

THE REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1054 Truman Avenue

Owatonna, MN 55060

November, 2011

A Congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Rev. Kirk Griebel, Pastor

Home - 451-5266

Church Office - 451-2720

E-mail - rlcowat@smig.net

Web site: www.redeemerowatonna.org

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

Who is Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther?

Pastor Walther was born in Germany in 1811 and immigrated to the United States in 1839. Last month marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of this influential theologian who became known as the “American Luther.”

Once in the United States Walther settled in St. Louis and began establishing congregations in his new homeland. He also started communicating with other German Lutheran immigrants around the country. At a meeting in Chicago in 1847 Walther and several other Lutheran leaders established what came to be known as The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, the denomination of which Redeemer is a member. Walther was selected as the first president of the new denomination.

Recognizing the need for well-trained pastors, he helped establish a seminary; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, which is still going strong today. He was in high demand across the country as a speaker and consultant.

His most well-known book is called *The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*. This book continues to be used by Lutheran pastors and seminaries because of its outstanding insights into applying the truth of God’s Word to peoples’ lives. He also wrote extensively about what it means to be a Christian congregation.

Here are some quotes from Walther:

“All that we can offer him [Christ] is our sins, nothing else. But for that very reason Jesus regards us as his proper clients. We honor him as our faithful Savior by making his Gospel our refuge; but we deny him if we come to him offering him something for what he gives us.”

“When the grace and glory of the Gospel are truly held out to men, this rouses them, makes them joyful and therefore willing to do good works and, as it were, kindles a heavenly fire in their hearts. This effect is inevitable. Anyone coming into contact with fire is made to glow; a person who comes in contact with the fire of divine love is made to glow with love to God and his fellow-man.”

Many Lutheran groups across the country are holding special activities to honor the 200th anniversary of Walther’s birth and a new movie has been produced about his life. Here at Redeemer starting on October 30 we will be having a 2-3 week Bible study during the Sunday morning education hour focusing on the life of this remarkable Lutheran leader. Please join us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Pastor Griebel

FURNACE FOR THE FUTURE Thank you to everyone who has given generously to our furnace fund. The project has gone well; the furnace was installed, passed inspection and we stayed within budget.

If you would like to donate towards our “Furnace for the Future”, you may use the special offering envelopes found in the pew racks behind the worship registration cards or simply mail your donation to the church. Please mark on the envelope that it is for the furnace project & your name (optional).

ADULT BIBLE CLASS AT REDEEMER

Sunday Morning During the Education Hour Pastor Griebel leads a class focusing on C. F. W. Walther, one of the founders of our denomination, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and a man who played a very important role in the early days of Lutheranism in America.

Wednesday Morning Pastor Krause leads a class through a study of the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed as taught in Luther’s Small Catechism starting at 9:30. Bring your catechism and Bible.

A NEW SEASON OF DARTBALL gets underway on Thursday, November 10 with a match at Trinity, Medford. A practice session will be held at Redeemer starting at 6:00 p.m. then we will head to Medford at 6:30 p.m. New team members are always welcome. Free training is available.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 TO SUNDAY,

NOVEMBER 6 has been designated White Ribbon Against Pornography (WRAP) week. The purpose of WRAP week is to educate the public about the prevalence and dangers of pornography. On Wednesday, November 2, at 12:15 p.m. in Central Park there will be an official WRAP proclamation made by one of our city officials. Members of Keeping Owatonna Great will be on hand to share information about this issue and give out white ribbons. All are welcome to attend.

FOOD SHELF The Altar Guild will be setting up a table in the narthex again this year for the Food Shelf. The table will be set up starting November 13 through Thanksgiving Eve, November 23. Non-perishable food items or cash donations will be accepted. Please give generously to help the needy in Steele County. This has been a very worthwhile project, thanks for your support.

