

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

The Latest Word

“Making God Known Through Word and Deed.”



Christian Resolutions

New Year's resolutions go back 4,000 years with the Babylonians. The Babylonians made resolutions to the gods to gain their favor. The Romans made resolutions to Janus (the namesake of January) for forgiveness from their enemies and exchanged gifts before the beginning of each year.

Christians don't make resolutions to gain forgiveness. Our forgiveness is found in Christ. We make resolutions in light of our imperfections and in light of Christ's forgiveness of us, in order to be the people God created us to be.

Resolutions are a daily affair for Christians. We wake up in the morning realizing our shortcomings and at the same time we remember the promises of our Baptism. Baptism reminds us that we are God's beloved children and he loves us unconditionally. It is in the power of his unconditional love that we can resolve to be people God is proud of, even though He is proud of us anyway. Isn't that how love works? When you love someone you can't do enough for him or her. While the other person who loves you doesn't need you do to anything in order to love you.

So this year, one resolution that we should all make is to strive to remember God's love and forgiveness for each one of us. We can truly believe that we are God's beloved children. Then, living and trusting in these promises, go about your busy days as a disciple who is continually making God known through word and deed.

New Year's Blessings to you all,

Pastor Dan & Pastor Laura



2025 Offering Envelopes Re-Numbered

The 2025 offering envelopes were re-numbered. Please discard last year's envelopes....begin using the 2025 packet as your offering number has changed. If you have questions, please contact Jodi Spilde in the church office.

In this newsletter:

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Faith Formation & Youth Updates

Preschool Happenings

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Dish to Pass by Twila Schmitt

Don't Put Christmas Away! – by Twila Schmitt

“But it’s January. It’s time to restore order.”

We could all use some extra light and sparkle all year long.

“I gave to the food pantry in December.”

Hungry people need food every week.

“I’m tired of Christmas music.”

The melodies and messages can make you smile any time.

“It was a lonely time that I’m glad to put behind me.”

Reach out to others who may be lonely most of the time.

“It’s such a hassle getting the family together.”

But there’s no better gift than time spent together.

“My Christmas cards list is so long, it’s exhausting.”

Instead of December, mail a few cards throughout the year.

“I put on so many pounds from overeating.”

Rejoice in the nostalgia of those special treats.

“We bought Angel Tree gifts so our kids could experience giving.”

Financially strapped families could also use a boost during the year.

“I attended worship on Christmas Eve.”

Hopefully it was an experience that draws you in again and again.

“I’m just happy that all the pressure is over for another year.”

Don’t put Christmas away! Keep it in your heart every day!

Mission Project for January - LWR Baby Care Kits

Bringing a baby into the world can be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. Keeping a new baby healthy, clean and comfortable takes a lot of resources. The items included in a Baby Care Kit provide the basics a family needs to care for their new members in the way they hope! Worry will always be present for all parents, but having some essentials allows them to enjoy and get to know their little ones and introduce them with pride to the world. Baby Care Kit Instructions can be picked up at the Welcome Center & church office or you can go to lwr.org/kits/baby-care-kits/instructions for the instruction sheet.

Baking is a perfect way to keep the feeling of Christmas going! And baking a batch of cookies for the *Watertown Sandwich Ministry* makes a big difference. Betty Wolff's Sugar Cookies are a tried & true recipe.

Sugar Cookies

1 c. butter	¼ tsp. salt
1 c. shortening	1 tsp. vanilla or almond flavoring
1 c. powdered sugar	4 c. flour
1 c. white sugar	1 tsp. cream of tartar
2 eggs	1 tsp. soda

Cream butter, shortening and sugars. Add eggs, flavoring and salt. Add cream of tartar and soda. Add flour last. Stir well until blended. Roll into small balls, then dip into sugar. Press down with glass or fork. Bake 8 minutes in 350 degree oven.



Financial Reports & News

November 2024 Financial Report

November Revenue	\$80,260.86
November Expenses	\$90,006.88
Change in General Fund	\$(9,746.02)
Revenue to Date	\$934,950.25
Expenses to Date	\$953,752.31
% of Budget Year Completed	91.67%
Annual Budgeted Income for 2024	\$1,076,987.34
% of Budgeted Income Received Year to Date	86.81%
Annual Budgeted Expense for 2024	\$1,076,987.34
% of Budgeted Expense Incurred Year to Date	88.56%

Simply Giving Program

The Simply Giving® Program is an automated stewardship program that helps members live generously. It's a convenient, safe and simple way for individuals to make automatic offering through electronic funds transfer (EFT) directly from a checking, savings, debit or credit card account.

Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church year-round. Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis.

Get started today by completing an Authorization Form! Forms are available at the Welcome Center or from Jodi Spilde in the church office. **Sign up today and receive a LCOOR t-shirt.**

Questions regarding the Simply Giving Program? Call or stop by the church office and Jodi will be happy to answer any questions you may have. 605.886.2696

January Mission of the Month

The Noisy Can and specially marked offering will benefit our youth attending two mission trip opportunities this year. For more information about these mission trips, please see our Faith Formation and Youth Updates page in this newsletter.



Mission of the Month Distributions for November

Mission of the Month Community Care in November we lifted up the Fallout Shelter Ministries and Salvation Army 'One Roof' Program. Each ministry received \$500 from the budget and an additional \$418.40 from Noisy Can and Special Offering. Thank you for your support for the ministries in our community.

\$1,005.00 Memorials & Special Gifts Given since last printing

Prayer Shawl Ministry

- *In memory of Almon 'Windy' Johnson* from Roger & Linda Austad, John & Lorna Stonebarger, Burt & Barb Andersh, Roger Whittle & Twila Schmitt, Daniel & Kathy Horsted
- *In memory of Karen Gross* from Roger & Linda Austad

Nicaragua Youth Retreat

- *In memory of Jill Sanford* from Ken & Renae Madison

Endowment

- *In memory of Judy Cordell* from Tom & Mavis Reichling, Karen Kasperson, Darwin & Nancy Brinkman, Jamie & Michelle Kakacek, William & Sharon Malcom

Preschool

- from Darwin & Nancy Brinkman

Preschool Playground

- from Darwin & Nancy Brinkman
- *In memory of Almon 'Windy' Johnson* from Darwin & Nancy Brinkman

Meals on Wheels Coordinator Needed at LCOOR



Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back to your community? LCOOR is looking for a volunteer coordinator to organize drivers from our congregation for Meals on Wheels. For more information, please contact Twila at 605-886-2696.

Meals on Wheels Helpers Needed: January 27-31

Helpers needed!! Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer volunteers will help deliver Meals on Wheels six times in 2025. Our next delivery week is Jan 27-31. (Commitment is from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day.) Please contact Twila at 605-886-2696 if you are available to help during this first delivery week in 2025.



Christmas Memory Tree

Our Christmas Memory Tree is decorated with ornaments featuring the names of beloved individuals who are dearly missed by their family and friends this holiday season. Let us remember to offer our prayers for those who are grieving this holiday season.

Angel Tree Thank You



Wow! Your generosity is amazing! Thanks to everyone who selected one (or two) tags and helped make a Watertown child's Christmas a little brighter in 2024!

Circle Bible Study

Priscilla and Martha Circles will meet in January, focusing on the bible study in the January Gather magazine. Copies of the study can be found at the Welcome Center.

- Martha Circle will meet at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, in the Gathering Space
- Priscilla Circle will meet at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, in the Gathering Space.



Members of Priscilla and Martha Circles met for a combined holiday gathering and bible study with Pastor Dan on Dec. 11. The offering collected that morning (\$105) was used to purchase hygiene supplies for Watertown Middle School students.

Grief Groceries Program Seeking Helpers

When someone is grieving, it can be difficult to complete even the most basic tasks – like grocery shopping. LCOOR has a program to help with this need. We are looking for helpers in the following areas:

- Folks to shop for groceries (with our "Grocery" fund)
- People to make the delivery to a grieving family
- Financial support

For additional information, contact Twila or Pastor Dan at the church office at 605-886-2696.

New Members Recognized in December

While we welcome everyone at all times, we “officially” received and recognized new members in December! Please WELCOME our newest members to the LCOOR family:



JoAnna Austad &
Jackson Nei
1804 16th Ave. SE
Watertown, SD



Devyn Bollinger &
Megan Major
1428 12th Ave SE Apt. 8
Watertown, SD



Myron & Diane
Eidsness
43791 177th St.
Henry, SD



Fred & Mary Garland
1844 3rd St. NW
Watertown, SD



Gabriell Larson &
Kaleb Haase
1614 Second Ave. NE
Watertown, SD



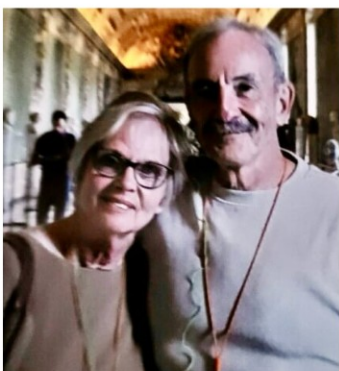
Tyler Johnson &
Jaime Endres
Audrey, Tylan, Avery
1701 5th St. NW
Watertown, SD



