



The Parish Beacon

Volume 38– No. 2

February 2017

Dear Christian friends:

Here comes February and St. Valentine's Day and the world's focus on love.

It can be said that love is the foundation for a relationship and trust is the way to keep that fellowship straight and true. Essential to a loving relationship with Christ is trust.

Trust is a two-way street. Can God trust us and do we trust in Him? The depth of our faith and commitment will answer both questions.

When we experience God, our trust grows.

God wants us to trust in Him, and He wants to trust us.

Our goal as believers is to have a relationship of mutual trust. Through faith, we acknowledge that God is trustworthy. God entrusts us with time, talents, and money, and He wants us to be trustworthy in the use of our gifts.

Mother Teresa said, "I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much." God knows what we can properly take care of and how much He can trust us to use faithfully what we've been given.

In Scripture, trust enabled ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

- Because Abraham trusted God more than his own feelings, he was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac.
- David's trust in God gave him the courage to stand up to Goliath.
- The Widow of Zarephath was willing to give up the last of her flour to God's prophet Elijah.
- And the Widow gave her mite, her last two coins.

Trust does powerful things.

Possibly the most familiar Bible story is about Noah. Noah trusted the Lord with his life. When God told Noah to build an ark, he built one even when there was no sign of rain, in fact, before rain had ever fallen from the skies! After the flood, Noah built an altar to the Lord and sacrificed many animals. Noah trusted the Lord enough to sacrifice animals which he would need for his future. He gave sacrificially even when there were no needy people to give to or churches which needed support.

How can we measure our trust?

Certainly, our trust can be measured by our willingness to give. When we give faithfully and generously, our time, talent, and treasure, we demonstrate the same trust that Noah, Abraham, and David had.

As our trust grows in the Lord,

His trust in us will grow and we will become effective servants for the Lord.

In Christ, Pastor Hartwig



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

2301 East Court Street Iowa City, IA 52245

Phone: 319-338-5626

Email: redeemer@ourredeemer.org

www.ourredeemer.org

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

- 1 Midweek Meal 6:00pm
Midweek Classes 6:45pm
- 2 Women's Beth Moore 7:00pm
Board of Elders 7:00pm
- 3-4 Confirmation Winter Retreat 6:00pm
- 3 Basics of the Faith 7:00pm
- 4 GGG - Iowa City Hy-Vee 1st Avenue 7:30am
Basics of the Faith 8:30am
- 5 Sunday School 9:15am/Adult Bible Class 9:30am
Trivia Challenge 12:00pm
High School Super Bowl Party 5:00pm
- 6 Education Committee 7:00pm
Mission Committee 7:00pm
- 7 Women's Beth Moore 9:30am
Human Care 6:30pm
- 8 Bible Study 11:00am
Lunch Bunch 12:00pm
Midweek Classes 6:45pm
Properties Committee 7:00pm
- 9 Board of Directors 7:00pm
- 11 Men's Bible Study 8:00am
- 12 Sunday School 9:15am/Adult Bible Class 9:30am
New Member Brunch 12:00pm
Valentine Delivery
- 13 Outreach Committee 6:30pm
LWML Mission Guild Board 6:45pm
- 14 Circuit Meeting 9:00am
Stephen Ministry Training 6:45pm
- 15 Midweek Classes 6:45pm
- 16 Women's Beth Moore 7:00pm
- 19 **Kids Club Sunday**
Sunday School 9:15am/Adult Bible Class 9:30am
Voters' Meeting—Annual Report 11:45am
- 20 LWML Mission Guild 7:00pm
- 21 Women's Beth Moore 9:30am
Stephen Ministry Training 6:45pm
Theology 101 7:00pm
Assimilation Committee 7:00pm

- 22 Bible Study 11:00am
Lunch Bunch 12:00pm
Midweek Classes 6:45pm
- 23-27 **Pastor & Vicar gone for "Best Practice"**
- 25 Men's Bible Study 8:00am
- 26 Sunday School 9:15am/Adult Bible Class 9:30am
Sports Banquet 12:00pm
Thrivent Chapter Member Appreciation 5:00pm
- 28 Stephen Ministry Training 6:45pm
Stephen Ministry Large Group Inservice 6:45pm



Let's thank Marilyn for 30 years of music at Our Redeemer and join with her in celebrating this anniversary!

