



THE REDEEMER MESSENGER

1600 South Center Street
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MAY 2015

GOD GIVES THE GROWTH

Dear plantings of God our Father, who grow and mature by hearing God's Word:

What a beautiful time of year! Farmers are sowing seeds in their fields. Gardeners are planting seeds in their gardens. Trees and bushes are budding. The grass turned brilliantly green just in the last couple of weeks. Rain is watering the seeds. Plants are receiving nutrients from the soil. And the sunshine is giving the plants energy.

How does this happen? We can explain the processes of photosynthesis and respiration scientifically, but we cannot explain exactly why a seed that is planted with the right soil, sunshine, and water grows into a healthy, green plant and bears fruits or flowers. One of the most common ways that Jesus speaks of the Kingdom of God is through agricultural parables. Notice that you and I do not receive any credit for preaching and proclaiming the holy Word of God. God gets the credit! He plants. He gives growth. He harvests. We are simply to speak and teach His holy Word to others, every time we have an opportunity, for through His powerful Word He raises sinners from the dead and gives them new life. Hear what God teaches us in His Word:

“And He said, ‘The Kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by

itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” – Mark 4:26-29

“The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in His temple all cry, ‘Glory!’” – Psalm 29:3-9

“What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God Who gives the growth.” – 1 Corinthians 3:5-7

Dear Christians: keep coming to hear the Word of God! By His grace and power alone, the simple speaking and hearing of His Word will bring us to life, give us growth and maturity in the faith, and keep us strong and vibrant until He comes again for the final harvest to take us to heaven with Him!

—Pastor Alex Post



USHERS FOR MAY

Don Denzler Kirk Niehouse
John Remster Johnathan Remster

GREETERS

May 3 Steve and Sue Runge
 10 Paul and Linda Schaper
 17 Don and Eloise Severidt
 24 Bob and Janelle Shatava
 31 Dennis and Melanie Sickels

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

May 3 Becky Baedke, Anna Jass
 10 Ken and Shirley Breinig
 17 Pat and Bonnie Lowry
 24 Bob and Delores Popp
 31 Dennis and Kelly Smith

ATTENDING ELDERS

May 3 Ken Breinig, Brian Mohr
 10 Pat Lowry, Roger Mathews
 13 Keith Egger
 17 Dennis Sickels, Brad Sickels
 24 Roger Mathews, Steve Runge
 27 Steve Runge
 31 Charlie Swanson, Sam Zoske

AUDIO VIDEO TECH

May 3 Mike Stubbs
 10 Pat Lowry
 17 Charlie Swanson
 24 Keven Kirk
 31 Steve Runge

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.

HOUSE OF COMPASSION

Thank you to everyone who helped cook and serve on April 7th. 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, May 5th. 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Luther took on a disguise and hid in Wartburg Castle from Roman Catholic authorities from 1520-21. While there he let his hair and beard grow, dressed as a soldier and was known as “Knight George.”

Martin Luther’s *Little Instruction Book*



MOTHER'S DAY
May 10, 2015



May 3, 2015

RLC SERVICE PROJECT

During Sunday School & Bible Class Hour

Redeemer Lutheran Church children, youth, and adults will show others their Christian love by working together to create special hand-made gifts for Marshalltown's nursing home residents.

Deliveries of the planted flowers and cards will occur sometime from May 4 - 7, 2015.

This is a Redeemer Lutheran Church Cross-Generational Service Project for residents of Bickford Assisted Living, Grandview Heights, Southridge, and Villa del Sol.

WOULD YOU PLEASE
HELP US CREATE A
SPECIAL GIFT OF
CHRISTIAN LOVE
FOR OTHERS?

DON'T BE SHY!

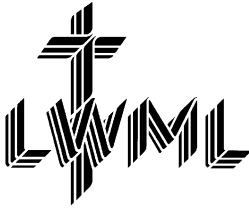
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please share an hour of
your time to do something
very special.

**All of us working
together helping
others will be a
wonderful
experience!!!**

Bring a friend or two and
help us share our joy for
our brothers and sisters in
Christ!

The more the merrier!!!



*Christ is Risen
He is Risen Indeed - Alleluia*

What an inspiring Easter message and beautiful choir rendition to start our Easter morning. Many stayed to enjoy the potluck breakfast which followed. The LWML appreciates all who helped setup, provide flowers, decorations, napkins, candy, food and all who took time with serving and cleanup.

Saturday, April 18th was the day for the World Relief truck to arrive in Ankeny to pick up quilts. 79 quilts were completed by our faithful quilt makers. Thanks to Justin Berndt for delivering the quilts to Ankeny for us. "Job well done."

