

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL
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Go Disciple All Nations

Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



2019

IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church

Volume XXIX, Issue V

Why?

The women went to the tomb early that first Sunday morning expecting the body of Jesus to still be lying where they had seen it on Friday. They went to the tomb without any escort or man to help them. Why did they journey to the gravesite when they knew that they could not remove the stone? Was it worth it to make the trip, why not stay in bed and sleep in? Were they scared of the ridicule they might receive if the other Jews saw them taking care of a prophet who claimed He would rise again?

Why does the world reject the historical account of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead?...

Then again, why does the amazing story of Jesus seem to be losing traction in the church?

Why?

The grim reality is that we are living in a different America (and world for that matter) than the one our parents were born into. The world has seen more change in the last twenty years than it has all last century combined. When the soldiers came back from WWII they settled down and brought their families to church. Ever since Vietnam, people have grown ever suspicious of large organizations (government, police, churches, Facebook), and the tide has resulted in the American culture growing introverted, apathetic, and outright angry.

Armed with cell phones, and having the ability to connect to the internet, the culture is suspicious of the message of the Gospel when there are thousands of voices available at the touch of a button that will try to dispel that Christians simply made up the story of Jesus. The rise in "science" has tried to bring down the message of the cross because it does not make sense. Why have Christians been slow to see the evidence of our creation when scientists use advance technologies to point to the amazing complexity of the human body.

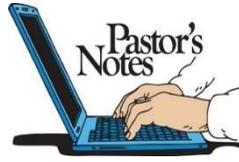
Why the change then?

When the women went away from the tomb, they were excited to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead. We gather in the sanctuary on Easter morning with that message in our hearts and in our minds. What happens when we leave the church parking lot? I have seen a shift in this congregation that I hope continues; the excitement of taking the message of Christ's victory over evil to a world that still struggles with sin.

Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" *Psalm 115:2*

God has written out our instructions as a group of believers even two thousand years later. We have been called to be witnesses of the resurrection, to serve a world that does not know who God is. When the world sees us serve, our hope is that they see Jesus. In a world that is increasingly hostile to a message of love, may we lean on Him and each other as we seek to make Him known in our daily lives.

Pastor Matt



Faithful Giving Pleases God

A young boy wanted to give a gift to his mom for Mother's Day. He didn't know what to give. He didn't have any money, so he was struggling and searching for ideas. On Mother's Day, he gave his mom a card, and, in the card, he stuck two of his favorite toy soldiers. What a happy mom, because she saw how much her son loved her by his willingness to give up his favorite toys. She didn't need the gift, but she loved receiving it.

God doesn't need our gifts, but He loves receiving them. Through our gifts, we express our love and gratitude. Through faith, we hold on to possessions loosely knowing all that we are and have are by God's grace. We own nothing. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, God fills our hearts with a spirit of generosity. We stop seeing the money we have as just for our needs and entertainment. By grace, we understand that the money God entrusts to us has the potential to be used to support mission starts and missionaries, so they can share the life-saving Gospel in this land and overseas. Our money has the potential to help those who are hungry and homeless. It has the potential to support our Christian schools and agencies. It supports the mission and ministry of our church. God uses and multiplies the money we give in many wonderful ways.

Through God-given faith and new attitudes, we see that our generosity is made possible by and rooted in His generosity. We are empowered to give because of God's generosity to us. Knowing that He doesn't limit His gifts to us and experiencing His generosity at work in our lives, we respond to His appeal to give generously. God's people live with an abundant perspective trusting in His provisions. In Scripture, we see repeatedly how God's people demonstrated their trust in His abundance. Abel, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, David, the Poor Widow, Zacchaeus, and Barnabas demonstrated their faith and trust. In 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9, the Apostle Paul instructs the Corinthians to take up a collection for the Christian Jews suffering from famine in Jerusalem. Paul urges them to give generously because their generosity is rooted in God's ability to provide everything they need to be generous on all occasions. *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work"* (2 Corinthians 9:8). As our bounteous God richly bestowed on the Corinthians the capacity for generosity, He can do the same for us. In Jesus it is always more and never less. Even when things are tough, we will be given the opportunity to share because God's sufficiency will provide.

When we give generously from loving and cheerful hearts, we bring joy to our Heavenly Father because we display His image and likeness. Filled with God's sufficiency, rather than our own, we become generous givers.

Board of Stewardship

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.

