

# Our Redeemer's Voice

January 2026



## It's Okay If It's Not New



Rev. Jeremy Loesch

The page has turned and 2026 is noticeable. If it is the new year, is there really anything new? So much is the same- job, places to go, things to do, things to eat, things to see and read. Your wardrobe is the same, your hair is the same, everything is pretty much the same. You've swapped out a 5 for a 6, but other than that, is this month really any different than last month?

Before you think this is so depressing and

you turn the page to finish looking through this edition of our newsletter, consider that the things in our life that are the same can provide a measure of comfort.

In the midst of changes, think of what is a point of stability in your life? We all have our routines and patterns that provide some surety in our day. As changes swirl around us, we ought to take comfort in the same old Christmas message we were able to receive this past year.



The celebration of Jesus' birth was celebrated with joy, and the work of the volunteers in our congregation is not overlooked. We are grateful for those who worked to decorate the church and help our Sunday services keep their focus on the Lord. The Advent theme of peace was quite appropriate at this time when everyone seems so focused on division and separating people into winners or losers and treating life as if it is a game to be won or lost. Peace comes from the Lord. Peace draws near to us in the form of Jesus. Peace is God's gift to us that endures.

Peaceful stability. Jesus Christ is the same- yesterday, today, and forever. He is with us to forgive, to lead, and to comfort. The pages of the calendar change and the months, years, and decades fly by. Jesus Christ is present with you to let you know that He holds all of your days. You are known to Him who knows all things. You are loved by Him who is the definition of love. You are saved by Him who lives up the name of Jesus by saving you from your sins.

May the Lord richly bless our 2026!

*Pastor Loesch*

### THIS MONTH...

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| It's Okay if It is Not New  | Pg 1   |
| Through Worship Window      | Pg 2   |
| The Last Baby of Bethlehem  | Pg 2   |
| Our Redeemer News & Notes   | Pg 3-4 |
| How Long Lord?— (LWML)      | Pg 5   |
| Spotlight—Rob               | Pg 5   |
| Lutherans Around Us         | Pg 6   |
| January Calendar            | Pg 7   |
| Through the Bible in a Year | Pg 8   |

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Reverend Jeremy Loesch

# January — Epiphany

## THROUGH THE WORSHIP WINDOW



*From January 2020 ORLC Archives  
By Arlen Besel, Worship Chair*

The final Christmas message revisits the familiar story of Jesus' birth with the shepherds visit. Isaiah speaks of Zion bringing light to the nations. The Gospel continues with the baptism of the adult Jesus by John; who also calls Him the Lamb of God.

The Gospel continues with Jesus ministry, healings, and the calling of His disciples.

During this period, the Epistle lessons record the ministry of Saul, whom the Lord called to faith and a ministry to the Gentiles.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul admonishes the believers to live their new life in service to the Word by pointing to Jesus' death and resurrection as the example. We are dead to sin and alive in Christ.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul expresses his thanks to God regarding the spiritual gifts they display in their lives. However he also mentions his concern over the divisions that have occurred; wherein some claim to follow Paul or Cephas or Christ. His appeal is that they recognize only Christ Jesus who gave His life to save them.

In the Old Testament lessons the focus is on Christ as the Servant of the Lord who will provide His saving gift to all. There are several references to the Servant of the Lord. In this period Isaiah prophesies the coming of the Christ child whose life will assure salvation to all.

## The Last Baby of Bethlehem



*By Dr. Kari Vo for Lutheran Hour Ministries*

*Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. ... Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under,*

*according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. (Matthew 2:13-15a, 16-17)*

This story used to make me feel uneasy. "Why did God save His own Son but not the other babies?" I wondered. It seemed ... unfair, somehow. Unjust. Was God playing favorites?

Years later I realized that in fact, Jesus did *not* get away safely. The final baby of Bethlehem also died at the hand of a king named Herod;—thirty-some years later, as an adult. And it wasn't a quick death by the sword but the long-drawn-out agony of crucifixion.