Also on the 18th a number of our LWML ladies attended the Marshall County Spring Conference hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church, Dillon. Attending from Redeemer were: Deloris Clayton, Dorothy Lueders, Nancy DeKock, Marjean Meyer, Sandy Rhodes, Marjorie Wengert, Shirley Ohlschlager, Delores Popp and from Trinity, State Center, Jean Goodman. Devotions were by Pastor Alex Post, Bible Study by Pastor Fred Berry and slides of the Holy Land were presented by Pastor Mike and Melanie Maddick.

Nancy DeKock and others from the Flower Committee will be planting flowers in the outside church boxes around Mothers Day. As usual - help is always needed for watering flowers during summer months - contact Nancy if you can help with this.

Watch the upcoming newsletters for information concerning a bazaar which is being planned for the Fall season.

The May Quarterly will be Thursday, May 21st at 9:30 AM. Altar Circle will serve refreshments. A fun program is being planned. Sandy Rhodes will read portions of a book, Growing up Lutheran, authored by Janet Letnes Martin and Suzann (Johnson) Nelson. It is

guaranteed to bring a few good laughs. Come, bring your friends and enjoy.

It is still not too late to make reservations for the LWML 34th Biennial Convention at the Event Center in Des Moines June 25-28.

More details can be found on the LWML website: (<http://www.lwml-ied.org/>). This is a great opportunity to meet with other LWML members from many different areas.

Delores Popp

MARSHALL COUNTY CROP WALK 2015

THE MARSHALL COUNTY CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, May 31, 2015, at Grimes Farm. We will walk a 5K route. Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m. The Walk will begin at 1:30 p.m. More information and resources may be found at:

www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer .



*Thank
you!*

A special thank you to everyone who remembered me with birthday cards and greetings as I celebrated my 96th birthday!

— Marge Wengert

Thank you for the prayers, cards and calls after my mother's death. Also a special thank you to Pastor Post for his prayers and visits to her at Southridge Nursing Home. God's blessings.

—The family of Thelma Armbrecht

COME AND BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 7 TO HEAR PREACHING ON THE CATECHISM!

Dear saints in Christ Jesus:

Read this announcement Martin Luther gave in May of 1528 when he began preaching a series of sermons on the Catechism:

“It has hitherto been our custom to teach the elements and fundamentals of Christian knowledge and life four times each year and we have therefore arranged to preach on these things for two weeks in each quarter, four days a week at two o’clock in the afternoon. Because these matters are highly necessary, I faithfully admonish you to assemble at the designated time with your families. Do not allow yourself to be kept away by your work or trade and do not complain that you will suffer loss if for once you interrupt your work for an hour. Remember how much freedom the Gospel has given you, so that now you are not obliged to observe innumerable holy days and can pursue your work. And besides, how much time do you spend drinking and swilling! You don’t count that, but when you are asked to spend time on God’s Word you are disgusted. Woe to you who scorn this treasure on account of your greed and will not give your servants a free hour to hear God’s Word. Give them an hour off that they may come to know themselves and Christ more fully.”

“But you fathers who have given your children, servants, and maidservants time off and then found that they did not want to come to church, I give you the liberty to compel them to come. Don’t think, you fathers, that you have fulfilled your responsibility for your households when you say, ‘Oh, if they don’t want to go, how can I compel them? I dare not do it.’ Oh, no, this isn’t so. You have been appointed their bishop and pastor; take heed that you do not neglect your office over them. If you neglect this office in your homes, we shall fall into public disgrace, as we have seen this happen already. For you will have to answer for your children and servants whom you have neglected. If you have neglected their education inwardly or outwardly, see to it that this is corrected! See to it, then, that they come to hear this preaching. I hold the office of pastor and I will preach these sermons; I will do my part and even more than we are obliged to.”

—Martin Luther, *10 Sermons on the Catechism*, 1528;
Luther’s Works, Vol. 51 p. 135ff.

Kids in the

DIVINE SERVICE

What is “Pentecost”?

The word “Pentecost (pronounced PEN-tih-kost) comes from a Greek word meaning “fiftieth.” Exactly fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. Everyone there saw tiny flames of fire on the disciples’ heads.

Why is Pentecost so important?

When Jesus died, the disciples were sad because they thought that their Friend and Lord was gone forever. But Jesus rose again! Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus did finally ascend into heaven leaving the disciples below. However, before Jesus actually died, rose again and ascended into heaven, He made a promise to His disciples that He would send His Holy Spirit to them. He said that the Holy Spirit would come and guide them “into all truth” (John 16:13). As you can see, Jesus doesn’t leave us alone to fend for ourselves. Jesus is here with us. His Holy Spirit guides and leads the church into the truth of the wonderful Gospel! We celebrate and remember all of this at Pentecost.

