



THE REDEEMER MESSENGER

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JUNE 2015

SPEAK, LORD!

By Dr. Scott Murray

While teaching an adult instruction class for membership in the church a woman asked me if I could recommend good DVDs that depict the Bible. I was a bit taken aback by the question, because I don't watch that much television and so had seen very few of such productions. Of course, I have seen Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," but beyond that I hadn't really watched much of the genre of Bible video. However, even if I had the time to watch such productions, I might not watch them even then. I am fully convinced that the genre of video actually changes how we think, how we judge and perceive the truth, and how we express ourselves. The pervasiveness of the video is a powerful game changer in our culture. Because people get their news from the television, it shapes their thought about everything; it even shapes how they think. Marshall McLuhan's dictum: "The medium is the message," remains deadly true.

When the woman looked disappointed because I couldn't recommend a bunch of Bible videos, I explained that the truth of God's Word is much deeper and interconnected than could ever be depicted on a screen. I pointed out to her it was far better for her to be in a community where God's Word was shared by people who loved her and could talk about the Word of God and how it applied in their daily lives together. Learning the Word of God and putting

it to use in daily life is a discursive enterprise.

The First Commandment presumes discursive thought, and therefore relationship between us and God that is a conversation, not a picture or entertainment. The corollary of the First Commandment is that there may be no graven images. Why? Because God expected to be talked about, considered, ruminated over, prayed to and related to as a Father, a Friend, and a Redeemer. None of these relations could ever be reduced to image or mere symbolism. Ask someone whose father has died whether their collection of pictures or home movies of him is a sufficient replacement for him. Absolutely not.

Educator and social critic, Neil Postman, in his wonderful book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, says, “The God of the Jews was to exist in the Word and through the Word, an unprecedented conception requiring the highest order of abstract thinking.” Such thinking and considering and relation with God is not supported by the image. No image of God is sufficient in itself. When confronted by God we may not say, “Hey God, could you just show me the video, I don’t have time for the book.” We must say, “Speak, Lord! Your servant is listening.” He must speak and we must listen to His Word.

That Word by itself puts us in the universe of meaning in which we are the fellows of the Prophets, Patriarchs, Apostles, and Christ Himself. The spiritual words of Holy Scripture are words that re-present what is stated in them. They are more than explanations or information about God. They build a relationship with the God Who gives Himself in them. What was written was written for us. Scripture puts us into God’s self-revelation as we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:26). “Speak, Lord. We are listening.”

— Pastor Post

USHERS FOR JUNE

Dennis Hegdahl, Keven Kirk, Charlie Swanson,
Kyle Kirk, Randy Frohwein

GREETERS

June 7 Charles and Leone Reisetter
14 Brad Sickels, John Studts
21 Vicky Stanfield, Deb Thompson
28 Dennis and Kelly Smith

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

June 7 Ethel Tietje, Karen Warnhoff
14 Bruce and Lori Johnson
21 Adeline Brown, Barb Blake
28 Mike and Eileen Stanley

ATTENDING ELDERS

June 7 Pat Lowry, Dennis Smith
10 Keith Egger
21 Ken Breinig, Charlie Swanson
24 Steve Runge
28 Roger Mathews, Charles Misek

AUDIO VIDEO TECH

June 7 Warren Nash
14 Mike Stubbs
21 Pat Lowry
28 Charlie Swanson

A PRICKLY SITUATION

“We want to avoid the punishment of sin; we even want to resist it and defend our sin. We shall succeed as well as the dog that bites into the spines of a porcupine.”

Martin Luther’s *Little Instruction Book*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!



Great job and God’s Blessings to our High School graduates, Matthew Smith and Jacob Thompson!

May the Lord guide and prosper each of you as you consider vocation, family, work opportunities, and further education. God will bless and keep you as you remain in His Church where He daily and richly feeds and forgives you through His saving Word.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...for the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding!” —Proverbs 1:7, 2:6

Thank you for all the cards and prayers received at the death of my son. They meant so very much.

— Myrna Burmester



BOUNTIFUL SOW- NOURISH- REAP LWML CONVENTION MOTTO

June is the month of the 36th LWML Biennial Convention to be held at the Event Center in Des Moines. The Worship and Holy Communion service held on Thursday evening, July 25th at 7 PM is such a special time to worship and commune with so many fellow Lutherans. Please contact Sandy Rhodes if you wish to attend the Communion service. At 6:45 that evening there will be a time of great music.

