

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

# THE LAMP

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

# JANUARY 2026

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## FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year,

It's January and a time for new beginnings! In fact the word January comes from the ancient Roman god, who was the god of beginnings, doorways, transitions and endings.

The Janus god is depicted with two faces, one looking to the past the other to the future. It was King Populous who added January and February to align the calendar better with the lunar cycle.



It all started in Rome 153 BC, but took centuries for January 1st to become recognized as the beginning of a new year. But again there was a problem, again this calendar was drifting out of sync with the seasons. It made it especially hard for calculating Easter.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII adopted the Gregorian calendar. This calendar aligned very accurately to the Earth's orbit. It was well received by Catholic countries, the Protestant countries saw it as a Catholic plot. By 1752, Great Britain and its colonies finally accepted this new calendar.

Well, back to my opening statement: January is a time for new beginnings. In fact, for the children of God, every year, month, day is an opportunity for new beginnings:

**Isaiah 43:18-19:** "Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness."

**2 Chronicles 15:7:** "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded."

God Bless You With a Happy New Year!

## LUTHERAN CHURCH of the REDEEMER

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Phone: 248-644-4010

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Website: [www.redeemerbirmingham.org](http://www.redeemerbirmingham.org)

Facebook: Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

*Our mission is to faithfully communicate the love of God,  
nurture people in their Christian faith,  
and equip people to bring the love of Jesus to others.*

Rev. Randall J. Schlak - <i>Senior Pastor</i>	ext. 119
Rev. James Greenwalt - <i>Assistant Pastor, Pastor of Adult Social Ministry</i>	ext. 117
Gary Priskorn - <i>Dir. of Shut-in Ministry</i>	ext. 123
Kitty Sweitzer - <i>Dir. of Women's Ministry</i>	ext. 111
Nicole Olds - <i>Dir. of Children's Ministry</i>	ext. 124
Steve SeGraves - <i>Dir. of Music</i>	ext. 129
Laura Vowell - <i>Dir. of Family Life, Middle School, Confirmation &amp; Outreach</i>	ext. 121
Gia Scheidt - <i>Dir. of High School</i>	ext. 120
Eric Wisniewski - <i>Assistant Dir. High School</i>	ext. 120
Kim Davis - <i>Dir. of Fellowship</i>	248.613.4200
Pat Raezler - <i>Dir. of Westmaple Nursery</i>	ext. 126
Rose Kiehle - <i>Office Manager</i>	ext. 116
Carrie Morris - <i>Office Coordinator</i>	ext. 114
Ronda Lee - <i>Design and Office Communications</i>	ext. 118
Laura Jones - <i>Accountant</i>	ext. 110
Conner Kelley - <i>Building Maintenance</i>	ext. 113
Dr. Sandy Pourcho - <i>Counseling Center</i>	248.568.6040

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays - 8:00am (Chapel), 9:00, \*10:30am (Sanctuary)

Mondays - 7:00pm (Chapel)

\*Livestreamed Service

### COMMUNION SCHEDULE

1st & 3rd Sundays - 9:00am and 10:30am

2nd, 4th & 5th Sun./Mon. - Sun. 8:00am; Mon. 7:00pm

### NOVEMBER STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Weekly Attendance Average	2025	2024
In person Worship	495	459
Online Worship	65	47
Bible Class	178	145
Sunday School	33	31
Monthly Attendance Totals	2025	2024
Communion	319	449
Visitors	109	51
Month: November	2025	2024
Income and Expenses		
Income received	\$196,871	\$168,559
Budget requirements	\$165,253	\$177,821
General fund expenses	\$205,833	\$202,153
YTD Fiscal-year income	\$545,021	\$565,027
YTD Fiscal-year expenses	\$568,051	\$559,131

## PRAYER OF THE MONTH

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making our path easy,

But by making us sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from us,

But by taking fear from our heart;

Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,

But by keeping our face bright, even in the  
shadows;

Not by making our life always pleasant,

But by showing us when people and their causes  
need us most,

and by making us anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year  
ahead.

- Author Unknown

### PASTORAL ACTS

#### FUNERALS

11/12/25 - Robert Smith (committal only)

12/06/25 - Robert Smith (memorial service)

#### BAPTISMS

11/9/2025 - Hayes David Stolzenfeld  
son of Nathan & Shannon Stolzenfeld

11/30/2025 - Collins Mae Cycholl  
daughter of Daniel & Brittany Cycholl

11/30/2025 - Georgina Gloria Elsea  
daughter of Erik & Sarah Elsea



to GIVE



Go to [www.redeemerbirmingham.org](http://www.redeemerbirmingham.org)

and click the "GIVE" box

or scan this QR Code to be taken to the  
giving page!

You can give once, or setup a  
reoccurring gift. See Shelby instructions  
on our website under the Giving tab.



# STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT



"And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true" (Rev 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of "new" talk. Parties are held to ring in the "new" year. "New" year's resolutions are made to set a "new" course of life in the "new" year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the "new" year on the dateline.

We use all this "new" talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the "new" resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That "new" person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The "new" habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The "new" person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need "new" talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of "new" is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This "new" comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of "new" is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary's cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ's body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God's creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it. Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true. - *LCMS Stewardship Ministry*

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Donations made to the Memorial Fund  
in memory of Elaine Schultz

Donations made to the Memorial Fund  
in memory of Pastor Ron Farah

Donation in honor of Judy Mammel's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

New Tree Toppers in honor of Mike Raezler

## GIVE A MEMORIAL GIFT

A memorial is a gift given in memory of someone who has gone to be with their Lord. If you would like to donate to a specific ministry in memory of someone who has passed, you can use a memorial card located in the church office or specify on your check the ministry and the person whom you are memorializing.

Oftentimes, families would like to donate an item in memory of a loved one. For more information on this, please contact **Pastor Randy**.

# PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP



## How do I watch Sunday Services LIVE online?

- Go to the church website.  
[www.redeemerbirmingham.org](http://www.redeemerbirmingham.org)
- Click the first *Vimeo* square on the front page of the website.
- Click on the video that has the **LIVE** indicator. *The indicator will appear when the service has starts.*



### WHEN VIEWING ON SMARTPHONE OR TABLET:

Right below the church description, select the word **VIDEO** to watch the current live video and **ABOUT** to learn more about Redeemer. You can watch **PAST VIDEOS** under the Showcase option.

## How do I watch past services or other videos on demand?

- Go to the church website.  
[www.redeemerbirmingham.org](http://www.redeemerbirmingham.org)
- Click the second *Vimeo* square on the front page of the website.
- This will take you to "Redeemer's Showcase" page where you can view all of Redeemer's past videos. Choose the category you'd like and select the video.



*Please don't hesitate to contact the Church Office if you encounter any difficulties viewing videos.*

**KINDLY NOTE:** If you are struggling to hear the audio on Vimeo, simply click on the closed-caption option to read the dialogue. The closed caption button is labeled CC (in a box) located at the bottom right of the screen.

## COMMUNION



If you are unable to receive communion at the Chancel, and wish to receive communion in your pew during the church service, **kindly inform one of the ushers before the service starts**, and they will be sure to accommodate your request.

## ITY BITTY BUDDY BAGS!



Welcome to Redeemer, LITTLE ONES! Learn about Jesus while you sit in church with mommy and Daddy with your very own Itty-Bitty Buddy Bag for tiny tots! Packed with snuggly toys, books, and fun stuff, you can join in, watch, and play during the service! **Don't forget to return the bags to Nicole Olds' office after the fun.** And if you're in the mood for some playtime, we've got a nursery waiting for you with tons of toys!



*Our Sanctuary has a Hearing Loop to assist those with hearing loss. Users should set their hearing aids to T-coil.*

*Please see an usher if you have questions or for additional information.*



All exterior doors of Redeemer will be locked during business hours (Monday-Friday from 9:00am-4:00pm with the exception of school pickup and drop-off times). If you will be visiting the church during the week, you will be buzzed in by the Church Office staff. Please use the intercom button in the Town Square Narthex or the Chapel side door (door on the east side of the building); Westmaple doors can be used for preschool families during school hours (9:00am-3:00pm). Doors will mainly be locked during evening activities, as well, but may vary based on the event or ministry. For more information on our new security protocol, please contact the Church Office.



## PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP



### VOLUNTEER AT REDEEMER



*Scan the QR code above to visit Redeemer's website and click on "WAYS TO SERVE" box to explore volunteering opportunities at church! You can also find sign-up details on the Town Square bulletin board.*

### FAMILY USHERING\*

Your family can help out the congregation by ushering on a Sunday morning! You will distribute bulletins and assist with passing the offering plates during the service. There will also be an usher from the church available during the service to support you along the way. You can sign-up under "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website or contact **Laura Vowell** for more information.

### ACOLYTING & CROSS BEARING\*

The Redeemer Acolyte & Cross Bearing Program is open to anyone who wishes to serve and is also a requirement for students in the Confirmation program. Crissy Bienkowski is our coordinator! You can sign up under "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website. Please contact **Crissy Bienkowski** with questions or for more information ([crissybienkowski@gmail.com](mailto:crissybienkowski@gmail.com)).

### BE A GREETER\*

If you can offer a friendly "good morning," a handshake, and a welcoming smile, and have an extra 15-minutes on a Sunday morning, you can play an essential role in outreach - GREETING! Redeemer is in need of volunteers to welcome attendees at the Town Square and Narthex doors before the 9:00am and 10:30am services. Bring along a friend, your family, and your kids for this wonderful opportunity to serve your community! You can sign-up for this rewarding experience under "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website or contact **Andrea Schlak** for more information.

### BE A READER\*

Would you be interested in reading the Old Testament and Epistle Scripture passages during worship? Readers of all ages, from 5 to 95, are welcome to participate in ALL worship services! You can sign up under "WAYS TO SERVE" on the church website or reach out to the **Church Office** for more information.

### ALTAR FLOWERS\*

Tiffany Florist provides beautiful flowers to the church each week for worship, sponsored by our congregation members. Altar flowers include two vases of flowers and Lectern flowers include one planter of flowers. Sanctuary flowers are yours to take home following the 10:30 service on Sunday. Chapel flowers may be taken home after the Monday night worship service. Your cost to sponsor flowers are the following:

- Sanctuary Altar: \$75
- Chapel Altar: \$55
- Sanctuary or Chapel Lectern: \$35

You can find the sign-up charts on the Town Square bulletin board or online under the "WAYS TO SERVE" box on the church website.

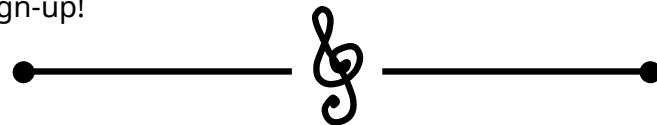
You can complete the dedication form and make payment directly online or you can email your dedication to the **Church Office**, drop off your check at the Church Office, or leave payment in the Sunday morning offering plate **clearly marked "Altar Flowers."**

*NOTE: Please remember to leave the flower liners and/or ceramic pot for the following week when collecting your flowers! There are disposable floral bags in the Sacristy you can use to place your flowers in.*



### HOST A COFFEE HOUR\*

We are looking for volunteers to host special "In Memoriam" coffee hours on Sunday mornings throughout our Anniversary year! We will provide simple instructions to help you set it up, and this is a fantastic opportunity to serve your congregation! Please contact **Andrea Schlak** with questions or to sign-up!



### MYSTERY PRELUDE

Have a song request? Sign-up to have our organist, Rick Helderop, perform your requested song during the Prelude at all Sunday services (8:00 am, 9:00 am, and 10:30 am)! To sign up, visit the church website homepage or scan the QR code below to go directly to the Request Form. The fee is \$10, and all proceeds contribute to our Mission Fund! Thank you for participating!

