

Our Redeemer's Voice

March 2026



Once in a



Rev. Jeremy Loesch

A favorite topic of mine to reflect on is time. There are so many ways to think about time, to use time, to mark time, to observe time, etc. At the beginning of February someone brought up how unusual February 2026 is going to be. This month is only 28 days and there are four Sundays, four Mondays, four Tuesdays, four Wednesdays, four Thursdays, four Fridays, and four Saturdays. How orderly! How complete! This month starts at the beginning and ends at the end. No half weeks, no left over days.

There was a statistic that said this type of February last occurred over 800 years ago. And won't occur for an equally long period of time. Dates and times roll around like that. A leap year happens every four years. Samuel Clemens/Mark Twain was born in the year of Halley's Comet and died in the year of Halley's Comet. How old was he? 76 years of course.

When this newsletter reaches you we'll be in the middle of Lent, which we observe every year. That in itself is a way that we mark time. And it provides some distinction from the way that the world observes time. It is okay to be different from the world, in fact it's more than okay, for the Lord has called His church out of the world, echoing Jesus' words that His people are in the world but not of the world (John 17). We dwell in two different places. We follow the customs of this world, follow the rules of this world, and enjoy the blessings that this world provides. We strive to be good citizens, working with those around us for the good of our neighbors and communities.



Yet we do not conform ourselves to the ways of this world. I preached a sermon on Feb. 1st about the way of the world and the way of the Lord, who is Yahweh. The way of the Lord often puts us out of step with the world, and noticeably so. We conform ourselves to Christ, endeavoring to have Jesus Christ be our model, guide, teacher, and above all, our Savior. Christians practice kindness, live graciously, and share mercy for those are actions the Lord has commanded us to do.

The custom of Midweek services certainly distinguishes Christian timekeeping from the world. We sacrifice some of our time in the day to spend time with the Lord. We hear the Word, offer the Lord our prayers and praises, and give thanks for the way that the Lord draws near to us.

March 25th always happens during Lent. March 25th is the day that the Church recognizes the Annunciation of our Lord. On this day, nine months prior to Christmas, is when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced the news that she would be the mother of Jesus. This is good news! Jesus was on the way. Jesus was going to be born so that one day (or 12,045 days taking the usual 33 year life span of Jesus and keeping with the time theme).

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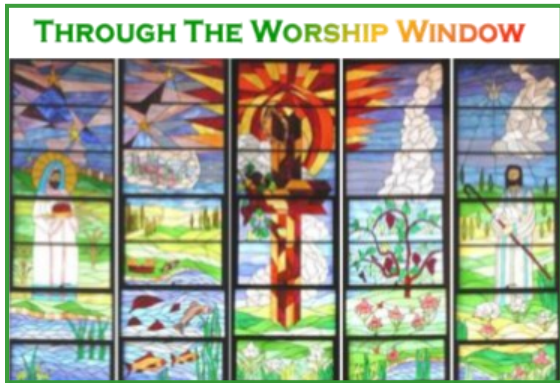
He would carry the sins of the world to the cross and die in our place.

And what is beautiful about this is that March 25th sometimes falls on Good Friday. The beginning of Jesus' life coincides with the day of Jesus' death. What a blessing that those two holy days can overlap! Our Father knew we needed a savior, He gave us Jesus, and Jesus carried out the plan for our salvation.

There are some strange occurrences that happen according to the calendar we follow. They are unusual and make us say, "Wow!", "How neat!", or maybe "Who cares?"

Jesus Christ died once for all. And we worship the Lord for this mercy and grace every year. We marvel at God's goodness and provision every day.
Pastor

March — Lent Concludes



*From March 2018 ORLC Archives
By Arlen Besel, Worship Chair*

The Epiphany continued our worship in February and 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 March opens with the third Sunday in Lent where we relive Jesus clearing the temple of merchants. In Exodus we read God's law provided through Moses. Our look at John continues by reminding us of Moses use of the bronze snake that heralds the best known verse in the Bible; John 3:16; 'for God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

Our message then changes to Mark's Gospel where we begin to hear the Lord tell of Him coming death and resurrection. There too He reminds us that He came to serve and we too should serve.

