

Our Redeemer's Voice

February 2026



Early, Late, or Right on Time?



Rev. Jeremy Loesch

It's almost Lent? We just got done with Christmas and took down the tree?! I still have cookies! Well, yes...Lent is almost here. This year gives us one of the earliest Easters or shortest Epiphanies, take your pick. The Lenten season is as long as it always is. The date for Easter is based on the lunar calendar and Lent is always 40 days, meaning that Epiphany is



like an accordion. This year Feb. 8th is the 5th Sunday after the Epiphany and Feb. 15th is Transfiguration Day and Feb. 15th is Ash Wednesday. I seem to recall that last year we had seven Sundays in the Epiphany season.

I suppose we could say that Lent is early some years but that is only in relation to the years when we regard Easter as 'late'. It's all relative, or better yet...Easter is always on time. The same can be said that Epiphany is always the right number of Sundays and that Lent arrives just when it is supposed to.

We learn through experience that God does not regard things the same way we might. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways" (Isaiah 55:8). And this is probably for the best. In scanning our life, we see episodes where it was good that things didn't go the way we had originally planned. Take a moment and reflect on a time when your plans fell through yet the Lord kept you in His care and worked the situation out for good? Was that something in your career? Something in a personal relationship?

Lent is coming at the right time. We receive the revelation of Jesus Christ through the Epiphany season. And now we focus on the ministry of Jesus as He sets His sights on Jerusalem and the time of His sacrifice for our salvation. We'll enter the season and focus on "For Us". This is based on the hymn LSB 544 "O Love How Broad, How Deep, How High". In those words you find that you cannot escape God's love for you. And it wasn't just any love, but the merciful love of God expressed by our savior Jesus.

One season often runs into the next. It's not that winter magically ends on March 20th, or that we do not enjoy some summerlike days in late October. The season of Lent reminds us of the love of God that was placed in the manger. And it turns our eyes forward to Christ's cross and empty tomb.

Ash Wednesday will offer a full Divine Service with Holy Communion as well as the imposition of ashes at 7p on 2/18. The following Wednesday will offer the Vespers service, also at 7p.m.

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Reverend Jeremy Loesch



(From Page 1) Though the meme about winter on page one talks of giving up something for Lent, we are always able to add time for prayer and devotion or add the practice of self-denial and service to others. You can add your attendance at our Lutheranism 101 classes. Grab some soup at 5:45, then come to class from 6 to 6:45? Or just relax with soup and good fellowship.

For now we'll continue to enjoy this beautiful Epiphany season. And we are glad that Lent is right around the corner because we know of its power in preparing us for resurrection reality.

The Right Time

I was overwhelmed with your many kindnesses at Christmastime with cards and gifts and for your generous Christmas gift. I give thanks to the Lord for the ability to serve you and to serve with you. Serving here is a measure of certainty and I am grateful for that.

Another Right Time

In late summer 2025 I won a 54"x40" chalk drawing at an LWML event in Eldersburg MD. I thought it would be nice to have it preserved, mounted, framed, and given to the church. The artist who is from the Lancaster PA area recommended a company to do this work. I told myself I'd get around to it, and I finally did. Now we'll come to a decision about where this piece can be hung.

It's the right time to remember that you are a child of God. Pastor

February — Epiphany Continues



*From February 2023 ORLC Archives
By Arlen Besel, Worship Chair*

The Epiphany continues our worship in February and is featured in the Gospel reminder of our position as salt and light to the world. The message continues with the commandment reminders that include murder adultery, divorce, oaths, etc. Then the transfiguration of the Lord is shared and we get to Ash Wednesday. The view shifts to the temptation of Jesus and His rebuttal of Satan.