Sunday, January 29
Cake & Punch
Follows 10:30 am service

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30pm Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am
Communion on February 4, 5, 18, 19

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—6:45pm

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

Watch *Reflections* for information



February 1
Midweek Meal 6pm
Freewill Offering
Classes 6:45pm

VALENTINE
Kid's Club makes valentines
Wednesday, February 8
Delivery
Sunday, February 12



February 12
After 10:30 service
Fellowship Hall



Johnson County Thrivent
Member Appreciation
February 26
5:00pm
Fellowship Hall



Theology 101
February 21, 2017
7:00 pm
Board Room



Roller Skating
March 5
Wellman



Basics of the Faith
February 3, 7-9pm
February 4
8:30 am-2:30pm



Stephen Ministry
Training
Room 208
Starting February 14
6:45pm

Casting Crowns
US Cellular Center, Cedar Rapids
Friday, April 7th @ 7:00 pm
\$33.00 per ticket
See Kara for ?'s or to buy tickets.
Deadline: Sun, Feb. 19th



Ash Wednesday Service
March 1
7:00pm



Concert (w/Jeff Rohlwing)
Saturday, February 18
7:30 pm



Sunday, February 19
Following 10:30 service
Fellowship Hall



Athletes in Action,
Sports Banquet Lunch
Sunday, February 26 Noon



CHALLENGE

February 5
12:00pm
Fellowship Hall



Kids Club Sunday
February 19

BAPTISMS THIS WEEK

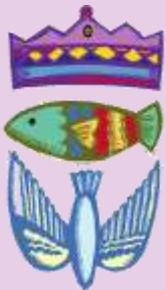
Giovanni Jay Servantez
Saturday, January 28, 2017

Parents

Cory Michael Servantez
Stephanie Jean Thompson

Sponsors

Maggie Brehm
Jacinda Servantez-Banos
Rosemary Andino



**ONE LORD
ONE FAITH
ONE BAPTISM**

Ethan Carl Cooney
Sunday, January 29, 2017

Parents

Todd Alan Cooney
Ashley Lea Peterson Cooney

Sponsors

Amber Peterson
Kari Peterson
Jeremy & Amy Kircher



Epiphany 2017

Happy Epiphany to you and yours! I hope you had a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year celebration!

As we begin 2017, Melissa and I are thankful for all of your support! Thank you again for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. Your support is beyond words!

My last school year at Concordia Seminary keeps on moving forward. I now understand why certain classes were for post-vicarage students. These classes help us refine and improve on what we learned during our vicarage year. At the same time, as a seminary student and future pastor, the education in God's Word never ends.

For the classes this year, I have enjoyed the learning and challenges each class offers. For some reason, I have found myself taking a Church Councils (Nicaea to Chalcedon) class in the fall quarter and a Christology class in the winter quarter. There is much overlap, but also some differences. The Councils class was a general history class that focused on the happenings of the councils. The Christology class

focuses on the writings of those during that controversy, including Origen, Arius, Athanasius, Nestorius, and Cyril of Alexandria. By the end of this school year, I should have a pretty good grasp on the Church Councils and the people surrounding them. Just like Ecclesiastes 1:9, there is nothing new under the sun. It is very fascinating how the arguments about Jesus Christ have not changed much from when they were "settled" at the Councils.

Another class I find fascinating this quarter is on Christian Apologetics. In this class, we are focusing on ways to rationally defend Christian doctrine in the post-modern world.

As I have said, this will be my final year as a student at the seminary. Since September, the graduating class has been attending occasional assemblies to prepare us for Call Day. On top of that, everyone has had interviews with representatives from the seminary placement office. Melissa and I would be happy to go wherever the Holy Spirit sends us. As for my second preference that would be a Midwestern state. I grew up in the Midwest and I am comfortable in the Midwest. We will find out in April where I will be sent.



Melissa and I after running the Kirkwood-Webster Turkey Day Run and following Christmas Day worship at Hope Lutheran, my fieldwork congregation.

In other news, Melissa has gotten a new job working as an occupational therapist for St. Luke's Hospital. She had been working as an occupational therapist on an "as needed" basis for Mercy Hospital. Due to not being "as needed" as prior to vicarage, she is now working full time for St. Luke's. (Ironically, she also worked for another St. Luke's in Cedar Rapids during my vicarage year.) Also with that comes that we are more pinned down to St. Louis, because of her 90-day probation period at the start of her job.

Melissa and I have also begun running. Or, at least have tried to run with our busy schedules. So far we have run two 5K runs since returning to St. Louis. We began running to get in shape for the 500 Festival OneAmerica MiniMarathon in Indianapolis on the first Saturday in May. Now that it's 2017, we are less than five months away from our goal. In previous years, we have run the 500 Festival FinishLine 5K, but now we decided to step up our goal.

In mid-November, I traveled with my parents and sister to Virginia Beach to celebrate my cousin's wedding. On our return trip back, we visited the University of Virginia and nearby Montpelier Mansion, the home of James Madison. Sadly, Melissa had to miss the wedding, because of work.

As we begin the season of Epiphany, let us rejoice as the wise men did when they saw the star above the house of the Christ Child, the Incarnate Son of God who came to redeem the world of their sins and open eternal life to all who believe in Him!

Thanks again for all of your thoughts and prayers! I pray that you have a wonderful New Year!

In Christ,

Peter and Melissa Adelsen

Board of Directors January Meeting

Barb Schanbacher at-large report:

38 children from 16 families benefited from Angel Tree

Rob Bowman Properties:

Hired a man to clean sidewalks and one entrance for \$50/ snowfall.

