

Redeemer Happenings

February 2025



BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

During my years as a journalist, I enjoyed telling other people's stories, but I was trained to not share my own opinions. So years after I had felt God call me out of my journalism career, when I increasingly felt God directing me to write a blog and speak about Him, I was a little nervous about sharing my thoughts, especially about my faith. As I started blogging, I was afraid I'd run out of things to say. But week after week, I found encouraging words and insights to share. The more I wrote, the more ideas flowed. The same is still true now.

I have witnessed in my own life how God has filled me with more joy and inspiration when I've poured out my gifts and talents to serve others.

In 2 Kings, we read about a poor widow who went to the prophet Elisha for help. Her late husband's creditor wanted to seize her two sons. All she had at home was a small jar of olive oil. The prophet instructed her to collect empty jars from her neighbors and to keep pouring oil into the containers. "They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring" (4:5). She kept pouring until all the jars were miraculously filled. She could pay her family's debts with the extra oil.

God is faithful and always provides. He's blessed us with gifts and talents and resources to be a blessing to others. Let's not hide or dismiss our gifts but use them for His glory.

Nancy Gavilanes, Our Daily Bread

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; an through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you

Isaiah 43:2

Stewardship is...



...EVERYTHING we think, say, and do after we say "I believe"

days

February has always been one of the most difficult months to “endure” (for me) in Canada. Cold, snowy, windy, slushy—you name it! That might be why many lucky Canadians spend most of February in warmer climates to the south. The

do get slowly longer though February and the 14th is Valentine’s Day, with Valentine’s well wishes, red roses, chocolates and other sweets for the ones we love. This is all good and right, because since God declared that it is not good for a person to be alone (Genesis 2:18), people have found comfort, joy, excitement, safety, companionship, contentment and fulfillment in the company of others.

Good stewards care for every gift God gives us, not just on Valentine’s day. God gives us healthy, loving relationships, but because Jesus commanded us to love our neighbours and enemies alike, it’s right for us to work on our close relationships, but also beyond our immediate circles on a daily basis.

Suggestions:

Couples: Give flowers and chocolates on Valentine’s day, sure, but always strive to spend more quality time with one another. Talk deeply and often and listen intently. Pray and read scripture together. Hold hands during worship. **Tip: Read “The 5 Love Languages”** by Gary Chapman together ([Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca/) @ \$14.99), to help improve your relationship, not just during troubled times.



Families: Rejoice in the love that holds you together - parents, grandparents, children, siblings, cousins - everybody! Organize Sunday family dinners. Say—“I love you”—often (everybody likes to hear it) and mean it! Talk through problems and work together.

Friends: Spend and enjoy time with buddies, but also cultivate deeper and more spiritual friendships. Share problems and successes. Grow together in faith.

Church Neighbours: As a congregation, designate (and invite everybody) a “Love your Neighbour” Sunday and have a potluck. Have a movie or game night.

Community Neighbours: Start or revive block parties, community cleanup days, yard sales or fellowship gatherings. Sure—send a valentine and a piece of candy to

God gives us relationships of all kinds so that we may have companionship, friendship, security and joy. God wants us to have fun!

As stewards of all that God gives us, we should nourish and celebrate healthy, strong relationships. May God bless us all in our relationships, not just in February 2025, and may He give us the strength and wisdom to be good stewards of all the wonderful gifts, love and companionship that we receive in abundance out of His Hand. May 2025 be the year that each one of us always has been praying for, notwithstanding political changes and happenings all across our troubled world.

Geri Pieterse
Stewardship Committee

P.S. I did borrow “somewhat” liberally from an article by Rev. Rob Bedard, to “compose” the above.



**PROVIDING
EXCELLENCE
IN CARE, SHELTER
AND SUPPORT
SINCE 1955**

In the spirit of giving, the Sask Synod, LutherCare Communities and St. Paul Lutheran Home, Melville are working together on a joint initiative to give back to our communities throughout Saskatchewan. Members of the three communities are invited to participate in **Kinsmen TeleMiracle 2025 by purchasing Helping Hands.**

If you would like to participate, you can get your Telemiracle Helping Hands for \$2 by checking with the church office, placing your donation on the Sunday offering stating Telemiracle, or etransfer to

redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net specifying Telemiracle.

Let's help TeleMiracle go higher in raising funds to support our neighbors.