FOR PARENTS

At home, read the story of Pentecost in Acts 2 to your children. Remind them that the Holy Spirit comes to us through the Word and Sacraments just as our Lord has promised. Encourage them to thank God for the gift of His Holy Spirit in their lives.

Life — Faith — Miracles

by Lynette Auch, President of Lutherans For Life

It was Christmas Eve Day, and even though she was a teenager Crystal awakened with all the child-like anticipation of Christmas! But something was dreadfully wrong: she could not see out of one eye. During an emergency visit to the doctor, the condition of Optic Neuritis, often a preliminary symptom of Multiple Sclerosis (MS), was diagnosed. The family was in shock! “What? How could this be?”

Scared for her life and future, Crystal had no idea what all this meant. Along with her regular high school work and extracurricular activities, she was on course to begin an advanced placement (AP) college class and was in the middle of the dance season preparing for a recital. She could only see large objects with her affected eye. Fear gripped her heart as questions consumed her mind. Will I ever see properly again? Will I be able to dance? Will I be able to walk in the future? Who will want to marry me? What is going to happen to me?

It took many weeks for her eyesight to improve after her first round—many followed—of intravenous steroid therapies. She went ahead with her AP class and did the best she could with dance, despite the vision loss. More doctor visits and testing followed, along with months of waiting and more testing before a final diagnosis of MS.

During those months, Crystal experienced an almost full recovery, physically, and had no other symptoms. Crystal and her family could almost forget the diagnosis, except for the overwhelming depression that darkened Crystal’s heart, clouding her normally cheerful demeanor. For someone so young, any potentially debilitating disease is nothing short of a death sentence, and that is how Crystal felt. She was angry and lashed out at every one, including herself, as suicidal thoughts entered her mind.

Being diagnosed with a long-term health condition (or chronic illness) can be frightening and disorienting. Once beyond the shock of the diagnosis, one “must adjust to the demands of the illness itself, as well as to the treatments for their condition. The illness may affect a person’s mobility and independence and change the way a person lives, sees him or herself, and/or relates to others. For these reasons, a certain amount of despair and sadness is normal. In some cases, a chronic illness may actually cause depression.” Depression also “appears to result from specific biologic effects of chronic medical illness . . . central nervous system disorders—such as Parkinson’s disease, cerebrovascular disease, or multiple sclerosis—as well as endocrine disorders—such as hypothyroidism.”

God brought just the right people into Crystal’s—and her

family's—life to help all of them through this very dark time, including a compassionate, Christian doctor who had MS himself. He cared for and walked alongside them. Through God's Word, prayer, medical treatment, professional Christian counseling, and the continued loving support of family and friends, "the body of Christ," Crystal was able to get past the suicidal thoughts. She was able to see herself as a valued child of God, someone for whom Christ Jesus died. She was able to realize that her life was worth living.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus..." (Hebrews 12:1-2a NIV)

This favorite scripture empowered Crystal. She saw the "body of Christ" as "the great cloud of witnesses." Fixing her eyes on Jesus' ultimate sacrifice helped her look beyond her own entangling needs to the needs of others, chasing away her own depression. It gave her a reason and a purpose to run the race of life with perseverance.

Crystal's life, of course, has never been the same. Along with other medications, she must remain on an anti-depressant. Her life has been filled with one health challenge after another, including becoming totally debilitated, confined to a wheelchair, and dependent on others, for a time. Again God brought the right people and doctors into her life. Nothing short of a miracle happened. After nearly a year of medical treatments, physical and occupational therapy, and lots of tender loving care from the body of Christ, Crystal became a walking miracle! (She touts this proudly in her messages.)

God speaks His Word into Crystal through music. "*What Faith Can Do*" by the Christian group Kutless became Crystal's song of comfort during the countless treatments and trips to the doctor. The lyrics speak to overcoming the odds, moving mountains, and hope that never ends, even when everything in life is falling apart. Miracles happen, silent prayers get answered, broken hearts become brand new, and we have the strength to rise. That is what faith can do.

Miracles happen! Just choosing life over death is a miracle in itself, especially in this culture that glamorizes death over the promises of God. Crystal could have chosen death. Those who know and love her are so blessed and grateful that she did not. Had she done so, the world would never have witnessed the miracles in her life and been encouraged by the life message that she generously shares with those she meets. That's what faith in Jesus can do.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, April 16, 2015

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:01 PM by President Keith Egger. The Collect for the Second Sunday of Easter was read as an opening prayer. John 7: 36 - 52 served as a Bible study.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President: Keith Egger; Pastor Alex Post; 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: Second Vice President: Bruce Johnson; Financial Secretary: Charles Swanson; 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. The minutes of the previous month were read. Brian motioned, with a second by Nancy to approve the minutes with amendments - 'John 7: 14 - 36 served as the Bible study'; and March Elder's minutes were amended to 'Pastor Post had actually made 42 visits in February'. Motion carried.