Scan to Request a Mystery Prelude:



# BIBLE STUDIES

This New Year, choose connection, growth, and faith. Make it your resolution to join a Bible study!

## SUNDAY Bible Studies

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** - Kyle Chuhran  
10am (after 9am worship) - Scheidt Room  
Book of Hebrews - Sunday morning adult Bible study, led by Kyle Chuhran, begins on Sunday, September 14 at 10:00 a.m. We will be exploring the book of Hebrews. Come to learn from God's Word and from conversations with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** - Laura Vowell  
9am - 10am - Great Room  
Next session will be in spring.

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Nicole Olds  
During 10:30am Service - Lower-Level Classrooms

**REDEEMER YOUTH GROUP (RYG - High School)** - Gia Scheidt & Eric Wisniewski  
7pm - Youth Room



## TUESDAY Bible Studies

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** - Pastor Jimmy - 9:30am - Great Room  
**\*ZOOM Available**  
***The Apocrypha/the Inter Testament Books*** (We will be using "The Apocrypha The Lutheran Edition with Notes Study Guide.")



**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** - Kitty Sweitzer - Tuesday Evenings  
**Restarting Tuesday Jan 13 at 6:30pm - Great Room.**  
Jamie Burtstein took on the challenge of teaching part of our study last month and did a terrific job on the subject of Lydia, one of the bibles lesser known women. We then launched into a study about Gomer and learned about the connection between Israel And God and the pain that passed metaphorically between Gomer and her husband, Hosea. Stay tuned for more topics of interest. We have a great group of women who are easy to get to know and love to learn. Be one of them!

For more information on a particular study, contact the names indicated or call the **Church Office** for further assistance.

## Moms in the Word

A space for moms to grow in faith together!

Each week we'll open our Bibles, explore the lives of people God used in powerful ways, and encourage one another in faith!

We will meet Monday mornings in the Library from 9:15-10:45am.

We hope you'll join us!  
Questions or want more information?  
Contact Crissy Bienkowski!  
989-450-3946  
crissybienkowski@gmail.com

## WEDNESDAY Bible Studies

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** -Gary Priskorn

**\*ZOOM Available**

Year-round, 6:45-7:30am - Great Room

**The Study of Genesis** Guys of all ages are encouraged to join us on Wednesday mornings from 6:45 - 7:30 a.m. in the Great Room or via Zoom as we study the book of Genesis. In addition to our study and great fellowship among the guys, we enjoy some delicious goodies, juice and coffee. For Zoom Log-in details or for further information, contact Gary Priskorn (248-644-4010 ext.123).

**POSITIVE PARENTING** - Victoria Ilitch

**Weds, 9:15-10:45am - Great Room**

We are a group of moms that discuss topics relating to family-life, parenting and motherhood. We explore a wide-range of books and ideas throughout the year and enjoy conversation, prayer and community with one another.

Positive Parenting meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 9:15-10:45am in the Great Room. Nursery care is provided and is available on a drop-in basis for any younger children.

Please reach out to Victoria Ilitch  
(victoria.ilitch@gmail.com) with any questions.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES** - Laura Vowell

6-8pm - various rooms

**RYG (HIGH SCHOOL)** - Gia Scheidt & Eric Wisniewski  
6:00-8:00pm (Youth Room)



**BIBLE STUDY:** First Wednesday of Every Month  
6:30 - 8:00pm

**CHURCH LUNCHES:** Once a Month after Church

Contact Ryan Teahan for location  
and any questions @ (248) 977-8015

## THURSDAY Bible Studies

**COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY** - Andrea Schlak

Thursdays, 9:30-11am - Great Room - see next page for upcoming class topics.

## Community Bible Study

will begin a 5-week series of stand-alone studies in January. Everyone is welcomed to attend, men and women, no sign up is necessary. We meet in the Great Room on Thursday Mornings from 9:30-10:45.

January 8 - *Follow the Star- Share the Light*  
A study of Epiphany with Dr. Kyle Chuhran

January 15 - *Jesus in the Jewish Holidays*

Presented by Rabbi Jerry Weinstein from Congregation Shem Yisrael

January 22 - *Postcards from the Bible - Obadiah*  
A study of the entire book led by Andrea Schlak

January 29 - *Postcards from the Bible - Philemon*  
A study of the entire book led by Andrea Schlak

February 5 - *The Week that Changed the World*  
-by Dr. Paul L. Maier

A video presentation on Holy Week, followed by discussion led by Pastor Randy and Andrea Schlak

IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, WE CANCEL CLASS WHEN THE  
BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLOSE

contact Andrea Schlak with questions: [schlakandrea@gmail.com](mailto:schlakandrea@gmail.com)

## CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

CEF is a long-trusted ministry partner of churches and schools in the Michigan District since 1901 where individuals and congregations can invest their money.

### ***Why Should I Invest at Church Extension Fund?***

When an individual or congregation invests at CEF, they help to build churches and schools across Michigan. The invested money is used to make construction or renovation loans to churches, like the CEF loan Redeemer has, that made Sacred Space 2 possible. The interest paid back on those loans helps pay the interest on your investments. Your investment at CEF will build a church, school, or other ministry. When you invest at a bank, you will build another bank building. Your investment at CEF runs into eternity! It's a win-win for everyone! **For more information call Curtis Burstein at 248-320-5100, our Redeemer Representative.**

### **CEF is Hiring!**

Church Extension Fund, a ministry-based financial institution located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, seeks qualified candidates for the position of Accounting Manager. The position is responsible for a variety of accounting functions and maintaining the general accounting system for an entity with assets over \$250 Million. The individual will also complete financial reporting and is regularly engaged with the banking software system. The position is onsite and reports to the Vice President - Chief Financial Officer. A complete job description is available on CEF's website: [www.churchofextensionfund.com/news](http://www.churchofextensionfund.com/news). Applicants should send a cover letter with resume no later than January 31, 2026, to Ms. Kris Nowak - Executive Assistant: via email at [kris.nowak@mi-cef.org](mailto:kris.nowak@mi-cef.org) or via mail at Church Extension Fund, 3773 Geddes Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.



