

FEBRUARY 2024



REDEEMER REPORTER

The newsletter of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Boise, Idaho



O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

A reflection on Ash Wednesday as we prepare for the journey of Lent

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

I've heard some people say that folks in their twenties don't tend to take death very seriously, that there's still some sense of invincibility left in the hearts of college students and young professionals. While that might be true for some people in their twenties, that is the farthest thing from true for me. As a person with anxiety that has persisted through most of my life, I have felt fear about the concept of death for about as long as I can remember. It has made me a cautious person to a fault. Tomorrow is unpromised and life is unpredictable, so I should do everything in my power to safeguard and protect my life, right?

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On Ash Wednesday I'm reminded that regardless of how much control I think I have in the matter of myself living, I will one day return to dust. We all will. As humans, we were created from dust and we will one day return to the matter that created us. Why are we reminded of such a harsh reality to start our Lenten journey? What does remembering the reality of death do to create renewal in us? I think it's helpful to look at where we're headed on this journey to make sense of our starting point. At the end of these forty days, we will remember the betrayal, arrest, torture, crucifixion, and death of Jesus on Good Friday. Then, we will rejoice and praise Christ for the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, remembering that Christ has defeated death. Death no longer has the last word. We begin our journey with the reality of death because at the end we remember that it no longer has a hold on us. We do not have to fear it anymore. In Paul's words from 1 Corinthians, death has lost its sting. In a podcast episode on why Lent matters, pastor and professor Tripp Fuller says that "For death to lose its sting actually enables you to live more freely before you die."



Death serves as bookends of the Lenten journey—we will all die, and death no longer has the last word. The middle part, the journey of Lent, serves as a time for self-evaluation, repentance (turning around), and renewal in our commitment to discipleship. Death has lost its sting, and the fear of death no longer needs to have its grip on us. We are freed to live the life Christ has called us to, a life of abundance here and now. Tripp Fuller goes on to say that **"The Gospel is not just a promise of new beginnings after our ending, it's also a promise of newness of life in the present. But the means to getting there isn't by seizing our own security, it's in joining the movement of God and working for the salvation of the world, for the thriving and flourishing of life."** On Ash Wednesday, and throughout the season of Lent, we are invited into a journey of renewal, of renewed commitment to living as disciples of Christ in the world. We remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. And that doesn't have to scare us into looking for security, because death no longer stings. We can let go of our fear, and join God's movement in the world. Glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

**The Gospel is also a
promise of new life
in the present**

In Christ's love,

Pastor Mariah Mills

A Word From Council

Thanks to all everyone who participated in the semi-annual meeting on January 28th. It was wonderful to share food, fellowship and ministry planning with all of you.

Here are some highlights:

Thanks to all who served the past year in the ministries of Redeemer. We are especially grateful to Arielle Arnold and Linda Alexander for their four years of service on the council. Larry Kidd will continue to serve as our treasurer, and we are so appreciative of all his diligent work. We are also blessed by the continued service of Roxanne Wasson for worship planning and Laurel Simos for her property committee work.

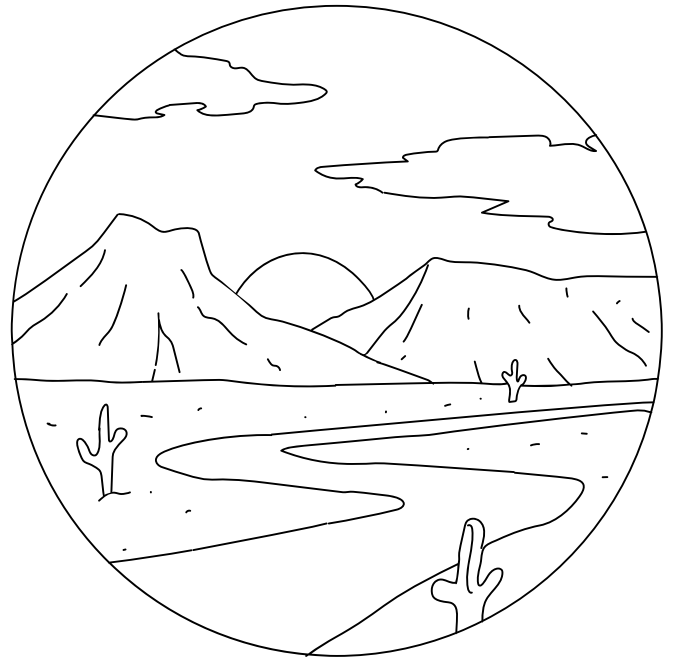
Carolyn Rapp and Dawn King-Menzner were elected to council for their first terms and Bonita Hammer for her second term. Welcome to Carolyn and Dawn!

It is inspiring to hear about the excitement ahead for Redeemer and the opportunities to be involved in the ministries. Pastor Mariah asked us all to complete a "Share Your Gifts" survey. Be sure to turn yours in when completed and get one to complete if you don't have one. There are lots of opportunities for us to work and rejoice together!

