



THE REDEEMER MESSENGER

1600 South Center Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

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APRIL 2017

Dear Christian friends of our crucified and risen Savior Jesus,

Please join us for our holiday meals and services, listed below, as often as you can!

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to worship Jesus with us.

Final Lent Midweek Soup Supper: Wednesday, April 5th, 5:45pm

Final Lent Midweek Service on “The Salutory Gift”: Wednesday, April 5th, 7:00pm

Palm Sunday Divine Service: April 9th, 9:00am

Pray the Litany: each day Monday through Friday, April 10th – 14th, 12:15pm

Holy Wednesday Divine Service with Examination, Confession and Absolution: April 12th, 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday Divine Service: April 13th, 7:00pm

Good Friday Divine Service: April 14th, 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Divine Service: April 16th, **8:00**am

Easter Breakfast: April 16th, 9:30am

Blessed Lent, Holy Week, and Easter to you, as we give thanks to our Lord Jesus for His suffering, death, and resurrection for us and for the whole world!

— Pastor Alex Post

USHERS FOR MARCH

Brad Pennington, Pat Lowry, Lou Riese,
Chad Callaway, Byron Rhodes

GREETERS

April	2	Patty Collins, Nancy DeKock
	9	Keven and Renee Kirk
	16	Marjean Meyer, Margo Wildung
	23	Rebecca Baedke, Craig Flanagan
	30	Stan and Sandra Linsenmeyer

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

April	2	Pat and Bonnie Lowry
	9	Joe and Jana Robertson
	16	Easter Brunch
	23	Brian and Tonya Alliger
	30	Kirk and Lisa Niehouse

AUDIO VIDEO TECH

April	2	Mike Stubbs
	9	Pat Lowry
	16	Charlie Swanson
	23	Keven Kirk
	30	Steve Runge

ATTENDING ELDERS

April	2	Roger Mathews, Pat Lowry
	9	Dennis Sickels, Charles Misek
	12	Charlie Swanson
	13	Steve Runge, Brad Sickels
	14	Pat Lowry, Dennis Smith
	16	Steve Runge, Dennis Smith
	23	Dennis Sickels, Brad Sickels
	26	Steve Runge
	30	Charlie Swanson, Sam Zoske

HOUSE OF COMPASSION

Thank you to everyone who helped cook and serve on March 7th. Your willingness to help is much appreciated. In 2017 we will cook and serve the 1st Tuesday of every month. Our next serving date is Tuesday, April 4th. Cooking starts at 2 p.m. and serving begins at 4:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Nancy DeKock, 753-7878. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered in the past for cooking, serving and working at the House of Compassion.

CHILDREN — GOD'S CREATION

“Daily learn the article of divine creation by looking at your children and offspring, who stand before you...Here you may behold the providence of God, who created them out of nothing.”^{Martin Luther's}

“Little Instruction Book”

“Lo, children are an heritage from the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” Psalm 127:3

Hello, Mater: A Note Especially to Parents with Young Children

- By Pastor Tim Pauls, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Boise, Idaho

Repetitio mater est studiorum. That’s Latin for “repetition is the mother of learning,” a watchword of education. Repetition and memorization go together. You repeat to memorize, and you memorize to learn.

At least, so it’s been in former times. A classical education school would have children memorize huge amounts of data (like Latin word forms) at a very young age, long before they understood the significance or meaning of much of it. It worked, too: As the children grew old enough to understand and process information, the data was already in place. Rather than spend time inputting basic building blocks of information, children could spend time constructing ideas. It’s little wonder why we hear of so many child prodigies in earlier centuries.

Repetition/memorization has fallen out of favor in recent decades in the realm of education, religious and otherwise. For one thing, memorization takes work, and there’s a hesitance to use techniques that children don’t consider “fun.” For another, there’s the temptation to believe that memorized articles of faith are “dead,” whereas a spontaneous statement of belief is living; in other words, it’s “more spiritual” if a child says something unplanned about God instead of the Apostles’ Creed—even if what the child says isn’t quite true.

