



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

To be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all...

An adventure for *life!*

Reflections

(614) 237-1263

VOL. 14, ISSUE 33

August 16, 2010

Expectations Vary - Mission and Vision Hold Us Up

OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here
in the name of Jesus

Pastor - F. Allan Debelak

Secretary - Donna Yarborough

Lay Ministry Coordinator -

Kelley Scott

Organist/Senior Choir Director -

Kathy Rapp

Chimes Choir Director - Karen

Kent

Youth REJOYSing - Julie

Larson

Youth Director -

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President - Gage Gosnell

Vice Pres. - Steve Winner

Treasurer - Eileen Day

Financial Secretary - Bruce

Collins

Secretary - Kay Ernsthansen

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPS.

Church in Society - Kathy

Denhard

Evangelism - Jon Disbro

Fellowship - Donna Schmidt

Finance - Brad Phillips

Member Care - Carol Heacock

Parish Ed - Heidi Stover

Property - Maureen Callahan

Stewardship - John Kennedy

Worship - Michelle Clemence

Youth - Jennifer Young

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

Chairman - Robin Stokes

Treasurer - David Reinoehl

Secretary - Ashley Bird

Member - Helen Brunston

Member - William McCulley

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent - Michele Disbro

MIC STUDENTS

2nd year - Joe Brosious

When people walk into the life of a congregation - like ours and others - people carry along expectations of what a congregation will be like. Sometimes, those expectations are met. At other times, they are not. Then again, along the way, expectations change and the expectations of both those who enter into the life of the congregation and the very life of the congregation may change. As expectations vary, we are given the gift of life that helps to expand us and make us see a bit more of what life can be like within the body of Christ.

Even though our expectations about the life of the congregation may differ, it is vital that we stay tuned into some defining marks that have been pulled together by leaders in the congregation. Back at the 'turn of the century' (this makes it sound old, historic, and traditional), the church council spent time coming up with a simple statement of mission, a statement of our vision, and a list of values they thought were central to know about us here at Redeemer. The thought back then and one now becoming more and more apparent to our leaders, is that we must let everyone know about these defining statements. In that way, we will better understand the life that is central to us all even when we differ in our expectations of what this life together will be.

The **mission** statement is very simple. You have probably heard me using the language quite a bit in sermons and articles like this one: ***We are followers of Jesus sharing God's love with all.*** Simple and yet quite focused. It gives us a point at which we can turn to understand where we are going, the life into which we are stepping, and who is leading us.

The **vision** is a bit longer: ***To embody a community of faith grounded in scripture and our tradition in which we are connected to one another and our neighbors by honoring the diversity of God's gifts visible among us. To keep the love of Christ the focus of our life together and our witness to the world.***

Then there comes a list of **values** that are like gems we can hold onto when we are asked about our life together. They include: ***Good News integrity, diversity, mutual caring, forgiveness & reconciliation, the welfare of all.*** As you might imagine, there was a long discussion about all of this. It was, at times, a difficult discussion as we tried to come to an honest consensus about what we valued in our life together.

It is the thought of our church council that we need to bring out the mission and vision statements and values and put them in front of all of us as we continue to be followers of Jesus. From that point, we may begin to add more shape to the many things we want to take place among us. You could say we will learn how to say 'yes' and 'no' when it comes to that which we choose to take on as our mission and ministry in the years to come. When I read over these statements and words, I begin to think of the things we do that I want to honor and preserve and at the same time, they cause me to dream of that which is not yet and that which can be.

Christ's Peace! pastoral

GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY

13th Sunday after Pentecost

LESSONS

Isaiah 58:9b-14, Psalm 103:1-8, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ORDER OF WORSHIP – EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

10:00 AM Holy Communion

INTERCESSIONS & THANKSGIVINGS

+ For the people of Ascension Lutheran Church.

+ For Redeemer member Brittany Parsons.

+ *Each week we remember in our prayers in worship those who cannot be with us and those with special needs and concerns:* Pearl Aggas, Doris Bell, Rose Varga, Doretha Holland, Georgia Wegmeyer, Norm Wegmeyer, Barb Atkinson, Betty Hoops, Bebe McCoy, Ellen Kunce, Evelyn Fitch, Theresa Frazier, Vernon Schleppe, Kathie Ehrich, Robin Stokes, Estella Kuemmel, Faith Wick, Mel Wick and Redeemer visitors.

