



FEBRUARY

The Messenger

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

February, 2025

Mark Your Calendars!

February 2– Sunday Worship w/o communion

February 9– Sunday Worship with Communion

February 10– Monday Night Communion Service at 5:00 p.m.

February 16– Sunday Worship w/o Communion

February 23– Sunday worship with Communion

Bible Studies at Church

TAWG: (time away with God): evening Bible study Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Ladies' Bible Study: Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday Bible Study: Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Bible Adult Bible Discussion: Sunday Mornings at 10:15 a.m.

Miss something from the Sermon?

All of our worship services are livestreamed and archived on our Facebook page! You can also find them on our website at www.orknoxin.com

GRACE, *mercy* and
PEACE from *God* the Father
and from
Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,
will be with us in
truth and love.

2 John 1:3, NIV



Welcome!

To our February Church Newsletter! As we embrace the warmth and fellowship of our church community. We invite you to join us in worship and celebration as we continue our journey of faith together.

In the coming weeks, you can look forward to inspiring sermons, engaging Bible studies, and opportunities for fellowship. Our doors are open to all, regardless of where you are in your spiritual journey. Whether you seek solace, guidance, or simply a place to belong, we invite you to explore the warmth and acceptance of our congregation.

Let's come together in faith, love, and service. Your presence and participation make our church family complete. Welcome home!

Pastor Eric



Lending Out Books
By Hal Sirowitz

You're always giving, my therapist said.
You have to learn how to take. Whenever
You meet a woman, the first thing you do
is lend her your books. You think she'll
have to see you again in order to return them.
But what happens is, she doesn't have the time
to read them, & she's afraid if she sees you again
you'll expect her to talk about them, & will
want to lend her even more. So she
cancels the date. You end up losing
a lot of books. You should borrow hers.

What was his therapist getting at, really? Was she saying that he was using the most ridiculous method of securing a date ever invented? Or was she warning him that he was too earnest, too suffocating in his desire to force himself on someone? Probably the latter. He was looking for a "soul mate," someone that he could share his deepest loves and interests with, someone that with whom he could talk about the important things in life, the big ideas, the life of the mind and soul. Books were the key. They supply the grist of a long, intimate conversation that sparks and feeds the fire of *real* intimacy.

Either way, the therapist could tell that he wasn't very practiced or experienced in the ways of romance and wooing. Not to mention the fact that in either scenario his expectations would be let-down. Most people just aren't readers.

I wonder what his therapist would think of Jesus if he was on her counselor's couch. Afterall, Jesus uses a similar approach to securing a relationship with you and me.

Jesus desperately wants to enter into a relationship with us. He's not desperate because he has the need for friendship, but because he knows that *we do*. He wants to share His thoughts with us, and ours with Him. He wants to unveil Himself to us, to let us see everything that He is and to know everything about Him; He wants to give us His very heart.

For only when we enter into that friendship, only when we get to know Him, are we saved. So what does He do? He not only lends us His Book, He gives it to us. It's a book all about Him in the end. He wants us to read it, to treasure it, to talk with Him about its contents, and then to share our thoughts, fears, joys, interests, worries, and hopes with Him based on that good Book.

Maybe He's a fool. Doesn't He know that most people just aren't readers? They take the book but then just let it lay on the bookshelf collecting dust. So they don't get to know Him.

They miss out. They refuse (politely, of course) the intimacy of His friendship; they stay distant. They may pick it up and give reading it a try every now-and-then, but it's a hard book to understand, as getting to really *know* someone always is. So they give up.

The therapist would probably tell Jesus that He ends up losing a lot of books, that He'd be better off just keeping them.

But what the therapist said about her client is absolutely true of Jesus: He's always giving, and He's just not interested in taking anything from us* ever. So He keeps forgiving us for our rudeness, and keeps calling us into a deeper and deeper friendship with Him. He keeps lending out and giving out books.

Just this once, let's spend some time enjoying (by reading) His gift. Eternal Life is in its pages!

