

Redeemer Happenings



March 2023

What is Lent?

Lent marks the forty days leading up to Easter, mirroring the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness. It is a practice that began during the 4th century as a way to prepare Christians for the holiest days of the year.

During Lent, we ask God to show us the world as it is. We begin with the reality of our finitude rubbed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday— from dust we were made, to dust we shall return. Then, we walk through that reality in a kind of dress rehearsal. It's the downward slope of God—the Great Descent, where the whole Church walks toward the cross.

Frankly, Lent is my favorite part of the church calendar because it is a time when the whole church is on the losing team. A time when we all get a minute to tell the truth: Life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone.

Of course, the cross isn't the end of the story, but this season of grief is carved out to acknowledge the reality of Christ's sacrifice. And the reality of suffering that so many of our circumstances reflect too—our own pain and grief and despair. Easter is coming, yes. But for now, we sit in the ashes of our broken dreams and broken hearts, knowing that God sits here with us.

Many people practice Lent by giving something up—alcohol, meat, chocolate, social media. Some take up something new—a new prayer practice or swearing profusely like I did one year (you probably remember reading about this in *Everything Happens for a Reason (and Other Lies I've Loved)*).

But Lent is an incredible moment for the spiritual honesty we are practicing here. Together, we're going to bless the days we have, while longing for the future God promised when there will be no tears, no pain, no email.

Taken from Bless the Lent we Actually Have by Kate Bowler



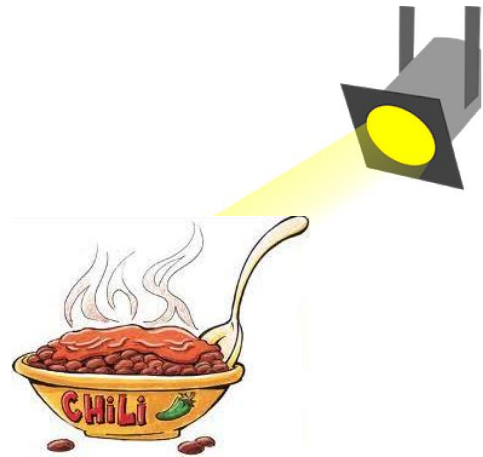
COMING SOON

Chili on BROADWAY!

Don't miss the debut Broadway Musical
March 26
RLC Hall
after the Annual Congregational Meeting

STARING: Your pots of chili

ALL ARE WELCOME to this meal



Contact the Directors Marlo Wilson (306-291-8212) or

Sandra Wapple (306-227-3941) if you are able to contribute a pot or help serve

The Annual Congregational Meeting
will be held on Sunday, March 26
following worship. Annual Reports
will be available Sunday, March 5.



On behalf of Family Von Step, thank you to all those at Redeemer who contributed to the Stair Climb Challenge fundraiser. Your support helped make the event a great success, with over \$20,000 raised overall, and donations still coming in. Family Von Step also received the Team Spirit Award and we intend to defend our title at

next year's event! Thanks again for supporting LutherCare Communities.



World Day of Prayer 2023

This service has been written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan. The Ecumenical Worship Service in our area will be held on **Friday, March 3, 2023 at 5:00 pm @ St. Philip Neri Roman Catholic Parish, 1902 Munroe Avenue.** There will be a light supper to follow. **St. Philip is looking for people to bring finger food.** If you are able to help please contact the church office 306-374-7585.



The Redeemer quilting group—Go N' Piece—are raffling off a quilt with proceeds to support Canadian Foodgrains Bank. This quilt is currently being displayed in the Place of Welcome. Tickets are \$5 each or 3/\$10 and will be sold on Sunday mornings before and after worship. The draw will be made on Easter Sunday, April 9. To learn more about Canadian Foodgrains Bank check out the QR code below.





Rebekah Circle March Bible study will be held on **Tuesday, March 21 @ 7:00 pm. in the Fireside Lounge.** Deanna Youck will be our study leader. All ladies are welcome to attend.