But even that's not the real point, is it? Because out of all those babies and toddlers, Jesus is the One who came into this world on purpose to die. He gave Himself into death on purpose, for all those babies and for us as well. And then He rose from the dead, just as He will raise those children;—and us as well.

**WE PRAY:** Lord, overcome the darkness with Your light. Amen.





**PEACE CAME TO EARTH** —During Advent and Christmas the message was “*Peace Came to Earth*”. Thorough the birth of Jesus, we all can find our lasting peace and treasure. God’s peace doesn’t send us on an impossible search. God’s peace is not an invisible needle buried in a haystack. God’s peace was a treasure laid in the straw of the manger. God’s peace is the priceless Son of God, born in the stable and laid in plain view for us all. He is the diamond found in the manger’s straw. As the Prince of Peace, He is the peace that we seek and treasure as we go into the world. *From “Peace Came to Earth. Concordia Publishing”*

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## Our Redeemer News & Notes

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**PRAYER LIST**— Nancy, Mark, Karen, Mary, Carl, Mimi, Faith, Hanah, Michael, Bill, Janet, Charlu, Jessie, Betty, Hertha, Sarah, Sandy, Libby, and Louise.

### Stewardship

sion, Stewardship Ministry January 06, 2010.

“As God’s stewards we are reminded that we don’t get a fresh start only on the first day of a new year. Instead we get a fresh start every day knowing that in Christ all that is wrong has been forgiven and with the power of the Holy Spirit we are equipped to move forward in our free and joyous management of all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.”

*1 Peter “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”* – Kathy O’Malley

**ELECTRONIC DONATION CHOICE** — Anyone can now use the link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z62P/home> to donate directly to Our Redeemer. Online giving allows you to choose the category where you want your gift to go. You may make a one time offering, or you set up a recurring offering that begins or ends on a date you chose.

**MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP HOUR**— All fellowship gatherings are held after service the second Sunday of the month. We ask 2 to 3 people to bring items such as simple snacks, desserts, finger foods, etc. to share. See Lina. You can also sign up to bring items on the bulletin board in the Narthex. January fellowship is on the 14th. — *Lina*

**2026 CALENDARS AVAILABLE**—2026 Calendars may be picked up in the resource area, or in the Narthex.

**CHRISTMAS CLOTHING DRIVE**—Thank you to everyone who brought in new clothing for older foster children, the ones that get lost in the shuffling of their lives. Hope on Deck was very grateful to accept the gifts. –Ruth

**BUILD-A-BAG PROJECT—Welcome to 2026**

*May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 2 Peter 1:2*

Our mission to make sleeping bags for the homeless will continue in January but I want to share an interesting article I found on LCMS.org written by Rev. Dr. Steven D. Schave, Director of LCMS Urban & Inner-City Mission. It is about his experience living on the street. Instead of copying it, here are the website addresses for his article and an audio interview done several years ago. I hope you take a few minutes to listen or read of his experiences.

**Audio interview: Reflections on living homeless** <https://resources.lcms.org/reading-study/my-night-of-living-homeless/>

In “My Night of Living Homeless,” the Rev. Steve Schave narrates his firsthand experience of living among a group of inner-city homeless people in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood in Cincinnati. Schave, the LCMS director of Urban & Inner-City Mission, was joined by the Rev. John Suguitan of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Cincinnati.

**My Night of Living Homeless**—By Rev. Dr. Steven D. Schave. Web address to read his article: <https://files.lcms.org/file/preview/CX21NtSoXd2cA1kPTzADJm0BMJaSLUP8>

We will continue to meet on Tuesday mornings, 10-noon. Stop by and join us for a session.

