Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

The Latest Word

ISSUE NO. 12
December 2026

"Making God Known Through Word and Deed."



Family Fun Night: Christmas Bingo!

Join us **Sunday, December 6 from 6:00- 7:30 p.m.** for an evening of fun, fellowship, and festive Bingo! All ages are invited to come enjoy bingo, laughter, and community with snacks and drinks provided.

Prize Donations & Baked Goods Needed!

- We're looking for prizes for children, families, and older individuals (e.g., gift cards, toys, lotion, candles, puzzles, games, candy, craft kits.) Prizes don't need to be extravagant or expensive. We do request that the items are new.

- We're also looking for volunteers to bring baked goods to share during the evening. Whether it's cookies, bars, brownies, or another favorite treat, we'd appreciate your help! Please sign up on our website at www.lcoorwatertown.org under the 'serve' tab.

Donations can be dropped off in the church office through Wednesday, December 2.

Holiday Schedule

Church School Christmas Programs
Sunday, December 13, 2026 at **9:30 a.m.**
Wednesday, December 16, 2026 at **6:30 p.m.**

Christmas Eve | Thursday, December 24, 2026
The church office closes at 12 p.m. on December 24 and reopens on Monday, December 28.

2:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
4:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
6:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
**All Christmas Eve worship services are by candlelight.*

Wednesday, December 30, 2026
The church office closes at 12 p.m. on December 31 and reopens on Monday, January 4.

No worship, activities, or Wednesday night meal.



Financial Reports & News



Holiday Gift Cards – Shop, Give & Support Our Preschool! 🎁

Every gift card purchased gives a percentage back to our Preschool Program! It's an easy way to support our youngest learners while taking care of your holiday shopping at the same time. **Plan Ahead & Order Early!** Most SCRIP gift cards arrive within approximately one week, so be sure to place your order early to have them ready for the holidays. Thank you for supporting our Preschool and helping our little learners grow! ❤️

December Mission of the Month: LCOOR Youth Mission Trips

During the month of December, our Mission of the Month and Noisy Can Offering will support **LCOOR Youth Mission Trips!**

Our high school youth are planning a mission trip to Nashville in mid-June, partnering with SERVE BOLDLY for a week of service, faith, and putting God's love into action. More details about the trip will be shared in the coming months.

Please consider making a special gift, above and beyond your regular offering, to help support our youth as they prepare for this meaningful opportunity to serve others and grow in their faith.

FYI – Van Rental & Gasoline for the week will be approximately $4,000.00

Thank you for helping our youth make a difference!

2027 Offering Envelopes

Stop by before or after worship to pick up your next year's offering envelopes or stop into the church office during the week. If you are currently giving online and do not need or use your envelopes, please contact Jodi Spilde and she can make that adjustment.

Financial Reports & News

Thank You for Your Faithful Stewardship!

We are grateful to everyone who has returned their 2027 Commitment Card! Your faithful response is a meaningful expression of generosity and helps support LCOOR's ministry as we continue sharing God's love and grace throughout our community.

If you haven't had a chance to submit your commitment, there's still time! You may mail your card using the return envelope you received in the mail or submit your Statement of Intent securely online at **www.lcoorwatertown.org/stewardship** by clicking on the Statement of Intent link.

As we look ahead, may we continue to grow together in generosity, trusting in God's promises and discovering how our gifts of time, talents, and treasures can make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for being part of God's work through LCOOR!