Redeemer Council

Intention to Share Gifts

If you were not at the semi-annual meeting on January 28th, or you would just prefer to fill out an online version of the form instead, use the link below to fill out the Google Form version. There are also extra physical copies at the church office. This Intention to Share Gifts Form is an opportunity to prayerfully consider how each of us might be part of Redeemer's ministry in the coming year. Continuing to be a vibrant ministry that shares the good news of the Gospel with our neighbors in word and action is not something that can be done individually. It is a communal effort, done together, while following the leading of the Holy Spirit. Each of us have gifts, and we each are called to use those gifts. How might the Holy Spirit be nudging you to be involved in the life of Redeemer this year? Thank you for all you do, and let us be hopeful and expectant for what the Spirit is leading us into next!



Events Coming Up:

- February 8: Worship Planning, 10AM
- February 9-11: Luther Heights Winter Retreat
- February 13: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – freewill offering for Youth Gathering
- February 14: Ash Wednesday Service
- February 17: Intro to Centering Prayer Workshop @ All Saints
- February 21: Lent soup suppers and midweek services begin

ELCA Youth Gathering Fundraisers

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 13th, 5:30-7:00PM

at Redeemer Lutheran Church



A freewill offering will be collected to directly support the fundraising of the Redeemer students attending the Gathering, Sam LeBoeuf and Owen Preboski

Funds raised at this event will support all 21 students in the Treasure Valley attending the Gathering with Luther Heights. Tickets will be sold at Redeemer every Sunday in February.



**NIGHT IN
NEW
ORLEANS**

Friday March 8th
7PM @ Shepherd of the
Valley Lutheran Church

New Orleans food & live music, silent
& live auctions. Tickets \$20

ALL IN THE FAMILY

FEBRUARY
Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Gale Faber	1
Kaitlyn Chilcote	2
Brian LeBoeuf	7
Julie Hulvey	11
Aaron Lindemann	14

Happy Anniversary
Dale & Karen Frank
February 14

CARES AND CONCERNS

Keeping in Prayer

Mike Wallick
Jill Carlson
Pam Mayer
Roger Oldenberg
Bonnie Yamaski
Gloria Jay
Karen Frank

GRIEVING

Family of Shirley Olson
Family of Laura Stetter (Woodall)
Family of Ed Blakeslee
Family of Judi Ratzleigh (Anderson)
Family of Kathryn "Kitty" Patton, McCaskill/Patton
Family of Anna McCully - Dale Frank's sister

MILITARY

Seth Erickson
Devan Irons
Logan Kostick
Jonathon Negrón
Jon Savage
Jim Schmeits
Brian Waybright

OUTREACH

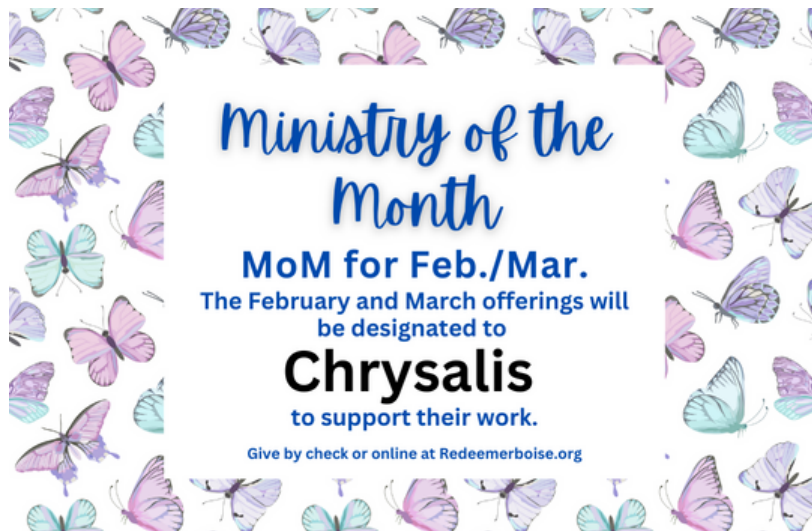
WWW - Wash, Wipe, Wear

WWW distribution in January went well with many people volunteering! Thanks to all those who stepped up to help out this month. Gale Faber picked up the diapers; Terri Lindemann, Connie Seymour, Ruth Makovsky, and Linda Alexander packaged up all the bags of products and wrapped up diapers. On Saturday, Terri and Naomi Lindemann and Gale Faber handed out it all! We gave out...

- **396 rolls of toilet paper**
- **99 bottles of detergent**
- **99 bottles of body wash**
- **2650 diapers!**

Many people are so grateful for what we do.

Respectfully, Jean Pollock



Chrysalis helps people prepare for, find, and keep jobs. Their services are free and available to all. Chrysalis helps people prepare for, find, and keep jobs. Our services are free and available to all. Through individualized case management, an evolving job-readiness program, and by providing access to an array of supportive services, Chrysalis helps our clients overcome their barriers to reconnecting to the workforce

On-going Community Needs

Your Rags to Riches

Please continue donating old towels, dish rags, and cotton t-shirts.

