



The Parish Beacon

Volume 39– No. 3

March 2018

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ –

Things are not always what they seem...

Most of the people at the Chicago Children’s Hospital did not know her name. They just knew her as the sweet, elderly lady in the vivid red suit who wanted to make sure that every sick child had a teddy bear to hug and caress.

She kept bringing the stuffed animals, purchased with her own money, to give the sick children. That is why she was simply called “The Teddy Bear Lady.”

Her name was Gladys Holm, a retired secretary for an insurance company, who lived alone in a tiny apartment on a salary of \$15,000 per year. She lived modestly and frugally, and loved to save and invest – for the purpose of giving and helping people, especially children.

When she died at age 86, her will simply directed that the bulk of her estate be given to the Children’s Memorial Hospital in the amount of \$18 million! No one had the slightest idea that the tall, happy woman delivering teddy bears to ailing children had such wealth.

As they began to piece together more of her life’s story, they discovered something else. They learned that the gifts of teddy bears were really a ruse. She gave away teddy bears to learn more about the financial resources of the families of the children. When she learned that the parents did not have hospitalization or enough to cover medical expenses, she very quietly had taken care of their bills.

Can you visualize that? Can you imagine? The teddy bears were only a ruse. Her real hunger was to find out more about needy people. It was love focused on others. This lady saved most of her income from most of her life to help others.

The same can be said about Jesus and the cross. You can say His death was a ruse. His death was not the end, but it was the beginning. Satan thought he won, thought he was victorious, but it was Christ who was victorious over death, for three days later, Jesus Christ rose. He rose!

At first glance, the reality of the cross was not seen.

The same is true for the “Teddy Bear Lady.” She was not what she seemed.

What is not what it seems in your life?

Do you have a hidden sin you need to overcome?

Do you have a hidden grudge that needs to be forgiven?

Do you, in terms of the 8th commandment, put the best construction on things?

May God lead and guide you as you meditate upon these thoughts, and may His will be done.

Lenten blessing, Pastor Hartwig

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

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MARCH ACTIVITIES

- 1 Women's Beth More Bible Study 7:00pm
Board of Elders 7:00pm
- 3 Pancake Day 7:00am-1:00pm
- 4 Sunday School 9:15am/Adult Bible Class 9:30am
Praise Team Jam 12:00pm
- 5 Youth Committee 6:00pm
Stephen Ministry Training 6:45pm
Children's Ministry Committee 7:00pm
Mission Committee 7:00pm
- 6 Women's Beth Moore 9:30am
Human Care 6:30pm
- 7 Bible Study 11:00am
Lunch Bunch 12:00pm
Lenten Services 1:00pm & 6:10pm
Lenten Meal 5:10pm
Midweek Classes/Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm
Praise Band Rehearsal 8:00am
- 8 Board of Directors 7:00pm
- 10-18 Iowa City Schools Spring Break
- 10 Men's Bible Study 8:00am
- 11 Sunday School 9:15am/Adult Bible Class 9:30am
- 13 Preschool Board 1:45pm
- 14 Lenten Services 1:00pm & 6:10pm
Lenten Meal 5:10pm
- 18 Sunday School 9:15am/Adult Bible Class 9:30am
Roller Skating at Wellman 2:00pm
- 19 Worship Committee 3:30pm
Confirmation Practice 6:00pm
Stephen Ministry Training 6:45pm
LWML 7:00pm
- 20 Assimilation 7:00pm
- 21 Bible Study 11:00am
Lunch Bunch 12:00pm
Lenten Services 1:00pm & 6:10pm
Lenten Meal 5:10pm
Spiritual Growth Even/Reception 7:00pm
Properties Committee 7:00pm

- 21 Midweek Classes 7:00pm
Praise Band Rehearsal 8:00pm
- 22 Theology 101 7:00pm
Women's Beth Moore 7:00pm
- 24 Men's Bible Study 8:00am
- 25 Sunday School 9:15am/Adult Bible Class 9:30am
Confirmation 10:30am
- 26 Stephen Ministry Training 6:45pm
- 27 LLL Meeting 7:30pm
- 28 Prayer Walk 11:00am-8:00pm
Midweek Classes 6:45pm
Kids Club Parent Night 6:45pm
- 29 Maundy Thursday Services 1:00 & 7:00pm
- 30 Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast 6:30am
Good Friday Services 1:00 & 7:00pm
- 31 Youth Preparation for Easter Breakfast
Saturday Easter Service 5:30pm

