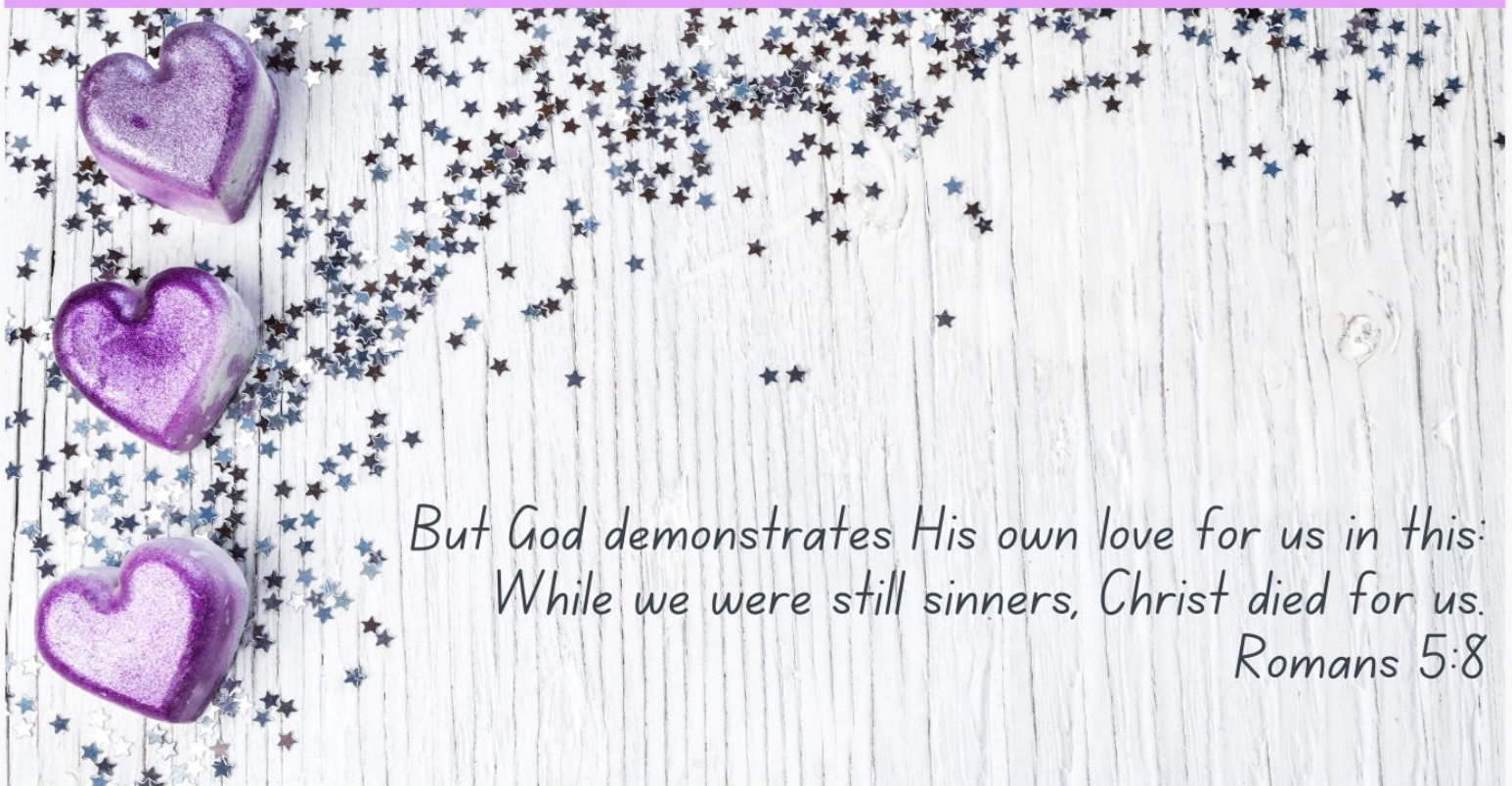




Redeemer
Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2025

Newsletter



*But God demonstrates His own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8*

Tues. CK Lunch | Noon

Wed. am bible class | 9:30am

Wed. Worship | 7pm

Sunday Schedule

Sunday Worship | 9am

Adult Bible Class | 10:30am

**Sunday School, Preconfirmation
and Confirmation | 10:15am**

520 Thayer Drive, Richland, WA 99352

www.richlandredeemer.org

office@richlandredeemer.org

office: 509-943-4967

office hours: Tues - Thurs 7:30 am - 4pm

Friday 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

Closed for lunch 12-1 daily

FROM THE PASTOR – LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

The Bible says, "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in Heaven" (Matthew 5:16). The question we must ask is, "How clearly and how brightly are we reflecting Christ in our lives?" There are lots of things that diminish our reflections. Willful disobedience to God's will, unconfessed sin in our lives, grudges and anger, grief, and guilt diminish and tarnish our reflections. God designed us to be reflections of Him, and what is happening in our lives, hearts, minds, and actions affects the brightness of the reflections.

