

Redeemer's Reflections

Discovering Christ's community through building relationships

FEBRUARY~ MARCH 2026

As we approach the Lenten season, I have started singing some of my favorite Lenten hymns. These hymns have entered my heart over time and I blessed to have them as a resource for my faith journey. Here are some of them:

*"Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
till all the world adore his sacred name."*

*"Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you."*

*"Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of the our life's wild restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice sounding, saying, 'Christian, follow me.'"*

*"Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me,
how precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.
Through many dangers toils and snares, I have already come.
Tis grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home."*

This is a monthly newsletter
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Vice President- Art James

I suspect each of you have hymns that bless you and strengthen your faith. Over the centuries, Christians have found it helpful to cherish these gifts together, bear witness to the blessings of our faith and support each other in the challenges we are facing.

On February 18, we will begin our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday worship. The season of Lent will be observed in our Sunday Faith and Life forums after worship, supporting each other by exploring questions of faith. We will discuss topics like forgiveness, loving our neighbor and

how the stories of Jesus and his disciples inform our faith life. We will discuss the blessings and challenges of following Jesus in our lives right now. We will also dedicate time to bring up topics of interest and continue reflecting on the sermon for the day.

The Lenten season is an opportunity to discover the life and calling of Jesus for all of us. I look forward to walking the journey with you.

from the
PASTOR



In Christ,
Pastor Soren Flessen



Notes

from our President

Dear Redeemer's Family,

Happy New Year!! It sure is cold and brisk this January. I hope everyone is staying warm and dealing with the weather. Be safe and careful out there!

Debby and I are finally out of our old house now and looking for our new home. We will temporarily be staying with my sister-in-law at her home in Arlington Heights. Looking forward to being closer to Danielle, Ethan and Amalia. With God's grace and our prayers, we hope to find that new condo by May or June. Some mixed feelings about leaving our old house after 21 years, but excited about our new journey! We have learned to put our trust with God's plan and will.

I would like to personally thank everyone for their generosity in the special giving we had over the last 3 months to help replenish our reserve funds. God is truly alive in our congregation working together as a family we raised \$11,005.00!! May we continue to be blessed and held in God's loving embrace. I am so proud to be a member of this congregation. May we continue to thrive and carry the message of God's love for the world. Blessings to all!

As we begin our journey towards lent and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord, here are some dates to remember. Ash Wednesday- Feb. 18, lent begins. Faith Forum discussion group begins Sunday, Feb. 22nd through Sunday, Feb. 29th, Palm Sunday. Meal in the Upper Room (MIUR)- Thursday April 2, which will include Good Friday Service of stripping of the altar. Finally, Easter Sunday- Resurrection Sunday, April 5. This is always a very faithful and meaningful time to the congregational family here at Redeemer's. I encourage all to gather with us this Lenten season.

In closing, let me say that it is my honor and privilege to be your council president all these years. I have been blessed by so many loving and dear friends. With the grace of God and all our prayers I hope for continued life of this congregation.

Love, your humble servant,

Steve



From our
VP

Volunteering is important because it strengthens communities by providing essential support to those in need, while offering volunteers significant personal benefits like improved mental and physical health, new skills, stronger social connections, and a greater sense of purpose and life satisfaction, making it a powerful "win-win" for both givers and receivers.

According to Google AI:

For the Community:

- **Provides essential services:** Many non-profits and community programs couldn't operate without volunteers to help build, support, and run their initiatives.
- **Builds stronger communities:** It unites people with shared values, strengthens local initiatives, and helps address local needs, from environmental projects to supporting families.
- **Fosters civic engagement:** It encourages citizens to take an active role in improving their surroundings and becoming more empathetic community members.

For the Volunteer:

- **Boosts mental & physical health:** It reduces stress, combats loneliness, fights depression, improves mood, and can even lower the risk of heart disease.
- **Increases self-esteem & purpose:** Doing good for others provides a sense of accomplishment, pride, and meaning, boosting confidence and life satisfaction.
- **Develops new skills & career opportunities:** Volunteers gain valuable work experience, learn new skills (like communication, patience, resilience), and build professional networks.
- **Expands social circles:** It's a great way to meet new people with similar interests, build strong relationships, and connect with diverse individuals.
- **Provides new experiences:** Volunteering can help you explore new passions, broaden horizons, and gain a deeper understanding of different cultures and life circumstances.

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Art James

Council Vice President



WOMAN TO WOMAN:

So, I am the type of person who can walk from one room to another and not know why I've gone there. I know I had a reason when I began my trek, but I lost it on the way. Sometimes I try backing up in hopes it might come to me.

Names! Isn't it embarrassing when you know you know but you draw a blank? I realize that our names are important to us, and we don't want to be forgotten. That's why I think name tags should be mandatory. They should be pinned on us at birth and removed after the funeral. Think of all the awkward moments that could alleviate.

Have you ever been digging through a drawer when all of a sudden you realize you don't know what you're looking for? If anyone is watching me, I just keep digging. I've found a lot of lost items that way.

It's disconcerting for me to dial the phone, and by the time the call connects, to find my mind has disconnected - I've forgotten whom I'm calling. Sometimes I hang up until I remember. Other times I listen in hopes I'll recognize the voice. Occasionally I've been brave and confessed to the anonymous party that I can't remember whom I dialed and hope they'll claim me.

The point I'm trying to make is.....is....is

Til next time -----nice chatting with you

Jan Strojny



To those who helped take down the decorations.

To Darlene Soucek, Bonnie & Wayne for providing an inviting space for good food and fellowship at our Christmas party.