Donations for Easter Breakfast will be needed by Friday, March 30.
Look in upcoming *Reflections* for more details.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30pm Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am
Communion on March 3, 4, 18, 19, 29, 31

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 rehearsal Wednesdays
7:00pm Lent through March 21
6:00pm Thursday, March 29

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

Watch *Reflections* for information on:



PRAISE TEAM JAM
Everyone welcome!
March 4 at Noon



Lenten Schedule
Services 1:00 & 6:10pm
Midweek Meal 5:10pm
Midweek Classes 7:00pm
Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm



Pancake Fundraiser

For Crisis Center
Saturday, March 3
7:00am-1:00pm



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Spiritual Growth Event
March 21
7:00pm



MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP
March 29
1:00 & 7:00pm



Prayer Walk

March 28
11:00am-8:00pm
Fellowship Hall



GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP
March 30
1:00 & 7:00pm



Vicar Scheele Bible Study
Monday, March 19
7:00pm
Room 208/210



PALM SUNDAY
March 25
Worship 8 & 10:30am

Tasting Bee
Saturday, April 7 at 11:00am



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
10:30am Worship



LLL Meeting
March 27 at 7:30pm
Fellowship Hall



Roller Skating
Sunday, March 18 at 2:00pm
Wellman Skating Rink



thē-ōl' ə-jē 101

March 22
7:00pm
Room



EASTER WORSHIP
Saturday, March 31 at 5:30pm
Sunday, April 1 at 8:00 & 10:30 am

Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 1 at 9:00am

Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, April 1 at 10:00am



Daylight Saving
Time Begins
March 11



LENTEN SCHEDULE

February 21
to March 14

Lent

Services 1:00 & 6:10 pm
Midweek Meal 5:10 pm
Midweek Class 7:00 pm (No Class March 14)
Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm

March 21

Lent



Services 1:00 & 6:10 pm
Midweek Meal 5:10 pm
Midweek Class 7:00 pm
Spiritual Growth Event 7:00 pm

March 25 PALM SUNDAY
Confirmation at 10:30 am

HOLY WEEK

March 28 SILENT WEDNESDAY
Prayer Walk 11:00 am - 8:00 pm

March 29 MAUNDY THURSDAY
Services 1:00 & 7:00 pm

March 30 GOOD FRIDAY
Kiwanis Prayer Breakfast 6:30 am
Services 1:00 & 7:00 pm

March 31
Easter Worship 5:30 pm

April 1 EASTER
Easter Worship 8:00 & 10:30 am
Easter Breakfast 9:00 am
Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am

THY WILL BE DONE—LENTEN SERIES

March 4 - Mary
God's Will and My Dreams

In humility, Mary dutifully accepted the role God had given her to become the mother of our Savior. That Son would later accept His role, faithfully following the path His Father had in mind for Him to save us all.

March 11 - Paul
God's Will and My Worldview

On the road to Damascus, Paul had his worldview turned upside down when God called him to preach the name of the Christ he had been persecuting. We follow God's will by putting the crucified Christ at the center of our worldview.

March 18 - Lydia
God's Will and My Response

Lydia followed the will of God by responding in faith and hospitality when the Gospel message of Christ's sacrifice was preached to her. We follow the will of God by responding in love and service to one another in return for what Christ has done for us.



LENTEN MEALS

During Lent, meals are served by various groups at 5:10 pm in the fellowship hall.

- February 28 High School Youth
- March 7 Human Care
- March 14 Ghabel/Mueller/Roiseland/Smith/Wenck Small Group
- March 21 LWML



MISSION	FEBRUARY
Iowa District East	\$4,166.67
UIHC Chaplain Endowment Fund	416.67
LCMS World Mission Iowa	500.00
Peace Officer Ministry	250.00
TOTAL	\$5,333.34
MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS	
Crisis Center	50.00

- 9:15 am Music Preschool B—4th Grade
5th-8th Grade Sunday School
 - 9:30 am Sunday School Preschool A-4th Grade
 - 10:00 am Music 5th-8th Grades
 - 10:15 am Sunday School/Music Ends
 - February 25-*Peter's Escape from Prison* Acts 12
- Like Peter, we may suffer because of the sins of others, but God's will is always done. His Word is never proclaimed in vain, but breaks the chains of sin that bind people and sets them free.

