

OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWS

February 2023

Saint Valentine

February – the time of the year when birds mate, and a young man’s fancy turns to thoughts of love and marriage. That’s how it’s been pictured for many centuries. And, so: Valentine’s Day. People forget, however, that Saint Valentine did not live a life of romantic love, but love in the purest. He was a Priest in the time of Emperor Claudius II, who was quite hostile towards Christians. Some of what follows is handed down tradition, but is most likely true.

Claudius II had passed an edict forbidding male citizens and freemen to marry until after they had put in their time of military service. It had once been a voluntary service, but the Legions were in a constant uproar, and needed replenishing often. In those days, military service for one tour of duty was fifteen years. If you survived, you were discharged at age thirty, given a farm, all of your back pay, and often a wife that wanted to marry a veteran. Only the toughest even considered signing up for a second tour. Maybe they were a bit nuts, too.

By this time, around 260 AD, many Roman citizens, freemen, and slaves, were Christians. And Valentine, defying the Emperor, would continue to perform marriage ceremonies between young couples. When the authorities caught up with him, he was put into prison. Here’s the interesting part. The jailer was a Christian. There was nothing he could do other than to make sure that Valentine had sufficient food, wine, blankets. The jailer’s daughter, who was born blind, was healed by Valentine laying on of hands and prayer over the young girl. From that day on she was the one who brought Valentine his daily bread. The two became close friends.

In 269, on February 14, Valentine was beheaded. Before he was taken away, though, he wrote a letter to the young girl, telling her to trust in the Lord, to trust that she would see him again, and that he loved her in his deepest heart. He signed it, “From Your Valentine.”

To this day, that’s the traditional way to sign a card or letter to someone for whom you care deeply on the Festival of Saint Valentine. The love they shared was not earthly, worldly, sensual; it was the love that can only be found between two people who share the same view of the world, who share the love of Jesus, who trust that in the End of Days He will set everything the way they’re supposed to be. People who love one another in this world are not given or taken in marriage, but the deepest love from the heart that ties people together will never end.

Our world has corrupted Saint Valentine’s Day – first by dropping the “Saint,” and next by making a day of romance. It is supposed to be a day of love, the kind that Jesus shares with us, and with which we are all supposed to share with one another. That is, if we were perfect people, and could “love one another, just as I have loved you.” We fall short, but that doesn’t mean we can’t work towards that as a goal in life. It’s who we are.

Now, here’s a little trivia about Valentine’s Day, how it’s been celebrated. Yes, much of it is romance, but what can you do.

In the Middle Ages, a young man would give a new clothing outfit to a young woman. If she kept it, that means she would marry the young man. If he finds it in the gutter outside, well...

A young newly married woman is to pick an apple, and counting the number of seeds inside tells her how many children she will have. Don’t know how often this worked.

There are many others, but all are focused on one thing: Spring, when a young man’s fancy...

In Christ Jesus, Rev. Jeffery H. Leichman

Network Name and Password

ORLC Network Name: ORLC-Sanc-WiFi

Password: OrLcWiFiWax214

ORLC Outdoor Network Name: NETGEARACA35F-SETUP

Password: sharedsecret

Click-meeting link: Ourredeemerph.clickmeeting.com

Website

Our website: **ourredeemerprospectheights.org** contains links for in person worship registration, Livestream online worship, Bible Studies, Bulletins and Monthly News, and Online Giving. Check it often.

Email address for Pastor Leichman

If you would like to send an email to Pastor Leichman, please use the following address: Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org.

Prayer Request Information

If you have a prayer request, please notify Jim Burmeister via text at (847) 343-3798, Phone (847)934-5963 home or (847)343-3798 cell; or via email at elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org.

Wheeling Food Pantry Wish List

The Wheeling Township food pantry is in need of the following items: Beverages (especially quart size juices), Condiments, Fruit, Tuna, Salmon, Kleenex and Paper Towels. Items need to be dropped off at the Wheeling Township office located at 1616 N Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights. Questions can be directed to Julie Villarreal at 847-259-7730.

Adult in person Bible Study

Please join us for in person Adult Bible Study continues on Wednesdays starting at 11:00 am.

SAVE THE DATE!

The annual Sonshine Preschool Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser will be held on Saturday February 25th, 2023. This year's dinner will feature inside seating and hopefully a short program presented by the Sonshine children. The time has yet to be determined. Tickets will be available following worship on Sundays beginning February 5th. More info will follow.

Attention Amazon .com users!

Help support Our Redeemer Lutheran Church when you shop at smile.amazon.com. Amazon donates a percentage of every purchase to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Amazon will be discontinuing this program on February 20, so make sure to place your Amazon orders today!

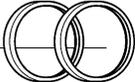
To get started, go to the website: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-264888>

Are you a Thrivent Member?

Have you directed your Choice Dollars? Please remember to check your Thrivent account at least on an annual basis and indicate where you would like to have them directed. Both Our Redeemer and Sunshine are included in the recognized recipients and would appreciate being designated. Thrivent provides this free of charge to members, so remember to take advantage of their generosity!



February 19 – Tim Hartmann
 20 – Beverly Chudy
 27 – Jean Staffa

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

February No Anniversaries this month



| | | | |
|----------|----|----------|---|
| February | 1 | 11:00 am | Adult in person Bible Study |
| | 5 | 9:00 am | 5 th Sunday after the Epiphany With Communion |
| | 8 | 11:00 am | Adult in person Bible Study |
| | 12 | 9:30 am | 6 th Sunday after the Epiphany No Communion |
| | 14 | 4:30 pm | BOD Meeting |
| | 15 | 11:00 am | Adult in person Bible Study |
| | 19 | 9:00 am | The Transfiguration of our Lord With Communion |
| | 22 | 4:00 pm | Ash Wednesday Worship With Communion |
| | 25 | TBD | Sonshine Preschool Spaghetti Dinner |
| | 26 | 9:00 am | 1 st Sunday in Lent No Communion |