



# THE REDEEMER MESSENGER

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AUGUST 2015

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## **Harrison says U.S. Supreme Court got it wrong on marriage ruling**

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;  
God will help her when morning dawns.  
The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress (Psalm 46:1–7).*

A one-person majority of the U.S. Supreme Court got it wrong – again. Some 40 years ago, a similarly activist court legalized the killing of children in the womb. That decision has to date left a wake of some 55 million Americans dead. Today, the Court has imposed same-sex marriage upon the whole nation in a similar fashion. Five justices cannot determine natural or divine law. Now shall come the time of testing for Christians faithful to the Scriptures and the divine institution of marriage (Matthew 19:3–6), and indeed, a time of testing much more intense than what followed *Roe v. Wade*.

Like *Roe v. Wade*, this decision will be followed by a rash of lawsuits.

Through coercive litigation, governments and popular culture continue to make the central post-modern value of sexual freedom override “the free exercise of religion” enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

The ramifications of this decision are seismic. Proponents will seek to drive Christians and Christian institutions out of education at all levels; they will press laws to force faithful Christian institutions and individuals to violate consciences in work practices and myriad other ways. We will have much more to say about this.

During some of the darkest days of Germany, a faithful Lutheran presciently described how governments lose their claim to legitimate authority according to Romans 13.

The Caesar cult in its manifold forms, the deification of the state, is one great form of the defection from the [true] idea of the state. There are also other possibilities of such defection. The government can forget and neglect its tasks. When it no longer distinguishes between right and wrong, when its courts are no longer governed by the strict desire for justice, but by special interests, when government no longer has the courage to exercise its law, fails to exercise its duties, undermines its own legal order, when it weakens through its family law parental authority and the estate of marriage, then it ceases to be governing authority.

Raising such a question can lead to heavy conflicts of conscience. But it is fundamentally conceivable, and it has time and again become reality in history, that a governing authority has ceased to be governing authority. In such a case there may indeed exist a submission to a superior power. But the duty of obedience against this power no longer exists. [Hermann Sasse, “What Is the State?”(1932)]

As faithful Christians, we shall continue to be obedient to just laws. We affirm the human rights of all individuals and the inherent and equal value of all people. We respect the divinely given dignity of all people, no matter their sexual preference. We recognize that, under the exacting and demanding laws of God, we are indeed sinners in thought, word and deed, just as are all (Romans 3:9ff.). We confess that the “blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanses us from all our sins” (1 John 1:7). We confess that God’s divine law of marriage and the entire Ten Commandments apply to all, and that so also the life-giving sacrifice of Christ on the cross is for all. It is a “righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe” (Romans 3:22).

However, even as we struggle as a church to come to a unified response to this blatant rejection of the entire history of humankind and its practice of marriage, “*We shall obey God rather than man*” (Acts 5:29). Christians

will now begin to learn what it means to be in a state of solemn conscientious objection against the state. We will resist its imposition of falsehood upon us, even as we continue to reach out to those who continue to be harmed by the ethic of radical sexual freedom, detached from God's blessing of marriage. And we will stand shoulder to shoulder with Christians, churches and people of good will who are resolute on this issue. God help us. Amen.

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison



**USHERS FOR AUGUST**

Warren Nash, Brandon Yost, Bruce Johnson,  
Dennis Smith, Matt Smith

**GREETERS**

- August 2 Luella Weber
- 9 Roger and Betty Westling
- 16 Edwin and Mary Lu Wignall
- 23 Richard and Ardis Wolf
- 30 Brandon and Rheba Yost

**FELLOWSHIP COFFEE**

- August 2 Charlie and Julee Swanson
- 9 Edwin and Mary Lu Wignall
- 16 Keven and Rene Kirk
- 23 Chad and Shauna Callaway
- 30 Denny and Penny Hegdahl

## ATTENDING ELDERS

August 2	Ken Breinig, Brian Mohr
12	Keith Egger
16	Dennis Sickels, Brad Sickels
23	Pat Lowry, Charles Misek
26	Steve Runge