Confirmation

Winter Retreat



27 students participated
Held at the Comfort Suites in Coralville



January 26-27
Theme: Epiphany—Gifts from God



“When they saw the star,
they **rejoiced exceedingly**
with great joy.”
Matthew 2:10



Pictures by Crissy
Pence & Vicar Scheele



Kings Cake





Misconceptions about Flu Vaccines

Can a flu shot give you the flu?

No, a flu shot cannot cause flu illness. Flu vaccines given with a needle are currently made in two ways: the vaccine is made either with a) flu vaccine viruses that have been ‘inactivated’ and are therefore not infectious, or b) with no flu vaccine viruses at all (which is the case for recombinant influenza vaccine). The most common side effects from the influenza shot are soreness, redness, tenderness or swelling where the shot was given. Low-grade fever, headache and muscle aches also may occur.

What about people who get a seasonal flu vaccine and still get sick with flu symptoms?

There are several reasons why someone might get flu symptoms, even after they have been vaccinated against flu.

1. One reason is that some people can become ill from other respiratory viruses besides flu such as rhinoviruses, which are associated with the common cold, cause symptoms similar to flu, and also spread and cause illness during the flu season. The flu vaccine only protects against influenza, not other illnesses.
2. Another explanation is that it is possible to be exposed to influenza viruses, which cause the flu, shortly before getting vaccinated or during the two-week period after vaccination that it takes the body to develop immune protection. This exposure may result in a person becoming ill with flu before protection from the vaccine takes effect.
3. A third reason why some people may experience flu like symptoms despite getting vaccinated is that they may have been exposed to a flu virus that is very different from the viruses the vaccine is designed to protect against. The ability of a flu vaccine to protect a person depends largely on the similarity or “match” between the viruses selected to make the vaccine and those spreading and causing illness. There are many different flu viruses that spread and cause illness among people.
4. The final explanation for experiencing flu symptoms after vaccination is that the flu vaccine can vary in how well it works.
 - Overall, **this year’s vaccine is 36 percent effective**, meaning it reduces the number of doctor visits by 36 percent.
 - Early estimates indicate that influenza vaccines have reduced the risk of influenza-related illness by about one-third in vaccinated persons so far this season.
 - It works better in kids this year. The vaccine provided 59 percent protection against H3N2 in children 8 and younger.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2018). *Frequently asked questions about 2017-2018 influenza season*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2017-2018.htm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2017). *Misconceptions about seasonal flu and flu vaccines*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/misconceptions.htm>



Health Ministry Updates

- Infection control policy: Please wipe down your donated medical equipment (Clorox wipes provided in the storage closet) before donating it, before you borrow it, and before you return it.
- There is a new sign-out sheet on a clipboard for the medical equipment in the storage closet.
- Medical equipment we have for congregation members to borrow:

- ◇ Crutches: 1
- ◇ Canes: 4
- ◇ Grabber tool: 1
- ◇ Bed table: 1
- ◇ Walkers: 4
- ◇ Wheel chairs: 2
- ◇ Tub handle: 1
- ◇ Shower chairs: 2
- ◇ Raised toilet seat: 1
- ◇ Stationary bike (foot pedals): 1



- If you are interested in joining the Health Ministry Committee, please let Erica Davisson know!

Membership Changes and Official Acts

<u>Affirmation of Faith</u>	
William Lothamer	2-19-2018
<u>Release</u>	
John Burr	2-16-2018
<u>Baptism</u>	
Blanca Jasmin Ghabel-Lopez	2-18-2018
<u>Death</u>	
Bryce Bohnsack (Pastor Hartwig did non-member funeral)	1-27-2018
Darold Albright	1-29-2018
Bonita Long (Pastor Hartwig did non-member funeral)	1-29-2018
Marie Kober	2-1-2018
Stephanie Morrison	2-5-2018
Sherle Kasik	2-8-2018



VISION
20/20
Eye on the Future
RENOVATIONS
CONTINUE



What's happening?