A big thank you to Nancy DeKock and Myrna Burmester for planting the flowers in the outside church boxes. Contact Nancy if you are able to help water flowers during the summer months.

After the May 17th Worship Service graduates, Matthew Smith and Jacob Thompson were presented a remembrance from the LWML.

Thanks to all who provided bars, cookies, or any other desserts for the funeral of Bernadine Randall. Help in the kitchen and dining area, before and after, was also greatly appreciated.

No meetings are scheduled during the summer months, but Circles will carry out their various responsibilities.

Excerpts from the Convention News:

"What difference can one person make? What difference can you make? Never underestimate God's ability to use one person (you) to reach many through the working of the Holy Spirit through your witness and His Means of Grace. Just consider this for a moment. Did you know that just one ear of corn produces an average of 800 kernels nestled in 16 rows? (That's just like our convention seating!) One hundred bushels of corn (the amount produced on about half an acre of fertile Iowa farm land) produces over nine MILLION kernels. If God can bless a simple kernel of corn like that, just imagine what He can do in the life of a believer. His love and grace are limitless."

Delores Popp

Christian Citizenship

Matthew 5:16 says that we should give evidence of our heavenly citizenship by being good citizens on earth. Our vocation as citizens of both the secular kingdom and God's kingdom gives us the responsibility to speak and act as a moral compass for society. This means that we are often called to engage the "public square" with our message of Christ's mercy for all. We are called to do what is morally right. We are called to use God's Word to make a difference in the world. Please pray for God's will to be done... in Jesus' name.

Suicide in Military High, but Chaplain's Use of Biblical Help Is Inappropriate

Suicide is tragically rampant in the U.S. military. But, in trying to help, Chaplain Joseph Lawhorn was told he could not use a biblical approach.

At a training session on suicide prevention, Chaplain Lawhorn told soldiers about his own struggles with depression—and how faith helped him through. He offered participants a handout listing resources for struggling service members, some faith-based and some secular.

On Thanksgiving Day, he found himself in the office of his boss at Fort Benning, GA., being handed a "Letter of Concern" accusing him of unlawfully proselytizing. The letter deemed it unacceptable to list "Army resources on one side" of the handout "and biblical approach to handling depression on the other side"—because it was "impossible for those in attendance to receive the information without also receiving the biblical information."

Lt. Commander Wes Modder is a 19-year veteran Navy chaplain who served some of the most elite fighting forces in the military, the Navy SEALs. Chaplain Modder was once referred to by his commanding officer, Capt. J.R. Fahs, as "the best of the best." Recently, he was asked to offer moral guidance and he responded with a Bible-based response on sexual morality. That's when his assistant, a "married" homosexual, secretly combed through the chaplain's private counseling files, forwarding them to representatives at the Office of Equal Opportunity as evidence of "discrimination"—and the chaplain was ordered to clean out his

office and go home. He was removed because he reportedly “failed to show tolerance and respect.”

Lt. Gen. Jerry Boykin said, “If the Navy wants a chaplain corps, they have to be prepared for chaplains to be chaplains. A chaplain isn’t worth anything if he isn’t allowed to minister and counsel according to his faith. If the Navy won’t allow a chaplain to be a chaplain, then the chaplain becomes nothing more than a social worker.”

In the National Defense Authorization Act, we learn that the Pentagon is bound by federal law to “accommodate individual expressions of belief of a member in the armed forces reflecting the sincerely held conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs of the member and, insofar as practicable, may not use such expression of belief as the basis of any adverse personnel action, discrimination, or denial of promotion, schooling, training, or assignment.” (Excerpts taken from article by Tony Perkins in FRC Action 5-7-15.)

So why was Chaplain Modder fired? Because there is intense pressure to remove “In God we trust” from more than the dollar bill. The motto of the Army Chaplains Corps is “For God and country.” But for how long? Christian citizens have the opportunity and duty to speak up on such issues. You can write or call your congressman, write a letter to the editor, or visit the Family Research Council (www.frc.org) to learn other ways to support our chaplains as they speak God’s Word. Learn more about LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces by visiting www.lcms.org/armedforces.

