



‘Why Lent? What’s It Really For?’

By the time you read this article, we will be knee deep in the beautiful season of Lent. I call it beautiful, but some find it ‘not’ beautiful. The season of Lent often includes snow and cold outside, and it still gets dark sooner than we’d like. It can be filled with mournful hymns that tend to be in minor keys. And, if you are one that ‘gives something up’ for Lent, you might not find that enjoyable. Yet, Lent is a beautiful season in the church year.

I recently ran across an article from Dr. Shane Stanford, long time pastor and podcast personality. He isn’t an LCMS Lutheran, but he is a fellow Christian who also values the blessings that the season of Lent offers the follower of Christ. In fact, I found his view on lent...useful.

Lent is a time to both remember and expect... It is a time when we prepare for the experience of Easter by remembering the journey Jesus walked to the Cross. We live through the passion of Christ (his arrest, trial, and crucifixion) to fully appreciate Resurrection morning.

Lent is a 40-day period (excluding Sundays) of prayer, fasting, repentance, and almsgiving, leading up to Easter Sunday. Lent is a time of deep spiritual reflection, self-

discipline, and preparation for the celebration of Christ’s resurrection.

The word “Lent” is derived from the Old English word “*lencten*,” meaning “spring,” which signifies renewal and growth. Spiritually, Lent is a season for believers to grow closer to God, examine their lives, and renew their commitment to faith.

Lent is rooted in the biblical story of Jesus Christ’s 40 days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness, where He resisted temptation from Satan (Matthew 4:1–11). This period symbolizes spiritual purification and preparation, mirroring the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert before entering the Promised Land.

The season begins on Ash Wednesday, a solemn day when the faithful receive ashes on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. The ashes, made from burnt palm branches from the previous year’s Palm Sunday, serve as a reminder of human mortality and the call to repentance with the words: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19).

Lent culminates in Holy Week, which commemorates the Passion,

(Continued on page 2)

Midweek Lenten & Holy Week Worship Services at Redeemer

Wednesday, March 4

11:30 AM & 7 PM Worship

*Meal: Hot Dogs & Loose Meats

hosted by KinderCottage Preschool

Wednesday, March 11

11:30 AM & 7 PM Worship

*Meal: Spaghetti

hosted by Confirmation

Wednesday, March 18

11:30 AM & 7 PM Worship

*Meal: Taco Bar

hosted by High School

Wednesday, March 25

11:30 AM & 7 PM Worship

*Meal: Lasagna

hosted by Handbells / Choir

**Wednesday Meals served Noon & 5-6:45 PM ~ (free-will offering & Carry-outs available)*

Palm Sunday, March 29

Worship 6:30 PM Thursday,

March 26; 8:15 & 10:45 AM

Sunday, March 29

Maundy Thursday, April 2

11:30 AM & 7 PM Worship with

Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 3

11:30 AM & 7 PM Worship

Easter Sunday, April 5

6:30 AM, 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Worship with Holy Communion

7:30-10 AM Redeemer Youth serve

Easter Breakfast

Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This includes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (the Last Supper), Good Friday (Christ’s Crucifixion), and finally, Easter Sunday, the joyous celebration of Jesus’ victory over sin and death.

Lent is a sacred invitation to pause, reflect, and renew our faith. It is a time to draw closer to God through prayer, fasting, and acts of love. As believers journey through this season, they are encouraged to seek spiritual transformation, letting go of what holds them back and embracing a deeper relationship with Christ.

By the time Easter arrives, those who have faithfully observed Lent will find themselves spiritually strengthened, renewed, and ready to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with greater joy and gratitude. Enjoy this beautiful season.

God Bless,
Pastor Senstad

DYING HIS DEATH LIVING HIS LIFE

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Sunday

FRED NIEDNER



Easter Bake Sale



Order by March 24th

Pick-Up at Redeemer: April 1st – April 3rd or April 5th

PLEASE ADD PICK UP DATE DOWN BELOW

**Alternate Pick-Up Date/Time-Call Pastor Zirpel

Pies, Cakes & Cookies--Whole \$20, Half \$10

	Whole	Half
Carrot Cake	_____	_____
German Chocolate Cake	_____	_____
Coconut Cream Pie	_____	_____
French Silk Pie	_____	_____
Blueberry Cheesecake	_____	_____
Cherry Cheesecake	_____	_____
Chocolate Carmel Cheesecake	_____	_____
	Dozen	Half
Easter Decorated Sugar Cookies	_____	_____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

PLEASE PUT PICK UP DATE: _____

(Call Pastor Zirpel to schedule alternate date/time)

Cash or Checks Written to Redeemer Lutheran Church

Credit Cards and Venmo also accepted



2026 EASTER LILIES/HYDRANGEAS SPONSORSHIP FORM

Donations of Easter lilies/Hydrangeas are needed to adorn Redeemer’s chancel for our Easter Sunday services. After services on Easter, you may pick up your plant. The Altar Guild purchases the plants locally,

- Easter Lilies cost \$20.00
- Hydrangeas cost \$32.00
- Rainbow Mums cost \$18.00

Orders due by March 15th

To order a plant (or plants), please indicate on the order form below, include payment, (please make checks payable to the Altar Guild), and put it in the collection plate on Sunday morning or turn it in to the church office. If you have any questions, please call Anita Mack.

