



THE REDEEMER MESSENGER

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Marshalltown, IA 50158

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NOVEMBER 2015

I've Got to Be Me... or Not

by John T. Pless

We live in a culture where the self is assumed as the center of everything. Think of all the words in our vocabulary prefixed with self: self-esteem, self-worth, self-directed. Nothing is allowed to stand in the way of self-expression, especially when it comes to matters of gender and sex. The self is to be celebrated, not held in suspicion or suppressed and certainly not called to repentance.

It is precisely here that the voice of Martin Luther is not merely a blast from the past but a sobering call to the reality of life before God. For Luther as for the Holy Scriptures, the self is the problem. Drawing on language that the Reformer learned from the Church Father St. Augustine, Luther confessed that all of Adam's descendants are "curved in on themselves."

Our culture is obsessed with the self and its never-satisfied appetites, but Luther honed in on the biblical truth that life is not to be found within the self but only in the crucified and risen Christ.

The tug of our flesh is always and ever toward self-justification. In the words of the order for individual confession, "I have lived as if God did not matter and

as if I mattered most”. Self-centeredness is not just socially inappropriate; it is a matter of idolatry. It is the way of flesh to fear, love and trust in the self above all things.

For Luther, the self is not to be fulfilled but put to death and raised to new life in Christ Jesus where He alone is Lord. In one of his foundational writings, *The Freedom of the Christian* (1520), Luther remarked:

We conclude, therefore, that a Christian lives not in himself, but in Christ and in his neighbor. Otherwise he is not a Christian. He lives in Christ through faith, in his neighbor through love. By faith he is caught up beyond himself into God. By love he descends beneath himself into his neighbor. Yet he always remains in God and his love”.

While our culture is obsessed with the self and its never-satisfied appetites, Luther honed in on the biblical truth that life is not to be found within the self but only in the crucified and risen Christ. That’s why he can write so boldly of the Christian as one who is drawn outside of the self and now resides by faith in Christ. Here Luther is echoing the language of Paul: “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me”.

Where the world seeks life through the fulfillment of self, Luther sees the self as something we need rescue from lest we remain enslaved by sin and destined for death. In fact, in his commentary on *Galatians*, Luther writes:

And this is the reason why our theology is certain: it snatches us outside ourselves, so that we do not depend on our own strength, conscience, experience, person, or works but depend on that which is outside ourselves, that is, on the promise and truth of God, which cannot deceive.

Luther would, no doubt, consider the advice of the pop psychologist, “You’ve got to forgive yourself” as not only a cruel impossibility but blasphemy. Only God can forgive sin, and the self is not God! It is to one thing to say that one must learn how to live by the promise that sin is forgiven. That’s faith. It is quite another thing to say, “You must forgive yourself.” That’s idolatry because it makes the self the savior.

The self is free only in the forgiving word of Jesus who alone has carried our sin in His body to death to reconcile us to His Father. Raised from the dead, He is our life, and the life we now live in Him is not self-enclosed. Baptism joins us to this Lord, and in this union, we are promised our own resurrection from the dead. In the meantime, we are freed from the necessity of attempting to justify our existence. Where Jesus is Lord, the self is not. Of course, the old Adam is always and forever fearful that God cannot really be trusted with something as important as life and is ever attempting to retreat back into the comfort recesses of self, all the while chanting piously that he is in the right, confusing his own voice with the words of Christ. That’s why we continue to assert the message of Luther’s Reformation – that there is no other Lord than the one who is cradled in Mary’s lap and hangs dead on the cross.

The Lutheran Witness/October2015

USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

Don Denzler, Kirk Niehouse,
John Remster, Johnathan Remster

GREETERS

- | | | |
|----------|----|---------------------------|
| November | 1 | Chad and Shauna Callaway |
| | 8 | David and Abby Stanfield |
| | 15 | Justin and Amanda Berndt |
| | 22 | Karla Gould, Nancy DeKock |
| | 29 | Byron and Sandy Rhodes |

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

November 1 Pat and Bonnie Lowry
8 Chad and Shauna Callaway
15 Mary Lu Wignall, Barb Blake
22 David and Karen Cary
29 Sam and Samantha Zoske

ATTENDING ELDERS

November 1 Ken Breinig, Chad Callaway
11 Keith Egger
15 Chad Callaway, Roger Mathews
22 Pat Lowry, Charlie Swanson
25 Steve Runge

AUDIO VIDEO TECH

November 1 Charlie Swanson
8 Keven Kirk
15 Steve Runge
22 Warren Nash
29 Mike Stubbs

THRIVENT Financial for Lutherans
MARSHALL COUNTY CHAPTER
Annual Meeting and Dinner
Sunday, November 8th, 12:30 P.M.
St. Paul Lutheran Church
605 1st Street North, State Center

Spouses invited
Admission requested - a food item for the Emergency Food Box
(cereal, corn, green beans, pork and beans, boxed dinners, etc.)