The Small Catechism was written by Luther with repetition and memorization in mind; in fact, it’s no coincidence that you’ll find most of the word “echo” in catechism; it’s intended to be recited and heard over and over. It inputs the basic building blocks of the Christian faith, giving a foundation on which to build. At the same time, the basic truths are so deep as to be inexhaustible. At the age of 47, Dr. Martin Luther wrote:

I confess this freely as an example to anyone; for here am I, an old doctor of theology and a preacher, and certainly as competent in Scripture as such smart alecks. At least I ought to be. Yet even I must become a child; and early each day I recite aloud to myself the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and whatever lovely psalms and verses I may choose, just as we teach and train children to do. Besides, I must deal with Scripture and fight with the devil every day. I dare not say in my heart: "The Lord's Prayer is worn out; you know the Ten Commandments; you can recite the Creed." I study them daily and remain a pupil of the Catechism (AE 14:7).

We'll speak more of the use of the Catechism by adults next month. I write this now, however, especially to parents of young children: There is no better time to teach your child the Small Catechism than now. Here are a few reasons why...

1. A two-year-old can memorize better than you ever will again. This is why he can hear an irritating jingle on a commercial just once, then sing it back to you for eight hours in the car; and why he can recite to you, word for word, the video he's heard on how a steam locomotive works. He can't tell a piston from a pineapple, but the recitation will be absolutely accurate.

2. One of the toughest times to memorize is adolescence: At that time, youth are struggling with puberty, growing independence, peer pressure and adolescent anxieties. While it's a good time for connecting the dots in confirmation instruction (putting the building blocks together), it's not a good time for memorization (inputting the building blocks). Your children will thank you if they already have the memory work done before confirmation begins. They just may not tell you for twenty years or so.

3. Looking to the future and speaking of confirmation one more time, remember: Early memorization puts the building blocks in place so that the child has the data when he's ready to start building. Early memorization means that confirmation class can be devoted to

teaching the faith, not struggling to input the basic building blocks.

4. The greatest goal of small children is to be like their parents; this is why your young daughter always wants to hold the spatula that's in your hand, and why a socket wrench is far more fascinating than an electronic game with lights and sounds. Repeating "grown-up" words with Mom and Dad isn't work; it's getting to act like an adult. Act now! By age five, this is already starting to wear off.

5. These are easy family devotions! Each night at dinner, go around the table and learn three more words. (At that rate, the entire Small Catechism takes less than three years. In reality, it will take longer, but it's still achievable!) Along with a Bible story and prayer, this makes for easy family devotions. (Plus, at only three words a night, you can keep up with your kids!) Make this a part of devotions through the years: review, review, review. Repetition is, after all, the mother of learning.

6. Children like accomplishments and praise. They respond well to praise for their memorization, and are quite astounded to find that they can recite pages of a book by heart. This is a far worthier accomplishment than getting to level 10 of "Gonzo Goobers from Outer Space," or whatever the latest video game is.

7. Most importantly, memorizing the Small Catechism means memorizing the Word. (While the Apostles' Creed is not found in Scripture, it still proclaims Scriptural truth.) God's Word is a means of grace, and your child's young age does not prevent the Holy Spirit from working through the Word.

...Do they understand all the words and nuances? Nope. Neither do I. But the data's going in. The building blocks are being laid. The Word is being retained, and the Holy Spirit is at work. We won't wear out the Lord's Prayer or the Creed. The Lord will use these to our benefit, whatever our age may be.

The Lord be with you!

ASSIMILATION UPDATE

We have had two Lenten suppers as I write this note to you, the congregation - both providing good food, good company and willing workers. This Wednesday, March 22, will be the third supper followed by one on March 29 and April 5. Thank you for your contributions of food to accompany the main dishes and your donations to continue the work of the LWML and the Assimilation Board in our midst.

April finds us assisting the LWML with the Easter breakfast where we once again ask your assistance in bringing food for the brunch following Easter morning service.

Happy Spring!

Sandy Rhodes and the Board of Assimilation

**"Create
in me a
clean heart,
O God,
and put a
new
and right
spirit
within me."
Psalm 51:10**



The Culture of Life Respects the Elderly

by Ryan MacPherson

The honor that children owe to their parents does not end when children become adults or when parents become grandparents. Nor does this honor consist of mere lip service. As Luther explains in the *Large Catechism*:

We show them such honor also by works, that is, with our body and possessions, that we serve them, help them, and provide for them when they are old, sick, infirm, or poor, and all that not only gladly, but with humility and reverence, as doing it before God. For [the person] who knows how to regard them in his heart will not allow them to suffer want or hunger, but will place them above him [self] and at his side, and will share with them whatever he has and possesses.

