

THE REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1054 Truman Avenue

Owatonna, MN 55060

October, 2011

A Congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Rev. Kirk Griebel, Pastor

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Dear Fellow Redeemed,

A meeting was held recently to go over the names on Redeemer's Service Groups. As we were setting up the meeting someone made the comment, "I wonder how many people know about the service groups?" I wondered the same thing and so this month I'd like to devote my article to Redeemer's Service Groups.

Here's an overview of how it works. Every member of the congregation is placed on one of four service groups. (Shut-ins are considered honorary members.) When there is a need for food, usually desserts for a funeral or other event the service groups take turns supplying the needed food.

Each service group has one or more callers that go down the list of the service group members calling them to ask them to supply what is needed. When everything works properly then everyone takes turns supplying what is needed for the various events.

In addition a number of congregation members have agreed to serve in the kitchen when a need arises and they have to be called too. It's not a perfect system and we have to meet occasionally to make adjustments for the most part it has worked for our congregation.

The importance of serving has been from the earliest days. Jesus said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:28)

As Christians we know that everything comes from God and he does not need anything from us. Since God doesn't need anything from us we serve God by serving other people. We regard serving others the same as serving the Lord himself. Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." (Matt. 25:40)

There is no way we can ever repay the Lord for the forgiveness, life and salvation he daily and richly gives us. Serving others in a time of need is a great way to show our gratitude to him for all that he gives us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Pastor Griebel

FURNACE FOR THE FUTURE

At the July voters meeting the congregation decided to put the \$20,000 that we received from the estate of Bea Lieb toward the purchase of a new furnace for our facility. The Board of Church Properties then began getting bids for the new furnace and the low bid came in at a total cost, after rebates, of \$36,480. At our special voters meeting on September 11 the congregation voted to proceed with the furnace project.

The new furnace will replace our current one which is the original one installed in our building over 50 years ago. It will be a high efficiency furnace and comes with a five year warranty so we should see a significant reduction in our utility bill and repair costs.

For years to come it will continue to provide members of the congregation and guests with a warm place to gather for worship and growth in God's holy Word.

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. Please mark on the envelope that it is for the furnace project and your name (optional). Donations may also be mailed to the church.

Please pray that this project will run smoothly.

A LADIES LUNCHEON will be held at Redeemer on Saturday, October 15 from Noon to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 and the speaker will be a member of the Owatonna Garden Club. Registration deadline is Tuesday, October 11. Please call the church office to register.

THANK YOU Redeemer's Youth Group would like to thank all the congregation and community members that purchased crates of peaches from our fund raiser this year. We sold 540 crates of peaches this year, even with the drop in produce crop. We are very thankful for all of your support throughout the year!! Thank you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN will be singing on October 16th during the church service.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS AT REDEEMER

Sunday Morning Pastor Griebel leads a class called Witness, Mercy, Life Together based on printed and video materials provided by the office of synodical president, Rev. Matthew Harrison. This study will be a great opportunity to learn from our synodical president and hear about the new focus he has brought to our Synod.

Wednesday Morning Pastor Krause will lead a class through a study of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed as taught in Luther's Small Catechism starting at 9:30 Wednesday mornings. Bring your catechism and Bible. If you need a new catechism contact the church office.

This is a great time to get involved in a new study of God's holy Word!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Money has been called the "the god of those who have too much, and the goal of those who have too little." In Proverbs 30:8-9 we read, ". . . *give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown You and say, 'Who is the Lord?' or I may become poor and steal and so dishonor the name of my God.*" Interestingly, many people, when tested with poverty, stay strong and moral; few people when tested with prosperity keep their original values and purposes. Blessed indeed is the person who avoids the extremes of too much or too little.

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL WINTER COAT

DRIVE – starts October 1 through October 26th. Please leave clean child and adult sized **winter** coats, jackets, scarves, hats, mitten and gloves that are in good usable condition in the bin starting Oct. 1st. This cause benefits the Steel County Clothesline.