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 October to December 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 NOVEMBER

ACOLYTES:
November 6 Thomas Mensing
November 13 Eric Reuss
November 20 Ashley Coulombe
November 23 Alex Burns
November 27 Ethan Hollingsworth
November 30 Katie Mensing

LAY MINISTER & READER: Steve Frodl

ORGANIST: Janda Pitan

ALTAR GUILD:
Nov. 6 & 13 Judy Boe & Jeanette Kispert
Nov. 20 -27 Joanne Grunklee & Ashley Stewart
Nov. 30 Wilma Halbe & Vickie Vannatta

USHERS: –Ronald Schmidt, Marvin Worrell, Chuck Rappe

STATISTICS

Date	Attendance	Communion	Offering
10-2	109	92	\$2786.76
10-9	126	86	3198.76
10-16	122		2726.76

BIRTHDAYS

Marvin Litke Jr	11-1
Evelyn Jacobson	11-3
Ardella Schmidt (Warren)	11-3
Jeanette Theuer	11-3
Carol Levos	11-5
Helen Frodl	11-6
Kathleen Brage	11-6
Marcella Meixner	11-8
Janice Coulombe	11-9
Kaitlyn Strusz	11-10
Hilbert Huber	11-10

Heidi Burns	11-10
Chris Blaker	11-11
Laurie Moravec	11-12
Burt Bemmels	11-15
James C Gasner	11-15
Blair Berry	11-17
Jaxon D Litke	11-17
Doug Dauffenbach	11-18
Michael Boerner	11-19
Travis Litke	11-20
Ralph Bos	11-20
Dianna Maas	11-20
Sonja Radel	11-20
Stacy Hanson	11-21
Lori Schiltz	11-21
Susan Griebel	11-22
Kevin Gerlach	11-22
Brianna Heldt	11-23
Sean Bergeman	11-24
Brooke Seykora	11-25
Brandi Cashman	11-25
Troy Block	11-27
Logan Huxford	11-27
Donald Meyer	11-27
Valerie Shaw	11-27
James T Gasner	11-30

ANNIVERSARYS

Chris & Heidi Burns	11-5
Darren & Pam Fritz	11-6
Rev. Kirk & Susan Griebel	11-29

NEW ADDRESSES

Dustin Pitan
1101 Ridgebrook Way NE
Atlanta, GA. 30345-8028

Andrew Pitan
3040 Sumter Ave N Apt 203
Crystal, MN. 55427

Iva Dell Armstrong
125 Park St. #224
Owatonna, MN. 55060

Florence Huber
125 Park St. #107
Owatonna, MN. 55060

Michael Rollins
307 – 1st St SE
Nora Springs, IA. 50458-8632

DEATH

Robert Lloyd Smith
8-17-19 to 10-6-11

LETTERS FROM CALEB SCHEWE “OUR” SEMINARY STUDENT

September

Dear Members of Redeemer Lutheran,

Greetings to all of you from Fort Wayne! It's nice to be back in the mid-west where I can find the occasional Viking fan. I'm all prepared to continue living out the theology of the cross this season.

We finally feel that we're in a routine again. Work, classes, running, maneuvering the traffic of downtown Fort Wayne on a regular basis...God continues to bless us in all things.

We've been attending my old field work church (Martini Lutheran in New Haven). It's great to be back! A very warm congregation; and they've grown immensely over the year! A year ago they averaged 100 and now they average 140! Praise God for His work! I get to lead a 5 week Bible stud at the field work church. It's a blessing to continue taking part in church activities; help's keep me freshened up for next year!

I got to start classes the Tuesday after Labor Day, so as of this writing, I'm going into week 4. What classes does a returning vicar face at the Seminary? I've got one class entitled *Pastor Congregation and Synod*. Another called *Pastoral Theology II*. Another is *Gospels III* and the final class I have is *Lutheran Confessions III*. What does this mean? I have until final exams to figure that out...(and time ever draws to a close)

Pastor, Congregation, and Synod helps me understand the structure of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, from the pastor all the way up to President Harrison. It's a very practical class with a focus on leadership and conflict resolution. Pastoral Theology II is also a practical class where we work through vicarage experiences and discuss pastoral approaches to problems people might face.