*Lord help us walk your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And bending low, forgetting self
Each serve the other's need*
hymn #857

Yes, serving joyfully is a common thread that binds the LWML ladies together to Serve the Lord with Gladness.

Attending the Marshalltown Zone LWML Rally in Lacona were: Marjean Meyer, Barb Blake, Dorothy Lueders, Nancy DeKock, Deloris Clayton, Bev Grove from Dillon and Pastor Alex Post. Topic for the Rally was "The Value of Life at Every Stage."

We thank Melanie Sickles for purchasing new coffee carafes and water pitchers for the kitchen. (Dennis - we appreciate your help too.)

We will work on choosing our December Mission Gifts at our November meeting. Proceeds from This & That Sale will go towards these remembrances.

REMEMBER -- the Sale will be SATURDAY, NOV. 7th from 9 AM to 2 PM. Coffee and rolls will be available. We are asking the help of Redeemer members to provide craft, or saleable garage items for the sale. The LWML is also asking for bakery goods, homemade candy, jam jellies etc.. Items can be brought to the church anytime on Friday, Nov. 6th, or Saturday morning. Setup for the sale will take place on Wednesday evening after the Nov. 4th worship service. EXTRA HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED. Any questions should be directed to Deloris Clayton 752-9527.

Next meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 19th at 9:30 AM. Pastor Post will lead us in singing several hymns. Topic is from the Fall Quarterly, page 24, "The Time is Now."

ALL LADIES OF REDEEMER ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Delores Popp

THANKSGIVING SERVICE



THANKSGIVING EVE Service will be held on Wednesday evening, November 25th at 7 p.m. Come and give thanks with us as we hear God's Word, receive the Lord's Supper, and pray for more of God's blessings in the year to come!

*Looking
Toward
Advent*



“Advent” means “coming.” Our Lord Jesus came long ago when He was conceived by the Spirit in the womb of His virgin mother Mary. Our Lord Jesus still comes today when His word is preached, His children are baptized, His people are

forgiven, and we eat and drink His true Body and true Blood. Our Lord Jesus will come again on the clouds with all the angelic host of heaven to judge the world and take us to eternal glory with Him.

Sunday, November 29th is the first Sunday of Advent. It's a new Church Year! After Reformation Sunday (Oct. 25) and All Saints Sunday (Nov. 1) we will have the last 3 Sundays of the Church Year. Then it's time for a New Year of God's grace and mercy, shown to us in our Savior Jesus Christ. The Lord is with you!



HOUSE OF COMPASSION

Thank you to everyone who helped cook and serve on October 6th. 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, November 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 to Pastor Post for all the hospital visits and bedside prayers with our family during Edwin's illness and death.

Thank you to Redeemer congregation for all your prayers, memorials, floral tributes and beautiful cards with such comforting messages.

Thank you to Linda Smith for being such a great Christian friend to Edwin and our family.

God Bless Redeemer and all people of God.

Sincerely,

Mary Lu, Tim, David, Suzanne, Lori,
Alisha, Maddison, Shane, Alexa and
Zoey Wignall



Ladies, please join us November 21st at 2 p.m. in the parish hall for a baby shower for Emily Ryherd. We will shower the Ryherd's new baby with books, so please bring your favorite children's book – you may even skip the card and instead write an inscription in the front of the book!

HOUSE OF COMPASSION ADOPT- A- FAMILY PROGRAM 2015

Each year, the House of Compassion sponsors an **“Adopt-a-Family”** program that provides gifts to families who are experiencing financial difficulties that make celebrating the Christmas season difficult. Families signing up for the program must meet our financial guidelines of 150 % of the federal poverty level. Every year there are about ? of those who sign up who do not get adopted. In order to reach and serve more people, we will not be buying “gifts” for the adults. (read #2 below)

On November 2nd -5th, 2015 individuals and families wishing to be adopted will sign up for this program at the House. Only persons who are in the household at least nine months of the year are included in the family. Information for the House Adopt-A-Family program is shared with the Salvation Army so no duplication will take place between the two programs and more families can be served.