Kaja Mueller:

- Christmas program during worship services went well
- Christmas & Cookies went well—smaller attendance because of weather.
- Preschool has 16 kids T/Th and 16 M/W/F. It is now a profit center.

Installation of officers will be the weekend of January 28/29—all services will install the officers present at that service.

2020 will hold a group meeting the end of January to see what projects to do next. Rob recently met with heating/air conditioning men to review. Feb/March will start looking at construction loans.



KUDOS

Our Redeemer's
Board of Directors recognizes

ALLISON HAACK
for directing the children's Christmas program.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS
& SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS
for their assistance with the children's
Christmas program.

Thank you all!



Confirmation Age
January 8





Stephen Ministry

By Marcia Hulse

We care, Christ cures.

In Matthew 7, Jesus talks about the importance of building a house on a solid foundation.

Training is a vital foundation as we continue to build our Stephen Ministry team on the bedrock of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Once again this February (14th) we will be starting our training of new Stephen Ministers - we continue to build our house of Stephen Ministry. Currently, the class has three members, but there is room for more. The Stephen Ministry team is asking members of the Our Redeemer community to consider becoming a trained Stephen Minister. *Taking the class does not commit you to becoming a Stephen Minister but, it will help you decide if God is leading you to take the challenge. Even if you don't become a Stephen Minister you will be blessing to others by what you have learned.*

Eleven of our Stephen Ministers have had assignments with members. Since the beginning of Stephen Ministry at Our Redeemer, eighteen of our members have been assigned a Stephen Minister. The results have been quite good and also humbling. We live in a broken world. Can we fix it? The answer is no, but as Christ's ambassadors we can care and leave the cure to Christ. One of the mottos for Stephen Ministry is "Christ caring for people through people." Stephen Ministers are taught whose power we bring into every situation — the power of God the Father, his loving Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is God who gives Stephen Ministry its power.

If anyone is interested in Stephen Ministry training, there is still time to register. Just pick up a registration form, complete and return it to Pastor Hartwig as soon as possible. God's blessings as you consider becoming involved.

Questions concerning the nature of the training can be directed to any members of the Stephen Ministry team.

Finally, we ask all members of the Our Redeemer community to remember the Stephen Ministry team in their prayers as we continue to build this ministry's foundation throughout the coming year.

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last." ~ John 15:16 NIV

STEPHEN LEADERS

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



Joy converted from Islam to accepting Jesus as her Lord. Her brother found out and told their father who became very angry and tried to beat her new faith out of her. Her tearful and prayerful cries were, "Where are you God? Please help me."

Through a series of miracles and the help of POBLO International she escaped Kuwait and eventually arrived in the USA. This amazing woman now is a bilingual evangelist/missionary on staff with POBLO and shares the Gospel with USA ethnic immigrants.

You are invited to hear amazing transformations of people who have converted to Christianity when guest speaker Tim Bickel leads Saturday night and Sunday morning worship services and Bible class on February 25-26 at Our Redeemer. Having taught in China and Africa Mr. Bickel now hopes to acquaint and involve you in a cross cultural opportunity of reaching out to immigrants and refugees in the USA. Compliant with our laws People of the Book Lutheran Outreach is a service to welcome, be, and bring the good news to new Americans of all cultures and religions with emphasis on Islam. Accordingly, you are urged to attend the Bible class – "What Every Christian Should Know." There will be a door offering.



JOIN OUR REDEEMER KIDS-MAKE A NOISY OFFERING!

Noisy offerings will be collected during the Saturday, February 4 and Sunday, February 5 services.

The children of the congregation are asked to bring their offerings that they have collected in the banks that they were given during the *Immeasurably More* campaign. "Big kids" are encouraged to throw their loose change in the buckets as well during this second offering to help the *Immeasurably More* receipts grow. As the banks are emptied and coins put in the bucket, it makes a clanging noise and that is why it is called the "Noisy Offering." Yes, we are making a joyful noise unto the Lord! (Psalm 66:1)



**February 1
6:00 pm**

Lasagna
Toss salad
French bread
Choc/cherry dessert
Drinks

THROUGH THE DIVINE SERVICE:
F.I.T. 4 WORSHIP
Sunday Morning Adult Class
January 22-February 19
9:30 am
Fellowship Hall
January 29, 2017 The Creeds



Can you help mail a College Care Package?

We need people to mail the packages.

The high school youth and the Midweek Kids Club children packed 26 boxes for Our Redeemer college students.

Each box is ready to mail, addressed, sealed and is in a flat-rate box.

Cost to mail: \$7.15 per package

How to help? Pick up a box in the Narthex and take it to the post office.

Parents can pick up their student's box to hand deliver.

