

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

Our Redeemer's Voice



Sunday Worship Schedule

12/03/2023

Contemporary Service- 8:30 am

Traditional Service- 10:30 am

12/10/2023

Contemporary Service- 8:30 am

Traditional Service- 10:30 am

12/17/2023

Contemporary Service- 8:30 am

Traditional Service with Sunday School Christmas Program
10:30 am

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service- 4:00 pm

12/24/2023

Advent 4 (Traditional Service)- 10:00 am

Christmas Eve Service (Contemporary) - 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service (Traditional) - 8:00 pm

**Both Christmas Eve services will include Candle Lighting and
Holy Communion**

12/31/2023

Contemporary Service- 10:00 am

Inside this issue

Prayers2

Anniversaries..... ..2

Birthdays..... ..2

From Pastor's Desk.....3

Committee News.....6-11

Server Schedule 12

Calendar..... .. 13

Poinsettias 14

LCOR Connections.....15

Altar Flowers 16

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 9:00 - 2:00 pm.

Please be advised Pastor Sarah's hours may defer from our
new office hours.



Join Us for
WORSHIP

Remember in Your Prayers

Remember in your Prayers: Ana, Binista, Claudia, Craig, Danielle, Mark, Scott, Judy C., Lilly D., Mary F., Evy H., Fran K., Ted J., Adam and Blaire J., Dave M., Karl-Heinz W., R. Wuschke, The Glover Family, those homebound, in nursing homes, recovering and/or taking treatments, those serving our country both home and abroad, those who face difficult situations or problems, and those who are hurting or struggling or have lost loved ones.



Prayer requests can be made by emailing Alice W. at alwuschke@gmail.com. Names will remain on the list for three months, unless otherwise indicated. Requests must be resubmitted to continue an additional three months.

Happy Anniversary

Shane and Sherry S. 12/07

Happy Birthday!

Aidan H. 12/07

Paula R. 12/08

Eden G. 12/09

Matthew G. 12/09

Dan S. 12/11

Jai D. 12/12



Tanya T. 12/12

Camilla B. 12/14

Jessica C. 12/15

Lynne H. 12/15

Gretchen S. 12/15

Neila S. 12/16

Holly B. 12/18



Mason B. 12/21

Carol B. 12/22

Alyson R. 12/22

Tim F. 12/27

Andrew S. 12/28

Cole H. 12/30

Carley T. 12/31

From the Pastor's Desk

SIMPLE GIFTS

The Handbell Choir played this piece as a Special Music selection during Worship this week. Listening to it, I couldn't help but think of the contrast between the message of the song and the reality of our busy world. Especially this time of year, celebrating the holiday season while wrapping up another calendar year can be intense.



At this time of year, I frequently find myself feeling like I need to have a great gathering or something special planned, perfect cards or presents picked out—and sent on time—and still accomplish all that needs to be done by the end of the year. While I don't think this is universally true for everyone, I suspect I'm not unique, either. Add to that a review of the year as it comes to an end, and there is a lot to take in and process.

It is a process, and I work to remind myself of that. At the same time, it is a lot. So how does someone manage?

Where are the simple gifts?

For me, simple gifts are often found in the little accomplishments. When the world becomes too intangible or too much of a process, finishing a task or project, sending that card, making a craft or baking a batch of cookies becomes a simple gift. It is a gift to spend time on something and then see a concrete objective result. Having a plate of Christmas cookies to enjoy or share is a nice bonus, too.

There are many simple gifts in our lives. Perhaps taking a walk or spending time in nature is the simple gift. Perhaps it is a meal shared with family or friends. Perhaps it is that moment of singing Silent Night on Christmas Eve with candles shining all around.

Even as I write these suggestions, I realize how many simple gifts there really are in life. Just thinking about what they might be has helped me to appreciate the variety and multitude of them. Perhaps that is also a gift in and of itself.

What are the simple gifts in your life?

In this busy and sometimes complicated time of year, I invite you to take a moment to remember and name the simple gifts in your life. Some might be similar to the suggestions here, and some might be different. This Advent, Christmas, and New Year, I hope you find those simple gifts all around you, and recognize them for the blessings that they are.

So what is Blue Christmas?

Last year, Pastor Sarah introduced the Worship & Music Committee to a Blue Christmas service, also sometimes referred to as the Longest Night service. As our congregation had not experienced this service in the past, we weren't sure what to expect. "Blue Christmas" sounds so sad. "Longest Night" service seems so long!

