



THE REDEEMER MESSENGER

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MARCH 2015

God Values Life

By Christopher Esget

“Birth control and abortion: aren’t these simply Roman Catholic concerns? You might be surprised to learn that not too many decades ago, Lutherans and virtually all Protestants were vigorously opposed to both – mostly because the two had been viewed as one and the same in centuries past.”

“Then over the last 50 years, as a result of the sexual revolution, society’s world view began to change. Suddenly, it became possible to contravene the normal functioning of our bodies. Many began to take control of birth so as to deny it completely. As a result, society’s view of sex has largely been reduced merely to physical pleasure disconnected from what God has attached it to: procreation.”

“As Lutherans, however, we look to the Bible to learn what God’s will is for us. While there’s only one reference to contraception (Genesis 38:6-10), it meets with God’s judgment. Far more important, however, is what Scripture says positively concerning human sexuality’s meaning and purpose. To our first parents, God gave the blessing, “Be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:22). He made us for this purpose, thus instituting marriage as the foundation of all human society. The blessing was repeated to Noah after the Flood, after which He gave a warning against murder. From this we see what God values: life. He is the Creator, and in His

blessing of marriage, He calls us to participate in the ongoing work of creation through procreation.”

“Continuing through the Scriptures, we find – at notable points in the lives of our fathers and mothers in the faith – the same thought is repeated: Children come as a result of God’s blessing. They are a “heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward” (Psalm 127:3). This was not only the understanding in the beginning, when the human race was young and people were few, but even in the last book of the Old Testament – the Book of Malachi – the Lord says He loves marriage because He is seeking “godly offspring” (Malachi 2:15).”

“Many of our pious mothers in the faith (Sarah, Rebekah, Hannah, Elizabeth) were barren, causing them to cry out to God. Yet, the Lord heard and answered their prayers with children who carried on the praise of God to the next generation.”

“The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod has been and continues to be strongly pro-life on the matter of abortion. But the Scriptures tell us that God is pro-life on a much larger scale: He blesses marriage, opens wombs and desires offspring. Truly He does all things well!”

The Rev. Christopher Esget (pastor@immanuelalexandria.org) is pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Va.

Pastor Alex Post

USHERS FOR MARCH

Roger Mathews, Grant Runge, Brian Mohr,
Steve Runge, Jason August

GREETERS

March 1	Warren and Gwen Nash
8	Kirk and Lisa Niehouse
15	Shirley Ohlschlager, Adeline Brown
22	Bruce and Lori Johnson
29	Keven and Renee Kirk

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

March 1	Louis and Jan Riese
8	Warren and Gwen Nash
15	Brandon and Rheba Yost
22	Dorothy Lueders, Myrna Burmester
29	Randy and Karen Frohwein

ATTENDING ELDERS

March 1	Ken Breinig, Brian Mohr
11	Keith Egger, Steve Runge (Wednesday)
15	Charlie Swanson, Brad Sickels
22	Pat Lowry, Dennis Sickels
25	Roger Mathews, Brian Mohr (Wednesday)
29	Brad Sickels, Pat Lowry

AUDIO VIDEO TECH

March 1	Keven Kirk
8	Steve Runge
15	Warren Nash
22	Mike Stubbs
29	Pat Lowry

THE PLAGUE OF IDLENESS

“For to be full and idle is the greatest plague on earth; it is the trouble whence all other plagues come.”

“If a man is lazy, the rafters sag; if his hands are idle, the house leaks.” Ecclesiastes 10:18

Martin Luther’s *Little Instruction Book*

HOUSE OF COMPASSION

Thank you to everyone who helped cook and serve on February 3rd. 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, March 3rd. 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...

I wanted to tell you thank you so much for your donation of baby hats and blankets! They are surely something that will be treasured! Also we really do appreciate that you thought to give to us! As you may know we continue to serve many needy families in the Marshall County area and your donation will make a difference.

Thanks again!
Kati Dingma
Storks Nest





Mid-week Lenten services: Wednesday at 7 p.m., February 25-March 25. Pastors Maddick, Klinge, Lamb and Post will rotate preaching on the “Symbols of the Passion of our Lord.”