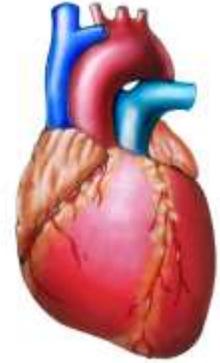


STICKER FUN

Kids love printed stickers! They are fun, colorful, easy to find, inexpensive, and a wonderful teaching tool. If you have any stickers around your house or find some on a good sale, we use stickers year round in preschool and would benefit from them greatly.

We are accepting no new registrations for this year. Both classes are full. We will start the Enrollment for the 2017-2018 Preschool Year in February. Registration opens to current preschool families and church members first, two weeks later to the public.





February is American Heart Month

Heart disease and heart attacks are leading causes of death in the United States. It is important to recognize the signs and symptoms of heart attack.

Signs and symptoms of heart attack:

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense; however, most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- **Chest discomfort:** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain.
- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body:** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach.
- **Shortness of breath:** May occur with or without chest discomfort.
- **Other signs.** These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or lightheadedness.

Your physician **MUST** evaluate these signs and symptoms. Call 911 if you experience signs and symptoms of heart attack.

How to Prevent Heart disease

A healthy diet is essential to fight heart disease. Read nutrition labels as you make daily food choices. Important dietary recommendations:

- Cut back on foods high in dietary cholesterol. For example choose lean meats and poultry without skin. Eat less than 300 mg of cholesterol each day.
- Select fat-free, 1% fat, and low-fat dairy products.
- Choose foods labeled NO “trans fat” (hydrogenated vegetable oils). Examples of trans fat foods include: Commercial baked goods such as crackers, cookies and cakes; French fries; shortenings and margarines.
- Cut back on beverages and foods with added sugars.
- Select and purchase foods lower in salt/sodium.
- Keep an eye on your portion sizes.

Regular physical activity in your life is another important step to preventing heart disease such as a daily brisk walk. For guidance on physical activity please refer to the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/everyone/guidelines/index.html>

All information was obtained from <http://www.cdc.gov/features/heartmonth/>

Compeer of Johnson County Sound of Friendship Dessert Concert

Performances by:



Al Zimmerman ~ Piano (pre-concert)

Kol Shira~World Music

Chase Garrett~Boogie Woogie

Jeff Rohlwing~Folk

Johnson County Landmark Band~Jazz



Saturday, February 18, 2017

7:30 PM – Doors Open at 6:45 PM

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

2301 E Court St, Iowa City, IA 52245



The Compeer Program matches community volunteers in supported friendships with adults who are receiving mental health treatment. Participants are referred to the program by their mental health professional. Community volunteers are screened, trained, and meet

with the selected participant's mental health professional before they learn the identity of the client. Once the Compeer Director and the client's mental health professional agree that this is a match with good potential for success, the Compeer Director introduces the pair. They spend time together for a minimum of one hour per week, or four hours per month. The minimum commitment requested by Compeer is at least one year.

Compeer volunteers help provide rehabilitative social support, advocacy and companionship to their friend. This friendship brings new access to the community for participants. Volunteers gain a meaningful and rewarding friendship. Both participants experience an enhanced appreciation of friendship.

The mission of the Compeer Program is to reduce the loneliness and isolation of adults living with mental illness by creating supported friendships with trained community volunteers. A local non-profit organization, the Compeer Program has supported this mission for 16 years with funds raised by the "Sound of Friendship." This annual dessert concert will take place on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at 7:30 pm at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Pre-concert music of pianist Al Zimmerman will be followed first by Kol Shira performing a rich diversity of international music bringing warmth, harmony, and soul. Chase Garrett locally and internationally known boogie-woogie pianist will add spirit and excitement. He will be followed by touring musician and recording folk artist Jeff Rohlwing. The program will conclude with jazz performed by the Johnson County Landmark Band. Please join the performers and Compeer Board for gourmet desserts following the concert. Tickets are \$20 each and may be purchased on-line at compeer.yapsody.com or by contacting the **Compeer Office at 383-6264**. Tickets will also be available at the door, talk to Skip Kempnich, or contact the church office.

PANCAKE DAY MARCH 4 SUPPORTS CRISIS CENTER



The Crisis Center's work is fueled by gifts of time, talent, and treasure from local people and organizations. These contributors are inspired by the tangible results achieved by The Crisis Center. As the Mission Committee and the Crisis Center join hands to fundraise in support of the Crisis Center, they look for volunteers to help with Pancake Day. Everyone can help sell tickets or they can sign up in the church office to work.

A crisis can be anything – problems with family or friends, lack of food, financial emergency, divorce, serious illness, roommate trouble, school-related stress, substance abuse struggles, suicidal feelings... the list is endless. Or it could be a series of small problems that together have become overwhelming.