PLEASE PRAY for military chaplains that they may continue to speak the Word of God . . . in Jesus’ name.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR...

“Please pray for Byron Rhodes and Pastor Alex Post, your lay and pastoral delegates to the Iowa District East Convention, as they vote on important issues June 26-27.”

HOUSE OF COMPASSION

Thank you to everyone who helped cook and serve on May 5th. Your willingness to help is much appreciated. In 2015 we will be cooking and serving the 1st Tuesday of every month. Our next serving date is Tuesday, June 2nd. 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.

June is Redeemer's month to collect items for the House of Compassion Supply Closet so please give generously. Non perishable items that cannot be purchased with Food Stamps.

IOWA CUBS BASEBALL

There is a sign up sheet for the Iowa Cubs baseball game in the parish hall (please sign up by June 7th so we can plan for transportation for everyone). The game is on Saturday, June 13th at 7:08 p.m. We will car pool from the church at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Each, payable to Sandy Rhodes or Jana Robertson. The tickets will be available at the 'will call window' at the stadium the day of the game. Come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship!!!



My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. John 10:27-28

YOU ARE SAFE IN THE CARE OF YOUR SHEPHERD

Another beautiful aspect of the portrait Jesus paints for us in the Good Shepherd chapter. He knows those who belong to Him ... personally and individually. He knows about our needs and wants. He's so well acquainted with us that He has knowledge of the number of hair follicles on our head. That's why we can trust Him implicitly to reliably guide every aspect of our life for our good.

Once there was three-year-old boy taken swimming for the first time by his dad. As the father stepped into the pool and carried his son out to where the water was three feet deep, the boy felt safe. He had no worries -- after all, his dad was holding him. But when the dad started walking toward the deep end and the water started rising on the boy's body up past his waist to his chest, his face began to register increasing degrees of panic. He latched onto his dad tight as a vice grip -- terribly afraid. If the little one had been able to accurately analyze the situation he would have realized there was no reason to fear because, no matter at which end of the pool his dad was standing, his safety depended not on his swimming ability but the strength of his father who was holding him.

Do you ever feel like you're getting "out of your depth"? Are there days when you begin to panic because you feel that you've lost control? If and when it happens be reminded you've got no reason for anxiety because the almighty Savior holds your life in His hands. He'll keep you safe even when He takes you into waters deeper than you've been before. Isn't that what David was talking about when he said:

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

The Holy Spirit bless you now and always with this confidence in Christ your Good Shepherd!

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

Submitted by Karen Frohwein

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 2nd Monday of each month at Pizza Ranch at 6:30 p.m. You can join us for any or all of the meetings.

June 8th, Chapters 1-4

July 13, Chapters 5-8

August 10th, Chapters 9-12



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
Thursday, May 21, 2015

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Keith Egger. The Collect for the Seventh Sunday of Easter was read as an opening prayer. John 8: 1-11 served as a Bible study.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President: Keith Egger; Pastor Alex Post; Financial Secretary: Charles Swanson; Board of Elders: Steve Runge; Board of Stewardship: Brian Mohr; Board of Assimilation: Sandy Rhodes; Board of Church Property: Edwin Wignall and President Secretary: Rebecca Baedke.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Second Vice President: Bruce Johnson; Board of Social Ministry: Nancy DeKock and 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 additions of East Marshall advertising and the Geneve Wetherbee memorial. The minutes of the previous month were read. Sandy motioned, with a second by Steve to approve the minutes with grammatical amendments - and clarification of 'attending an I-Cubs game' and 'parsonage , floor refinishing and carpeting' to be done. Motion carried.

STATISTICAL REPORT: Last month attendance averages were: Sunday morning: 106; Wednesday evening: 13; Sunday school: 7; Adult Bible class: 32. Member totals last month were 315 Baptized and 251 Communicant.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Sam Zoske absent and Charles Swanson shared financial reports which were reviewed. Brian moved, with a second from Ed to approve the financial

reports as submitted. Motion carried.