TARGET: Turn this ↑ to that ↓ by April 1



Lord willing—"Thy will be done"



Submitted by Marcia Hulse

Stephen Ministry

We care, Christ cures.

Stephen Ministers Offer Emotional and Spiritual Support in Times of Trouble

Mary's life was a mess. Her marriage had just ended in divorce, she underwent two major surgeries, and then her grown son was murdered.

"As a friend of mine put it, the manure truck just kept backing up and dumping on me," Mary said.

Then she heard about Stephen Ministry at her church. The ministry matches specially trained members of a congregation with people going through a tough time. "It enriches the church to have this consistent outreach available to anyone in their church community who needs help."

Mary was matched with a Stephen Minister, a fellow member of her church, and the two met once a week for more than a year.

"She would hold my hand and let me spill out my heart," Mary said of her Stephen Minister. "She really helped me through a hard time in my life. She didn't give me specific advice as much as she just listened to me and validated my pain."

"I'm stronger and I know how precious every day is," says Mary. Now that the formal Stephen Ministry relationship has ended, the two remain friends. "I will always be grateful to her for all of her prayers and all that she did to help me," Mary said.

Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one emotional and spiritual care to people in need. The Stephen Minister is there to walk with you through your crisis and to help you see that, with God's love, you will be okay.

STEPHEN LEADERS

Rev. Brent Hartwig	338-5626
Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Marcia Hulse	351-7059
Kathy Schweer	466-3084
Kevin Sellers	631-8924

(Condensed by Marcia Hulse from reprint by Stephen Ministries St. Louis with permission.)



High School/ SUPER BOWL

Party



February 4, 2018
Hosted by the Hartwigs

Pictures by Kara Hartwig

Oreo Touchdown Game →



Children's Ministry Happenings

February 25 th	Kids Club Sunday Both Services
March 18 th	Rollerskating at the Wellman Skating Rink 2-4 pm
March 28 th	Kids Club Parent Night
April 1 st	Easter Egg Hunt
April 15 th	Sunday School Sunday & Noisy Offering
April 25 th	Shine Your Light Midweek Celebration



Splash Canyon VBS is on its way! Watch Reflections for registration information and updates!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from St. Louis. The weather here can't seem to make up its mind. This past week it was nearly 80 degrees and two days later we received an inch of snow. I go back and forth between sandals and shoes on a regular basis it seems. The nice weather was welcome, though it felt a lot like it will be in May for graduation. The colder weather is preferable for staying inside and focusing on homework. My lighter class load has been a welcome change of pace, allowing me time to write and preach a sermon this weekend. Cassie has continued to enjoy her three-year-old class. I had the opportunity to have lunch with Pastor Hartwig a few weeks ago and heard all the exciting things that are happening at Our Redeemer. It was a joy to catch up. The weeks seem to be flying by, and being in the season of Lent will mean that Easter is here in no time. The countdown continues to Call Day. As of this writing, there are 65 days until Call Day. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel grow brighter and brighter. Thank you for your continual support as I embark through my last semester of Seminary. Have a blessed Lenten season as we make our way to the cross, and ultimately to the empty tomb, from which Christ rose for you and for me.

Blessings.

In Christ,

Andrew Wolfgram



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

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

**129 Pledges for
 \$626,897.52**

**Cash in hand
 \$407,984.33**

**THAT'S A LOT OF
 COINS!!!!**

Praise be to God and thanks to all the children and others who have contributed to the five Noisy Offerings in our worship since November 2016. The collection has totaled \$822.84. Wow! We are all part of the body of Christ and the children are an important part of our building project.

**NOISY
 OFFERINGS**

November 2016 - \$127
 February 2017 - \$167
 April 2017 - \$160.08
 November 2017 - \$169.76
 January 2018 - \$199
TOTAL - \$822.84



Thank you to all who have donated shirts. The shirts pictured were from the second batch mailed. A total of 74 Hawaiian shirts have been shared with deployed soldiers. The box will remain in the office.

Sarah Gabel



HELP SUPPORT THE TEAM!