In the culture of life, one's first reaction is not to put Grandma in a nursing home, but to open one's own home—to meet her needs, to share her burdens, and to celebrate the blessings God places in her life. The “majesty there hidden” does not fade with age; rather, as the proverb teaches us, **“The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, If it is found in the way of righteousness”**. True, **“[t]he glory of young men is their strength,”** but the Scriptures also teach that **“the splendor of old men is their gray head”**.

Let us not think lightly of the fact that Jacob blessed his children and his children's children when was well advanced in years. Young King Rehoboam, on the other hand, foolishly neglected the sage advice of his elders in favor of the youthful generation's short-sighted plans.

The culture of life respects human life at all its stages, recognizing that those who have lived long and well have much to offer those who are just beginning their journeys on this earth. Not only should the young respect the aging, but the elderly should also respect themselves with the honor God says is due them. If Grandpa is too weak to work, he is not too weak to pray. Let us cherish our parents and grandparents as they intercede on our behalf and pass down to their children's children the wisdom of the Lord.

In the face of grave illness, the culture of life acknowledges that God alone determines the length of our days. He granted King Hezekiah 15 additional years. **“My times,”** wrote the psalmist, **“are**

in your hand". Christ healed the sick, raised the dead, and proclaimed a living Gospel for this world and the next. Thus we pray, "**Deliver us from evil,**" which Luther expounds as follows:

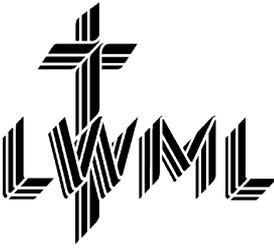
We pray in the petition...that our Fathers in heaven would deliver us from every evil of body and soul...and at last, when the hour of death shall come, grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven. (SC, Seventh Petition)

To protect our lives until the day that God chooses to be our last, the LORD has given the Fifth Commandment: "You shall not kill." The culture of life recognizes that "mercy killing," despite its friendly name, is *murder*; genuine mercy comforts the soul with Word and Sacrament and cares for the body as best one can. But to kill is to take away what God has given, to injure what God seeks to protect, to cut short what God has measured more abundantly than we can ask or imagine.

When, however, God has made clear that someone's death is imminent, then the culture of life teaches an acceptance of His will. The culture of life does not seek to preserve a life that no longer can be preserved but rather to respect both God's gift of life and God's timing for death. Life is ours to protect and cherish, but it is God's to prolong and God's to the end.

Amid difficult situations, the culture of life remembers that neither the avoidance of suffering for one's self nor the avoidance of watching a loved one suffer should be the highest priority. Instead, the culture of life discovers comfort in the face of tragedy by recalling the redemptive purpose of Christ's suffering. Suffering is real. Suffering is difficult. Even so, "**The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**"

In the culture of life, therefore, we "fear and love God, so that we do no bodily harm to our neighbor, but help and befriend him in every need." This we do for the sick as much as for the healthy, for the weak as much as for the strong, for the old as much as for the young. *The culture of life respects the elderly.*



"Give me an unwavering faith to follow Him all my days."

April is a busy month for the Altar Circle with changes of paraments, filling of candles and washing of linens. We often take for granted the dedication of the ladies entrusted with these timely duties. Thank you.

Nancy DeKock will be ordering Easter Lilies. Please contact her to order a plant in memory of someone, or for a special occasion. Cost is \$10.

A baby blanket and a gift certificate was presented to Liam Post, son of Pastor and Esther Post. We appreciate the quilters always taking care of supplying these blankets.

Remember Saturday, April 22nd is the Marshalltown Zone LWML Rally at Trinity Lutheran in State Center. Please call Deloris Clayton if you plan to attend.

The LWML ladies will serve chili, broccoli cheese and potato soup prior to the Wednesday, March 29th Lenten service.

Plans were made for the Easter potluck breakfast to be held after the early morning service. Setup will be Saturday, 9:30 am.

Deloris Clayton will be attending the LWML convention in Albuquerque, N.M. in June of this year.