LISTENING TO GOD



I'M ALL EARS

JOIN US **NEXT SUNDAY, FEB.2** in the Fellowship Hall

FOLLOWING 10:00 WORSHIP

**Children, YOUTH, Parents, GRANDPARENTS,
Young Adults, OLDER ADULTS ...**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!! FOR THIS TIME OF
CONNECTING WITH ALL AGES**

THROUGH SONG, STORY, SCRIPTURE, SHARING & SOUP!

February's focus is

**Listening
to God?**



*Samuel did not recognize God's voice at first. Some people hear God very clearly through the Scripture. Others hear Him best through nature, service, silence, dreams, special songs, art, Bible verses, prayer, whispers in their heart, words spoken by others, ... **HOW, WHERE, WHEN DO YOU HEAR GOD?***



REBEKAH CIRCLE

Rebekah Circle June Bible study will be held on **Tuesday, February 18 @ 7:00 pm. in the Fireside Lounge.**

Charlene is our leader

All women welcome



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST
FAITH, FOOD &
FELLOWSHIP**

Men's prayer breakfast

Saturday, February 15 at 8am

Smitty's in Market Mall

FINANCIAL UPDATE



There was a surplus of \$3,393.66 for the month of December 2024 before the fund account revenues and expenses. There was a surplus for the year 2024 of \$11,280.72. The general fund giving for December 2024 was \$29,452.00 and \$281,041.42 (budgeted amount of \$275,000) for the year 2024. Financial statements that have been reviewed by Laskowski, Wright and Baker LLP along with a 2025 budget will be available for discussion at the congregational annual meeting in March 2025. Thank you to everyone who has so generously

contributed to Redeemer's operations.

Total agency giving (including CLWR, Salvation Army and Luminhos) through Redeemer for 2024 was \$9,608.18. Thank you for your generosity to the work of other ministries in our community and throughout the world.

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/>

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 your donation. Please contact the church office if you would like to take advantage of this giving option.

Please note that you may also 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.

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

Ron Litzenberger

STEPHEN MINISTRY

The following is an excerpt from a Stephen Minister in the US. It is a great reminder of what we do as Stephen Ministers and I wish more people would consider our ministry as a gift to themselves!



"I don't think we're all okay. In fact, I think most of us are carrying struggles and burdens far heavier than we let on. We've become masters of disguise, telling the world, "I'm fine" or "I'm okay," but those words often cover a deeper truth: we're not okay. We're hurting, overwhelmed, and exhausted from trying to hold it all together. Why do we do this? Why do we feel the need to convince others—and ourselves—that we're fine? Maybe it's because we've been conditioned to believe that admitting struggle is weakness. Maybe we think no one has time for our pain, or worse, that they wouldn't care if we shared it. So, we keep moving forward. We bury the hurt, plaster on a smile, and do our best to survive another day. But what if this endless cycle of "toughing it out" is part of the problem? What if pretending we're okay is what's breaking us? We've built a culture that rewards resilience and dismisses vulnerability, and in doing so, we've forgotten something fundamental: resilience doesn't mean ignoring pain. True strength isn't about pretending we don't struggle—it's about acknowledging those struggles and finding a way to heal. Here's the truth we don't often talk about: you can only bury so much before it catches up with you. The weight of unspoken grief, unresolved trauma, and unaddressed pain doesn't disappear—it sits with you, slowly stealing your peace, your joy, and your energy. And yet, so many of us cling to the belief that if we just try harder, work longer, or stay busier, we'll be okay. But we won't. Not like that. We need to stop. Stop lying to ourselves and others. Stop pretending we can handle it all. Stop ignoring the voice inside that's quietly begging for rest, for connection, for care. Emotional well-being isn't a luxury; it's a necessity. It's the foundation of a life truly lived, not just survived. And yet, it's often the first thing we neglect when life gets hard. So let's ask ourselves: What would it look like to prioritize our emotional health? What would it feel like to finally admit, "I'm not okay"? To lean on someone else for support? To give ourselves permission to be human? These aren't signs of weakness; they're acts of courage. And let's take it one step further—what would it look like to create a world where it's safe to not be okay? Where vulnerability is met with compassion instead of judgment? Where we support one another through the hard times instead of expecting everyone to deal with it alone? Maybe it's time we stop pretending and start living. Living fully, authentically, and honestly. Life isn't about always being okay; it's about finding the strength to face what's not okay and move forward anyway. Let's give ourselves—and each other—the grace to feel, to struggle, to heal. Because we're not meant to do this alone. And maybe, just maybe, we don't have to." Dennis C.