As an adopter, we ask that you:

- 1) Decide how many individuals you can financially afford to adopt.
- 2) The family will receive either a personal/household box OR a food box and a \$20 gift certificate to a place of their choosing. Each child through high school will receive 3 gifts totaling up to \$50. (Please do not purchase everything on the list—that is there for you to make choices). If you are able to purchase more than the suggested items per person, we ask that you adopt a larger family, add a single person, or a couple to share Christmas with more people.
- 3) Persons and churches adopting families through this program may be furnishing a Christmas dinner for the family if they choose the food option rather than the personal/household box. It is ok if you want to give the family a plate of “Christmas goodies” even if they have chosen the personal/household option.
- 4) Call Karen Frohwein or Maryna Salas at the House of Compassion, 752-5999, with your adoption requests, or email your family request to hoc@marshallnet.com before November 19th.

5) Receive completed forms of the persons whom you adopted from Karen Frohwein at House of Compassion by November 25th. Much of this may be done via email.

6) Call the people whom you adopted as soon as you receive their names (stop by their house or send a letter if there is no phone), and let them know that they have been adopted so they don't have to worry about not receiving any gifts/food.

Please have your gifts and food delivered by December 21st.

Thank you very much in advance for participating in this very rewarding program. Your compassion is helping a family in our community.

Silence Your Tongue

“Men should think it over well and not obey anger which is hasty and has the word on the tongue and not in the heart.”

“The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.” Proverbs 19:11

Martin Luther's Little Instruction Book

REMINDER...November is Redeemer's month to donate supplies to the House of Compassion Closet. Sacks are available in the parish hall or just fill your own at home.

Nancy DeKock
Director of Social Ministry

THIS AND THAT SALE

Redeemer Lutheran Church
1600 South Center Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Saturday, November 7
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Sponsored by the
Lutheran Missionary League

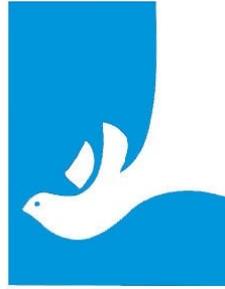
There will be:
Coffee and Rolls
Baked Goods
White Elephant



Come and help our LWML
raise money for missions
here and abroad!

Public Invited!!!

Open to Marriage,
Open to Children:
Our Identity as God's
Children



Come hear a special presentation from your District Life
Coordinator,
Rev. Alex Post from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marshalltown!

Meet a **young child** – what does he want to be when he grows up?

Meet a **young catechumen** – what does she think about marriage?

Meet a **newly married husband and wife** – what do they think
about children?

Meet a **mother and father** – what do they say to their children?

Meet a **grandparent** – how does he or she encourage children and
grandchildren with the pro-life message?

How can **each of us** lovingly and boldly proclaim God's truth to
all people?

*Iowans for Life, Lighthouse Center of Hope, Agape Pregnancy
Center,*

and other for-life groups will also present!

Sunday, November 8, 2015 @ 2pm
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Marshalltown

This presentation is perfect for all Christians concerned with life
issues, especially moms, dads, teachers, pastors, elders, and
grandparents!

HOUSE OF COMPASSION

2ND ANNUAL
FALL FAMILY MEAL
AND FUNDRAISER!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
5:30-8:00 PM
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL
201 W HIGH STREET

Meal Begins at 5:30
p.m.
Meal Prices
Adults \$10
Kids Ages 3-12 \$5
Family Price \$25
max

FREE KARAOKE PROVIDED
BY CHRIS ANDERSON
WITH MUSIC UNLIMITED!

Silent Auction Baskets to Bid
On!

Including a basket full of
AUTOGRAPHED COUNTRY
MUSIC CDs!!

THREE
TERRIFIC
RAFFLE
PRIZES!

Buy Raffle Tickets
Before Nov. 14 At:
House of Compassion
Trinity Lutheran Church
KFJB-KXIA Radio Station

PRINT by Artist Chebon Dacon Chebon is of Creek decent who was born in Oklahoma City in 1946. He's completely self taught as an artist and known worldwide. His work has been shown in many European countries and is highly collected in the United States.

