

# Redeemer Lutheran Church Spirit Call

June 2010

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

from Pastor Joel

On May 5, at 6am, a woman driving home from her night shift at a nearby factory fell asleep and missed the curve in front of our church building. Instead, her car hit the driveway, became airborne, and smashed into a classroom, penetrating all the way through the room into the hallway.

She was able to walk away without physical injury. Had her car been even slightly to the left, she would have hit the large free-standing cross just outside the building. But she missed it narrowly, thereby saving her from serious bodily injury and perhaps even death.

Buildings can be replaced. Human life cannot. We can be hugely grateful that in God's grace this woman escaped injury. What about the extensive damage done to our building? Again, the blessing of God: structural engineers came to the scene quickly. So did insurance adjusters. Several of our own members were present to help make decisions and answer questions. Plans are well underway for restoration.

A lot of us, including me, found ourselves asking 'Why? Why did this happen at a time when we're already facing difficulties with our current building project?' Wrestling with this question, I remembered two pastors I know who were serving congregations that lost their entire church buildings to fire. Arson. Willful acts of destruction took both those church buildings.

Today, both those congregations have rebuilt their churches and are prospering. With faith, hope, and love—and a lot of passionate determination—the people of those congregations accepted what had happened, mourned the loss, and then set about the task of rebuilding, firm in their conviction that God had put them in that neighborhood and community for a purpose. And that purpose, that mission, would continue.

We don't know why things such as this accident happen. What we DO know is that God works blessings out of what seems pointless and even disastrous. It's in the process of re-dedicating not just buildings, but ourselves, to his great mission of love to all people that we begin to discover the hidden blessings and meaning in such events.

I have no doubts that such blessings will unfold for us as we rebuild. As one Council member put it, "We don't see it right away, but the blessings will unfold like a flower as time goes by." Amen to that!

"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper the work of our hands."  
Psalm 90.17

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## From the Elders

One of my favorite John Maxwell quotes is, "He who leads and no one follows is merely taking a walk by himself." As leaders, one of the most effective ways to lead people is to be able to do a heart transplant. We must be able to transfer the vision and passion God has given us into the hearts and lives of the people God has called us to lead. If people have a heart connection with you, they will follow you up the steepest mountain and into battle to achieve a victory. Some churches' approach is to dominate and intimidate. People follow them because they are afraid not to. Love is the most powerful force on the planet.

When a group of people are bound together in love, they are an unstoppable force! We must desire to have people follow us because they love us and believe in us. So how do we make that heart connection? How do we build unity and love between the people and the leaders? ...We serve them! Jesus said it best, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The scripture we all learned to quote as children because of its brevity was, "Jesus wept." What a powerful example of authentic leadership as Jesus exposed his heart to his disciples. What is the old saying? "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

Love to lead and lead with love. Fred Gargiulo

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHANGES! CHANGES! CHANGES!

**Fixing and Repairs** - If you wish to report a need or concern, contact the following persons:

**Outside Maintenance:** Ralph Anderson and Pancho Cervantes; **Inside**

**Maintenance:** Jim Baker; **Construction Projects and Building Usage:** Al Binder

### NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

A new membership directory will be coming out the second week of June. If you have corrections or additions, please get them to the office as soon as possible. Thank you, Sandy

**FOUND** - one earring in the Sanctuary. If you lost one, please come to the office to identify it.

## President's Notes

Dear friends,

Your council meets monthly to coordinate programs, manage funds, problem solve, and move our ministries forward. There are many wonderful things happening with Redeemer and its community. The Community Garden is growing and sharing hope with our neighbors.

Summerfest is heating up. OCDC is getting ready for a busy summer. We will be missing all of the children that normally fill our vacation bible school. The vehicle crashing into our church has complicated and squeezed our space availability. Groups that met in the commons area are temporarily meeting in different places. OCDC is in need of additional space for summer and we are working with them to try to provide some possibilities. We may feel a bit cluttered trying to store stuff while making the best use of space for summer.

When the upstairs is usable and our crash scene is repaired, we can take care of clutter and better accommodate our ministries. We are looking forward to these projects getting done.

Currently we are unable to move forward with some of this because the plate offerings are not covering our month-to-month bills. Construction money is being used to cover some of our loan. There are a variety of projects that benefit from giving that is above and beyond our regular giving. But we need to cover our monthly expenditures first. With warming weather many of you will be traveling and vacationing. However, your continuing support is needed to meet expenses that refuse to go on vacation.