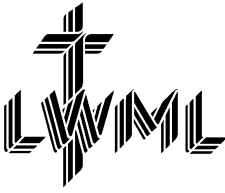
## AUDIO VIDEO TECH

August 2	Pat Lowry
9	Charlie Swanson
16	Keven Kirk
23	Steve Runge
30	Warren Nash

## LADIES THEOLOGICAL BOOK CLUB

This summer the Ladies Theological Book Club will be reading *Pew Sisters* by Katie Schuermann. This book of devotions is recommended for every woman—even if you cannot come to the book club meetings. *Pew Sisters* tells about the lives of 12 very different women with very different struggles. Their hope is in Christ, just as is ours. This book not only helps us to relate to our other sisters in Christ, but continuously points us to Christ, no matter what we are facing in life. There are a few copies in the parish hall. Feel free to take one and peruse it during coffee hour or even at home. If you wish to keep it for yourself or a friend, please give Esther Post \$10 to cover the cost of the book; otherwise just return it to the church. This summer we will be meeting to discuss *Pew Sisters* on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at Pizza Ranch at 6:30 p.m. You can join us for any or all of the meetings.

August 10<sup>th</sup>, Chapters 9-12



Over 4,600 people attended the LWML Convention held June 25-28 in Des Moines, IA.

LCMS President, Reverend Dr. Matthew Harrison brought greetings from the Synod and encouraged the ladies "to be who you were called to be." Thanking the ladies for reaching their \$1.8 million Mite Goal for the past two years he commented that he had not brought his banjo, but, "if you allow me I'll bring the whole Blue Grass band to the next convention in Salt Lake City in 2017, if you reach your goal of \$2 million."

The convention days were blessed with many inspirational speakers, daily Bible Studies and a large hall filled with various exhibits. A number of servant projects on Thursday morning included assembling Braille material, writing cards of encouragement to cancer patients, making 2,000 bracelets to be distributed at the Iowa State Fair by the LLL, making dresses out of pillow cases for Haiti, crocheting mats for the Homeless from bread wrappers, marking Bibles for the Prison Ministry and some ladies were working on quilts. In addition, 85 units of blood were donated for the Life Serve Blood Center. Oh, what a production the three days turned out to be. Praise the Lord for all the ladies who donated time.

A list of the 19 projects selected for our Mites will be posted on our church bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Thanks to all who donated food, or helped in the kitchen and dining area for the funeral of Don Clayton and the pending memorial for Leonard Gummert.

A word of appreciation to all who stayed after the Wednesday evening Worship Service on July 15th to set up tables and chairs. We are so grateful for many dedicated members willing to help out.

If you are interested in attending the LWML Retreat Sept. 18-19 please contact Deloris Clayton for more information.

Delores Popp

## The Christian Responds to Questions About Marriage

- From *Christian Citizenship* by Linda Bartlett, June 2015

Many Christians are busy raising their children, teaching Scripture, volunteering at caring pregnancy centers, feeding the poor, advocating for orphans, and helping their neighbors. Yet, as “gay marriage” is quickly being accepted across the country, Christians are accused of being unloving and judgmental. In a society where secular opinions oppose the Word of God, how can the Christian respond? What follows are a few questions and answers.

**Q: Our nation is built on equality. Marriage is the civil rights issue of our time. Isn't it unfair and bigoted to deny same-sex marriage?** **A:** We believe in equality, but we don't believe in the interchangeability of male and female. A black man and a white man are both equal. There is no essential difference. And every person does have the same right to get married, but the question is, “What is marriage?” We believe that marriage is instituted by God and, therefore, defined by God. According to His design, marriage requires one man and one woman. The way in which the woman was created indicates that she is the man's divinely designed complement. In Genesis 1:21, we see the Lord God taking something from the man (a rib) and making a helper suitable for him (v. 18). The woman is like the man (“bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh”) but differentiated from the man. The woman is not animal nor another man, but exactly what the man needs: a suitable helper, equal to the man but compatibly different. She is an *shah* taken out of *ish* (Hebrew for female and male).