LAP QUILT donated by Heidi Kaisand, owner of Hen and Chicks Studio in Conrad, Iowa and made by Amish friends of Heidi.

WOODEN BOWL made from four different woods, walnut, oak, hand maple, and blood wood, by Trinity Lutheran Parishioner, Lee Hogle.

A Note from Tracy

PLANNED PARENTHOOD has been in the news a lot lately. As I am writing this, another video was released this morning in which a high level official from Planned Parenthood is apparently negotiating the sale of organs from aborted babies. The LCMS is covering the story on its Facebook page, and I am finding some of the comments disturbing. “Why are you hamming it up on this topic?” says one. Another asks, “Please remember that there is separation of church and state!”

Why are we “hamming it up?” Because we are Lutheran!

From its beginning in the 16th century, the Lutheran church has been devoted to upholding the sanctity of human life. Martin Luther affirms this position in his explanation of the First Article of the Creed:

“God has made me ... He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them ... All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod holds fast to the teachings of Martin Luther on life issues, despite changing societal attitudes, affirming God’s Word on the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, boldly standing on the premise that “no one is worthless whom God has created and for whom Christ died.”

The LCMS has always defended the sanctity of human life, addressing abortion in 1971, two years before the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision. The Commission on Theology and Church Relations has addressed the sanctity of life repeatedly, providing guidance on conception and contraception, natural death and euthanasia, as well as other life-related topics such as capital punishment, human sexuality, and cloning. God is the creator of life (Gen. 1:1). We do not own our lives; they are a gift from our Creator, and as such must be valued and respected. As it is stated in John 1:3, “all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.” Since we do not own life, it is not ours to take.

All of Scripture clearly illustrates the value of each human life. God values human life so much that He sent His only Son to die

to allow us to live forever with Him. We are created in His likeness (Gen. 1:26–27), and our bodies are temples for His service. First Corinthians 3:16–17 directs, “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? ... For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.” Each human life has value and worth in the eyes of the Lord.

The humanity of the unborn is clearly illustrated in Scripture. Before birth, God knits each person together in the womb (Ps. 139:13). Jeremiah 1:5 attests God’s hand in human formation, saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.” Luke 1:41–44 provides a beautiful illustration of the sanctity of unborn life, as John recognizes his Savior and leaps with joy in Elizabeth’s womb: “And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.’”

The sanctity of life is not limited to the unborn. Every person has value in the eyes of God, regardless of his capacity or disability.

“As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor” (1 Cor. 12:20–23a).

Our Lord Jesus Christ valued those with disabilities; ministering to them and serving them with great compassion. Each individual is a worthy member of the body of Christ, precious, honored, and loved by God (Is. 43:4a). We are commanded to remember that “the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7).

The Scriptures declare the sanctity of human life at all ages. The end of human life is ordered by God in the same way that He orders life in the womb. “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted (Eccl. 3:1–2). It is not for man to second guess or pre-empt God’s wisdom. Euthanasia and assisted suicide, even with the good intention to alleviate suffering, are contrary to God’s will, for our sufferings produce hope through the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:3–5).

The Lutheran theology of life is summarized in Matthew 22:37–39, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Because of our love for God, we value His Word on the sanctity of human life, and live out this command through our care for our neighbor.

Hamming it up? Rather, I’d say we are speaking it up. Speaking for Life, God’s precious gift to us.

- Tracy Quaethem

Project Coordinator LCMS Life Ministry

- from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod,

Notes for Life Volume 10, Issue 3 Page 4

Fall 2015

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, October 15, 2015

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Keith Egger. The Collect for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity was read as an opening prayer. John 9:24-34 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; and President Secretary: Rebecca Baedke.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Treasurer: Sam Zoske; Second Vice

President: Bruce Johnson; Financial Secretary: Charles Swanson; and Director of Youth Ministry: Rheba Yost.

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

The agenda was accepted as presented with additions of House of Compassion and cleaning services and financial information. The minutes of the previous month were read. Nancy motioned, with a second by Steve to approve the minutes with the correction of meeting closing with the Evening Prayer. Motion carried.