Plan now to attend our next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 20th at 9:30 am. Lesson will be from the Spring Quarterly, page 16 entitled *Changeless*. All ladies of Redeemer are welcome.

Delores Popp

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
Thursday, March 16, 2017

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:02 PM. The Collect for 2nd Sunday in Lent was the opening prayer. Pastor Post led a Bible Study of John 16:1-4.

Members Present: President: Keith Egger; Pastor Alex Post; Financial Secretary: Charles Swanson; Elders Director: Steve Runge; Stewardship Director: Brian Mohr; Assimilation Director: Sandy Rhodes; Youth Ministry Director: Rheba Yost; Evangelism Director: Janelle Shatava; Church Property Director: Brad Pennington and President Secretary: Rebecca Baedke.

Members Absent: Second Vice President: Bruce Johnson; Treasurer Sam Zoske; and Social Ministry Director: Nancy DeKock.

Vacant Positions: First Vice President and Director of Parish Education.

The agenda was accepted as presented with additions of an AED machine and a building use policy. Rheba motioned, Brian seconded the minutes of the previous month be approved.

Statistical Report: Last month attendance averages were: Sunday morning: 102; Wednesday evening: 32; Sunday school 11 and Adult Bible class: 36. Member totals from last month were 325 Baptized and 258 Communicant. Membership changes consisted of reductions due to deaths of Paul Schaper, Shirley Ohlschlager and Helen Bryant; along with Mary Lu Wignall released upon request and Betty Buckley Howard removed upon request and Kimberly Newman removed at the 2016 annual meeting.

Financial Report: Sam Zoske absent. Charles Swanson presented financial reports. Rheba motioned, Steve seconded to approve the financial reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Board of Elders: Director Steven Runge reported the Elders met March 9 with Pastor Post and 5 elders in attendance.

1. Minutes of the February 9 Elder's meeting were approved.
2. Communion assistants for next month were scheduled.
3. Transportation assistance for those members that request rides was discussed.
4. Palm Sunday service April 9; Maundy Thursday, April 13 and Good Friday, April 14 at 7:00 pm; and Easter Service, April 16 at 8:00 am.
5. Pastor Post made 21 individual pastoral care home and shut in visits last month.
6. A possible Building Use Policy was discussed. The suggested policy from Iowa District East office was decided to be acceptable.
7. The next meeting of the Elders will be Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:00 PM.
8. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Board of Stewardship: Director Brian Mohr reported the next year contribution envelopes will be ordered and a discussion of additions of Lutheran's for Life envelopes may be included at no additional cost. Contacts will be made to families associated with undesignated memorial funds in an effort for those funds to be designated. Redeemer received an

anonymous donation of \$5,000 for the Organ Refurbishment Fund. Redeemer will also be receiving a bequest from the Gene Storjohann estate. Since the family has not specifically designated a use for the bequest, it will be placed in the Endowment Fund so the Endowment Fund Committee can make a recommendation for use of this money to the congregation. Brian will ask the family if memorial money given in honor of Gene may also be placed in the Endowment fund.

Board of Assimilation: Director, Sandy Rhodes reported

1. Lenten soup suppers will continue Wednesdays, at 5:45 pm through April 5.
2. April 16 an Easter brunch will follow the worship service.
3. The Reformation Committee has met and scheduled to meet again.

Board of Social Ministry: Director Nancy DeKock absent.

1. Tuesday, March 7 around 30 persons were served an evening meal at the House of Compassion by Redeemer members.
2. Tuesday, April 4, is the next date Redeemer members will serve again and volunteers will be appreciated.

Board of Parish Education: Position vacant. Adult instruction classes are continuing on Monday nights from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

Board of Evangelism: Director Janelle Shatava reported having

1. Contacted the Marshalltown Convention and Visitor Bureau and a Community Visitor about Redeemer information being including for new Marshalltown residents.
2. As new brochures are made, a new photo will be taken for the front of the brochure.

3. Janelle shared a Sunday Times Republican publication which included an ad for Redeemer. One Sunday prior to Easter Redeemer will have a full page in addition to a smaller ad in each of the other Sundays prior to Easter.

Board of Youth Ministry: Director Rheba Yost stated there was nothing new to report.