Dalton &
Michaela Koch
141 8th St. NE
Watertown, SD



Shirley Sikkink
200 S. Maple Place #411
Watertown, SD



Steve & Diane VanHee
855 Hidden Valley
Watertown, SD



Molly Westling
1108 27th St. NE
Watertown, SD



Aaron & Lexi Wright
320 N. Broadway
Watertown, SD



Lowell & Jeanne Zander
2718 Prairie Park Trail SE
Watertown, SD

Faith Formation & Youth Updates

Sioux Falls Urban Plunge Middle School Mission Trip - February 7-9, 2025

We will experience the ultimate urban mission trip to Sioux Falls! They will spread the Word of God, and the love of Jesus on a weekend trip with eternal significance. Experience new cultures within the USA, work with the homeless and those in need, discover your ability to serve others outside their comfort zone, discover God's call, and have life-changing impact within local communities.



Serve Boldly Summer Mission Trip - June 22-27, 2025

Join us on our Summer Youth Trips for an immersive journey of service and spiritual growth. Spend 4 days serving communities in need, engaging in meaningful service projects, and building lasting connections with fellow youth participants. Whether you're sorting medical supplies, helping with yard work, or spreading love and positivity wherever you go, these trips are designed to leave a lasting impact on both you and the communities you serve. Thanks for the continued and wonderful support to our youth and this month's Mission of the Month.



Youth Music Team

High School youth be on the lookout for practice times for the Lenten Youth Music Team. The team will lead the music at worship, during the Wednesday night Lenten services.



Junction

A youth group for **1st - 4th grade**. We will meet on **Thursday, January 9th from 6-7:00 p.m.** Join us for games, crafts, snacks and awesome fellowship. Friends are always welcome!



Route 56

A youth group for **5th & 6th grade**. We will meet on **Thursday, January 23rd from 6-7:00 p.m.** Join us for games, crafts, snacks and awesome fellowship. Friends are always welcome!



Luther League 2.0

Grades 9 to 12 will meet **Wednesday, Jan. 8 in the youth room following service (7:15 p.m.)** to brainstorm ideas for the coming year and to talk about the summer mission trip to Madison, Wisconsin.

LCOOR Preschool Happenings

NOW ENROLLING

Our preschool offers a Monday-Thursday 8:30-11:30 Pre-Kindergarten (4/5 year old) program, which is open to anyone not just church members.

Our curriculum includes introducing letters and sounds, numbers, first/last names, shapes, and colors. We also socialize and play, listen to a lot of books, and sing songs along with many other learning activities. The students also learn about God's love, hear and learn stories and songs about Jesus.

You can find an enrollment form at the Welcome Center, the Preschool classroom, or online. We would love for your child to be part of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer Preschool!!

Any questions please call Miss Nikki or Miss Wendy at 886-2696 or email us at preschool@lcoorwatertown.org

January Calendar



January 6th- Classes resume

January 6th- Enrollment opens for the 2025-2026 School Year

January 20th- No School-Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 30th- Chapel



Christmas Program



A BIG thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for the Quilt. The winner was Peg Juba. We raised \$400 for our church playground.



Chapel with Pastor Laura



Pajama Party

Happy New Year



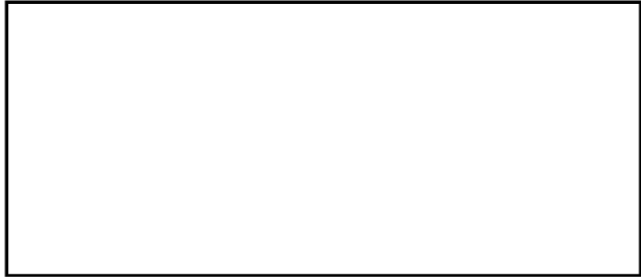
Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

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Watertown, SD 57201

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LCOOR's Quilters are providing a quilt for the Kimber Downes Benefit happening Jan. 11 at Milbank High School. Kimber is a 5-year-old who has been recently diagnosed with cancer and is scheduled for 42 weeks of chemotherapy. Thanks, Quilters, for your generosity!

