REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

An adventure for *life!*

Reflections

(614) 237-1263 VOL. 13, ISSUE 50 December 21, 2009

Together – *A Mosaic*

I am a puzzler. I like all kinds of puzzles, but I am most fond of jigsaw puzzles. I will work puzzles for hours, sometimes beyond a reasonable time of night to finish a certain section or complete a puzzle altogether. I especially enjoy photomosaic puzzles, which are tiny pictures within a bigger picture. In general, mosaic art intrigues me. I am drawn to the concept of combining individual pieces, colors or pictures to make a beautiful creation.

That's how I see our life together as a community of faith and as called Christians. We are each unique, with different gifts and abilities, different personalities, and different experiences. God calls us to use our unique qualities to respond to others' needs, both inside and outside Redeemer's doors. Together, we become a beautiful mosaic. Together, the body of Christ is built up and our faith is unified. Together, we become more mature in what it means to be a follower of Christ.

As we continue our look at spiritual gifts this week, think about how you are a part of this beautiful mosaic…

Peace, Kelley

Artistry: the gift that gives the believer the skill of creating artistic expressions that produce a spiritual response of strength and inspiration. Biblical References: Exodus 31:1-11, Psalm 149:3a.

Faith: the gift that gives a believer the eyes to see the Spirit at work and the ability to trust the Spirit's leading without indication of where it all might lead. Biblical References: Genesis 12:1-4a, Mark 5:25-34, I Thessalonians 1:8-10.

Intercession: the gift that enables a believer to pray with the certainty that prayer is heard and when requests are made, answers will come. Biblical References: Matthew 6:6-15, Luke 11:1-10, Ephesians 6:18.

Mercy: the gift that motivates a believer to feel deeply for those in physical, spiritual, or emotional need and then act to meet that need. Biblical References: Luke 7:12-15, Luke 10:30-37, Matthew 25:34-36.

Music--Instrumental: the gift that inspires a believer to express personal faith and provide inspiration and comfort through the playing of a musical instrument. Biblical References: Psalm 33:1-5, Psalm 150, I Samuel 16:14-23.

Shepherding: the gift that gives a believer the confidence, capability and compassion to provide spiritual leadership and direction for individuals or groups of believers. Biblical References: I Timothy 4:12-16, I Timothy 3:1-13, II Timothy 4:1-2.

Wisdom: the gift that allows the believer to sort through opinions, facts and thoughts in order to determine what solution would be best for the individual believer or the community of believers. Biblical References: I Corinthians 2:6-13, James 3:13-18, II Chronicles 1:7-11.

(To be continued next week)

OUR CONGREGATION

Ministers - All who gather here in the name of Jesus
Pastor - F. Allan Debelak
Secretary - Dolores Brannigan
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 – Margie Frazier
Vice Pres. – Gage Gosnell
Treasurer – Eileen Day
Financial Secretary - Bruce Collins
Secretary – Kay Ernsthausen

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPS.

Church in Society - Jenny Young
Evangelism – Jon Disbro
Fellowship - Becky Fisher
Finance – Brad Phillips
Member Care – Carol Heacock
Parish Ed - Michelle Clemence
Property – Maureen Callahan
Stewardship - Judith Bird
Worship - Wendy Stoica
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 – Jared Witt
1st year – Joe Brosious

GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

LESSONS

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ORDER OF WORSHIP – HYMNAL SUPPLEMENT

8:30 AM Holy Communion
11:00 AM Holy Communion

INTERCESSIONS & THANKSGIVINGS

+ For the people of Christ Lutheran Church in Heath.
+ For Redeemer members Dick and Hilda Kautz.
+ ***Each week we remember in our prayers in worship those who cannot be with us and those with special needs and concerns:*** Doris Bell, Jan Bouman, Rose Varga, Doretha Holland, Georgia Wegmeyer, Lois Monett, Barb Atkinson, Betty Hoops, Bebe McCoy, Ellen Kunce, Evelyn Fitch, Estella Kuemmel, Theresa Frazier, Vernon Schleppi, Julianne Johnson, Robin Stokes and Redeemer visitors.

WORSHIP LEADERS

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Sandra Metzler	Kathy Denhard
Acolyte	Rachel Metzler	Daniel Pawlowski
Reader	Carolyn Klopfer	Theresa Frazier
Cantor	N/A	N/A
Coordinator	Kathy Zwanziger	Dave Reinoehl
Ushers	Dick Kautz	Tony Naess
	Ed Klopfer	Jim Riley
Welcoming Team	Kathy Zwanziger	Tony Naess
	Paul Atkinson	Kathy Denhard
Hospitality	Michelle Clemence	TBA
Nursery	Tammy McFarland	Mary Lapham
	Jennifer Young (9:45)	

Communion Set-up Michele Disbro, Linda Williams, Wendy Stoica

RESPONSE TO VISITORS

Baked Goods Baker Linda Williams
Baked Goods Deliverer Mary Benis
Note-writer Leslie Roy

Food Pantry Delivery *Barb Connors*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Reclaiming the World - Pastor Al