## News & Notes.... CONTINUED



**SUNDAY SCHOOL** –Sunday School is held on the first and third Sundays. Please see Robin if you have questions.

**BIBLE STUDY**—Bring your coffee and join us each Sunday at 8:45 a.m.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS**—Lutheranism 101 Class for prospective members, or members who wish to refresh their knowledge, continues on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. “We utilize the Lutheranism 101 book and materials. Even if you missed the first classes, you are still welcome to join us—*Pastor*

**MEN’S BREAKFAST** — All men, those in your household, and friends are invited to join us Sat. January 10th and again on January 24th at 8 am. Let us talk, eat, and enjoy each other’s company. Bring your own breakfast. We serve the coffee. **THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO COME AT 10 a.m.** to help put away the Christmas decorations.

**NEWSLETTER & ANNOUNCEMENTS**—News to be included in Sunday’s bulletin is due Tues. morning each week; newsletter deadline is 20th of the month.



**LITTLE FREE LIBRARY**—Even during the busy holiday season, the Little Library was a gift to those who continue to use it. Remember, the library always appreciates the donation of children, young adult and appropriate adult books. Thanks to all who donate books. —*Julie*

**SNOW DAY**— Our first snow of the winter came on December 13 & 14 leaving just over four inches of snow that made roads and sidewalks a challenge to navigate. Church was cancelled for the first time in a long while. Thanks to Rob, Bob and Mike for helping to clean and salt the walks. The photos above and to the left were submitted by Rob. Of course after all the walks are cleared it was time for one family to build a tiny snowman.

**CALL CHAIN** — Not everyone has active email to notify if church is closed in the event of a snow emergency. We are now exploring ways to reach those who do not have access to email.

**MEMORY VERSES** — We are now up to letter H. A New Memory” Verse will be introduced on the first and third Sundays. How many of the 26 will you remember? The challenge is on.

- **Ask** and it will be given to you; **seek** and you will find; **knock** and the door shall be open to you.  
*Matthew 7:7*
- **Be kind** and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ, God forgave you.  
*Ephesians 4:32*
- **Cast** all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you. *1 Peter 5:7*
- **Delight** yourself in the Lord; and he will give you desires of you heart. *Psalms 37:4*
- **Every good gift** and every perfect gift is from above, coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the Heavens. *James 1:17*
- **Fear Not, For I am With You.** Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. *Isaiah 41:10*
- **Go** into all the world and preach the good news to everyone. *Mark 16:15*
- **Heaven and earth** will pass away, but my words will not pass away. *Matthew 24:35*

## Spotlight on Rob



- Rob, your support has been instrumental in keeping the office computers and software up and running. You are our one man IT department.
- The word of Our Redeemer goes out each Sunday as you and the stream team make sure the church service goes live.
- You are sharing leadership skills as Vice President of the church council here at Our Redeemer, as and in the community with your involvement in Boy Scouts and as well in the Army where you served a tour in the Middle East.



- In the past, you have served as stewardship chair and have been a faithful member for many years, supporting the Church in so many ways.
- At church cleanup events you can be found with a rake in hand or helping to clean the windows.
- You can be found shoveling snow, donating a temporary ramp, and so many other quiet acts that fall below the radar. You are quietly letting your light shine.
- Rob you have done all of this and so much more out of your love for Jesus, for your church family, and for those in need. We have probably left something out, but we want to say, for this and everything else that you quietly do, we thank you.

### THANK YOU



*Each Month Our Redeemer's Voice will spotlight a different member of our congregation. Names are selected randomly. We have so many in our congregation who have let their light shine at Our Redeemer and beyond. We appreciate every one, everyday!*

## How Long, Lord?



### IN THE WORD

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, (John 1:14a).*

### OF THE WORD

"If you want to get across an idea, wrap it up in a person." These words, attributed to scholar and diplomat Ralph Bunche, illustrate what God did in the Person of Jesus Christ.

After the sin of Adam and Eve destroyed their relationship with God, they earned God's stinging words of judgment, but also received His comforting words of hope. God's idea, His perfect plan,

was this: He would send a Savior, One who would lift all mankind from the consequences of sin.