Thanks and praise be to God for each of you who have given generous financial support of the mission team going to Panama Mar. 10-17th. We are preparing to teach Vacation Bible School and help with the new church plant building supported by missionary Rev. Brian Gauthier and his family-see latest newsletter on page 16. Any additional contributions will help with supplies for the children. Your continued prayers are important to us. Please pray for Myrl & Denise Holida, Miriam Meyer, Jeff & Anita Nicholson as well as everyone we will meet in Panama. "Thy will be done."



PANCAKE DAY

March 3
7:00 am - 1:00 pm



Have you....

- Put up the fliers?
- Sold tickets?
- Signed up to volunteer?
- Planned to attend?
- Prepared to bake for Orphan Grain Train?

Proceeds from Pancake day go toward supporting the Crisis Center and the bake sale supports Orphan Grain Train. In your communication box, in the narthex, there is a Pancake Day flier and a ticket booklet with more information. There are also volunteer sign-up sheets in the church office.

Mission Committee Members

*Denise Holida
Anita Nicholson
Val Penny
Robert Powers
(Chairman)
Joe Robinson*

Pancake Day Bake Sale

This sale benefits Orphan Grain Train, a Lutheran Disaster Relief organization helping in the U.S. and other countries.

Please consider donating to this bake sale. Deliver



baked items the Friday before Pancake Day or early Saturday morning.

If you prefer, you may price your donation. Thank you.

Walt and Bev Prem



PINK

TUNE: JINGLE BELLS

COTTON CANDY, FAT PINK PIGS,
GIRLS WITH SOCKS AND BOWS
P-I-N-K, P-I-N-K THAT IS HOW IT GOES
BUBBLE GUM, VALENTINES
THESE ARE ALL PINK TOO
PINK ICING AND PINK BALLOONS
WE CAN SPELL CAN YOU?

COTTON CANDY, FAT PINK PIGS,
GIRLS WITH SOCKS AND BOWS
P-I-N-K, P-I-N-K THAT IS HOW IT GOES
BUBBLE GUM, VALENTINES
THESE ARE ALL PINK TOO
PINK ICING AND
PINK BALLOONS
WE CAN SPELL CAN YOU?



L (To Ten Little Indians)

One luscious, two luscious,
three luscious lollipops: straw-
berry, lemon, lime-flavored lollip-
pops. Let's all lick them down
to their little sticks.
We love lollipops!



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ACROSS

- 1 David played one of these musical instruments (1 Sam.16:23)
- 5 At the blast of the trumpet he ____, 'Aha!' (Job 39:25)
- 10 in the month ____, which is the eighth month (1 Kings 6:38)
- 13 make yourself ____ of cypress wood (2,3) (Gen 6:14)
- 15 Take an ____ of manna and keep it for the generations to come (Ex 16:32)
- 16 The armies of heaven ____ following him, riding on white horses (Rev 19:14)
- 17 But he had no ____ with her until she gave birth (Matt.1:25)
- 18 the inscription that was written: MENE , ____, TEKEL, PARSIN (Dan 5:25)
- 19 we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of ____ (Acts 27:2)
- 20 along with the flashing spear and ____ (Job 39:23)
- 21 Picnic pests (Prov 30:25)
- 22 The robbers beat the man and left him half ____ (Luke 10:30)
- 23 took unto them certain ____ fellows of (Acts 17:5) KJV
- 25 ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and ____ (2 Kings 24:14) KJV
- 27 Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of ____ (Est 1:2)
- 30 the desert owl, the ____, the comorant (Deut 14:17)
- 33 With ____ like that of chariots (1,5) (Joel 2:5)
- 35 You will be a ____ wanderer on the earth (Gen 4:12)
- 40 Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the ____ (Dan 4:23)
- 41 receive him not into your house, neither ____ him God speed (2 John 10) KJV
- 42 One of the minor prophets
- 43 the Egyptians and their chariots and ____ (Ex 14:26)
- 45 This is what the LORD, the God of ____ says (2 Sam 12:7)
- 46 Smite the ____ of the door, that the posts may shake (Amos 9:1) KJV
- 48 Chief or clan leader (Gen 36:15) KJV
- 49 ____, I will create new heavens and a new earth (Isa.65:17)
- 53 raised up Jesus, whom ye ____ and hanged on a tree (Acts 5:30) KJV
- 55 for he commandeth ____ the winds and water (Luke 8:25) KJV
- 56 after three years I ____ up to Jerusalem to see Peter (Gal 1:18)
- 59 Paul stayed for a year and ____, teaching them (1,4) (Acts 18:11)
- 63 that anointing is ____, not counterfeit (1 John 2:27)
- 64 The man who was healed had no ____ who it was (John 5:13)
- 65 descended to the top of Mount ____ and called Moses (Exod 19:20)
- 66 Do not ____ a violent man or choose any of his ways (Prov.3:31)
- 67 shake the dust off your ____ when you leave (Matt 10:14)
- 68 apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's ____ (Titus 1:1)
- 69 Our forefathers ____ the manna in the desert (John 6:31)
- 70 Thou shalt not let thy cattle ____ with a diverse kind (Lev 19:19) KJV
- 71 female sheep (Gen 32:14)