Yours in Christ, Paul

### **From Your Social Ministry Team**

Springtime Greetings to all!! Well, it felt like spring a week ago, but it may be a return to winter. Yes, God! It's us humans complaining again!

But enough of that! We will be working in His vineyards on June 6, and although there are many other happenings, please consider helping us to feed His sheep at St. Mark's Lutheran Church from 1 to 3 PM. They had 73 people last Sunday, so there are a lot of hungry folks around town. The satisfaction of feeding them, fellowshiping with them and giving them a blessing is so rewarding. Please, please, we can always use your help. Let one of the Social Ministry team know if you can participate. Let your Father know that you are doing what He asks.

We want to remind you to pick up an item or more every week for our food wagon which goes to feed the less fortunate folks who live in our community. Hunger is a horrible reality that we see and hear about every day. No one should be hungry in our land of plenty. Please pray about it and do your part in helping to alleviate this horrible reality. We join our Father in Heaven in thanking you for your generosity.

The pie social succeeded well by bringing in \$1,375. The first \$250 went for the Habitat for Humanity. We sent that off to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to be matched with \$250, so Redeemer will be contributing \$500 to the Habitat. We were so happy to be able to do at least \$500 this year. The need is so high and the cause is so great. Thank you Lord for making it happen. Lorene wants to thank everyone who helped put the pie social together and a big thank you to all the pie bakers for their delicious pies. The event was great fellowshiping fun as usual.

Wherever two or three are gathered together, our Lord will be there also. Your Social Ministry Team, Lorene, Carmen, Verna, David and Etta Mae.

#### **Habitat for Humanity**

"I can't drive a nail! So what can I do?"

1. You can pray for us.
2. You can welcome new home owners.
3. You can bake cookies for the crew.
4. You can take pictures for a record.
5. You can donate money or items to the Restore.
6. You can paint, caulk, sweep, vacuum, saw, hold a board, make coffee, work at the Restore, put away tools or run errands.

So, what will you do? Will have more information and a sign up sheet on June 6.

Lorene Bartell

### **Life Journey Ministries West Coast Conference June 25-26, 2010**

Clearly understanding how the Christian faith changes us as individuals as well as the work we do and the places in which we work will be the focus of the Life Journey Ministries' west-coast conference to be held June 25-26, 2010 at Concordia University, Portland, Oregon under the theme: "Being Sunday People in a Monday World." William Young, author of *The Shack*, will speak Friday evening on the question "Can God Really Be That Good?"

The two-day conference - starting at 2pm on Friday and ending at 6pm on Saturday - will delve into many exciting topics including these conference workshops on Friday: *Seeing Christ in the Workplace*, *Environmentalism: The New Spirituality*, and *Finding Meaning in the Face of Fear and Uncertainty*. A few of the break out sessions on Saturday include *Balancing Work and Personal Life*, *Legal Aspects Related to Faith in the Workplace*, and *Work through the Eyes of Different Generations*.

Tickets to William Young's Friday evening presentation and the two-day conference are available to the public either through [www.TicketsWest.org](http://www.TicketsWest.org) or Life Journey Ministries' website - [www.lifejourneyministries.org/westcoast.php](http://www.lifejourneyministries.org/westcoast.php).

## **Health Ministry Team**

Faith Community Nurse

*B/P Clinic* will continue on every third Sunday after worship. Please join me in the library.

With our Wheat Ridge Grant, we purchased an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). On May 16<sup>th</sup> we had our first training session. If you missed the training and you want to know how to help save your brothers and sisters in Christ, sign up on the bulletin board. The AED will be stored in a box on the wall outside of the Church office. The box has a loud alarm that goes off whenever the door is opened and doesn't shut off unless it is reset. This is intentional, so that if the AED is needed everyone will know and be able to respond to help.

*Coming up:* June 13<sup>th</sup> following church service we will have a short discussion about POLST forms. If you don't know what I am talking about... you should stay and learn about this important form.

*Prayer Shawl Ministry:* Thank you knitters and crocheters for the beautiful shawls. We meet every month on the last Friday at the Oak table. If you knit or crotchet or do any other kinds of hand work, please join us. The date for June is the 25<sup>th</sup>. There is yarn available if you need it to start a new shawl. See Jonet, or call 503-370-9208.

*Fire Alarm testing:* When our fire alarms all have the same ring, we will be sounding them off so you will recognize the sound. You should expect a fire drill. Think about how you would exit the church if the alarm was to go off.

