



THE REDEEMER MESSENGER

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SEPTEMBER 2015

Mercy at the Edges of Life

BY JOHN T. PLESS, CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY, FORT WAYNE, IND.

“Mercy is not self-evident,” writes Oswald Bayer. We live in a world where the weak are often pushed aside and the most fragile among us, the unborn and the aged, are seen as legitimate targets for extermination — and the act of killing them is even identified as mercy. How different from the Holy Scriptures where mercy, a characteristic of the Triune God Himself, is rather about the donation of life and the doing of that which guards and defends this life without reference to how the quality of that existence might otherwise be evaluated. God shows His mercy to the weak, and so the psalmist is bold to pray, “Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent” (Ps. 71:9).

Gilbert Meilaender argues, rightly I think, that aging is not to be seen as a disease to be cured but as a stage of life to be embraced. When aging is medicated as a disease, physician-assisted suicide becomes all the more tempting. If there is no cure for aging, why should those who suffer from it be required to endure its discomforts and indignities? Once the aged are no longer capable of enjoying an appropriate “quality of life,” they should be free to bring that life to an end and seek medical assistance in doing so — these arguments have gained significant traction in our culture.

If “quality of life” is what defines human existence, such an argument makes sense. Christians recognize that it is not a question of life’s quality, but rather whose life it is. The euphemism for suicide, “she took her own life,” is deceptive. It was never her life to take. Life is an endowment of God’s mercy from conception to natural death. Human life is given dignity by the Creator without any merit or worthiness in me, to paraphrase the Small Catechism. It is always to be received as a gift and so protected from harm and danger no matter what its “quality” might be. This means that the Christian is under obligation not to “hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need,” to cite the Catechism’s explanation of the Fifth Commandment. It is not an act of courage to make yourself the author of your own death or to cause death for another. Courage is demonstrated in living the life that God has given — even with its burdens — to the end that God Himself will give. Death is never a gift we are entitled to give to ourselves or others.

Our responsibility to the aged, injured and infirm is always to care and never to kill. Anything that aims for the death of those who suffer is murder, which God strictly prohibits in His Law. Even when death is inevitable, it is our calling to “help and support” the neighbor “in every physical need.” We are never authorized to end suffering by terminating the life of the one who suffers. While it is true that the dying are not obligated to accept therapies that are burdensome or that promise little hope of a cure, none of us may excuse ourselves from the burdens of life. Protestations like “I don’t want to be a burden to anyone” are a fundamental denial of our humanity. To be a human being is to be a burden and to bear burdens (see Gal. 6:2). Rather than deserting the dying or accelerating their movement toward death, Christians show mercy by supporting them in this body and life, thereby bearing their burdens even as we commend them into the hands of a merciful Savior.

— *Notes for Life, Spring 2015, Volume 10, Issue 1 Page 4,*
published by the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

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

GREETERS

September	6	Richard and Bernita Zitzow
	13	Sam and Samantha Zoske
	20	John Remster, Johnathan Remster
	27	Patty Collins, Ethel Tietje

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

September	6	Deloris Clayton
	13	Don and Eloise Severidt
	20	Charles and Leone Reisetter
	27	Don and Karen Denzler

ATTENDING ELDERS

September	6	Ken Breinig, Dennis Sickels
	9	Keith Egger
	20	Brad Sickels, Sam Zoske
	23	Steve Runge
	27	Charlie Swanson, Dennis Smith

AUDIO VIDEO TECH

September	6	Mike Stubbs
	13	Pat Lowry
	20	Charlie Swanson
	27	Keven Kirk

HOUSE OF COMPASSION

Thank you to everyone who helped cook and serve on August 4th. 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, September 1st. 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.



Our LWML District President, Joan Berquist, reminds us that: (whatever the circumstances we can grow in our faith, if we keep Jesus as the center of our lives.)

The women of the Waterloo Zone invite LWML ladies to the Fall Retreat to be held at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca on Sept. 18 and 19th. Registration should be in by Sept. 4th. There is a registration form in the Summer edition of the Iowa East news. For more information contact Deloris Clayton at 752-9527.

