



# THE REDEEMER MESSENGER

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JULY 2015

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## **According to your Vocation ... SPEAK!**

BY REV. MATTHEW M. TOOMAN, DISTRICT LIFE  
COORDINATOR — NEBRASKA

*“Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”* (Proverbs 31:8–9)

This passage presents quite a challenge to the church of our day. We can see in these words a call to be active in speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Lurking in them is a push into political activity. How can one “open your mouth” or “defend the rights” of other people without a political result? Other people will surely push back, and then you have a debate. Can this action be quiet action, or does it by nature require making a little bit of noise?

In the church, and especially in the Lutheran church, there seems to exist inertia toward silence. Our voice is often muted — not by our culture, but by ourselves. “We will just let our actions be our witness,” we say. Actions are good, but without words will those actions persuade and convince others of what you believe in your heart? Must not words and actions accompany one another?

We believe that the Bible tells us the truth. The Bible comes to us through the Law and the Prophets and through the revelation of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We believe that hearts are changed through the preaching of God’s Word. How can we remain silent and at the same time believe that it is the Word of God that changes hearts? We must use language and words so that people can know Jesus. This

Word of God brings both Law and Gospel to the world, and people must speak it. In as much as this is true for the entire message of the Gospel, it is also true regarding the message that God values life.

Sometimes people think congregations have called pastors to be their voice, and that is true. Pastors are to forgive the repentant and withhold forgiveness from those who are not repentant, and this is done for and on behalf of the congregation. In this context, pastors will speak about important biblical issues, including life issues. They will tell people that abortion is evil and contrary to the will of God. They will proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is the proper context for sexuality. They will give advice regarding the proper perspective on end-of-life issues. Pastors will cherish and speak for people with disabilities and remind people that Jesus died to save all people. Then, where people are secure in their sins, even those embodying issues of life, pastors will keep preaching the Law. Where people are terrified because of their sins, even those embodying issues of life, pastors will give the comfort of the Gospel — the forgiveness of sins. They speak as the spiritual leaders of a congregation.

Are the voices of the pastors enough to influence and change the culture?

In World War II, the Nazi government of Germany killed 11 million people. Many German people saw this evil, but only a few spoke. Maybe they saw and turned a blind eye because they were afraid and didn't want to speak. Let us not, though, hold the German people in too great a derision. How can we, with our freedom, sit back and refrain from speaking when nearly 3,000 people are killed every day with salt solutions, knives and vacuums? They are killed in a place that is to be most protected — the mother's womb. How can anyone who believes that this is evil keep from speaking out for those "who cannot speak for themselves"?

So, how do we speak? How do we overcome this inertia of silence? One might start with Matt. 28:19–20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The first part of verse 19 could be translated, based upon the grammar provided in the Greek, “In the way of your going out make disciples...” This assumes that people have lives. This assumes that you go out of your house every single day to carry out some good work that God has laid before you to do. This is where God calls His people to speak. He calls people to speak according to the life that He has given. You have a circle of people in your life to whom you can speak and to whom you are called to share God’s Word. “In the way of your going out...” is where you are given to speak passionately and compassionately for those who are in danger — both physically and spiritually. You may not be a pastor, but you are a forgiven child of God with influence and reach, and you can speak God’s Word so that more people might know Jesus. As you do, remember to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

In that vein, evaluate the ways in which you might increase “the way of your going out.” Are there community activities where you might add your voice to a larger crowd? Does your congregation sponsor pro-life activities that you might easily join? Is there an organization in your church that speaks out on the issues of life? There are so many places and so many contexts where we can speak for those who cannot speak! Let us seek them out, and let us speak!

— *Notes for Life, Volume 10, Issue 1, Spring 2015*

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***Adult Instruction*** continues on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Please consider joining us, even for just one session. Encourage those who take instruction by greeting them before worship and by praying for them. Pray that God continues to call everyone into His Church and that He proclaims His mercy to all people through each of us!