**Q: Aren't you just imposing your religious views on other people?** **A:** Jesus Christ defines marriage as one man and one woman (Mt. 19:4-5). The nature of the one-flesh union as defined by God presupposes the joining of a male and a female. But we can view this from a biological perspective as well. The act of sexual intercourse brings a man and a woman together as one relationally and organically. The sameness of the parts in same-sex activity does not allow for the two to become one in the same way. Nor does it allow them to procreate and bring life into the world. Two men or two women joined together are incomplete. Each individual person has a complete pulmonary, cardiovascular, and skeletal system, but the biological system is incomplete. It becomes whole

and functional only with the physical union of a man and a woman. Every child has a biological mother and father. Marriage is the only institution that takes this biological fact seriously. It is true that procreation is not required for a marriage to be valid, but by nature and design marriage is the only one-flesh commitment and union that can produce offspring.

**Q: Why shouldn't two people who love one another be allowed to marry?** **A:** It's not illegal for two men or two women to love one another or even share living space together. The right question is: Should a society change the millennia-old definition of marriage and, if so, what will the impact be?

**Q: Proponents of same-sex "marriage" claim that no one will be hurt. Isn't this true?** **A:** Same-sex "marriage" negatively impacts children who do best when raised in a home with their married mother and father. It negatively impacts inn-keepers, florists, bakers, and photographers who politely decline to use their talents and businesses to participate in same-sex ceremonies and are harassed, taken to court, and burdened by crippling fines. Parents who do not want their children being taught to accept as normal the practice of homosexuality, two mommies or two daddies, and same-sex "marriage" will quickly learn that the legalization of same-sex "marriage" will override their parental rights. At stake, over all, are parental and children's rights, religious freedom, and free speech. (Sources: *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality* by Kevin DeYoung and "Talking Marriage" by Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer <http://www.blogs.lcms.org/2015/talking-marriage>) Suggested Bible studies are "What Is Marriage" by Rev. Richard Eyer and "Why Marriage Matters" by Rev. Timothy Pauls, both available from [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org) (click on "social issues").

***PLEASE PRAY*** that people of God faithfully bear witness to the Truth even in the dark ages of sin . . . in Jesus' name.

### **WHAT CAN WE GIVE GOD?**

"We cannot give God anything; for everything is already His, and all we have comes from Him. We can only give Him praise, thanks and honor."

Martin Luther's Little Instruction Book

We all have favorite Bible passages. We cherish these passages because they are God's Word and also because these precious nuggets have served us well to comfort, encourage, and to teach. If we were sitting around a campfire talking about our favorites, this would be one of mine -- and maybe yours. — Karen Frohwein

*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42*

## **CONTINUE STEADFAST IN CHRIST ... TOGETHER**

"Oh, you are part of that church ... the one that is against ..." As conservative Lutheran Christians we are constantly being labeled. Half the time those who label us don't bother to ask why we oppose certain things, they seem simply to assume we are narrow minded hateful little people who want to run people's lives. Yikes! How annoying! That's not who we are at all!

Sometimes when we are labeled or personally attacked, we begin to question whether we've gone too far. Are we going too far when we teach the doctrine of fellowship? Are we being too judgmental when we practice "close communion"? Are we being "holier than thou" when we refuse to pray with other people who claim to be Christian?

This passage helps me a great deal. It tells me what was important to the early church, to Jesus' disciples and other new believers just after the Lord's Ascension into heaven. What things did they cherish and hold fast to?

They continued carefully in the Apostles' doctrine which was given them by Christ. They didn't branch off into new areas or establish new teachings based on first century views. They stuck with Jesus' teachings communicated to the Apostles.



They stuck together for mutual comfort and encouragement. God places us in families (a congregation is a family) so that we may encourage and comfort one another.

They communed together. The expression "breaking bread" may refer simply to eating together, but sometimes it plainly refers to the Lord's Supper. We are many, yet we come together to partake of the one bread.

They prayed together. They were a community created by the Spirit, and so they prayed together.

We aren't the church against everything! We stand for Christ and His Word. Let the "haters" hate. God help us to continue in Christ's Word, to comfort and encourage one another, to come humbly to His table and to pray together.