If you are donating a plant to be given, please pick up after last service and give to whomever you want. The rest will stay for as long as they last. Thank you! Altar Guild

I would like to order _____ Easter lilies

I would like to order _____ Hydrangeas (blue or pink) circle one

I would like to order _____ Rainbow Mums

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

GIVEN IN HONOR/MEMORY OF

Redeemer Family News & Events

See DCE Jonathon Bailey with any Questions!



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

• **Sleep in Heavenly Peace – Lenten Tree Project:** Sleep in Heavenly Peace is an organization here in Sioux City that builds and delivers beds free of charge to children who are sleeping on the floor. In just over four years, they have delivered more than 3,270 beds to kids in the Siouxland area! They are currently asking for donations to help with building and delivering beds. There is a tree located in the entryway by Door 2. The eggs hanging on the tree have specific items listed that SHP is in need of. **Please consider taking an egg and returning the requested item by Easter Sunday, April 5th.** Thank you for helping ensure that no child sleeps on the floor in our community!

• **Church Talent Show & Spaghetti Dinner – Sign Up Now!** Do you have a talent you’d like to share? Whether it’s singing, playing an instrument, comedy, magic, dancing, or something totally unique, everyone is invited to participate in our Church Talent Show!

📅 **Sunday, March 8** 📍 **Church Gym**

🍝 **Spaghetti Dinner: 5:00 PM** 🕒 **Talent Show: 5:30 PM**

Join us for a spaghetti dinner with a free-will donation, with all proceeds supporting the Youth Mission Trip. All ages and talents are welcome! Sign-up information can be found in the bulletin or at the table in the entryway.

• **Musketeers Tickets** – If you would be interested in joining us for a Musketeers game, please stop by the back of the Sanctuary and sign up. The game will be **Friday, March 13th, at 7:00 PM.** Tickets- \$13.00.

• **Youth Connect Pinewood Derby:** Join us for the Youth Connect Pinewood Derby on **Sunday, March 15th** at **Redeemer Lutheran Church.** **Check-in begins at 1:00 PM** in the gym. Rules, event schedule, and a link to purchase Pinewood Derby kits will also be available at the table in the entryway. We will also be having a **Pizza ‘Potluck’.** Each family is encouraged to bring their favorite pizza from anywhere in town to share.





THE SLOW DOWN

with Tanner Olson and Matt Doering



*"When both the teenager and the 70-year-old say, 'I wasn't sure what to expect, but this was amazing!' you know hearts have been touched. Matt and Tanner bring music and poetry, but what they offer best is their heart. A night of music and poetry and hope is sure to bless you and your community."
Pastor Brian West*

- **Siouxland Youth Connect and Iowa District West** invite you to **"The Slow Down"**—an evening of music, poetry, and hope featuring **Tanner Olson** and **Matt Doering** here at Redeemer on **Thursday, March 26th, at 6:30 PM**



Tanner Olson is a spoken-word poet and speaker who travels the country sharing poetry and stories of grace and hope. He was one of the nightly speakers at the Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Matt Doering is a singer/songwriter based in Georgetown, Texas. He travels across the U.S. sharing music that offers a kind, restful reminder that—even in life's ups and downs—beauty and love are always present.

Come and slow down. Be encouraged. Find hope. A meal will be served from 5:15- 6:00 pm. **Please follow the link in the QR code to RSVP!**

- **The Youth Committee** would like to invite everyone to participate in our **2nd Annual Easter Car Hop!** Similar to Trunk or Treat, we will decorate our cars with an Easter theme and hand out treats as children "hop" from car to car. **Date: Sunday, March 29 Time: 2:00–4:00 PM.** Please have cars lined up and ready to hand out treats by **1:45 PM.** Participants should plan to bring enough treats for **250–300 children.** Car registration is available at the table in the entryway. Come join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship and Easter joy!