STATISTICAL REPORT: Last month attendance averages were: Sunday morning: 96; Wednesday evening: 17; Adult Bible class: 29 and Sunday school: 10. Member totals last month were 317 Baptized and 253 Communicant. Changes due to the death of Edwin Wignall on September 14.

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

BOARD OF ELDERS: Director Steven Runge, reported the Elders met October 8 with Pastor Post and six (6) elders in attendance:

1. Pastor led devotions and continued study of the book, "Pastors and Elders".
2. Communion assignments were designated for next month.
3. Pastor Post made 46 pastoral care visits last month.
4. Pastor reported six youth attending confirmation classes.
5. Possibility of repairing and/or updating the organ was discussed.
6. Verizon landline long distance carrier services were discussed with no change at this time.
7. A letter with Holiday schedule information is planned to be sent to all members.

8. Elders began to work on the 2016 budget.
9. The next Elders meeting will be Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 PM.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: Director Brian Mohr present with nothing new to report. Information is being gathered for envelopes for the new year.

BOARD OF ASSIMILATION: Director Sandy Rhodes reported upcoming events:

1. Brunch after worship service on October 18, 2015.
2. Old Creamery Theatre Outing – October 25, 2015 at 12:30 leaving from church to carpool. Dinner at the Ox Yoke Inn following the play.
3. Bowling will be November 22nd with details to follow in the newsletter.
4. On December 5th, the church will be decorated for Christmas beginning at 9 am.
5. Christmas caroling is scheduled for December 13.
6. On January 9, 2016, Christmas decorations will be taken down from the church.

BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY: Director Nancy DeKock, reported 47 were served at the House of Compassion on Tuesday, October 6. Tuesday, November 3, will be Redeemer's next date to serve at the House of Compassion and servers will be needed. Supply Closet items are needed at the House of Compassion on an ongoing basis. Jana Robertson continues to deliver donations to the Emergency Food Box. November is Redeemer's month for the House of Compassion supplies.

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION: Position vacant. Pastor Post

reported three catechumens attended the confirmation retreat at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca. Nyapukah Gatwech, Diew Gatwech, Eysak Stanfield.

BOARD OF YOUTH MINISTRY: High School Sunday school and youth group activities are being planned.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Position vacant. No report.

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTY: Position vacant. Roger is looking into possible roof repair. Ken Breinig is checking on concerns regarding the cleaning services. Byron Rhodes will continue to mow the lawn. Gene Storjohann sprayed the lawn for weeds.

PRESIDENT REPORT: President Egger reported Redeemer received \$2 Thrivent Choice Dollars at the beginning of this month, making \$2,856 the total received in 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Men's Room Remodeling project appears to require a few remaining items.
2. Sandy shared that progress continues at the parsonage. The tub covering was completed this week. A small hole in the floor was covered with the acrylic tub covering and so no additional repair work will be needed. A new master bathroom sink and counter will be needed in the future at an estimated cost of \$950. Painting will be Thursday and Friday, October 29 & 30 with help from member volunteers. Carpet and vinyl flooring will be added in November, after the painting. A plumber will come to remove and reset the toilets when the new flooring is installed.

The carpet in the children's bedrooms will be pulled up to see the condition of the original hardwood floors under the carpet. Future parsonage improvements include replacement of the kitchen range hood.

3. Beginning in January it is proposed the financial summary

for the bulletin include only the following: Received Last week; Received this month; YTD total receipts (through the end of the previous month); YTD Expenses (through the end of the previous month).

4. Carpet cleaning: Service Master, with church discount; \$428 to clean the fellowship hall, with tax, moving everything. Jordan \$550; Captain Clean, \$680. Nancy will call Service Master to schedule carpet cleaning after November 7th and prior to Thanksgiving.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A letter was read from Karen Frohwein of the House of Compassion. Redeemer was asked for permission to place a wire-frame homeless figure on the lawn for the purpose of bringing the attention of the community to the hidden aspect of homelessness during Homeless Awareness month. Nancy motioned and Steve seconded that Redeemer allow placement of this wire figure on church property to raise awareness of homelessness in Marshalltown. Motion carried.
2. The budget will be reviewed next month. Each board is asked to review its individual budget prior to the November meeting.

This Church Council will meet again on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Brian motioned and Steve seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm and meeting closed with Luther's Evening Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca J Baedke

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

Address correction requested