God wants us to be His light so that others will be drawn not to us but to Jesus, the "*light of the world*" (John 8:12). The depth of our relationships with God matters a lot when it comes to letting His light shine!

We are busy with numerous activities and things that are important to us, and rightly so. We are going to be investing our time and energy in many things, yet each of us needs to ask, "How much am I investing in the lives of others?" Do you know someone who is struggling with his faith or has no relationship at all with Jesus? One of the most valuable things you could do is to strengthen your relationship with Christ and strengthen your relationship with that person. Ask God to give you a heart of compassion for that person and to help you be a reflection of Jesus that can turn him toward Jesus.

Of all the things we could invest ourselves in and exchange our time or energy for, there is nothing more valuable than investing in people to help them know Jesus Christ. It is an investment that lasts forever.

May we all let God's light shine through us to others.

Pastor Todd

ELDER'S CORNER

During this first part of 2025, may the Dear Lord fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit to transform/reform/renew our lives such that we can be a bible to those around us. Give us the wisdom/knowledge to see the opportunities that the Lord has created that we can simply plant the seed of Your word and then get out of the way. Jesus urges us to share with others the GOSPEL message, however imperfectly or bumbly. If need be, insert words. Don't need to be the Sermon on the Mount, perhaps just "thank-you and God Bless".

May we live our public lives such that if anyone ever accuses us of being a Christian, the overwhelming evidence can be gathered to totally convict us of said charges.

Philippians 4:7 *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand.*

Elder Roy Wolfe



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Scripture is full of instances where God has used ordinary people like us to accomplish extraordinary things. He chose a stammering Moses to lead His people out of bondage, self-serving fishermen, James and John to lead His Church and spread the Gospel, impulsive Peter's confession upon which to build His Church, and Paul, who spoke of a thorn in his flesh, to be the first great missionary of the Christian Church. God uses imperfect people, those whom the world considers weak and flawed, to extend His kingdom. When we allow ourselves to be used by God in whatever way He chooses, He takes our meager talents and blesses them.

FIRST FRIDAY CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH – Friday, Feb. 7 at noon.

Everyone is welcome. Bring your appetite!

MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST will meet Saturday, February 8 at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. All men of Redeemer and Emmaus-Pasco are invited to enjoy food, fellowship, devotion.



LYDIA GUILD - During our February 10th meeting at 10am, we will package goodie boxes for any students attending college away from home. These will include cookies, brownies, trail mix, jerky, popcorn and any other things the students may like being careful to avoid common allergens such as nuts. Parents, if you have a college student please let the office know their address and their likes/dislikes along with any food allergies. We don't want to miss anyone. They will also receive a \$35 gift card. If you would like to contribute toward the cost of the cards, please see Terry Strege or Ginny Wendland.

THANKS FOR THE COFFEE, TEA AND COCOA

Over 30 cans and boxes of coffee, tea and cocoa were collected for the Union Gospel Mission. They were very grateful as they always have an increased need for hot drinks during the cold winter months.



Altar Flowers

The **2025 Flower chart** is posted in the Narthex with many Sundays still available. If you wish to place flowers on the altar for any given Sunday, please sign up and indicate the occasion. Please only one person per Sunday unless you have cleared it with the other person to share the date. If you have questions, please contact Dian Mauth, 509-539-9475.



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP – Help is needed in order to continue serving weekly Coffee Fellowships following Sunday services. We have 2 – 3 regular volunteers that host and provide delightful goodies. In addition, there are generous folks that drop off items for the freezer. However, that leaves a few empty Sundays each month. Please consider volunteering to either host some Sundays or coordinate upcoming months. See the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



Join us for a fun potluck gathering on Saturday, Feb.22 at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall! Please bring your favorite dish to share. We'll provide drinks and good company. (No worries if bringing something is difficult, the Fellowship team will make xtra.)

Can't wait to see you there!"