After a summer break the LWML will meet for their Fall Quarterly on Thursday, Sept. 17th at 9:30 AM in our Parish Hall. The meetings always begin with singing favorite hymns. Since it is "back to school time" we would like everyone to share a "school memory."

Hostesses for the Quarterly are the Cheer and Flower Circle. EVERYONE is always welcome.

It is not too early to make plans for items you would like to donate to the LWML Bazaar to be held Saturday, Nov. 7th. Let's make this a very special occasion.

Delores Popp

Questions for Friends & Family Who Wave the Rainbow Flag

It's likely that we have friends, family members and even fellow church members who celebrate the Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex "marriage." Kevin DeYoung of The Gospel Coalition has shaped 40 questions that, if carefully asked, might help our brothers and sisters to slow down and think about the flag they are flying. Here are 20:

1. How long have you believed that gay marriage is something to be celebrated?
2. How would you make a positive case from Scripture that sexual activity between two persons of the same sex is a blessing to be celebrated?
3. What verses would you use to show that a marriage between two persons of the same sex can adequately depict Christ and the church?
4. Why did Jesus reassert the Genesis definition of marriage as being one man and one woman?
5. If some homosexual behavior is acceptable, how do you understand the sinful "exchange" Paul highlights in Romans 1?
6. Do you believe the passages like 1 Corinthians 6:9 and Revelation 21:8 teach that sexual immorality can keep you out of heaven?
7. What sexual sins do you think they were referring to?
8. As you think about the long history of the church and the near universal disapproval of same-sex sexual activity, what do you understand about the Bible that Augustine, Aquinas, Calvin, and Luther failed to grasp?
9. What arguments would you use to explain to Christians in Africa, Asia, and South America that their understanding of homosexuality is biblically incorrect and your new understanding of homosexuality is not culturally conditioned?
10. Do you think children do best with a mother and a father?
11. If not, what research would you point to in support of that conclusion?
12. If yes, does the church or the state have any role to play in promoting or privileging the arrangement that puts children with a mom and a dad?

13. Does the end purpose of marriage point to something more than an adult's emotional and sexual fulfillment?
14. How would you define marriage?
15. On what basis, if any, would you prevent consenting adults of any relation and of any number from getting married?
16. Does equality entail that anyone wanting to be married should be able to have any meaningful relationship defined as marriage? If not, why not?
17. If "love wins," how would you define love?
18. What Scripture verses would you use to establish that definition?
19. How should obedience to God's commands shape our understanding of love?
20. How has your support for gay marriage helped you become more passionate about the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ on the cross, the total trustworthiness of the Bible, and the urgent need to evangelize the lost? (Source: The Gospel Coalition www.thegospelcoalition.org)

Suggested Resources: "What Is Marriage" by Rev. Richard Eyer and "Why Marriage Matters: A Bible Study" by Rev. Timothy Pauls (www.lcms.org/freetobefaitful)

PLEASE PRAY that people of God faithfully bear witness to the Truth even in the dark ages of sin . . . in Jesus' name.

Talking to Your Kids About Marriage

We don't always get to choose what we talk about with our children. Events like beheadings by Muslim terrorists and police shootings force discussions on things we may prefer to hold back from our kids. Now, following the Supreme Court decision of *Obergefell v. Hodges*, we need to discuss with our children the difference between the world's ideas and the Truth of God's Word in Jesus Christ. We need to help our children understand why God created marriage and what being a family means. We need to help them understand why God desires that a child have both a mother and a father.

Parents can begin with Jesus' own words about marriage in Matthew 19. There, Jesus takes the Pharisees back to the book of Genesis. Moms and dads can pick up the story from there, reminding sons and daughters that God said it was not good for Adam to be alone, and that Adam needed a "helper fit for him" (Gen. 2:18). Neither the

animals nor another man were, according to God, suitable helpers because, in part, what Adam needed help with had to do with procreation and making a family. And how does God make a family? Through marriage and the loving, procreative marital act of a husband and wife.