This leads us to Palm Sunday and the triumphant trip to Jerusalem when Jesus is hailed as King of Israel as recorded in John's Gospel. Palm Sunday is also called the Sunday of Passion and includes the Lord's Supper and Jesus before Pilate.

We celebrate Maundy Thursday with the record of Jesus' introduction of the Holy Eucharist. This leads to Good Friday where we are carried through Jesus death on the cross in payment of our sins. The Holy Week observance includes John's depiction of Jesus arrest, Peter's denials, and the final sentencing and His crucifixion. This year Easter comes on the fifth day of April as the climax of the Lenten devotions.

Let's consider the other messages for this month by looking at the Epistle lessons. At the outset, Paul's letter to the Corinthians reminds us that the cross is foolishness to those who do not believe, but is power and wisdom to the saved. A similar message is in Ephesians where Paul reminds us that we are made alive in Christ as a result of His suffering on our behalf. Paul's letter to the Philippians urges us to imitate the Lord's humility in our lives.

In Hebrews we are taught that Christ is our High Priest and represents us in God's presence.

The Epistle lessons end with a reminder of the Lord's role to grant us salvation through His grace that is ours through faith alone.



Catching People

By Dr. Kari Vo for Lutheran Hour Ministries March 8, 2025

[Jesus said,] "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ... And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." (Luke 5:4b-6, 10b)

Simon is an experienced fisherman. Why should he listen to Jesus?

But he does, though he can't help protesting first. He obeys Jesus. And of course Jesus turns out to be right, and Simon is terrified. Who is this Man, who brings so many fish to the nets that the boats nearly sink?

During the next three years, Simon and his fellow disciples will find out. Because Jesus has come into the world to go fishing;—not for fish, but for people. He wants to catch them all. And so Jesus is calling Simon, and Andrew, and us too;—to learn from Him how to share our faith, so that we can bring more and more people into Jesus' nets.

Fish die when we catch them in nets. But the people Jesus catches aren't going to die;—they will live forever, in joy and peace. How can this be? Because Jesus has given His own life for them on the cross. Because Jesus has risen from the dead, and gives love and life and salvation to all the people He catches.

And then He transforms them into fishermen, too, and sends them out to catch still more people for life;—until the whole world has heard the story of Jesus.

WE PRAY: Dear Lord, teach me to fish for You, too, please. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

- Are you nervous about sharing your faith with others? If so, what worries you?
- How could you find help to get past that worry?
- Ask the Lord to send you a chance to tell someone about Him;—and to make it so easy that you're already doing it before you even realize it. See what happens!



Our Redeemer News & Notes

WEDNESDAY SOUP AND SALAD SUPPERS CONTINUE DURING LENT

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. **FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!**

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



PRAYER LIST— Karin, Fred, Ramona, Nancy, Mark, Karen, Mary, Ginny, Faith, Brenda, 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. March fellowship is on the 8th Please plan to stay for meet and greet fellowship. —*Lina*

News & Notes.... CONTINUED

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.



FROM HIM TO HIM—Blessed to be a blessing. Genesis 12:2-3 shares with us the goodness of God who blesses us abundantly. How we manage those blessings is also discussed later in scripture with the parable of the talents being a popular stewardship bible reading. Scripture tells us “Each of you should give what you

have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 and in 1 Peter 4:10 “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” We are so fortunate at Our Redeemer to have members who serve the Lord with gladness, filling many roles to help our congregation stay strong in its path to promoting the Gospel. —Kathy, Stewardship Chair

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.

OPPORTUNITIES— If you have not already, please make sure you pick up a form in the Narthex and check 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.

COUNCIL & CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026—*Council meetings* are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month. (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.

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

BUILD-A-BAG PROJECT IS SEEKING—Travel size toiletries, razors, wash cloths, sanitizer, small hand towels, hats, gloves, lotions, and scarves to tuck in bags for extra warmth. We have made over 18 bags so far this season. *Join us* Tuesdays at 10 a.m. as we recycle used bedding into sleeping bags for the homeless in Newark.

ORCHARD—Garden registration is scheduled for 10 a.m. March 21st. The first garden work party for all gardeners and/or friends is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 18. The first garden social event is 6 p.m. May 6th. Come out to any of these events and meet our community gardeners.