The season of Lent is fast approaching with Ash Wednesday on March 5. All Wednesday services will be at noon & 7pm with Soup Supper served at 6pm. The complete schedule for Lent and Holy Week will be posted as we get closer.



SUPPORT THE WILDFIRE RESPONSE WITH YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The prophet Isaiah writes: "But now thus says the Lord, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior'" (Isaiah 43:1–3a).

Even in the midst of disaster, the Lord remains with His people.

The wildfires in Los Angeles County, California, continue to inflict widespread damage and suffering throughout the Los Angeles area. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is in close communication with the LCMS Pacific Southwest District (PSD) regarding our Synod's response. I am in regular contact with PSD President Rev. Mike Gibson. LCMS Disaster Response Director Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson has been on the ground in Los Angeles, and the PSD and the congregations there are providing aid for critical needs. Many LCMS people have lost their homes, including long-time elderly residents.

As long as it takes, LCMS Disaster Response will walk alongside the PSD and its congregations in this response. Our shared response includes the entire Synod's prayers, along with spiritual resources to assist church workers as they care for their congregations. In addition, we are here to offer practical support in the form of

ongoing counsel and advice and material support in the form of supplies, recovery grants and volunteer coordination.

If you are able financially to support the church's response to wildfires in California, please prayerfully consider a contribution to:

- The LCMS Disaster Response—Strategic Use Fund. Visit lcms.org/give/disaster or mail a check to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write "Disaster Response—Strategic Use (TR9206)." This fund allows our Synod to continue its care and support, as the demands warrant, of those still suffering in North Carolina and other parts of the Southeast as well as those affected by the wildfires in California.
- The LCMS Wildfire Relief (only) fund. Your gift will only be utilized to help those impacted by wildfires. Visit lcms.org/disaster and select the "Disaster Response — Wildfires" option in the "Giving opportunities" or mail a check to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write "Wildfire Relief Only."

For answers to questions or help with other donation options, please contact LCMS Mission Advancement by emailing mission.advancement@lcms.org or calling 800-930-4438.

Special note: The LCMS encourages individuals, groups and congregations located within California, including the Pacific Southwest District and the California-Nevada-Hawaii District, to donate through the PSD website or district office to help your closest neighbors.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

P.S. In this fallen world, as the whole creation groans for the day of our Lord's return (Rom. 8:22), disasters are inevitable. But the Holy One of Israel, our Savior, is with us in the fire and the flood. As I'm sure you have been, continue to pray for all who suffer in the ashes and all who endeavor to help.

Redeemer Lutheran School Committee

“Schools on Small Sites” Permit Application



You may have noticed a new temporary “Notice of Pending Land Use Action” sign on Redeemer Lutheran Church property. The sign is part of the City of Richland’s “School on Small Sites” permit application process. On January 15, 2025 the school committee submitted an application for a “Schools on Small Sites” permit to build a K-5 school on Redeemer’s approximate 4 acres of land. Richland Municipal Code 23.42.250 calls for 5 acres of land plus 1 acre for every one hundred K-5 students.

In its application and required narrative, the committee focused on City of Richland concerns – the school’s impact on traffic flow and parking, neighborhood noise, and green space; and its plans for fire and security preparedness.

Traffic Flow and Parking. The committee said its site plan shows school traffic flowing, parking, dropping children off and picking children up on Redeemer property, not Thayer Drive. It shows one-way traffic turning right when exiting from or entering onto Thayer Drive. The committee said school start and end times will avoid Carmichael School start and end times and church activities.

Neighborhood Noise. The committee said with school traffic flowing primarily on the east side of Redeemer Lutheran Church property, and the school’s playground located mostly on the east side of the school building, the few houses within a 300-foot radius west of the school should not be negatively impacted by traffic flow or playground noise.

Green Space. The committee said “green space” should not be negatively impacted, because Redeemer Lutheran Church sits (and the proposed school will sit) at the highest point of Redeemer’s property – surrounded by open space. To the north is a large Carmichael School parking lot. To the south are large grassy Redeemer Lutheran Church and Masonic Lodge fields. The grade to the east slopes downward to Parks & Public Facilities acreage where structures cannot be built – with open fields below. The committee said half of the one-story school low-rise will sit on the footprint of a building that will be removed; and the school will have fresh new landscaping.

Fire Preparedness. The committee said the school's site plan shows its Riser Room. They said final architectural drawings will show fire alarm and sprinkler locations, a clear emergency exit path for all classrooms, adequate emergency vehicle turn radiuses, and a fire hydrant within 100 feet of the school. They said children will be trained for fire emergencies.

