

THE REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1054 Truman Avenue

Owatonna, MN 55060

February 2012

A Congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Rev. Kirk Griebel, Pastor

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Dear Fellow Redeemed,

One of my favorite parts of the liturgy is what is called the Proper Preface. The Proper Preface comes early in the Service of Holy Communion, right before we sing the Sanctus.

Since it is a proper that means it changes with the season of the church year. We are now in the season of Epiphany so we are using the Proper Preface for the Epiphany season.

This month I would like to start a series of articles on the various Proper Prefaces for the different seasons of the church year. Each Proper Preface begins with the words:

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to your, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are preparing to celebrate the Lord's Supper, one of the most precious gifts the Lord has for his church. It is most appropriate that we be thankful.

But the Proper Preface urges us to be thankful at all times and in all places. That is not so easy to do. But what a powerful witness it is when the Lord's people can be thankful in the good and the bad situations in life. People will want to know what makes us thankful when things don't go according to plan, when trouble is all around.

Then we can confidently share with them that no matter what happens God will be with us and will sustain us. He will even be with us in the face of death because Jesus, God's Son came into the world and died for us on the cross and rose again from the dead. The eternal redemption we have in Christ keeps us thankful at all times and places.

Next month we will start looking at the variable parts of the Proper Preface that change during the different seasons. Since it will be the season of Lent we will start with the one for Lent.

See the end of this newsletter for information about a great opportunity to learn more about our Lutheran Liturgy at a workshop in Plymouth, MN.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Pastor Griebel

ADULT BIBLE CLASS AT REDEEMER

Sunday Morning during the Education Hour led by Pastor Griebel.

Wednesday Morning at 9:30 led by Pastor Krause.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: Attention Class of 2011 and 2012 High School graduates.

Redeemer Lutheran Church will again be offering scholarships this year. Please pick up your scholarship application and guidelines in the youth room. The committee will be reviewing them in late May or early June. If you have any questions, please contact Dallas Ketchum or Roger Johnson.

30 HOUR FAMINE the youth will be participating in the 30 Hour Famine on Friday, February 3rd and Saturday, February 4th. The Youth are in the Famine to learn about what it feels like to be hungry. If you would like to make a donation to the Youth and this cause, please choose a paper plate on the wall and make a donation to a Youth of your choice. Just take a plate off the wall and give it to the Youth along with your donation or you may put the plate and donation (with your name) in the basket on the desk in the office of the Sunday School Superintendent.

\$1 can provide food and care for a child for one day.
\$30 can provide food and care for a child for a month.
\$360 can provide food and care for a child for a year.
Thank you for your support!

WELCH VILLAGE SKI LOCK-IN will be held on Friday, February 10th and Saturday, February 11th. Permission slips will be sent to those Youth who will be participating in the Welch Village Ski Lock-In. Permission slips must be returned by Sunday, February 5th. We will need two volunteer parent drivers for the lock-in. Meet in the Church parking lot at 9:30 p.m. and we will be leaving at 9:45 p.m.

DARTBALL The next dartball match will be held on Thursday, February 9 at Peace, Faribault. Meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. to share rides.

2011 STATEMENTS The corrected 2011 Contribution statements are ready. Please pick yours up in the narthex next to the offering envelopes. Thank you!

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES Please be sure to pick up your 2012 envelopes from the table in the narthex. Each box has the envelopes needed for the entire year. THANK YOU for your continued support of the work of the Lord at Redeemer.

LARGE PRINT copies of the hymns and readings we will use in the worship service on Sunday are available from the ushers at each service.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for the months of January to March are available on the register stand in the narthex. Pick one up for yourself and another to share.

RIDES FOR CHURCH If you are in need of a ride to church, please call the church office.

JOYFUL RESPONSE Joyful Response electronic offering program is a very simple way for members to give their offerings electronically instead of writing out checks. If you need a form to sign up for Joyful Response, contact the church office.

REDEEMER ON THE AIRWAVES Charter Communications offers a one hour broadcast of our services on Channel 8 at 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays and at 3:30 p.m. Fridays.

LUTHERAN HOUR radio broadcast on KDHL 920 a.m, and KJLY 93.5 fm on Sundays 6:00 p.m., and WCCO 830 am at 6:00 a.m. To listen to the Lutheran Hour at any time or find out about other resources available from the Lutheran Hour, simply go to their website, www.lutheranhour.org.

SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS If you would like to provide flowers to beautify our altar for worship on a Sunday morning, simply sign your name on the Flower Chart located on the bulletin board next to the office. If you are giving the flowers in memory of a loved one, or because of a wedding/anniversary or birthday, you may indicate that on the chart and that information will be put in the bulletin. Once you sign up, place a check for \$19.00, made out to Redeemer Lutheran Church, in an envelope marked "Altar Flowers". Take it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. If you wish to have a special arrangement, contact the church office.