Here is the schedule for our Lenten services this year. **All services are at 7:30 pm.**

DATE	HOST
March 1	Zion
March 8	Augustana
March 15	Resurrection
March 22	Good Shepherd
March 29	Redeemer

Thank you to these worship assistants for the month of March:

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Communion Prep</u>	<u>Powerpoint</u>		<u>Sound</u>	<u>LiveStreaming (YouTube & Camera)</u>	<u>Accompanist</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Usher</u>
		<u>Build</u>	<u>Run</u>					
March 5 2 Lent (purple)	Jan Haugen & Deanna Youck	Elaine	Elaine		Tim	Laura	Agnes	Wendy
March 12 3 Lent (purple)		Becky	Becky		Bob	Dale	Sheryl	Wendy
March 19 4 Lent (purple)		Blair	Blair		Corla	Laura	Charlene	David
March 26 5 Lent (purple)		Wendy	Wendy	Kelly		Josh	Rhonda	Ron
March 29 Midweek Lenten service @ Redeemer		Blair	Blair	Becky	Bob		Sylvia	Hans

Kajsa Felstrom and 7 other fourth-year nursing students have been placed at Nutana Collegiate, where many students face inadequate housing, and food insecurity. They are currently supporting approximately 75 Afghan students with food, household items and income assistance.

To do this, they have been holding weekly food markets, where the students can pick up free groceries to take home for the week. For household supplies, they will be hosting a household market on March 14th, where the students can take home any supplies they need. Listed below are items the students have requested, however, they would be happy to accept any food or household items to support them.

There is a bin in the Place of Welcome to collect food items. Smaller household items may be brought to church and left on the table just before you enter the Fireside Lounge from the Place of Welcome. If you have larger household items that you would like picked up, the nursing students are doing pickups on Mondays or Tuesdays. Please phone Kajsa to arrange this 306-715-3573

Food Items:

- ◆ Flour
- ◆ Oil
- ◆ Spices
- ◆ Rice or pasta
- ◆ Fruits/Vegetables
- ◆ Potatoes
- ◆ Non-perishable food items

Household Items:

- ◆ Sofas
- ◆ Beds/Mattress
- ◆ Dressers
- ◆ Dining Tables/Chairs
- ◆ Coffee Tables
- ◆ Carpets/Rugs
- ◆ Kitchen appliances (kettle, pots/pans, utensils, microwave)
- ◆ Cleaning supplies
- ◆ Vacuum
- ◆ Mirrors
- ◆ Lamps
- ◆ TV
- ◆ Home Decor
- ◆ Hygiene products (Body wash, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, tampons & pads, socks)





Are You a Steward?

How does four months pass so quickly? Advised by Ed Miller, Chair of Stewardship Committee it's my turn to write a message for Redeemer Happenings, Redeemer's monthly newsletter.

I begin to search frantically for something that would be interesting, focused on stewardship and capture the interest of our members. The Bible is always a great place to start. As I thumb through it Luke 19: 12-27 is underlined. The religious idea of stewardship is that everything belongs to God and we are permitted to use it while here on earth.

If I were in a physical situation where I needed long term care for my physical needs and still had cognitive skills would I continue to be a steward of Christ using my remaining abilities and skills in his service or would I become so filled with unhappiness that I would not share Christ's love in service nor in prayer.

It's Valentines Day. I visit a dear friend who is forced to reside in Parkridge Center relegated to bed or wheel chair. Her physical limitations cannot be accommodated in most care homes so Parkridge is her permanent home. She invites me to accompany her to the Valentines Day social to be held in the activities room. On the way we meet several residents—all of whom she calls by name and makes introductions. Most all we meet are in motorized wheel chairs or scooters and all have little or no capacity to acknowledge the introduction. Not to be deterred she greets and treats each person with respect and kindness. People respond with a smile or nod or vacant stare and we pass on by. I have to ask myself if I were Meg would I be able to day after day make an introduction with such respect and warmth. Over and over again? This is a demonstration of love. I have been introduced to residents many times previously and with shame I must admit I do not remember their names.

In the activities room a young woman, mute and seemingly paralyzed, manages a motorized scooter by means of a couple of fingers on a "stick". Young with beautiful dark eyes she gives Meg an adoring smile. Meg asks if her neck needs a massage. Her eyes affirm the need. Meg reaches out with a hand she can use and massages her upper back and neck muscles. A radiant smile means "thank you"; precious and intimate moments of sharing!

Back in Meg's room Meg shows me some of her paintings—portraits of staff many not yet complete. When complete the portraits will be offered to staff as a thank you for caring for people in Parkridge Center. She completes water colours and pencil sketches—all of which she gives away. She says art classes taken on line help her to maintain her sanity and her sense of purpose. Art projects challenge her and make her life worth living.

