



# RLC Newsletter

February  
2026

## A Message from Pastor Allman

In a book titled, “*On the Bondage of the Will*,” Martin Luther argued that people can receive salvation or redemption only through God, and could not choose between good and evil through their own willpower. Luther’s statements grew out of a debate between Desiderius Erasmus and Martin Luther as one of the earliest of the Reformation over the issue of free will and predestination.

The debate covered a myriad of topics critiquing the Roman Catholic Church, Luther, and theology in general, yet for my purposes, I will focus on “free will.” Essentially Erasmus believed that through God’s divine grace, people retain the capacity to choose good, thereby salvation involves human choice; while Luther argued that original sin precluded us from always choosing good, thereby salvation comes only through God’s goodness or righteousness.

In his book, “*Mere Christianity*,” C. S. Lewis writes “*Some people imagine a creature which was free but had no possibility of going wrong; I cannot. If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible...though it makes evil possible, it is also the only thing that*

*makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having.*”

Is your head spinning yet? Have you ever thought so much about free will before? Probably not! Yet, February is a month where people often think about love. Unfortunately, in English, we only use one word for love. We can talk about loving another person or chocolate and hold two different meanings in mind.

Ancient Greek had several words for love, most notably Agape (selfless, divine love), Eros (passionate, romantic love), Philia (deep friendship/brotherly love), and Storge (familial, natural affection), alongside others like Pragma (enduring love) and Philautia (self-love). That may or may not make using the word love easier for you.

Biblically speaking, love as emotion, does not come from the heart, like those Valentine’s Day cards display. When Jesus said to love God with our whole heart, he was talking about our commitment and obedience to God’s Will, which brings us back to the idea of free will. God “loves” the whole world with Agape (selfless, divine love), while (IMHO) humans would rather love God with some version nearer to Philia (deep friendship) or Storge (natural affection).

When you read these words, what kind of love do you think Jesus meant? “‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ (Jesus) said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind’” (Matthew 22:36-37)?

Pastor Allman 

**Thank you for donating items for the food pantry in the Narthex closet. Please remember, NO open packages or containers or expired food.**



## News from the Office Administrator February 2026

This year has gotten off to a busy start. It has been so nice to see our Second Chance Sale volunteers getting Buhr Hall ready for the big sale on February 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone that has help with the presale work and thank you to everyone that will be helping on the sale days and after for clean-up This event would not be possible without you.

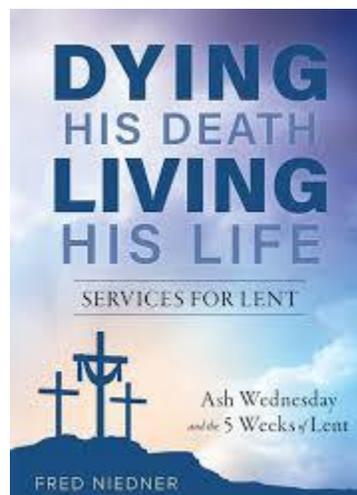
The Lenten season is almost here as well. Pastor Allman will lead services for Lent, this year will be Dying his Death Living his Life, every Wednesday starting on Ash Wednesday (February 18<sup>th</sup>).

As usual, we have a bunch of things going on so be sure you check the Welcome Table in the narthex for upcoming events. We will post flyers and signup sheets there for many different activities, so come and choose some fun and informative things to do!

Our bookkeeper Mike is a Notary Public, he will be offering this service to our congregation. If you have a friend in need the cost is \$10 per signature.

***Please know that if you are in need of financial assistance, we have funds available at the church to help. This remains confidential. Only Pastor will know that you received aid. We don't want anyone left in need, so please speak with Pastor Allman if we can be helpful.***

***Donations to the Pastors discretionary fund can be made at any time and given in any amount. If you would like to make a donation, please write Pastor's discretionary fund on the memo line.***



# FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP

IMHO the year 2026 is moving forward quickly. It feels like we barely got through the 12 Days of Christmas (12-25-25 - 1/5/26) before we were already planning for Lent (or at least I was), which begins with Ash Wednesday, 2/18/26. What does that have to do with Stewardship?



I know some folks hear/read the word Stewardship and instantly think, “*The Church wants more money.*” While that may seem true, Redeemer has always walked a fine line between income and expenses. Our Congregational Leadership and Staff do an excellent ministry of balancing offerings with ministry. We all pray for discernment of God’s preferred future for Redeemer, and to make wise decisions on how we get there, with your help.