### **January 1**

New Year's Day

Church Building Closed

### **January 6**

Epiphany

### **January 7**

Young Adult Bible Study

### **January 10**

Parents Night Out

### **January 12**

RYG FOG

### **January 14**

Leadership Team Meeting

### **January 15**

Chicks with Sticks

### **January 19**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

### **January 23-25**

JAMS Winter Retreat

### **January 27**

Women's Book Group

### **January 31**

Daddy-Daughter Dance

***Please visit the church website for a full list of events: [www.redeemerbirmingham.org](http://www.redeemerbirmingham.org)***

# MISSIONS



## Family of God

Serve one another, humbly in love. – Gal 5:13

**Can you shop? Cook? Deliver meals? or simply like to donate money? We need you!**

Family of God is a non-profit Lutheran ministry committed to bringing the transformative power of the gospel to the lives of those living in Southwest, Detroit by offering programs that support them in physical, spiritual, and emotional capacities. Redeemer partners with Family of God providing meals 2 times a month.

**There are many ways that you can help!**

**Shop?** Volunteers are needed to shop for ingredients and bring them to the church.

**Cook?** Prep a fresh or frozen meal in the church kitchen, your recipes or pre-planned.

**Deliver and Serve?** 3 hours to feed a hungry soul and have a life changing experience.

**Donate?** \$300 covers one meal but every dollar helps. Sponsorships are \$100.

Check out the missions page of the Redeemer website for more information and to get involved.

## FAMILY OF GOD

RYG cooks and serves at Family of God Soup Kitchen the 2nd Monday of every month - join us in helping others!

**\*Meet in the kitchen at 5:00pm and bring money for dinner! We'll carpool to FOG then get dinner together!**



January 12  
February 9  
March 9  
April 13  
May 11



A big Thank you to all who donated to Westmaple's food drive. Thanks to generous donors, they were able to donate over 1000 pounds of food to Gleaners Food Bank.



## Our Winter Gear Drive was a SUCCESS!

One of our new members, Vance Johnson (age 17), organized the Winter Gear Drive we had this past November. Vance was able to deliver a total of 103 pairs of socks, 26 scarves, 61 coats, 79 pairs of gloves, 39 hats, 70 packs of hand warmers, 5 pairs of boots, 4 pairs of snow pants, an assortment of clothes, and 2 blankets to Family of God Church in Detroit! We received a good amount of items in December too, and those items were also sent down. These items will be greatly appreciated this winter season and will keep people warm! THANK YOU SO MUCH for your generosity!

## SAVE YOUR STUFF! REDEEMER'S 2026 RUMMAGE SALE

Coming March 6-8!  
You can start dropping off donations on Saturday 2/28! Questions? Contact Michele Margosian ([mmargosian@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmargosian@sbcglobal.net)) and 248-515-1282

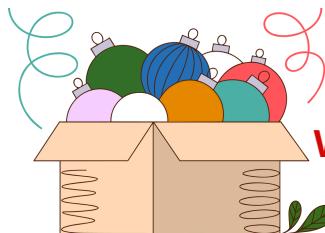




## CHICKS WITH STICKS

We are excited to start another year together using our skills to bless others. Due to the holiday, our **only meeting this month will be Jan 15th**. We would love to have you join in with the fun (we are really nice group of women)

and have enthusiasm to share on several projects we currently support in the communities surrounding us. We meet at 1:00 and there is always someone who would love to teach you the basics resulting in the first scarf you ever made which will be wrapped snuggly around the neck of someone who needs to know there are people out there who care. We care! Join us.



### What Goes Up – Must Come Down

Chapel/Sanctuary/Town Square Decorations Take-Down. Yes, it is that time. So reluctant to put away the wreaths, dim the lights on the trees, take down all the candles and pack it up for another year. Thanks to everyone who helped put it up and thanks in advance to everyone who will help take it down. We need a few strong men and women to tackle the trees and heavy boxes and all the rest of us to pack it up carefully and tuck it away. Sign up in the Town Square bulletin board and let me know you are coming to help. I will be most grateful!!! **Sunday, January 11, following the 10:30 service.**

### Sassy says" Happy New Year!"



The Kitchen Witch Wishes You a Happy New Year..... with restrictions, of course! Here are a few tips to keep the old girl happy in the kitchen.....there is a box marked RAGS under the counter by the three sinks. Those rags are for dirty jobs like wiping up a spill on the floor, cleaning out the floor of the fridge or oven. These are not jobs for the dish towels and wash cloths in the drawers. Don't throw the rags out as the kitchen witch has connections with who does laundry. Put 'em in the basket. Also, you think the KW is fussy? You should talk to the folks who hold our kitchen license. Warning: no coats, purses, books , water bottles, personal items on the counters where any food is to be prepared. So, that means that little counter by the hot dog machine should not be a drop off for anything other than food and the boxes going to Family of God. There are some donated clothing items there which are deeply appreciated but will be put in the closet until we can find a dedicated space for those things. And YOU, deeply appreciated servant of God, there is a closet to hang your coat and put your personal items while you work for the benefit of others. You are a blessing. Thanks for understanding. Merry Christmas....hee, hee, hee.

### Knives OUT



Knives Out! Our own Donna Hollis will help us learn knife skills – if you think you are getting along just fine, just come and see how much easier and faster you can chop those veggies or wield that knife when Donna shares technique with you. She will also have a mini cooking lesson and we will be the beneficiaries of that as well. Bring your knives, a cutting board and a dish towel. We will meet in Great Room on **Tuesday , January 6** at 6:00 sharp. Sign up on the Town Square bulletin board. Looking forward to chopping and learning with you.