BIBLEWORDGAMES

Used with Permission

DOWN

- 1 unable to ____ the net in because of the large number of fish (John 21:6)
- 2 a prophetess, ____, the daughter of Phanuel (Luke 2:36)
- 3 And the ____ was upon the earth forty days and forty nights (Gen 7:12)
- 4 the feet of one who brings good news, who ____ peace (Nah 1:15)
- 6 you will live a long time in the land where you are ____ (Jer 35:7)
- 7 to seek an ____: He will cast lots with arrows (Ezek 21:21)
- 8 Joshua ____ his clothes, and fell to the earth (Joshua 7:6)
- 9 like royal tapestry; the king is held captive by its ____ (Song 7:5)
- 10 Fear and trembling have ____ me; horror has overwhelmed me (Ps 55:5)
- 11 first husband of Bathsheba (2 Sam.11:3)
- 12 seems right to a man, but in the end it ____ to death (Prov 16:25)
- 14 at the name of Jesus every ____ should bow (Phil 2:10)
- 16 from the ____ of Egypt to the Euphrates River (2 Kings 24:7)
- 24 ____ to them! They have taken the way of Cain (Jude 11)
- 26 to devote themselves to ____ and endless genealogies (1 Tim 1:4)
- 27 down to his feet and with a golden ____ around his chest (Rev.1:13)
- 28 He came ____ his own, and his own received him not (John 1:11)
- 29 The fathers eat ____ grapes, and the children's teeth are set on (Ezek 18:2)
- 31 Except I shall see in his hands the ____ of the nails (John 20:25) (KJV)
- 32 wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the ____ sea (Acts 7:36)
- 34 By your magic ____ all the nations were led astray (Rev 18:23)
- 36 Seek the ____ he may be found (4,5) (Isa 55:6)
- 37 son of Isaac and brother of Jacob (Gen 25:26)
- 38 Ask, and it shall be given you; ____, and ye shall find (Matt 7:7)
- 39 sold your people for a pittance, gaining nothing from their ____ (Ps 44:12)
- 41 youngest son of Jacob (nickname) (Gen.35:18)
- 44 A woman skilled in aiding the delivery of babies (Gen 38:28)
- 45 I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ____ for several days (Dan 8:27)
- 47 an ____ nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official (Acts 28:7)
- 49 the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to ____ (Acts 17:10)
- 50 there is one ____ to the righteous, and to the wicked (Eccles 9:2)
- 51 your tithes, and ____ offerings of your hand (Deut 12:6)
- 52 We have here ____ five loaves of bread and two fish (Matt 14:17)
- 54 will live in safety and be at ____, without fear of harm (Prov 1:33)
- 57 garden of God (Ezek 28:13)
- 58 The LORD will fight for you; you ____ only to be still (Ex 14:14)
- 60 until that day when I drink it ____ in the kingdom of God (Mark 14:25)
- 61 unto the rings of the ephod with a ____ of blue (Ex 28:28) KJV
- 62 discord, jealousy, ____ of rage, selfish ambition (Gal 5:20)



SERVING THE LORD IN PANAMA



NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY



February 2018
Vol. 3 Issue II



“The way between the seas”

The Remarkable Journey

Lenten blessings to you all from our family in Panamá. Recently, we traveled to Colón to check out the Caribbean side of the Panama Canal. I took the photo above from a small road over the locks giving you a glimpse into the locks systems as the doors were opening. This lock door marks the beginning of a remarkable journey a ship takes

through the isthmus of Panamá and into the Pacific Ocean. It is incredible to think that these locks were constructed over 100 years ago and ships still use the Canal to traverse the contours of Panamá.