Upcoming News & Events

Sergeant Bluff Vendor Sale: Saturday, March 21, 9AM-2:30 PM (903 Topaz Drive @ Blue VFW Building)



Annual Waffle Brunch: St. Paul's Lutheran School will host their annual Waffle Brunch & Bake Sale on Sunday, March 1, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. **Cost: \$10/ Adult and \$5/children under 10.** Tickets will also be available at the door. Brunch can be eaten in our "dining room." Come and join us! (St. Paul's Lutheran School, 612 Jennings St., Sioux City, IA 51101 – phone 712-258-6325)

PRAYER VIGIL: The board of elders will be hosting a prayer vigil for Sunday, March 29 from 3-5 pm. This happens to be *Palm Sunday* so what better way to begin Holy Week than for us to spend time in prayer, preparing ourselves for the special week ahead. Please submit prayer requests that you might have to the church office, or to any of the pastors or elders. There will be a prayer booklet put that will include your prayer requests as well as many others that participants can use.



DO YOU KNOW???

July of what year did Redeemer become a charter church?
Who was the first minister of Redeemer Lutheran Church?
Where was the original Redeemer Lutheran Church located?

thrivent Thrivent Members Who Have Choice Dollars

IF YOU HAVE 2026 CHOICE DOLLARS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN DIRECTED, YOU MUST DIRECT THEM BEFORE MARCH 31, 2026 OR YOU LOSE THEM. THEY DO NOT CARRY OVER! YOU HAVE MORE CHOICE DOLLARS TO DIRECT AFTER EACH QUARTER (March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31). **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!! To direct your Choice Dollars, call the Home Office at 1-800-847-4836 or you can direct them online at www.thrivent.com.**

Dear Redeemer Members & Friends

We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone for the cards, memorial gifts and prayers during our father and grandfather's illness and passing. Special thanks to Pastor Zirpel and Pastor Senstad for the beautiful Memorial Service. Thanks also to Pastor Senstad and Bonnie Rossman for sharing their musical talents and for the ladies of Redeemer for the coffee & cookie reception. We are truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful family here at Redeemer Lutheran. The Family of Robert Blohm~~ Doug, Kristine, Emily & Kylie Schrad and Karen & Brent Blohm.



Thank you for the prayers, texts and calls that were made when I was having my testing. Thankfully, all tests came out well. Thanks~~ Pam Limoges

Dear Members of Redeemer, On behalf of Mid-Step Services, thank you for the generous Christmas gifts you shared with the individuals we serve at Mid-Step Services.

Your thoughtfulness once again brought joy, excitement, and a deep sense of being remembered during the holiday season. We are truly grateful for your continued support and partnership in enriching the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. May God's blessings be upon you and your congregation. Sincerely, Eric Hammer, Executive Director, Mid-Step Services.

CAMP OKOBOJI 2026

Discipleship Programs

May 29-31	Kid's Kamp
June 4-7	Joy Camp 1
June 14-18	Cub Week 1
June 28-July 3	July 4 th Family Retreat
July 5-11	Jr High Week
July 9-12	Joy Camp 2
July 12-18	Cub Week 2
July 19-25	Youth Week
July 26-31	Family Retreat #1
August 2-7	Family Retreat #2

Other Events

January 23-25...	Family Ice Fishing Retreat
May 1-2...	Spring Volunteer Work Weekend
June 10-13...	Iowa West District LWML Convention
June 20...	Camp Okoboji Auxiliary Quilt Auction
June 21-27...	Minneboji Lutheran Camp
May 24-September 6...	Sunday Worship
1st Sundays of the Month (May-October)...	Brunch
October 9-10...	Fall Volunteer Work Weekend

For more information and to register, visit campokoboji.org



The Redeemer Library is Your Source for Books for Lent

Redeemer Library Committee:
Michelle Callahan, Lisa Gottburg,
Jeannette Johnson, Sylvia Johnson,
& Andrea VanPeurse



Twelve Ordinary Men: *How the Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness and What He Wants to Do With You*

by John F. MacArthur Jr.

Contrary to popular belief, we do not have to be perfect to do God's work. Look no further than the twelve disciples whose many weaknesses are forever preserved throughout the New Testament. Jesus chose an ordinary fisherman, tax collector, and political zealots, and turned their weakness into strength.

3:16 The Numbers of Hope

by Max Lucado

Best-selling author, Max Lucado offers a word-by-word study of one of the best and most powerful passages of the Bible, grounding the verse in the greater context of who Jesus was. John 3:16, a verse we all know, but often forget how powerful it is.

Not A Tame God: *Christ in the Writings of C.S. Lewis*

by Steven P. Mueller

With a passion for communicating God's truth to people of all ages, Lewis painted a complex, yet faithful picture of Christ, depicting the God who is "untamable" but who amazingly chose to become incarnate as a human being to save the world through His death and resurrection. Lewis presents the Christ of Scripture, but he does so in fresh and creative writing, revealing his abiding faith in Christ, "who is not tamed by creatures, but who surprises us with His endless grace."