The Latest Word

A monthly publication of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer.

Deadline for the February 2025 Newsletter:
Monday, January 20, 2025



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 10:30am following worship.

Church Council

President Monte Hopper
Vice President Ryan Nuttall
Secretary Codi Storm
Treasurer Laurie Tennis
Ann DeSpiegler Gwen McGilliavary
Jan Birkeland Jessica Kruse
Alan Stager

Prayer Chain

Marilyn Chapman 886-4858
Email: twila@lcoorwatertown.org

Phone

605-886-2696

Website

<https://lcoorwatertown.org/>



Facebook

www.facebook.com/lcoor



Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LutheranChurchofOurRedeemer>

Staff

Senior Pastor..... Dan Overbo
Associate Pastor..... Laura Overbo
Preschool Teacher/Director..... Nikki Landmark
Preschool Teacher Aide/ Faith Formation Assistant
..... Wendy Kruger
Welcoming & Caring Ministries..... Twila Schmitt
Business Manager..... Jodi Spilde
Business Administrative Assistant..... Megan Thyen
Sound & Technology..... Zach Stanton
Custodian..... Roman Gainor

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>No Church School or Confirmation (Christmas Break)</p> <p>9:30am Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>No Preschool - Christmas Break</p> <p>8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry</p> <p>2:00pm Maple Place Communion</p> <p>6:45pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Church Office Closes at Noon</p> <p>No Preschool - Christmas Break</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>No</p> <p>Worship/Programming (New Year's Day)</p> <p>No Preschool - Christmas Break</p>	<p>2</p> <p>No Preschool - Christmas Break</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p> <p>5:15pm Al-Anon</p> <p>6:00pm Executive Committee</p> <p>6:00pm 'Follow' Bible Study with Pastor Dan</p> <p>6:30pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Church Office Closes at Noon</p> <p>8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30pm Traditional Worship with Holy Communion</p>
<p>5</p> <p>8:30am Church School</p> <p>8:30am Confirmation Workshop</p> <p>9:30am Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p>6</p> <p>COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE FOR ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>Preschool Resumes</p> <p>8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry</p> <p>5:30pm Faith Formation Committee Meeting</p> <p>6:45pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY</p> <p>1:00pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>3:00pm Quilting Bible Study - Sew True Quiltlets</p> <p>6:00pm Executive Committee</p> <p>6:30pm Church Council</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry</p> <p>12:15pm Men's Lunch</p> <p>4:45pm Community Meal</p> <p>5:30pm Church School</p> <p>5:30pm Confirmation Workshop</p> <p>6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>7:15pm 9th - 12th Grade Meeting</p> <p>7:15pm Handbell Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:15pm Al-Anon</p> <p>6:00pm Junction Youth Group (1-4 Grade)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Church Office Closes at Noon</p> <p>8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm Traditional Worship</p>
<p>12</p> <p>8:30am Church School</p> <p>8:30am Confirmation Workshop</p> <p>9:30am Worship</p> <p>10:30am Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry</p> <p>2:00pm Martha Circle</p> <p>6:45pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY</p> <p>1:00pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry</p> <p>12:15pm Men's Lunch</p> <p>4:45pm Community Meal</p> <p>5:30pm Church School</p> <p>5:30pm Confirmation Workshop</p> <p>6:30pm Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p> <p>5:15pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Church Office Closes at Noon</p> <p>8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30pm Traditional Worship</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>19</p> <p>8:30am Church School 8:30am Confirmation Workshop 9:30am Worship 10:30am Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Church Office Closed February Newsletter Deadline 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:45pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY 1:00pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 9:30am Priscilla Circle 12:15pm Men's Lunch 4:45pm Community Meal 5:30pm Church School 5:30pm Confirmation Workshop 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Handbell Rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:15pm Al-Anon 6:00pm Rt. 56 Youth Group (5/6 Grade)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30pm Traditional Worship</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:30am Church School 8:30am Confirmation Workshop 9:30am Worship 10:30am Annual Meeting of the Congregation 10:30am Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:45pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am Sewing Ministry Group 11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Youth & Family Committee Meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 12:15pm Men's Lunch 4:45pm Community Meal 5:30pm Church School 5:30pm Confirmation Workshop 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Handbell Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:15pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry</p>	<p>1</p> <p>5:30pm Traditional Worship with Holy Communion</p>