*the only thing that Jesus ever takes from a person happens the moment they believe in Him as their personal savior: He takes away their sin, their guilt before God, and their eternal punishment. But He doesn't leave voids. When He takes He gives something in return. In this case He gives forgiveness, peace, and Everlasting Life.

All the ways God helps us

When young adults land in difficult situations and desperately call home, parents respond in various ways. They might remind their son or daughter of guidelines learned years back — behavior and problem-solving skills to get back on track. Or maybe parents direct their kids to a mentor, expert or resource for assistance. But if the crisis is severe, no doubt these loving parents hop in the car, or even on a plane, and go to their child. They embrace and support them, perhaps even taking initial steps to bring them through the chaos to a new beginning.


When the people of Israel were in the wilderness, exile and countless difficulties in between, God lovingly used each of these strategies. God reminded Israel of the Ten Commandments and other laws he gave to guide their life together. Sometimes he sent prophets and other leaders to direct the people into better ways and times. God does the same today, reminding us of Scripture's guidance and sending us prophetic voices and wise leaders.

Above all, when nothing less would save people, ancient and modern, from the dangers of sin and death, God came to us as Jesus. God's only Son walked with us, lived through our troubles alongside us, taught us new ways directly and brought us out of the problematic place where we were trapped and into a new beginning. —Heidi Hyland Mann



A Closer Walk

We invite you to join us in A Closer Walk Bible Reading Plan for the month of February. This daily reading schedule is designed to help you grow spiritually and draw closer to God through His Word. We encourage everyone to participate and make this a part of their daily routine.

A CLOSER WALK Bible reading schedule				February 2025		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
						2 Timothy 3:14-17
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Matthew 1	Matthew 2	Matthew 3	Matthew 4	Matthew 5:1-26	Matthew 5:27-48	Matthew 6
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Matthew 7	Matthew 8	Matthew 9:1-17	Matthew 9:18-38	Matthew 10:1-23	Matthew 10:24-42	Matthew 11
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Matthew 12:1-21	Matthew 12:22-50	Matthew 13:1-33	Matthew 13:34-58	Matthew 14:1-21	Matthew 14:22-36	Matthew 15:1-20
23	24	25	26	27	28	March 1
Matthew 15:21-39	Matthew 16	Matthew 17	Matthew 18:1-20	Matthew 18:21-35	Matthew 19:1-15	Matthew 19:16-30
www.orlcknoxin.com		 www.facebook.com/ORLCKnox		<p>Our journey through the New Testament begins with the Gospel of Matthew, the first of the Gospels to be written. Matthew's purpose in writing is to convince a largely Jewish audience that Jesus is their Messiah.</p>		

New Tv's in the Sanctuary

This may be old news, but if you haven't noticed already we are excited to share that the TVs in the Sanctuary have been replaced, and we couldn't be happier with the results! The quality is outstanding, and we are blessed to once again be able to use both screens for our services. A huge thank you to our IT expert, Richard Franks, for his hard work, and a special shoutout to Pastor Eric for his help with the installation!

As this was an unexpected expense and wasn't included in our 2024 budget, we are currently accepting free-will donations to help cover the cost of the TVs. If you would like to contribute, you can bring your donation to the office or include it in your offering. Please be sure to designate it for the TV fund so that the funds can be properly allocated.



Senior Luncheon

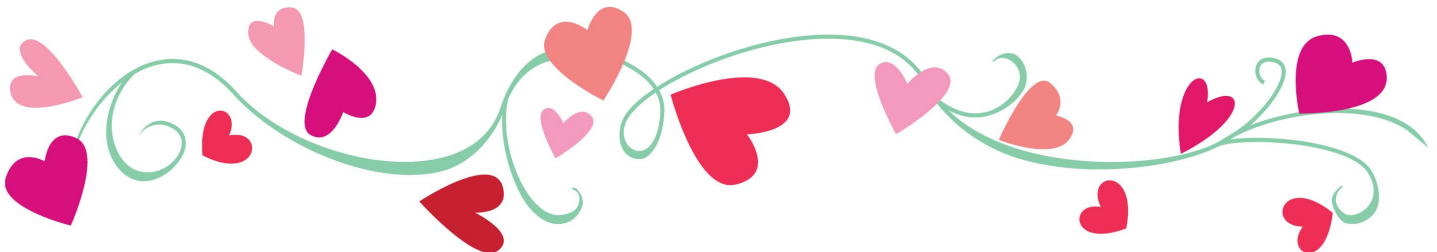
We're excited to once again host a Senior Luncheon Thursday February 13th at noon in the Fellowship Hall and would love for you to join us!