Gospel III is a phenomenal class! The focus is the Gospel of John. Not an easy Gospel to work with. In many ways it's so simple and at the same time it's extremely deep! The professor is currently working on writing the Concordia Commentary on the Gospel of John, so I've the right guy for the class. And the professor, Dr. William Weinrich, is an expert on the early church. When he speaks, it's as if the church fathers are speaking. He regularly brings in their thoughts on the Gospel of John.

Lutheran Confessions III covers the Formula of Concord as well as the history surrounding that document. All of them good classes and very worthwhile for my final year.

How else goes things in Fort Wayne? We're settled in. I've got my books all sorted and

alphabetized. We've found many trails to run; we had no idea that Fort Wayne had so many trails! Miles and miles worth of them, all somehow connected along the rivers! So by God's grace, our running streak continues into September, 2011. I've suffered a bit of a foot injury but it hasn't shut me out of running all together.

Overall, it's nice to be back for the final year. Already I'm anticipating that call service! Yet that won't come until May 2nd, 2012! Sigh...so much waiting. I guess the professors will have to keep me busy so that the time goes by fast.

We pray that God's blessings remain upon all of you. We can't thank you enough for the years of support and prayers you have offered! We will continue to keep in touch and let you know how the anticipation of call day builds week after week...God bless you all!

Caleb & Sarah

October

Dear members of Redeemer Lutheran,

Greetings from a chilly and windy Fort Wayne! I suppose it's been fall for nearly a month and at last it feels like it. On the plus side, once we get a good frost I won't have to worry about mowing our little yard anymore. The landlord provided us with a push-mower, a rather economical model which requires no gasoline. This is the first I ever got to use one of those rotary wheel mowers and I generally feel ridiculous when doing so. But, it's efficient and it does make a nice cut.

I'm now at week 7 out of 10 for fall quarter of the final year. That means things are crazy. I have been diligent with homework and studies but it's still more challenging than I remember. It seemed my first 2 years at seminary I didn't have too much trouble staying up really late (or early in the morning depending on your point of view). Now I struggle to make it past 10:30.

Most of my assignments are set up with pastoral care in mind. I do get to write a detailed sermon outline for the Gospel of John. That's pastoral care! It's good to know that vicarage has changed my understanding of assignments.

My classes are going pretty well. Presentations, papers, and some significant tests have all been turned in and plenty more are due. The most challenging thing so far was a midterm for Lutheran Confessions III. I got to learn the history surrounding the Formula of Concord. If some of you struggle with insomnia, I can recommend several books to help you out.

Another new thing this year is that I get to prepare all the paperwork for placement. It's an extensive amount of work. In many ways it feels

like another class. Throughout our years, Sarah and I have talked about "ideal places to go." First year, we had plenty of ideal places! We could rattle off all kinds of scenic areas we thought we'd like to go. I wanted something with mountains, perhaps Washington or Colorado. And now, we really have no preferences. It's very weird and I can't explain why. I suppose it's because no matter where we go, we'll find many blessings and know that God had that place in mind for us.

Schoolwork aside, we continue to fare well here in Ft. Wayne. I mentioned the weather is chillier so the runs become more of a challenge – but we're still at it! My left foot is improving a lot.

Sarah's gotten a lot of our vicarage pictures scrap-booked nicely. She has a tremendous talent for that! She recently had a very challenging time at Hobby Lobby because a top VP from corporate came for a visit. That meant everyone was under a lot of pressure to have the store immaculate. On the plus side, the store did very well!

I just realized that the next time I write, I'll be done with the fall quarter, or very, very close to it! That's a pleasant thought! Fourth year does have an entirely different feel, a good feeling because I realize all the more that it's about pastoral care to God's people.

As always, thank you for all your prayers and generosity! I pray that you're all staying warm and are having a blessed fall!

In Christ,

Caleb and Sarah

2011 FALL BIBLE AND MARTIN LUTHER BOOK

SALE For a limited time this fall, Concordia Publishing House is offering its most popular Bibles at significant discounts. They are also offering a discount on an outstanding new Martin Luther storybook resource. Please see the church office for more details or go to their web-site www.cph.org.

O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD!

Our Thanksgiving worship service with Communion will be held on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 23, starting at 6:30 p.m. Join us for this special service of giving thanks and praise to our generous and loving God.