Son of Man: *A New Life of Christ*
by John Drane

No one can deny the profound impact that this one individual has had on world history, and that he continues to have on millions of people. Never before has Western culture shown so much open interest in spirituality, and alongside the rise of New Age thinking has come renewed interest in the intriguing person of Jesus. John Drane writes of the world in which Jesus lived and his relationship to the Jewish faith of his day. He offers a clear representation of Jesus against the backdrop of his times.



Sis Hours One Friday: *Living the Power of the Cross*

by Max Lucado

During this Lenten season leading up to Holy Week, Six Hours One Friday offers contemplative meaning of Jesus' last hours on the cross. Through his death, your life has purpose and meaning. You are forgiven and loved by a Savior who died for you. And an empty tomb proclaims that death does not have the final word. There is truth greater than all the losses and sorrow of life.



SPRING TIME CHANGE

Sunday, March 8th

The Librarian of Boones Hollow



by Kim Vogel Sawyer

A traveling librarian ventures into the mining towns of Kentucky on horseback and rediscovers her passions. During the Great Depression, Addie dreams of being a novelist and offering readers the escape that books gave her during her tragic childhood. When her adoptive father loses his job, she is forced to leave college and take the only employment she can find—delivering books on horseback to poor coal mining families in the hills of Kentucky.

The Hideaway

by Lauren Denton

When her grandmother's will wrenches Sara back home, she learns more about Margaret van Buren in the wake of her death than she ever knew of life. After her last remaining family member dies, Sara goes home to 'The Hideaway', her grandmother Mag's ramshackle B&B in Sweet Bay Alabama. She intends to quickly tie up loose ends and then return to her busy life. Instead, she learns Mags has willed 'The Hideaway' to her and charge her with renovating it—no small task considering her grandmother's best friends live there. When an opportunistic land developer threatens to seize The Hideaway, Sara is forced to make a choice, stay in Sweet Bay and fight for the house and the people she's grown to love or leave and return to her solitary life in New Orleans.

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Irene Hannon
Romance Novel Writer

Irene Hannon is a best selling and award-winning author who writes romantic suspense novels and inspirational romance. She held a communications position in a fortune 500 company before devoting to full time writing. Her various works have received multiple awards. Her books have received a huge public acclaim. The books have been described as fine-tunes suspense, superbly written with well-crafted plot and intricately developed characters. She mainly focuses on inspirational romance and has helped many readers on crucial topic of forgiveness, healing and faith. We have the following series and more from Irene. Stop in and check them out!

Code of Honor Book Series

Dangerous Illusions
Hidden Peril
Dark Ambitions

Guardians of Justice Book Series

Fatal Judgement
Deadly Pursuit
Lethal Legacy

Undaunted Courage Book Series

Into the Fire
Over the Edge
Out of Time

Men of Valor

Buried Secrets
Thin Ice
Tangled Webs

MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
1 † <u>SEE EVERY SUNDAY</u> 8 AM-1 PM Waffle Brunch-St. Paul's 8:15 & 10:45 AM Worship Services 9:30 AM ROCK Sunday 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Adult Confirmation 9:30 AM Adult Confirmation 1-3 PM Sudanese Worship	2 9 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6:30 PM Pickleball 6:30 PM Sioux City Zone Mtg at Calvary	3 Devotions: 10 AM <i>Bickford Assist & 10:45 AM</i> <i>Bickford Memory Care</i> w/Pastor Zirpel 1:30 PM Staff/Bible Study Mt 5:30 Adult Fitness 6 PM LWML Mtg 7 PM Life Light at <i>Whispering Creek</i>
8 <u>SEE EVERY SUNDAY</u> 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 5:30 PM Redeemer Talent Show (Spaghetti Dinner at 5:00 PM)	9 9 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6:30 PM Pickleball	10 1:30 PM Staff Bible Study/Mtg 5 PM Aktion Meal-MWM 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 7 PM Life Light at <i>Whispering Creek</i>
15 † <u>SEE EVERY SUNDAY</u> 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 1:00 PM Youth Connect-Pinewood Derby & Pizza Potluck	16 9 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6:30 PM Pickleball	17 11 AM Retired Educators Meal- MWM 1:30 PM Staff/Bible Study Mt 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 7 PM Life Light at <i>Whispering Creek</i>
22 <u>SEE EVERY SUNDAY</u> 8:15 & 10:45 AM Worship Services 9:30 AM ROCK Sunday 9:30 AM Adult Confirmation 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study 12:15 PM Mission Trip Mtg 1-3 PM Sudanese Worship	23 9 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6:30 PM Pickleball	24 1:30 PM Staff Bible Study/Mtg. 5 PM Aktion Meal-MWM 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 7 PM Life Light at <i>Whispering Creek</i>
29 <u>SEE EVERY SUNDAY</u> 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 2:00-4 PM Easter Car Hop	30 9 AM Quilting 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6:30 PM Pickleball 6:30 PM Women's Night Out	31 1:30 PM Staff Bible Study/Mtg. 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 7 PM Life Light at <i>Whispering Creek</i>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 9:30 AM Lamplighters at <i>St. Paul's</i> 11:30 AM Lenten Service 12:15 PM Hot Dogs & Loose Meats Meal *hosted by <i>KinderCottage</i> 5-6:45 PM Meal* 5-7 PM Midweek	5 5:30 PM-Adult Fitness 6 PM BSF Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship	6 9-noon Food Shelf	7 7:30 AM Red M & M's
11 11:30 AM Lenten Service 12:15 PM Spaghetti Meal* hosted by <i>Confirmation</i> 5-6:45 PM Meal* 5-7 PM Midweek	12 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6 PM BSF Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship w/Holy Communion 7:30 PM Leadership Council Meeting	13 9-noon Food Shelf 7:00 PM Musketeers Game	14
18 10:30 AM Devotions w/Pastor Senstad at <i>Whispering Creek</i> 11:30 AM Lenten Service 12:15 PM Taco Bar Meal* hosted by <i>High School</i> 5-6:45 PM Meal* 5-7 PM Midweek	19 10 AM Thrivent Choice Meeting 1 PM "Women Serving in Christ" 5:30 PM Adult F. 6 PM BSF Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship	20 9-noon Food Shelf	21 9 AM-2:30 PM Sergeant Bluff Vendor Fair at the <i>Community Center</i>
25 11:30 AM Lenten Ser. 12:15 PM Lasagna Meal* hosted by <i>Handbells & Choir</i> 5-6:45 PM Meal* 5-7 PM Midweek 5-7 PM-ROCK Wed.	26 5:30 PM Adult Fitness 6:30 PM Special Evening Event w/Tanner Olson & Matt Doering 7 PM Elders Mtg	27 No Preschool 9-Noon Food Shelf	28