## **USHERS FOR JULY**

Gene Storjohann, Dennis Sickels, Brad Sickels  
Jim Eipperle, Sam Zoske

## **GREETERS**

July 5 Mike and Eileen Stanley  
12 Gene Storjohann, Jerry Willems  
19 Charles and Julee Swanson  
26 Karen Warnhoff, Marge Wengert

## **FELLOWSHIP COFFEE**

July 5 Edwin and Mary Lu Wignall  
12 Nancy DeKock, Patty Collins  
19 Brunch  
26 Byron and Sandy Rhodes

## **ATTENDING ELDERS**

July 5 Ken Breinig, Brian Mohr  
8 Keith Egger  
19 Roger Mathews, Charlie Swanson  
22 Steve Runge  
26 Steve Runge, Sam Zoske

## **AUDIO VIDEO TECH**

July 5 Keven Kirk  
12 Steve Runge  
19 Warren Nash  
26 Mike Stubbs

## **AN EMPIRE FOR A ROSE**

*“If a man could make a single rose, an empire should be given him. But, because of their commonness, innumerable gifts of God are not appreciated.”*

*Martin Luther’s Little Instruction Book*

## **President Harrison offers words of comfort, hope regarding South Carolina shootings**

Another brutal and senseless killing spree by a crazed gunman, motivated by racial hatred, sends our thoughts swirling between despair and numbness. Why were these nine Christians martyred as they were taking in the life-giving Word of God in Christian Bible study? We know and are too often reminded that there is horrid evil in this world, and an “evil one” who bedevils the minds of such killers. Jesus said it would be so (John 17:15).

As the world devolves around us from insanity to insanity, I’m reminded of the statement of John Adams that “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” Nowhere is that more true than in the case of the Second Amendment. As both religion and morality are on steep decline among us, we can only expect more of this insanity by individuals unhinged from the safety of families and a society formed by natural law and influenced by the genuine teaching of the Bible. “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31).

No truth of the New Testament is so loudly stated by Jesus than that the Triune God is the creator of all people (Matt. 19:4); that God loves all (John 3:16); that all are equally indebted to God and valuable to Him (2 Cor. 5:14–15; John 8:12). Racism is a fundamental denial of the Word of God (cf. Acts 2:5ff.; Matt. 15:21ff.) and natural law. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal” (Declaration of Independence). The denial of human rights, maltreatment of persons due to race, including the forbidding of the right for a man and a woman to marry without regard to race, is contrary to natural and divinely revealed law (Holy Scripture). It also contradicts the universality of the truth of the Gospel of Christ, who died for all (Romans 3:9–10, 19; 2 Cor. 5:19).

We mourn the loss of these dear Christians and pray for their loved ones. May they be consoled by “the resurrection of

the body and the life everlasting,” and the picture of heaven painted by St. John in Revelation of “a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands” (Revelation 7:9).

We reject racism and racially motivated hatred in all its forms. We repent where we have fallen short, and we pray for strength to stand for what is good and right and true. We pray for the perpetrator and his family, even as we demand the swift execution of justice.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor Matthew C. Harrison

President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

### **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.

July 13, Chapters 5-8

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

## 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, July 7<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.



## ASSIMILATION

Thanks to all who attended the I-Cubs game on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Des Moines. An enjoyable time was had by all 24 of us!!!

July 19<sup>th</sup> will be our next all-church brunch during the SS hour immediately following the morning service. (Assimilation Board members: We will need to gather on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, to set up. Let's plan to meet at 9:30 a.m., gals. Thanks.)

In August we will take a vacation break from activities before a rather full, but fun, fall agenda. Please note especially that our fall schedule of events will include a return trip to the Amana Old Creamery Theatre for another presentation of the Church Basement Ladies. That will take place on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, and of course, will be followed by dinner at the Ox Yoke Inn. Put this on your calendars and plan to join us. More details of this trip and our other planned activities for the rest of 2015 will follow next month.

Enjoy your summer!

