



The Parish Beacon

Volume 38– No. 4

April 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ –

This past Wednesday was a race. You know the kind of day. My calendar was booked solid; one meeting after another and that doesn't account for the work that needed done.

Confirmation is just a few weeks away and I had to check and double check the progression of the 8th graders. Did they complete their essay? Did they pass all three exams with 70% or higher? Did they complete the quizzes with 90% or higher? Did they finish enough sermon summaries? Did they earn enough confirmation points? Is their banner completed?

We had mid-week Bible study, Lunch Bunch, and the afternoon Lenten Service. Vicar was off to two nursing homes to lead worship services, and I was off to the grocery store. Yes, the grocery store.

I needed to purchase supplies and food for the annual 8th grade Seder Meal. Each year, as the 8th graders study the Sacrament of the Altar, there is one evening set aside for the Seder Meal. With Communion ware across the table and the Altar Candles lit upon the table we have our meal. It's the meal in which our Lord institutes the Lord's Supper, where he broke the bread and where he gave his blood to drink. On this evening the students learn and experience the connections between the Passover meal and Holy Communion. They also get to try unconsecrated Eucharist Bread and Communion Wine. Soon they will have it consecrated, where it is the true body and blood of Christ.

The Passover meal on the night before Jesus was crucified was a bittersweet event. The communion between Jesus and his disciples was always life-giving to them, but our Lord must have had a heavy heart as he shared with them his body and blood and knelt to wash their feet. The race he had been running was soon to be over, but the most arduous part still lay ahead.

Following the meal, Jesus took his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane where he poured out his heart to his Father. "***Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done,***" he prayed, "***and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground***" (Luke 22:42, 44). The anguish Jesus experienced is vividly described by the Gospel writer. But Jesus never wavered. Resolutely, he ran the race and, when it was over, he proclaimed it over: "***It is finished!***" he cried.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). He didn't talk about winning the race – Jesus has already done that for us. He wrote about finishing the race. Ever believer is involved in this race, and each of us by finishing gets the prize.

So I will keep running, and may each of us be faithful in the race that God has given us to run!

Lenten Blessings, Pastor Hartwig



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

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Email: redeemer@ourredeemer.org

www.ourredeemer.org

APRIL ACTIVITIES

- 1 GGG—Iowa City Hy-Vee 1st Avenue 7:30am
Tasting Bee 11:00am
St. Paul's **Variety!** 7:00pm
- 1-2 Stephen Ministry Retreat
- 2 Sunday School 9:15am/Adult Class 9:30am
Confirmation Questioning Practice 1:30pm
Lenten Scavenger Hunt 6:00pm
- 3 Preschool Open House 6:30pm
Education Committee 7:00pm
Mission Committee 7:00pm
- 4 Human Care 6:30pm
Stephen Ministry Training 6:45pm
- 5 Bible Study 11:00am
Lunch Bunch 12:00pm
Lenten Services 1:00pm & 6:10pm
Lenten Meal 5:10pm
Midweek Classes 7:00pm
Spiritual Growth Event 7:00pm
- 6 Board of Elders 7:00pm
- 8 Men's Bible Study 8:00am
- 9 Sunday School 9:15am/Adult Class 9:30am
Confirmation during 10:30am worship
- 10 Young Adult **A Man Named Martin** 4:00pm
Outreach Committee 6:30pm
- 11 Stephen Ministry Training 6:45pm
Board of Directors 7:00pm
- 12 Prayer Walk 11am-8:00pm
Properties Committee 7:00pm
- 13 Maundy Thursday Service 1:00pm & 7:00pm
- 14 Kiwanis Breakfast 6:30pm
Good Friday Service 1:00pm & 7:00pm
- 15 Easter Breakfast Set Up 8:00am
- 16 Easter Breakfast 9:00am
Easter Egg Hunt 10:00am
- 17 Stephen Ministry Peers-Thompson 6:00pm
LWR Packing 6:00pm
LWML Mission Guild 7:00pm

- 18 Stephen Ministry Training 6:45pm
Assimilation 7:00pm
- 19 Bible Study 11:00am
Lunch Bunch 12:00pm
Midweek Classes 6:45pm
- 21-23 Confirmation Retreat - St. Louis
- 23 Sunday School 9:15am/Adult Class 9:30am
- 25 Stephen Ministry Large Group 6:30pm
Stephen Ministry Training 6:45pm
- 26 Vicar Call Day - St. Louis
- 27 Theology 101 7:00pm
- 29-30 60th Anniversary Celebration
- 30 Sunday School 9:15am/Adult Class 9:30am
60th Anniversary Meal 12:00pm
Teacher Appreciation 6:00pm