CHECA PARTY—For neighborhood is scheduled for March 28th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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 March 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.

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

CHECA MEETINGS—March 3 at 7 p.m. (Party Planning), March 9 at 7 p.m. (general meeting), March 17 at 7 p.m. (Party Planning),

CHECA EASTER PARTY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN—March 28th 1-3 p.m. All are encouraged to come meet your neighbors and to also bring your children and grandchildren. There will be games, crafts, snacks and prizes.



Spotlight on Emily & Stephen

• Our March spotlight is on Emily and Stephen. Both of you have participated in leadership roles at Our Redeemer. Stephen, you served as president and Emily, you served as treasurer working diligently behind the scenes during the pastoral call period and also fixing financial chaos left by a previous bookkeeper.



- Stephen and Emily you both helped with getting our social network updated and modernized with opportunities for online giving.
- Stephen You helped with pastor with his You Tube educational videos.
- Emily, you have helped with Sunday school and have, in the past played an instrumental role in developing new ways to more closely track church budgetary line items.
- The two of you are there for church work parties, decorating for Christmas, cleaning windows or raking leaves. In addition you have added a bit of sweat to the garden, spreading mulch and helping when asked. You have even come out to meet the neighbors and help with the games at Chestnut Hills Estate events.
- The two of you continue to quietly shine. 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.

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!

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 out-

side, 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.

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 Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



Heavy duty handicap rail has been installed by Bob while kneeling of the frozen ground this winter. Thank you Bob.



Lutherans Around Us

Lenten blessings and peace to you from LCM at UD!

As Lent arrives once again, we wish you God's peace, comfort, grace, and courage as we journey in repentance and remembrance, as well as in hope and gratitude, toward the ultimate joy of Easter.

The students of Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD gather each week for dinner and worship, as well as for monthly volunteer opportunities with FISH, Fellowship in Serving the Hungry. We're blessed to have many new members, as well as strong student leadership. Fun activities since spring term began have included a coffee and conversation gathering at Brew HaHa! on Main Street, an afternoon of ice skating, and a productive and Holy Spirit-led Visioning Meeting, together with alumni and Directing Committee members. Additional plans are under way for a day-long spring retreat to Longwood Gardens in April, along with special end-of-term events.

Please consider a visit to our chapel this term! You also might consider teaming up with friends to bring Tuesday dinner for the LCM students. For more information, please call the office or refer to our website: <https://lcmde.org/bring-a-tuesday-dinner>. We also welcome volunteers to assist with our spring property work day, scheduled for Saturday, April 11, from 10 AM to 1 PM. If you're interested in becoming more involved with Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD, please contact me. Thank you.

Thank you from our hearts for keeping this vibrant student ministry in your prayers. We particularly welcome prayers for Ilsa (front left in the group photo below), a junior who is studying abroad in Aix-en-Provence this term, as well as for continued strengthening and blessing of our growing student group.

May Jesus grant you a deep sense of His peace and presence with you throughout this Lenten season!

In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister of Word and Service †

Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD 302-368-3078; chaplain@lcmde.org



Whether in quiet reflection or in time spent with friends, may your Lenten journey reflect the love and peace of Christ



SORTIN' & PACKIN' & PLANNIN' & PRAYIN'—January was a very productive month at OGT. We had several strong weeks and another that went over 100 boxes. The average packed box is about 35 pounds, so that would be about 3,500 pounds of packed clothing. If the Lord gives us that many vigorous hands on a regular basis, we'll top the 50 tons that were shipped last year!

We support local non-profit organizations that serve people in need right here in our tri-state area and have added several this winter. We are also planning our first 2026 international shipment in mid-March. You know we need extra volunteers on loading days so be on the look out for updates.

LOCATION SEARCH—We are, of course, a little distracted by our real estate search. We want to move by September to give ourselves a margin; but that means finding the "right" place and funding to cover it. We believe the Lord is encouraging us to stay in southern Chester County as about half of our volunteers come from that area. The other half come from far and wide but that area is about central to them. The current space is 6,200 Square Feet in our work area plus shared access. It sounds like a lot; but we must store up 40 pallets of packed boxes to fill a container. We are considering all options including renting, buying, building, or some combination. If you know of a resource that may be able to help us out, please tell us at the contact below.