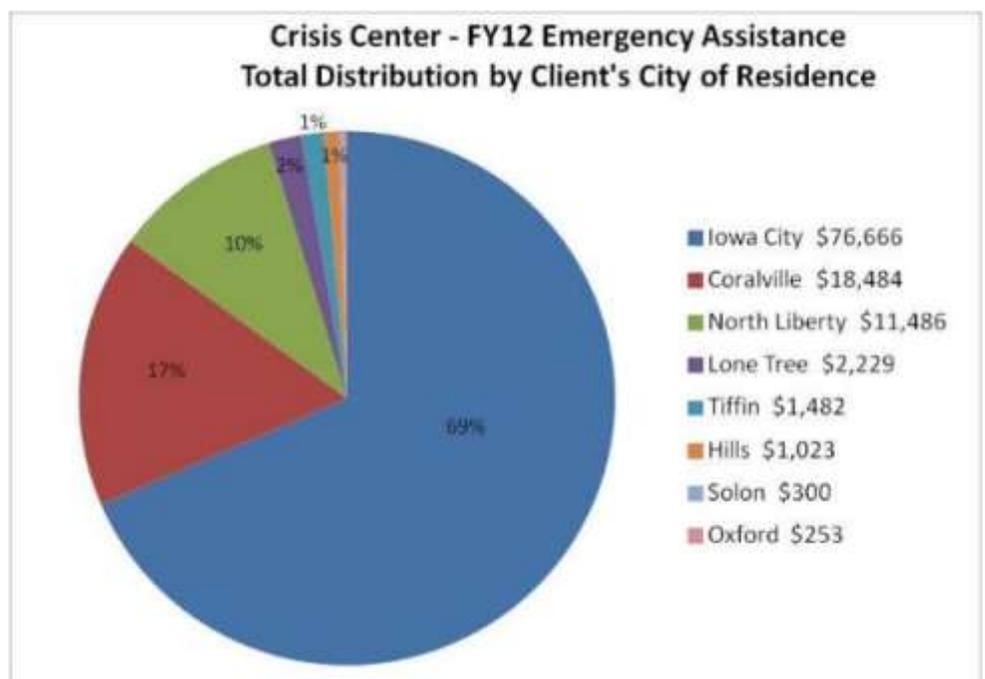
When any situation has become too difficult for you to cope with alone, Crisis Center can help. Everyone at The Crisis Center is passionate about treating those in crisis as valuable human beings.

The Crisis Center is a volunteer-driven organization that provides immediate and non-judgmental support through our Crisis Intervention, Food Bank & Emergency Assistance, and Community Intervention Programs. Services include:

- **24-Hour Crisis Line** – emotional support, information, referrals by phone
- **Crisis Chat** – online emotional support, information and referrals
- **Mobile Crisis Outreach Program** – dispatches mental health counselors to homes, schools, ER's or public places where a mental health crisis is occurring
- **Food Bank** – weekly supplemental food
- **Emergency Assistance** – limited financial assistance to avoid eviction or loss of utilities
- **Community Programs** – support, training and services for individuals, groups and businesses
- **Disaster Recovery** – from natural disasters that affect the community

The Crisis Center vision is that every individual in the community has support in time of need.

- Empathy through the telephone, online chat, and text
- Groceries on the kitchen table
- Referrals that help individuals get out of crisis
- Emergency financial support to avoid eviction or loss of utilities
- An advocate to people who have suffered a loss through a natural disaster as they wind through the bureaucracy of disaster recovery





Tuesday, January 31, 2017

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Zion Lutheran Church (310 N Johnson St.)

Directed by guest conductor **Dr. Jeffrey Douma** (from Yale University), the nationally and internationally acclaimed Nordic Choir will perform selections from the following:

“O Day Full of Grace” arranged by F. Melius Christiansen, “The Road Home” by Stephen Paulus, “Always Singing” by Dale Warland, as well as hymn-arrangements, spirituals and the traditional Nordic Choir closing piece “O Lord God” by Pavel Chesnokov.



Valentines Delivery

Anyone who would like to deliver valentines to shut ins on February 12, please meet in the church narthex after 10:30 am worship. The valentines are hand-crafted by the Kids Club children.

God is able to do
Immeasurably
M♥RE
 than we can imagine . . .

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

**126 Pledges for
 \$623,897.64**

**Cash in hand
 \$110,011.41**



MISSION	JANUARY
Iowa District East	\$4,166.67
UIHC Chaplain Endowment Fund	\$416.66
Mission Bishkek	\$250.00
Lutheran Family Service	\$625.00
Military Bible Stick	\$250.00
Orphan Grain Train	\$250.00
St. Paul's Chapel	\$375.00
Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca	\$625.00
TOTAL	\$6,958.33
Member Contributions	
Crisis Center	\$25.00
Transforming Campus Ministry	\$310.00

HI FAMILY & FRIENDS!

As another year comes to a close, we'd love to welcome you into our home and share with you the latest from our family here at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. We thank God for you and pray you find peace and joy in our Savior this Christmas. Love, Joshua, Virginia, and Simeon

VIRGINIA

It's been over a year and a half since we welcomed Simeon David into our family, and now we anxiously wait for our newest little guy to join our team in February. Mom life has gotten sweeter with each passing day. Learning the ropes was challenging, but Simeon and I have a nice routine these days.