March 29
Taco Bar

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30pm Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am
Communion on April 1, 2, 13, 15, 16, 29, 30

Comfort-Tiers meet Thursdays at 9:00am
Need more tiers anytime between 9:00 am to noon
No expertise or materials required-Coffee provided

Choir meets Wednesdays—6:45 pm
7:00 pm during Lent

Praise Team Practice schedule varies—
Contact Myrl Holida myrl-holida@uiowa.edu or
Louise Klopp choirdirector@ourredeemer.org

Watch *Reflections* for information on:



Tasting Bee
April 1
11:00am
Fellowship Hall



Deadline for Top
10 Hymns
April 2



April 21-23



Carnival Night
May 3 at 6:00pm

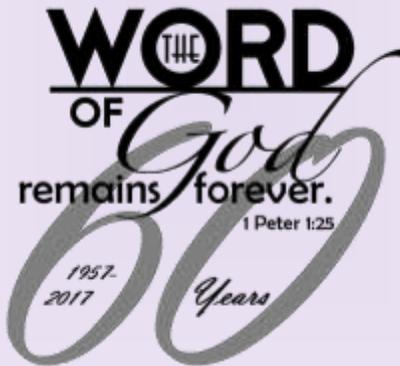


Spiritual Growth Event
April 5 at 7:00pm
Sanctuary



Basics of the Faith
May 5 7-9pm
May 6 8:30am-2:30pm

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



ORLC 60th Anniversary
April 29-30
Rev. Stephen Niermann
Fellowship Celebration Meal
Noon April 30



April 12
11am-8pm
Fellowship Hall



A Man Named Martin
April 10 at 4:00pm
Room 208



Stephen Ministry Retreat
Honey Creek Resort
March 31-April 2



Theology 101
April 27, 2017
7:00 pm
Board Room



Teacher Appreciation

April 30
6:00pm
Fellowship Hall

LENTEN SCHEDULE

April 5	Lent	Services 1:00 & 6:10 pm Midweek Meal 5:10 pm Midweek Classes attend Spiritual Growth Event Spiritual Growth Event 7:00 pm
April 9	Palm Sunday	Confirmation at 10:30 am
April 12	Silent Wednesday	Prayer Walk 11 am - 8 pm No midweek
April 13	Maundy Thursday	Services 1:00 & 7:00 pm
April 14	Good Friday	Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast 6:30 am Services 1:00 & 7:00 pm
April 15		Easter Worship 5:30 pm
April 16	EASTER	Easter Worship 8 & 10:30 am Easter Breakfast 9:00 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am

FAITH TALK

February 26

Hawkeye Athletes In Action Sports Banquet



We want to thank all who were able to share a meal and to hear six athletes from University of Iowa Athletes In Action talk about their Christian faith with us on Sunday, February 26th. Athletes in Action is one of the Christian groups that meets at the University Of Iowa and Jim Goodrich is their leader, convening every week on the university campus to read and talk through the Bible. Thank you for your support



of this group through monetary donations and prayer. We thank God for this year and look forward to next year.

Athletes present were Taylor Aaron, Kara Neustrom, Brandon Snyder, Emma Fougstad, Nathan, Alyssa Klostermann.

74 Our Redeemer members attended.



Stephen Ministry

By Marcia Hulse

We care, Christ cures.

“I can’t take it any more,” Jeffrey said when he asked for a transfer. He had been answering customer complaints for a healthcare financing company. “Medical bills are now so high they hurt. When people call, some are worried, some angry, some abusive, others pathetic. There’s nothing I can do. I just can’t take it any more.”

Many people can relate to Jeffrey’s situation. They, too, live or work under great stress. Punch that clock. Pull more files. Fill out more forms. Up date systems. Run that machine. Turn that wheel. Lift that load. Hurry! Wait!

It’s not only the major catastrophes that cause tension. Often it’s a series of small things that matter.

When Jeffrey said, “I can’t take it any more,” he really meant, “I’ve had enough. I’m not going to take it any more.”

Sometimes people cannot leave their situation. They’re trapped. Tension mounts. Dissatisfaction, frustration and anger grow. Troubles appear overwhelming. Life seems to be a hopeless race to nowhere.

Does saying, “I can’t take it any more,” develop a negative thought pattern? Will it lessen the probability of succeeding?

You can live a happy life — despite all the potentially defeating factors that gang up against you. But it takes a conscious effort.

Reach out to God.

Talk frankly with Him about your problems.

Concentrate on the solution to your problem.