$1,600 in Memorials Given

Prayer Shawl Ministry
In memory of Rich Riddle: Pam Luckhurst, Darwin & Nancy Brinkman and Burt & Barb Andersh

"By Faith" Music & Music Ministries
In memory of Rich Riddle: Bell Choir, Todd & Cami Gottsleben, Dan & Sandy Albertsen, Al & Pam Raeder, David Leiseth, Don & Kathy Scharn, Al & Julie Rude, Burdette & Janet Drake, Clark & Gerry Likness, Darlene Bailey, Kerry & Kristi Jurgens, Sharon Bevers, Mark & Nancy Reishus, Harlan & Judy Konrad and AJ Sherrill

Outdoor Playground Area
In memory of Rich Riddle: Greg & Connie Gertsen, Don & Kris Rigdon, Brett & Lynne Riddle, National Turkey Federation, Lee & Kathy Jensen and Erin & Courtney (Aberdeen Riddle Store)

Undesignated Memorial
In memory of Rich Riddle: Jim & Kathy Hanson, Juli Steen and Julius & Marilyn Hexom

LCOOR Youth
In memory of Rich Riddle: Ken & Renae Madison

Nicaragua Youth Retreat
In memory of Herman Fink: Ken & Renae Madison



Sponsor Seasonal Decorations & Lighting

In lieu of Christmas plants this year, we invite you to help make our Christmas Eve worship services shine with beauty and light!

You are invited to sponsor **seasonal decorations and lighting in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone special, or to the Glory of God.** Each sponsorship is **$20,** and all dedications will be recognized in our Christmas Eve bulletin.

To participate, simply complete a sponsorship form and submit your payment at the Welcome Center, or contact the church office by **Sunday, December 13.**

May your gift help create a beautiful and welcoming space as we gather to celebrate the joy, hope, and wonder of Christ's birth!

LCOOR News & Events



Redeemer's Kitchen - Sunday, December 20

Overwhelmed? Busy? Or maybe you're just tired of the same thing every night for supper? We can help! Redeemer's Kitchen will meet **Sunday, December 20, after the 9:30 a.m. worship** to prep seven freezer meals.

December Menu:

- Ham and Bean Soup
- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Tex-Mex Rice Casserole
- French Dip Sandwiches
- Sausage and Pierogi Sheet Pan Dinner
- Meatball Tortellini Soup
- Thai Peanut Chicken with Rice
- White Chocolate Cranberry Cookies

More information, including pricing and sign-up, is available at the Welcome Center or by contacting Karri in the church office at karri@lcoorwatertown.org or (605) 886-2696.



Mobile Soup Kitchen

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer's Mobile Soup Kitchen will take place every other Sunday from October 4, 2026 - April 18, 2027.

During the month of December, **we will be serving on Sunday, December 13 and Sunday, December 27 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Guest House parking lot** (101 N Broadway, Watertown, SD 57201).

Cash donations and gift cards are greatly appreciated and will go toward ingredients and other essential supplies. Consider purchasing gift cards through RaiseRight, available from Jodi in the church office. Your purchase supports the soup kitchen while also benefiting our preschool. **We are also looking for volunteers! If you are interested in helping, please email Karri at karri@lcoorwatertown.org.**

Circle Bible Study

Circle is a welcoming group that gathers for Bible study, fellowship, and time together in God's Word. New participants are always welcome, and you do not need to have attended previous meetings to join us! During the month of December, Circle will meet on **Wednesday, December 9, at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Space.** We hope you will consider joining us for a morning of learning, conversation, and fellowship!

Faith Formation & Youth Updates

Junction Youth Group

A youth group for **1st to 4th grade.** We will meet **Thursday, December 10, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** Join us for a bible verse, games, crafts, snacks and fellowship. Friends are always welcome!



Route 56 Youth Group

A youth group for **5th & 6th grade.** We will meet **Wednesday, December 9, from 3:45-5:00 p.m.** We're still gathering once a month, but now we'll meet on Wednesday afternoons between school dismissal and church school. **Hop on Bus 73 at Watertown Intermediate School and get dropped off right at church (or ride with a parent);** just don't be late, because the bus fills up fast! Then stick around for our Wednesday meal at 5:00 p.m. before heading to church school!



Crossroads 78

A youth group for students in **7th & 8th grade!** We will meet **Monday, December 14 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** Scan the QR code to sign up for the Remind App to receive updates and announcements. This is a new group led by Mallory Kohl.