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 Sunday
1:00-3 PM: Sudanese Worship Service
Youtube: Redeemer Lutheran Church Sioux City
Website: redeemersiouxcity.com; **Facebook:** RedeemerLC

Sunday Coffee & Roll Servers:

March 1— Paul & Cindy Fleckenstein
March 8— Dave & Lori Albrecht
March 15— Steve & Ann Peterson
March 22— TBD
March 29— John & Anita Stansell



March 2026 Bible Verse
 “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:8-9 ESV

March Missionary:
 Cody and Aurelie serve the Lord through the LCMS in the Czech Republic. As IT project manager, Cody works alongside the Luther Academy and the mission team in Eurasia.

January 2026 Statistics

Date	Church Attendance	Communion Attendance	Bible Study	Sunday School	Sudanese Worship
1/4	312	235	25	N/A	8
1/11	287	0	25	29	0
1/18	315	253	15	35	0
1/25	241	N/A	19	29	0
TOTAL	1155	488	84	93	8
AVG.	289	244	21	31	2
POTENTIAL	1,106	885	885	221	N/A
PERCENT	26%	22%	2%	3%	1%
PRIOR YR.	24%	20%	3%	2%	1%

Treasurer's Report Jan. 1– Jan. 31, 2026:
 Actual Income: \$76,102
 Budgeted Income: \$69,785
 Difference: \$6,317
 Percentage: 109%
 Actual Expenses: \$64,917

January 2026

Baptisms:
 ☩ Charlotte Carnes
 ☩ Cannon Malloy
 ☩ Waylon Spreng

Adult Baptism:
 ☩ Sean Miller

Adult Confirmation:
 ☩ Logan Sampers
 ☩ Hunter Hordusky

Death:
 ☩ Dennis Blankenburg
 ☩ Robert Blohm

Inactive by Elders:
 ☩ Cody Behnoche
 ☩ Emily Harter

Membership:	1/2025	1/2026
Communicants	946	886
<u>Baptized</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>223</u>
TOTAL	1,214	1,109

Change from prior year: Loss of 105 people (+9%)

Cooking with Pastor Senstad

~~ Baked Cream Cheese Spaghetti Casserole ~~

A small confession, I do find comfort is a good casserole or baked pasta. It's probably because of how I was raised. Here is a comforting baked pasta dish layered with tender spaghetti, rich cream cheese, and a savory sauce. Oven-baked until bubbly, and lightly golden on top. You can use this for a family dinner or cook it ahead of time and freeze.

Ingredients:

- | 12 oz spaghetti
- | 1 24 oz spaghetti sauce
- | 1 lb lean ground beef
- | 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- | 1 clove garlic
- | 8 oz cream cheese
- | 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- | 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese



Directions

Step 1 - Turn your oven on and set it to 350°F so it can heat up while you prepare the food.