God never promised to remove all the stress from the lives of His faithful people.

Tell God you can’t take it without His help.

Ask Him for wisdom, patience, endurance, courage.

Accept help from others.

God often answer prayer through other people.

He may guide you through the advice of a wise Christian friend.

Perhaps you need the encouragement and/or the listening ear of a Stephen Minister.

Discern God’s goodness in the help given by others.

Praise Him for it. Praise them for it, too.

STEPHEN LEADERS

Rev. Brent Hartwig	338-5626
Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Marcia Hulse	351-7059
Kathy Schweer	466-3084
Kevin Sellers	339-9804

“If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us — whatever we ask — we know that we have what we asked of Him.” (1 John 5:14, 15)

February 19 Voters' Meeting

ELDERS REPORT-Myrl Holida

- Preschool grown to 17 M/W/F and 16 T/Th – majority are not children of members – good outreach. Kaja started position in 2013-14 as part-time with fewer kids. In addition to teaching, Kaja has administrative duties dealing with local/county/state requirements and inspections. She does these duties during afternoon because there is someone that takes care of before/after school for this year only. Passed the proposal to move Kaja to full-time Preschool and create a 10 hour/week at \$15/hour Children's Ministry position (would include VBS and Christmas Program). Pay is already worked into the budget.
- Vicar application has been sent in for next year though no guarantee one will be placed. A retired pastor will be moving to area and would like to help fill voids in the fall. The proposal to hire him to help fill voids; pay is already in the budget.

PROPERTIES-Henry Diggelmann

- May investigate hiring a property manager in the future-not needed at this time and no funds have been budgeted.
- Large 2017 volunteer corp. Landscaping not in budget. Costs have been covered by LLL, Thrivent, and member donations.
- New refuse company hired that does both recycling and trash collection for a comparable price. Does not include glass in recycling.

STAFF REPORTS

Pastor Hartwig

- 60th Anniversary (last weekend in April) - Stephen Niermann will be guest preacher. Meal will be provided after services. Congregation will submit favorite hymns; the top 60 will be sung over time.
- Doctorate classes to be finished by the end of July. Dissertation work begins. Projected graduation 2019.

STAFF REPORTS *cont'd*

Vicar Wolfgram

Vicarage is half over.

Kaja Mueller

- 65 in Sunday School, 43 in Wednesday night Kids Club. 123 were registered for VBS in 2016.
- 8 Preschoolers will be going to kindergarten next year. It will be a Department of Human Services relicensing year. Donations have been received from Thrivent Choice, LLL, and silent auction baskets.

Denise Holida

During Lent, there will be a church-wide small group study called *Facing the Cross*.

Kara Hartwig (*presented by Pastor*)

- Winter Retreat attended by 27 kids.
- Spring confirmation trip upcoming
- High school youth have registered for UKANDU.

VISION 2020-Dave Johnson

- 3-year pledges at \$650,000
- Between \$117,000 and \$120,000 already available now.
- Working with architects on final drawings and costs.
- Will obtain construction loan from Lutheran Church Extension Fund.
- Forums on 2020 after Easter.
- Will probably have another 3-year commitment campaign to raise the rest of the funds.

ROLLER SKATING

March 19

Wellman



Photos by Allison Haack, Kaja Mueller, and Crissy Pence

Save the date – April 22, 2017. Plan to come to the **Spring LWML rally at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Marion.** Enjoy a delicious brunch and find out about the IED LWML mission trip to Kenya last July and August. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by the brunch, meeting and program. Discover LWML happenings in the Zone and District. We will be collecting an ingathering for Bridgehaven. Items to collect include: Boy/Girl Clothes - up to 6 months, bibs, Diapers - New Born - 2 yrs, baby wipes, Laundry Soap, Paper Towels, Canned Fruit, Pasta/Sauce. RSVP to your LWML President to give us an idea how much food to prepare.





DEADLINE FOR TOP 10 HYMN SUBMISSION IS APRIL 2! 

The office needs your Top 10 hymn selection to get them tabulated for use during the 60th Anniversary celebration. Leave on Laurel’s desk, in her mailbox, or email to redeemer@ourredeemer.org.



The 22nd Annual LWML Tasting Bee will be held this Saturday, April 1st at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our theme this year is Good Food, Good Friends, Good Times, and this truly defines the Tasting Bees at Our Redeemer. If you have never attended a Tasting Bee, please try to attend. Tickets are \$10.00 each--not every table is full, so ask if you know someone who is decorating a table if they have an extra place for you to sit. We do have a few extra tickets available. You will be able to buy extra cookbooks for \$3.00 the day of the Tasting Bee or after the Tasting Bee.