If you feel the calling to be a Stephen Minister or feel the need to be cared for by a Stephen Minister, please reach out to a Stephen Leader or a clergy member. God's blessings in your healing journey,

Fran Seidler
Stephen Leader

**THANKS
FOR YOUR**



DONATIONS

**Fr. VACHON BOOK AND BREAKFAST EVENT NEEDS YOUR
DONATION !**

Bring your donated items on *Sunday Feb 9th*

We are looking for: Homemade muffins, fruit , juice boxes,
cheese strings, apple sauce..

Cash donations also accepted (no tax receipt provided)

**FEBRUARY 15-17, 2025
CAMP KINASAO
CHRISTOPHER LAKE, SK**

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

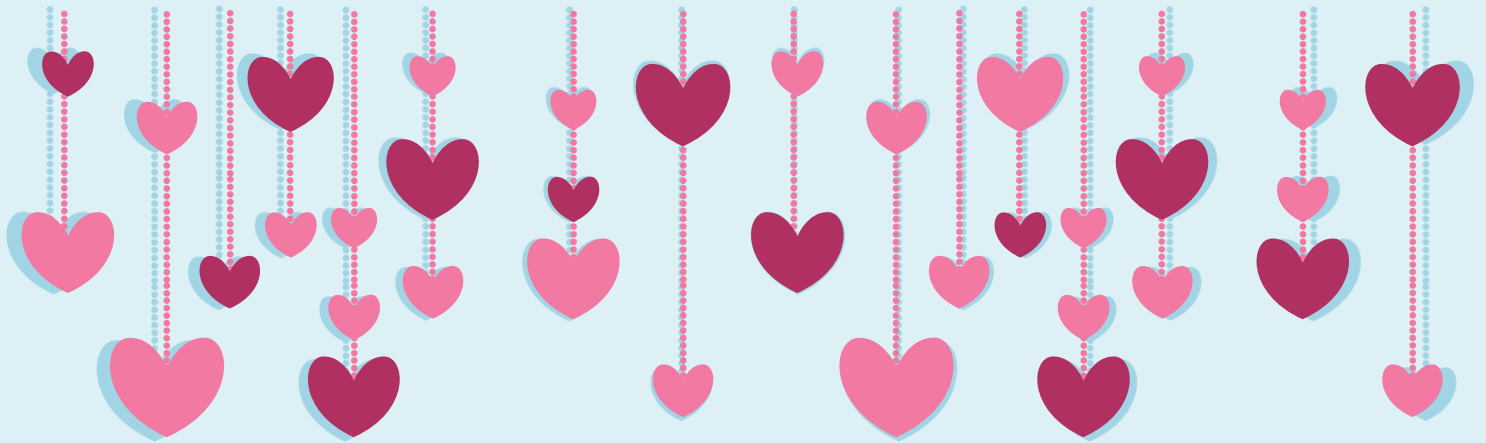
Dig deep into your relationship with God and
come fellowship with old friends and new!



Register at kinasao.ca

\$80/person + extra to take home some freezer meals!

VALENTINE'S DINNER



BEFORE DINNER: PUNCH / HOT APPLE CIDER/
COFFEE/ TEA

MENU: CATERED DINNER: Greek Souvlaki
Chicken Breasts, sauce, roasted potato
wedges, cabbage rolls, perogies, sour cream,
bacon bits, onions,
salad, 2 dressings, mixed veggies, buns and
butter

DESSERT: Strawberry Shortcake, Whipped cream
or ice cream

Entertainment: piano

Pastor Ron Bestvater and Diane Bestvater

TICKETS: ADULT \$30,

Purchase tickets: Sundays, Jan. 26, Feb. 2 & 9 at Redeemer and Zion or phone Zion office: (306) 653-2992, Monday to Friday, 9-4, reserve tickets, pay by cheque, cash or e-transfer.

*February 14, 2025 Heritage Hall Zion Lutheran Church
5 pm punch 5:30 pm Supper followed by Entertainment*

FEBRUARY 14
5 PM TO 7 PM

ZION VALENTINE'S
DINNER

HERITAGE HALL
ZION LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Redeemer Lutheran Church

812 Preston Avenue
Saskatoon SK
S7H 2V2

Phone: 306-374-7585

E-mail: redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net

Office hours

Monday to Thursday 9am-12pm & 1-4
(Friday afternoon office is closed)

A Community of Life & Love, Hope & Healing



We're on the web!
redeemersaskatoon.ca



Join Us On



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.