Step 2 - Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and cook the spaghetti following the package directions until it is tender but not too soft. Drain the water and put the spaghetti back into the pot.

Step 3 - While the spaghetti is still hot, add the cubed cream cheese. Stir well until the cream cheese melts and coats the noodles, making them creamy and smooth.

Step 4 - Heat a skillet on medium-high heat and add the ground beef. Cook it for about 6–8 minutes, breaking it up with a spoon, until it is fully browned. Drain off any extra grease.

Step 5 - Add the Italian seasoning and garlic to the beef. Stir and cook for about 1 minute until it smells fragrant. Pour in the marinara sauce, stir everything together, and let it simmer gently for 5 minutes.

Step 6 - Lightly spread a small amount of the meat sauce on the bottom of a 9×13 baking dish to keep the pasta from sticking. Add the cream cheese spaghetti evenly over the sauce, then spoon the rest of the meat sauce on top.

Step 7 - Sprinkle the mozzarella and parmesan cheeses evenly over everything. Place the dish in the oven and bake for 30 minutes, until the casserole is hot and bubbly.

Step 8 - Remove from the oven and let it sit for 5 minutes before serving. Enjoy your creamy baked spaghetti casserole! ~ God Bless, Pastor Senstad



AND WE HAVE KNOWN AND BELIEVED
THE LOVE GOD HAS FOR US.

GOD IS LOVE.

WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE ABIDES
IN GOD, AND GOD IN HIM. 1 JOHN 4:16

MARCH 2026



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday March 2, 6:30 PM ≈ Sioux City Zone Board Meeting ≈ Calvary Lutheran Church

Tuesday March 3, 6:00 PM ≈ LWML Board Meeting ≈ Conference Rm—All are invited to attend!



Wednesday Morning ≈ Women's Bible Study ≈ Conference Room—This group will take a break starting Wednesday, February 18 and will resume meeting after Easter Sunday on Wednesday April 8.

Wednesday Evening ≈ Women's Bible Study ≈ Oscar Carl Vineyard—This group will take a break starting Wednesday February 18 and will resume meeting after Easter Sunday on Wednesday April 8.



Thursday March 19, 1:00 PM ≈ Women Serving in Christ ≈ Fellowship Hall—Bible Study: "Esther – a Faithful Woman of God" on page 22 – 23 in the Winter 2025 Lutheran Woman's Quarterly—Bible Study Leader: Marlene Heithold Hostess: Rose Petersen

Monday March 30th, 6:30 PM ≈ Women's Night Out ≈ Fellowship Hall

Come and learn to create an amazing bouquet that you will be thrilled to take home by learning how to arrange beautiful flowers, accents, fillers and greens.

1. First, you need to select one of three sizes of bouquet you want to create, Small Vase for \$15.00, Medium Vase for \$25.00, or Large Vase for \$35.00.
2. Second, after choosing your bouquet size, **YOU NEED TO BRING YOUR OWN VASE**, based on the bouquet size you chose.

3. Third, **register and prepay by no later than Sunday, March 22.** One week is needed to order fresh flowers.
4. Prepay with cash or by check, written to "Perry Way Bouquet". If you have questions contact Lenore Field at 712-389-6526 or Tawnya Becker at 712-253-3528

SMALL VASE - \$15.00, the vase opening is 1 ¼ inch to 1 ½ inch across. Consists of 4 flowers, accent, filler and greens.

MEDIUM VASE - \$25.00, the vase opening is around 3 inches across. Consists of 8 to 10 flowers, accent, filler and greens.

LARGE VASE - \$35.00, the vase opening is around 3 ½ inches to 4 inches across. Consists of 12 to 14 flowers, accent, filler and greens.

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



LADIES' night out

Monday, March 30th, 2026 at 6:30
Redeemer Fellowship Hall

Devotion: You Are Worth Taking Care Of -- "See how the flowers of the field grow... Matthew 6:28 - 29"

Fresh Floral Arranging Class presented by "Perry Way Bouquet"
Come and create an amazing bouquet!

Details, registration, and prepayment info located on table in south entrance starting March 8 or contact Lenore Field or Tawnya Becker




Summary of Leadership Council Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 P.M. Opening devotion was led by Pastor Senstad.

Financial report reviewed. [We are up \\$6,000 to start the year.](#)

Pastor Senstad: We will have some upcoming building expenses. We will need to use the overage from last year to pay for building expenses. Our congregation needs to vote for President, a First Vice President and a Regional Vice President for the synod.

Pastor Zirpel: Fair Planning is happening and have gotten some donations already. Could use a little more help serving the meals during the week. 6th grade Confirmation is going great with memory work and sermon notes.

Jonathon Bailey: January was really busy with youth activities, checking the bulletin current list of activities. March 26th, bringing in Tanner Olsen in place of the worship service that night, he was at the national youth gathering. Will serve pulled pork in the gym that night free will donation.