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These devotions are archived at  
<http://xrl.us/edevotions>

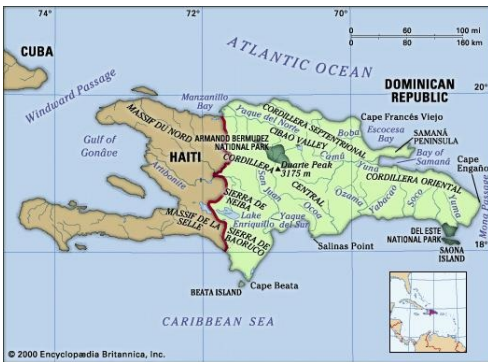
### **HOUSE OF COMPASSION**

Thank you to everyone who helped cook and serve on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Your willingness to help is much appreciated. In 2015 we will be cooking and serving the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month. Our next serving date is Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. 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.

*“Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary...that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in every nation” (Luke 24:46-47).*

Dear fellow redeemed in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am very grateful for this tremendous opportunity God has granted me to serve Christ’s Church as a missionary in the Dominican Republic. My family and I are committed to the great task before us, and we are confident that God will keep His promise to have His Word preached in every nation. As we embark on this journey, we would love for you to join us with your prayers, financial support, and in as many other ways as God gives you opportunity and ability. What follows is a brief introduction about the Dominican Republic and the work God is calling me to accomplish there.



The Dominican Republic (DR) is located southeast of the coast of Florida in the Caribbean Sea. The DR shares the beautiful Island of Hispaniola with the country of Haiti to the west. The Dominican side of the island is the most visited tourist destination in the Caribbean, but it

struggles economically and socially. The Spanish speaking DR has been predominantly Roman Catholic since Christopher Columbus discovered the island in 1492 and established the first settlement of the New World in Santo Domingo.

The Dominican Lutheran Mission operates in the LCMS Region of Latin America and the Caribbean using a variety of people and resources to serve a united goal: to plant evangelical Lutheran congregations through the proclamation of the gospel and

administration of the sacraments. The team works through the LCMS Office of International Mission in partnership with the LCMS, Bethesda Lutheran Communities, South Wisconsin and English Districts, St. Michael Lutheran (Ft. Myers, FL), LCMS congregations, international partner churches and many other individuals and groups. Our prayer is that, by God's grace, these mission plants will (1) remain faithful to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, (2) use their resources wisely to promote mission and growth, (3) support theological education at all levels, (4) care for the well-being of church workers and their families, and (5) continue unfaltering in their works of mercy, especially towards those who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. God grant us success!



My task as a member of the Dominican Lutheran Mission team will be twofold: church planter and theological educator. As a church planter, I will work alongside Rev. Ted Key, Regional Director of Latin America and the Caribbean, serving as pastor in

the already existing churches and exploring new opportunities for future church plants in the greater region of Santiago. Wherever such congregations are planted in Jesus' name, our missionary team builds houses of mercy—elementary schools, institutions for the care of the developmentally disabled, etc.—within the vicinity of the congregation. Five such congregations and accompanying mercy houses have already been established in the Dominican localities of: Las Americas, Pueblo Nuevo-Santiago, Palmar Arariba, Casa Hoar- Lice, and Los Minas Santo Domingo.

As a theological educator, I will teach confessional Lutheran theology to future Dominican pastors. Over the past five years, two recurrent theological courses have been offered in residence by professors of Concordia Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In addition to local conferences sponsored by Luther Academy and a range of Pastor/Seminarian retreats for further education, I plan to work in tandem with visiting professors from Argentina and the United States to provide intensive courses in Lutheran dogmatics for our seminarians. Eventually, we hope to form a full time seminary faculty and studentry in our seminary building, Seminario Luterano El Reformador. The building was constructed

four years ago in the town of Palmar Arariba, just northwest of Santiago. Should God grant us success, I will become a member of the future seminary faculty after serving a couple of years as church planter and becoming acquainted with Dominican life, and learning to communicate in Spanish.

Right now my family's journey is just beginning, and once we are able to establish enough support for this exciting and important work we will be able to move to the Dominican Republic and begin our work. We are humbled by this opportunity to work with the Dominican missionary team and are confident that God will bless the faithful preaching of His gospel. I would be happy to talk with you about the DR, and how God can use you to partner with us as we work together in His Mission.

