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In Touch With Redeemer

Sharing Christ and Changing Lives

FEBRUARY

2017

IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

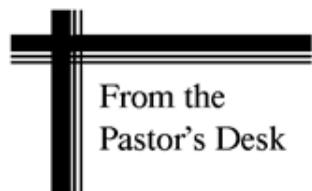
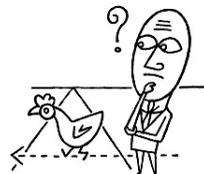
A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church

Volume XXVII, Issue II

Life Lessons From a Chicken

Have you ever wondered why a chicken would cross a road?

Last Monday night I was returning from the St. Cloud Hospital when I saw the red lights and decided to stop. Chick-Fil-A was open for at least another half



hour and I thought I would get something to tide me over on the ride back to Willmar. When I arrived at the restaurant the staff was very courteous and willing to see that I received the best service. The waffle fries are my favorite item on the menu and when I ordered the small amount of food I thought I would be back on the road soon afterward. If you have never been to this chain it would be best to fill you in on some essentials.

I have wanted to write a newsletter article about Chick-Fil-A for over ten years; they are a place that is near and dear to my heart. The food is not the main attraction of this fast food chain; their CEO believes in the philosophy of great service and servant leadership. Everything this chain does is a testimony to the idea that if you treat the customer like there are family they will return over and over again. The chain is closed on Sundays and the CEO is not afraid to take a pro Biblical stance on social issues; coming under fire for their ideas of a traditional family structure. When you visit a Chick-fil-a restaurant you will notice that they are committed to serving you and living out the Christian values of their executives.

My trip to the St Cloud Chick-Fil-A did not disappoint; the owner of that location took the time to start a conversation with me (unlike other businesses that seem to try to get you out the door so they can go home), and he continued to talk about the franchise and life well after the location was supposed to be closed. One of the things we discussed was our similar experiences of living in the same area of the south. Southern hospitality is something that is engrained into you when you grow up in the south and it stays with you for a long time; it involves holding the door open for others, saying "yes sir" (etc), and sharing good food. I shared with the owner that my first trip to the St Cloud location was not the same as my past experiences in the south. We talked about the idea that southern hospitality was something they had to teach their employees because it was a foreign concept to northerners.

As I drove away I could not help but think of the ways in which the "church" operates. I began to wonder in my head whether we teach people more about following rules rather than we do following Christ. There are things that must be attended to on Sunday mornings, but if these things become who we project Jesus to be about then we have failed in our mission. Christ came to give us a life that is centered on giving His life because we could not free ourselves from the penalty of sin. The model of Christ is one that put others first as He did His whole life. I would hate to wake up one day to find out that "being the church" was lost in the assembly of believers on Sunday mornings and the torch was being carried on by a fast food chain in its stead.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. Revelation 3:20

Pastor Matt

SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and a list is posted on the church office window. Please check your phone number for accuracy or if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office. Please help out when your co-chair calls.

FEBRUARY

Rose Meyer – 320-235-2556
Marlys Eggen – 320-235-7088

Troy & Lisa Anderson
Ted & Lois Bartel
John & Sharon Cola
Carolyn Davis
John & Marlys Eggen
Jeremy & Nichole Gleason
Sarah Hagen
Keven & Diane Hillenbrand
Jamie Jackson
Randy & Lynn Johnson
Roger & Nancy Klaassen
Ben Kopacek
Brad & Claudia Lenz
Brad Marcus
Gene & Rose Meyer
Randy & Melissa Mord
Nathan & Margaret Nielsen
Tim & Stacy Pollock
Charlotte Roduner
Jennifer Schoumaker
Dave & Lynn Sherod
Jeff & LeAnn Stauffenecker
Tony & Kerry Texley
Roland Wedel

MARCH

Beth Corti – 320-231-1907

Randy Arndt
Alice Beckmann
Deb Bremseth
Curt & Marcia Conklin
Lee & Beth Corti
Ryan & Sarah Fosso
Kim & Karen Heiden
Robert & Jeanette Hillenbrand
Robin Jacobson
Richard & Donna Johnson
Brandon & Chelsie Kopacek
Jeremy & Andria Krakow
Philip & Michelle Marcus
Dan & Phyllis Monson
Mick & Heather Moyer
Marlin & Cheryl Niss
Tom & Tracy Ost
Todd & Audrey Raap
Robert & Debra Rodelius
Justin & Tanya Rosenau
Brad & Suzanne Skindelien
Gordon & Deloris Steffen
Wilfred Wenberg