CELEBRATIONS: Call Church Office 451 – 2720
Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
except for the Noon hour.

PROVIDING THEIR TIME & TALENTS IN FEBRUARY

ACOLYTES:

February 5 Cameron Cook
February 12 Sarah Mensing
February 19 Tanner Strusz
February 22 Thomas Mensing – Ash Wed.
February 26 Eric Reuss
February 29 Ashley Coulombe - Lent

LAY MINISTER: Chuck Rappe

READER: Pastor Griebel

ORGANIST: Janda Pitan

USHERS: Burt Bemmels, Maynard Maas, Ronald Schmidt, Chris Burns, Kyle Burns, Gaynor Levos

STATISTICS

Date	Attendance	Communion	Offering
Jan. 1	68	56	1549.00
Jan. 8	120	101	3953.12
Jan 15	93		2481.56
Jan 22	99	80	3135.56

BIRTHDAYS

Orville Bartsch	2-3
Melissa Johnson	2-4
Dustin Pitan	2-4
Brian Reuss	2-5
Katie Mensing	2-8
Thomas Mensing	2-8
Sarah Mensing	2-8
Jan Putnam	2-8
LaVerne Marik	2-8
Linda Carlson	2-9
Mattie Eastman	2-10
Ken Huber	2-11
Judy Johnson	2-13
Amanda Kuchenbecker	2-15
Pamela Bergeman	2-17
Vanessa Brage	2-17
Rayma Hargefeld	2-18
Lynn Reiser	2-18
Alan Christofferson	2-19
Brittany Burns	2-23
Corinne Scholljegerdes	2-23
Richard Meixner	2-25
Viola Schafer	2-26
Regina Bartsch	2-26

ANNIVERSARIES

Cliff & Roberta Nelson 2-10
Michael & Deborah Schiller 2-12
Marvin & Ruth Thompson 2-13
Larry & Diane Kuchenbecker 2-16
Brian & Wendy Bogen 2-22

NEW ADDRESS

Vera Wolfe
1070 Truman Ave.
Owatonna, MN. 55060

Kenneth Urban
2730 E Desert Trumpet Rd.
Phoenix, AZ. 85048

DEATH

Florence Ahlman
6-28-20 – 1-12-12

LETTER FROM CALEB SCHEWE “OUR” SEMINARY STUDENT

Dear Members of Redeemer Lutheran,

Happy Epiphany season to you from Ft. Wayne! At the time of this writing (Jan. 11) the Christmas trees are still up in the chapel at the seminary. It may seem like a long time to leave a Christmas tree up but you have to realize that Dean of Chapel doesn't like to light the trees until late into the Advent season. So, we have about a week at seminary when it starts to “feel” like Christmas and then we all leave for Christmas break. In a way, we make up for some Christmas celebration in January.

But, because it's epiphany, it is also fitting to retain the Christmas lights. The light reminds us that the true light has come. Slowly and slowly during the dark months of December and January the days begin to lengthen and we are reminded that our savior is here.

Anyway, you probably don't want to read a mini sermon; and to be honest, I don't want to try and write a mini sermon. I just finished an online Church History IV exam and if anything, I ought to go to confession before I try and preach. (The test wasn't that bad...) The month of January is one of the most depressing months at Seminary. Perhaps even more so because I'm one of those 4th year guys who knows that the end is coming soon. I have 7 weeks until the end of the quarter and the more eager I get the slower time seems to move. You all are familiar with the feeling. In a way, I wish the seminary would give me the option to take all of my coursework for this winter quarter and the spring quarter— let me do it all in 2 weeks

And then let me graduate. It'd be rough but I would do it. Clearly patience is not one of my strong points.

To be fair, classes are going well and I still enjoy them. Even Church History IV! That class deals with Lutheran History in America. It is by the grace of God that the LCMS remains faithful to Scripture. There Lutheran Church had some horrendous times within American history- not because of persecution but because of false teaching. By learning the history of our church in America I've gained a far greater appreciation for where God has brought us today.

Seminary aside, Sarah and I had a wonderful Christmas. We got to see a number of our family members. I may have sat with my wife for the last time during a Christmas service (or perhaps by God's grace in many decades I will retire and rejoin her in the pew!) We might have worked in the retail industry for the last time during the Christmas season. (PRAISE THE LORD!! HALLELUJAH!!! Sarah) Business at Hobby Lobby has slowed down and that's fine with us. It's a lot less stressful, even though in a week or two the store is going to have to take a full inventory.