Come for Soup Suppers at 5:45 each Wednesday before the Lenten service.



Join us for Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday: March 29, 9:00 a.m., children’s procession with palms

Pray the **Litany** with us each day at 12:15 pm, Monday - Friday,
March 30 - April 3

Wednesday of Holy Week: April 1, 7:00 p.m. Corporate Confession and Absolution

Maundy Thursday: April 2, 7:00 p.m. Divine Service

Good Friday: April 3, 7:00 p.m. Divine Service

Easter Sunday: April 5, 8:00 a.m., with Easter breakfast at 9:15 a.m.



As we walk through life, we are like stars in the darkness, shining God's love and blessings into the lives of those around us.

Each Monday morning the faithful quilters are busy working in the church parish hall. Geneve W. was always threading yarn and tying materials. Her busy hands will be sorely missed. I'm sure the ladies would APPRECIATE ANYONE STEPPING UP TO HELP WITH THIS, OR ANY PART OF THE QUILTING PROCESS. The World Relief truck will be picking up quilts in April.

Special thanks to Karen Frohwein for giving an informative talk about the House of Compassion at our February meeting.

Valentine boxes were packed and mailed to our college students: Sarah Weuve, Bailey Nash, Brittany Gould, Vanessa Kirk, Lee Bryant and Becky Allen (Linda Smith's niece.) Popcorn, cookies, crackers, candy and many other treats were provided by Ethel Tietje, Barb Blake, Luella Weber, Nancy DeKock, Linda Smith and Delores Popp. Deloris Clayton provided all of the popped corn and boxes for packing. Linda Smith was our "expert" packer and provided Valentine cards and a special cookie treat for each box. Thanks to everyone - "JOB WELL DONE."

A special thank you to all who helped in any way at Geneve Wetherbee's funeral luncheon.

The Marshalltown Zone LWML Rally will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Dillon on Saturday, April 18th. Pastor Mike Maddick of Trinity, State Center and Susan Christ (wife of Pastor at Chariton) will share stories and pictures of their visits to the Holy Land.

Mark your calendars for June 25-28 for the 36th Biennial Convention of the LWML in the Iowa Event Center in Des Moines. More details about this important gathering can be found in the IED Newsletter,

Dec. '14 page 8 and website: (<http://www.lwml-ied.org/>) It will never be any closer than this for a long time.

An invitation to all ladies of Redeemer to attend our next LWML meeting Thursday, March 19th at 9:30 AM. Bible Study topic is from the Winter Quarterly (Is my heart really unforgiving - pages 20 & 21.)

Delores Popp

**“ALTHOUGH
HE WAS A
SON,
HE LEARNED
OBEDIENCE
THROUGH WHAT
HE SUFFERED.”**



Hebrews 5:8



Lenten Soup and Sandwich Supper



Wednesday
March 4, 11, 18, 25
5:45 p.m.

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
parish hall.**

**Bring another church member or a friend
with you!**

**Soup
Sandwiches
Homemade desserts**



Sponsored by Board of Assimilation

Kids in the DIVINE SERVICE

Why do we celebrate Lent for six weeks?

Don't forget what Lent is all about! It is a time when we are reminded of what Jesus gave up for us, and a time when we look forward to and prepare for His death and resurrection!

We celebrate Lent for six weeks. Not counting Sundays, this adds up to forty days. These forty days remind us of Christ's temptation in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11). There He was without food for forty days. We remember the temptation of the Israelites in the desert after the Lord had delivered them from Egypt. This lasted forty years (Num. 14:34). Finally, we can remember the story of Noah and his family. After forty days and forty nights in the ark, it finally stopped raining, and the Lord delivered them just as He promised. (Gen. 7:17).

FOR PARENTS

Continue to encourage your children in their Lenten preparation. During worship, point out the places where our Lord comes to us (i.e., God's Word, Holy Communion, Holy Baptism, Absolution). Remember that being their example and companion on this Lenten Journey makes a difference!

During these forty days of Lent, we remember the faithfulness of God to His people and how His faithfulness is complete in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Jesus remains faithful to us, always being where He promises to be: in His Word and Sacraments. Wow! What a Savior!