MOWING SIGN UP is in the church office. Sign up today. Teams of two take one week at a time. The more teams involved, the fewer weeks each has to cover!

Mowers are provided. See Rob Bowman for more information or call 325-8989.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



SIGN UP is in the church office for the meal following the 10:30 am 60th Anniversary service on April 30.

HELP NEEDED for the set up on Tuesday, April 11 at 10:00am. Please let the office or Dianna Reuter (351-4785) know that you are available.



SUPPLIES NEEDED:

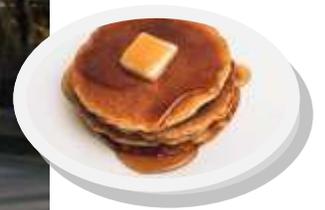
- 2 loaves French bread
- 1 pound bag plain primary colored M&M’s
- Gently used or unwanted candles
- Little stick ‘em notes similar to “sign here” tags

? 3 POT CROCKPOT left in the kitchen. Does it belong to someone? ?

Are we to keep it? Are we to send it to Stuff?

COMMUNITY PANCAKE DAY

March 4, 2017



The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for helping make this year's Pancake Day a success. A special thank you to all the volunteers. The annual Pancake Day could not happen if not for the generosity of all the volunteers. More than 1000 meals were served, and \$8500 was collected to support the Crisis Center.

Mission Committee Members
Denise Holida
Miriam Meyer (Chair)
Anita Nicholson
Val Penney
Robert Powers
Joe Robinson



Dear Friends at Our Redeemer,

God has graciously and abundantly blessed us in providing a handicap van for "Pastor G. " We are so grateful to our many friends at Our Redeemer who so generously shared with us.

The van has been a tremendous asset and made life more enjoyable and manageable. Robert has been able to get to hear the grandchildren sing at special services at their school, and we have trained several drivers to help with doctor's appointments. One member of the Lutheran Radio Choir now comes to the house to pick up Robert for the taping of the services—three on one evening. Robert enjoys singing with the choir and has had the opportunity to preach for two services so far this year. A third one is coming up in a few weeks.

We are excited about the plans for Our Redeemer. Enclosed is our gift toward the campaign. May God establish your plans as you follow His leading.

We are looking forward to a visit this spring to Iowa City. We are blessed by our time serving with you and thank God for you all.



Baptism of Ryan Robert Traska

In His service,
Sue & Pastor Gebel

Friends of Our Redeemer

Pastor Gebel was at Our Redeemer from September 9, 2001 to November 11, 2007.

Joshua Vanderhyde preached at Our Redeemer and receives support from ORLC.

March 1, 2017



Dear members of Our Redeemer,

Greetings from warm St. Louis! Spring weather has added to the joy of this break as we rest from a hectic winter quarter and gear up for the spring session. Though this last stretch has been busy and stressful at times, God has continued to take care of us. We are especially thankful for your prayers and support, and we'd like to take a moment to share with you a little of what is going on.

First, we are pleased to introduce the newest member of our family, Malachi Rho. He seems laid back and generally content, a helpful disposition for transitioning to a family of four. Simeon, almost two, seems so much older now that we have a tiny guy to compare him with. He enjoys his little brother and loves to give him kisses. Virginia likes having a newborn again. This time around, instead of trying to figure out everything, she can just enjoy being mom. We are both so thankful that her mom, Kathleen, came for three weeks to help with the boys.

The winter quarter was the busiest of our time at the seminary so far, but it was also very rewarding. I found my early church history classes particularly helpful, because our ancient Christian predecessors speak to contemporary issues with unique perspective and help us remain faithful to the teaching handed down from the apostles (2 Thessalonians 2:15). I look forward to beginning the STM (Masters of Sacred Theology) program next year.

We are very grateful for the blessing you are to our family. It's humbling to see how God is using so many people to make our time at the seminary possible. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Love,

Joshua, Virginia, Simeon, & Malachi Vanderhyde





We have the privilege to teach 3-5 year olds about letters, numbers, rhyming, and their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Enroll TODAY

There are discounts for being a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, if you have multiple children in our preschool, or if you refer a new family who enrolls. Please see Kaja Mueller for more information.

Contact preschool@ourredeemer.org or #319-338-3949.



Key Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:57—"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Register online here: <https://vbsmate.com/events/OurRedeemerChurchPreschool/5283>

We ask for a donation of \$10 per child to help fund VBS.

No one helping this week receives any money from your donation. It all goes towards the kids!