Security Preparedness. The committee said the school will have a monitored locking single front door entry, a monitored fenced playground, Moon exterior and interior video surveillance cameras, and a security guard. They said children will be trained for security emergencies.

The school committee will make a Planning Commission presentation in the near future. The committee believes it has a strong chance of permit approval.

BUILDING OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM



A year ago, when Pastor asked children to come down to hear the Children's Sermon, very few and sometimes no children came down to hear his message. Over the past several Sundays Pastor's invitation to the sermon, resulting in an enthusiastic response with many of the children racing up to the altar to hear the message. Praise God for hearing and answering our prayers.

At the end of this past church school year, the Board of Education was concerned with poor Sunday school enrollment. On most Sundays we were happy if 2 or 3 children showed up for classes. On some Sundays our teachers prepared for classes and were disappointed when no children showed up. The Board of Education asked Pastor and Elders to reach out to parents and grandparents to encourage them to enroll their children in Sunday school. After many months of hard work and prayer we are now blessed to have 7 children attending regularly. Please pray for continued growth of our Sunday school program.

Service Program- Children to Host Fellowship Time

The Sunday school, confirmation and youth groups are hosting the February 9 fellowship time. Coffee and treats will be served in recognition of Valentines Day.



February Birthdays

- 3 Terry Strege, Julia-Rae Parker
- 5 Sandy Guymon
- 8 Duane Ward
- 10 Pat Gibson
- 12 Judy Nash, Karin Nickola
- 14 Luise Batdorf
- 16 Gina Morgan
- 23 Kelley Hawkins, Lois Stutheit
- 25 Carolyn Lyon
- 26 Ken Hoopingarner
- 28 Mark Lyon

Anniversaries

- 14 Gary & Marikay Sebade
- 16 Dan & Millie Dubbs
- 18 Mark & Denise Rogers
- 20 John & Laurette Beitz

March Birthdays

- 1 Erik Ruff, Katje Compton
- 2 Mark Rogers
- 3 Joette Sheeley
- 7 Victor Garza
- 8 Dan Niebuhr
- 9 Stella Compton
- 10 Shirley Mellick
- 12 Dian Mauth
- 16 Bev Wetzler
- 17 Margaret Gartner
- 20 Chambray Turner
- 24 Marikay Sebade, Bobbie Van Buren
- 25 Mitch Rogers, Matt Rogers
- 29 Della Blessing

Anniversaries

- 11 Bernie & Carol Simpkins
- 17 Jay & Beki Van Buren
- 19 Bill & Shirley Clarkson
- 25 Ken & Basilisa Sump
- 28 Ricky & Susie Nunamaker
- 30 John & Pat Rohlfing



PRAYERS – Please let the office know of any changes to the prayer page by calling 943-4967 or emailing office@richlandredeemer.org. *Indicates friends/family.

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Ray Boecker
Bob & Cheryl Evenson
Chuck Fordham
Sally Grego
Miriam Hagedorn
Elaine Kutrowski
Marj Littlejohn
Pearl Raabe
Ruth Shook
Bernie Simpkins
Eileen Stixrud
Bobbie Van Buren
Bev Wetzler
Gregg Lee* (son of
Barbara Lee)
Jody Schug* (wife of
John Schug)
Phillip Turner*

HOMEBOUND:

Gloria Bentley
Marilyn DeRoche
Bob & Cheryl Evenson
Dale Groeber
Miriam Hagedorn
Elaine Kutrowski
Joy Ledgerwood
Marj Littlejohn
Shirley Mellick
Pearl Raabe
Ann Robbins
Ruth Shook
Bernie Simpkins
Eileen Stixrud
Ken Sump
Dorothy Thieme
Phil Turner
Lynn Weldon
Bev Wetzler

MILITARY:

Brandin Bunch*
Jacob Cagle*
Brandon Gano*
Byron Gano*
Matthew Gano*
James Hare*
Sean Williams*

CANCER:

Myrl Briggs
Bob Littlejohn
Denise Rogers
John Schug
Barbara Connell* (sister-in-
law of Sandy Guymon)
Phyllis Ruff (daughter of
Wally Ruff)
Rev. James & Ann Gier*
(son & daughter-in-law of
Marlene Paris-Ufkes)
Kevin Raabe* (son of Pearl
Raabe)
Sandi Sheeley* (sister of
Karin Nickola)
Deanna Snider*