BOARD OF ELDERS: Director Steven Runge reported on the May 14 meeting with Pastor Post and seven (7) elders in attendance:

1. Pastor opened with devotions. The first chapter of the book, "Pastors and Elders", was discussed.
2. Communion assignments were designated for next month.
3. Pastor Post made 45 pastoral care visits last month.
4. An amendment was made to Pastor's vacation schedule as June 3rd had been overlooked. Pastor Berry will serve during worship on Wednesday, June 3rd.
5. Non-attending member visits were discussed.
6. The next Elder's meeting will be Thursday, June 11 at 7:00 PM.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: Director Brian Mohr reported

1. Lutheran Witness subscriptions were submitted May 1.
2. A thank you letter will be drafted and sent as confirmation of memorial designations.

BOARD OF ASSIMILATION: Director Sandy Rhodes reported:

2. All may sign-up to attend the I-Cubs game on Saturday, June 13. Tickets are \$8 with plans to meet at the church at 5:00 to travel to the 7:00 pm game.

BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY: Director Nancy DeKock absent.

1. June is our month to collect for the House of Compassion.
2. Nancy and Myrna Burmeister planted the flowers which will be watered each week.
3. Tuesday, June 2, Redeemer members will serve the House of Compassion evening meal. Anyone willing to help prepare or serve the meal may contact Nancy.

4. A November 7 date has been set for the LWML Bazaar to raise funds for missions.

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION: Position vacant. When Sunday school discontinues for the summer, everyone is welcome in Adult Bible class. Sunday school will resume again Sunday, September 13, with Rally Sunday.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Position vacant. No report.

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTY: Director Edwin Wignall reported

1. April 20, Ethington Heating & Cooling checked the furnaces and replaced a blower motor on one of the Pulse units..
2. Hay Constructions received approval of and ordered tile for the basement restroom.
3. The new alarm system company, Security Equipment Incorporated (SEI),, came to the church.
4. Chad Callaway will look into a mold issue in the parsonage main bathroom which may delay planned painting, floor refinishing and carpeting.
5. Randy Frohwein sprayed the parsonage to exterminate carpenter ants.

PRESIDENT REPORT: President Egger reported Redeemer received \$502 Thrivent Choice Dollars for April making \$2,119 the total received in 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Former Lutherans for Life president, Linda Bartlett, would like to lead a presentation to discuss the failure of sex education in the churches and a new direction in speaking of our identity as baptized children of God. Redeemer will host Ms Barlett and three Pastors for a discussion of her book on the afternoon of Sunday, October 11. Pastor proposes a speaking fee of \$50 and mileage for her and four pastors of

approximately \$250. Funds from donations and the Evangelism budget may be utilized.

2. As the Life Coordinator for Iowa District East, Pastor Post is planning a speaking engagement at Redeemer November 8th . The topic will be 'our identity as baptized children of God'. Area congregations will be invited for this panel discussion.

3. Clarifications were received of the organ rebuild proposal of necessities with possible later additions. A proposal of \$58,000 would replace wiring for protection of electrical fire and digitization to allow playing and recording hymns and liturgy to be replayed during services. Additional updates were explained which will enhance the organ and could be tied in with the chimes, donated by the Runge family, which have not been in working order for some time. Other updated church organs have had very little need of repair or update since their updates, including the church in Hubbard a few years ago. The proposed upgrades for Redeemer would be more current than previously done at these other churches. Other options were discussed for weekly recordings and an ongoing charge. Budgeted organist funds not currently spent total \$7,800. Pastor Post offered to play and record service music. Prior to the annual meeting this topic will be discussed further.

4. The Men's Room Remodeling contractor is awaiting ordered materials to proceed.

5. The parsonage roof project was discussed. It was confirmed that the bid from Vernon Beachy included the items of the more expensive bidders. A motion to contract with Vernon Beachy to replace the parsonage shingles for his \$7,250 bid was motioned by Steve and seconded by Sandy. Motion carried. Keith will contact Roger Mathews to complete a contract with Vernon Beachy.

6. Geneve Wetherbee memorial money has been received for an updated sound system and/or large print hymnals. Both options will be looked into and further discussion will follow. Brian will gather information from Lutheran Service

Builder about the large print hymnals.

7. Pastor Post was contacted about advertising on an East Marshall pocket schedule. Alternatives were discussed, including articles in the Marshalltown Times Republican.

This Church Council will meet again on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM. A motion by Steve, seconded by Brian, passed for the meeting to adjourn at 9:21 PM. Pastor Post led Luther's Small Catechism's Evening Prayer to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca J Baedke

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Address correction requested