Elder's Report: Prayer vigil on March 29th. Same time as the Easter Car Hop.

Sound panels – Will get a committee together to get this done.

Redeemer's 100th Celebration- Have the big celebration on Sunday September 20th. Will look at getting Thrivent cards or doing a sign-up for donations to help with the expense of the day.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

BiBi's Hope Update

Visit from Enfance Paisible at the Orphanage -

A festive day was held at the *Niaber Orphanage*, organized and fully funded by the association *Enfance Paisible*, an organization that works towards the goal of a peaceful childhood.

The president and other members arrived with meals, including a large dish of *jollof rice* (a popular one-pot West African dish featuring long-grain rice simmered in a rich, spicy tomato and pepper base with onions, herbs, and spices) with grilled chicken, pastries, and fruit juices.

Despite being in recovery, Bibi gave a welcome speech, followed by the president of the association, who expressed her gratitude to the children and staff for their warm welcome.

The children had a wonderful time playing games, dancing, singing, participating in art sessions, and face painting. The event was filled with love, laughter, and joy.



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. If you have any questions about Bibi's Hope Committee or the orphanage, please feel free to contact President Kyle Schutte or Pastor Zirpel.

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

KinderCottage Preschool

March 2026

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

At the writing of this we have definitely not had a lot of moisture but could really use some! Hopefully it will come in the form of rain vs. snow!

The MWF classes will be working on the letters, "Z", "M", "I" and "U", as well as the colors green & red, the numbers 11 and 6, and the shapes of triangle and octagon. The T/Th classes will be working on the letters N through U.

KinderCottage Preschool will host a Lenten meal on Wednesday, March 4th and there will be NO class held that day as staff will be preparing & serving the meal at noon & 5pm. This is our only fundraiser for the year and we greatly appreciate the support of the congregation and our preschool families.

We are now taking enrollment for our Fall 2026-27 classes! You may pick up a form from one of our staff at the preschool, call us at 712-224-2273 OR you can go online to the church website, redeemersiouxcity.com and click on the link to the preschool for a form. Please feel free to share this information with anyone you know looking for a preschool!

Both classes will hear the Bible stories of Two Miracles, A Short Man, Washing the Disciples Feet and The Last Supper. The kids always enjoy their time spent with the Pastors and Mr. Jonathon!

Blessings* Tara & Jazmin

March Dates to Remember

25* MWF Parent Conferences

26* T/Th Parent Conferences

27* No Preschool/ Sioux City Schools Out District Wide



March Birthdays

- 3 Millie Blatchford
- 14 Adeline Munoz
- 16 Paige Kleich
- 27 Everett Sampers

PRESCHOOL



Registration

**Fall 2026-27
Registration is now available!
Spots are limited so call today!**

712-224-2273



On a Mission
to Support
Christ's Mission!

March 2026

409 Kenyon Road, Suite B — Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
515-576-7666 Fax 515-576-2323 www.idwlcms.org
Contact email: emilie@iowadistrictwest.org



Reflecting on Christ's Work

Lent is a season the Church sets aside for reflection—a time to slow down, to look honestly at ourselves, and to look even more intently at Christ. Lent is not about self-improvement or earning God's favor. Instead, it is about remembering with humility and gratitude what our Savior has already accomplished for us through His suffering, death, and resurrection.

Reflection during Lent begins by recognizing our need for a Savior. On Ash Wednesday, when we heard the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," we were reminded of both our mortality and our helplessness apart from God. Our hearts are moved to fully appreciate all that God has done for us through the giving of His Son to take our place on the cross.

As we journey toward Holy Week, our reflection leads us to the cross—where Christ willingly took our place, bore our sin, and reconciled us to the Father. By meditating on His sacrifice, we are reminded that our salvation rests entirely on His completed work: "It is finished." In this, Lent becomes not a season of despair, but of deepening faith, renewed hope, and profound comfort.

May this Lenten season be one filled with reflection on Christ's work.

Rhonda Mohr, Assistant to the President for Education, Youth and Family Life
rhonda@iowadistrictwest.org



CONCORDIA PLANS

Need help planning for retirement?

Concordia Plans is hosting a pre-retirement workshop for workers in Iowa on Monday, May 18, from 9 am – 12:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church in Le Mars. Workers enrolled in the Concordia Retirement Plan pension, especially those age 50 or older who are thinking about retirement, are encouraged to attend. Spouses are also welcome to attend. Topics covered include basic retirement finances, sources of retirement income, health care in retirement, tools and resources, and more.