Board of Church Property: Director Brad Pennington reported the board met February 22 to discuss

1. Pew alteration recommendations, LED lighting and a future storage room cleanup project. A congregational meeting will be scheduled to discuss pew alterations.
2. The Marshalltown Water Works has refunded the storm water charges for the parsonage overcharged back to two years prior to November 2016. Brad will follow up with the City engineer department on the amount being charged to the church.
3. A first aid kit and CPR mask were purchased and placed atop the square kiosk near the parish hall restroom.
4. One sanctuary light fixture in the sanctuary has been upgraded to LED lighting and additional lights will be upgraded in the future.
5. Though the fire alarm battery backup continues to beep, it does continue to work properly. The spring inspection will be scheduled to be looked into further.

President Report: Keith reported Redeemer received \$164 in Thrivent Choice Dollars last month, for a total of \$171 received in 2017.

Old Business:

1. Rheba reported photos of new members will be taken for a photo directory on March 26, 29 and April 2. Addresses are being verified before being added to the directory.

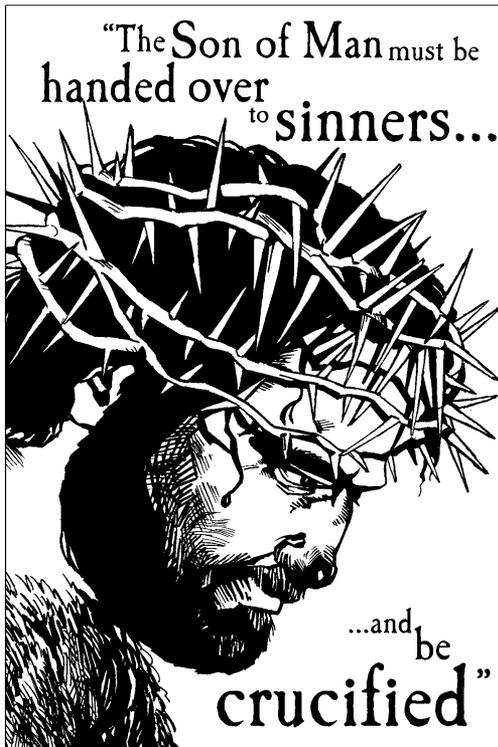
2. Features and cost of an AED machine for the church was discussed. Further checking will be done for a lower cost than the \$1,295 currently found.

3. The Elders reviewed the Building Use Policy. Brad will consult with our insurance provider for feedback about the policy.

This Church Council will next meet on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at 7:00 pm. Steve motioned and Rheba seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm. Motion carried. Pastor led the Evening Prayer to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca J Baedke



A Man(sion) for All Seasons — Matthew 7:24-29

by Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life

Rain is gonna getcha regardless. Foolish man built his house on sand. Rain fell, floods came, winds blew. The wise man built his house on rock. Rain fell, floods came, winds blew.

Conclusion: expect weather anyway. You can't avoid it. Forecast: clouds, cold and soggy; fronts, dark and heavy; storms, stinging and blinding.

These kinds don't just mess up hair and houses. These ones mess up hearts and hopes. "In this world you will have tribulation." "We are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered," "always being given over to death for Jesus' sake." We suffer being ridiculed and excluded. We get labeled and discriminated. Neighbors slander and once-trusted associates sabotage because we speak truth. Enemies harass us and allies humiliate because we share good.

Even Jesus couldn't elude it. Incarnate God also went through it. He came unto His own, and they received Him not. The thirteen apostles, also all martyred. Hundreds of others under synagogues and Sanhedrins. Further thousands at the hands of Caesars and sultans. Millions more by heathens and hedonists. No matter how much you try or have, you can't escape the weather. Rain's gonna getcha.

But don't settle into a persecution complex just yet. Hold up before playing the victim. What will we build while we're still tearing down? The floods and gusts begin within, don't they. You and I are the danger. Even if we're passionately life-affirming, enthusiastically scriptural, and intensely Christian, we do not do the good we want, if we want it at all. No, the evil we don't want, or which we sometimes do desire, this we practice.

We give in to instincts for complaining and name-calling. We imagine ourselves superior to that tax collector or that prostitute. We malign the misguided compassion of our counterparts while manifesting none of our own. We self-righteously beat others with Bibles, but only the sections that suit us. We repeat provocative

rhetoric and sarcasm. We pelt them with pieces of their own crumbling structures instead of hearing their deep-down pleas.