But as we explored this further (with Pastor Sarah's assistance), we discussed that though Christmas is of course a season of celebration, this obviously is not always a happy season for everyone. Grief, loss, illness, loneliness, and many other things can affect how we feel at this time of year.

A Longest Night or Blue Christmas Service is a Christmas Service that keeps a more somber tone to offer a sacred space and theological context for those for whom the holidays are not as joyful. At this time, we remember that Jesus comes into the world as it is and meets each of us as we are with whatever we're carrying. We recall the gift of God's love for us and presence with us no matter what.

The Blue Christmas Service at LCOR will be held on Sunday, December 17th at 4:00 p.m. The service will include Holy Communion as well as Prayers for Healing. All are welcome and invited to attend. There will be Christmas music/carols that are more somber in nature.

Below are some comments from a few people who attended the service last year.

"I wasn't really sure what to expect at the Longest Night service. I went more out of obligation than seeking a respite, but the impact of the service is still with me today. Pastor Sarah reminded us that Christ came to this world to meet us where we are - to be with us in whatever we are going through. In that quiet service, with the candle lighting, the prayers of healing, and the music, I felt peace. True peace. I understood in my heart that God truly does love me and meets me right where I am - no matter what. The peace has stayed with me. In whatever I am going through, I can think of this service and remember that Christ is with me. I am not alone. My hope is that others will experience this special service and feel this peace in their lives. Christ is with us; we are not alone. "

continued...

So what is Blue Christmas? continued...

"I lost my dad unexpectedly 17 years ago; though holidays and milestone celebrations have been joyous since he passed away and life has gone on, there was always a sense of sadness and emptiness around these times for me. I was intrigued by the idea of Blue Christmas and wasn't sure what to expect but decided to go as LCOR has been a safe haven for me. During the service, I fought the waves of emotions that were rising up but eventually was able to let go of years of grief that I tried to bury inside. Blue Christmas provided me with a sense of peace that I haven't felt in 17 years (and thank goodness tissues were readily available during the service!)."

"I love Christmas Eve services. I had no idea of what to expect in terms of a Blue Christmas Service but decided to try it. The tone of the service and the music, as well as the healing aspects and candle lighting struck a chord with me immediately. Though Christmas celebrations over the years have been primarily happy occasions, I am of course always reminded of loved ones who are no longer with me and whom I greatly miss. Their presence was with me during this service more than during any time of the holidays. Though I felt emotional during the service, I also felt a sense of calm. This service was one of the highlights of my Christmas celebrations and I look forward to this year's Blue Christmas service. "



Building and Grounds

A Beautiful Autumn day and gathering for our LCOR FALL 2023 Cleanup.

- We lost a few of our normal members as to some conflicts with our date, but our FALL 2023 team held in there to do **“A GREAT JOB”**.
- We are looking to regain these members and maybe even a few new participants for the Spring Cleanup (**i.e. which includes a return of Mr. Clam chowder**).

Thanks to everyone involved in making this FALL 2023 Cleanup a success.

The property grounds are looking great with the winter nearly upon us :

- Kitchen Clean-up (completed previously)
- Sanctuary Pew Cleaning
- Garden Cleanup
- Mulch Bed Cleanup
- Playground Clean-ups
- Building hedging Trimmed
- Route 140 frontage Cleanup
- Front Church Planting optimizations
- All annuals pulled (140 sign and Entrance)
- ENTIRE Property Perimeter edging Cleanup (Brush/Grasses/Branches/etc.)
- Blowing, Blowing, and more Blowing Property Parking lots and Playgrounds

Thanks also to our Food Service “Planner/Baker/Griller/Etc.” which I think was welcomed by ALL.

**These Spring/Fall Clean-up Activities remain CRITICAL,
AND YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE !!!!!**



Stewardship

Hello LCOR ,

The Stewardship Campaign has been over for a month. We have received many giving cards and thank everyone who has submitted their completed cards. If you have not sent in your Giving card, Please do this as soon as possible. We would like to have all cards returned-regardless of your choice-to pledge or not.

Also, if you are planning on E-Giving, we would like your response. This helps us to complete our budget for next year-and see what we can share with our various communities. Thanks to all for your continued participation and would like to thank our new 2024 Church council members who have volunteered their time.

Ian C.-President!

Rick G.-Vice President!

Pam D.-Community Life Chairperson

Stacey M.-Worship and Music Chairperson

We are excited to get to work with our new members on Church Council! This looks like a very strong group-with lots to get done. Thanks to all for your time and contributions. We will be working hard planning for more fun events for 2024.

We will be displaying the Community Christmas Card again this year so don't forget to add your family Card to the poster which will be in the Narthex starting in December.