MAY

Marlene Buboltz – 320-796-2352

Anita Maras – 320-235-5184

Murriel Ashburn

John & Michelle Behl

Lenora Bode

Neil & Marlene Buboltz

Matt & Liz Cordes

John Corti

Rev Robert & Irene Friedrich

Mike & Joy Gratz

Richard & Dianne Hanson

Darrell & Gail Hoekstra

Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen

Jason & Marlene Kubasch

Rod & Naomi Lindquist

Dave & Anita Maras

Mike & Lori Martinek

Terry & Cheryl Pankow

Dain & Angela Peterson

Lynn & Ranae Rahn

Matt & Alicia Runke

Rod & Denise Schroeder

Brandon & Jessica Smith

Gayne & Marvelle Stone

Roger & Darlene Swenson

JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016

Sharon Jergenson – 320-235-8278

Bob & Doris Ast

Gordon & Betty Behm

Vern & Sally Bierbaum

Norm Christensen

Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg

Jon & Jessica Friton

Brennen Gulden

Steven & Beverly Hanson

Dewayne Holthusen

Josh & Briana Jensen

Joel & Sharon Jergenson

Larry & Christi Jorschumb

Rick & Sally Kloth

Jack Kuppich

Paul Lenz

Jon & Dawn Lingbeek

Paul & Elizabeth Meyer

Ken & Cindy Nash

Bill & Deb Paterson

Don & Carol Ryks

Gary Schroeder

Charlene Smith

Larry & Bev Wessels

Uncharted Territory

"I will believe it a good comfortable road until I am compelled to believe differently."

Meriwether Lewis May 26, 1805, Journal Entry

Green zone is where you feel most comfortable, yellow is outside your comfort zone but willing to try it and Red zone is absolutely no way get someone else to do it. This is a description some of our youth received about serving a couple of summers ago on a mission trip to Chicago. We spent a lot of time that week yelling to each other green red or yellow zone.

I have been thinking about that concept a lot as I have been reading a book called *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger. The book focuses on leadership within our ever-changing church and cultures. It pairs challenges the church is facing to those that Meriwether Lewis and William Clark faced during the expedition to find a waterway that led to the Pacific Ocean.

Brief American history moment here, in 1803 Thomas Jefferson purchased land from France, therefore, expanding our nation's borders west of the Mississippi River. In search of a direct water route to the Pacific Ocean, he recruits Lewis and Clark to set out on a 2-year expedition of the area. May 1804, the team embarks on their travels and by August 1805, the team crosses the continental divide only to discover the vast mountain range of the Rockies that they would have to encounter before making it west. I am sure some on the team had a red zone moment, no way, ain't happening, let's turn around and go home.

God's people faced a similar situation when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. They came to the Red Sea with Pharaoh's army pursuing them and in a complete red zone moment respond to Moses in Exodus 14 with, there were not enough graves in Egypt that you brought us out to the desert to die. Moses is at the uncharted territory moment here, trusting God he replies to the Israelites "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. [. . .] The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:13-14. Then following the direction of the Lord parts the Red Sea and well you know the rest of the story.

Lewis and Clark at the precipice of the Rockies and the Israelites on the banks of the Red Sea had 3 options: 1. Stay where they were; 2. Turn around and go back; 3. Find another viable route.

I know that there have been many moments in my own life where God has asked me to step out of my comfortable Green zone and my response has been similar to the Israelites, no way God. Yet, each time I step out into uncharted territory I know God is with me and I end up growing from the experience. Right now our Christian church is at a point where we are seeing uncharted territory, our culture is different, what we did 20 years or even 2 years ago is not working. Our mission which we see every week here in church is to Go, Disciple, all Nations, the question we have to ask now is what direction do we want to go? Stay in our comfortable green zone, try to turn around and go backward or seek out with God's guidance another viable route. May we take heart from Moses words "Stand Firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring [. . .]." Exodus 14:13

Cassie Drenkow, Director of Christian Education

NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available!

Sunday	Attend	Comm	Adults	Sr. High	S. S.	Online	Wed	Attend	Private
Apr 7	244	212	35	8	41		Apr 3	152	
Apr 14	348	143	52	8	43	65	Apr 10	12	
Apr 21	419	353	-	-	-	153	Apr 18	156	
Apr 28							Apr 19	188	
TOTALS	1011	708	87	16	84	218		508	30
Out by release: Daniel & Willow Bremseth, Fran Hussong									
Out by death: Michael Dahlke									

SCRIP GIFT CARD ORDER FORMS can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex or the church office. The next order will be due by Monday, May 6th.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS For **MAY** 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.



OLD SHOES AND BOOTS!!! Bring your old shoes and boots (snow boots, work boots, rain boots, etc.) to church and place them in the box by the Fellowship Hall (no flip flops please). Please tie or bind them together. They are used to help support our Lutheran Island Camp.