Question? If I were in Meg's situation would I have the generosity, interest, endurance and love of people—enough to be motivated to care for others.? Would I be a steward sharing Christ's love with others?

Meg is writing a book with the purpose of improving health care—primarily care at Parkridge Center. She is in the process of finding a publisher and hopes sales are sufficient to repair the swimming pool at Parkridge Center and make it functional for residents.

My friend Meg believes she must speak for people in Parkridge who have no voice. She is their steward. This poem is a summary statement about the needs of residents to have their voices heard.

Coming Home

I am a survivor

I AM AN INNOCENT CHILD

Born

Suffering from the affects of alcohol or drugs

Deprived of oxygen

In poverty

With severe deformities

I AM A PRISONER

Injured severely during capture

Or in jail

I WAS AN ACTIVE PERSON

With a bright future

When

A life changing injury

A stroke

An acute alcohol or drug overdose

Changed my future and that of my family's



I AM A SENIOR CITIZEN

Whose

Family love them

But

Can not safely or physically care

The miracles of modern medicine saved us

But our future is in the public's hands

We are forgotten people

In health care

Even more so once we enter long term care

Although we are considered to be a family

Every aspect of our lives is

Strictly Confidential

Even if we go to the hospital

We never receive best wishes from our friends in long-term

And they receive no updates on our progress

The health care has forgotten us

When we enter long term care

We lose our identity

All we worked for is lost

For the young person

Their potential may never be known

Many have turned to their religion

This give them strength and hope

Our need for more CCA'S, nurses, occupational, physio, speech and recreational therapists is critical

But most of all our voices

MUST BE HEARD

Each individual's journey is different

But

WE ARE COMING HOME

FINANCIAL UPDATE



For the month of January 2023, we had a surplus of \$1,630.55 before the fund account revenues and expenses. The balance of the house fund along with funds from the memorial fund were used to pay off the house mortgage on January 12, 2023. There was one final mortgage payment in January that is included in the financial statement as an expense. For 2023, revenues and expenses related to the house

will no longer be included in a separate fund but will be included in budgeted general revenues and expenses.

Audited financial statements for 2022 and a 2023 budget will be included with the 2022 annual report. These documents will be available shortly for you to review for the annual general meeting.

An offering plate is located at the top of the stairs in the sanctuary for you to drop off your donation as you enter or exit the church service. In addition, the following options are available for you to make a donation:

1. Mail to or drop off a cheque at the church

You can mail a cheque directly to the church office. Mailing address: 812 Preston Avenue, Saskatoon, Sask. S7H 2V2. You can also drop off a cheque in the mailbox at the front of the church or in the church office.

2. Interac E-Transfer using online banking

We are set up for automatic deposit. If you use online banking, you may make a payment to Redeemer Lutheran Church by:

- i. Logging into your personal banking account, add Redeemer Lutheran Church as a recipient using the email address redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net
- ii. Enter the desired amount and click send. Instructions on how to send and receive an e-transfer are found on Interac's website: <https://www.interac.ca/en/consumers/products/interac-e-transfer/>
- iii. You should follow up with an email to Becky at redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net advising her of your donation.

3. Monthly PAD donation

You may request to sign up for a monthly **Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)** donation. This option allows you to automatically make your donation monthly by allowing the church to debit your account for the donation. Please contact the church office if you would like to take advantage of this giving option.

Please note that you may **donate marketable securities** to the church. This will allow you to eliminate any capital gains taxes and allow you a tax donation credit at the same time. Further details may be found at the following link: [Gifts of publicly traded shares and stock options - Canada.ca](https://www.giftsofpubliclytradedsharesandstockoptions.ca)

Please contact the church office for details on making a donation of marketable securities.

Thank you again to everyone for your donations to the church and maintaining your financial commitments in 2022.