What to Bring: A dish to share and if you'd like to participate in the White Elephant gift exchange, please bring a \$10.00 gift. (It doesn't have to be Valentine's Day-themed!)

How to Sign Up: A sign-up sheet is available on the "What's Going On at ORLC" bulletin board. Please add your name and the dish you'll be bringing.



Feel free to invite your friends – the more, the merrier!
We can't wait to celebrate with you!





A Prayer for Presidents Day

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest gratitude for this country and the freedom to worship you. Stir up a sense of stewardship so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders, that you will bless them with wisdom and humility. Prompt everyone in positions of authority to pursue righteousness, justice and the welfare of all.

Remind us of the psalmist's teaching: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise be fulfilled "from sea to shining sea." Amen.

Special days in February

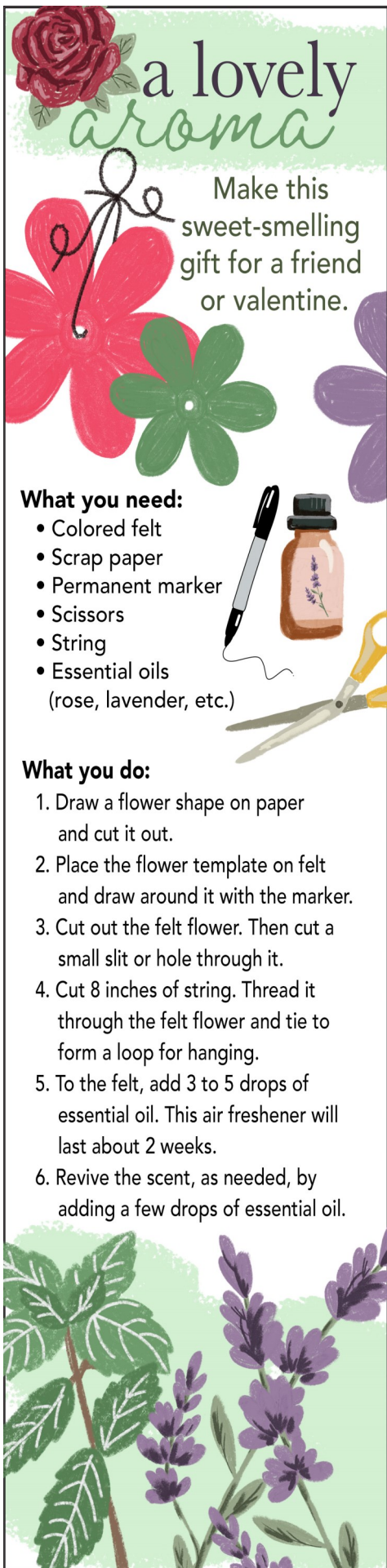
February 1-28– Black History Month

February 2– Groundhog Day

February 14– Valentine's Day

February 17– Presidents' Day





a lovely aroma

Make this
sweet-smelling
gift for a friend
or valentine.

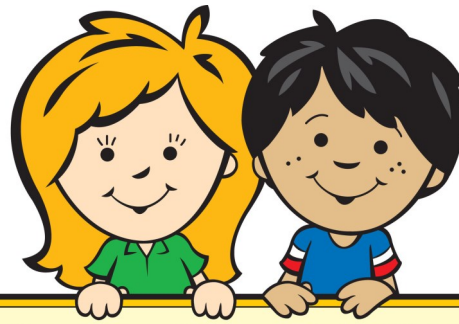
What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils
(rose, lavender, etc.)



What you do:

1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.