Your Stewardship Team.

Joanne H., Lenny H., Gary D.,

Christine S., Don J., and welcome Jon P.!

Community Life

Our Ministry is creating, planning and bringing opportunities for Fun and Fellowship outside of Church Services. We meet every 1st Sunday of the month to enjoy food at a local restaurant while also enjoying each others' company. There is a sign up sheet in the church hall bulletin board to sign up. For more information on upcoming activities, review our calendar, bulletins and church bulletin board.

Progressive Dinner Nov. 2023



Upcoming Events!

December 3rd: Lunch and Gift Exchange at the Lookout Farm in Natick.

January 6th: New Year lunch after church.

January 28th: Game Night after the second service

February 4th: First Sunday of the month lunch

February 11th: Annual Super Bowl Party

Sunday School Schedule

- ♦ 12/3/2023 - Beginning of Advent- Pageant Roles Be Ready Mark 13:24-36
- ♦ 12/10/2023 - Pageant Rehearsal. John the Baptist Prepares the Way Mark 1:1-8
- ♦ 12/17/2023 - **Sunday School Christmas Program/Pageant.**
John the Baptist Proclaims Jesus' Coming John 1:6-8, 19-28



Adult Sunday School Schedule

Prepare the Way of the Lord

From the events of his birth, his ministry in the desert, and his recognition of Jesus as Messiah, the life and words of John the Baptist can help us all prepare our hearts and minds during Advent.

This three-part series focuses on prayer and patience, faith and hope, and repentance and forgiveness.

December 3rd, December 10th, December 17th.



Social Ministry

Social Ministry News

Thank you to the members of the new Sunshine Committee! We are so excited to begin a more formal and regular outreach to members who are having a hard time getting in to church for whatever reason.



Thank you to all the helpers, brownie bakers, and Thrivent account holders who make Food'n'Friends possible. We prepared 205 meals (the most ever) to help food insecure people. Way to go, LCOR!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered with the blood drive. We had a successful drive and had the most participants we have had in years.

ELCA World Hunger Advent Calendars are available in the narthex. Please pick one up and enjoy the prayers, verses, and blessings as we get ready for the Christmas season.

We are writing Christmas cards to people in the refugee, immigration and asylum system through the Hope for the Holidays project of LIRS. Please consider writing a card in Spanish (phrases provided) or English to give hope and encouragement to people far from friends and family. Cards can be found in the narthex. They will be mailed by December 1st.

We are still collecting NIDO, wipes, and diapers for the immigrant babies and toddlers in Foxboro. Please put items in the big blue bin in the narthex. They will be donated in the new year.



We delivered 41 bags worth of groceries to the Foxboro and Easton food pantries on November 21st. Thank you for your generosity!

Social Ministry continued...

We mailed forty Christmas cards to LIRS' Hope for the Holidays program and made a donation. Thank you to all who participated.

Can you be an angel for someone this Advent season? Keep watch for the angel tree in the Narthex for a chance to help!



Giving Envelopes

Your 2024 Pledge Envelopes are on the table in the narthex below the name tags. Please take your envelopes home, they will be available to be picked up until Ash Wednesday. (02/14/2024). If you do not see your envelopes, please let the church office know at office@LCOR.org. If you are e-Giving or no longer wish to receive envelopes, please let us know.



Decorating for Christmas Sunday December 17th



We would like to invite you to join us Sunday December 17th to help us decorate the church for Christmas. After the traditional service we will gather to begin decorating. This process generally takes no more than an hour.

December 2023 Server Schedule

							
Altar Guild	Eucharistic Minister	Ushers	Lav Reader	Acolytes	Greeters	Projectionist	Tellers

December 3, 2023

8:30 AM	Judy S.	Jon P.	Karen G. Liv W.	Jon P.	Jenny M.	Will W.	Daniel E.	Patty S.
10:30 AM	Ute T.	Caroline V.	Gary D.	Caroline V.	X	Ute T.	X	

December 10, 2023

8:30 AM	Jessica C.	Linda M.	Chris V. Will W.	Brandi D.	Kara V.	Linda M.	Liv W.	Patty S.
10:30 AM	Loni I.	Loni I.	Pete D.	Loni I.	X	Loni I.	X	

December 17, 2023

8:30 AM	Karen D.	Marla A.	Paul B.	Marla A.	Will W.	Irene C.	Liv W.	Bob B.
10:30 AM	Sallie B.	Sallie B.	Bob B.	Sallie B.	X	Carol B.	X	