In the enclosed materials, you can learn more about the work ahead of us, and how to be a financial and prayer partner. You can also visit [www.lcms.org/preus](http://www.lcms.org/preus), check out our Facebook page, "The Preus Family in the Dominican Republic," email me at [david.preus@lcmsintl.org](mailto:david.preus@lcmsintl.org), or call me directly at 406-694-6906.

Thank you for your interest in God's Mission in the Dominican Republic.

In Christ,

*Rev. David Preus*

Pastor David Preus

LCMS Missionary to the Dominican Republic

## **REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

Thursday, July 16, 2015

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Keith Egger. The Collect for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity was read as an opening prayer. John 8:31-47 served as a Bible study.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President: Keith Egger; Pastor Alex Post; Financial Secretary: Charles Swanson; Board of

Stewardship: Brian Mohr; Board of Assimilation: Sandy Rhodes; and President Secretary: Rebecca Baedke.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Second Vice President: Bruce Johnson; Treasurer: Sam Zoske and Board of Elders: Steve Runge; Board of Social Ministry: Nancy DeKock and Board of Church Property: Edwin Wignall.

VACANT POSITIONS: First Vice President, Director of Parish Education; Board of Evangelism and Director of Youth Ministry.

The agenda was followed, though with no quorum, no official meeting took place. The minutes of the previous month were read.

STATISTICAL REPORT: Last month attendance averages were: Sunday morning: 94; Wednesday evening: 16; Adult Bible class: 33. Member totals last month were 314 Baptized and 250 Communicant, increase due to Evelyn Gummert having transferred to Redeemer from Trinity Lutheran, Dillon, Iowa.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Sam Zoske absent and Charles Swanson shared financial reports, which were reviewed.

BOARD OF ELDERS: Director Steven Runge, absent. A written report of the July 9 meeting with Pastor Post and seven (7) elders in attendance was submitted:

1. Pastor led devotions and continued study of the book, "Pastors and Elders".
2. Communion assignments were designated for the next two months.
3. Pastor Post made 32 pastoral care visits last month.
4. Non-attending member were discussed.
5. There will be two sixth grade confirmands this coming academic year.
6. There are five individuals currently attending Pastor's adult instruction class.

7. Elders will not meet in August due to vacations and other commitments.

8. The next Elder's meeting will be Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 PM.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: Director Brian Mohr had nothing new to report

BOARD OF ASSIMILATION: Director Sandy Rhodes reported:

2. Sunday, July 19th will be a brunch at Redeemer following the worship service.

4. In August activities scheduled for September will be shared.

BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY: Director Nancy DeKock, absent, no report.

Thanks to plenty of help, Redeemer members served around 40 persons in July.

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION: Position vacant.

Pastor Post reported attendance of the adult instruction class has been good. Evelyn Gummert and others may be received as new members on July 26 or August 2nd.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Position vacant. No report.

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTY: Director Edwin Wignall absent, no report

PRESIDENT REPORT: President Egger reported Redeemer received \$86 Thrivent Choice Dollars at the beginning of July, making \$2,293 the total received in 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. No new information was known regarding the Men's Room Remodeling project.

2. Vernon Beachy applied new shingles to the parsonage roof on July 10th.
3. Three examples of Lutheran Service Builder Sunday Morning bulletins were shared by Brian and Pastor Post with the Council.
4. Ray of Bjelland Plumbing, Ed Wignall, Byron and Sandy Rhodes, David Gray, Iowa Bath Systems and Keven Kirk each looked at the parsonage bathroom. The entire bathroom, attic and basement were examined to discover the cause of the dampness and mildew issue which has not yet been resolved. The exhaust fan will be replaced, after thorough cleaning made little to no improvement. Assessment of whatever else may be necessary to resolve the dampness and mildew issue will follow. Once the moisture issue is resolved, work will be done to clean and improve the deteriorated condition of the bathroom.

This Church Council will meet again on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Pastor Post led Luther's Small Catechism's Evening Prayer to close this unofficial meeting at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca J Baedke



**“Store up for yourselves treasures  
in heaven, where moth & rust do  
not destroy, & where thieves do not  
break in and steal.”**

**M a t t h e w 6 : 1 9**

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**Address correction requested**