As the Church prepares for the amazing work of Jesus both in His death on the cross and glorious resurrection, the Church now embarks on a remarkable journey by means of the season of Lent. But the beginning of the church’s Lenten journey feels a lot less remarkable than the opening of the great doors of the Panama Canal locks. Instead, Christians gather in their churches on Ash Wednesday to have ashes smeared upon their foreheads and to hear the words *from the dust you were made and to the dust you shall return*. Lent begins with a solemn reminder of our mortality and sinfulness. As sinful creatures we deserve nothing but the wrath of God. However, the ashes are put on our foreheads in the shape of a cross reminding us of the hope that we have in Christ. Jesus took our place on the cross to endure the complete wrath of God for our sin. By faith in Christ Jesus, in a marvelous exchange, we know and experience the kindness and love of God rather than His wrath.

But first, we walk with Jesus and traverse the contours of His final days on the way to Jerusalem and to the cross to pay the debt of our sin and bring us reconciliation with God. Perhaps this entrance into Lent is as marvelous as the Canal doors. A small ash cross to remind us that we are both sinners and saints and that we are heirs of a glorious promise (1 Cor. 5:21). To God be the glory!

Home Service

Every 22 months missionary families come off of their field of service to visit friends, families, and mission partners for a couple of months. It is hard to believe that we are already at the planning stages of our home service. Currently, we are scheduled to be in the United States in August, September, and part of October of this year. This is an opportunity for us to reconnect with the Office of International Mission and update our supporters on all of the work the Lord is doing through our efforts in Panamá. We will be residing in St. Louis, MO for the entire month of September so we will be trying to do any visits in the Midwest during this month. While we will not be able to visit all congregations, we hope to see as many of you as we possibly can in the few months that we are back.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Project Joel meeting with directors from Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Paraguay in Panamá this month.
- Pastor Carlos who moves to Panamá on March 1 to plant a church in Sabanitas.
- Pastors, teachers, and congregations as they prepare for the season of Lent.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The work done on the church and parsonage in Sabanitas.
- A wonderful VBS in Sora this past week.



lcms.org/gauthier

Sanctity of Life Committee Becomes Active at Our Redeemer



Sanctity of
Human Life

The newly-reorganized Sanctity of Life Committee here at Our Redeemer Lutheran will be reaching out to our members and community to share that Our Loving God the Father creates and sustains Life from the moment of conception until natural death, so that as Lutherans we become Gospel-motivated voices for the Sanctity of Life in every stage of life.

The Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod feels compelled by God's Word to speak and act on behalf of those who are most vulnerable and defenseless. Therefore, as Lutheran Christians we will strive to be a Biblical witness to the Church and to society and speak out about Sanctity of Life related issues such as: chastity, abortion, post abortion healing and euthanasia.

One of the main goals of this committee is to encourage, educate, and uplift a Gospel-Centered, Word of God based message of hope, forgiveness and new life filled with hope!

Continue to look for more regular information in Reflections and the Beacon. Please contact Tom and Cory Strumpel to become involved in this important movement that will provide guidance and support and education to all members of Our Redeemer. Pray today that the Spirit of God moves you to become one of God's people who is willing to minister this important message of Sanctity of Life.

What do the stripping of the altar on Good Friday and the replacing of the paraments for Easter symbolize?

Jesus underwent great humiliation during His trial when His clothing was stripped from Him (Matt. 27:28). When Jesus died, His followers came and wrapped His body with linen cloths. When the women came to the tomb three days later, they expected to find His body there but only found His grave clothes. Jesus left the clothes of death behind Him. The stripping of the altar and the replacing of the paraments make us part of the wonderful events surrounding Jesus' death and crucifixion. We are not observers but participants. The altar is fully clothed again on Easter, proclaiming to us the things the women saw when they went to the tomb of Jesus.