THIS WEEK AT REDEEMER

DECEMBER 23-29

Wednesday
7:00 PM Beacon of Hope/Seventh Day Adventists – *Room 2*
8:30 PM OCA (Obsessive Compulsive Anonymous)

Thursday **Christmas Eve**
7:00 PM Lessons and Carols
11:00 PM Worship: Holy Communion

Friday **Christmas Day**
10:00 AM Worship: Holy Communion

Saturday
9 AM-3 PM Beacon of Hope/Seventh Day Adventists

Sunday
8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Holy Communion
5:30 PM Faith Mission (carpool from Redeemer

Monday
3:30-8 PM Cello Lessons
6:00 PM Fellowship Committee

Tuesday
5-7 PM Youth Expressions – *Rm. 4*

PRAYERS & PERSONALS

Prayers are asked for **Kristen Meckley** on the birth of her daughter **Adelyn Kathleen.**

+ + +

Prayers are also asked for **Theresa Frazier** who is home from the hospital.

REDEEMER COMMUNITY NEWS

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule Change

7 p.m. Lessons and Carols
11 p.m. Holy Communion

Worship Committee has changed the time of Redeemer's first Candlelight Christmas Eve liturgy from 7:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. to respond to requests from some families who have said the later time makes it impossible for them to attend.

This time change will also apply to midweek worship in Lent.

Church Secretary Position Open

PastorAl is currently gathering the names of anyone who might be interested in applying for the church secretary position following the retirement of Redeemer's long-time secretary **Dolores Brannigan** at the end of the year.

The hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. It will pay $12 per hour.

Please see **Pastor Al** if you are interested.

2010 Flower Chart

The chart for altar flowers for 2010 is on the kiosk. The cost per vase remains at $20. Please put a checkmark next to your name when you sign up to indicate you intend to take your flowers with you after the services otherwise the flowers will either be taken to one of Redeemer's shut-ins or used in the Narthex.

RLC Serves at Faith Mission Dec. 27

Redeemer will be serving at Faith Mission on Sunday, December 27 and is seeking donations of food, cash and time to help with the event. See the sheet on the kiosk to volunteer to assist with the meal.

A big thank you goes out to **David Curtis,** who ends his coordinating of Redeemer's involvement with serving Faith Mission meals with this dinner!

Anyone interested in picking up this volunteer activity should contact **Pastor Al.**

Items still needed for the dinner include the following:

* 12 14.5 oz. cans of chicken broth
* 8 cans of cut green beans
* 8 doz. fresh rolls
* 4 doz. cookies/brownies

An Encouragement Gift

A Redeemer household is planning to give a gift of $2,000 above their pledge for 2009 in order to encourage giving from people who call Redeemer home. The hope is to (1) stimulate giving beyond commitments for 2009; (2) stimulate new giving; (3) encourage visitor giving.

If you are "encouraged" to step into this adventure of giving, please make a note on either your check or the envelope in which you put your donation. The end of the year is often a time that brings our responsibilities for the year to an end and gives us a bit of a boost as we enter the next year.

Sign Up Now to Read Lessons

There are sign-up sheets on the kiosk for the two Sunday worship services for now through Sunday, February 14.

The readings are sent out the week before and there is a pronunciation guide posted on the kiosk to assist with some of the more difficult Biblical names.

Alternative Christmas Gift Ideas

Ever wondered what to get the person who seems to have everything already? Or the grandchild who really doesn't need another toy? The Church in Society Committee suggests considering alternative Christmas gifts this year. By choosing from this list, you could save a great deal of time, energy, gasoline, the frustration of standing in long lines – and help a "neighbor" who really needs some assistance in obtaining some of the basics of life.

- God's Global Barnyard: You can choose to give chickens, a goat, a pig – or any of several other options to someone in the world who could use the gift to sustain their own family and help others. Catalogs will be available in the Fellowship Area or go to:
http://community.elca.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=469

- Mosquito Net: To provide protection from disease for a family in a malaria-prone area. For a special occasion (e.g., a 50th birthday), challenge your friends to provide 50 nets.
https://community.elca.org/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=475&nccsm=21&__nccspID=997

- Faith Mission: For a donation of $39 you can feed and care for 19 people at Faith Mission. Hope begins with a meal and if you can pledge to give $39 each month for two months, you could help change the lives of 38 hungry people
http://www.faithmissionofohio.org/radiothon.php

- Lutheran Volunteer Corps: LVC changes lives every day, made possible by a dedicated, grassroots group of donors, alumni, congregations, and friends of LVC. Join with your time, talent, treasure, and prayers provided to help build a world focused on intentional community, social justice, simple and sustainable living.
http://www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org/

- Heifer International: Similar to God's Global Barnyard, a variety of items can be given to someone in need, such as a llama, a water buffalo, trees, a gift basket to begin a small business.
http://www.heifer.org/site/c.edJRKQNiFiG/b.204586/?msource=kw2795

- Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio: Consider a camper sponsorship for youth to attend a summer camp.
http://www.lomocamps.org/support/giving

- Habitat for Humanity: Help build a decent, affordable home by donating money for windows, faucets, a light switch, tools, a room, or other construction materials.
http://www.habitatgiftcatalog.org/site/PageServer?pagename=about

- International Rescue Committee (IRC): Dedicated to emergency response efforts in crisis situations around the world, gifts such as blankets, food rations, and carpentry tool

kits may be sent to areas around the world. http://www.fromharmtohome.org/?ms=em_fh2h_xxx_MAIN_bc_0919xx

Member Profile

Rachel Metzler is a busy, happy sophomore at Grandview Heights High School. She likes all of her subjects, especially the chance to be creative in art, and she participates in lots of extracurricular activities, too – soccer, swimming, softball, the school musical, and both marching and concert bands. Whew!