WORSHIP LEADERS

10:00 AM

Presiding Minister	F. Allan Debelak
Assisting Minister	Michele Disbro
Acolyte	Dayrel Billingsley
Reader	William McCulley
Cantor	Mary Benis
Coordinator	Kurt Goshen
Ushers	Neil Hoddinott Kathy Zwanziger
Welcoming Team	Hilda Kautz Grace Jones
Hospitality	
Nursery	Sarah Fisher Lynn Brosious
Communion Set-up	Heidi Stover & Ranel Hoddinott

RESPONSE TO VISITORS

Baked Goods Baker	Leslie Roy
Baked Goods Deliverer	Leslie Roy
Note-writer	Katie McCleaf
Food Pantry Delivery	Nancy and Kathie Ehrich

SUNDAY SCHOOL

FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS RESUMES IN THE FALL

THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER

AUGUST 17 – AUGUST 23, 2010

Tuesday

8AM ROMEO
10AM Cello Lessons #9

Wednesday

5-7PM Youth Expressions #4
8:30PM OCA

Thursday

7:30PM SPMHOTN

Friday

5PM Covenant Rehearsal

Saturday

9AM Beacon of Hope
10AM Veggie Give away
11AM Book Study – Pastor's House
4PM Covenant Ceremony

Sunday

10AM Worship

Monday

5PM Youth Expression #4
6PM Fellowship*
7PM Condo Association

PRAYERS & PERSONALS

Prayers are asked for **Mel Wick** who had a heart attack this past week. Both he and Faith are due back in Columbus this coming week. Please pray for their safe return.

+++

Redeemer members are invited to attend the Covenant Ceremony of **Margie Farnham** and **Maureen Callahan** on Saturday, August 21 at 4 p.m. here at the church. Prayers are also asked as they take this next step in their life together.

+++

Congratulations to **Dick Kautz** who celebrated his 85th birthday this past week!!!

+++

Remember: Deadline for *Reflections* articles is 7 a.m. Monday mornings. Just email them to info@Redeemerluth.com and put "For Reflections" in the subject line.

REDEEMER COMMUNITY NEWS

Parking Lot Resealed, Off Limits through Wednesday

Redeemer's parking lot was resealed on Monday, meaning it will not be available for parking until Thursday, August 19.

Please park on Ivanhoe in the meantime.

Be Part of What Makes Sunday Roll Along

As September approaches, it is the best time to prayerfully consider how you can be a part of the conspiracy that keeps Redeemer's worship and fellowship alive and moving from Sunday to Sunday. If you look at the back of the monthly calendar of activities, you will see a page of individuals who step up and take responsibility for some part of what goes into a Sunday morning at Redeemer. Some of those roles take a bit of training – some of them just take a willingness to sign up and say "I can do that!"

On the kiosk this week we will post a list of the ways people can step up and help create a part of our life together. For example, we can always use and can train more: assisting ministers, acolytes, ushers, coordinators, greeters, healing team members, and vergers.

Now, you may not even know what some of these folks do – so how do you know if you would be willing to step up?! Well, on the sign-up sheet there will be a brief explanation of what each of these roles entails. After reading those descriptions, if you have more questions, ask **Pastor Al** and he will direct you to someone who is already serving in that role.

Really folks – we need you and you are perfect for the part.

Sunday School, 2 Services Resume Sept. 12

Sunday School for children and adults and Redeemer's two-service, Sunday schedule resumes on Sunday, September 12.

Sunday School runs from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. while Sunday services will be held at both 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Movie Night to View 'Avatar'

Movie Night for August will be Sunday, August 29 at 7 p.m. in the Narthex. (This is changed from the original date of August 22.)

The movie will be "Avatar" on Blue Ray with a larger TV screen thanks to the help of **Bret Day**. If you haven't seen "Avatar" and are curious about it or if you want to see it again this is your chance! Because of the 160-minute run time we'll be starting promptly at 7 p.m.

If you've never joined us, we bring snacks to share and talk about the movie for a few minutes afterward. Come out and join us!