STATISTICAL REPORT: Last month attendance averages were: Sunday morning: 90; Wednesday evening: 43; Sunday school: 7; Adult Bible class: 27. Member totals last month were 315 Baptized and 251 Communicant.

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

BOARD OF ELDERS: Director Steven Runge reported on the

April 9 meeting with Pastor Post and eight (8) elders in attendance:

1. Pastor opened with devotions, beginning a study of the book "Pastors and Elders".
2. Communion assignments were designated for next month.
3. Pastor Post made 34 pastoral care visits last month. February minutes were amended to reflect 42 visits in February.
4. Elder zones were reviewed with several changes made.
5. Pastor Post will be on vacation the following dates:
June 1-10 -- Dr. Lamb will lead services and Bible class
Sunday, June 7. Pastor Berry will lead service on Wednesday, June 10.

August 14-25 -- Dr. Lamb will lead services and Bible class
August 16 and 23.

6. Divine Service I will be used through May 31. Divine Service III will be used again beginning June 7.
7. Non-attending member visits were discussed.
8. Ushering during the services and communion services was discussed.
9. The next Elder's meeting will be Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 PM.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: Director Brian Mohr reported

1. the \$950.00 rebate check for the furnace was received and deposited in the bank.
2. Some of the memorial funds have now been designated and there are still some families which have not responded.

BOARD OF ASSIMILATION: Director Sandy Rhodes reported:

2. Newsletters will be mailed out next week with assistance from ladies of the LWML.
4. Donations of \$402 were received from Lenten soup suppers.
6. May 3rd, Julee Swanson is planning a planting activity during the Sunday school and Bible class hour, assisted by the rest of the Assimilation committee.

8. Sandy mentioned the Book Club is sponsoring Pastor Jonathan Fisk to be at Redeemer on Friday, April 24th for a presentation about his book, "Broken".

10. Saturday, June 13, an I-Cubs game is being planned.

BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY: Director Nancy DeKock reported

1. Tuesday, April 7 Redeemer members (Pastor, Barb Blake, Melanie & Dennis Sickles) served and (Myrna Burmester, Patty Collins, Jana Robertson and Nancy) prepared an evening meal at the House of Compassion for nearly 40 people.

2. Jana Robertson is delivering the donated food items to the Emergency Food Box.

3. Nancy read a letter from the Salvation Army asking for volunteers on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 to 2:00 pm. See Nancy for details.

4. The LWML is planning a Bazaar in late September or October to raise funds for missions and will coordinate with the church calendar.

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION: Position vacant. No report.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Position vacant. No report.

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTY: Director Edwin Wignall reported

1. March 18 the payment for the furnace was mailed.

2. How'-Gan Electric & Security contract was renewed for the security and fire monitoring system with no change in cost.

3. Ethington returned to check the furnace and air conditioner.

4. A new janitor, from the same company, Cassandra, is now serving our church.

5. A clean-up day was discussed and will be scheduled for Thursday, April 30 beginning around 3:00 pm.

PRESIDENT REPORT: President Egger reported Redeemer received \$468 Thrivent Choice Dollars for April making \$1,617 the total received in 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Men's Room Remodeling contractor and plumber met. New plumbing fixtures, dividers and flooring are planned. Pending scheduling contractors will begin work.

2. Organ rebuild proposal was discussed. The digitization of the organ would allow someone would play and record hymns and liturgy then allow replaying during services.

The company will be asked to show and explain wiring needs, digitization, stops and how to break down options to be most effective in meeting our needs.

3. The parsonage roof project was discussed. Estimated costs for shingles and contractor labor are being gathered. Additional information will be asked to aid in comparison of each of the cost received.

\$7,250 was the bid from Vernon Beachy, Hazelton, IA for 29 squares of 30 yr shingles.

\$11,475 was the bid from R&R Services, Marshalltown, IA for 34 squares of 30 yr shingles.

\$9,680 was the bid from Cowan Roofing, Marshalltown, IA for 30 yr shingles (including removal and disposal of old shingles).

4. A tree and shrub that appears dead needs to be looked at more closely to decide about trimming or removal.

5. Project of painting and floor refinishing and carpeting are hoping to be scheduled during Pastor's family's vacation in June and August.

This Church Council will meet again on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM. A motion by Brian, seconded by Nancy, passed for the meeting to adjourn at 9:16 PM. Pastor Post led Luther's Small Catechism's Evening Prayer to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, *Rebecca J Baedke*

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

Address correction requested