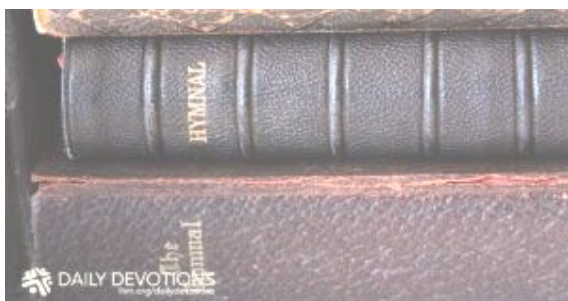
The Old Testament describes how True Fasting should be done. In Deuteronomy Israel is asked to choose the path they should follow; good or bad. In Exodus the ten commandments are issued as confirmation of God's covenant. Joel urges Israel to return to God and humble themselves.

The Epistle lessons begin in Corinthians with a reminder of our need for wisdom from the Lord. Then a warning to the church regarding divisions that even in early years appeared. Peter reminds us that the Word of God is not based on human wisdom and the words of prophesy are not of human origin, but holy men are inspired by the Holy Spirit to reveal it.

In 2nd Corinthians the message is to be reconciled to God through our faith and service with Paul's life and hardships as a reminder of the reality of life as a Christian.

The necessity of reliance on the Lord for His many blessings and our thankfulness of His love is key.

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



By Dr. Carol Geisler for Lutheran Hour Ministries

"Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise. Manifested by the star to the sages from afar. Branch of royal David's stem in Thy birth at Bethlehem: Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest. "Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul; Manifest in valiant fight, quelling all [...]"

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(Continued from page 2) all the devil's might; Manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill; Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest."

Some people may wonder what God is like. What does He do? What does He think of us? The answers to those questions are found in the Word of God and in the life and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God in man made manifest, that is, Jesus is God revealed in human flesh. A

star announced the birth of Jesus, true God and true Man, to "sages from afar," wise men who studied the stars. This star announced the birth of a new King in Israel, as the Scriptures had foretold: "A star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel" (Numbers 24:17b).

In what other ways was God in man made manifest? God was made known in Jesus through His miracles, as He healed "palsied limbs and fainting soul." God was made manifest in Jesus as the Savior resisted every temptation of the devil in "valiant fight." The self-sacrificing love of God was revealed when Jesus was nailed to a cross, bearing in His own body the sins of the world and suffering the penalty of death for those sins. God, who made Himself known in Christ Jesus, is "ever bringing good from ill." Out of the shame and death of the cross, He brought the eternal good of forgiveness and salvation. The mighty power of God was revealed as Jesus conquered death and rose to life. That is what God can do!

How is God made known in the world today? He reveals Himself in the wonders of His creation and in His Word. God in Christ is made known in Baptism and in the Lord's Supper. He is made "manifest in gracious will" as He forgives our sins. He continues to bring "good from ill" as, according to His purpose, He works through all things for our good. God in Christ is made known in the world through our words of witness as we testify to what Jesus has done for us. God in Christ is made known through our works of love and service. What does God do? What is He like? Will people look at us and see in our lives the answers to those questions? We pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit, they will see Jesus' love for them made manifest in us!

WE PRAY: Lord God, You have made Yourself known in my life through Jesus' saving work. Help me to make Your love known to others. Amen.

Our Redeemer News & Notes

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

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP HOUR— All fellowship gatherings are held after service the 2nd 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 for more information. You can also sign up to bring items. Sign up on the Narthex bulletin board. February fellowship is on the 8th Please plan to stay for meet and greet fellowship. —*Lina*

SOUPER BOWL TIME—Get ready, get set, let's go Soup! That is the winning ticket for someone who might need a bit of help this winter. We will begin collecting soups and canned meals that will be delivered to LSC after the big game.

ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER

February 18, 2026 5:45 p.m.

Our Redeemer will host a soup and salad supper at 5:45 p.m. before the service at 7:00. Everyone is invited to attend for worship and fellowship. Family and friends are welcome!