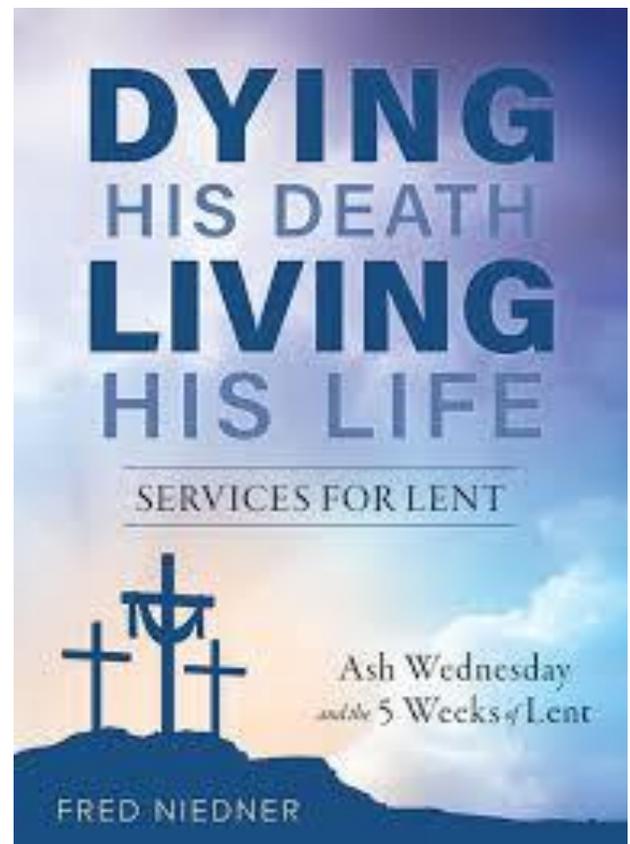
Time is also a major part of Stewardship. In regard to time, I want each of you to consider how you will wisely discern God’s Will for your time during the upcoming 40-days of Lent. If you are trying to count 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter, you will need to exclude Sundays, which are always days of celebration of the Resurrection.



The theme for this year’s Wednesday worship services in Lent will be, “*Dying His Death, Living His Life.*” In Lent, we are reminded that we are buried with Christ in his death so that we might live with him in his Resurrection. The old is gone. The new has come. Each day affords us a chance to die to self and live for him. In word, song, and prayers in the Wednesday worship services for the Lenten season, we will contemplate those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ.

In short the weekly themes are: Ash Wednesday (2/18): Dying To Sin, Living In Forgiveness; (2/25): Dying To Pride, Living For Others; (3/4): Dying To Greed, Living For The Treasures Of Heaven; (3/11): Dying To Doubt, Living By Faith; (3/18): Dying To Turmoil, Living In Peace; And, (3/25): Dying To Judgment, Living In Grace.

Please plan to join us each Sunday and Wednesday during the Lenten season. As you heard in the sermon on 1/11/26, being in worship, joining Choir, and becoming an active part of one our Redeemer’s Ministry Teams is the best way to preserve your life, both in this world and the next.



# GROWING IN FAITH

God shows us great compassion (*agape love*), and expects us to show great compassion (*agape love*) to one another.

1 John 4:7-16 reads, *“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.”*



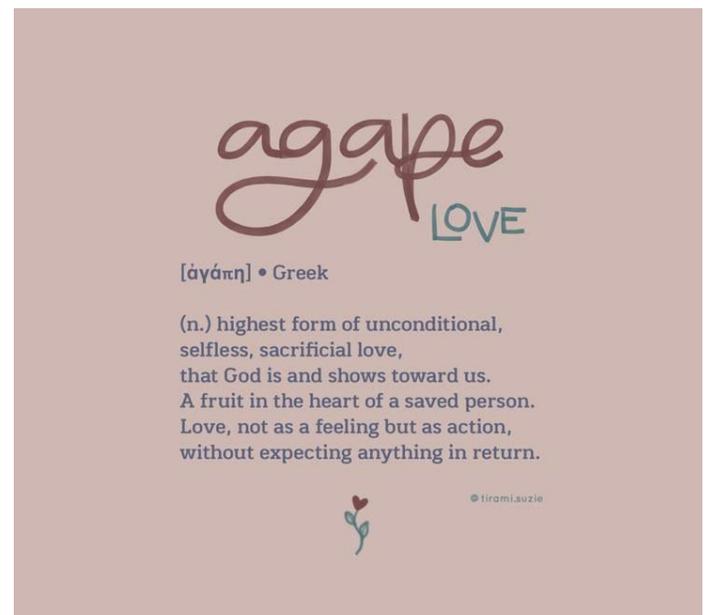
The biblical Greek language has multiple words that we translate as “love.” In this context John is using the Greek word, *agape*, which we may better translate as compassion. IMHO even the word compassion is not strong enough to fully convey how much God loves us. John’s writings focus on how much God loves us, even referring to himself in