LWML Spring Rally on Saturday, May 11, 2019
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 321 N 5th St, Montevideo
REGISTRATION at 8:30 – 9:00 am - Fee: \$3.00



Business Meeting followed by Noon Luncheon and Fellowship

In-Gathering - Montevideo Elementary schools have been chosen. Donation items: Back packs, pencils, pencil boxes, glue sticks, construction paper packs, erasers, Expo markers, Mr. Sketch Smelly Markers, stickers, board games, puzzles, a CD player, or Walmart or Target gift cards. Children come to school without supplies and/or use them up during the school year. Oftentimes, teachers will then purchase these supplies with their own funds. Let's help these children (and teachers) with the supplies. (Please be at church at 7:45 am to ride share.)

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE!

RED LETTER CHALLENGE Small Group Make-up dates – Wednesdays, May 1st and May 8th at 6:30 pm (Participants can bring food if they so wish).

THANK YOU SO MUCH members of Redeemer! Without your generous donation of eggs and candy the community Easter Egg Hunt would not have been the success that it was!! With the help of our amazing volunteers and youth we stuffed about 4,000 eggs! We could not have done this without all of you!! What an amazing opportunity to serve our community!! THANK YOU to all who volunteered and donated!!

37TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held at the Willmar Conference Center from 6:30-8:00 am on Thursday, May 2nd. Featured speaker is Brian Orsten. The day after returning from Ukraine to meet his adopted children, Brian was involved in an explosion while checking on an employee's house. As the initial explosion happened, Brian cried out "Jesus save me" just as the entire room became a fireball. Come and hear Brian's compelling story! Tickets are available in the church office for \$15.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A CHURCH WORK CAREER? Scholarships are available for the 2019-2020 academic year through LWML. Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex and must be submitted by the 15th.

WHAT GOD BRINGS TO US

Every Sunday morning worship service you miss makes it easier to miss another. If you're sick, it's better to stay home. But if you have a problem that causes you to want to skip worship, then it's a good idea to talk with your pastor about it. He is God's ear and voice for you to come to with your problems. In time, being cut off from God in Sunday morning worship can lead to believing there is no God. But there is a God who cares for you and wants to be your strength and hope.

Sunday morning worship is the place to bring our problems to God. There, we can confess our wrongdoing and receive forgiveness. There, we can pour out our heart in the company of others who are doing the same thing, and then together we will be fed God's Word of hope and receive His body and blood in the Sacrament, which give us strength to face our problems. Worship is not so much what we bring to God as it is what God brings to us. Your pastor is God's servant to help you personally as needed and to give you Holy Communion for your forgiveness and strength. *(Taken from the Portals of Prayer, April 8, 2019)*

AN ALTAR GUILD MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MAY 9TH AT 5:30 PM.

†† MAY 2019 ††

	ELDERS	GREETERS	ACOLYTES	SOUND	LIBRARY
May 5 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Dave Runke Doug Jorschumb Matt Akerson Paul Meyer	Don & Birdie Urban Jerry & Betty Schleh	Christina Spieker Chloe Jensen	Sergio Fernandez Sarah Jeppesen	Lorraine King
May 12 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Jeff Kimpling Wayne Dahlke	Anita Petersen Bill & Deb Paterson Leon & Carole Schultz	Elsa Gustafson Adrianna Rodriguez	David Reyes Kolby Lindquist	Bonnie Rhoda
May 19 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt Brandon Kopacek Neil Buboltz	Jim & Marcia Gilman Marlin & Cheryl Niss	Jay Marcus Mackenzie Schoumaker	Brad Marcus Art Bolland	Marcia Gilman
May 26 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Dave Runke Matt Akerson	Gayne & Marvelle Stone Loren & Judy Schultz	Malinda Petersen Henry Johnson	Wayne Dahlke Darrell Hoekstra	Anita Petersen
USHERS	8:00 AM *Mike Botzek, Matthew Biel 10:30 AM *Rob & Judy Linhoff				



For the months of
June, July, & August
9:00 am Worship

10:00 am Family Education Hour

Robbins Island

Tuesdays this Summer
June 11 – August 13

Bring the whole family!
Sand Volleyball, Frisbee Golf,
Destination Playground,
Devotions

CONFIRMATION IS MAY 5TH AT THE 10:30 SERVICE

CONFIRMANDS

Kayleigh Barber
Natalie Gleason
Elsa Gustafson
Henry Johnson
Jay Marcus
Malinda Petersen
Adrianna Rodriguez
Mackenzie Schoumaker
Eric Sellmann

PARENTS

Geoff & Anna Barber
Jeremy & Nichole Gleason
Tyler & Michelle Hanson
Jared & Kjaresty Johnson
Philip & Michelle Marcus
Craig & Heather Petersen
Eleo Rodriguez & Cindy Lubenow
Jennifer Schoumaker & Tim Schoumaker
Mark & Brooke Sellmann

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!! Redeemer's 2019 graduates are: Jonathan Barber, Marquis Christenson, Heidi Fernandez, Ethan Gustafson, Cole Helfinstine, Shaleigh Jackson, Laura Kassel, Kolby Lindquist, Tanner Mord, and Patricia Walkow.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL END OF THE YEAR BASH! Join us on Wednesday, May 8th. Come for supper at 6 pm and stay for outdoor yard games, along with a special roasting of our Seniors.