Youth Information

Church school for three-year-olds through sixth grade will be Sundays at **8:45 a.m.** and Wednesdays at **5:45 p.m.**

Confirmation will be Wednesdays from **6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** and will include Wednesday night worship. Parents need to be in worship with their child.

Doors to the education wing will remain locked until 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights. All students and families may enter the building for supper through the main or office doors of the church.

Church School Christmas programs will be **Sunday, December 13 and Wednesday, December 16 during worship time.**

There will be no church school Wednesday, December 23 through Sunday, January 3, due to Christmas break.

Milestone: 1st Grade Christmas Story & Nativity Scene

Worship recognition for this milestone will take place on **Sunday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m. or Wednesday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m.**

Luther League Youth Group

Luther League offers a vibrant youth group for students in 9th to 12th grade. **We will meet on Wednesday nights following 6:30 p.m. worship.** To stay updated, sign up for the Luther League Remind, which you can find on our website or on the bulletin board next to the youth room.

We will not meet during Christmas break. **Luther League participants will meet at 6:20 p.m. in the youth room, Wednesday, December 2 for the service project at Rachel's Hope.** Contact Wendy for more information and if you are interested in joining us there.

LCOOR Preschool



From Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer Preschool

This month we will be celebrating the fulfillment of God's promise, Baby Jesus' birth on Christmas Day. We will be decorating the room and singing lots of Christmas songs. The students will spend this month preparing for their Christmas program and finding out the true meaning of the season! Merry Christmas from the Preschool!!



A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who purchased the Advent Calendars. We truly appreciate all of your support for this amazing ministry!!





December Calendar

December 16:
Christmas Program at 10:00 a.m.

December 17:
Pajama Party

December 21 - January 1:
Christmas Break-No School

January 4:
Classes Resume





2027 Bible Study with Pastor Laura

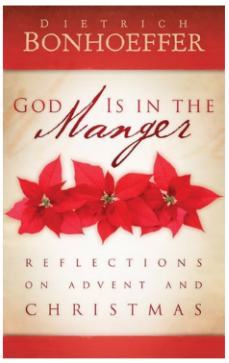
Join Pastor Laura beginning in January 2027 for a monthly Bible study centered on *Coverings: Fruit of the Spirit Quilt Pattern and Devotional*. This study offers an opportunity to grow in faith and explore the Fruit of the Spirit through Scripture and reflection. **No quilting experience is necessary!** Everyone is welcome to participate, whether you choose to quilt or simply take part in the Bible study. If you plan to quilt along, please purchase the book through Amazon. If you are only participatingin the study, there is no need to purchase the book.

We will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. We hope you will join us!



December Book Club

For the month of December, the LCOOR Book Club will meet on **Thursday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Youth Room. The book for December is *God Is in the Manger* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In addition, Pastor Dave Nerdig's book — *Letters from Pleasant View Lutheran Church: Christmas 1985 to Christmas 1999* offers an alternative book for December.





Deadline for the January 2027 Newsletter:
Monday, December 14, 2026

Address
2001 2nd St. NW
Watertown, SD 57201

Phone
605-886-2696

Website
https://lcoorwatertown.org/

Prayer Chain
Marilyn Chapman 886-4858
Email: karri@lcoorwatertown.org

Facebook
www.facebook.com/lcoor

Youtube
https://www.youtube.com/c/LutheranChurchofOurRedeemer

Church Council

President ..... Alan Stager
Vice President ..... Matt Blackwelder
Secretary ..... Kim Pearson
Treasurer ..... Jessica Kruse
Jan Birkeland | Cindy Day | Scott Leitheiser
Bret McGillivary | Dana Stimson

Staff

Senior Pastor ..... Dan Overbo
Associate Pastor ..... Laura Overbo
Preschool Teacher/Director ..... Nikki Landmark
Preschool Teacher Aide ..... Wendy Kruger
Welcoming & Caring Ministries ..... Karri Willhite
Business Manager ..... Jodi Spilde
Business Administrative Assistant ..... Megan Thyen
Director of Faith Formation ..... Wendy Kruger
Faith Formation Assistant ..... Mallory Kohl
Sound & Technology ..... Sam Langner
Custodian ..... Christina Riley