December 24, 2023

10:00 AM	Patty S.	Rich B.	Joanne & Lenny H.	Caroline V.	X	Paul B.	X	X
----------	----------	---------	-------------------	-------------	---	---------	---	---

December 24, 2023 Christmas Eve

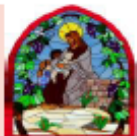
5:00 PM	Karen D.	Martha P. NEED 1	Paul B. Joanne & Lenny H.	Paul B.	Greg R.	Karen G.	Alex R.	X
8:00 PM	Alice W.	Alice W.	Bob B.	Don J.	X	Don J.	X	

December 31, 2023

10:00 AM	Judy S.	Lynne H.	Rich B.	Judy S.	NEED	Lynne H.	NEED	Bob B.
----------	---------	----------	---------	---------	------	----------	------	--------

If you are unable to serve our parish on your assigned date or time, you need to seek a replacement from the current volunteer listing. If you should notice "NEED" and find YOU can serve in that slot, please DO! Schedule updated weekly on bulletin board and on www.lcor.org

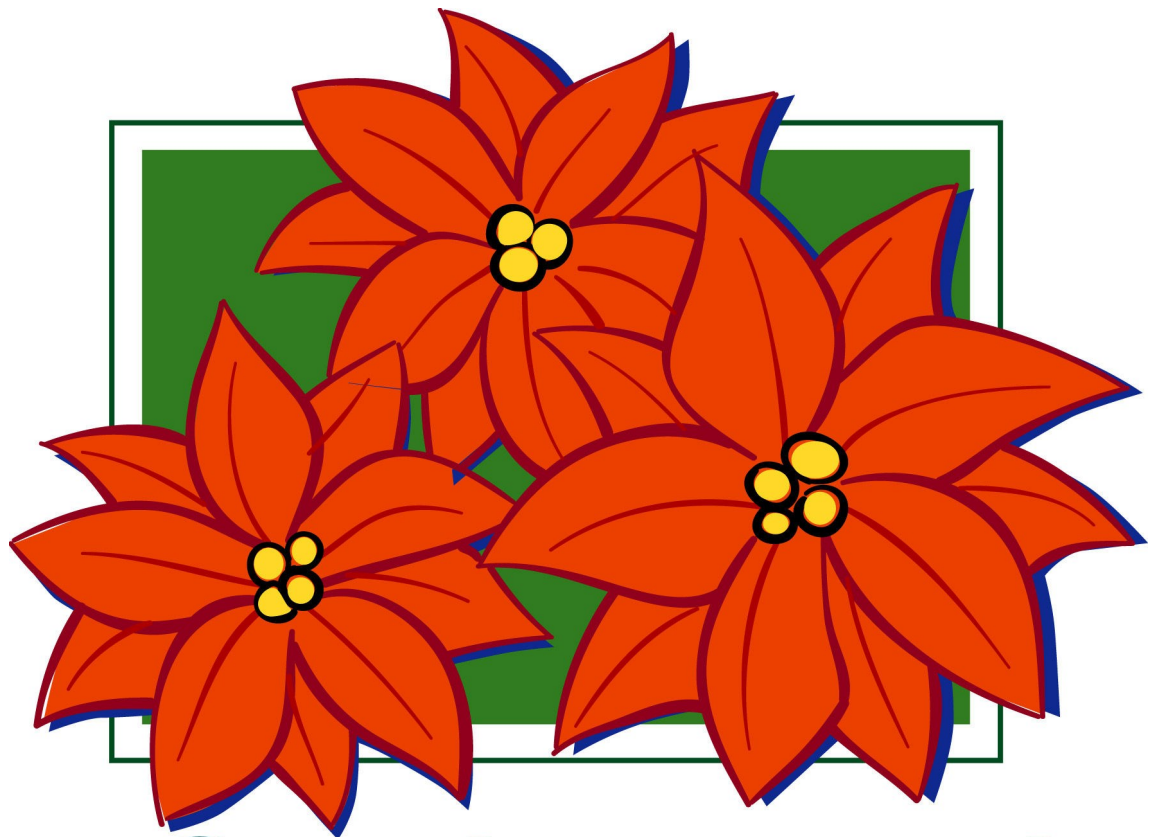
Server Volunteers Needed—All roles come with appropriate training and we don't expect people to be scheduled more often than once a month. If you can help in any of these roles or if you are just looking for more information, contact Karen DiCanzio at dicanzio@comcast.net. Tellers do not need to be just from the second service, tellers can come from the first service as well.



