



Redeemer Lutheran Church



Voice of Redeemer

Volume 54—Number 2

February 2025



February 2nd is an intriguing day in the calendar, as it marks two seemingly unrelated events: Candlemas and Groundhog Day. However, a closer look at their history and symbolism reveals surprising connections between these traditions, blending ancient customs with Christian liturgy and folklore.

Candlemas is a Christian holiday that commemorates the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, as described in the Gospel of Luke. It falls exactly 40 days after Christmas and is traditionally celebrated with the blessing of candles, symbolizing Jesus as the "light of the world." The name "Candlemas" itself derives from this tradition of lighting and blessing candles. We will be celebrating the first Sunday in February.

Historically, Candlemas also signified a turning point in the agricultural calendar. In medieval Europe, it was a day to mark the midpoint of winter and to begin looking forward to the renewal of spring. This seasonal shift was often observed in tandem with weather predictions, which is where the connection to Groundhog Day begins to emerge. Groundhog Day, a North American tradition, centers on a groundhog predicting the weather: if the groundhog sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter; if not, spring will arrive early. This seemingly quirky ritual has its roots in ancient European weather lore. Germans, in particular, celebrated a day called "Sieben-Schläfer-Tag" (Seven Sleepers' Day) or other seasonal markers, which often involved animals—like badgers or hedgehogs—as indicators of weather patterns.

When German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania, they adapted the tradition to the local fauna, replacing the European hedgehog with the native groundhog. The result was Groundhog Day, which retained the weather-forecasting motif but in a uniquely American form.

The connection between Candlemas and Groundhog Day lies in their shared focus on the changing seasons. Both traditions stem from ancient agricultural societies that paid close attention to the natural world, relying on celestial events and animal behavior to guide their work.

An old English rhyme about Candlemas reflects this weather-watching tradition:
If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Winter will have another flight.
If Candlemas brings cloud and rain,
Winter will not come again.

This sentiment mirrors the folklore of Groundhog Day, emphasizing the day's role as a hinge between winter and spring. Both celebrations carry echoes of humanity's age-old desire to understand and predict the natural cycles that govern life.

While Candlemas holds deep religious significance, and Groundhog Day is largely secular, their shared focus on light, renewal, and the passage of seasons highlights the human need to find meaning and rhythm in time. Candlemas' emphasis on light as a symbol of hope and Groundhog Day's playful weather predictions both speak to our enduring relationship with nature and the seasons.

In celebrating these traditions, whether by lighting candles or watching a groundhog emerge from its burrow, we participate in a cultural legacy that bridges faith, folklore, and the natural world. February 2nd, therefore, stands as a reminder of the ways in which ancient and modern practices can intertwine, offering continuity and connection across time.



Applying Bible Principles to Stewardship

"You will have all you want to eat, and you will give thanks to the Lord your God for the fertile land that he has given you. . . Remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the power to become rich. . ." (Deut.8:10, 18).

The Bible repeatedly says that we are to "praise the Lord," or as some translations read, we are to "bless the Lord." But what does that mean? Whatever else it might mean, it entails having a thankful heart for all that God has done for us. It's easy, you know, to go to an extreme and to emphasize only God's spiritual blessings to the exclusion of His temporal blessings. It's also easy to emphasize only His material blessings and to forget His provisions for us spiritually. In reality, we are to emphasize both the material and spiritual blessings we receive from God, remembering that all that we have comes from His bountiful hand.

As we realize God's provisions for us, day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year, we literally "praise the Lord" by a lifestyle that is marked by thanksgiving for all that God has done for us. And that spirit of gratitude for past, present and future blessings causes us to want to give to the Lord from the bounty He has provided for us. As one unknown author wrote, "Thanksgiving, to be truly Thanksgiving, is first thanks, then giving."