KIDS PAGE

Kids here is a fun craft to do with your Parents or maybe with older siblings to surprise your parents for Valentine's Day. Be sure to ask for an adults help before using scissors and remember to have fun with it!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

As the year gets well underway, we look forward to some wonderful upcoming opportunities for the children to share their God-given talents with the congregation through singing in church and preparing for a resurrection play to be presented in worship on Palm Sunday, April 13. Parents will be given more details on the play through our text chain. Please keep the children in prayer as they grow in their walk with Jesus each Sunday morning through our Sunday School hour.

YOUTH NEWS...

Reflections from January:

20 youth attended an overnight lock-in here at ORLC on Saturday, January 25. The night was filled with games, Bible study, and more. The youth were encouraged to bring a friend to the event and it was wonderful to have 7 extra friends with us. Through video, Bible reading, and discussion, the youth explored the theme of “Why Jesus? What’s the Big Deal About Jesus Anyway?” The youth learned about how and why Jesus had to be both human and God. They learned about His divine nature and how, as He shared with Martha, He is the resurrection and the life. The last of the youth fell asleep around 4 a.m. and we are praising God for the awesome time in faith and fun that was shared by all!

On Friday, January 31, two of our adults (Diane Cruz & Autumn Ferch) headed off with six of the youth (Ava Brammer, Harper Hazelton, Gracie Krueger, Hudson Hazelton, Gavin Michel, & Christian Norem) for the Chicago Marriott in Oak Brook to participate in a weekend-long spiritual retreat. The event, called Quake, is full of great speakers sharing their faith stories, Christian musicians leading the youth in worshipful songs, break-out sectional sessions throughout the day on Saturday, and growing in the Word of God through Bible study. Our group joined 200 youth & adult chaperones in exploring the theme “ENOUGH” based on John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only so that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.”

Upcoming in February for 5th – 12th Grade Youth:

Sunday, February 9: Youth Event after Sun. Morning Bible Study (11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

**** Delivering Valentine’s to Shut-Ins****

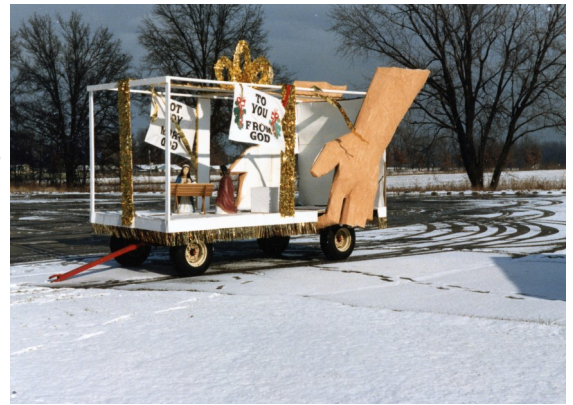
Sunday, February 23: Youth Event after Sun. Morning Bible Study (11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

****Care Packages & Fellowship w/a Devotion****

Trophy Talk III

Before we start talking about Our Redeemer and the MANY parade trophies and plaques which we've won over the years, I have to correct the wrong which was done to Kenny Koenig when his name was omitted from the list of talented O.R. basketball jocks in Trophy Talks II.

Now, it all began in 1987 – at least Our Redeemer's participation in the annual Knox Peppermint Parade (which parade Rich Wallen from WKVI says began in 1985 or '86). Within a month of moving here with Barb and girls from Moab, Utah, Pastor Tim Miller had imaged and created his first prize-winning float. "To You From God" (picture 1) won a large, beautiful trophy for '1st Place Non-commercial Float' in 1987's Thanksgiving weekend Peppermint Parade. Lighting and Pastor Miller struck again in 1988 with "Joy to the World our Savior Comes" (picture 2). All in all, with his trusty 1x2's, electric screwdriver, and piles of cardboard, Paster Miller crafted First Place Non-commercial floats for seven Peppermint Parades in a row, including : 1989's "We Bring You Glad Tidings" (picture 3), 1990's "Unto You a Savior Is Born" (picture 4) 1991's gorgeous advent wreath (picture 5), 1992's three wiseman pursuing creche (picture 6), and 1993's magnificent hand bells (picture 7). As a added bonus, the handbell choir which marched along with the handbell float (ringing handbells, no less), also won a 1st place trophy for best Marching Unit



