

Our Redeemer's Voice



Girl Scout Cookie Sale

Girl Scout Cookie Sale on Sunday, January 12th during the fellowship time.

Each box is \$5.00 The sale of these cookies benefit the Foxboro 3rd grade brownies.



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Bishop Hazelwood



We look forward to the opportunity to welcome Bishop James Hazelwood from the New England Synod of the ELCA on Sunday, January 19th. Bishop Hazelwood is a dynamic speaker who will preside over both services on January 19th and be around between services to talk with us informally.

Dust Off Those Name Tags

As you all know, Pastor Eric Wolf, is now our Transitional Pastor. It would help him if everyone wore their name tags as he continues with us and tries to remember names with the faces. If you don't see your name tag please let the church secretary know either by note on her desk or email at office@lcor.org and she will make sure one is made.

When Bishop Hazelwood comes to visit on January 19th, it would be nice to have everyone still wearing the name tags to make it easier on him as well. Thank you

Remember in your Prayers

Remember in your Prayers: Those homebound, in nursing homes, recovering and/or taking treatments, who face difficult situations or problems, those who are hurting or struggling or have lost loved ones, those serving our country both home and abroad. Prayer request cards are available on the ushers' stand. Place the completed card in the Prayer Box. Your request will be forwarded to the LCOR Prayer Chain by Alice Wuschke. Names will remain on the list for three months, unless otherwise indicated. Requests must be resubmitted to continue an additional three months. Please pray for the following:



Leo Arel, Pauline Bacon, Jason Bigley, Carol Boette, Judy Cargill, Family of Phyllis Everson, Family of Dot Hannon, Mark Harrison, John Houghton, June King, Jonathan Lawlor, Megan Nowak, Donna Ramirez, Pastor Schlak, Jeanne Supino.

Your Giving Envelopes

The Giving envelopes are on a table in the narthex, right in front of the name tags. Please take your giving envelopes home with you. At the end of January, the church secretary will be sending out by mail any envelopes not picked up. This is expensive to do, so please help us save on postage and take your envelopes home. Pledging helps the church with their budget, but even if you decide not to pledge you can still use your envelopes, which helps with your taxes by keeping track of your charity giving. Thank You :-)

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Tara Barton
Erika Bjork
Connor Boudreau-Rapp
Don DeVore
Karen DiCanzio
Karen Geromini
Marcus Giese
Brenda Glover
Paul Hopkins
Ed Morris
Tyler Newman
Helen Olsen
Zachary Raymond
Laura Schachter
Christine Sexton
John Silva
Jillian Spinale
Mila Tummeltshammer



Dan & Sandy Kronenwetter
Nick & Jillian Spinale
Brian & Kristen Williams

If you do not see your name listed, then your information is missing from our database. Please contact the church secretary with the information so we can update our records. We don't want to leave anyone out.



From the Pastor's Desk

The Light is Coming to Take Back Everything the Darkness Stole

There's something about music that calls to a primal space in our hearts.

There's something about music that can even cause people with dementia to recall hymns and songs from their childhood. Many of us have songs that we can identify as soon as we hear the first two or three notes. Some songs, like A Hard Day's Night by the Beatles which can be identified by just its first chord's jarring dissonance, don't even need that much.



I heard a podcast awhile back that claims people stop learning new music by the time they hit their 20s. They said the reason for this is that a lot of our "firsts" have happened by then: crushes, kisses, cars, jobs. We've made and lost friends, fallen in and out of love, and many of us leave home to start our own lives. The thirst for new music seems to fade as we settle into a more settled life. It seems that we make the shift from music for adventure to music for comfort. I hear the opening riff of Poison's Every Rose Has its Thorn and I can smell the paper in the cassette case the first time I opened it as an elementary school student.

I remember the moment I couldn't remember the last time I'd learned a new song on my guitar — what do we do when we realize we've grown a little too comfortable and lost some of that spark of life? I'm reminded of Ezekiel 37 with bodies in the valley that were fully re-formed by God but hadn't yet been reminded how to breathe. It's an interesting image to think about the idea that God blew breath back into lungs resting too comfortably to draw air. The presence of God isn't comfort; the presence of God is disruption itself.

Then in our comfort, unto us a child was born, and we named her Willo! Now our daughter's a great kid with a sweet temperament; but like all children, she has moments. We learned early on that she loves Ariana Grande — no matter the fit, no matter how loud or how angry, Ariana Grande could fix it. So it might not surprise you to learn that I started listening to her music a lot, both with and without my daughter because her music reminds me now of my daughter.