Think about it: As we receive God's blessings, we offer praise and thanksgiving to Him. And as we realize afresh that all that we have is a result of God's goodness, our response to His faithfulness is to give back to God a portion of that which was already His. We do so, not because we have to or out of any sense of obligation or guilt. We give to the Lord because we want to do so, in response to His great love for us and in response to His goodness.

Dwight L. Moody was once reading Psalm 103. When he came to the verse which describes how we are to praise the Lord and to remember His benefits, Mr. Moody stopped short in his inimitable way and exclaimed, "You can't remember them all, of course, but don't forget them all. Remember some of them!" And as you "remember some of them," remember the sequence: First thanks, then giving.



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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Mark your calendar!



Save the Date!

Friday, March 7

5:30 pm

Bring a friend!

More info to follow



WANTED: Volunteers urgently needed to organize and archive documents for Redeemer. Years of important church files have been stored in cardboard boxes that are breaking down and need attention.

It would be great for a group to get together and tackle this task. Much could be accomplished in a few hours if many hands are working.

If you are available to help with this project, there is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please add your name and which day of the 3rd week in March is best for you. We'll set the date and time from your response and let you know.



Transfiguration of our Lord March 2

Ash Wednesday—March 5

Soup suppers and Lenten vespers—
March 12,19,26.

Daylight savings time begins - March 9

Spring is here -March 20



KNITTING MACHINES FOR SALE

Redeemer's Prayer Shawl Ministry is the recipient of several Knitting Machines and an endless supply of yarn, given by the Saltzman family. Seeing as how the Prayer Shawl Ministry can't begin to make use of all of these machines, we have permission from the Saltzman's, to sell what we can't use.

If you, or someone you know, are interested, please contact Karen Musgrave or Jan for more information. Karen and her daughter are happy to give lessons as to using them. If you are interested in joining our group, please come to our meetings, always the 2nd Wed. @12:30 pm.



IN HIS SERVICE



Area of Service	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Pastor's Ass't.	Jan			
Altar Guild				
Acolyte	Leo	Darynne	Maia	Leith
Reader	Judy	Tammy	Karen	
Greeter				
Flowers	Sue	Louise	Phyllis	
Coffee Hour	Hamstreet's	Tammy	Fellowship	
Counters	Sue	Sue	Sue	Sue

sweet soil



This snack's layers mimic properties of our planet's crust.



What you need:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup nut butter (divided)
- ½ cup chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Silicone mini baking cups

What you do:

1. Combine the oats and ⅓ cup of the nut butter. Mix until oats stick together.
2. Place 2 teaspoons of oat mixture in each baking cup. Press with a spoon. Freeze for 10 minutes.
3. Spread remaining nut butter atop the cups. Freeze for 10 more minutes.
4. Microwave the chocolate chips 30 seconds. Stir and keep heating for 30-second intervals until melted.
5. Spread melted chocolate atop the cups. Freeze until chocolate is firm.
6. Remove from the molds and enjoy! Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.



ALTAR GUILD

Anyone interested volunteering for Altar Guild please let the office know and Pastor Jon will schedule a training session. *We need help in this area of service and ask that you would prayerfully consider being a part of the Altar Guild.*



**VOLUNTEERS
are key!**

**WAYS FOR YOU TO GET INVOLVED BY OFFERING
YOUR TIME AND TALENTS TO REDEEMER.
WE NEED YOU!**



COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Again, if you “don’t know how”, ask any of the ladies and they will be happy to show you how.

Plan to join us for fun and fellowship after worship in the Fellowship Hall.



USHERS NEEDED

Ladies and gentlemen can handle this volunteer position. Talk to John Lemley or Mark Smith and they will be happy to help you get acquainted with the duties of “usher”.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

PASTOR'S ASSISTANT, AND ACOLYTES

Worship and Music Committee meets once per month to plan worship, select hymns and offer training for volunteers interested in being an assistant to Pastor, Altar Guild or Acolytes.

Ask Pastor Jon, Judy Peterson, Sue Anderson or Louise Hall, for more information.





FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

DATES TO REMEMBER



LUNCH BUNCH is Wednesday 2/5/25 11am at Olive Garden, 1701 New Stine Road. Please make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson.

QUILTING & PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY is Wed. 2/12/25, 9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. Karen Musgrove will lead knitting machine class at 12:30pm. Tammy Poynor will bring snacks & please bring your own sack lunch.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE is Wednesday, 2/19/25; 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Faithfulness: Ruth & Naomi from the Bible book of Ruth & Gather magazine. All ladies are invited! Carlotta will bring refreshments.



Wine & Dine is Thursday 2-27-25 6pm at Rosa's Italian Restaurant, 2400 Columbus Street. Please make reservations with Linda Cohen.

GAME DAY is Wednesday, 2/26/25. Sack lunch @ 12:00, Games @12:30— 3 pm.



Church Work Day Saturday Feb. 8 @ 9 am
Helpers needed!



Church Council February 16
11:00 am

February Birthdays

Kathy McKnight	02
Katelynn Evert	03
Penelope Griffith	10
Hollie Schindler	13
Ella Dommer	14
Anne Benson	16
Susan Petty	23
Phyllis Elrod	25
Asher Schindler	26
Bill Schroeder	26
John Werts , Julie & Luke Griffith	28



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRE VICTIMS




Your council has chosen the fire victims of the fires in So. California as our charity for February and March. The Office of the Bishop has been contacted regarding donations of goods, other than money. You will be notified of that as soon as we hear back from Bishop Bos. Donations of money will be channeled through ELCA Disaster Relief. Indicate on your check to Redeemer: "fire victims".

THANK YOU

In Our Hearts & Prayers

December 28, 2024	January 23, 2025
Judy and Jeanne—friends of Mickey Rivers	Karen Musgrove
Bishop Bos—fire devastation-	Lois — Jan's sister
Cathy L,— Louise	Jack Clayton
Vicki— Sue Morton's friend	Rhett Spillers
	Phillip Overlund

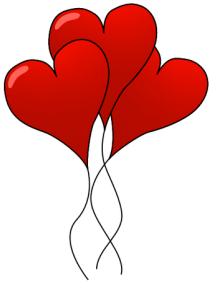
Please know that your prayers are so very much appreciated. Thanks and Blessings to all!

Lost & Found 

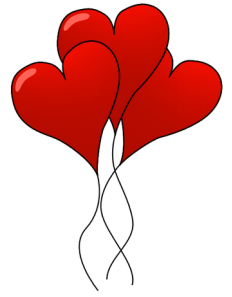
KEYS FOUND

A plastic "sandwich bag" was found in the Library that contained unused keys and faceplates.

Phyllis Has them in the office.



FEBRUARY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Worship 9:30 10:30 coffee hour S.S. 10:30 Adult S.S. 10:50	3	4 Hymn sing at Pacifica 3 pm Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	5 Lunch Bunch 11 am Sack supper 5 pm Bible Study 6 pm	6	7	8 Work Day 9 am
9 Worship 9:30 10:30 coffee hour	10	11 Hymn sing at Pacifica 3 pm Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	12 Quilting and Prayer Shawl Ministries 9 – Pacifica 10 am Sack supper 5 pm Bible	13	14  Valentine's Day	15 Garden Club 9-noon
16 Worship 9:30 10:30 coffee hour S.S. 10:30 Council 11 am	17 	18 Hymn sing at Pacifica 3 pm Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	19 Afternoon Circle 1:30 Sack supper 5 pm Bible Study 6 pm	20	21	22
23 Worship 9:30 10:30 coffee hour S.S. 10:30 Adult S.S. 10:50	24	25 Hymn sing at Pacifica 3 pm Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	26 Game Day 12 noon, bring your lunch, games @12:30 Sack supper 5 pm Bible Study 6 pm 2:30	27 Wine & Dine 6 pm	28	