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FOOD PANTRY NEWS

As we've entered into a new year we are reminded of all the things that we were blessed with in 2024. We have so much to be grateful for. Due to the generosity and compassion of so many we are able to continue to serve our community by providing food to the "Food Insecure" of Starke County. Food Insecurity is on the rise both in our county and throughout the country! Your donations, along with the purchases that we are able to make keep our shelves stocked. During 2024 we served an average of 71 people per month. We expect those numbers to increase in 2025 due to the economy. There are more senior citizens struggling financially, grandparents raising their grandchildren, people losing jobs, etc.



Little Lambs Preschool had their annual food drive before Thanksgiving. In the second photo they are delivering their collected items to the Food Pantry, with Jill and Marcia helping. The children were so excited! The third photo shows how their donations helped stock our shelves.

This last year the Food Pantry of ORLC sponsored it's *First Annual Craft & Bake Sale*. We were very pleased with the outcome. On Saturday **April 5, 2025** we will sponsor the *Second Annual Craft & Bake Sale*, the majority of proceeds will be donated to Our Redeemer. We will again be asking all you crafters and bakers to help support this cause with your crafts and baked goods. All of you were so generous last year to make the sale a success!

We would like to thank our regular volunteers as well as our subs for their hard work and dedication, without them we would be lost!

Many of you may wonder what kind of food items are accepted at the Food Pantry? **Below is a list of suggested items:**

Spaghetti/pasta/noodles

Peanut Butter

Mac-n-cheese

Cereals: Hot and/or cold

Canned Vegetables

Rice

Pasta Meals

Canned Ravioli

Canned tuna

Saltine crackers

Pasta Sauce

Jelly

Tuna/Hamburger Helper

Canned soup/Ramen noodles

Canned Fruit

Instant or boxed potatoes

Canned sausage gravy

Spaghetti O's

Canned Chicken

Keep in mind these are only suggestions, we will accept whatever you choose to donate. The only requirement is that the product has a good shelf life.

If you have any questions please contact: Erika Large @ 269-449-4506, Kim Emmons @ 574-298-6488, or Marcia Olson @ 574-249-2756.

The Food Pantry is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will close when Knox Community Schools are closed due to inclement weather.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Second Annual Craft & Bake Sale, Saturday, April 5, 2025





Kroger Community Rewards


Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Food Pantry has become a member of the "Kroger Community Rewards Program". Now, when you shop at Kroger's and use your Kroger Plus Card, Kroger will donate cash to our account, it will cost you nothing.

Instructions to Attach ORLC to your Kroger Plus Card:

1. Download the app or sign into your account on Kroger.com
2. 2. Create an account if you don't already have one
3. 3. Go to the Account Tab
4. 4. Scroll down to Community Rewards
5. 5. Open Community Rewards Every
6. 6. Choose and add Our Redeemer Lutheran Church:

Organization number: RQ856 .

Every three months Kroger will notify us of our balance and pay us when the balance reaches \$25.00. Funds will roll over to the next quarter if funds have not reached the \$25.00 amount.





2025 Council Meeting Dates

- March 5, 2025
- June 4, 2025
- September 10, 2025
- December 10, 2025

2025 Voters' Meeting Dates

- March 9, 2025
- June 8, 2025
- September 14, 2025
- December 14, 2025



February Acolyte's Schedule

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| February 2nd | Christian Norem |
| February 9th | Luci Hamand |
| February 16th | Miles Fraser |
| February 23rd | Emma Brammer |





FEBRUARY

birthdays & anniversaries

Jim Mick	February 1
Erika Large	February 3
Elaine Browne	February 4
Nancy Back	February 7
Dawn White	February 7
Renate Banta	February 10
John Bickel	February 14
Tammy VanVolkenburg	February 15
Star Howard	February 18
Esther Lockridge	February 26

**God is
LOVE.**

1 JOHN 4:16





Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

1600 S. Heaton St.

Knox, IN 46534

www.orldcknoxin.com