

Redeemer Lutheran Church Spirit Call

May 2010

Volume 23, Issue 5

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

from Pastor Joel

DOING FAITH

To my knowledge, no one was ever argued into believing in God. We can talk ourselves blue in the face, but what will people pay attention to? What they see us doing.

“I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.” These simple words of wisdom are attributed to the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius. And our own experience confirms their truth. Doing faith, we begin to understand what Jesus means when he says “Follow me.”

It's a beautiful thing to see people doing faith. One of the most encouraging things about the Christian church today is the extent to which people have been happily infected with the power and joy of doing faith. Doing faith is what Jesus did. He revealed God's heart to people as “he went about doing good,” the book of Acts tells us.

Here at Redeemer, I'm thrilled to see you, the people of God in this congregation, doing your faith. In so many ways you are taking Jesus' words to “Love one another” into your daily lives. I see you bringing people to worship who otherwise could not come. I see you visiting the homebound, those in long-term rehabilitation centers, hospitals. Bringing meals to others, loading up our food wagon for Marion Polk Food Share every Sunday, serving soup to the homeless. Opening our facilities to other groups and agencies.

In so many ways, large and small, we are doing faith. Serving and helping others. Making personal sacrifices for the well-being of others. Taking time. And doing it all in the spirit of Jesus, with love and good cheer. It's wonderful!

Very soon now, our new Redeemer Community Garden will be dedicated and shared with the people of our community. It will become another way in which we fulfill our Vision Statement to “welcome and connect all people in loving relationships with Jesus Christ, each other, and our community.” In other words, doing faith.

Way to go, people of God here at Redeemer! To God be the glory and let's give him thanks for all the opportunities he gives us to serve others in Jesus' name!

DEDICATION OF REDEEMER COMMUNITY GARDEN: Pentecost Sunday, May 23, right after worship. We'll process out to the garden area for the blessing of seeds, soil, and water, and prayers for those who will work this garden.

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Board of Education

Greetings from the Board of Education

The Preschool 4's class for next Fall is filling nicely. We will try to get an afternoon class if we have the numbers. If we have the numbers, we will need to hire a 3's teacher. We interviewed a prospective Aide for the 3's on Monday night April 19th at 6 PM at the church. We are Preregistering for both the 3's class and the 4's now.

We need teachers for Sunday School desperately. We are hoping to get some volunteers for next Fall. Please see Pam King or Pat Haneberg if you would be willing to help. There will be no Sunday School for the children during the summer.

The Sunday School picnic will be on Sunday, June 6th, after church with BINGO for the adults and games and Jumpy Jump for the children. Members with last names beginning with A-M, please bring a hot dish or salad; members with last names beginning with N-Z, please bring a dessert.

Vacation Bible School will soon be upon us: June 21-25. We need helpers. Contact Pat Haneberg.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION OF LIFE MOTHER'S DAY BABY SHOWER

Help us celebrate Mother's Day by helping unwed mothers who chose Life for their little one. See the crib in the fellowship room, take a baby shower invite card, and bring your Mother's Day/baby gift to place in the crib. All gifts will be delivered to St. Theresa House on Friday, May 7, to arrive to the moms before Mother's Day. This helps support the Father Taaffe Foundation and homes at St. Brigid, St. Monica, and St. Theresa here in Salem. Talk to any Social Ministries team member.

FREE EYE CARE FOR SENIORS

Until May 30, EyeCare America is offering free eye exams for adults aged 65+ who have not seen an ophthalmologist in at least three years and do not belong to an HMO. Learn more. <http://www.eyecareamerica.org/eyecare/care/senior-eyecare.cfm>

THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS A new program this year, "Choice Dollars," gives Thrivent members an opportunity to direct a portion of \$1 million to one of 10 international charities. If 350,000 members vote, an additional \$1 million will be donated among these organizations; so, let yourself be counted! To vote on where you would like a donation to go, visit the website at Thrivent.com/choicevote or complete the card in the Spring issue of Thrivent Magazine. Voting is open April 19-May 21.

You can vote for one of the following charities: *ELCA World Hunger *LCMS World Mission *LCMS World Relief and Human Care *Lutheran Disaster Response *Lutheran Malaria Initiative *WELS Committee on Relief *WELS Humanitarian Aid Committee *American Heart Association *Feed My Starving Children *Habitat for Humanity. Contact Jan Shearer if you have any questions.