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** **No Church School (Thanksgiving Break)** 9:30am Worship 10:30am Choir Rehearsal 11:00am Mobile Soup Kitchen 1:00pm Tour of Nativities 2:00pm GriefShare	30 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 1:00pm Tour of Nativities 6:45pm Al-Anon	1 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00am Text Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	2 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 12:15pm Men's Lunch 5:00pm Community Meal 5:45pm Church School (Christmas Program Practice) 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:15pm NO Luther League (9-12 Grade) - Rachel's Hope at 6:20	3 9:00am Quilting 5:15pm Al-Anon 6:00pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Dan	4 Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry	5 5:30pm Worship with Holy Communion 6:30pm Saturday Evening Meal
6 8:45amChurch School (Christmas Program Practice) 9:30amNativity Presentation with 1st Graders 9:30amWorship with Holy Communion 10:30am Church Council 10:30amChoir Rehearsal 2:00pm GriefShare **6:00pm BINGO!**	7 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:45pm Al-Anon	8 11:00am Text Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting 2:30pm Quilting Bible Study 6	9 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 9:30am Circle Bible Study 12:15pm Men's Lunch 3:45pm Route 56 Youth Group 5:00pm Community Meal 5:45pm Church School (Christmas Program Practice) 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Nativity Presentation with 1st Graders 6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion 7:15pm Handbell Rehearsal (Christmas Eve Practice) 7:15pm Luther League (9-12 Grade)	10 11:00am Preschool Chapel 5:15pm Al-Anon 6:00pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Dan 6:00pm Junction (for grades 1st to 4th)	11 Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry	12 5:30pm Worship
13 **Christmas Eve Illumination Sponsor Deadline** 8:45am Church School (Christmas ProgramRehearsal) 9:30am Church School Christmas Program 10:30am Choir Rehearsal 11:00am Mobile Soup Kitchen 2:00pm GriefShare	14 **January Newsletter Deadline** 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:00pm Crossroads 78 (Youth group for 7th and 8th grade) 6:45pm Al-Anon	15 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00am Text Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	16 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 10:00am Preschool Christmas Program 12:15pm Men's Lunch 5:00pm Community Meal 5:45pm Church School (Christmas Program Rehearsal) 6:30pm Church School Christmas Program 6:30pm Confirmation 7:15pm Handbell Rehearsal (Christmas Eve Practice) 7:15pm Luther League (9-12 Grade)	17 9:00am Quilting 10:00am Book Club 5:15pm Al-Anon 6:00pm Adult Bible Study with Pastor Dan	18 Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 9:00am Quilting	19 5:30pm Worship with Holy Communion
20 8:45am Church School 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Redeemer's Kitchen 2:00pm GriefShare	21 NoPreschool (Christmas Break) 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:45pm Al-Anon	22 NoPreschool (Christmas Break) 11:00am Text Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	23 No Preschool (Christmas Break) **No Worship or Programs (Christmas Break)**	24 NoPreschool (Christmas Break) Christmas Eve Church Office Closed 2:00pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion 4:00pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion 5:15pm Al-Anon 6:00pm Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion	25 Church Office Closed Christmas Day	26 5:30pm Worship Lessons & Carols
27 **NoChurch School (Christmas Break)** 9:30am Worship Lessons&Carols 10:30am Choir Rehearsal 11:00am Mobile Soup Kitchen 2:00pm GriefShare	28 NoPreschool (Christmas Break) 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:45pm Al-Anon	29 NoPreschool (Christmas Break) 11:00am Text Study 1:00pm Staff Meeting	30 No Preschool (Christmas Break) **No Worship or Programs (Christmas Break)** 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry	31 No Preschool (Christmas Break) Church Office Closes at Noon New Year's Eve 5:15pm Al-Anon	1 Church Office Closed New Year's Day	2 5:30pm Worship with Holy Communion 6:30pm Saturday Evening Meal