# Faithful



# Friends

The Faithful Friends Ministry was developed seven years ago. Our focus is on pairing members of the congregation with members who are homebound offering periodic visits & cards and sending the message that those members are loved and prayed for. We also want to be a resource for caregivers offering guidance and support. We have hosted enrichment events to provide educational opportunities to the church congregation. Sessions are recorded and posted for anyone to watch at their convenience on the Redeemer website (under Ministries, select Adult, then Seniors, then Faithful Friends Meetings) to show our archived videos.

Below you will find a list of the topics/speakers.

\**Signals and Signs for When to Get Help and available Senior Resources* - Diane Johns, Gerontologist.

\**Faithful Nourishment for the End of Life* (two videos) - Pastor Tyler Walworth.

\**What to Look for in a Senior Facility* - Margot Ladd, Samaritas Marketing Coordinator.

\**Elder Care and Hospice Care* - Leah Light, Social Work Director and Bereavement Coordinator.

\**Estate Planning-Taking Control of Your Family Decisions*, Attorney David Mammel, with over 20 years of experience in establishing Wills, Trust, Powers of Attorney, and detailed estate plans.

\**Planning a Christian Funeral* - Pastor Randy Schlak.

\**Elder Law and Medicaid* - Attorney, Erin Mortenson, specializing in Elder Law, Medicaid, and Long Term Care Planning and Estate Planning.

\**Seniors Helping Seniors Home Care Program*, Dawn Neally, owner.

This year we will be posting Enrichment articles in the Lamp, keep your eye out for these.

If you'd like to become involved in this ministry and become a Faithful Friend, we would love to have you! If you have information seniors need to know, share it with us. Also, if you know of an older adult of the congregation who would like to be matched with a Faithful Friend volunteer, please contact us.

Happy New Year!

Gary Priskorn, Pam Tyndall, Marilyn Staargarrd, Diane Johns, Tracy Fish and Cheryl Carr

*Isaiah 46:4 Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.*



LUTHERAN NORTHWEST



LEARNING FOR Life! LEADING IN Truth!

**Christmas Blessings from the  
Crusaders of Lutheran Northwest!**

We have two Open House events coming up in January, so please join us and/or spread the word to any families you know who could benefit from a closer look at LHNW:

- Wednesday, January 14, 7PM-8PM is TRANSFER PREVIEW NIGHT, an informal Q&A with our Principal, Admissions Director & Athletic Director. Learn more about our school & the steps to a Spring or Fall transfer to Lutheran Northwest!
- Wednesday, January 21, 7PM-8:30PM is 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE INTRO NIGHT, a program tailor-made for 8<sup>th</sup> grade families. Whether you've already been accepted at our school or are visiting for the very first time, we've got helpful information to share! (Note that 8<sup>th</sup> graders are also encouraged to sign up for our HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST on Saturday, 1/10.)

Learn more about these and other upcoming events by visiting our website at [www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events](http://www.LutheranNorthwest.com/events). Hope to see you at LHNW soon!

## YOUTH

# RYG HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

**NEED A DATE NIGHT?**  
...WE'LL WATCH YOUR KIDS!

PIZZA DINNER  
OPEN GYM  
GAMES  
CRAFT  
SNACK  
G-RATED MOVIE  
6 MONTHS - 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
LITTLES IN THE NURSERY,  
OLDER KIDS IN AGE-FRIENDLY  
GROUPS!

TO SIGN UP EMAIL GIA SCHEIDT AT [GSCHIEDT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GSCHIEDT@GMAIL.COM)  
OR USE THE QR CODE ABOVE!

1 KID = \$30  
2 KIDS = \$40  
3 KIDS = \$50  
4 KIDS = \$60  
FOR THE WHOLE NIGHT!

JANUARY 10  
5-9 PM



## JAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

# JAMS

## WINTER RETREAT

GRADES 6 - 8

January 23 - 25 | CAMP SKYLINE

Registration is due by Sunday 1/18 for \$90...  
BUT if you sign up **EARLY** by 1/11 the cost is **ONLY** \$75!



Register + Pay  
HERE!



- ★ Bible Study
- ★ Sledding
- ★ Games
- ★ Late Nights
- ★ Snacks
- ★ + MORE!

Questions? Contact Laura Vowell ([laura@redeemerbirmingham.org](mailto:laura@redeemerbirmingham.org))

# BELIZE 2026

The high school mission team is going to Belize March 28-April 3, 2026! Please pray for our preparations and stay tuned for ways you can help!

January 4th - Youth Group  
(7-9pm)

January 10th - Parents' Night Out  
(5-9pm)

January 11th - Youth Group  
(7-9pm)

January 12th - Family of God  
(5-8:30pm)

January 18th - NO RYG

January 25th - Youth Group  
(7-9pm)

Core Group every Wednesday in  
January, 6-8pm



**"redeemer\_y00th"**  
ALWAYS CHECK  
INSTAGRAM  
FOR ANY SCHEDULE  
CHANGES

**Grab a friend! Come see what  
Redeemer Youth Group is all  
about!**

## FAMILY LIFE



### Daddy Daughter Dance!

Join us for this special evening on **Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 5pm - 7pm!** Fathers, grandfathers, uncles, or that special fellow in a little girl's life, are all invited for an evening of dinner & dancing! All are welcome, so feel free to invite friends! Please sign up via the church website or the Town Square bulletin board.

Contact Laura Vowell  
([laura@redeemerbirmingham.org](mailto:laura@redeemerbirmingham.org)) with questions or for more information.

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### Bible Buddies!