Excerpt from February 20, 2017

How to Become a World-Class Christian (Pt. 1)

By [Pastor Rick Warren](#)

You'll either be a *worldly* Christian or a *world-class* Christian.

"Jesus said to his followers, 'Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone'" (Mark 16:15 NCV).

"Send us around the world with the news of your saving power and your eternal plan for all mankind" (Psalm 67:2 TLB).

Worldly Christians look to God primarily for personal fulfillment. They're saved but self-centered. They love to attend concerts and enrichment seminars, but you'd never find them at a mission conference, because they aren't interested.

Their prayers focus on their own needs, blessings, and happiness. It's a "me-first" faith: How can God make my life more comfortable? They want to use God for *their* purposes instead of being used for *his* purposes.

By contrast, world-class Christians know they were saved to serve and were made for a mission. They're eager to receive a personal assignment and excited about the privilege of being used by God.

World-class Christians are the only fully alive people on the planet. Their joy, confidence, and enthusiasm are contagious because they know they're making a difference. They wake up each morning expecting God to work through them in fresh ways.

Shift from self-centered to others-centered thinking.

The Bible says, *"My friends, stop thinking like children. Think like mature people"* (1 Corinthians 14:20a CEV).

Children only think of themselves; grownups think of others. This is the first step to becoming a world-class Christian.

God commands, *"Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too"* (Philippians 2:4 NLT).

Of course, this is a difficult mental shift because we're naturally self-absorbed, and almost all of the media and advertising we consume encourages us to think of ourselves.

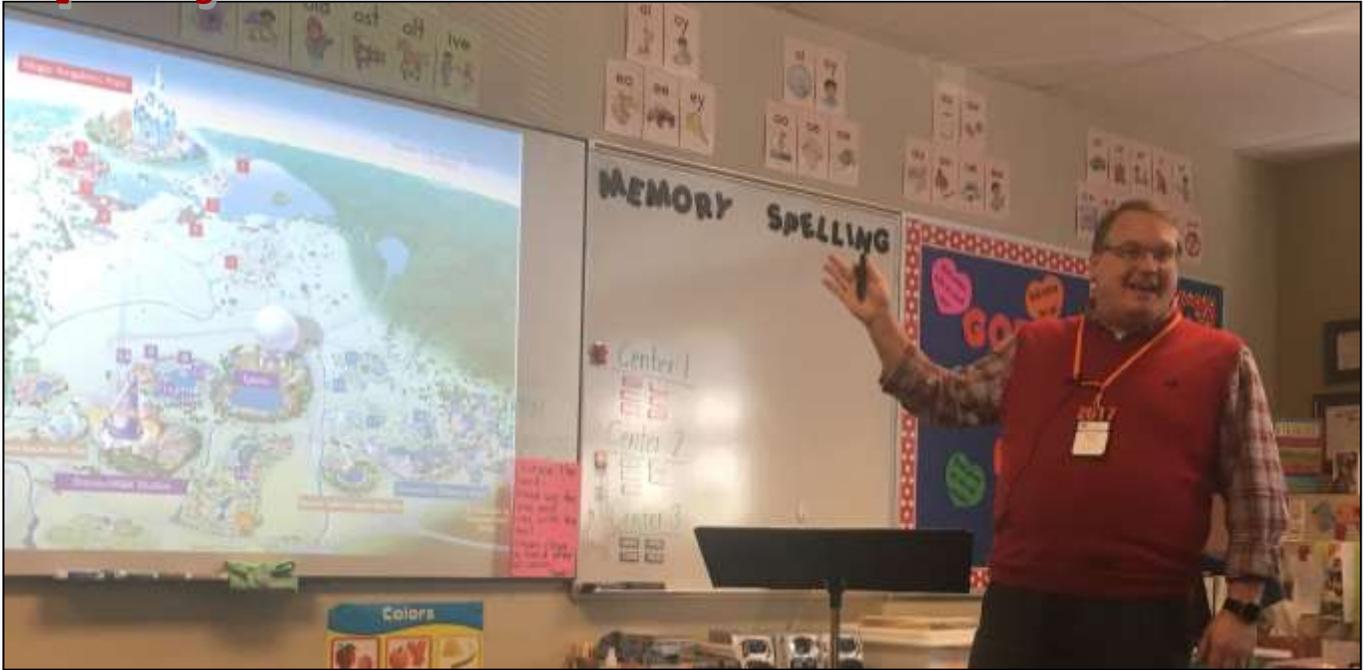
The only way we can make this paradigm switch is by a moment-by-moment dependence on God. Fortunately, he doesn't leave us to struggle on our own.