Biblical Love Stories

- In an effort to protect himself, Isaac tells the locals that his wife, Rebekah, is his:
a. mother b. cousin c. sister d. daughter
- What is the setting for Jesus' first miracle?
a. A wedding b. A temple c. A boat d. His kitchen
- Where does Jacob meet his future bride?
a. A well b. A bar mitzvah c. A bonfire d. The Red Sea
- A black and gold casket said to hold the remains of St. Valentine can be viewed each Valentine's Day at a church in:
a. Paris b. Rome c. London d. Dublin, Ireland
- Who gets Samson to reveal the secret of his strength?
a. Eve b. Abraham c. Mary d. Delilah
- Name the couple who offered religious instruction to Apollos and who received greetings in Paul's epistles. a. Adam and Eve b. Priscilla and Aquila c. Antony and Cleopatra d. Mary and Joseph
- Hosea once purchased his wife, Gomer, with what currency?
a. Silver b. Barley c. Wine d. All of the above
- Who was Jezebel's husband?
a. Isaac b. Moses c. Ahab d. Omri
- Which couple had a perfect marriage -- at least at first?
a. Mary and Joseph b. Hannah and Elkanah c. Adam and Eve d. Ruth and Boaz
- What is the levirate law?
a. If a man dies without bearing children, his widow is to marry the deceased's brother
b. A priest cannot divorce his wife
c. The firstborn son of a priest must become a priest
d. None of the above
- In addition to being the patron saint of love, St. Valentine is also the patron saint of:
a. Beekeepers b. Plague c. Both a and b d. Neither a nor b
- In his first letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul says love:
a. Protects b. Trusts c. Perseveres d. All of the above
- Who is widely believed to have been the disciple "whom Jesus loved"?
a. Mary Magdalene b. Martha c. Peter d. John
- Both the Hebrew Bible and New Testament contain a directive to " -- your neighbor as yourself."
a. Love b. Annoy c. Cook for d. None of the above

(Answers next month)

In Constant Fluxx

"This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." Mark 7:6-8

On a recent lock-in night I introduced a new card game to my students and adult leaders (a favorite of the Drenkow family) a card game called FLUXX described as; the card game with ever changing rules! Starts out simple, but new rule cards quickly make things chaotic. Players can change the rules of the game at any time by playing new rule cards, this then makes the ability to win by accomplishing a goal card sometimes seem impossible. Let's just say our first round we didn't even finish before I had confused youth and an adult leader who wanted to run into a corner and cry because he was so confused.

Do you ever feel this way where the rules of the game of life are constantly changing on us? We are called to love our neighbor but only within certain parameters or we will offend them. We can, speak our mind, share our opinion or stand up for what we believe in but only in a way so as again not to offend anyone. In the past few weeks we have seen these scenarios play out within our own nation, some might even say that our political state and society are in flux. It is a struggle for us as Christians to sometimes keep up with everything. Do we say something, or are we compromising our beliefs by not saying anything at all?

I wonder if this how God's people felt when Jesus started publicly teaching and preaching. The long list of rules that they had heard from religious leaders was not lining up with what Christ had to say. Then again Jesus clearly told people during his sermon on the mount "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." Matthew 5:17 NIV.

Jesus knew that God's people were as he stated in Mark "honoring God with their lips but their hearts were far from him" (7:8-9). They had gone askew, they had compromised too much, or become so strict as to not compromise, that they missed the real point. They were too worried about who their neighbor was that they forgot to love them. How many times does this happen to us? We are so focused on the constant changes in our life that we forget that God's law is our foundation and his words are true. They are our center pivot that keeps going in the right direction when everything around us is in constant flux.

If you have ever played the game of Fluxx you know there is an action card that resets the rules to the basic rules. Jesus, was the action card our heavenly Father played to reset the rules to the basic he intended.

God's word is there for us to stand upon when we speak to people whose lives seem to be in a state of flux. As Christians, we let us be reminded and comforted by the instructions Jesus gave to his disciples, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

In Christ Alone, Cassie Drenkow, Director of Christian Education

PRESCHOOL NEWS

We are having a Baby Shower! And no worries, it is not for any of the preschool staff (unfortunately most of us are on the other side of the life circle- the one that has us opening windows on a winter day!!)

No, we are having a gigantic Baby Shower for Hope Pregnancy Center with all of the preschool moms. We will play some baby shower games like “Name that Nursery Rhyme”, “Bathtub Bounce” and “What a Pair” (Bible mom & baby).



Then the moms and kids will work together to create a Diaper Bear- we will show you pictures when we finish them. These creations will have numerous baby items that a new mom can use like diapers, washcloths, socks, hat and more. Moms are encouraged to donate a gently used or new baby item. You are welcome to donate also. The day will end with brunch served up by a few of the dads.