Little Free Pantry

non-perishable food

Gas Card Donations - \$25

Impact of MOM

Recently I dropped off a check to the Agency for New Americans for \$388.00! This was the total amount collected by Redeemer for October and November's Ministry of the Month. The agency is housed in a beautiful historic building on Jefferson street in downtown Boise. Agency for New Americans has been a leader in preparing diverse people and communities in overcoming an ever-changing world since 1996. The overall organization is called Jannus, which is a social services organization. Agency for New Americans is just one of the groups that they help. They also oversee the Idaho Crisis and Suicide Hotline, Nutrition works, Idaho Out of School Network, the Refugee Speakers Bureau, Global Gardens, the Foster Grandparent program, and many more! Attached is a picture I took of Gaby at the organization who was very happy to receive our donation. Thanks to this great group for all the work they do to help members of our community. - Jean Pollock



LCS: Providing a Circle of Support

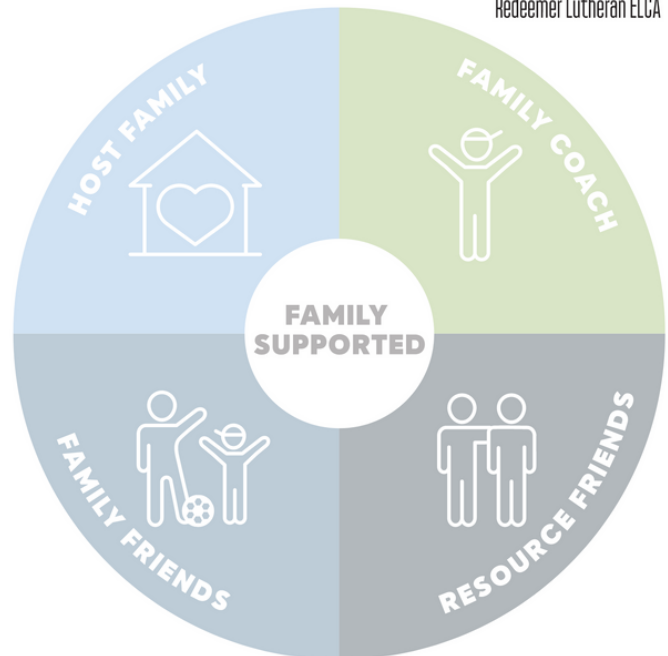
Safe Families is motivated by faith to keep children safe and families together! This means wrapping families in support from a variety of places.

The goal is to help families thrive and prevent children from entering foster care. Just yesterday our team received a call from the Nampa Family Justice Center and we worked with our volunteers to provide emergency care in a volunteer's home for a 1 year old. From donating goods to providing services like a car ride, there are so many ways to help!

It just takes 5 minutes to sign up as a Safe Families Resource Friend. Live out your love and faith! Use the link below to sign up.



Redeemer Lutheran ELCA



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayer Workshop

All Saints Episcopal Church on Latah St. will be hosting an Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop on Saturday, February 17th from 9am-12pm, led by Contemplative Outreach of Boise. All are welcome to attend this workshop about the ways Centering Prayer opens our hearts and minds to God, and how the practice leads to God transforming us. If you would like to register for the workshop, send an email to Nicole at the All Saints office, churchoffice@allsaintsboise.org. If you have any questions, reach out to Rita Hess, one of the leaders of the workshop, by sending an email to ritamariehess@gmail.com. The cost is a \$5 free will offering at the door.

Lent Worship

Ash Wednesday Service - February 14, 7PM

Midweek Services - February 21 & 28,
March 6, 13, & 20
soup suppers at 6pm and service at 7pm

Lent Sunday Morning Services - February 18 & 25,
March 3, 10, & 17, 10AM

Interested in Bible Study?

If you would be interested in **helping lead** or **participating in** a regular Bible study, please send an email to Pastor Mariah (pastor@redeemerboise.org). There have not been days/times decided on at this point, Pr. Mariah is trying to gauge interest in leadership and participation first.

Esther Circle

Esther Circle will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on

February 14th at 1:00 PM

The lesson will be out of the Gather Magazine Session 1 and is entitled "Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith". Everyone is welcome to attend and copies of the lesson can be made if you do not have the magazine. Hope you can come!

FEBRUARY 2024

Winter Retreat

February 9 - 11 \$150/\$200

at Camp Perkins

Register today at lutherheights.org



All ages welcome! Bring the family, a group of friends, or just yourself. Snowshoe, cross-country ski, relax, and enjoy the moment at Camp Perkins. For \$200, stay in the heated retreat center, or for \$150, take the rugged route with a wood-stove warmed cabin and detached restrooms. Register under “retreats” at lutherheights.org. In order to encourage as many participants as possible, we have special pricing for families! Contact Casey at associate@lutherheights.org to learn more.