WACKY WATER FRIDAY! 3rd – 5th graders, this event is just for you on May 10th! The fun starts at 6:00 pm at the Willmar Middle School and pick up is at the Calvary Lutheran Church at 8:30 pm. There will be Swimming, Wacky Games & Food! Cost for this event is \$10. Sign up and pay in the church office. The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, May 8th.

A BIBLE SCAVENGER HUNT your family has never seen before. Join us on Sunday morning May 12th for a Family Bible Scavenger Hunt through the book of Romans. Travel as a family through six different stations that share promises of God from the book of Romans.

SOAKED IN GOD'S LOVE: If you are interested in being a part of the planning team for this year's VBS please join us Wednesday, May 15th at 6:30 pm.

SUNDAE SUNDAY Join us for Sundaes and an intergenerational devotion activity in the Fellowship Hall on May 19th at 9:15 am.



GRADUATE RECOGNITION will be Sunday, May 19th during both services.

NYG TEAM MEETING is Sunday, May 19th from 7-9 pm. The final portion of the registration cost will be due at the May and June meetings.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus our Lord,

April 2019



Virginia Anson, who will be 100 years old in July, has once again made a quilt and hand quilted it for the Lutheran Island Camp-Christ Serve Ranch Quilt Auction on August 3, 2019. She has been a supporter of and involved with camp from its start. She was there with her husband, Karl, and many other volunteers who helped with the construction of the causeway to the Island. She continues to be active in camp activities.

We think in honor of her lifetime support of LIC and of her making another quilt at age 100, we need to thank God for her many years of involvement with camp. With your help we can do that. The plan is to have groups and individuals donate \$100 for a share of the purchase price of the quilt for the auction. This, God willing, will raise a sizable amount for camp in her honor. We would like congregational quilting groups to donate one or more shares to this project, as well as pastors, congregations and individuals doing the same.

We will use those funds to purchase the quilt at auction. We will also send you a "Certificate of Share" in the quilt. It is our prayer that at least 100 shares will be given, but God willing many more than that. At this writing 10 shares have been given and also, we have a Donor who is willing to match the first 200 shares given so you will be able to double your gift. We pray that many of you will join us in this effort to thank God for Virginia and bring a blessing to her beloved camp for years to come. Prayerfully, additional donors with matching funds will step forward as well.

Let us thank God for blessing Virginia with 100 years of life. A life given to God in faith. With every stitch she makes she thanks God for her life and shows her love for her Savior Jesus Christ. Many of you over the years may have crossed paths with Virginia, at the camp, or in LWML, where she has been active for many years as well. Pastors and others may have studied under her son-in-law Dr. Robert Kolb at Concordia St. Paul, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. or at Pastor Conferences where he presented papers.

Please help us in this effort by forwarding this letter to former Island Campers, LWML members, quilters, pastors, and interested individuals so that together we can thank the Lord for the 100 years of blessing given to Virginia. We will also be able to thank God for her lifetime of support of Lutheran Island Camp and Christ Serve Ranch.

Praise God for His abundant and good gifts and thank you for your interest in this project,

Sincerely, the Quilters from Redeemer Lutheran, Willmar and Pastor Loren Kruse

Please Return by July 26, 2019: (Pastor Kruse's email: lodikruse@charter.net - Cell phone: 320-220-0097)

Name/Group, Address and Phone #

I, We, wish to donate _____ shares for the **Quilt hand quilted by Virginia Anson** to Lutheran Island Camp-Christ Serve Ranch Quilt Auction. Enclosed is a check made out to **Redeemer Lutheran Church**.

\$100 times _____ # of Shares Equals \$ _____

Please mail to: Redeemer Lutheran Quilters, 1401 SW 6th Street, Willmar, MN 56201

Please fill out and return to church office, or email information to Lori at Ischroeder@redeemerwillmar.org

I would like my monthly newsletter:

(Please check one)

In my mailbox at church.

Discontinue by mail, I will read on-line.

Emailed to: _____

Continue mailing to me.

Name: _____