Fall Bible Studies

"What comes to mind when you think of the book of Revelation? Scary images? The four horsemen come to unleash destruction? Mysterious numbers like "666"? The end-time battle of Armageddon? In recent years, an enormous prophecy industry has marketed frightening images of Revelation, leaving many people intimidated by this amazing and often misunderstood book. Although brimming with mysterious symbolism,

Revelation ultimately is a book of hope that throughout history has sustained people who are oppressed. It is a wonderfully Christ-centered book, full of worship and praise."

This Fall there will be two opportunities each week to take a deeper look at this 'last book in the Christian scriptures.' It is the book that is too often left out of our Bible reading – or – it is taken up by Bible interpreters who try to turn it into a frightening adventure that is used to scare people into some kind of an expression of Christianity that is not like ours.

This study of Revelation will include a series of video tapes by biblical scholar, **Dr. Barbara Rossing**, and materials shaped by Rossing that have been put out by the Presbyterian Church. We will not only tackle the book with open hearts and open minds, we will also tackle all the ways the book, written in what is called an apocalyptic writing style, is misinterpreted by people who attempt to read it in a manner never intended by the author.

One study will be on Tuesday afternoons, 1 to 2:30 p.m. (with a tea and cookie break) and the other study will be on Wednesday evenings 7 to 8 p.m. (with the possibility of a shared meal - we shall see). The Tuesday study will begin on September 21 and the Wednesday group will begin on September 22.

Hospitality Sponsors Needed

Sponsors for Sunday hospitality following the 10 a.m. service are needed for both Sunday, August 22 and Sunday, August 29. If this is something you can do, please call the church office to sign up.

Food Give-Away Continues on Saturdays

Veggies continue to be given away each Saturday. Usually the give-away starts at 10 a.m. Before that can happen, a few Redeemer folks show up (about 9 a.m.) to go through the garden and pick what is ready for the day, set up small tables, bring out any vegetables that were harvested in the few days before the weekly give-away and stored in the refrigerator, put out the "Free Veggies" sign and then – the people start coming.

Remember that RLC members and friends can drop veggies off at the church as early as Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon and store them in the refrigerator.

Way to Serve: Developing a Church Library

Over the past few months, the Member Care committee has made available to Redeemer members and visitors a table of books that offer support and guidance in difficult life situations such as death and serious illness. The committee would like to expand this collection of materials and make it easily accessible to anyone using the church.

At the current time, the Member Care committee is in the beginning stages of this project. The idea is to turn classroom #1 into a library that would feature books and videos owned by Redeemer. We would add to this collection over time and organize a system for sharing and borrowing. The room would be furnished in such a way to provide comfortable seating and an area for small groups to meet.

If planning and developing a church library is a project that interests you or that you have experience with, the committee would appreciate your help. Please contact the church office or **Carol Heacock** if you would like to serve in this ministry.

A Note from Stewardship

Week in and week out, we are reminded of our mission as a community at Redeemer Lutheran Church ... to be followers of Jesus, sharing God's love with all. So how is Jesus active in your life? Do you ever think about all the aspects of your life that reflect how Christ is alive in you? How we steward all that God has entrusted to us can be a roadblock to the relationship we have with Jesus or can be a catalyst to a growing relationship with Jesus.

Psalms 24 begins, "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and all those who live in it..." We are given the privilege and responsibility to care for all that belongs to God. Our faithful response to a loving God is embodied in every minute of our day. Our response is reflected in how we care for our physical and emotional health, how we care for creation, the care we take with our relationships with family and friends, our use of time, the care we take in our daily paid and unpaid work, the care of our finances, and our use of the skills and abilities we are given.

It's not an easy road, nor an ending one. Being a steward means constant and intentional attention to all the aspects of our God-given person and life.

But don't think of it as a burden or chore. Think of it as a joyful response to the gracious love and blessings we have from God. Think of it as a way to cultivate and nurture our relationship with Jesus. Think of it as part of the faith journey we share with others. Think of it as an adventure for *life!*

Envelopes, Envelopes

Hopefully, you've noticed the new white envelopes in the hymnal racks in the sanctuary. They're intended for "all y'all" – members, visitors, friends, relatives – anyone who'd like to make a recorded contribution to Redeemer. Members who fill in the name blank on the envelopes can be confident that the enclosed offering will be duly noted by the financial secretary.