WEDNESDAY- MIDWEEK LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Soup suppers will be served at 5:45 p.m. before the service at 7:00. If you would like to participate and share your favorite soup and/or chili recipes sign-up sheets for dates and food items will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



LENT

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. God's blessings. *Lina—Congregational Life*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPRING CLEANUP DATES – Spring indoor cleanup crew will be needed March 14th 10 a.m. Outdoor crew needed March 21st at 10 a.m. with a rain date of March 28th. Please contact Bob for more information.

News & Notes.... CONTINUED

COUNCIL & CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026—Council meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month. (January 21, Feb. 11, Mar. 18, Apr. 5, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16). Voters' Assembly (Congregational Meetings) will be held on Sundays: March 22, May 31, September 27 and the Annual Meeting on November 15.



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.

From Kathy, Stewardship Chair— I'd like to share the following from the LCMS Office of National Mission, Stewardship Ministry January 06, 2010.



FROM HIM TO HIM

Please use this form to check off activities that interest you in 2026.

NAME:

PHONE:

EMAIL:



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE Lina Besteder

- Bring snacks/desserts/finger foods to Monthly Fellowship Hour second Sunday of the month
- Clean up after Monthly Fellowship Hour



EDUCATION Robin Billy

- Teach children's Sunday School once every 3 weeks (during the service)



EVANGELISM

- Donate book to Free Little Library
- Attend Men's Breakfast (bring your food)
- Volunteer to work at the O.R.C.H.A.R.D. garden



PROPERTY Bob Cooley

- Fall window washing & pew cleaning inside
- Fall outside clean up, raking, weeding



SOCIAL MINISTRY Ruth Hewlett

- Build A Bag -sleeping bag making on Tuesdays
- Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)
- Frozen Meal Project - meals stored in freezer for emergencies



WORSHIP

- Acolytes - assist by lighting candles
- Altar Guild
- Readers during service
- Stream Team - broadcast service online
- Ushers - greet & assist with communion
- Play an instrument during service
- Sing a solo/duet/group song during service

You are God's hands here on earth.

Please return this form to the church office at any time during the year. Volunteering just one time will help a lot.

Kathy O'Malley



"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."*

OPPORTUNITIES Please clip and use form on left to choose where you may serve as a steward in 2026. You are free to add one of your own. This list is a work in progress. Please check off activities and areas of interest for 2026. Give it to Kathy or leave on offering plate. Let Kathy know if you would like to add to the list.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY— The Little Library is a gift to those who continue to use it. We always appreciate the donation of children, young adult and appropriate adult books. Thanks to all who donate books. —Julie

News & Notes.... CONTINUED



BUILD-A-BAG PROJECT—Gifts under this Christmas tree will become blessings to Orphan Grain Train, Hope on Deck and Newark Empowerment Center. Some were found dropped off in the sewing room and some delivered 12/30/25 to our tree from Bonnie and her friends at St. John's in Dover. In 2 hours Ruth, Lina, Paul, Bonnie and her friend Jeanne opened, sorted, and shelved our gifts, plus Bonnie started 2 sleeping bags. All these blessing confirms that we are part of God's plan for our community.

An update from last month's information; the day the December newsletter was being emailed I received a call from Newark Empowerment Center. They are still serving the homeless at the New Ark United Church of Christ on Main Street. On December 9 three sleeping bags were delivered to them just as the night temperatures dropped below freezing on a regular basis. Two more sleeping bags were delivered before Christmas. Sharing God's love, giving warmth and comfort to 6 people through Hope on Deck and 5 more people served at the Newark Empowerment Center.

Thanks be to God for increased bedding donations and new volunteers that have joined our mission —*Mary Beth*

WINTER WOMEN'S LUNCH—Yes, it's winter and yes, it's cold but let's get together at church for a "pot-luck" lunch at noon. All women are invited and bring a friend and a dish to share. We will provide coffee and tea. It's been a long time since we've all gotten together, so come, chat, and enjoy each other's company.

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

MEN'S BREAKFAST — All men, those in your household, and friends are invited to join us February 28th at 8 am. Let us talk, eat, and enjoy each other's company. Bring your own breakfast. We serve the coffee.