December 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 8:30 am Cont. Service 9:30 am Fellowship; Christian Ed. 10:30 am Trad. Service 12:00 pm Community Life Lunch 6:30 pm Conf. Class	4 7:15 am - 8:15 am Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom 9:00 am Community Life Meeting	5 6 pm ORCCC Board Meeting	6 7 pm Mutual Ministry Meeting	7 7:15 am - 8:15 am Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom	8	9
10 8:30 am Cont. Service 9:30 am Fellowship; Christian Ed. 10:30 am Trad. Service 6:30 pm Conf. Class	11 7:15 am - 8:15 am Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom	12	13	14 7:15 am - 8:15 am Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom	15	16 
17 8:30 am Cont. Service 9:30 am Fellowship; Adult Christian Ed. 10:30 am Trad. Service/ Christmas Pageant 4:00 pm Blue Christmas Service 6:30 pm Conf. Class	18 7:15 am - 8:15 am Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom	19	20	21 7:15 am - 8:15 am Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom	22	23
24 10:00 am Trad. Service <u>Christmas Eve Services</u> 5:00 pm Cont. Service 8:00 pm Trad. Service	25 7:15 am - 8:15 am Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom Office Closed	26	27	28 7:15 am - 8:15 am Ladies Bible Study Via Zoom	29	30
31 10:00 am Cont. Service						

For more details, visit our website, www.lcor.org; and check out our weekly bulletins and mid-week announcements.



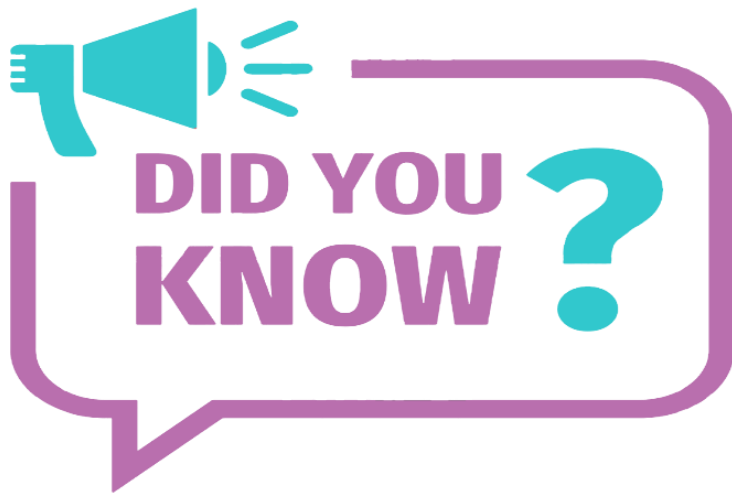
POINSETTIAS

Help adorn the sanctuary with poinsettias this Christmas. Large, beautiful plants will be available for purchase at \$15 per plant. They'll enhance our worship on Christmas Eve and you can take them home after the service that evening to decorate your home or to give as a gift. Sign up on the list on the bulletin board in the hallway. You can designate your gift in memory of or in honor of someone if you choose. Checks payable to LCOR can be put in the offering plate—please put “Christmas Poinsettia” on the memo line. If you'd prefer to pay in cash, simply put in an envelope marked “poinsettia” and include your name.



LCOR Connections

Thinking of writing a letter, sharing information or wanting to make connections with your fellow LCOR friends? We have a church directory called ICON CMO. This is a great way to stay in touch, connect and reach out to folks. If you have any questions on navigating the directory, please contact us at office@lcor.org



LCOR has an Online Member Directory



To sign up or update your info
Contact office@lcor.org



Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

212 Main Street
Foxborough, MA 02035

Phone: 508-543-4071
Email: Office@LCOR.org

www.lcor.org

Altar Flowers

If you'd like to put flowers on the altar, simply sign up on the large flower chart on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the education wing.

They may be given in honor of someone, in memory of someone, an event (anniversary birthday etc.), or simply to the glory of God! If the flowers are being given in honor or memory of someone, please write that on the flower chart. If no reason is stated on the chart then flowers will be given to the "Glory of God."

You must sign up a minimum of 7 days in advance. Flower arrangements are **\$35 each**. Please place your payment in the offering plate and be sure you designate the payment as "altar flowers." These flowers belong to you, after the flowers adorn the altar area for both services, please take your flowers home.

Fall, Winter, and Spring Worship Schedule Starts 9-10-2023

8:30 am – Contemporary Worship

9:30 am – Fellowship Time;
Christian Education

10:30 am – Traditional Worship

Summer Worship Schedule

8:30 am – Contemporary Worship

9:30 am Fellowship Time

10:00 am – Traditional Worship