And about those other envelopes – the weekly ones with your very own number on them – just a few reminders:

- 1) Any contribution to "Current Budget" supports **all** regular Redeemer programs, including benevolence, and is allocated as the congregation has directed.
- 2) Any amount in the "Building Maintenance" monthly envelopes goes directly to the Building Maintenance Reserve Fund, which is used for larger, occasional, or emergency maintenance needs.
- 3) Each preaddressed envelope can be mailed in to the office— just add a stamp and cross out the erroneous bar code. Redeemer can function best when our financial support is consistent.

One way to be *sure* that your offering gets to Redeemer consistently, even when you're far away and/or out of stamps, is to set up your contribution electronically. The Simply Giving program has been accomplishing this for some of our members for a number of years. It charges Redeemer a very modest fee to send the members' offerings electronically on whatever schedule the members have chosen; enrollment forms are available in the office.

In addition, many of us already use electronic funds transfer (EFT) to pay bills through our own financial institutions. In most cases EFTs are easy to set up and typically involve no added fees at all.

Long story short – there are lots of ways to be faithful stewards and to be sure that Redeemer's ministry stays strong. Please choose whatever method works best for you.

REMEMBER TO BRING VEGGIES TO GIVE AWAY!!

Contributions of fresh vegetables and herbs for the weekly "give away" can be brought to the church Wednesday through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon (store them in the refrigerator) and on Saturdays, beginning at 8 a.m.

Good Neighbors Picnic Set for Oct. 9

On October 9, the Good Neighbors Picnic will again be held at Goodale Park. Every year, over 1,200 men, women, and children are fed and clothed at this event.

Once again Redeemer has the opportunity to help by providing gently used or new blankets. In the past few years there has also been a need for extra large hooded sweatshirts. Large winter coats are not often available and hooded sweatshirts provide warmth and protection from the cold.

At this time of year, bedding and warmer clothing is often on sale so please consider picking up one of these items that will make a difference in the life of a homeless brother or sister. A box will be available in the Narthex for the donations.

The Wider Church

LSS Holds Open House

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Central Ohio will hold an open house at its new corporate offices on Tuesday, August 17 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The address is 500 W. Wilson Bridge Rd., Ste. 245, Worthington. Refreshments will be served. To RSVP, call 429-5486.

ELCA Membership 4.5 Million

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) reported a baptized membership of 4,543,037 in 10,348 congregations in 2009, based on reports on membership and income data submitted by ELCA congregations each year.

David D. Swartling, ELCA secretary, said the data indicated a decline in membership of 90,850 and a decline of 48 congregations in 2009. The membership decline was slightly more than in the preceding two years, he said.

Total receipts for ELCA congregations exceeded \$2.6 billion for 2009, down 2.94 percent from 2008. However, reported total assets of ELCA congregations actually grew in 2009 by 1.2 percent to \$20.9 billion, the report said. Funds held in endowments and memorials also increased to almost \$1.2 billion in 2009. Average giving per baptized member grew 2.8 percent in 2009 to \$492, the ELCA secretary reported.

Swartling commented that 2009 was a turbulent year nationally and internationally. "The ELCA certainly had its share of turmoil," he said. "During these challenging times, ELCA members have continued to be remarkably steadfast in their giving, and many ELCA congregations remain surprisingly healthy from an economic perspective," Swartling said. "We must not forget that by the world's standards we remain a wealthy church that must continue to look for innovative ways to translate that wealth into effective ministry through this whole church to God's world."

And the Winner Is ...

Redeemer member **Dave Lippert** won the Veggie Bake-Off on Tuesday, August 10. He was gracious to share his recipe which he characterized as a "lasagna without noodles" and which he said "is really easy."

Grilled Veggie Bake

For the sauce:

Start with about 2 quarts of roasted tomato sauce (see the next recipe for the sauce, or you can also use a good commercial sauce such as Mid's). Put at least ½ of the sauce in a blender and spin until as fine as you like it. You do not need to blend any of it if you want a really chunky sauce. I blended all mine (pretty smooth) for the RLC cook off.