God's blessings - Sandy, Bonnie, Jana, Julee, Esther and Renee

# STOPPING A STORY

by Rev. Dr. James I Lamb

I know some who do not like the phrase “Bible stories.” I understand that. It may imply the Word of God is a fairy tale. Still, the Bible is a story, a true story, the “greatest story ever told” as we say. It’s a story without a beginning for it is from eternity. Yet, “once upon a time,” at just the right time (Galatians 4:4), the story takes on human flesh.

At the beginning of the story—Jesus’ conception—Gabriel gives a preview of the story. “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end? (Luke 1:32-33). This would be the story of God in the flesh from His conception to His resurrection and ascension and continuing on into eternity. It would be the story of God becoming great in weakness and suffering, the story of a King who would establish an eternal kingdom and reign over it forever with grace and truth.

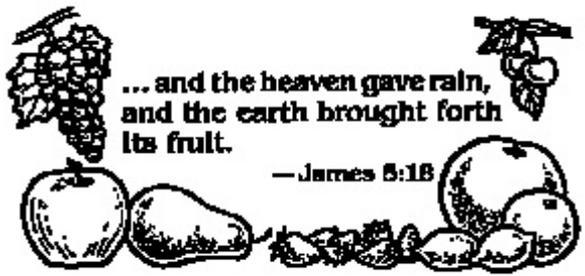
Satan did not want this story to unfold. He tried to cut it short with Herod’s dread decree (Matthew 2:16). He tried to sidetrack the story through his temptations of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11). He tried to stop the story by challenging the Son of God to come down from the cross (Matthew 27:39-43). Satan failed. But he didn’t go away. He now does his best with his lies and deceit to keep us from telling the story.

Satan did not win. It is as a defeated enemy that he strives to malign the story. But the “gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). The resurrection that we observed this month and continue to celebrate is our ongoing victory party!

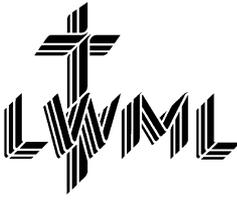
Every life is a story to be told. Every life is a parchment crafted by God and purchased by the blood of Jesus upon which He desires to write a story to glorify His name.

Let me tell you a story, a true story. Once upon a time a man who had been adopted went on a journey to find his birth mother. He succeeded. As a young, unmarried school teacher, she had become pregnant. She went to another part of the country, gave birth, and placed her son for adoption. She never married or had other children. But because she chose not to cut a story short and let it be told, she met her son, his wife, and her grandchildren. One of her grandchildren was a Lutheran schoolteacher, and two others were studying to do so. Because she let the story be told, she had a family; she was part of the story.

Abortion does more than destroy a human life. It stops a story. Assisted suicide and euthanasia do more than bring a life to an end. They stop a story. These are stories God wants told, stories through whom He desires to work to touch the lives of others and to extend His rule of truth and grace. These are stories that will accomplish His purpose and bring glory to His name. The love of Christ compels us to do all we can so these stories will be heard. And remember, because of our resurrected Savior, we are assured our story will never end. Put another way, we will live happily ever after!  
(Life Date Summer 2015)



Iowa Veterans Home Commandant Jodi Tymeson presented Duane Noelck with the 2015 outstanding volunteer award for many hours of volunteer service at the Iowa Veterans Home. Congratulations Duane!!!



**“SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS”**

is the theme for the LWML and even though we do not meet during July and August, various service activities continue.

In the Parish Hall every Monday morning the ladies are busy working on quilts. Extra hands to cut, sew or tie are always appreciated from any volunteers. The flowers in the planters outside are doing well, but volunteers are always needed to water them during hot summer months. The Altar committee fills the oil candles, washes linens and performs many duties related to the Altar. Ethel Tietje checks the pencils and notepads in the church each week and could always use an extra hand to do this. Gals from the Flower committee take care of the vases and flowers in the sanctuary. The LWML ladies appreciate all who donate food, or are willing to help serve funeral or memorial lunches. **WHAT A SPECIAL SERVICE.** Thanks to Barb Blake and Shirley Ohlschlager for coordinating these luncheons.