Ron Litzenberger

These quilts are currently for sale. If you are interested in any of them or would like to view them in person, please contact the church office. 306-374-7585

Reversible Charms 55" x 74"

back



Cherry Blossoms 53" x 81"



Spring Garden 56" x 68"



Pink Baby 51" x 37"



Baby Hearts 46" x 46"



Only Squares 74" x 58"



Safari 64" x 80"



Sunflowers Shine 53" x 71"



Butterfly Haven 60" x 48"



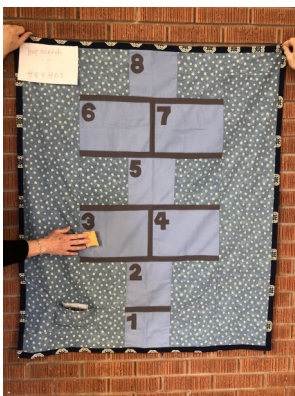
Blue Mood 59" x 83"



Window Panes 60" x 81"



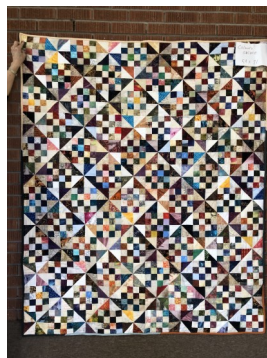
Hopscotch 48" x 40.5"



Coloured Squares 56" x 76"



Colours Galore 59" x 71"



Whacky Squares 54" x 55"



Blue Stars 62" x 78"



Cars Love Bugs 45" x 58"



John Deer 42 x 58"



Cuddly Toddler 50" x 56"



Goodnight Irene 69" x 75"



Friendly Smurf 58" x 45"



Bears & Penguins 40" x 50"



Hardy Denim 59" x 82.5"



Strawberry Picnic 83" x 56"



Taggies are \$10 each.



Redeemer Lutheran Church

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E-mail:

redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net

A Community of Life & Love, Hope & Healing



We're on the web!
redeemersaskatoon.ca

Join Us On
You Tube

If you are unable to worship with us in person, join us each week at 9:50 am on YouTube by clicking this link:

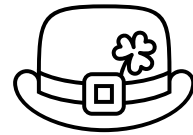
[Redeemer Lutheran Saskatoon - YouTube](#)

This link is also available on the homepage of our website redeemersaskatoon.ca at any time.

You can also go to this same link at any time afterwards to view the service if you are unable to join at 10am. We encourage you to hit 'subscribe' on our YouTube page, so that all future worship services will be highlighted for you. If you have any questions or need assistance in connecting to our YouTube site, just give us a call and we will be glad to help you out.



GoForth Hub Club



Come for a fun, relaxing afternoon – enjoy the activities
and make new friends!

Monday, March 6, 2023 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
at Calvin-Goforth Presbyterian Church
1602 Sommerfeld Ave. (Holliston neighbourhood)

In partnership with the Saskatoon Council on Aging, the GoForth Hub
Club will take place on the first Monday of each month.

Each afternoon will include

- Time to socialize
- A brief talk from a pharmacist on a wellness-related issue
- An opportunity to have your blood pressure checked
- A brief exercise time with age-appropriate activities
- Entertainment
- Refreshments

March 6 – *Wendy Siemens, Siemens Artworks*. A simple, doable art lesson for adults. Anyone can draw and have fun!

April 3 – *Jeff O'Brien, City Archivist*. History of the Temperance Colony. First in a series of presentations. History at its best!

May 1 – *Canadian Mental Health Association*. “Care for the Caregiver” Self-care, not only for the caregiver, but for everyone’s mental health. Important information for all!

Fully accessible – Free parking

Please note: **Masks are required.** (COVID protocols observed)

For more information contact Sheila Cameron-Hopkins (306-955-9119)

Zion Lutheran Church

presents

Music for Lent

Four recitals on the Walker Tracker organ at

Zion Lutheran Church

February 26 – Renee de Moissac

March 12 – Janet Weaver

March 19 – Paul Suchan

March 26 – Diane Bestvater



All recitals will be at 3 PM in the Heritage Hall at Zion.

Free will offering.

THE NEST

Equinox Supper

In support of refugee settlement in Saskatoon



Featuring cuisine from the Middle East

*** Also Vegetarian Option**

Prepared by Nest Chefs from Syria, Iraq and Sudan

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Celebrating the Spring Equinox!

Pick up and enjoy at home!

**Outside Mayfair United Church between 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
902 33rd Street West, Saskatoon**

Advance ticket purchase only:

\$50 each, includes \$25 charitable tax receipt

For tickets & details: nestsaskatoon@gmail.com or Elaine at 306-955-1905

During Lent, we do not say or sing the word ALLELUIA during worship. That's because Lent is a quiet, thinking time. We use Lent to get ready for Easter. On Easter, everyone celebrates that Jesus is alive. Then we say and sing ALLELUIA again.