Are we defending lives by destroying lives? Does our God only differ from theirs in size? Robbing children to pay their father only infuriates both. How can we talk like every life matters when we treat so many otherwise? Stones thrown even at enemies only come from walls sheltering oneself. Law cannot spare anyone, either by placating God or implicating another.

Good thing we don't have to shelter ourselves. The Good Lord sweeps aside all self-made sanctuaries. Before rubble buries us, He situates us instead inside His own impregnable castle. We find refuge behind the Son of the Living God. Heavenly Word has become human substance. This stricken rock streams forth a water that cleanses and quenches. This rolled-back boulder reveals convictions overturned and an arms-outstretching Father. The Crucified Carpenter weathered the storms we brought on. He withstood God's wrath and evicted the evil one for our everlasting life.

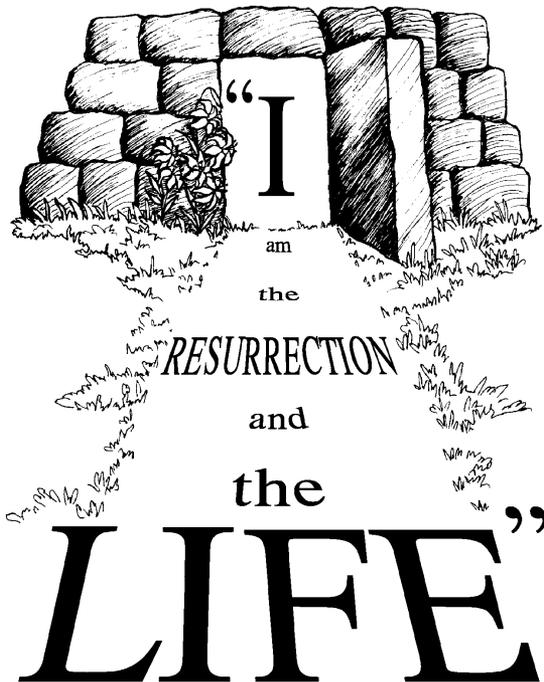
From sin's judgment flood, He's emerged alive again. Now He builds dwelling places from the beams He bore. He encompasses failures within walls of compassion. He encircles sinners with stacked-up stories of unconditional acceptance. He encloses rejects and runts in halls of beloved forgiveness. He cradles bothers and freaks in closets of joy and cabinets of hope.

His household about you stands against even the worst ambushes and offensives Satan and sinful flesh send after you. Believe it yourself with a blessed abandon. Cling to Him as your own and claim yourself His. Derive your security from His baptismal fatherliness. Obtain your solace in His eucharistic closeness. The Lord Jesus is a man(sion) for all seasons. So what will you do with the extra? The wise man's house has not fallen. Rains and winds may come, but gates of hell shall not prevail. Awfully, however, falls the foolish one's house. Fools just like us writhe in the wreckage of makeshift shacks. And here we stand with roofs and rooms to spare. What will come to buffoonish hearts whose homes were blown down?

What of the deceived and the desperate? What about those abandoned or ashamed? How will the unborn and the elderly end up? Are they not also fashioned, forgiven, longed for, and sought after by Father, Son, and Spirit? We can take part in their rescue. We get to speak truth and trust it changes hearts. We must show love and know it saves lives. We will ensure the same respect and protection for them as we enjoy.

We will listen the way Jesus receives. We will accompany them as He abides beside us. We will brave the hurt and befriend the injured like He finds us and binds us up. We will treat them as special to heaven's whole household until we behold what He foresees; His estate filled to all degrees and festive unto unending days. Amen.

Life Date, Spring 2017



John 11:25

BIBLE QUIZ

While Jesus was dying on the cross, who mocked him, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself?”

- A. Priests
- B. Scribes
- C. Elders
- D. All of the above



EASTER JOY

Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. One gives most who gives with joy. The best way to show our gratitude to God and people is to accept everything with joy.



A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the Christ risen.

— Mother Teresa

**JESUS
LIVES!
The Victory Is Won!**

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
1600 South Center Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158**

Address correction requested