Our hearts and prayers go out to:

The family and friends of Bill Woolard, especially, Jim Woolard and family on the passing of his brother.

*May they all be comforted by the resurrection
and the life yet to come.*



**Make sure you change your clocks
before going to bed on Saturday March 7!**



LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Join us on Wednesday, February 18 at 7pm for Ash Wednesday worship



Palm Sunday, March 29, 9:30am

**Thursday, April 2:
Combined Meal in the Upper Room /
Good Friday Worship 7pm**

There will be NO worship on Friday, the 3rd

**Sunday, April 5: 9:30am
The Resurrection of Our Lord!**

**Also, don't forget our "Faith and Life Forums" held right after worship
on Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, and 22nd.**



**PRAYER
requests**

Fern Schara, Pat Kropack, Diana Carr, Mike & Traci Stephens, Lottie White, Pete & Debbie Animagi, Gus Scott, Joanne, John, Ryder Conrad, Carole, Tom DeLeeuw, Noah Coyle, Kevin, Nick, Percy, Tommie, Steve S, Ralph, Virginia Drogula, Carol Burge, Bev, Silvia Magana, Howard Doyle, Chris McAuliff, Mike, Bob Graniczny, Kris Neumann, Kristen Richardson, Kim Wisnewski, Gary Miller, Russ; Amber, Tim Dragoon, Jim Mueller, Ralph Mueller, Sommer Trella, Jennifer J, Courtney Flynn, Blake Murphy, Scott & Brandy, Phil Peloquin, Hayley Jeralowicz, Cheryl, Matt Kuh, Joan Coyle, Greg, Dave Dau, Steve Kryl, Brett, Billy Mueller, Laura Beschowek, Wayne Kaleziak, Eric Nehmzow, Tim Anthony, John Tondini, Marie Burge.

Please inform the office for any name removals or additions. Thank you



FEBRUARY SELECTION

"The Last Thing He Told Me" by Hannah Hall

Before Owen Michaels disappears, he smuggles a note to his beloved wife of one year: Protect her. Despite her confusion and fear, Hannah Hall knows exactly to whom the note refers—Owen's sixteen-year-old daughter, Bailey. Bailey, who lost her mother tragically as a child. Bailey, who wants absolutely nothing to do with her new stepmother.

As Hannah's increasingly desperate calls to Owen go unanswered, as the FBI arrests Owen's boss, as a US marshal and federal agents arrive at her Sausalito home unannounced, Hannah quickly realizes her husband isn't who he said he was. And that Bailey just may hold the key to figuring out Owen's true identity—and why he really disappeared.

Hannah and Bailey set out to discover the truth. But as they start putting together the pieces of Owen's past, they soon realize they're also building a new future—one neither of them could have anticipated.

Join us on February 23, 7pm at the home of Deb Frawley for refreshments and discussion.

MARCH TBD

LITTLE FREE PANTRY

The following is a letter that one of our pantry users left for Marilyn. It is shared so you can see how this small ministry affects neighbors in our community.



Dear church,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am a small family of 3 who this year fell on hard times but found hope and peace of mind by finding your food and book box. Thanksgiving was coming and I was defeated. I did not know how I was going to put a meal on the table for my wife and 13 year old son. It was cold, I was depressed not knowing what I was going to do knowing both my wife and son would not understand why on their table was not a beautiful meal just like every other Thanksgiving. I was walking around outside trying to figure out what to do as well as not show my

little family I was scared and didn't know what to do. As I turned the corner to my block I saw your church. I wanted to say a prayer for help. As I approached, in front of my eyes all my worries in a moment vanished. A turkey, fresh bread, cranberry sauce, jar of gravy, and a box of cornbread! In that moment hope filled my heart with joy. My little family would be able to eat and not only eat, we would be able to have one of the nicest thanksgiving dinners ever. All the worries, all the not knowing, all the sadness went away all because YOUR CHURCH turned out to be my savior that night. Just seeing that food box meant the world to me in that moment. So I sit here writing this letter because I want all to know who donated and all who helped with that donation box on that night changed a family's Thanksgiving and allowed us to have a beautiful grateful dinner and for that we are blessed and honored from your churches kindness and will never be forgotten in my time of need when I had no hope and didn't know what I would do. God looked out 4 my family.

Sincerely,
The Grateful



JANUARY

2026

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1, Erica Strojny
- 12 Chuck Schara
- 15, Robert Marquardt
- 21, Amy Ogarek
- 24, Mary Ann White
Jeff Kanack
- 27, Gina Graniczny
- 31, Jennifer Kanacki

ANNIVERSARIES

- 24, Gary & Sherri Miller



FEBRUARY

2026

BIRTHDAYS

- 7, Abigail Besowshek
- 10, Dan Frawley
- 11, Marilyn Fisher
- 18, Jim Mueller
- 20, Pam Walsh
- 21, Wayne Trella
- 28, Connie Martin
- 28, Sue Hecht



ANNIVERSARIES

Readers

- 1 Tony Ogarek
- 8 Gary Rickert
- 15 Deb Nowlan
- 22 Dan Frawley

MARCH

2026

BIRTHDAYS

- 11, Joan Coyle
- 12, Diane Hein
- 17, Pat Kropack
- 17, Dorothy Kropack
- 23, Patti Schoenbeck
- 23, Tony Ogarek
- 27, Jim Thrun
- 31, Ray White



ANNIVERSARIES

- 18, Jim & Sophie Mueller
- 19, Ray & Deb Majewski