Let's start out 2026 right by reading our Bibles! KIDS... you are invited to choose a "Bible Buddy" (small, stuffed animal) during coffee hour on **Sunday 1/18**. Bible Buddies come with a Bible reading plan - use the reading plan at home and dive into the adventures of the Bible with your buddy! After 10:30am worship on **Sunday 3/1**, bring your buddy to church with your completed reading plan and you'll receive a prize PLUS join us for a party! Questions? Contact Laura Vowell ([laura@redeemerbirmingham.org](mailto:laura@redeemerbirmingham.org)) or Nicole Olds ([nolds@redeemerbirmingham.org](mailto:nolds@redeemerbirmingham.org)).

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**Redeemer VBS  
2026  
June 15-19**



**Watch the Lamp and bulletin for more exciting information!**



### Frankenmuth Family Fun!

**Friday, February 6th - Saturday, February 7th**

Families of all shapes and sizes are invited to join us for fellowship and fun at Zehnder's Splash Village for an overnight retreat! We'll play and swim in the indoor water park and learn more about God's Word together!

Go to the church website to sign up and book your room (which includes water passes!). We'll provide breakfast and lunch on Saturday, PLUS a Bible Study and other family activities!

Register by January 5th to get a DISCOUNT by using our special code!

Questions? Contact Dan Dobring ([dan.dobring@gmail.com](mailto:dan.dobring@gmail.com)) or Laura Vowell ([laura@redeemerbirmingham.org](mailto:laura@redeemerbirmingham.org)).

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**Scamper Camps have exciting news for 2026! We will now be welcoming 2 year olds (by January 1st, 2026) through kids who have just finished 1st grade!! Camps run over 7 weeks during the summer and meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 9:30am to 1pm with an after care option until 2:30. Sign ups will start in February. Reach out to Nicole Olds with any questions [nolds@redeemerbirmingham.org](mailto:nolds@redeemerbirmingham.org)**



## JOIN THE AUDIO/VIDEO MINISTRY!

*If you cannot sing like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say He died for all.*  
--- From the Hymn "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

Can you sing like angels? If your answer is yes, you should join the Chancel Choir. They would welcome more singers. Can you preach like Paul? If you say yes, please contact the Call Committee. If your answer to both questions is no, then you can help tell the love of Jesus by joining the Audio/Video Ministry.

Each Sunday, we amplify music and the spoken word for people in our Sanctuary and, through streaming, bring the service to people who can't join us in person. Those people may be traveling, or they may be unable to join our fellowship because of age or health. For some in those situations, streaming may be the only way they can maintain a connection to Redeemer and its ministry. To keep streaming going, we need your help. We have a particular need for help with streaming funerals that are held on weekdays during daytime hours. That ministry is especially important for family members and friends of the deceased who can't travel to the service.

Don't be deterred by the thought that the Audio/Video Ministry is too complicated for you. We will train you and sit with you until you are comfortable being on your own. Even then, you'll have detailed, step-by-step written instructions so you'll never have to rely on memory or guess what to do. The time commitment can be as little as 90 minutes once a month.

Are you interested in an easy way to help spread the Gospel message? Then contact Greg Merryman at [gkmerryman@comcast.net](mailto:gkmerryman@comcast.net) or (248) 978-4251, or David Hardoin at [dhardoin@mi.rr.com](mailto:dhardoin@mi.rr.com) or (313) 387-4213 and we'll get you started. It's a great opportunity for men, women, and tech-savvy teens to serve.

# FEBRUARY

**February 1**  
Youth Mission Trip  
Orientation Meeting

**February 5**  
Chicks with Sticks

**February 6-8**  
RYG Camp Skyline  
Winter Retreat

**February 7-8**  
Family  
Frankenmuth Fun

**February 11**  
Leadership Team  
Meeting

**February 14**  
Valentine's Day

**February 18**  
Ash Wednesday

**February 19**  
Chicks with Sticks

**February 24**  
Women's Book Group

**February 27**  
JAMS Game night

**February 28**  
Rummage Sale  
Intake Day

## COUNSELING CORNER



Dear friends, in reflecting over the past year of 2025, one can only pray and look for and contribute to a much more God infused year in 2026. So much hate and violence in 2025 but there has been notable good that has come from the various tragedies as well. For example, it seems like through Charlie Kirk's death last Fall (internet statistic, not mine) more and more people are incentivized to re-enter church or to attend church for the first time. Some have become more emboldened and vocal about their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. Praise God!!

I have observed especially during the last quarter of 2025, people seem to be working harder at their relationships and expecting less in return (THE key). You see, that is the beauty of working on relationships that are inherently difficult or not albeit work, marriage, friendships or family when we lower the bar of expectations we will not be continually disappointed which can cause dissention and indifference. A very toxic and fatal combo.

In studying the Bible and learning what Jesus says about subjects that concern you, it can be a very calming experience as He is right there talking to you, speaking to your heart so that you don't feel so alone. He is in this with you guiding you through His Word and giving you peace.

When we really internalize the truth of Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not men. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." this Scripture can (if you allow it) recalibrate your perspective concerning your relationships, work related tasks and life in general.

So, I challenge you to make a change for the good this new year 2026 serving the Lord completely in the way we treat others, especially the difficult ones. When you do it for Him and no one else...it changes everything! I use this Scripture in my counseling practice and I see its POWER and fruit continually when put into practice. People are literally shocked at the life changing results that ensue. It takes discipline, intention and most importantly a whole new level of dedication to the Lord that you never knew existed. You'll see.



Have a Happy and Blessed New Year!  
Dr. Sandy Pourcho



Dr. Sandy Pourcho is available to address your counseling needs! Call to set-up an appointment soon! 248.568.6040



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# WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP



We start the year off right with a prominent work of non-fiction, *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. *The Anxious Generation* is one of the most important nonfiction books I have ever read.

While many have expressed concern about the impact of mobile phones and social media on our youth, Haidt has made it his mission to uncover the symptoms, explain the effects, and convince us to change how we raise our kids regarding phones and social media. If you think this is just a book for parents don't kid yourself. This work covers all generations and the effect our media has on us. It targets kids because they are the most vulnerable, but take a look at what is happening with our senior generation.