"God has given us his Spirit. That's why we don't think the same way that the people of this world think" (1 Corinthians 2:12a CEV).

Begin asking the Holy Spirit to help you to think of the spiritual need of unbelievers whenever you talk to them. With practice, you can develop the habit of praying silent "breath prayers" for those you encounter. Say, "Father, help me to understand what is keeping this person from knowing you."

Your goal is to figure out where they are in their spiritual journey and to do whatever will bring them a step closer to knowing Christ. You can learn how to do this by adopting the mindset of Paul, who said, *"I don't think about what would be good for me but about what would be good for many people so that they might be saved"* (1 Corinthians 10:33b GNT).

Hospitality: From the Theme Park Gates to the Pearly Gates



I wanted to share with you a picture of Pastor Hartwig at Best Practices for Ministry conference. Pastor is presenting his topic called “Hospitality: From the Theme Park Gates to the Pearly Gates.” He did a great job. Of the break-out sessions that I attended, I thought his presentation was my favorite. This is without any bias. There was even a former Disneyland employee in the room who approved of his take on Disney Parks and the “best practices” that can be learned from Disney to be applied to the church. I think there were between 20 and 30 people in the room.

Peter Adelsen



God is able to do
Immeasurably
MORE
 than we can imagine . . .

129 Pledges for
\$626,897.52

Cash in hand
\$144,240.09

Ephesians 3:20
 ...according to the power that works within us.

MISSION	MARCH
Iowa District East	\$4,166.67
UIHC Chaplain Endowment Fund	416.67
Consultation of Religious Comm	625.00
Concordia Seminary	500.00
Food for the Poor	250.00
Lutheran Hour	625.00
TOTAL	\$6,583.34
Member Contributions	
Transforming Campus Ministry	760.00

Donations Needed for
Easter Breakfast
on Sun, April 16th

*Sign up sheets are in
the church office.*



See upcoming
Reflections for more
details.



Membership Changes and Official Acts

<u>Baptisms</u>	
Lennox Murray Boyum	3-5-2017
<u>Affirmation of Faith</u>	
Stan & Nan Carlson	3-2-2017
<u>Marriage</u>	
Andrew (Drew) Freie and Chelsea Winegard	3-18-2017
<u>Transfer Out</u>	
Becky & Terry Brase	3-21-2017

BAPTISM THIS WEEK



**ONE LORD
ONE FAITH
ONE BAPTISM**

Macklyn Jo Drahos
Private Baptism
Sunday, March 26, 2017

Parents
Jesse Lee Drahos
Lori Lyn Warden Drahos

Sponsors
Michael & Olya Warden



SERVING WITH JOY

Molly Christensen in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso *(She was at Our Redeemer Labor Day weekend)*

Psalm 29:11

The Lord gives strength to His people, the Lord blesses His people with peace.

Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving for a safe move to Burkina Faso.
- For safe travel on our trip to Togo in March.
- That the Lord would provide just the right place for me to live.
- For my French language study in Burkina Faso



Bonjour!

I have safely arrived in Ouagadougou, (WA-ga-DOO-goo) the capital city of Burkina Faso. I am starting to get acclimated to my new environment. It has been on average between 95 and 100 degrees every day and its not even the hot season yet. Life

here is very different in many ways, but mostly because everyone I encounter speaks French. I know it will take time and patience to learn. I am just starting to pick up a few words and greetings. Formal language school will begin after we return from our trip to Togo in March. Until then, I will work with a tutor to start learning vocabulary and pronunciation.

The picture above is of my colleague, and host here, Steph Schulte and me. She is a nurse missionary and the wife of our West Africa director, Rev. Gary Schulte. Pictured is the Lutheran church we attended on my first Sunday here. It was located in a village type setting on the edge of the city. We had to take a taxi to get there and then walk down a dirt road about half a mile to find the building. On the way we passed the village mosque, many happy children, men working, and women tending their homes. The church service was a mixture of French, and a local language called Moore. We sang hymns to the beat of a drum and a gourd shaker. I felt like we were a little light, shining in the midst of a Muslim community. I think of Jesus' words from Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them." Jesus is here and is shining His light into the darkness.

Travel to Togo

Last week I got to visit Dapaong, Togo, my future home, with a short term communications team from St. Louis. We spent time visiting with our missionaries there and meeting local church leaders. It was a blessing for me to see veteran missionaries, Gary and Steph, reconnecting with their dear Togolese friends from long ago. I also got to visit the first Lutheran church in Dapaong, planted by Rev. Schulte, and the seminary where I will eventually be serving.