Decorate this ALLELUIA. Then hide this paper someplace where you'll remember it on Easter.



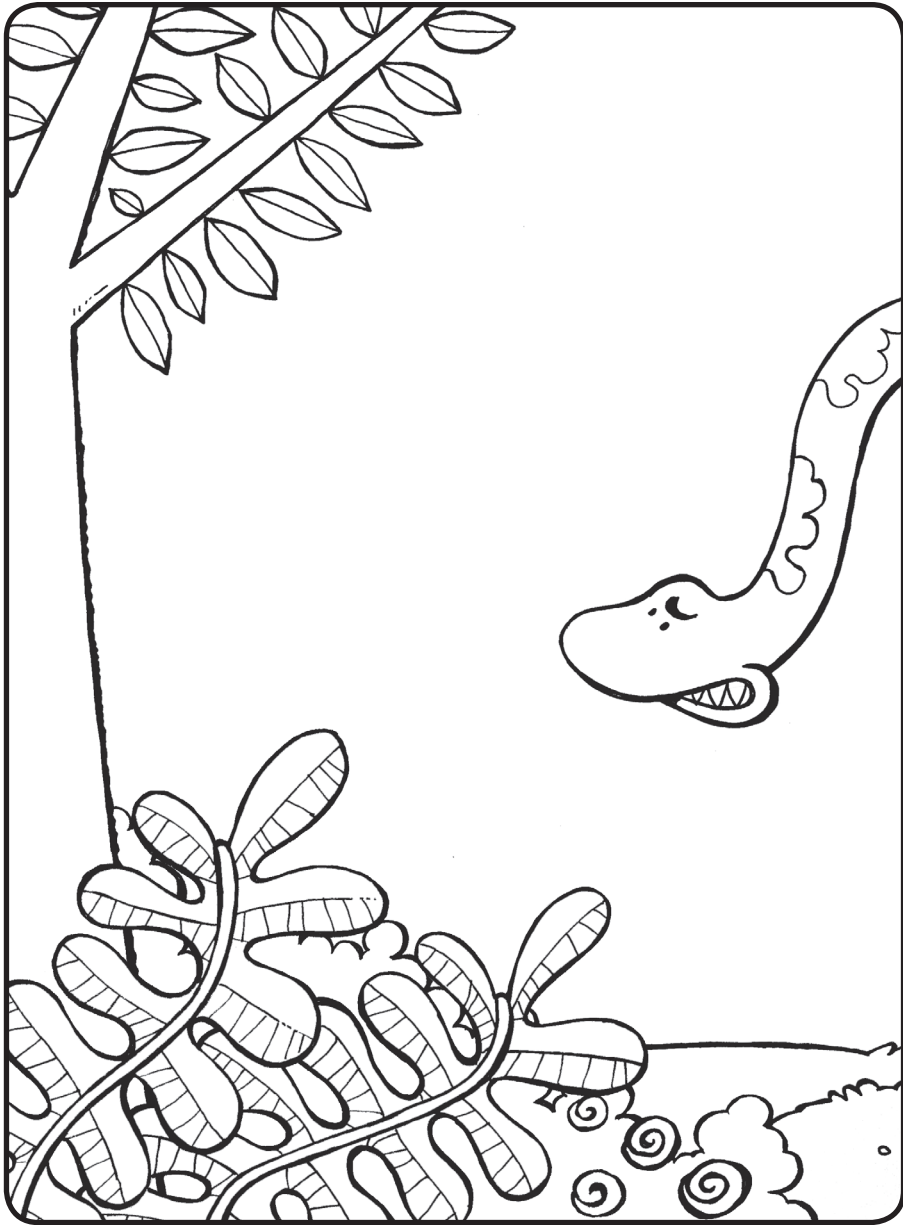
PRE-READER

Lent 1

- Today is the **1st Sunday in Lent.**
- During Lent we **learn** about the **life of Jesus.**
- The symbol we see for Lent is a **road to a cross.**
- A **road** reminds us of a **journey.**

Color the road to the cross.





As soon as they ate the fruit,
EVERYTHING CHANGED.

Adam and Eve did not listen to God.
People today don't always listen to God either.
Jesus came to help us live how God wants us to live.

Number these pictures to tell the story of Adam and Eve.



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