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

by Rev. Terry Forke

“We can give him more morphine to aid the process, if you wish.” That is what the attending nurse volunteered late one evening as the family and I sat by the bedside of their dying husband and father. He was snoring loudly but expected to die soon as a result of a head injury which had left his brain stem severely compromised. He was not exhibiting any agitation, nor had the family requested anything to quiet his all too familiar snoring. In fact, the doctor had just noted that it was unlikely, due to the condition of his brain, that he would feel any pain. When the nurse left, I explained to the family that sometimes the dosage of morphine is increased to the point that it actually speeds death. They agreed that they were not comfortable with such an action but desired to put their loved one into the hands of his loving Heavenly Father.

The nurse, however, was not to be put off. She asked four more times that evening whether they wanted her to increase the morphine. Each time they politely declined. So, when I left the hospital at 2:30 a.m., I asked for the nurse. I explained to her that they did not want morphine to speed death because their standing by his side was their way of demonstrating their love for him and their confidence that Jesus knew what was best. I am sure she had never heard anything like that before—and she was impressed (if not confused).

I was back in the room by 7 a.m. His condition was deteriorating rapidly. We sang hymns. We prayed, We read Scripture. I was thankful when his wife asked to sing “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” Our voices were soft and emotional, but the message was clear, God is faithful even to the point of death. What better way to die than to have your hand held by your loved one and to be listening to the Word of God when you come into His presence? This was the testimony given to the nursing staff by a faithful Christian family in a very difficult circumstance.

By God’s grace I have read a number of my members into the presence of their Savior. God does not abandon His people in this time of need. “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His

saints” (Psalm 116:15).

The attitude of that nurse, however, demonstrates the fears of the world regarding death. It is likely that many people in similar circumstances are put to death for the sake of the suffering of someone other than the patient. I don’t make light of such suffering. The family does suffer when a loved one is dying. The nurses do suffer. Yet, why should our suffering break our confidence in God’s love? How can our suffering justify hastening the death of our loved one? How many medical personnel could benefit from a calm confidence in the faithfulness of our loving Savior?

These are difficult questions. The answers are best found, not in the medical capacity to avoid suffering, but in the faithfulness of God in Christ Jesus.

(Rev. Terry Forke is pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Harlowton, Montana, and the president of the Montana District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Keith Egger. The Collect for Quinquagesima was read as an opening prayer. John 7: 1-13 served as a Bible study.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President: Keith Egger; Board of Elders: Roger Mathews; Financial Secretary: Charles Swanson; Board of Stewardship: Brian Mohr; Board of Assimilation: Sandy Rhodes; Board of Evangelism: Jana Robertson; Board of Church Property: Edwin Wignall and President Secretary: Rebecca Baedke.

MEMBERS ABSENT: First Vice-President: Bruce Johnson; Pastor Alex Post; Treasurer: Sam Zoske and Board of Social Ministry: Nancy DeKock.

VACANT POSITIONS: Second Vice President, Director of Parish Education and Director of Youth Ministry.

The agenda was accepted as presented with addition of memorial

money proposal to remodel the lower level mens restroom. The minutes of the previous month were read. Sandy moved, with a second from Roger to approve the minutes as read, with the correction of Thrivent having been received in January, rather than December. Motion carried. The annual meeting minutes were read. Roger moved, with a second from Jana to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried.

STATISTICAL REPORT: Last month attendance averages: Sunday morning: 87; Wednesday evening: 8; Sunday school: 6; Adult Bible class: 28. Member totals last month were 321 Baptized and 257 Communicant.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Sam Zoske absent and Charles Swanson present. A 2014 year-end summary report was reviewed.

BOARD OF ELDERS: Director Roger Mathews reported of the February 8 meeting:

1. The Smalcald Articles devotion was completed.
2. Communion setup and assistance assignments were designated for March.
3. Pastor Post made 29 pastoral care visits last month and Pastor Berry made 6 visits.
4. Wednesday Lenten service schedule and Pastor's absence for the birth of his child was discussed to plan services to be held.
5. Officer installation is scheduled for March 8.
6. Non-attending member visits were discussed.
7. The next Elder's meeting will be Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 PM.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: Director Brian Mohr reported 49 photo directories were purchased to date. Following Sunday purchase opportunities additional copies will be available by contacting the church office.