BIBLEWORDGAMES

Used with Permission

1. Which Old Testament prophet spoke of the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:16)
A. Daniel B. Isaiah C. Joel D. Jeremiah
2. How did the Holy Spirit first appear to the Apostles? (Acts 2:2)
A. like a dove B. a strong wind C. an earthquake D. thunder and lightning
3. How many were added to the church on the day that the Holy Spirit arrived? (Acts 2:41)
A. 1500 B. 500 C. 3000 D. 2000
4. How many were gathered with the disciples after the ascension of Jesus? (Acts 1:15)
A. 70 B. 120 C. 100 D. 50
5. What did Peter tell the people they should do to receive the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:38)
A. pray and repent B. repent and be baptized C. pray and ask for it
C. pray and fast E. repent
6. What was the first recorded miracle done by Peter in the name of Jesus? (Acts 3:6)
A. healed a blind man B. cast out a demon C. healed a lame man D. cured a lepper
7. At which Holy Day did the Holy Spirit first appear? (Acts 2:1)
A. Feast of Trumpets B. Passover C. Pentecost D. Feast of Tabernacles
8. What was the field called that was purchased with the money given to Judas? (Acts 1:19)
A. Abaddon B. Akeldama C. Fullers D. Apollyon
9. What happened to Ananias after he lied to the apostles about his land sale? (Acts 5:5)
A. he hung himself B. he was stoned C. he died D. he repented E. he left the church
10. About what time of day did the Holy Spirit first appear? (Acts 2:15)
A. Late afternoon B. noon C. dawn D. midafternoon E. midmorning
11. Who was the first man to sell his land and give the money to the apostles? (Acts 4:37)
A. Jason B. Lucius C. Barnabas D. Stephen E. Justus
12. What did the apostles do right after the Holy Spirit came upon them? (Acts 2:4)
A. spoke in tongues B. went to the temple C. raised the dead D. healed the sick
13. What happened to the wife of Ananias after she lied to the apostles? (Acts 5:10)
A. she repented B. she was struck with blindness C. she was forgiven
D. she died E. she was put out of the church
14. Who was chosen to take the place of Judas Iscariot? (Acts 1:26)
A. Stephen B. Matthias C. Timothy D. Sergius E. Barsabas

ANSWERS:
1C, 2B, 3C, 4B, 5B, 6C, 7C, 8D, 9C, 10E, 11C, 12A, 13D, 14B

SERVING THE LORD IN PANAMA



NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY



March 2017
Vol. 2 Issue ii

A Tale of Two Worlds

Greetings in Jesus! We pray this newsletter finds you doing well during this season of Lent. Life in Panama is often a tale of two worlds. While walking downtown or in one of the many large malls, you often forget that you are in Latin America - it *feels* like a big city in the US. On the other hand, there are neighborhoods and small towns that remind you that you are, indeed, *not in Kansas anymore*.

A quick tour at the Lutheran churches in Panama conjures a similar feeling. Unlike many mission fields in Latin America, Panama actually has church buildings (vs. rented storefronts) - many of which are large and beautiful. But a careful observation reveals termite damage, missing windows, broken light fixtures, and loose pews. What I have learned in my short time in Panama is that what is important is not what the buildings look like, but what happens in them.

The end of February brought professors with Luther Academy and two deaconess instructors to offer courses to the pastors, deaconesses, and leaders of the Panamanian church. The conference was well attended despite its taking place during Carnival, a five day vacation period where most people leave the city to spend time with family and friends relaxing. But for these twenty men and women, Carnival looked a little different. They took buses from the country and cabs from all over the city to sit in sessions on Luther's Catechism and *The Letters of Paul*. Why did they choose eighteen hours of study over vacation? Because they crave the gospel and solid Lutheran theology. Because they want to know more about the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Confession and Absolution, baptism, and the Lord's Supper. And because they are excited to take what they learned about Paul's writing in Scripture back to their churches to share it with family, friends, and neighbors.

The church buildings may be cracked and tired, but inside, a firm foundation upon Christ crucified is being laid. To God be the glory!