Every morning he wakes up, and I'm excited to greet him with a song. After breakfast we usually go to chapel at the seminary, pick up the mail, and go on some outing—the park, grocery shopping, or have a playdate. Dad comes home for lunch, Simeon naps most of the afternoon, we have dinner, hang out as a family and then put him to bed.

Besides mom life, I've enjoyed further pursuing photography in New Braunfels, TX and now St. Louis. I find so much joy in capturing moments for families they can't get on their own. Thankfully, Josh is really into it too because he is a huge help in making me a better photographer and turning my hobby into a business.

Soon we will change gears as our second son arrives. I'm feeling many different emotions thinking back to when Simeon was born. Perspective is helpful because while I know it will be difficult to recover from childbirth, function on little sleep, and be the food supplier, I know what's to come in my relationship with this little guy. I can't wait to know and love him like I do Simeon.

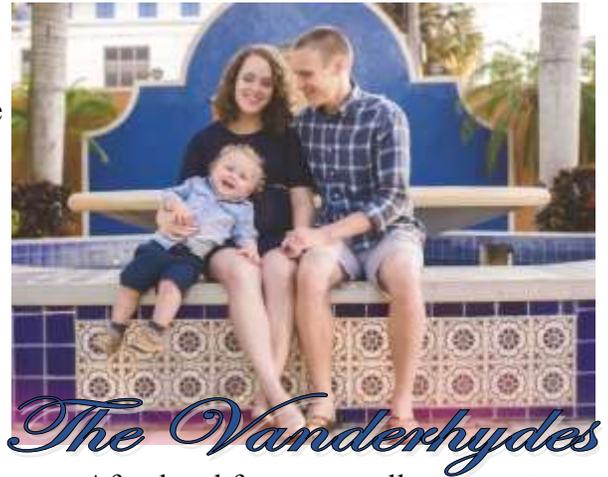
JOSHUA

Life in Texas was a great experience for a couple reasons. Fundamentally, it prepared me for pastoral ministry with practical experience I can't get at the seminary. I'm so thankful to Pastor Fraker and the members of Cross Lutheran Church for the opportunity to make mistakes and learn. Our vicarage year was also an ideal time to learn how to be a family together. I was able to leave work at work in the evening. The other day, we played a CD we bought at a concert we attended in the oldest dance hall in Texas, a five minute walk from our apartment. Virginia and I had listened among the crowd while Simeon led Pop (Virginia's dad) to the front and sat down a few feet from the musicians. Hearing the music again brings back fond memories of the fun we had in Texas.

Now I'm back in the classroom and soaking in everything I can. This is my last year in the Master of Divinity program at Concordia Seminary, but we have decided to stay an extra year so I can work toward an additional master's degree for further preparation and a wider range of possible ministry opportunities. Many of my classmates will receive a call into ministry in April, but a few friends will be around, including my brother, Benjamin, and my brother-in-law, Noah, who will be returning from vicarage. Next year, my studies will focus on early interpretations of Scripture.

SIMEON

Life in Texas was a blast, but I'm sure enjoying St. Louis. They seemed like similar places until I felt this chilly sensation. Around that time, Mom somehow made all my shorts longer to keep my legs warm. Good idea, Mom! Recently, we escaped the cold to visit my Auntie Monica and Uncle Noah in Florida (I've now been to twelve states!). Wow was that fun! They took us to this loud place with lots of sand and water. I wasn't a fan at first because I couldn't figure out why the ground felt so different. Dad and Uncle Noah taught me how fun sand could be by building me a mountain by the water. I loved helping by throwing off the sand they put on top. We're back home now and in our day-to-day routine of going down the slides at the playground, reading books in my chair, saying "HI" to every truck that passes by, going to chapel, and being silly with Dad. For whatever reason, this familiar tune pops up in my head all day long. My parents call it "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"; I call it "Hello, hello ha-ha DA!" Anyway, Mom and Dad keep talking about a baby, and the tell me to pet the baby. Mom's tummy isn't a baby. I don't really get it, but I go with the flow.





Harold & Shirley Losby

Welcome, New Members

Welcome to Harold and Shirley Losby. Harold is retired from 36 years in the Navy that took them to Japan, Michigan, Pearl Harbor, San Francisco, San Diego, Iowa, Connecticut, and six years in Naples, Italy. After Harold retired, they moved to Wuerzburg, Germany where Shirley was a nurse for three years. Both took classes through the University of Maryland and earned various degrees.

Since 1993, they have lived in Florida. From 2002 until now they have travelled back and forth between Florida and Iowa. They have recently become permanent residents of Iowa City and transferred from their church family in Florida. They are originally from Preston, Iowa.

