Summary of Events July – December, 2025

- Redeemer Lutheran Women in Mission Leadership
 - ⇒ President – Tawnya Becker
 - ⇒ President Elect – Lenore Field
 - ⇒ Secretary – Michaela Uhl 2024 – 2026
 - ⇒ Treasure – ConniJo Bailey 2025 – 2027
- Group Activities: Wednesday AM & PM Bible Study, Thursday PM Women Serving in Christ (WSC) Bible Study and Servant Events, Quilters, Cheer (Cards sent to member – Birthday, Anniversary, Birth, Get Well, Condolences etc.), Funeral
- WSC Group assisted Thrivent in delivering blankets and wreaths to homebound/shut-ins.
- Spark Session – Gathering of Ideas for 2025 – 2026 Activities/Projects
- LWML Sunday – Proclaiming Christ
- Birthday Celebration Event; 38 Birthday Cake Kit Service Project
- Celebrated our Hero's with recognition of service and distribution of goody bags. (Active Duty and Veterans)
- Toys for Tots ---- Joint event with Youth
- Angel Tree – Partnership with Midstep
- Greeting Card Sales – approximately 380 cards sold, since project started.
- Cantata Fellowship Refreshments
- Ingathering Redeemer Food Shelf
- Zone events Redeemer members participated: Summer Fellowship and Service Event at Oscar Carl Vineyard; Woodbury County Fair Food Booth; Fall Festival (Dr. Steve Schult



Mission Central – Mission to any and all the World) at St. Paul’s; Fall Ladies Night Out at Faith (Fellowship, Devotion, & Christmas Ornaments)

- **Iowa West District: Fall Retreat – Mission Central – The Spirit’s Harmony; Singing God’s Praises**
- **Gifts of Support: \$250 –Her Health Women’s Center; \$250 Main Street Living; \$250 Mission Central; \$250 Mercy Meals of Siouxland; Pastors’ Appreciation Gifts**
- **Mites collected YTD (July 2025 - November 2025) = \$4,118.11**



Redeemer LWML Facebook page.... Anyone who scans the QR code will see the group’s About page and can ask to join.

make a difference

Thrivent Members: An Opportunity to Make a Meaningful Impact

Thrivent members have a wonderful opportunity to make a difference through our monthly **Meals with a Mission** program. This initiative provides meals for retired educators, mentally and physically challenged individuals, and the Girls of '68. For a small cost, participants receive a delicious meal, fellowship, and occasionally an activity. All proceeds are then donated to a charity of your choice from a curated list of organizations.

As we look ahead to **2026**, we want to share that we *truly need additional help* keeping Meals with a Mission thriving. Your time, participation, and support make a tremendous impact, and we warmly invite anyone who feels called to lend a hand.

This program is a heartfelt way to give back to our community while supporting causes that matter to you. If you’re interested in participating, volunteering, or would like more information, please reach out to **Pastor Zirpel** or **Kristy Fisher**. We would be thrilled to have your support in this meaningful mission!

Bibi’s Hope Update

Fun Day at the Orphanage

The orphanage had three different groups visit to create a special day for the children. The three groups were SPECIFICS Beauty Institute, Saint Paul Coulibaly Church, and Challenge Horizon Group.



SPECIFICS delivered toys, gifts, and drinks. Bibi gave a warm welcome speech, and the children were divided into 3 game groups: playing football, jumping rope, and playing Lido games (board games).

Later, members of Saint Paul Coulibaly Church visited and offered prayers and a monetary donation for the children, specifically praying for Bibi’s health.



Lastly, the Challenge Horizon team toured the premises, played with the children, and distributed gifts.

Bibi’s Health - Please pray for Bibi’s health. She has been weak and needs prayers for healing and prayers for the doctors to have wisdom in how they treat her.

Please include the orphanage in your daily prayers.... Please send prayers for the health of Bibi and everyone at ASE-Mali orphanage. Please pray for the spread of Christian faith in Mali, in the United States, and all over the world. Please pray for peace and God’s will in the US and around the world.



In Christ, **Bibi’s Hope Committee** #HopefortheChildren

Serving in January 2026

	SUNDAY, JANUARY 4	SUNDAY, JANUARY 11	SUNDAY, JANUARY 18	SUNDAY, JANUARY 25
ACOLYTES	8:15 AM: Sierra Zellmer & Jaiden Thomas 10:45 AM: Rhyss Dolphin & Caleb Amick	8:15 AM: Ian & Jake Beougher 10:45 AM: Madi Schutt & Bruce Bailey	8:15 AM: Ian & Jake Beougher 10:45 AM: Jeremiah Jessen & Logan Cain	8:15 AM: Ian & Jake Beougher 10:45 AM: Camden Doscher & Kate VanMeter
GREETERS	8:15 AM: Paul & Cindy Fleckenstein 10:45 AM: Scott & Beth Bowman	8:15 AM: Dale & Nadine Henningsen 10:45 AM: Marty & Marcy Delperdang	8:15 AM: Lamont & Drenda Onken 10:45 AM: Jayne Edwards	8:15 AM: Bruce & Roberta Timmons 10:45 AM: Jackie Krueger
COUNTING	Team 4: Judy Buckley & Loralee Fink	Team 1: Judy Buckley & Marge Lessmann	Team 2: Diana & Marlo Hermelbracht and Anita Mack	Team 3: Gale & Carol Bobolz and Nick & Debbie Schmith

USHER TEAMS: Thursday

6:30 PM: Harlan Feddersen
(Al & Melissa Joens, Shelly Fergan,
Mike Searls)

Sundays: 8:15 AM: Team 2

(Scott Ernst, Brian Duff, Roy Olsen,
Lamont Onken, Phil Schauer)

10:45 AM: Team 6

(Mark Shapiro, Jim Phillips, Jeremy
Schram, Aaron Schutt)

ELDERS: Steve Peterson

PROPERTY CHECK: Lisa Gottberg

ALTAR GUILD:

Janet Fett, Anita Stansell & Kathy
Sudtelgte

Meeting January 22, 1:00 PM.

COFFEE & ROLLS:

Jan. 4: Dave & Lori Albrecht

Jan. 11: Steve & Ann Peterson

Jan. 18: Dale & Nadine Henningsen

Jan. 25: Paul & Cindy Fleckenstein



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3204 So. Lakeport St.
Sioux City, Iowa 51106

"Return service requested"

WORSHIP AT REDEEMER

Thursdays - 6:30 PM

Sundays

8:15 AM Traditional

10:45 AM Contemporary

Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month

Adult Bible Study: 9:45 AM Sunday

Youth (9-12 grade) Bible Study: 9:30 AM Sunday

ROCK Sunday (2yr-8grade) 9:30-10:30 AM Sunday

Phone: 712-276-1125

Fax: 712-276-1146

www.redeemersiouxcity.com

E-mail: redeemerchurchsc@gmail.com



Redeemer
Lutheran Church

Family Friendly, Outward Reaching

JANUARY 2026