Baby Shower gifts can be brought to the preschool office by Sunday, Feb 5th- our shower is Feb 8 & 9. Items needed to create the bears: Diapers, baby socks, baby hat, Pacifiers, Receiving blankets, baby washcloths, & bibs.



Another exciting event being planned is **Ice Fishing** with the preschoolers provided the ice is safe after our mid-winter warm-up. We are hoping to stay right in or near Willmar. **If you are interested in helping** out with this event please contact Rachel at rjepesen@redeemerwillmar.org.

The Recipe Request from the potluck:

Coconut Macaroons

- 1 (14 ounce bag) Coconut Flakes
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon vegetable shortening

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients except chocolate and shortening; mix until thoroughly combined. Refrigerate until dough is firm (about 1 hour) Using a 2-inch diameter cookie or ice cream scoop, drop dough onto a parchment paper lined baking sheet. Bake in a preheated 350 F oven 12-15 minutes or until coconut is toasted. Let cool. Melt chocolate chips; stir in shortening. Drizzle over macaroons.

Rachel Jeppesen, Preschool Director

Sunday/Wed	Attendance	Adults	Sr. High	Children	Communion	Private
Jan 1	152	-	-	-	122	
Jan 8	287	34	10	48		
Jan 15	256	45	9	42	116	
Jan 22	277	50	8	50		
Jan 29						
TOTALS	972	129	27	140	238	27

“THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS”

For **FEBRUARY** we will be collecting “Hygiene Products”.

Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder
Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, & Sunglasses

Please place donated items in box located in the narthex.

There was a total of 612 donated items for “Support Our Troops” in 2016. These items included tapes & videos, books, games, hygiene products and snacks and treats. Thank you to everyone who support this LWML Human Care Project and thank you to Stan & Sharon Skaro for delivering these items.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS for 2017-18 are now available in the wooden rack in the narthex. Share these forms with family and friends who have young children at home. Contact Rachel Jeppesen at rjepesen@redeemerwillmar.org for more information.



LENTEN SUPPERS Lent begins on March 1st and we need boards or groups of people to serve supper for 6 Wednesday nights. The menu is on the sign-up sheet posted on the church office window. Please sign up as soon as possible before you miss your chance to serve!



†† FEBRUARY 2017 ††

	ELDERS	GREETERS	ACOLYTE	SOUND	LIBRARY
Feb 5 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann Michael Sandau Wayne Dahlke Ron Jaspersen	Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg Jeff & Darla Kimpling Keven & Diane Hillenbrand Troy & Lisa Anderson	Nicholas Mohr Natalie Jorschumb	Wayne Dahlke Jacob Meyer	Anita Petersen
Feb 12 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Jeff Kimpling Leon Schultz	Luther & Peggy Dykema John & Marlys Eggen Doug & Renee Jorschumb Bonnie Rhoda	Rebecca Wubben Mitchell Nelson	Mark Boeschen Darrell Hoekstra	LaVonne Van Zee
Feb 19 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Dave Runke Stan Skaro Ron Jaspersen Wayne Dahlke	Don & Birdie Urban Bill & Deb Paterson Gary & Mary Hillenbrand Leon & Carole Schultz	Sergio Fernandez Hannah Lingbeek	Brad Marcus Kolby Lindquist	Michelle Marcus
Feb 26 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Jeff Kimpling Neil Buboltz	Anita Petersen, Myron Behm Gene & Rose Meyer Marlin & Cheryl Niss Loren & Judy Schultz	Payton Freiberg Evan Friton	Mike Mikkelsen Darrell Hoekstra	Sarah Fosso
USHERS	8:00 AM *Tim Pollock, Bill Houselog, Jason Kubasch, Mel Schwartz (* Head Usher) 10:30 AM *Darrell Hoekstra, John Eggen, Ken Nash, John Behl				

THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD would like to send out a huge "THANK YOU" to the congregation for coming through with an amazing offering total for December so we could meet our total expenses and be able to start 2017 in a positive position. Thank you and please keep up your offerings each month because our monthly expenses continue throughout the whole year. We need the congregation to continue giving on a high level each month and not just in December. Also, as a reminder about "SIMPLY GIVING", it is a way that each of us in the congregation can have your monthly offerings come out of your bank accounts automatically so if you are snow birds or gone on vacation, your offerings continue to come in to provide support to the church. If you are interested in taking the opportunity to start using "SIMPLY GIVING" please contact the church office.

CRAFT NIGHT

Need to carve out some extra time in your schedule to work on your projects? Join us Friday, February 10th, from 6 pm to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. Any type of project is welcome i.e. scrap booking, crocheting, knitting, coloring, sewing, whatever you would like to work on! We will be cleaning up after ourselves so as to not add to our janitorial staffs duties. Bring a snack to share and your own beverage to drink. Any questions can be directed to Julie Danzeisen at 894-2394.