One day while listening with my daughter just before Lent in 2019, I heard a song that I hadn't heard before with the chorus, "The light is coming to take back everything the darkness stole!". I was instantly hooked on this hook. Though I don't recommend looking up the rest of the song's lyrics, I do want you to think about that line:

The light is coming to take back everything the darkness stole.

Say it a few times and play with it. Emphasize different words. Sing it, rap it, listen to it, and think about what kind of meaning this has for those of us living the Christian life. The Light is coming to take back everything the darkness stole. Part of the power of this thought in the context of faith is that we know the power of God is the power greater than the universe. There's nothing the darkness can hold that God can't get to in heaven or on earth, seen and unseen. The darkness has no power over the light.

As we enter into the season of Epiphany, we enter a season of light and new life. We proclaim the revelation of God's creative and re-creative love. We long for God to look at our bodies in times when our lungs may be just too comfortable to breathe, and disrupt our rest and call back us into life. I pray that God disrupts us so that we can bear that light in the darkest parts of our hearts and God's world. The light is coming — thanks be to God!

Adult Education starts January 5th

Loni Ivanovskis has graciously offered to lead a 9-week Adult study using Bishop James Hazelwood's *Everyday Spirituality* as our discussion guide.

It has 27 (short) chapters divided into three sections. Each chapter probes an action that we regularly do as part of our everyday living or, as the section titles suggest, every day, every week or every so often.

As noted previously, the book is written in a conversational tone, sprinkled with the occasional dash of humor it's is easy to read and offers a lot to think about—and discuss. You are asked to get your copy (hardcopy or ebook or audio book version) before the class starts in January. Please go to: <https://www.everydayspiritualitybook.com/> where you can read a bit about the book, sample a couple of chapters – and order your copy. **Please note**, that the Bishop is donating the profit from book sales during its first year to the New England Synod's Jubilee 2020 fund. A fund established by the New England Synod to answer a pressing need that impacts a significant number of rostered leaders in our synod. Its purpose is to reduce or eliminate seminary debt incurred by New England Synod rostered ministers. For more info on the Jubilee 2020 fund, please see:

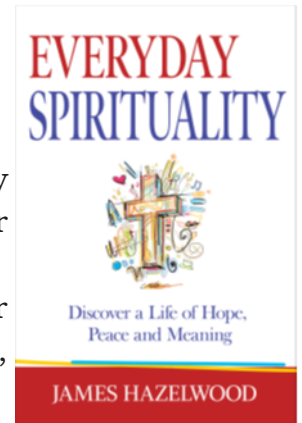
<https://www.nelutherans.org/faithinaction/jubilee-2020>. If you have any questions, please talk to Loni Ivanovskis or email her at: lonibelle63@yahoo.com.

P. S. The Bishop will be visiting LCOR on January 19th and has told us, he'll have some time to talk about his book while he's here.

The CAT results are in

The CAT results are in. There was a fantastic response to the Congregational Assessment Tool with 90 total responses. Thank you! The first key finding is that LCOR is generally in good congregational health. Synod has recommended a Transitional Pastor rather than an Intentional Interim Pastor. Pastor Wolf has accepted our offer to be our Transitional Pastor through Pentecost 2020. The Transition Team will begin working on issues related to preparing LCOR to make a call. This will include communicating more of the results from the CAT in the coming weeks. Soon a team will be developing the Ministry Site Profile to support the creation of the Call Committee. There is much work to be done, but this is an exciting time for LCOR as we prepare to call a new Pastor.

The Transition Team



Stewardship Update

The StewardSHIP campaign was a great success! Our four weeks went by so quickly-and many of you expressed positive comments about the campaign! Thank you to all who participated!

Our SHIP is definitely going in the right direction with the committed help of LCOR! The OARS are wonderful! 70 OARS were turned in to volunteer with various jobs. This helps us to stay on course! We can do so much more if everyone helps a little! Thank you for your participation!

Pledges-49 Pledges have been received to date. This is down from 70 last year. If you are intending to pledge for 2020, please send in your pledge ASAP. We are budgeting for next year and need a valid number to make that Budget.

As Steve has reported-Our CAT results were amazing! This is a direct result of everyone participating! LCOR is a strong, healthy Congregation and we want to continue improving! Having Pastor Eric agree to stay with us until Pentecost is another blessing!