Heat the sauce and start to simmer it to reduce some of the water (it will be watery). I added 3 tablespoons of Crystal Hot Sauce, 1 tablespoon of sugar, ¼ cup of red wine, and ½ teaspoon of red pepper flakes to my sauce. The veggies used for the bake are very bland and can tolerate a little heat to punch up the flavor. Simmer and test for sugar, salt, and pepper. You can add the hot sauce or not based on your taste.

For the bake:

A large lasagna pan

One large eggplant (I peeled mine)

4 small zucchini (skin on)

4 small yellow squash (skin on)

2 bell peppers (I used red and yellow)

1 cup shredded Swiss cheese

1 to 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese (or more if you like cheese)

½ cup Parmesan cheese

Olive oil (enough to coat the veggies)

Salt & pepper

Peel the eggplant (or not depending on how you like it) and cut all the veggies in ½ inch slices lengthwise. Arrange on a cookie sheet and toss with the olive oil to coat. Sprinkle with some salt & pepper and grill over a medium gas or charcoal grill until almost tender. The grilling adds a great taste and helps to dry out the veggies. Put the bell peppers in a bag while hot from the grill and this helps to peel them.

Put a layer of sauce in the bottom of the pan and then a layer of eggplant; then a layer of zucchini (or what ever you want). Then add all the Swiss cheese. And, then more layers of veggies. It really makes no difference what order except I like the eggplant on the bottom. Then the mozzarella and then add sauce to the top and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. There may be sauce left but this is not a problem as it can be used for pizza or other stuff. There should be some space between the bake and the top of the pan unless you really like to clean the oven.

Cover with foil and bake at 400 for a least 20 minutes. Uncover, and continue to bake until the sauce is thickened (less watery) and bubbling in the center. I baked mine for about 60 minutes. Your bake might need more time based upon how watery the veggies are.

I know some of this sounds not exact but I did not use a recipe. The flavor is due to the roasted tomato sauce and the grilling of the veggies (and cheese). The types and amounts of veggies can be altered based on what is available. For example, grilled onions and sautéed mushrooms would be great, more cheese is OK and any good commercial sauce is fine. Mid's makes a roasted tomato sauce that is excellent. Add lasagna pasta if you want a true lasagna.

Roasted Tomato Sauce (A variation from Stonewall Cookbook)

15 cloves garlic

about 8 lbs tomatoes (cored and quartered)

10 medium onions, quartered

1 cup chopped fresh herbs (rosemary, basil, thyme, oregano, parsley, whatever etc)

about ¼ cup olive oil

1/2 teaspoon salt (may need more, taste after cooking)

generous grinding of black pepper

3 or 4 tablespoon sugar (optional)

Heat oven to 450. Use as shallow a roasting pan as possible that will still hold all the stuff. Peel garlic and chop 5 of them, leave the other 10 whole. In a large roasting pan gently toss together the tomatoes, garlic, oil, onions, herbs, salt and pepper. Roast for 25 minutes. Stir veggies. Roast another 25 minutes. Stir veggies. Roast for 45 minutes or until they are a golden brown. Remove and taste for seasoning, if bitter add the sugar. Also, you can add the following after about 50 minutes of roasting:

1/4 cup capers

1/2 cup black or green pitted olives

2 or 3 tablespoons of olive puree or tapanade

1 cup raw mushrooms

1 cup chopped vegetables (I used green peppers and summer squash or zucchini)

3 anchovy fillets

1/4 cup of red wine

A good dash of red pepper flakes

You may also puree 1/2 the sauce if you like a smoother sauce. We put it in zip bags and freeze. It will keep fresh in the refrigerator for 3 to 5 days or frozen for 10 months. None of it lasted 10 months ... we ate it within 3 months.

Must watch the end of the roasting because depending on the tomatoes, some may have less water and might over cook and burn. Mine turned out to have a deep brown caramel color around the edges but were pretty cooked down and one batch was more mushy than the other but all three batches were very good. Also, I was not too worried about the exact amounts of tomatoes, onions, and veggies as I made this to use up a tomato bounty. I also used a combo of rosemary (a full cup of rosemary is pretty strong so one good sprig is fine), oregano and thyme to make up a cup as I like those flavors together ... I am sure the exact types are not as important as the roasting method which brings out the sweetness of the veggies. Also, in one batch near the end I added several tablespoons of olive oil as I thought it needed a little extra fluid. Enjoy!