ATTENTION ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS! We will meet on Saturday, February 4th at 9:00 am.

SHUT-IN VISITS Redeemer is looking for a volunteer who will deliver Sunday bulletins to some of our shut-ins every other week. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

LOST & FOUND If you lost a bracelet, go to the church office to claim.

THE QUILTERS NEED YOUR HELP in sewing blocks together. Feel free to take them from the rack in the kitchen to take home and sew. Join us on Mondays at 12:30. Fun, fellowship and food!

SHOES FOR MISSIONS! Please save your old boots, shoes, and tennis shoes (no flip-flops) and put in the collection box by the Fellowship Hall. All the footwear is then taken to Lutheran Island Camp and then sent to third world countries for people in need. Please rubber band or tie your boots and shoes together in pairs.



YEAR END GIVING STATEMENTS are in your mailbox. If you need them mailed to you or if you have any questions, please contact the church office.

"Church goers are like coals in a fire. When they cling together, they keep the flame aglow; when they separate, they die out."

TWO-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Every Christians goal in life should be to read the entire Holy Bible. This plan will take you through the Old and New Testament in two years, and through the Psalms and Proverbs four times.

Feb 1	Jeremiah 34 – 35	Psalms 25
Feb 2	Jeremiah 36	Psalms 26
Feb 3	Jeremiah 37 – 38	Psalms 27
Feb 4	Jeremiah 39:1 – 41:15	Psalms 28
Feb 5	Jeremiah 41:16 – 43:13	Psalms 29
Feb 6	Jeremiah 44 – 45	Psalms 30
Feb 7	Jeremiah 46	Psalms 31
Feb 8	Jeremiah 47 – 48	Psalms 32
Feb 9	Jeremiah 49	Psalms 33
Feb 10	Jeremiah 50	Psalms 34
Feb 11	Jeremiah 51	Psalms 35
Feb 12	Jeremiah 52	Psalms 36
Feb 13	Catch-up Day	Psalms 37
Feb 14	Catch-up Day	Psalms 38
Feb 15	Lamentations 1	Psalms 39
Feb 16	Lamentations 2	Psalms 40
Feb 17	Lamentations 3	Psalms 41
Feb 18	Lamentations 4	Psalms 42
Feb 19	Lamentations 5	Psalms 43
Feb 20	Catch-up Day	Psalms 44
Feb 21	Catch-up Day	Psalms 45
Feb 22	Ezekiel 1	Psalms 46
Feb 23	Ezekiel 2 – 3	Psalms 47
Feb 24	Ezekiel 4 – 5	Psalms 48
Feb 25	Ezekiel 6 – 7	Psalms 49
Feb 26	Ezekiel 8	Psalms 50
Feb 27	Ezekiel 9 – 10	Psalms 51
Feb 28	Ezekiel 11:1 – 12:20	Psalms 52

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CHURCH WORK CAREER? Scholarships are available for the 2017-18 academic year. You can find the forms in the wooden rack in the narthex.

FAMILY FOOTBALL PARTY Come join us at the YMCA Sunday, February 5th, to watch the BIG GAME, play basketball, swim and fellowship with other families. We start the party officially at 5:30 pm and everyone is invited. Each family should bring a snack to share so we have plenty of food and their own beverage. Pizza will be provided.



YOUTH SKI TRIP February 19th from 11:15 am - 9:30 pm. Redeemer will pay lift and trail pass tickets, youth are responsible for equipment rentals. All equipment rentals must be paid prior to event. Ski \$14; Snowboard \$24; Cross Country Ski \$10. Sign up outside youth room by February 15th. If you are not signed up, you will not go.

POLAR PLUNGE EVENT for Polar Plunge on March 3-5th. Registration deadline for the event is February 19th. We are in need of some adult leaders for this trip, if interested in helping contact DCE Cassie.



INCOMING FRESHMAN AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH who are interested in attending or would like more information about this Summer's Mission Trip to Duluth can attend the team planning meeting on February 12th from 7-9 pm. We will be talking about plans for the trip and breaking into teams to start the planning process for the trip.

YOUTH QUAKE EVENT 7th & 8th Grade Youth, don't forget to sign up for the Jr. High Retreat on March 10-12, 2017. Deadline for registration is February 5th.

PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Praise and worship God
- Experience a caring community
- Develop healthy relationships with other youth
- Grow deeper faith through focused workshops
- Discuss issues of interest
- Pack life-saving meals
- Learn about global hunger