The highlights of the LWML Convention held in Des Moines in June will be shared in the August newsletter.

I know it is a few months till November, but mark your calendars for the LWML Bazaar for Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

We must remember God knows our future. He has our concerns and best interests at heart. Along the way we may not understand the reasoning of His direction for us. As we continue walking by faith in the paths He blazes, we learn His answers.

Take each step, obey and fear not. One day, one moment is all He asks. When troubles come look to Him. Don't waver. He will show you the best way. (Devotional thoughts from “When I'm On My Knees, Anita Corrine Donihue.”)



— Delores Popp

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES  
Thursday, June 18, 2015

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Keith Egger. The Collect for the Second Sunday after Trinity was read as an opening prayer. John 8: 12-30 served as a Bible study.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President: Keith Egger; Second Vice President: Bruce Johnson; Pastor Alex Post; Financial Secretary: Charles Swanson; Board of Elders: Steve Runge; Board of Stewardship: Brian Mohr; Board of Assimilation: Sandy Rhodes; Board of Social Ministry: Nancy DeKock; Board of Church Property: Edwin Wignall and President Secretary: Rebecca Baedke.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Treasurer: Sam Zoske.

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

The agenda was accepted as presented with addition of the parsonage bathroom. The minutes of the previous month were read. Bruce motioned, with a second by Sandy to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**STATISTICAL REPORT:** Last month attendance averages were: Sunday morning: 99; Wednesday evening: 19; Sunday school: 7; Adult Bible class: 30. Member totals last month were 313 Baptized and 249 Communicant, reduced due to deaths of Bernadine Randall (May 4, 2015) and Inez Badger (May 24, 2015).

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Sam Zoske absent and Charles Swanson shared financial reports, which were reviewed. Nancy moved, with a second from Ed to approve the financial reports as submitted. Motion carried.

BOARD OF ELDERS: Director Steven Runge reported on the June 11 meeting with Pastor Post and seven (7) elders in attendance:

1. Pastor opened with devotions. The first portion of chapter 2 of the book, "Pastors and Elders", was discussed.
2. Communion assignments were designated for next month.
3. Pastor Post made 47 pastoral care visits last month.
4. Non-attending member visits were discussed.
5. Elders will not meet in August due to vacations and other commitments.
6. The next Elder's meeting will be Thursday, July 9 at 7:00 PM.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: Director Brian Mohr reported

1. A thank you letter has been drafted to be sent following confirmation of memorial designations.

BOARD OF ASSIMILATION: Director Sandy Rhodes reported:

2. Twenty-four attended the I-Cubs game on Saturday, June 13. Pastor Post needs a Cubs hat to replace his White Sox hat.
4. Redeemer's next brunch will follow the worship service on Sunday, July 19th.

BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY: Director Nancy DeKock reported.

1. Approximately seven people, Mary Lou Wignall, Pastor and Amy Johnson, Julee and Charlie Swanson and Lori Johnson helped serve at the House of Compassion on Tuesday, June 2nd. Myrna Burmester, Patty Collins and Nancy DeKock prepared food.
2. Tuesday, July 7, Redeemer members prepare and serve fish at the House of Compassion evening meal. Anyone willing to help prepare or serve the meal please contact Nancy.

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION: Position vacant. Pastor Post reported Tuesday nights at 6:00 PM, ten (10) people are attending adult instruction classes. Two are current members, one in attendance may be transfer membership to Redeemer and others have expressed interest to become members following the six weeks of class.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Position vacant. No report.

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTY: Director Edwin Wignall reported

1. The parsonage and church lawn and parking area has been sprayed for weeds.
2. The roof leak in Nave has not returned after initially reported this spring.