24TH ANNUAL MINNESOTA LUTHERAN FREE CONFERENCE

– The theme for this year's conference is "What Does This Mean—The 2010 Synodical Restructuring." Under this theme consideration will be given to changes that were made in the organizational structure of the LCMS. The conference will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00p.m., at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2719 3rd St. N., St. Cloud, MN. Registration is \$25.00 per person which includes lunch and materials. To register, call (320) 252-8171 or send an e-mail to redeemeroffice@clearwire.net by Friday, October 21st, with the names of those attending.

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 check out sign-up sheet in the narthex or see the church office for more details or go to their web-site www.cph.org.

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.

LOOKING FOR A FUNERAL COORDINATOR

We are looking for someone to serve compassion, love, and thankfulness as our Funeral Luncheon.Coordinator. If you are interested in this job and would like to see a job description please let Pastor know or church secretary.

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 OCTOBER

ACOLYTES:

October 2 Katie Mensing
 October 9 Cole Bergeman
 October 16 Cameron Cook
 October 23 Sarah Mensing
 October 30 Tanner Strusz

ORGANIST: Janda Pitan

ALTAR GUILD:

October 2 Helen Frodl & Kathy Brage
 October 9 –23 Vi Roemhildt & Gwen Sammon
 October 30 Judy Boe & Jeanette Kispert

USHERS: –Wayne Christofferson, Roger Bogen, Pat Bogen, Vaughn Kispert, Eric Dowling

STATISTICS

Date	Attendance	Communion	Offering
Sept. 4	105	81	\$3220.76
Sept. 11	125	92	3035.76
Sept. 18	120		2904.60

BIRTHDAYS

Kendra Bogen 10-1
 Florence Blanshan 10-2
 Carrie Schmidt 10-2
 Wendy Bogen 10-3
 Lucas Litke 10-3
 Thomas Grunklee 10-6
 Leslie Holm 10-6
 Mildred Meixner 10-6
 Steven Rieser 10-7
 Eric Reuss 10-8
 Robert Schafer 10-9
 Jenna Vaupel 10-9
 Taylan Mouser 10-10
 Debra Eaton 10-11
 Mark Tesch 10-11
 Rose Techau 10-13
 Jason Ost 10-15
 Pat Bogen 10-18
 David Radue 10-19

John Radel 10-19
 Lynnette Prange 10-21
 Peggy Berry 10-21
 Ryan Stewart 10-22
 Tara Huxford 10-22
 Rose Fogal 10-23
 Rhoda Keiper 10-24
 Michelle Bieber 10-24
 Brent Hanson 10-25
 DeEtta Erickson 10-26
 Athena Schiltz 10-26
 Diane Kuchenbecker 10-28
 Olivia Shaw 10-28
 Lonnie Timm 10-29
 Tony Felstead 10-30
 Donna Mouser 10-30
 Elliott Wisch 10-30
 Robert Bernet 10-31
 David Fjordbak 10-31

ANNIVERSARYS

Eric & Amanda Dowling 10-6
 Vaughn & Jeanette Kispert 10-9
 Tad & Janie Rappe 10-14
 Ronald & Barbara Schmidt 10-19

NEW ADDRESSES

Florence Ahlman
 195 – 24th PI NW #204
 Traditions 1
 Owatonna, MN 55060

Dana Ost
 515 Glendale
 Owatonna, MN. 55060

Vera Wolfe
 2480 St. Paul Rd. #105
 Owatonna, MN. 55060
 507-451-0918

LETTER FROM CALEB SCHEWE "OUR" SEMINARY STUDENT

Dear Members of Redeemer Lutheran,
 Greetings from Fort Wayne, Indiana! It was a great blessing to be with you a few weeks ago and we thank you so much for your generous support and prayers. God has richly blessed us with all you have to offer! At last Sarah and I are settled into our place and I finally have the computer and printer situated. It's been far too long since I've been able to send out a "seminary update." If my memory serves right, the last update we sent was before our vacation to the Adirondacks.