Harold and Shirley have two grown daughters, one living in Atlanta, Georgia, and the other in Washington state. Their son lives in Indiana.

Hobbies include a love of reading, both frequent library visitors. Shirley is a quilter and joins the Comfort-Tiers on Thursday mornings.



Membership Changes and Official Acts

<u>Adult Confirmation</u>	
Todd & Ashley Cooney	1-8-2017
Cory Servantez	1-8-2017
<u>Transfer In</u>	
Jennifer Magsamen	12-20-2016
Stephanie Thompson (Isabella Brogley)	12-30-2016
Kylie Miller	1-1-2017
John and Heather Krogh (Max, Molly)	1-18-2017
<u>Baptisms</u>	
Aurora Joy Magsamen	1-14-2017
<u>Removed</u>	
Seth Robinson	1-20-2017

SERVING THE LORD IN PANAMA



NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY



December 2016
Vol. 1 Issue X

Christmas is a big deal in the Dominican Republic. We began seeing Christmas decorations in stores and lights on balconies in early October. Businesses, schools, and ‘normal life’ basically shut down from the week of Christmas through “dia de los reyes” (Day of the Kings). Pigs are roasted in the streets, people receive double salary during December, and the music blares loudly. One of the challenges and joys that greets the church this time of the year is leading her people through the season of Advent.

Advent is not just a preparation for Christmas Day. It is not solely getting ready to celebrate Jesus’ birth, though that is certainly part of this season. Advent is also preparing for the glorious return of the resurrected Jesus in his full glory. Our lectionary readings are full of both a calling to repentance and the joyful anticipation. This double emphasis has provided a wonderful opportunity to teach about the Christian life. Certainly, there is great comfort and joy in having saving faith in Christ Jesus. Our future is ‘secure’ in Christ. Yet at the same time, repentance is still a necessary part of the Christian life. Though we are completely saved by God’s grace in Christ through faith, we still sin and fall short of the glory of God. Our love for God continues to be shallow and often our love for our neighbors is lacking altogether. The Christian life then is one of repentance, confession of sin, and celebration of God’s grace in his Son Jesus.

We have been asked frequently if it is difficult being away from family during the Christmas season. Our response is often mixed. Not being able to spend time with family and friends is surely difficult, but our life as the body of Christ continues as it used to, albeit in Spanish. During the Advent and Christmas season we repent for our failures as God’s children and the many times we have messed up as spouses, parents, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. We gather before the Lord’s altar with our Dominican brothers and sisters in the faith to confess our sins and receive Christ’s forgiveness. Then we celebrate God’s goodness in Christ and ever look to his promised return. To God be the glory.

**In Christ,
Pastor Brian, Amanda, and Ezra**



The sanctuary in Pueblo Nuevo prepared for Advent



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- That we continue to learn Spanish quickly and effectively.
- Brian’s grandfather who has been dealing with a number of health concerns and recovering from recent surgery.
- Pr. Lopez and his family as they transition to Sora, Panama where he will serve as pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- A joyful Christmas celebration in the DR.
- All the support given to missionaries serving around the world in 2016.
- The Lord’s mercies which are new to us each day.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1) Panama has a 100% tropical climate with temperatures ranging between 80-90 degrees.
- 2) There are almost 500 rivers in Panama with all but three emptying into the Caribbean.
- 3) It takes 6-8 hours to travel through the canal.
- 4) Panama’s national symbol is the Harpy Eagle.



With Ediberto of CPTLN Panama



BIBLEWORDGAMES
Used with Permission

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 256

Matt. 11:18-30

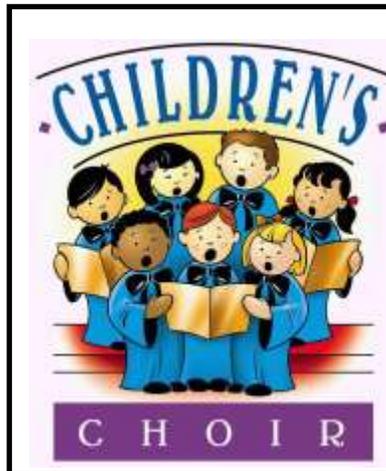
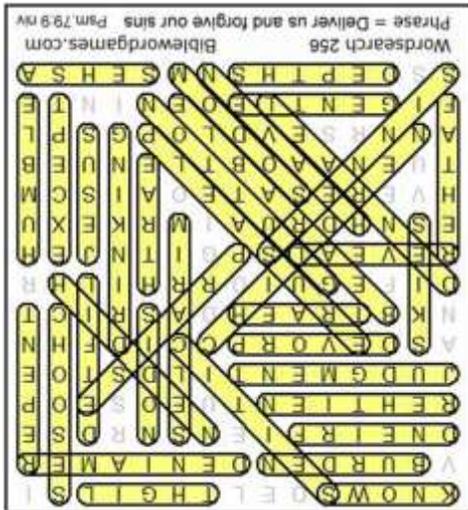
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Jesus the Teacher 2