News from Amanda

Greetings from Panama! Brian, Ezra and I are very happy to have a home again, especially Ezra! His face was priceless when our container arrived and we set up his room. We heard him saying "Wow!" and "Oh Boy!" for days. Not having to pack up and travel every few weeks has been a refreshing change. *Poco a poco* (little by little) has been our motto lately as we adjust to life here. We have already made some friends and are researching different preschools for Ezra so that he can begin learning Spanish. While the transition has been smooth there are some aspects of Panama that have required a bit of adjusting on our part. One example is the security guards that are at nearly every neighborhood entrance. On a couple of occasions we have been stopped, asked to show our passports, and explain where we are going. Another fun experience has been grocery shopping. I recently bought a whole chicken to make chicken noodle soup and as I was prepping it in the sink I found two feet stuck in the top so I pulled them out wondering "I wonder how people prepare them here?" As I continued to rinse out the inside of the chicken the head (still attached to the neck) slid out! I jumped, screamed, and eventually laughed about it. I can now say I am glad that I helped (mostly watched) my mom, aunts, and grandma clean chickens on my uncle David's farm growing up. All in all, life is coming together and we thank you for your continued prayers and support.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- A smooth transition as we settle in Panama.
- The Panama Foro as it looks for partner congregations.
- The Pre-Seminary Program that will be starting in the beginning of April.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- A wonderful Luther Academy and Deaconess Conference for the Lutheran Church of Panama.
- The group of pastors and leaders that gathers each Tuesday afternoon to study the upcoming Sunday's Biblical texts.



Youth

6th - 12th Graders

Getting ready for the Spiritual Growth Event

Thank you to the high school students who participated in Card Night and made cards for the 8th grade Confirmands!



This year, we have several high school students who have a sibling who is getting confirmed this year. It was neat to see them make personalized cards for their younger brother or sister.



These hand-made cards will be presented to the 8th grade Confirmation students at the reception following the Spiritual Growth Event on Weds, April 5th.

The 8th graders will also receive a cross to hang on a wall in their home. The high school youth tied ribbon bows on the cross boxes.



Set-up for Easter Breakfast

All High School students and their families

Sat, April 15th

8:00 a.m.

Kitchen & Fellowship Hall



April

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

2 Confirmation Questioning Practice
8th graders 1:30 pm

5 Spiritual Growth Event
Entire congregation 7:00 pm

9 Palm Sunday/Confirmation Day
Entire congregation 10:30 am

12 Prayer Walk
Confirmation & High School 7:00 pm

15 Set-up for Easter Breakfast
High School Families 8:00 am

16 Easter Breakfast
Hosted by High School Families 9:00 am

21-23 Spring Confirmation Retreat
Confirmation Trip to St. Louis

Confirmation Questioning Practice

For all 8th grade Confirmation students

Sun, April 2nd

1:30 pm

Sanctuary

OUR REDEEMER OFFICE DIRECTORY

Office: 338-5626 Fax: 338-9171 Website: <http://www.ourredeemer.org> Preschool: 338-3949
 Prayer Chain: 351-5297 or prayerchain@ourredeemer.org Special Announcements Line: 338-3505

<u>STAFF & EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>STAFF & EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
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Kevin Sellers Director of Technology technology@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 631-8924 (cell)	Laurel Sellers, Office Coordinator redeemer@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)

2017 Board of Elders

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Jim Eick	338-1293
Myrl Holida (Chair)	351-4301
Skip Kempnich	351-5297
Val Penney	354-1453
Denny Schrader	461-7318
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	Barb Schanbacher	319-351-3998
	Kevin Roiseland	319-230-5247

DEADLINES

Reflections (printed weekly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) each Wednesday by 5:00 pm

Beacon Newsletter & Church Activities Calendar (printed monthly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) by noon on the 20th of each month.

TELEVISION ~ RADIO

Our Redeemer Worship Service on Public Access TV Channel 18 every Wednesday at 4:00 pm.

The Lutheran Hour Television Ministries talk show "On Main Street" is shown on Public Access Television Channel 18 on Thursdays at 1:30 pm and Sundays at 10:00 pm.

Lutheran Hour Ministries on Radio—WMT 600 AM Radio on Sunday mornings at 6:30 am, and **KXEL 1540 AM Radio** on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. For more information on Lutheran Hour Ministries go to www.LHM.org.

VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND SCREENING

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has been in ministry with children and youth for almost 55 years. Our insurance carrier, Church Mutual, strongly encourages us to promote the safest and most secure environment possible by screening all employees and volunteers, both new and existing, especially those who interact with children. Performing background checks will provide safeguards and peace of mind to our staff, volunteers, parents, youth and children. Additional details will be forthcoming as we put this screening process in motion.

Confidence

Isaiah 26:3-4

*Do not grieve for me,
for I shall not.
I must finish my travels
painful though they may be;
but the Lord has my hand
and leads.*

*He has gone this way before
and smoothed each step.
How can I deny Him
when He has given Himself
for me?*

*Nay, I continue in Him,
confident and trusting His love,
with a smile.*

Carol Scholdt