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—The Little Library is a gift to those who continue to use it. We always appreciate the donation of children, young adult and appropriate adult books. Thanks to all who donate books. —*Julie*

ANNUAL KEY REVIEW--Please review the list on the bulletin board in the Narthex for what, if any church keys you may have. If you have an entry door key, it should have a number on it, please verify that your name is next to that number on the register. If you no longer need/want any keys you may have, please return them to Bob Cooley. If you need any keys again let Bob know and he will get you a key.

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

Loving Praise



IN THE WORD *Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you (Psalm 63:3).*

OF THE WORD "Life is good!" he sighs as he climbs in bed beside his wife. Though it's snowing outside, the house keeps cozy and snug. The couple's two daughters sleep safely in their beds. The cat arranges herself at the foot of the bed and the puppy settles on his chair. Life is good! But God's love brings everlasting peace and contentment. God's love is better than life. "Life is awful," she weeps to her pastor. "I'm out of a job, in debt, and now this — the police arrested my son on drug charges!" Countless set-backs have driven her to the edge of despair. Life is difficult. But God's love brings unfailing comfort and strength. God's love is better than life. God assures us of His love and has proven it by sacrificing His own Son, Jesus Christ, on our behalf. Jesus earned our relationship with God, whose love is infinitely better than life at its best — and overwhelmingly stronger than life at its most difficult. Praise Him for the power of His love in your life.

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

Lenten and Easter Schedule

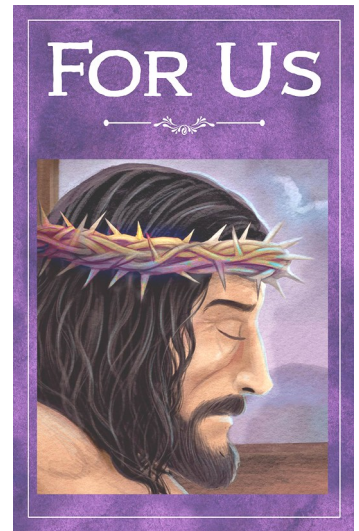
"Ash Wednesday and Lent worship series for 2026 carry the theme "For Us" It is not simply a pithy line to use because it is easy to repeat. It is a confession of who God is and what He brings in giving us His Son. It helps us understand *why* God would send His Son to die for us.

The phrase "for us" also captures much of the Reformation's theological emphasis—and Luther's understanding of Scripture in particular. Luther went from searching for a righteous God and finding only stern rebuke to seeing God in the form of a little baby and as the one who became one of us *for us* so that we might become like Him.

Our Lenten preaching series hymn "O Love, How Deep" (LSB 544) was originally a twenty-three-stanza poem written in the fifteenth century by an unknown author. In the nineteenth century, an Anglican cleric named Benjamin Webb translated the hymn into English and then chose six stanzas for use in English hymnody. The doxological stanza was added later.

Some hymns tell a story, others teach, and still others create pictures in our minds of the great works of God. Some hymns do all three, weaving together a tapestry that is beautiful yet simple, wondrous yet easy to understand. "O Love, How Deep" is that kind of hymn.

Although it does not appear in the first stanza, the most pointed and beautiful language in the hymn is expressed in the phrase "for us." The phrase is reminiscent of the language of the Nicene Creed: "Who *for us men* and for our salvation came down from heaven." "2026 Concordia Publishing House"



SERVICE SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday	Feb 18	"O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High"
Mid Week Lent 1	Feb 25	"The Robe of Human Frame"
Mid Week Lent 2	March 4	"Done For Us"
Mid Week Lent 3	March 11	"As We Gather"
Mid Week Lent 4	March 18	"Healing from Demons"
Mid Week Lent 5	March 25	"For Us Betrayed"
Palm Sunday	March 29	
Holy Thursday	April 2	'For Many Means For You"
Good Friday	April 3	"His Dying Breath"
Easter	April 5	"For Us He Lives on High to Reign"

OGT MID ATLANTIC BRANCH'S MISSION is to build a Christ centered team who can use their God given talents to be a blessing to others through their service in the Mid Atlanta Branch o Orphan Grain Train, fulfilling the mission of the OGT movement.