The vacation was a welcome blessing. Five nights of camping in the middle of nowhere! We

were on the southern portion of the mountains, nothing tremendously high but because we are Midwesterners, they all looked mountainous to us! Weather was good; a bit chilly. We forced ourselves to go swimming in Lake Piseco. We walked to the lake in hoodie sweatshirts, just to give you an idea of how cool it was. The only other people crazy enough to go swimming were young children. We did a lot of hiking, some canoeing, running of course, and had some excellent meals cooked over a fire.

After that the vicarage wound down and we had to pack. Each church had an August VBS so we did not get to work with any new kids. Church-wise, it was a pretty relaxing three weeks. The Bible studies broke for the month so my main focus was sermons. I am very grateful for the vicarage and all three congregations. At times it was trying, especially during holiday times, yet it was always worth it. All of the people were good to us and helped immensely as it came time to pack up and head back to Fort Wayne. We had an issue with our moving company, a pretty big hiccup in plans, and by God's grace we made it safely back to Fort Wayne on August 1, 11:43 p.m.

We quickly unloaded stuff on August 2nd and by August 3rd we were on our way to see my family in Iowa. The very next week we saw more family in Minnesota and the following week we journeyed to Illinois. It was good to be back in the Midwest! And we made it to NFC North territory! (so thankful there's an NFL season!) We had a wonderful time being with our families during those weeks. And now, we are home. One more year to go!

August 22nd marked our two year running streak! We found some excellent trails near our new apartment. Apparently we can go out 30+ miles, though I don't think we'll try that kind of distance. Beyond that, Hobby Lobby is taking us back. That's been another wonderful blessing from God. We begin work there next week and then on Sept. 6 may classes start up again.

We continue to praise God for all the support you have provided us through these years. We can never express our gratitude well enough for the prayers and gifts you continue to send. They have certainly made a challenging time much easier. We ask that God would shower his blessings upon all of you! I look forward to writing again soon to let you know how my classes are going!

In Christ,
Caleb & Sarah

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF SOCIAL HALL AND SUPPLIES:

Wedding, anniversary, birthday celebrations or other activities of members of Redeemer congregation can be celebrated at the church. The kitchen may be used as well as other facilities. The Redeemer Lutheran Service Groups can be asked to serve. The following guidelines should help family members who are considering a wedding, anniversary, birthday celebration or other activities at Redeemer.

1. Please call the church office (451-2720) well in advance of your celebration or activity to reserve your date, starting time and the area (s) of the church you will need (i.e. social hall, kitchen). We advise that one individual of the family or group be the main contact person, so we know whom to contact if there are questions.
2. A fee, depending on the size of the group, will be charged to the person who arranges the celebration. The fee must be paid at the time the facilities are reserved in order to hold the facilities for the upcoming event. The fee will be refunded if the facilities are no longer needed. Please make checks out to Redeemer Lutheran Church (a fee schedule is available at the church office.)
3. Along with being able to use the facilities members may also borrow certain items from the church to use for celebrations held elsewhere. A list of these items is available from the church secretary. Upon return of items in clean condition the deposit will be returned. If the items are returned damaged the deposit is forfeited to cover repairs or replacement of item.

Please remember that you are using a church facility. Consequently boisterous and unseemly behavior is not appropriate.

CAMPUS MINISTRY IN TRANSITION

After much deliberation and study the Board of Directors of the Minnesota South District has decided to sell the two chapels it owns on university campuses in our District. One of the chapels is near the campus of the University of Minnesota and the other chapel is near Minnesota State University – Mankato.

The resources generated from the sale of these campuses will be used to fund continuing campus ministries at both of these universities and at other college campuses throughout the District. For a complete summary of what has led to these decisions please go to: www.mnsdistrict.org.