PRESIDENT REPORT: President Egger reported Redeemer received \$88 Thrivent Choice Dollars at the beginning of June, making \$2,207 the total received in 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

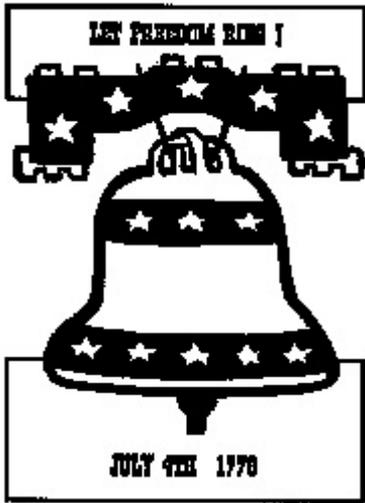
1. The Men's Room Remodeling contractor continues awaiting for materials to proceed.
2. Vernon Beachy has been contracted to re-shingle the parsonage roof. Byron Rhodes met with Mr. Beachy, and he and his crew will be available to complete the parsonage roof project in mid to late July.
3. Ray of Bjelland Plumbing, Ed Wignall, Byron and Sandy Rhodes each looked at the parsonage bathroom. No mold was found growing inside the drywall panels of the parsonage bathroom walls. Others will be contacted to replace the exhaust fan and assess whatever else may be necessary to resolve the dampness and mildew issue. The tile may be replaced around the tub area and a soft spot has developed in the corner of the bathroom floor by the tub. There is a hole in the basement ceiling, directly under the upstairs bathroom which will be looked into further as well. Cleaning the tile around the tub, removing, replacing and resealing discolored

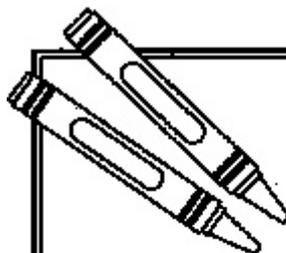
and deteriorated grout was offered as one possible solution to prevent water from seeping between the tile and the tub and dripping on the basement ceiling.

4. Brian investigated Lutheran Service Builder software as a method of providing large print copies of hymns from the hymnal. There is an initial purchase price and an annual fee to use this software. The costs for using the software are based on average weekly worship attendance and covers copyright costs. The cost for using the software is reduced for congregations that have purchased bound copies of the Hymnal. The software prints only lyrics without musical notation when a large type size is selected. Linda is reviewing a demonstration version of the software.

This Church Council will meet again on Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 7:00 PM. A motion by Brian, seconded by Bruce, passed for the meeting to adjourn at 8:58 PM. Pastor Post led Luther's Small Catechism's Evening Prayer to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca J Baedke





# Just for **KIDS**

## A Biblical Picnic

In the warm weather months we like to go on picnics. What do you pack in your picnic basket? If you lived in Bible times, what do you think you might have packed?

*Below are the names of some people in the Bible. Use the code to find out what each person may have taken on a picnic. Look up the verses to read more about each person.*

Code:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z										
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26										

1. Saul      16 15 13 5 7 18 7 14 7 20 6 18      *(1 Samuel 14:2)*
2. Jonathan      8 15 14 5 25      *(1 Samuel 14:20)*
3. Eve      6 18 21 9 20      *(Genesis 3:6)*
4. Daniel and friends      22 5 7 5 20 7 2 12 5 19      *(Daniel 1:12-18)*
5. John the Baptist      12 16 3 21 18 20 18      *(Matthew 3:4)*
6. The 5,000 people      12 15 1 22 5 19 8 8 9 19 8      *(Matthew 14:17)*
7. Israelites in Egypt      3 21 3 21 13 2 5 18 18      *(Numbers 11:5)*
8. Esau      18 20 5 23      *(Genesis 25:34)*
9. Isaac      29 9 12 4      7 1 18 5      *(Genesis 25:28)*
10. Ruth      7 18 1 9 14      *(Ruth 2:1-4)*

Answers: pineapples, honey, fruit, vegetables, lemons, loaves of fish, cucumber, rice, wild game, grain

**Redeemer Lutheran Church  
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**Address correction requested**