- | | |
|--------|----------|
| ASHES | BEARABLE |
| CITIES | BURDEN |
| DEPTHS | CHILDREN |
| EARTH | CHOOSES |
| EXCEPT | GLUTTON |
| FATHER | HEAVEN |
| FRIEND | HIDDEN |
| GENTLE | HUMBLE |
| HEART | JUDGMENT |
| JESUS | LEARNED |
| KNOWS | MIRACLES |
| LIFTED | NEITHER |
| LIGHT | PLEASURE |
| PRAISE | REMAINED |
| REVEAL | PROVED |
| SIDON | REPENT |
| SKIES | SINNERS |
| SODOM | DRINKING |

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT: <http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2016 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



REHEARSALS
Sundays
10:15 - 10:30 am
Music Room 206

*Beginning
February 5*

Youth

6th - 12th Graders

Youth Fundraiser:

Younkers

Community Days Coupon Book



\$5.00 per book

Booklet includes a \$10 off coupon

This valuable coupon book can be purchased for just **\$5 each**, good toward a great selection of merchandise at Younkers during the special **Community Day Sale February 23 - 25, 2017.**

Purchase a coupon book from Kara or at the table in the Narthex.

Our youth keep 100% of the sales.



College Care Packages are packed, now what?

The boxes have been packed and are ready to mail. Let's pray for our college students.

Dear Lord,
 Life is full of challenges and decisions. Our college students are confronted with choices every day, some as simple as what they are going to have for lunch and some as important as whether they will do drugs or have sex. Lord, our college students need your discerning Spirit, Your wisdom and Your guidance in their lives. Help them make wise and God-pleasing choices. Strengthen their faith in You and keep them always in Your care. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



February

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				

1 Midweek Meal for all
 Clean-up crew: 6th Grade Families 6:00 pm

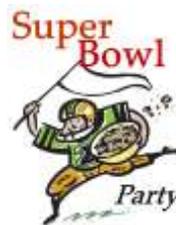
3-4 Winter Retreat
 Confirmation

5 Trivia Challenge Teams
 Confirmation & High School 12:00 pm

5 Super Bowl Party
 High School 5:00 pm

19 Casting Crowns ticket orders
 DUE
 Open to entire congregation

19 UKANDU registration & deposit
 DUE
 8th Graders & High School



High School
 Super Bowl Party

5:00 pm on Sunday, February 5th

At the Hartwig's house

We'll play a few games, eat snacks, have fun and watch the Super Bowl.

What to bring? An appetizer or snack to share with the group.

Drinks will be provided.

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>
Brent Hartwig, Senior Pastor bhartwig@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 337-2403 (home)	Kaja Mueller, Director of Christian Ed. dce@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 541-4827 (cell)
Kaja Mueller, Preschool Director Kate Ramsey, Assistant preschool@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool) 338-5626 (church)	Andrew Wolfgram, Vicar vicar@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Sarah Gabel, Bookkeeper bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Kara Hartwig, Youth Coordinator youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Denise Holida Director of Small Group Ministry smallgroups@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 930-0165 (cell)	Louise Klopp, Director of Choirs choirdirector@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Marilyn Paetz, Organist organist@ourredeemer.org	351-4262 (home)	Kate Ramsey, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	
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

Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Vaughn Davisson	319-648-4660
Jim Eick	338-1293
Myrl Holida (Chair)	351-4301
Skip Kempnich	351-5297
Val Penney	354-1453
Denny Schrader	530-1562
Arlan Thompson	338-2938
Marty Wenck	330-2761

2017 Board of Directors

President	Steven Scott	563-889-0990
Vice President	Alan Meyer	319-461-1748
Secretary	Jennifer Kooker	319-339-0175
Treasurer	Larry Freeman	319-400-8356
Board of Elders	Myrl Holida	319-351-4301
Properties	Rob Bowman	319-325-8989
At Large	Dave Johnson	319-333-9606
	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.

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.

Salt and Light

Matthew 5:13-16

You're as salt of the earth--so be God's salt shaker.

Be filled with joyful mirth, and then praise your Maker!

When others speak of doom, then reply with God's love;

Remind them or illumine just who's in charge above.

Don't reply with pepper, but sprinkle salt instead;

Daily administer and use in daily 'bread'.

Sprinkle some compassion in each word of your speech;

Start a chain reaction to others: His Word--teach.

'Light of the world' --that's you! You do reflect His Light!

Shine from His point of view, on all things in your sight;

So, in our daily work, we can shine every day.

Problems we should not shirk, but confront them, and pray.

Feel His arms around you and do not be afraid.

Though storms of life may brew, He rescues us when bade.

He's told us how to live, and how He saved us, too.

"Forgive, forgive, forgive, and love as I love you."

Carol Schuldt


*You are the
salt
of the earth.*
Matthew 5:13