his gospel as *“the one whom Jesus loved”* and never by his name, John. John’s whole identity and life, after having met Jesus, is *“one who is loved.”*

We value God’s love. We even memorize John 3:16, *“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”* That love is so ingrained into our identity as Christ-followers that all we need is to mention or see John 3:16 and we instantly are reminded of how much God loves us.

That is wonderful, although we are not to stop there. We are to grow into that *agape/love* by passing it along to others. In John 13:34-35 Jesus said, *“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”* Please note that Jesus does not say this is a suggestion, or even a good idea, Jesus said this is a new commandment; i.e. a must do for those who call themselves Christ-followers.

In the back of the sanctuary and in our Buhr Hall, you will have seen large, colorful boards with our three-part Mission Statement. The third board presents this as part of our Mission Statement as we are called to “Love All People.” We may already be a month into the “new year” although it is not too late to add this to your new year’s resolutions list.



# WHERE SHOULD YOU GO?



## PRIMARY CARE



Call or see your provider for your regular medical problems or most urgent needs.

- Check-ups or physicals
- Common illnesses
- Flu shots and other vaccines
- Health advice
- Medication refills or changes
- Referral to a specialist
- Routine tests
- Your regular medical problems



## URGENT CARE



Go to the Urgent Care for common things that need to be treated soon, but your primary care provider is not available.

- Allergic reaction
- Animal or insect bite
- Back pain
- Bad cold or flu
- Cuts requiring stitches
- Ear aches
- Eye infection or irritation
- Mild fever
- Minor burns
- Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
- Skin conditions
- Sore throat
- Sprains or strains
- Suspected broken bone, not shifted or out of place
- Urinary tract infection



## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



Go to the Emergency Department for serious life or limb threatening conditions.

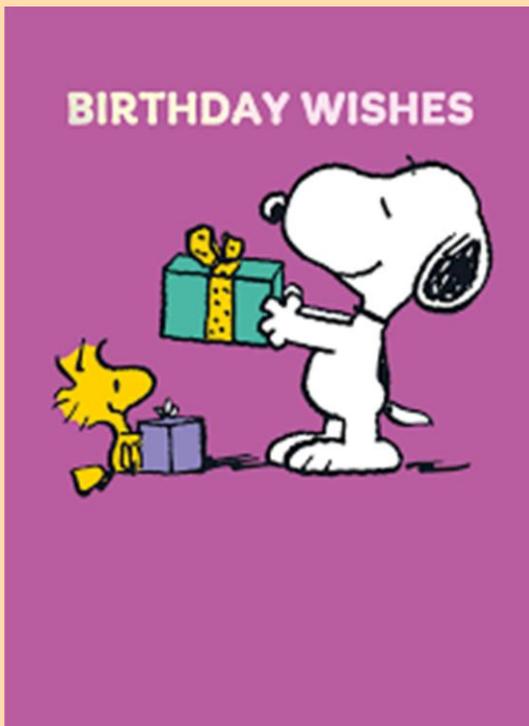
- Broken bone, shifted out of place
- Coughing or vomiting blood
- Chest pain
- Difficulty speaking
- Head or eye injury
- Poisoning or overdose
- Severe abdominal pain
- Severe burns
- Signs of stroke, such as numbness or weakness of limbs
- Shortness of breath
- Sudden loss of consciousness
- Uncontrolled bleeding

**When in Doubt: Call 911 or your doctor; it's safer to get checked at the ER if you're unsure.**

*From Parish Nurse Team*

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Dale Lyndahl**
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Sam Thompson**
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Mary Ann Sigler, Nora Wilhide**
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Schwartz, Tina Schwartz**
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Marlyn Warren**
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Karen Hagg, Myrna Strom**
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Brigitte Austen, Greg Kiel**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Patti Malamas, Lori Murray,  
Kadie Dehne**
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Ellen Kleis**
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Marjorie Kesler**
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Janet Demillier, Chris Mcann**



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Deb & Dan Pollert**
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Bill & Joyce Kessel**
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Paul & Geri Fullmer**



We ask if you notice information is missing or incorrect, please let us know. Thank you!