BOARD OF ASSIMILATION: Director Sandy Rhodes reported:

1. Sandy and Nancy reviewed the membership and newsletter lists and concluded approximately 85 newsletters will be mailed for a cost of about \$38.22 per month.

2. Sunday, February 15, Court Whist was enjoyed.
3. Soup suppers are planned for Wednesday, February 25 through March 25.
4. Easter Sunday, April 5, brunch will be planned with the LWML.

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

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION: Position vacant. Roger reported 20 Happy Times publications were ordered for the year.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Director Jana Robertson was present. No report.

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTY: Director Edwin Wignall reported the sign in the front yard was changed to the current 7:00 pm Wednesday evening worship times.

PRESIDENT REPORT: President Egger reported Redeemer received \$319 Thrivent Choice Dollars in February making \$480 the total received in 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Furnace and air conditioner projects bids several months ago were reviewed. After rebates, bids received from Ethington included a Lennox unit of \$4,705, and a Trane unit for \$4,260. Kapaun & Brown bids for a Lennox unit was \$5,205, a York unit for \$4,260 and an Air Flow unit (made by Lennox) for \$3,750. Ed will get updated bids and rebate totals.
2. The parsonage roof project will be reviewed at a future date.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Barb Blake submitted a letter asking Don Blake's memorial funds to be utilized for the lower restroom remodeling which was considered ten years ago. An updated quote from Mark Ticky of Hay Construction estimated the project cost at \$10,000. Following discussion Sandy motioned the project begin with the \$5,000 Don Blake memorial funds, family members of other memorial monies be contacted, other contributions be accepted and the remainder be

paid from the building repair fund. Jana seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Brian will draft a letter to family members with undesignated memorial funds.

This Church Council will next meet on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Following a motion by Roger, and second by Brian, the motion carried for the meeting to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca J Baedke

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORIES are available in the church office for \$6.00 each. If you are interested and would like one, please stop by and pick one up.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES Sunday, February 22, 2015

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 10:18 am by President Keith Egger.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President: Keith Egger; Board of Elders: Roger Mathews; Board of Stewardship: Brian Mohr; Board of Assimilation: Sandy Rhodes; Board of Social Ministry: Nancy DeKock; Board of Evangelism: Jana Robertson; Board of Church Property: Edwin Wignall and President Secretary: Rebecca Baedke.

MEMBERS ABSENT: First Vice-President: Bruce Johnson; Pastor Alex Post; Treasurer: Sam Zoske and Financial Secretary: Charles Swanson.

VACANT POSITIONS: Second Vice President, Director of Parish Education and Director of Youth Ministry.

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTY: Director Edwin Wignall reported updated bids were received for replacing the kitchen furnace & air conditioning system from Ethington Heating and Cooling from bids received 10 months ago bids.

Lennox Elite unit will be \$5,760.00, after a \$900 rebate from Alliant Energy the net cost will be \$4,860.00. A Trane unit would be \$5,240.00 and after rebate the net cost would be \$4,340.00.

Ten (10) months ago Kapaun and Brown submitted bids for a Lennox unit of \$6,135.00 before rebates and an Aire Flo brand unit for \$4,228.00 before rebate with a net cost of \$3,728.00 after rebate,

The Lennox Elite offers a warranty of 5-years parts, one year labor, twenty years on the heat exchanger and five years on the compressor. The Trane is made in another state. The Aire Flo is owned by Lennox and believed to be made in Mexico. Reviews show these units are not built at the same standards as a Lennox.

Ed motioned to purchase the Lennox Elite unit from Ethington Heating and Cooling and Roger seconded. Motion carried.

Sandy asked that an electrical outlet be installed in the furnace storage area when the furnace unit is installed. Ed will look into installation of an outlet in this area.

This Church Council will next meet on Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Following a motion by Sandy, and second by Nancy, the motion carried for the meeting to adjourn at 10:29 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca J Baedke

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

Address correction requested