The phone is a friend, a caretaker, a source of entertainment sometimes to the detriment of its user. Let's have a great discussion about a healthy way to look at our use and that of our children, grandchildren and ourselves when it comes to the phone and social media. Town Square on **Tuesday, January 27 at 7:30 p.m.**



## LIBRARY LIGHTS

Welcome to January! A new year filled with possibilities and opportunities... opportunities to grow in knowledge, self and your relationships with God and others. The library has so many options to help.

### ***The Love Dare* and *The Love Dare for Parents***

based on the movie, *Fireproof*, are fantastic choices for stretching your capacity to love. These 40 day devotionals explain an aspect of love from God's perspective and offer a challenge that gives the reader an opportunity to express love toward their partner or child through different ways - forgiveness, grace, acts of service... the opportunities are endless.

### ***Knowing God Through the Old Testament***

by Christopher J. H. Wright is a compilation of three of his best loved books: *Knowing God the Father Through the Old Testament*, *Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*, and *Knowing the Holy Spirit Through the Old Testament*. This series allows the reader to strengthen and deepen their personal relationship with God through deep exploration of the less familiar voices of the Old Testament.

Lisa Wingate's fictional book, ***The Prayer Box***, is a beautiful and emotional story of redemption, faith and forgiveness. When Hatteras Island old-timer Iola Anne Poole passes away at ninety-one, Tandi, the struggling young mother living in her rental cottage finds herself charged with cleaning out Iola's rambling Victorian house. While cleaning Tandi discovers eighty-one carefully decorated prayer boxes. Each box contains a year of prayers, wishes, hopes and notes to God - hidden boxes that contain the story of a lifetime.

Our door is always open. Feel free to check out items at your convenience. Although we don't have permanent library staff available on Sundays we are working toward that goal in the new year.

Happy Reading!



# CHRISTMAS

2025

Advent by Candlelight

A beautiful celebration with  
over 450 participants



# ADVENTure

## Look Around the Stable



Teaching the Nativity story  
in a new, interactive way



Sunday School Play  
Proof that the Nativity story is  
for every age





## Breakfast with Santa

325 kids and parents enjoying delicious food and a special visit

## Christmas Whispers



Reflecting on the traditions of the holiday season



## Candlelight Christmas Eve

What a blessing to celebrate the birth of Christ together with 1,500 members and visitors.



# JANUARY

## BIBLE READING PLAN

<b>1</b> Genesis 1:1-2:25 Matthew 1:1-2:12 Psalm 1:1-6 Proverbs 1:1-6	<b>2</b> Genesis 3:1-4:26 Matthew 2:13-3:6 Psalm 2:1-12 Proverbs 1:7-9	<b>3</b> Genesis 5:1-7:24 Matthew 3:7-4:11 Psalm 3:1-8 Proverbs 1:10-19	<b>4</b> Genesis 8:1-10:32 Matthew 4:12-25 Psalm 4:1-8 Proverbs 1:20-23	<b>5</b> Genesis 11:1-13:4 Matthew 5:1-26 Psalm 5:1-12 Proverbs 1:24-28
<b>6</b> Genesis 13:5-15:21 Matthew 5:27-48 Psalm 6:1-10 Proverbs 1:29-33	<b>7</b> Genesis 16:1-18:15 Matthew 6:1-24 Psalm 7:1-17 Proverbs 2:1-5	<b>8</b> Genesis 18:16-19:38 Matthew 6:25-7:14 Psalm 8:1-9 Proverbs 2:6-15	<b>9</b> Genesis 20:1-22:24 Matthew 7:15-29 Psalm 9:1-12 Proverbs 2:16-22	<b>10</b> Genesis 23:1-24:51 Matthew 8:1-17 Psalm 9:13-20 Proverbs 3:1-6
<b>11</b> Genesis 24:52-26:16 Matthew 8:18-34 Psalm 10:1-15 Proverbs 3:7-8	<b>12</b> Genesis 26:17-27:46 Matthew 9:1-17 Psalm 10:16-18 Proverbs 3:9-10	<b>13</b> Genesis 28:1-29:35 Matthew 9:18-38 Psalm 11:1-7 Proverbs 3:11-12	<b>14</b> Genesis 30:1-31:16 Matthew 10:1-23 Psalm 12:1-8 Proverbs 3:13-15	<b>15</b> Genesis 31:17-32:12 Matthew 10:24-11:6 Psalm 13:1-6 Proverbs 3:16-18
<b>16</b> Genesis 32:13-34:31 Matthew 11:7-30 Psalm 14:1-7 Proverbs 3:19-20	<b>17</b> Genesis 35:1-36:43 Matthew 12:1-21 Psalm 15:1-5 Proverbs 3:21-26	<b>18</b> Genesis 37:1-38:30 Matthew 12:22-45 Psalm 16:1-11 Proverbs 3:27-32	<b>19</b> Genesis 39:1-41:16 Matthew 12:46-13:23 Psalm 17:1-15 Proverbs 3:33-35	<b>20</b> Genesis 41:17-42:17 Matthew 13:24-46 Psalm 18:1-15 Proverbs 4:1-6
<b>21</b> Genesis 42:18-43:34 Matthew 13:47-14:12 Psalm 18:16-36 Proverbs 4:7-10	<b>22</b> Genesis 44:1-45:28 Matthew 14:13-36 Psalm 18:37-50 Proverbs 4:11-13	<b>23</b> Genesis 46:1-47:31 Matthew 15:1-28 Psalm 19:1-14 Proverbs 4:14-19	<b>24</b> Genesis 48:1-49:33 Matthew 15:29-16:12 Psalm 20:1-9 Proverbs 4:20-27	<b>25</b> Genesis 50:1-26 Exodus 1:1-2:10 Matthew 16:13-17:9 Psalm 21:1-13 Proverbs 5:1-6
<b>26</b> Exodus 2:11-3:22 Matthew 17:10-27 Psalm 22:1-18 Proverbs 5:7-14	<b>27</b> Exodus 4:1-5:21 Matthew 18:1-20 Psalm 22:19-31 Proverbs 5:15-21	<b>28</b> Exodus 5:22-7:25 Matthew 18:21-19:12 Psalm 23:1-6 Proverbs 5:22-23	<b>29</b> Exodus 8:1-9:35 Matthew 19:13-30 Psalm 24:1-10 Proverbs 6:1-5	<b>30</b> Exodus 10:1-12:13 Matthew 20:1-28 Psalm 25:1-15 Proverbs 6:6-11
<b>31</b> Exodus 12:14-13:16 Matthew 20:29-21:22 Psalm 25:16-22 Proverbs 6:12-15				