When she finds some truly free time, Rachel likes to be with friends, play on a Frisbee team, play board games, and listen to music.

Rachel lives with her mom and dad, two cats, and two dogs. Her two older brothers are away at college, and she's finding that she misses them, although she doesn't object to the reduced commotion.

Rachel enjoys being at Redeemer; she likes being with people with the same values and beliefs. She especially enjoyed the Luther League trip to New Orleans last summer – she found the guest speakers really inspiring.

The Wider Church

Bishop Addresses Variety of Subjects in Forum

Earlier this month, the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) the Rev. Mark Hanson hosted a "Town Hall Forum," fielding a variety of questions on topics such as leadership, mission, evangelism, anti-racism and racial justice matters, funding, churchwide staff reductions and actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

The forum was held as some ELCA congregations are considering leaving the denomination or withholding finances as a response to the actions of the 2009 churchwide assembly which made changes to ministry policies, creating the possibility for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as clergy and professional lay workers.

Hanson asked members to continue to discuss the assembly's actions and include those with differing opinions in those conversations; respect other points of view; and remain united as the ELCA. He addressed congregations that are redirecting or withholding funds to register disagreement with the assembly's actions.

"Let me tell you when that line is cut, mission and ministry is diminished throughout the world and throughout this church," he told the forum audience.

He said the ELCA is a church where all people "can teach and preach" with the integrity of their convictions on sexuality matters. The ELCA is also welcoming people who "are coming to faith or being renewed in their faith" because of the assembly's actions, Hanson said.

"We can be faithful Lutheran Christians and live with that tension in the same church body. Wouldn't it be wonderful if that became our witness?" he said. He said the concept of "bound conscience" remains a question for many, and there should be an "open" conversation about it. He added that "we live under the authority of Scripture," but members must keep asking each other "What does that mean?"

Hanson also commented on other topics:

+ **Leadership**: He urged leaders to focus on the complete picture of the ELCA through "a wide-angle lens" versus focusing on human sexuality issues. ELCA leaders and members need to encourage each other in their ministries, Hanson said.

+ **Mission**: Every synod should convene leaders to study how "vibrant ministries can happen in congregations," he said. Directors of evangelical mission are being placed in synods to help congregations grow as centers for mission, he said.

+ **Anti-racism education and racial justice**: Hanson said two full-time churchwide positions will be combined into one. That doesn't diminish the churchwide organization's commitment in this area, he said. He invited the audience to advise him on the new job description. Hanson also said that the churchwide organization is building groups to oversee churchwide anti-racism work, and to work with synods and congregations.

+ **Multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries**: Hanson reported that 13 new congregations will be planted in 2010 in multicultural, ethnic-specific communities throughout the ELCA. The ELCA Mission Investment Fund provided grant funds to make this possible, he said. Hanson also said the ELCA cannot use multicultural, ethnic-specific communities as "pawns" in a struggle over sexuality. He said the ELCA "needs to sustain these vibrant ministries."

+ **ELCA restructuring**: A task force has been appointed to study church structures and relationships throughout the ELCA, and changes that have taken place since the church was formed in 1988. Hanson said he was less concerned about structure than he is about mission. "We're in that study now. I can guarantee you that it will not be a top-down decision. It will be a conversation to which we invite the church."

+ **Ecumenical and global relationships**: The presiding bishop said that since the churchwide assembly, the ELCA has been working specifically to tend relationships with other churches in the United States and globally. Hanson said he hopes that in the next eight years, the ELCA can train 1,000 evangelists to help the church grow, informed by global companion churches. He also urged congregations to study the ELCA's social statements alongside real-life social challenges, such as health care.

Local Girl Scouts Encourage 3 R's

Junior Girl Scout Troop 2300 would like to encourage all people to practice the three R's – reducing, reusing, and recycling. This fall, the troop embarked on the Girl Scout Journey, "It's Your Planet – Love It!" They learned all about energy and how our energy usage impacts our planet. To finish up their journey, the girls planned a service project. They noticed how many plastic grocery bags that were used on a weekly basis and decided that they could reduce the use of these bags in the community by decorating reusable grocery totes.

If you would like to purchase some unique grocery totes for your use, please let Girl Scout Troop 2300 know how many you would like by contacting the troop at girlscouttroop2300@yahoo.com. The totes cost $3 each.

Please remember to reduce, reuse, and recycle!