



Some scenes  
from the  
Children's  
Christmas  
Pageant. Thank  
you everyone  
who helped!



January/February 2026 -Monthly Newsletter  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
2384 E. Landis Ave Vineland, NJ  
856-691-4278  
*The Rev. Heather Sugden, Pastor*

# ANNUAL MEETING



**25 JAN 2026 | 10:30 AM**

ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 ONLY FOLLOWED BY  
ANNUAL MEETING AT 10:30 AM  
ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

**LIGHT BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED**

Sunday Services  
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Worship  
9:15 AM Sunday School

Connecting People to Christ,  
Growing in His Love, Serving Him.  
"Come and See, Go and Tell, the Good News for All!"

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HEATHER

My Christmas tree is packed away, along with all the special ornaments that I love to look at each season. The cookies are all gone – finally! The nativity scene is back in its secure storage spot, until I wonder where I left it next December. By my holiday accounting, I responded to all the cards and exchanged all the gifts that were expected of me.

This Christmas was a good one, and now life can go back to normal. Back to school and work. Back to getting up early and going to bed at a reasonable time. Back to eating toast instead of cookies for breakfast.

Normal is good. But I miss the twinkling lights. I miss my decorated tree – even if the dog kept trying to eat the ornaments. I miss knowing that “The Grinch” was on television once again – even if I never watched it. I miss the sugar rush of all the stuff we are only supposed to eat in moderation.

But a new season is upon us – not just in life, but at the church, too. The season of Epiphany might seem boring compared to Advent or Christmas, but I actually believe that it is the church’s anecdote to the post-Christmas blues.

Christmas culminates in the Messiah’s birth; Epiphany begins with the baby all grown up and being baptized. Christmas’s characters long for the coming Messiah; Epiphany introduces us to the Messiah in flesh and blood. Christmas describes what the Messiah will do; Epiphany shows him doing it. Christmas calls us to wake up and listen; Epiphany calls us to get up and be a disciple.

In other words, this is not the time to “check out” of church! The gospel stories we will hear in the next few weeks reveal exactly who Jesus is, and how the eternal light of the world still shines in the darkness.

Indeed, the God who is born at Christmas continues to show up – revealed in the ministry of Jesus, but also revealed in the ministry of all who still follow him. When we cook for Code Blue, when we shop for the food pantry, when we worship together, when we pray for those in need around the world, those twinkling lights of Christmas come alive in big, powerful ways!

Keep shining, my friends. Keep listening to the songs of the season. Keep bringing light out into the world.

In Christ, Pastor Heather

## *The Monthly Newsletter* **Redeemer Lutheran Church** **[www.redeemervineland.org](http://www.redeemervineland.org)**



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**@RedeemerLutheranVineland**

### **Church Staff**

**Pastor:** Heather Sugden - [pastor@redeemervineland.org](mailto:pastor@redeemervineland.org) 609-665-3714

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**Music Director/Organist:** Teresa Minnix - [terminnix@gmail.com](mailto:terminnix@gmail.com)

**Bookkeeper:** Larry Gilbert

### **Council Members**

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### **Congregation Council:**

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### **Committee Information**

Nurture Committee: Chairperson - vacant

Gather Committee: Chairpersons - Nancy Manzoni & Alison Keller

Care Committee: Chairpersons - Linda Foster & Lynda Gilbert

**PLEASE NOTE.** *The deadline for information to be included in the newsletter is **the 15th of every month.***

### **Sunday Schedule**

**Worship at 8:30 am & 10:30 am**

**Sunday School from 9:15 - 10:15**

**Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 9 am—3 pm**

If you have made any changes to your personal information (address, phone number, email or family changes), please let the office know so that we can update our files. Please send into the Church Office at [office@redeemervineland.org](mailto:office@redeemervineland.org) or call 856-691-4278 ext. 102



# **"United in Praise" Choir Festival**

**Celebrating Christian Unity Week**

**Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 3:00 PM**

(Snow date: January 25)

**Grace Lutheran Church**

11 E. Dawes Ave. Somers Point



Enjoy hearing music and scripture  
shared by local churches,  
an expression of being truly  
"United in Praise!"

Light refreshments will be served.

**Please bring non-perishable food items to donate to the  
Grace Place Food Pantry!**

Sponsored by Thrivent



## **Martin Luther King Interfaith Service**

HONORING HIS LEGACY, PRAYING FOR OUR FUTURE

Sponsored by Interfaith Clergy United

**Monday, January 19, 2026 TIME: 11:00am**

Beth Israel Congregation  
1015 E. Park Ave. Vineland

Light refreshments will follow

Collecting donations for Con Vivir Wellness Hub  
in Hammonton

Sponsored by Allies in Caring  
providing Mental Health and Wellness Programs



# TIS THE SEASON



## THANK YOU!

Thank you, Claire, for the Christmas gift bags that were given to our homebound members of Redeemer. Your kind thoughts brightened their day as they opened the wrapped packages chosen just for them!

Thank you to the many folks who "greened" the sanctuary to prepare it for Christmas, and the many folks who took on the less-fun task of taking down and putting away all of the decorations in the new year.