Yours in Christ,

Jonet Schutz      503-370-9208      jonetsc@yahoo.com

## **Board of Education**

God's Richest Blessings to you from the Board of Education.

Preschool Mother's Day Teas went off well. We hired Julee Clark as the aide for the 3's for the next school year. We are still pre-registering children for next fall.

Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> starting at noon we had a retirement party for Patty Meadows and Karen Vaubel. Thanks to all who attended. It was a great afternoon of fellowship and thanksgiving. Former teachers Charlene Wanner, Betsy DiNitto, and Annette Griffes joined us. Kim Shumate, our 4's teacher, and Julee Clark, our new 3's aide for next year, also attended.

*The Sunday School picnic will be after church on June 6<sup>th</sup>.* Members with last names beginning with A-M please bring a hot dish or salad; members with the last names beginning with N-Z please bring a dessert. We will have BINGO in the preschool room with Debi and Pat. Pam will be in charge of games for the children. We may put up the Jumpy Jump.

We still need Sunday School teachers for the fall. There will be no children's Sunday School during the Summer.

*There will be no Vacation Bible School* this summer due to the construction that will be taking place. Safety of our children is our top priority. We discussed this at Council and all agreed that we would not have VBS this summer.

## Community Homeless Connection Report

A report from a recent event sponsored by the Mid-Willamette Community Action Committee.

The latest count of homeless in Marion-Polk counties on any given day: 3,345.

Number of guests attending:	225	Males
	144	Females
	<u>96</u>	Children
	465	Total

Guest characteristics:	17	Ages 18-21
	87	Ages 22-35
	132	Ages 36-50
	118	Ages 51-64
	9	Ages 65 and up
	132	Disabled
	87	Veterans
	287	Single person households
	29	Two parent households
	7	Single male parent households
	13	Single female parent households
	48	Slept outdoors the night before
	23	Slept in car the night before
	21	Slept in half way home night before
	53	Slept in someone else's home the night before
	133	Slept in short term shelter the night before
	63	Slept in own housing the night before
	316	Unemployed
	207	Were receiving food stamps (SNAP)
	123	Had health insurance
	236	Had no health insurance
	134	Reported having health problems

Service Provided:	126	Persons received dental care (\$23,174 worth)
	59	Persons received eye glasses
	486	Received housing referrals
	221	Received employment referrals
	417	Received counseling referrals
	60	Received spay/neutering vouchers
	703	Children and family referrals (some multiple referrals)
	361	Women referrals
	135	Individuals received hair cuts
	142	Bus passes given
	1500	Meals served (Breakfast and lunch)
	\$20,000	In-kind donations given out (dental supplies, hygiene items, sleeping bags, tarps, clothes, shoes, etc.)

Notes: People in the homeless camps report that they were afraid to come into town for the event. Many said that their parole officers forbid them to come in.

**We Get Letters****For all of you at Redeemer,**

I thank you for your very thoughtful gift and the wonderful potluck (special Thanks to Pat Haneberg)

There is nothing like a stroll down memory lane after so many years.

It has been such a blessing for me to work at Redeemer Preschool.

I thank you all for the opportunity to do so. I have worked with great teachers and lots of kids. What memories I will take with me.

I will miss teaching all those new little lambs, but they are still in good hands. God keeps close watch on his beloved children big & small. I will keep you in my prayers, please keep me in yours.

Love, Thanks & God Bless

Mrs. Karen

**An Invitation from Pastor John Maas at Christ the Good Shepherd in Salem.**

I'm leading a 13 day tour of Greece and Turkey, September 27 to October 9, 2010. We will walk the ground that St. Peter, Paul, John, Lydia and other early believers walked. I think you will find this a very special experience.

The complete information for those interested is posted on the bulletin board.

**Membership News**

**Births:** Chris and Angie Shearer welcomed twin boys, Ethan and Jackson, on Friday, May 14, 2010.

***Our Mission***

*We have been CALLED BY THE SPIRIT to tell the world of God's free gift of grace and salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

***Our Vision***

*By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will utilize all of our God given gifts, to welcome and connect all people in loving relationships with Jesus Christ, each other, and our community.*

**Church Staff****Pastor**

Joel J. Brauer

Email: pastorjoel@redeemer-lcms.org

**Deacon**

Bob Kosta

kostar@peoplepc.com

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**Faith Community Nurse**

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