At the appointed time, God sent His Son Jesus to Earth in the form of a baby named Jesus, born true God and true man. While he walked on Earth, He personified God's love. When He willingly died on the cross to win our forgiveness and salvation, He showed the depth of His love. In His victorious resurrection, we see the power of His love.

Today God continues to show His love to us. We can find it in His Word, in His Sacraments, and in the work of His Spirit in every believing heart.

### WALKING WITH MY LORD

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing God's love in Your compassion, Your cross, and Your presence. Amen.

*Mustard Seed: The Joy of Christmas. 11/32 Author: Patricia Mitchell. ©2011, revised 2024 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. www.lwml.org*

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# Lutherans Around Us

## A YEAR IN REVIEW FROM LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT UD!

We're grateful for God's abundant blessings this year! New students continue to visit, and seven of this fall's visitors have become more fully connected to LCM's activities and opportunities, which is wonderful. LCM students enjoyed a fun hike together in White Clay Creek on a dazzling warm Saturday in early November, and this month, they're looking forward to holiday festivities and celebrations, including our Friendsgiving Dinner and Advent Party.

The November fundraiser continues to be a highlight of 2025. We're especially grateful to Grace Lutheran Church, who hosted the event, and to folks from Bethel Lutheran Church, who provided welcome support; along with at least seven other Delaware congregations that were represented by guests and gifts. In the midst of a joyful spirit, thoughtful speakers, and great community interactions, over 80 people attended, and receipts totaled more than \$12,000. We're delighted!

Thank you and bless you for the many ways in which you support LCM at UD, from home-cooked meals to fundraiser raffle baskets, from generous donations to heartfelt prayers raised on our behalf. Please continue to pray for our students this season, as they navigate final projects and exams, as well as for safe, joyful journeys home for Christmas. One of our juniors, Ilsa, will spend spring term studying abroad in France; please pray for travel mercies and special blessings for that experience!

We're so grateful for generous support from congregations. The practical, financial, and spiritual care of the wider LCM network empowers us to continue providing a nurturing, Christ-centered place for students to grow in faith, outreach, and discipleship. These inspiring students are encouraged in their lives of faith and in their emerging vocations. Through shared worship, fun, leadership, and service in LCM, they learn better how to embody God's love and grace in the midst of their communities by means of their diverse gifts and talents. Thank you for standing with us! We're all in this together.

May your Advent and Christmas seasons shine brightly with the light of Christ Jesus our Lord!

*In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister of Word and Service +  
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD 302-368-3078; [chaplain@lcmde.org](mailto:chaplain@lcmde.org)*



**OGT ACCEPTS DONATIONS** —As you are doing your new year organizing, keep Orphan Grain Train in mind. They are always accepting donations. All items **Must** be clean, in good repair, and only gently used. We **Need** men's, women's, children's and infant's clothing and shoes in all sizes and for all seasons as well as purses, handbags, reusable shopping totes. We accept accessories; scarves, gloves, belts, and **New** (packaged) underwear. **We Also Accept** the following non-apparel items:

- Curtains, drapes, tablecloths
- Sheets, blankets (no used bed pillows)
- Towels and washcloths
- Sewing fabric and supplies
- Children's items
- Soft and hard toys in good condition
- School supplies (no books)
- Personal care items
- Toothbrushes
- Bath-sized bar soap
- Sturdy combs
- Diapers (packaged) – Adult incontinence & infant

- Medical items – Canes, crutches, walkers, commodes, shower chairs, orthopedic supplies (e.g. boots, shoes), wheelchairs
- Bibles, hymnals




### **WE CANNOT ACCEPT**

- Heavily worn, damaged, or stained clothing
- Used underwear – e.g., bras and underpants – and used swimwear
- Glass, ceramic, electric, or battery-powered items
- Hygiene Kits – see Special Projects under What We Do at [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org)