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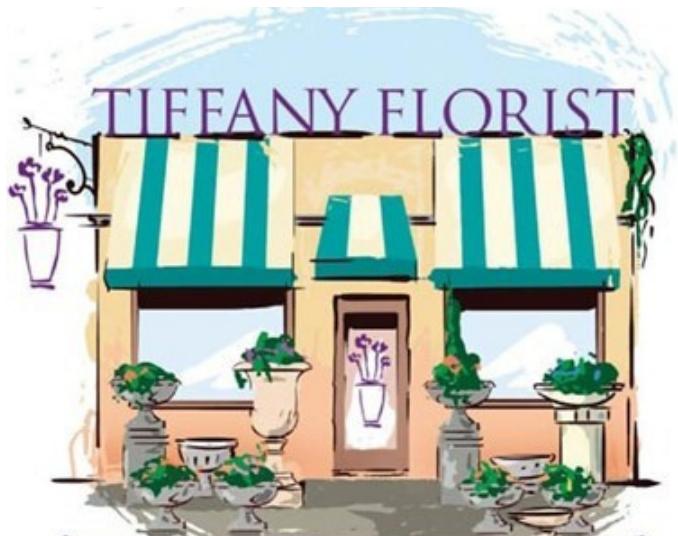
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# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

## January 1

Linnea Artelt  
Drew Dorantes  
Patty Jacobs  
Jim Noettl  
Kyle Silva  
Bev Yocom

## January 2

Michael Ilitch, IV  
Thom Johnson  
Kris Ortale  
Kristen Rolf  
Tyler Shulte  
Evan Turner

## January 3

Lili Camden  
Millie Murdock

## January 4

Laura Schulz  
Caitlin Tobin

## January 5

Matthew Leiser  
Debra Meissner  
Matt Vanderhoef

## January 6

Lexi Beckeman  
Jack Cotter  
Rebecca Gersonde  
Elijah Kidder  
Mark Worden

## January 7

Bill Burmeister  
Jack Lumsden

## January 8

Arden Baker  
Pollyanne Dux  
Laura Geiger  
Sarah Jane Lesinski  
Trish Oen  
Ruth Ortiz

## January 9

Lauren Ackerman  
Caroline Claar  
Jill Denman-Duggan  
Brian Elliott  
Griffin Herdegen  
Zach Smith

## January 10

Dan Cook  
Henry Sutherland  
Allison Vazquez

## January 11

Nico Calvanese  
Maggie Greenwalt  
Amy Hawkins  
Thomas Morris  
Peter Pridmore

## January 12

Joel Brockberg  
Dana Burstein  
Neal Krentz  
Elke Kroenung  
Chad Morris  
Walt Sweitzer

## January 13

Ellen Baker  
Sally Tyler  
Jack Vercnocke  
McKinlay Scott

## January 14

Andrew Farah  
Sue Middeldorf  
Paige Schulte  
Alida Toth  
Eric Vanderhoef  
Garrett Vercnocke  
Matthew Warnicke

## January 15

Adam Niedzwiecki  
Pam Tyndall  
Dick Weir

## January 16

Lucia Calvanese  
Cheryl Chuhran  
Emily Dobring  
Dave Tyndall

## January 17

Mark Cycholl  
Caity Lagalski  
Andrew Pflieger  
Glenn Schuetz

## January 18

Susan Dickey  
Lorelai Gallo  
Katie Harper

## January 19

Gary Drolet  
Charlotte Finley  
Louis Hartzell  
Jason Hoover  
Timothy Moore  
Jeremy Nicol

## January 20

Natalie Rolf

## January 21

Sandra Burnett  
Blake Dobbs  
Diane Dorantes  
Grace Guevara  
Jeff Middeldorf  
Ryan Nehls  
Cindy Noettl  
Michael Ziegele

## January 22

Kate Dankovich  
Eric Girdler  
Robert Hoffdal  
Jim Junker  
Robert Lee  
Marilyn Ripson

## January 23

Calvin Greer  
Kelly Greer  
Grace Kamm  
Allison Kavanagh  
Tayden Leischner  
Laura Sellnau



## January 24

Brenda Boyce  
Curtis Burstein  
Sarah Harrison

## January 25

Michael Conte  
Lily Doolin  
Mark Kent  
Gary Priskorn  
Pam Priskorn  
Trevor Schultz

## January 26

Nash Kanka  
Courtney Miarka  
Jennifer Simonetta  
Cathleen Tice

## January 27

Daniel Cobb  
Peyton Gallagher  
Kristen May  
Jane McMicking  
Daniel Miller  
Manfred Rumpel

## January 28

William Doyle  
Mila Grubisich  
Brady Tatai

## January 29

Karen Cleaver  
Terri Fithian  
Rich Krentz  
Tony Kurnat  
Hailee Schuele

## January 30

Ken Baetz  
Tillie Browett  
Tina Conte  
Allison Leiser

## January 31

Harvey Cycholl  
Jeff Drexel  
Janet Harthen  
Nicholas Mushovic