PLANT SALE Friday, Saturday & Sunday, May 7, 8, & 9, St Joseph Church parking lot. Corner of Center and Cottage Streets, downtown Salem.

REDEEMER FOOD PANTRY We no longer need cereal or pasta. We still need canned fruits

KNITTING AND CROCHETING (other crafts welcome) at the Oak Table. Bring your projects and join us at 1-3 p.m. on the last Friday of each month.

From Your Social Ministry Team

Greetings from your Social Ministry team and from our Lord and Savior. He is risen indeed!!!

Yea! We have a new leader. Lorene Bartell has agreed to be our new chairman. We are so pleased to have her. She is also the committee member from our group for the Habitat for Humanity. We are encouraging any member of Redeemer to volunteer their time and their resources to this worthwhile mission. We are praying that we will have at least \$500 from the pie social to help with the Habitat build, but please don't let that stop you if you want to make a special contribution. Please put that contribution into an envelope and mark the envelope "Habitat". We will make sure it is added to the \$500 we are hoping to receive from the pie social. Redeemer usually gives \$500 each year, but the costs of building material don't remain static, so our \$500 buys less each year. Thank you and may God Bless your contribution.

Celebration of Life!!! The crib is up for gifts for the young mothers of the Taaffe Foundation who are choosing life for their unborn babies. The Taaffe houses are undergoing some changes right now, but they have assured us that if we bring gifts on Mother's Day, for either the mothers, babies, or young children, they will make sure the gifts are distributed to the young mothers and their children. So please bring your gifts, either wrapped or unwrapped, and put them in the crib by May 7, when we will deliver them. We thank you, and we know the mothers appreciate your love and compassion. May He bless and guide you.

Lorene is also the chairman for the pie social this year, and if you can help in any way, please let her know. The pie social will be held on Saturday, May 1, at 6:00 PM. OH!! And, yes, most importantly, don't forget to bring lots of pies for the auction. There will be a talent show as usual, so be ready to be entertained. A fun time will be had by all!

There is an opportunity to "**Feed His Lambs**" on the first Sunday in June, the 6th. Redeemer will be serving soup to folks less fortunate at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. If you are available to volunteer, please do so. It makes one feel good to know that we have done our Father's bidding by feeding His sheep. These folks truly appreciate having full tummies and someone to sit down and talk with them. We encourage your participation in this event. Just tell anyone on the Social Ministry Team that you would like to volunteer and may God bless your love for being a servant to His people. Working in His vineyards, Lorene Bartell, Carmen Seglum, David Gerecke, Verna Dixon, and Etta Mae Hitchcock

Habitat for Humanity

The Women build on Samaritan Lane is moving right along; the foundation is complete and wall raising ceremony is on tap for May 8, following the Hearts & Hammer Gala on May 7th. The Faith Building is right behind with Redeemer scheduled to begin work in May along with Holy Cross. Watch the bulletin for exact day and time.

Lorene Bartell

May Day! May Day! Help!

Help us make this the best PIE SOCIAL YET! May 1st at 6:00 PM - Dont Forget!!!

We need pies and people to support our church and have fun. All money raised will be put to good use: \$250 will be eligible for matching funds from Thrivent Financial to go to Habitat for Humanity. The rest will be used to help with our building obligations.

So bake a pie if you can, and for sure get ready to bid and enjoy the entertainment.

See you on May Day at 6:00 PM

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

A work party is scheduled for SAT., MAY 8, from 9-12 and 1-4 p.m. Advertising is going out to our gardeners, media and other churches. Members of the garden committee will be on hand as task leaders. Refreshments will be welcomed if anyone would like to donate snacks and drop them off at the church or at the work party. Work to be done:

- *Measure & stake plots
- *Make numbered plot markers
- *Rake composted soil from pathways into plots
- *Spread chips on pathways
- *Move garden shed from behind Head Start bldgs.
- *Serve refreshments
- *Take digital pictures
- *Repair & paint donated tools
- *Install the water supply line

We hope to see you there. If you would like to bring garden tools, wheelbarrows, etc., please do - we'll mark them for you so you can find them to take home.

Donations of garden tools being sought: a wheelbarrow, shovels, hoses, nozzles, hand tools (trowels, clippers).