Based on current market rates, our warehouse cost will go up. So we are looking for additional funding also. If you know of resources that may be able to help with locations or funding, please tell us at the contact below.

FALL GRANT MATCH—Speaking of fund raising, Our fall matching grant program was very successful. The contributions from our supporters did indeed raise \$25,000 which was matched by our board and special donors for a total of \$50,000. That is a one-third increase over the previous year. Thrivent Choice dollars are also coming in. If you participate in Thrivent programs, don't forget to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars on their website. Orphan Grain Train – Mid Atlantic Branch is one of many choices, including most congregations, to which you may designate the Thrivent Choice dollars attributable to your products.

PRAYERS—We know many of you join us in praying for the success of our outreach. God has richly supplied what we need to be of service to the needy in our area, our country, and our world. To God alone be the glory!
Submitted by Rob Hall, Branch Manager, cell and SMS at 484-459-9217



MARCH 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
SERVING Pastor Jeremy Loesch ORGANISTS Julie USHERS Arlen, Denny	LECTORS 3/1 Bob 3/8 Emily 3/15 Kevin 3/22 Julie 3/29 Stephen 4/5 Paul					
1 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS110 a.m. Sunday School Communion Julie 	2 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m. CHECA 7 pm	3 Soup & Salad 5:45 pm Vespers 7 p.m.	4 Soup & Salad 5:45 pm Vespers 7 p.m.	5	6	7
8 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS110 a.m. Digital Fellowship Sunday	9 CHECA 7 p.m.	10 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.	11 Soup & Salad 5:45 pm Vespers 7 p.m.	12	13	14 Indoor Clean Up Party 10 a.m.
15 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS1 10 a.m.—Julie 	16 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m. Newsletter Deadline CHECA 7 pm	17 Soup & Salad 5:45 pm Vespers 7 p.m. Council 7 p.m.	18 Soup & Salad 5:45 pm Vespers 7 p.m. Council 7 p.m.	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Garden Registration 10 a.m. Yard clean up party 10 a.m.	21
22 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. DS1 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 Soup & Salad 5:45 pm Vespers 7 p.m.	26 Maundy Thursday	27 Good Friday	28 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m. Rain Date Yard Clean 10 am CHECA Event 1-3 pm
29 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS1 10 a.m. Sunday School Palm Sunday Julie 	30 Announcement Deadline No Build A Bag	31	1	2	3	4

March Bible Readings

- 1** Isaiah 64:1-9
Numbers 16-18
- 2** Psalm 85
Numbers 19-21
- 3** Psalm 86
Numbers 22-24
- 4** Psalm 87
Numbers 25-27
- 5** Psalm 88
Numbers 28-30
- 6** Psalm 89
Numbers 31-33
- 7** Psalm 90
Numbers 34-36
- 8** Psalm 91
Deuteronomy 1-3
- 9** Psalm 92
Deuteronomy 4-6
- 10** Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 7-9
- 11** Psalm 94
Deuteronomy 10-12
- 12** Psalm 95
Deuteronomy 13-15
- 13** Psalm 96
Deuteronomy 16-18
- 14** Psalm 97
Deuteronomy 19-21
- 15** Psalm 98
Deuteronomy 22-24
- 16** Psalm 99
Deuteronomy 25-27



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

- 17** Psalm 100
Deuteronomy 28-30
- 18** Psalm 101
Deuteronomy 31-34
- 19** Psalm 102
Luke 1
- 20** Psalm 103
Luke 2-3
- 21** Psalm 104
Luke 4-5
- 22** Psalm 105
Luke 6-7
- 23** Psalm 106
Luke 8-9
- 24** Psalm 107
Luke 10-11
- 25** Psalm 108
Luke 12-13
- 26** Psalm 109
Luke 14-15
- 27** Psalm 110
Luke 16-17
- 28** Psalm 111
Luke 18-19
- 29** Psalm 112
Luke 20-21
- 30** Psalm 113
Luke 22
- 31** Isaiah 64:1-9
Luke 23-24