Scholarship Opportunities

Iowa District West offers financial aid for students preparing for church work at any Concordia University or one of our seminaries. Grants may also be available for non-church-work Concordia students as funds allow. Requirements are as follows:

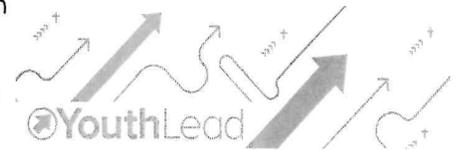
- Member in good standing of an Iowa West LCMS congregation
- Enrolled at a Concordia University System school or LCMS seminary
- Submit application **and** pastor's recommendation by **June 1**

Applications are available on the district website www.idwlcms.org (Resources → Forms and Links Tab).

Questions? Email Pastor Joseph Pierson at revpierson@gmail.com

The LCMS Youth Ministry Office in partnership with IDW Youth Services committee is hosting a **YouthLead Workshop** at Hidden Acres in Dayton, Iowa April 24-

April 26. This event is not for entire youth groups, but for students who have shown leadership and want to grow in their leadership skills. Cost \$130. Covers two nights of lodging and all meals. The event will begin on Friday evening with arrival at 6pm and the program start at 7pm. The weekend will end on Sunday morning at 11:45. Registration and additional information will be sent to congregations via email. Space is limited.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 8....Daylight Savings Time—Spring Forward!

March 24-27....Tanner Olson Tour Stops (Ankeny, West Des Moines, Sioux City, Carroll)

March 29....Palm Sunday

April 24-26....YouthLead Workshop—Hidden Acres, Dayton



For more information on Iowa District West activities, view *The Messenger* at www.idwlcms.org/publications.php

Serving in March 2026

ACOLYTES:

March 1: 8:15 AM- Cameri Jones & Madi Schutt

10:45 AM- Brayden Surber & Kashton Surber

March 4—Midweek LENT 2:

7 PM- Brayden Surber & Kashton Surber

March 8: 8:15 AM- Liam Behrens

10:45 AM- Madi Schutt & Logan Cain

March 11—Midweek LENT 3:

7 PM- Dominic DuBois &

Sierra Zellmer

March 15: 8:15 AM- Rhyss Dolphin

1045 AM- Madi Schutt & Kate

VanMeter

March 18—Midweek LENT 4:

7 PM- Brayden Surber & Kashton

Surber

March 22- 8:15 AM- Liam Behrens &

Rhyss Dolphin

10:45 AM— Madi Schutt & Kate

VanMeter

March 25—Midweek LENT 5:

7 PM— Nathan Smith & Viktoria Smith

March 29: 8:15 AM- TBD

10:45 AM- Madi Schutt & Caleb Amick

COUNTERS:

March 1 & 29 -Team 4

(Fink, Buckley)

March 8-Team 1

(Buckley, Lessmann)

March 15-Team 2

(Mack, Hermelbracht's)

March 22-Team 3

Bobolz's, Schmith's)

GREETERS:

March 1: 8:15 AM: Dick &

Deanna Braun

10:45 AM: Jackie Krueger

March 4—Midweek LENT 2:

7 PM- Tawnya & Aaron Becker

March 8: 8:15 AM- Scott & Brenda

Ernst

10:45 AM- Dale & Tina Revell

March 11—Midweek LENT 3:

7 PM- Gary & Jean Kitzmann

March 15: 8:15 AM- Paul & Cindy

Fleckenstein

10:45 AM: Shirley Stokes

March 18—Midweek LENT 4:

7 PM- Scott & Beth Bowman

March 22: 8:15 AM- Dale & Nadine

Henningesen

10:45 AM: Scott & Beth Bowman

March 25—Midweek LENT 5:

7 PM- Dick & Deana Braun

March 29: 8:15 AM- Lamont & Drenda

Onken

10:45 AM: Marty & Marcia Delperdang

PROP. CHECK: March 1-31

Jim Phillips

ELDERS: Brian Owens & Phil Schauer

USHER TEAMS: Thurs. 6:30 PM:

(Harlan Feddersen & Mary Feddersen, Al & Melissa Joens, Shelly Fergan)

Sundays 8:15 AM - TEAM 4 (Gary Kitzmann, James Bailey, Dick Braun, Dale Henningesen).

10:45 - TEAM 8 (Dave Schlotman, Scott & Beth Bowman, Brian Owens)

Midweek LENT 2 Mar. 4: Team 6

Midweek LENT 3 Mar. 11: Team 7

Midweek LENT 4 Mar. 18: Team 8

Midweek LENT 5 Mar. 25: Team 6

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Sioux City, IA 51106

Permit No. 919

Redeemer Lutheran Church
3204 So. Lakeport St.
Sioux City, Iowa 51106

"Return service requested"

WORSHIP AT REDEEMER

Thursdays - 6:30 PM Informal Traditional Service

Sundays 8:15 AM Traditional

10:45 AM Contemporary

1:00-3:00 PM Sudanese Worship

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