Upcoming Events: SAT. MAY 15. We will be officially open for gardeners and will have an informal "Planting Party". A BBQ will be on hand for lunch and refreshments would be welcome on this day as well. It won't be a large crowd like the work party, but it will be a chance to meet & greet some of our gardeners. Redeemer has two plots to plant, so stop by and chat, put a few plants in the ground, bring a picnic lunch, lawn chairs, a kite

SUN. MAY 23. Garden Dedication Ceremony with a procession to the garden immediately following worship service.

Greetings from Preschool

I cannot believe that the year is almost over for us! It seems like we just started yesterday! I feel I have learned as much as our kiddos!

We are finishing up our year by looking at how much we have grown and how much we are changing. We are working with caterpillars and butterflies, honoring our mothers and getting ready to graduate and move on to our next year of learning and fun. Our kiddos have come so far this year. They come into our classes so small and quiet, and just a little unsure of what to expect and who they are. But by the end of the year they are not so quiet and they are very secure in the fact that they are God's children and that they are very loved. It is a wonderful transformation. It is what makes teaching worthwhile.

I would like to say thank you to your congregation. You have been very kind and supportive of our mission with the Preschool. Over the past year I have met many of you and enjoyed wonderful encouraging conversations. I would like to ask you all a favor, if you would remember us in prayer. Please pray that God would send the children who need us and that we could be a light for them and their families. You see, learning our ABCs and writing our names and learning to count are all very important things. But our main goal is to lead our children and their families to Jesus. So if you would pray over the summer for this goal, I would be very grateful.

As many of you already know, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs. Patty and Mrs. Karen They are retiring at the end of this year. They taught my children when they were at Redeemer PreK. They have truly given the children they have taught over the years a great foundation in learning, as well as a solid foundation in Christ. Please make a point to stop by and see them and express your appreciation for them as well. We will miss them very much. Also please pray for their replacements, because they really are impossible to replace.

Blessing to All of you!

Mrs. Shumate and Mrs. Kathy (4's class)

Mrs. Patty and Mrs. Karen (3's class)

Ministry to the Military - Project Afghanistan

SSG. Nicolle Brossard, one of the recipients of an Easter Box, is currently stationed at Forward Base Lagman, which is a remote base in Afghanistan. She is a Mental Health Specialist and, prior to her current assignment, she was assigned to the 396th Combat Support Hospital, Vancouver WA., which is the same unit that my husband Kermit and daughter Tabitha are in.

Nicolle really appreciated the Easter box, especially the instant snow that Pam King and Leo added and the signed card from Redeemer. She said that it really helped knowing that our prayers and thoughts were with her and the other soldiers.

Kermit and Nicole correspond by email and in one of her recent emails she wrote this:

"As for anything that we need here, since there isn't a PX, any type of general care packages with toiletry items, snacks, beverage powders you can add to waters, coffee, candy, chips, cookies, beef jerky, trail mix, sunscreen, toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, magazines, and other anything for hygiene, to pass the time or to eat is very much appreciated! We are setting up some shelves and storage areas for care packages to distribute to the soldiers. We are trying to use this as an opportunity to fill a need for them, and also provide combat stress outreach services. Please don't feel obligated, but we appreciate anything sent!"

The Ministry to the Military Team at our April meeting decided that our next project would be to collect items to send to Nicolle. This will be an ongoing project for at least the next couple months.

Each Sunday there will be a container out on or near the oak table for you to leave your donations. According to Nicole almost anything would be appreciated. In another email she talked about a care package that was sent from a Mary Kay Makeup consultant and how much fun they had doing facials. One thought I had was to collect items for pedicures-let's be creative and send a little fun to our troops.

I have also been told that AA and AAA batteries are highly sought-after items.

Please use the following guidelines:

- No alcohol
- No pork items
- Limit chocolate-it is beginning to get hot in Afghanistan
- Items will be shipped in Priority Mail Boxes that measure 12x12x5 and can weigh up to 70lbs.
- Keep in mind for food items-whether they are perishable-mail time is 10 to 14 days.

Thank you in advance for your support of our military. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Kathy Lisle and the Ministry to the Military Team

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

Life Journey Ministries presents their West Coast Conference to be held at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon on June 25 and 26, 2010. The conference theme of "Being Sunday people in a Monday world" frames the various topics participants will explore over the two days and they will be able to attend a special presentation by William Young (author of The Shack) entitled "*Is God Really That Good?*" on Friday evening.