<b>Time</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Lector</b>
<b>Sun. Feb 1 10:00 AM</b>	<b>David Lickfeldt</b>	<b>Bill &amp; Sharon Horiszny, David Lickfeldt</b>	<b>Dan Pollert</b>
<b>Sun. Feb 8 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>		<b>Jim Schwartz</b>
<b>Sun. Feb 15 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin, Judy Buskirk, Joyce Kuzmick</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>
<b>Wed. Feb 18 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>	<b>Wendy Kitzman, Jenise German, Kathy Schwartz</b>	<b>Wendy Kitzman</b>
<b>Sun. Feb 22 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>		<b>Sherri Knaub</b>
<b>Wed. Feb 25 3:00 PM</b>	<b>Joe Bernagozzi</b>		<b>Joe Bernagozzi</b>

<b>February Usher Team</b>	<b>February Altar Guild</b>	<b>Sound &amp; Camera</b>
<b>Shari Flemings Team</b>	<b>Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>



<b>Time</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Lector</b>
<b>Sun. Mar 1 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>	<b>Jenise German, Mary Ann Sigler, Joyce Kuzmick</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>
<b>Wed. Mar 4 3:00 PM</b>	<b>Joe Bernagozzi</b>		<b>Dan Pollert</b>
<b>Sun. Mar 8 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>		<b>Jim Schwartz</b>
<b>Wed. Mar 11 3:00 PM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>		<b>Wendy Kitzman</b>
<b>Sun. Mar 15 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin, David Lickfeldt, Wendy Kitzman</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>
<b>Wed. Mar 18 3:00 PM</b>	<b>David Lickfeldt</b>		<b>Chuck Kovacik</b>
<b>Sun. Mar 22 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>		<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>
<b>Wed. Mar 25 3:00 PM</b>	<b>Joe Bernagozzi</b>		<b>Dan Pollert</b>
<b>Sun. Mar 29 10:00 AM</b>	<b>David Lickfeldt</b>	<b>Bill &amp; Sharon Horiszny, Kathy Schwartz</b>	<b>Chuck Kovacik</b>



## Second Chance Sale

Tuesday, February 3rd will be the last day to drop off donations for the sale. Since pricing and sorting will continue until the sale, your help is still needed this week. And helpers are needed during the sale.

Workers will need to wear a red Redeemer shirt (or another red shirt) on Friday and a blue Thrivent shirt on Saturday. All sizes of the blue Thrivent shirt are available in the conference room, and they are FREE.

And everyone, please come and shop on Friday, February 6 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM and Saturday, February 7 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. There will be household items, clothing, tools, jewelry, crafts, toys, a boutique, and much MORE! There will also be a bake sale and hot dogs. Outdoors you will find Sam's Honeybees honey. This is your chance to find bargains while also supporting Redeemer congregation.

Again, sale dates for the sale are **Friday, February 6 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and Saturday, February 7 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**



## Calling all bakers to support the upcoming bake sale to benefit WELCA!

We need homemade, shelf stable items to make this another fundraising success. Items that sell well include cookies, bar cookies, muffins, breads, coffee cakes, brownies, pies, scones, fudge, candy, sugar-free baked goods (please label what sweetener is used), and gluten-free items.

Please label items containing allergens, such as tree nuts and peanuts. Please bring your items in disposable containers (or mark any container with your name if you want it returned to you and remember to pick it up in the kitchen after the sale). Please be sure to tell us what you've made (simple label or note will do) and drop off your donated items to the kitchen on Thursday, February 5, 2026 between 10:00 AM and noon. Thank you!



## School/Teacher Supplies

Thank you for your school supply donations. We did not get to many items but what we have will be brought to the teachers in need at Reddick Elementary.



## Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those Thrivent members who are eligible for Choice Dollars, you must direct your 2025 dollars by March 31st or you will lose them. Visit [www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to direct your dollars, or you can call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. For questions or help, see Lois Hobratschk. This is an opportunity to support Redeemer.

Direct your  
Thrivent Choice  
Dollars  
Today!



## Bible Study

Pastor Allman is discussing 1 Corinthians in his newest Online Bible Study. Videos will be available every Thursday. A list of the many bible verses is also available for you to read if you wish.

Our YouTube channel is:

## Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center Florida



## Ash Wednesday Soup Meal

WELCA will be organizing a soup meal following the 4:00 PM service on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. We are looking for donations of a crockpot of soup, bread, and dessert. If you are providing soup, please also bring a ladle. You will need to put your name on the crock pot and ladle. There is a sign-up sheet on the welcome counter. And everyone please join us after the service to sample many delicious homemade soups, breads, and desserts!!



## Services for lent Dying his death Living his life

In Lent and in this series, we are reminded that we are buried with Christ in his death so that we might live with him in his resurrection. The old is gone. The new has come. Each day affords us a chance to die to self and live for him. In word and song in these worship services for the holy season, contemplate those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ.

## Ash Wednesday • Feb 18 at 4:00 PM Dying to Sin, Living in Forgiveness

We lay our sins on Jesus and receive his forgiveness in return.

## Week 1 • Feb 25 at 3:00 PM Dying to Pride, Living for Others

We turn away from self to turn to others in love.

## Week 2 • Mar 4 at 3:00 PM Dying to Greed, Living for the Treasures of Heaven

We release our grip on earthly things that we might grasp those things above.

## Week 3 • Mar 11 at 3:00 PM Dying to Doubt, Living by Faith

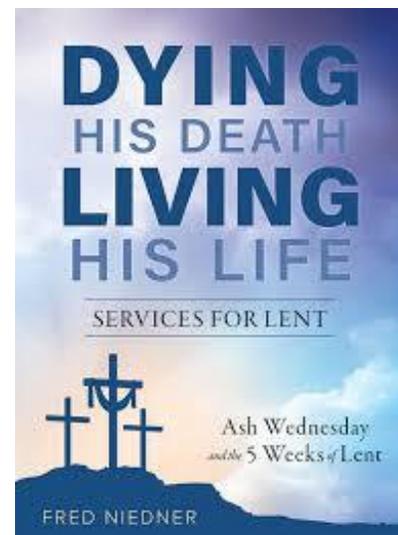
We rid ourselves of uncertainty in exchange for total trust in Christ.

## Week 4 • Mar 18 at 3:00 PM Dying to Turmoil, Living in Peace

We trade our troubles for the comfort of Christ.

## Week 5 • Mar 25 at 3:00 PM Dying to Judgment, Living in Grace

We are released from punishment to dwell in Christ's mercy.



# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Sale prep Hall closed 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>2</b> Sale prep Hall closed 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 12:00 PM-OA Meeting 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>3</b> Sale prep Hall closed 12:30 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>4</b> Sale prep Hall closed	<b>5</b> Sale prep Hall closed 2:00 PM-Friends & Family 5:00 PM – Bible Study 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>6</b> 8:00 AM-Second Chance Sale	<b>7</b> 8:00 AM-Second Chance Sale
<b>8</b> 10:00 AM-Worship Council Installation	<b>9</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 12:00 PM-OA Meeting 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>10</b> 12:30 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>11</b> 10:00 AM-Fundraising Meeting	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM-Parish Nurse Meeting 5:00 PM – Bible Study 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM-Stitch & Bond	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>15</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>16</b> 9:00 AM-Council Mtg 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 12:00 PM-OA Meeting 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>17</b> 11:30 AM-South shore coalition 12:30 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 4:00 PM-Ash Wednesday Worship 5:00 PM-Soup supper	<b>19</b> 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>20</b> 9:30 AM-Stitch & Bond	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM-WELCA Board Meeting 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>22</b> 10:00 AM-Worship	<b>23</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 12:00 PM-OA Meeting 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>24</b> 12:30 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>25</b> 3:00 PM-Lenten Worship	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>27</b> 9:30 AM-Stitch & Bond	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice

*God bless our country, our first responders,  
and our military men and women.*

Office Email: [scredeemerlc@gmail.com](mailto:scredeemerlc@gmail.com)