The Mid-Atlantic Branch warehouse is located in West Grove Pa, not far from here. To learn more how you might help, please see Ruth. *John 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you."*

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 non apparel items. **WE CANNOT ACCEPT** Heavily worn, damaged, or stained clothing; used underwear – e.g., bras and underpants/used swimwear; glass, ceramic, electric, or battery-powered items.

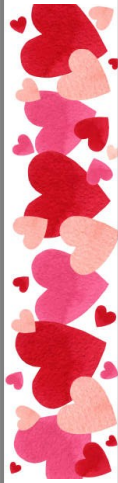


Spotlight

Due to limited space, there is no "spotlight" this month. If you have someone who you would like to see in the spotlight, please let the secretary know. 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 let their light shine at Our Redeemer and beyond. We appreciate every one, each and every day!



FEBRUARY 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
SERVING Pastor Jeremy Loesch ORGANISTS Julie USHERS Arlen, Denny	LECTORS 2/1 Kevin 2/8 Julie 2/15 Steven 2/18 2/22 Paul					
1 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS4 10 a.m. Sunday School Communion Julie 	2 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	3 Lutheranism 101 6 p.m.	4 Lutheranism 101 6 p.m. Council 7 p.m. Zoom	5 Woman's Winter Lunch noon.	6	7
8 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS4 10 a.m. Digital Fellowship Sunday	9 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	10 ASH WEDNESDAY Soup & Salad 5:45 p.m.	11 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m. Newsletter Deadline	12 Soup & Salad 5:45 pm Vespers 7 p.m.	13 Newsletter Deadline PASTOR OUT OF OFFICE — LWML RETREAT	14
15 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship Communion DS4 10 a.m.—Julie 	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	18 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	19 Soup & Salad 5:45 pm Vespers 7 p.m.	20 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	21
22 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. DS4 10 a.m. Worship—Digital	23 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	24 Soup & Salad 5:45 pm Vespers 7 p.m.	25 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	26 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m. Mutual Ministry 10: a.m.	27	28
MARCH 1 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS4 10 a.m. Sunday School Julie 	2 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	3 Soup & Salad 5:45 pm Vespers 7 p.m.	4 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	5	6	7

February Bible Readings

- 1 Luke 2:29-32
Exodus 1-3
- 2 Psalm 59
Exodus 4-6
- 3 Psalm 60
Exodus 7-9
- 4 Psalm 61
Exodus 10-12
- 5 Psalm 62
Exodus 13-15
- 6 Psalm 63
Exodus 16-18
- 7 Psalm 64
Exodus 19-21
- 8 Psalm 65
Exodus 22-24
- 9 Psalm 66
Exodus 25-27
- 10 Psalm 67
Exodus 28-30
- 11 Psalm 68
Exodus 31-33
- 12 Psalm 69
Exodus 34-36
- 13 Psalm 70
Exodus 37-38
- 14 Psalm 71
Exodus 39-40
- 15 Psalm 72
Leviticus 1-3



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

- 16 Psalm 73
Leviticus 4-6
- 17 Psalm 74
Leviticus 7-9
- 18 Psalm 75
Leviticus 10-12
- 19 Psalm 76
Leviticus 13-15
- 20 Psalm 77
Leviticus 16-18
- 21 Psalm 78
Leviticus 19-21
- 22 Psalm 79
Leviticus 22-24
- 23 Psalm 80
Leviticus 25-27
- 24 Psalm 81
Numbers 1-3
- 25 Psalm 82
Numbers 4-6
- 26 Psalm 83
Numbers 7-9
- 27 Psalm 84
Numbers 10-12
- 28 Luke 2:29-32
Numbers 13-15