# JANUARY 2026



| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed   | Thur          | Fri | Sat  |
|--|--|---|---|---------------|-----|--|
| SERVING<br>Pastor Jeremy Loesch<br>ORGANISTS<br>Julie<br>USHERS<br>Arlen, Denny  | LECTORS<br>1/4 SB<br>1/11 PK<br>1/18 BC<br>1/25 EB |   |   | OFFICE CLOSED | 2   | 3  |
| 4<br>Bible Study 8:45 a.m.<br>Worship DS4 10 a.m.<br>Sunday School<br>Communion<br>Julie  | 5  | 6<br>Announcement Deadline<br>Build A Bag 10 a.m.                         | 7<br>Lutheranism 101 6 p.m.                         | 8             | 9   | 10<br>Special<br>Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.<br>Congregation help to put<br>away Christmas deco at<br>10:00 a.m.. |
| 11<br>Bible Study 8:45 a.m.<br>Worship DS4 10 a.m.<br>Digital<br>Fellowship Sunday   | 12   | 13<br>Announcement Deadline<br>Build A Bag 10 a.m.                        | 14<br>Lutheranism 101 6 p.m.                        | 15            | 16  | 17   |
| 18<br>Bible Study 8:45 a.m.<br>Worship Communion<br>DS4 10 a.m.—Julie                   | 19<br>OFFICE CLOSED                                | 20<br>Announcement Deadline<br>Build A Bag 10 a.m.<br>Newsletter Deadline | 21<br>Lutheranism 101 6 p.m.<br>Council 7 p.m. Zoom | 22            | 23  | 24<br>Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.   |
| 25<br>Bible Study 8:45 a.m.<br>DS4 10 a.m.<br>Worship—Digital  | 26   | 27<br>Announcement Deadline<br>Build A Bag 10 a.m.                        | 28  | 29            | 30  | 31   |
| 1<br>Bible Study 8:45 a.m.<br>Communion DS4 10 a.m.<br>Sunday School<br>Julie           | 2  | 3<br>Announcement Deadline<br>Build A Bag 10 a.m.                         | 4<br>Lutheranism 101 6 p.m.                         | 5             | 6   | 7  |

# December Bible Readings

- 1** Luke 1:68-79  
Mark 2
- 2** Psalm 30  
Mark 3
- 3** Psalm 31  
Mark 4
- 4** Psalm 32  
Mark 5
- 5** Psalm 33  
Mark 6
- 6** Psalm 34  
Mark 7
- 7** Psalm 35  
Mark 8
- 8** Psalm 36  
Mark 9
- 9** Psalm 37  
Mark 10
- 10** Psalm 38  
Mark 11
- 11** Psalm 39  
Mark 12
- 12** Psalm 40  
Mark 13
- 13** Psalm 41  
Mark 14
- 14** Psalm 42  
Mark 15-16
- 15** Psalm 43  
Genesis 1-3
- 16** Psalm 44  
Genesis 4-6
- 17** Psalm 45



*Read a little  
each day and  
you will get  
through the  
entire Bible in  
one year*

- 18** Psalm 46  
Genesis 7-9
- 19** Psalm 47  
Genesis 10-12
- 20** Psalm 48  
Genesis 13-15
- 21** Psalm 49  
Genesis 16-18
- 22** Psalm 50  
Genesis 19-21
- 23** Psalm 51  
Genesis 22-24
- 24** Psalm 52  
Genesis 25-27
- 25** Psalm 53  
Genesis 28-30
- 26** Psalm 54  
Genesis 31-33
- 27** Psalm 55  
Genesis 34-36
- 28** Psalm 56  
Genesis 37-39
- 29** Psalm 57  
Genesis 40-42
- 30** Psalm 58  
Genesis 43-45
- 31** Psalm 59  
Genesis 46-48
- 31** Luke 1:68-79  
Genesis 49-50-55  
Mark 1