Keynote Speaker - Carolyn Schoenborn - will challenge people to look at how they view God and His call to let their faith be transformational in today's work environments. This is not a talk on witnessing or being a good Christian at work. It is about changing our mental models of how we understand the Christian faith and its role in bringing hope, justice, equity and dignity to our places of work. As our faith relationship with Jesus creates us anew, it allows us to meet, worship, and cooperate with God in whole new ways in and through our places of work.

Spokespersons from front line workforce, management, business owner and legal representation will respond to our keynote presentation and especially discuss the realities related to faith and spirituality issues in today's work environment.

Carolyn presently serves as the Executive Director of Life Journey Ministries, the sponsor of this conference. Her career is in performance management in the semi-conductor industry. She has been a private consultant in organizational management as well as a life coach. In addition to being a pastor's wife, mother and grandmother, she has worked as a volunteer in poverty-ridden communities. Carolyn holds masters degrees in both ministry and organizational management.

Tickets to William Young's Friday evening presentation and the two-day conference are available to the public either through www.TicketsWest.org or through Life Journey Ministries' website - www.lifejourneymministries.org/westcoast.php. If people would like to sponsor a Christian display booth related to faith and work, they may contact Marian at wcinfo@lifejourneymministries.org.

Health Ministry Team

Faith Community Nurse: May 16th after church service we are having a potluck for Mrs Patty and Mrs Karen, who are both retiring at the end of the school year. Following the potluck and Well Wishing, please join me at the Oak Table to learn about our AED (Automated External Defibrillator). You do not have to have CPR training to be able to help someone who has collapsed. (The best-case scenario is that people who will use the AED are trained in CPR.) The AED is an important tool that is available to us. It will be located on the wall just outside of the Sanctuary. Please come and see what it is all about. We have a volunteer nursing educator from Salem Health who will be donating her time to help us become comfortable with our AED. I hope to see you there.

It is especially important that the Preschool teachers, Ushers, Church secretaries, Pastor, Elders, and Council attend. I will be extending an invitation to the outside groups who use our facility as well. So, please mark your calendar for May 16th following the potluck.

Blood pressure Clinic will be May 23rd instead of May 16th, as that day is getting pretty full. **Knitting and Crocheting around the Oak table** will be the last Friday of the month, May 28, from 1-3pm. Bring your projects. Goodie and drinks provided. I have Prayer Shawl yarn available. If you need to get started on a new prayer shawl, please let me know and I will bring yarn May 28th. If you are ready sooner for a prayer shawl project, just call me and we can get together so you can see what yarn is available.

Coming on June 13th, immediately following church service, we are going to have a brief discussion about **POLST** forms.

Yours in Christ,
Jonet Schutz 503-370-9208 jonetsc@yahoo.com

President's Notes

Dear Friends,

I want to give you a better idea of what is happening with our construction. There is a lot going on and much yet to be done. Most of you are familiar with the "Fire Watch" exercises we had to go through because Prince Electric disconnected our fire alarm. When it was disconnected, they were not ready to finish connecting a system they said we needed. They wanted us to pay an outstanding invoice. We wished to get a definitive answer of some County requirements. We are still working to find resolution to these issues.

There are many things you see that still need cleaned or finished, like holes in the walls, wire hanging out of walls, and overspray on windows. Much of this will not be done until we get to a point where we can take care of these things without doing them over again or resolve some other issue.

The elevator is nearly completed. The heating and air conditioning is close to done. But there are things to finish upstairs and some bills that cannot be resolved without some additional large gifts, grants, or personal loans. There is texturing, painting, and flooring to be done, and it's a large area.

When you see Keith, Allan, Al, Eric, and other property folks, thank them for all that they are doing for us regarding construction, maintenance, flowers, and more. When I think of what Al and Jim get done I am often impressed, but I know they would and do really appreciate the help of younger hands.

I am encouraged by our many blessings. God's work here with his people is no accident. Agape love abounds as we lift each other. May we forgive one another as He forgives us and may God grant us the wisdom to accept encouragement, recognize opportunity and persevere in our walk with Him.

Yours in Christ,
Paul

Membership News

New Members: April 18, 2010 - Keith and Vicky Palmer, Betty Sodeman and Tonja Snyder were welcomed as new members of Redeemer.

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

Office Assistants

Sandy Cooper & Anita Crawford
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Faith Community Nurse

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