Where does the phrase **"He is risen. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!"** come from?



The angels proclaimed the Easter greeting to the women who arrived at Jesus' tomb (Matt. 28:6). The women were sent by the angels to speak the words to the disciples (Luke 24:9). The disciples also began to speak these words to one another (Luke 24:34). The followers of Jesus continue to this day to speak the Easter greeting, which is more than a report. It's a proclamation of the Gospel. It proclaims the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation to all who are condemned by sin and death. In this way, we

participate in that first announcement of Easter. We proclaim one to another that death has been swallowed up by the death of Jesus, and we shall live forever because Jesus is risen.

by *Christopher Seifferlein* <https://blogs.lcms.org/2017/lent-easter-101>

Youth

6th - 12th Graders

March

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	31

DATE	EVENT	TIME
4	Coffee & Treats <i>7th Grade Confirmation (Holman-Schrader)</i>	
7	8th Grade Confirmation <i>Banners DUE</i>	7:00 pm Class
14	<i>Lenten Worship</i>	6:10 pm
19	Practice for Questioning <i>8th Graders</i>	6:00 pm
21	Spiritual Growth Event <i>Entire Congregation</i>	7:00 pm
25	Palm Sunday/Rite of Confirmation <i>Entire Congregation</i>	During 10:30 am service
28	Prayer Walk <i>Entire Congregation</i> <i>(High School Youth help clean up afterwards)</i>	
31	Set up for Easter Breakfast <i>High School Families</i>	8:00 am

Spiritual Growth Event



The 8th grade Confirmation students have been excitedly preparing for months for the **Spiritual Growth Event** on Wednesday, March 21st.

Preparation for the Spiritual Growth Event is more than just studying for **questioning**.

Confirmation Verse — Each student chooses a Bible verse to be his/her Confirmation verse.

Paper — Once the students have chosen their verse, then they write a short paper about it. They write about where their verse is found in the Bible, who wrote that book of the Bible and an explanation of why they chose their verse. During the Spiritual Growth Event, each student reads their paper aloud to the congregation.

Banner — Each 8th grade Confirmand also creates a banner with their Confirmation verse on it. The style and themes of the banners are unique and usually reflect the interests of the student. The banners are displayed on the back walls of the Sanctuary beginning on the night of the Spiritual Growth Event.



Reception — The evening ends with a reception in the Fellowship Hall where the Our Redeemer family celebrates with the Confirmands. During the reception, the High School Youth present handmade, personalized cards to each of the Confirmands along with a special gift. The high school students also give a short talk encouraging the 8th graders to remain active at church after they've been confirmed.

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, Preschool Director preschool@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool) 338-5626 (church)
Luke Scheele, Vicar vicar@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Sara Cross, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)
Sarah Gabel, Bookkeeper bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Kara Hartwig, Youth Coordinator youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Denise Holida, Adult Coordinator 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)	Marnie Schrader, Children's Coordinator childrensministry@ourredeemer.org	319-530-1563 (cell)
Kevin Sellers Director of Technology technology@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 631-8924 (cell)	Laurel Sellers, Office Coordinator redemer@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Sheena White, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)		

2018 Board of Elders

Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Vaughn Davisson	319-648-4660
Jim Eick	338-1293
Skip Kempnich	351-5297
Eric Kooker	339-0175
Val Penney	354-1453
Denny Schrader	461-7318
Arlan Thompson	338-2938
Marty Wenck	330-2761

2018 Board of Directors

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Vice President	Myrl Holida	319-351-4301
Secretary	Jennifer Kooker	319-339-0175
Treasurer	Larry Freeman	319-400-8356
Board of Elders		
Properties	Dave Johnson	319-333-9606
At Large	Jeff Kucera	563-316-1088
	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.

The Mender

Psalm 147:3

Matthew 18:15-18



I smear the odiferous glue
along jagged edges,
binding broken pieces
to make a plate whole
once again.

How much harder
it is to mend
misunderstandings,
offended people
or broken hearts.

My china pieces will break
no farther
unless I drop them,
while feelings
and pride
may be torn
or injured further.

O Christ,
only You
can mediate
and mend
wisely.



~ ~ Carol Schuldt