I'm pretty sure you have been having a warmer-than-usual winter just as we are in Fort Wayne. That's been a fine thing for our running! I don't remember if I mentioned that I use those “Vibram Five Fingers” running shoe – it's along the lines of a barefoot running shoe which is weird to say because you can't both wear a shoe and be barefoot. Anyway, I'm not too inclined to use that in several inches of snow. I do have a regular pair of backup shoes just in case.

We again want you to know that you are a great blessing to us. Seminary students simply couldn't do it without the many prayers and encouragement and gifts of people like you. God has indeed been good to us through your efforts and we are grateful to all of you. May His blessings be with you!

In Christ,
Caleb and Sarah

Sunday, 15 January 2012, the Lutheran Village in Jacmal, Haiti, was dedicated. The Lutheran Village was conceived by Rev. Glenn Merritt, working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (ELCH), after the devastating earthquake in Haiti on 12 January 2010. The Lutheran Village consists of cinder-block homes constructed around a Lutheran congregation. Hundreds of people attended the dedication on Sunday, including the mayor of Jacmal and two senators. Senator Joseph Lambert was a

government dignitary who attended the dedication of the Lutheran Village.

Senator Lambert, himself, was personally trapped under concrete rubble after the earthquake of 12 January 2010. Thirty-nine others were trapped with him, only four, including him, survived. He recounted that when the earthquake struck, he was rendered unconscious almost immediately. Around 11 PM, some six hours after the earthquake, he awoke and thought that life was very short. The sounds of people crying for help brought him to consciousness. He heard people crying, "Senator, please help me, pull the board out that went through my stomach"; "Senator, help me, pull the concrete off my legs."

The Senator said he would spare those gathered from the other horrible sounds he heard as people died. His arm was broken behind his back and concrete pressed on his skull. He said with his good arm he reached back and grabbed hold of a board. Around 2 AM, he heard the voice of his younger brother calling his name.

The rescuers pulled the Senator out of the rubble by the "board" he clung to. Once out of the rubble, the Senator saw what he thought was a board was in fact a crucifix. He said that he gives thanks to Jesus every day for delivering him from the earthquake. He thanked the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for its work to help the people of Haiti. He also thanked Glenn Merritt in particular for traveling to Haiti more than 20 times to make the dream of a Lutheran Village a reality.

A distinguishing feature of the homes in the Lutheran Village from the homes constructed by some of the other relief agencies is the cinder block construction. The mayor of Jacmal contrasted the sheet rock and cardboard homes constructed nearby to the "real homes" constructed from concrete in the Lutheran Village. The quality of the homes in the Lutheran Village were greatly appreciated by Haitian government officials.

Another distinguishing feature of the Lutheran Village is a Lutheran Congregation, which will serve the community with the Gospel of Jesus and serve as a gathering place, as it did for this dedication.

The people who received homes at the dedication service were very grateful to receive a home. After the dedication people gathered for refreshments and discussion. It was the conclusion of a fine day. It was truly a blessing to see the completion of the Lutheran Village.

– Rev. Dr. Albert B. Collver, Director of Church Relations, Posted 16 January 2012 in Miami, Florida.

WORKSHOPS ON LUTHERAN LITURGY will be held on Saturday, March 3, at Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, 4040 State Highway 101 N., Plymouth, MN. The theme of this workshop is "Why We Love Hymns." The speaker will be Steve Starke, a Lutheran pastor and author of numerous hymns.

The cost of the workshop is \$25.00 and you may register by calling Glory of Christ at 763-478-6031 or going to their web site at www.gloryofchrist.org. Workshops on Lutheran Liturgy are intended primarily for lay people, to help them enrich their understanding of Lutheran worship practices.

SURROUNDED BUT ALONE is the theme of our mid-week Lenten services this year. Each week we will look at one or more of the people who are mentioned prominently in the story of Jesus' arrest, trials and crucifixion. The people we look at will include the Apostle Peter, Judas, Pontius Pilate, Simon of Cyrene, the centurion, the soldiers who crucified Jesus and the thieves who were crucified with him.

As we hear about all the people surrounding Jesus during his last hours we will also be reminded that Jesus was profoundly alone during his darkest hour. No one voluntarily intervened to help him nor could anyone help him accomplish what he did through his crucifixion; the redemption of the world.

Our Lenten services start on Ash Wednesday, February 22, at 6:30 with a service of Holy Communion and continue each Wednesday till March 28.

LENTEN SUPPERS Once again this year the Board of Fellowship is arranging to have Lenten suppers before each of our mid-week Lenten worship services. Serving will begin each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

A sign up sheet will be posted in the narthex for groups or groups of individuals to sign up to serve the Lenten suppers.