Our SHIP is staying in the Narthex for now. We will decorate for the holidays. Please take a look at the Christmas decorations! The SS LCOR is a symbol of our strength and Love of God! We are all working together for a common cause!

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If you are intending to pledge for 2020, please send in your pledge ASAP. We are budgeting for next year and need a valid number to make that Budget. We will continue to contribute to our community-both near and far. Our Mission is to help! We are so awesome at that! Let's step it up just a bit-to help even more!

Blessings for a beautiful Christmas-sharing Jesus love and Wishing the best to all in the coming New Year!

God's Blessings,
The StewardSHIP committee.



January 2020 Server Schedule

							
Altar Guild	Eucharistic Minister	Ushers	Lay Reader	Acolytes	Greeters	Projectionist	Tellers

January 5, 2020

8:30 AM	Judy Schweitzer	Linda McCoy	Don & Linda DeVore	Judy Schweitzer	Reilly Slaney	Lenny & Joanne Hensas	Andrew Slaney	X
11:00 AM	Carol Boette	Susan Kennedy	Bob & Carol Boette	Loni Ivanovskis	Need Acolyte	Loni Ivanovskis	X	Bob Boette

January 12, 2020

8:30 AM	Marion Wuschke	Jai Demers	Matt Vekasy Need 2nd Usher	Jai Demers	Brandi Dumas	Karen Geromini	Katelynn Dineen	X
11:00 AM	Mary Jane Foster	Sallie Barton	Shirley Blake Need 2nd Usher	Sallie Barton	Need Acolyte	Pam Dishberger	X	Gary Mabee

January 19, 2020

8:30 AM	Karen DiCanzio	Brenda Glover	Rich Behlmer Need 2nd Usher	Brenda Glover	Matthew Glover	Linda McCoy	Need Projectionist	X
11:00 AM	Shirley Morris	Alice Wuschke	Pete D'Amico Need 2nd Usher	Alice Wuschke	Need Acolyte	Joyce Parlapiano	X	Ed & Shirley Morris

January 26, 2020

8:30 AM	Marion Wuschke	Shane Stenehjem	Paul Burns Need 2nd Usher	Paul Burns	Eden Dumas	Ed & MJ Murphy	Lucien Stenehjem	X
11:00 AM	Ute Taylor	Need Eucharistic Minister	Bob & Carol Boette	Need Lay Reader	Need Acolyte	Ute Taylor	X	Dan & Sandy Kronenwetter

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

You can find updated Server Schedules as well as the monthly calendar on the church's website at www.LCOR.ORG—The Calendar and Server Schedule are updated on regular basis.

January

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Church Office Closed New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 8:30 AM Cont. Worship 9:45 AM Christian Ed. 11:00 AM Trad. Worship 7:00 PM Band Rehearsal	6 6:00 – 10:00 PM ORCCC CPR/First Aid – Narthex	7 6:30 PM ORCCC BOD 7:00 PM Step Sisters 7:15 PM Finance	8	9 7:00 PM Community Life	10	11
12 8:30 AM Cont. Worship 9:45 AM Christian Ed. 11:00 AM Trad. Worship 7:00 PM Band Rehearsal	13	14 7:00 PM Step Sisters	15 6:15 – 7:15 PM Girl Scouts – Narthex	16	17	18 Deadline for February Newsletter Submissions
19 Bishop Hazelwood 8:30 AM Cont. Worship 9:45 AM Christian Ed. 11:00 AM Trad. Worship 7:00 PM Band Rehearsal	20	21 7:00 PM Step Sisters	22 6:15 – 7:15 PM Girl Scouts	23	24	25
26 8:30 AM Cont. Worship 9:45 AM Christian Ed. 11:00 AM Trad. Worship 7:00 PM Band Rehearsal	27	28 7:00 PM Step Sisters	29	30	31	

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer



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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.



E-mail Newsletter

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by e-mail rather than the regular mail, please sign up on the E-Mail signup sheet on the bulletin board, or leave a note on the secretary's desk (providing your name and e-mail address). You can also send an e-mail to Office@LCOR.org with your request to be added.

Each month the e-mail version of the newsletter will be e-mailed out generally 3 days prior to when the printed copy comes out. The e-mail version is in color. You can print out only what you want printed. The format of the e-mail bulletin is normal sized paper.

For those of you concerned with computer viruses, the church computer is updated and checked weekly and all e-mail addresses are kept confidential. The e-mail bulletin is sent out to all as a blind copy so if it is forwarded the only email address that is seen is the church's.