Thank you to our Code Blue Crew who have been working so hard to feed our homeless neighbors on Sunday nights. The cooking, baking, food pantry donations, and Cheryl's organizing have made it possible to help many people during this very cold winter season.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Please keep in prayer the long term needs of: Bill and Marjorie Frank, Betty Anderson, Bob & Tim Federwitz, Eileen Niedzielak, Ernestine Gbolo, Jessica Morrow, Alice Motter, Scott Nagele, Peggy & Oz Schumacher, Elaine Hering, Daniel Furio, Tracy Edwards, Patricia Nichols, Carl DeRenzis, Craig Terry, Dick & Carol Shenton, Ginny Workman, Carlo Drogo, Barry Rosier, Pablo Bermudez and our College Students

### All troops serving our country and the world including:

Meredith Conley, Albert M. Floriani,  
Michael Gonzalez & Kevin Sykes

## Memorials

### Donations made in memory of:

**Bill Niglio** by: Cavalcanto Family Elise, Dana, and Valarie  
**Robert Knego, Father** by: David and Yvette Knego  
**Jean Holshue, Sister** by: William Cook

## ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18

NOON

SPOKEN SERVICE WITH ASHES

6:00 PM

BREAD AND BROTH AND WORSHIP  
(WITH ASHES)

FELLOWSHIP HALL

## LENT

LENTEN LUNCHES ON  
WEDNESDAYS

FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 25  
CASUAL WORSHIP AT NOON  
FOLLOWED BY LUNCH IN THE  
NARTHEX



## **February Devotion** by Deacon Federwitz

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV)-

*What's Love Got to Do with It?*

Have you ever felt like you were just going through the motions? Maybe you've had days where everything feels like a checklist—wake up, eat, work, sleep, repeat. It's easy to feel stuck in a cycle of living for ourselves, chasing what we want, and wondering if there's more to life. Deep down, we all long for purpose, for something bigger than just “me.” But how do we find it? And what if we're looking in the wrong places?

The Apostle Paul gives us a powerful answer in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. He reminds us that Christ's love is the ultimate motivator. Jesus didn't just live for Himself—He gave His life for us. His love is so overwhelming, so life-changing, that it compels us to stop living for ourselves and start living for Him. This isn't about rules or guilt; it's about being so captivated by His love that it changes everything. When we live for Jesus, we find the purpose and joy we've been searching for.

Paul wrote this letter to the church in Corinth, a city full of people chasing wealth, status, and personal gain. He wanted them to understand that Jesus' sacrifice wasn't just a historical event—it was a call to a new way of life. In a culture focused on self, Paul's message was radical: Christ's love changes us from the inside out, giving us a reason to live beyond ourselves.

The timeless truth here is that Christ's love transforms us. His death and resurrection aren't just facts; they're the foundation for a life of purpose. This Bible passage is prescriptive—it calls us to action. We're invited to live not for ourselves, but for the One who gave everything for us. This shift from self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness is as relevant today as it was in Paul's time.

What would it look like for you to live for Jesus today? Maybe it's choosing kindness when it's easier to be impatient. Maybe it's helping someone in need, even when it's inconvenient. Or maybe it's simply pausing to thank Him for His love and asking how you can share it with others. What's one way you can let Christ's love compel you this week? – this month?

*This devotion was written by Robert Federwitz, a Deacon in the ELCA and a lifelong Lutheran educator, retired, living in Millville, New Jersey.*

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**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHURCH?**

**DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT IT  
MEANS TO BE A MEMBER OF OUR  
CONGREGATION?**

**DO YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR FAITH WITH  
OTHERS?**

**JOIN US FOR LUNCH AND CONVERSATION!!**



# **NEW MEMBER WELCOME**

**FEBRUARY**

**SUNDAY | 15 | AT 11:30 AM**

**PLEASE RSVP TO THE OFFICE BY FEB. 8**



# January

## BIRTHDAYS

4 - Zola Fisher  
5 - Haley McCann  
6 - Diane Rodriguez  
11 - Sue Senseman  
15 - Cheryl Dittmer  
16 - Martin Papiano  
18 - Donna Yearsley  
23 - Kathleen Clay

## ANNIVERSARIES

3 - Teri & Samuel Drogo  
27 - Lisa & Robert Cook  
30 - Blanca & Matt Helland

# CELEBRATE!

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Hannah Salvaryn  
6 Chloe Wiese  
7 Greg Kendall  
8 Larry Gilbert  
9 Lynda Gilbert  
Ginny Workman  
14 James Salvaryn  
15 Greg Sugden  
19 Ed Morvay

20 Michael Headley  
Nancy Manzoni  
22 Aurora Esquilin  
23 Betsy Harrison  
Susan Papiano  
26 Vivian Moss Terranova  
28 Kaylee Sironen

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

14 Al & Alison Keller  
29 Joseph & Rebekah Drogo

WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT GENA LYNN MILLS, MSN, RNC-NIC, NIECE TO GREGORY KENDALL, HAS RECEIVED HER MSN FROM MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY AND HAS BEEN ACCEPTED TO EASTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY IN THE NEONATAL CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST PROGRAM.