Parents can also explain to their children that, in this fallen world, authorities sometimes make bad decisions that oppose God and produce disastrous consequences. Examples are the Jim Crow laws, no-fault divorce laws, and the legalization of abortion. There will always be differences of opinion among adults in this world, but children do better if their parents help them keep their bologna detectors geared up and engaged.

Suggested Resources for parents: *The Failure of Sex Education in the Church: Mistaken Identity, Compromised Purity* by Linda Bartlett (www.amazon.com); www.breakpoint.org, www.focusonthefamily.org

PLEASE PRAY for courageous parents to mentor sons and daughters . . . in Jesus' name.

15-year-olds Can Decide Without Parents

In Oregon, 15-year-olds are not legally allowed to drive, smoke, donate blood, get a tattoo, or even go to a tanning bed. But under a quietly enacted policy last January, 15-year-olds are now allowed to get a sex-change operation without parental notification.

The decision to cover sex-change operations was made by Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC), a 13-member panel hand-selected by the Oregon governor and confirmed by the Senate. HERC recently changed its policy to include cross-sex hormone therapy, puberty-suppressing drugs, and gender-reassignment surgery for people with gender dysphoria. Since the age of medical consent in Oregon is 15, a 15-year-old can decide on his own to become a her. Covered medical procedures are paid for through the Oregon health Plan, the state's Medicaid program. This means that although parents don't get to participate in their child's decision to undergo life-altering medical treatment, they do ultimately get stuck with the bill.

Dr. Paul McHugh, who led the Johns Hopkins Psychiatry Department and still practices, said Oregon's policy amounts to child abuse. "We

have a very radical and even mutilating treatment being offered to children without any evidence that the long-term outcome of this would be good.” Dr. McHugh says a sex-change operation, especially for young people with gender dysphoria, is never appropriate. “We can help them if we begin to explore with them and their families what they’re fearing about development, what they’re fearing about being a young boy, a young adolescent appropriate to themselves.” (Sources: www.libertyunyielding.com and www.foxnews.com)

Suggested Resources: www.parentalrights.org and www.americanfamilyassociation.org

PLEASE PRAY for parents to claim their God-given responsibility and raise respectful voices on behalf of their children . . . in Jesus’ name.

— July *Christian Citizenship* by Linda Bartlett



Sunday School

Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 13 at 10:15 after 9:00 a.m. Divine Service. Please invite any youth you might know to attend Sunday School. And adults, please plan to attend **Adult Bible Study** at 10:15 every Sunday as we continue to study God’s amazing grace and mercy shown through the book of Genesis!

Sunday School teachers will be installed during 9 a.m. worship on Sunday, September 13th.

HOW TO RECEIVE GRACE

“Certain it is that man must completely despair of himself in order to become fit to receive the grace of Christ.”

Martin Luther’s Little Instruction Book

Pastor Post and Our Dear Friends at Redeemer,

Leaving your congregation has been very difficult. We have been attending Mt. Olive, our son's church in Adel. At 89 and 91, we would like to continue our memberships with Redeemer.

We are now close to our sons, which they have been wanting for two years and my fractures and fall took care of that immediately. We enjoy being close to our family and our son who is at Broadlawns.

Thank you so much for all your cards and get well wishes. Please come and visit us at Calvin Community, 4210 Hickman Road, Apt 135, Des Moines, IA 50310-3333. Our phone number is 515-633-2640.

Friends in Christ,
Don and Eloise

HUMOR

In a small northern Minnesota town, a little boy came to Sunday school late one day. The teacher knew that the boy was usually on time, so he asked him if anything was wrong. The little boy said that he originally planned to go fishing with his dad, but his dad told him he needed to go to church.

The teacher was very impressed and asked the boy if his dad explained why it was more important to go to church than to go fishing. "Yes he did," answered the little boy. "He said he didn't have enough bait for both of us."



THANK YOU



Just a note of thanks to all the members that are on the Prayer Chain. We quietly pass out names every week of families of the congregation that we pray for each week. Lists are made up and the group prays for 5 families (or members) of the congregation each week. Some names are sent by e-mail, phone calls are made and lists given to those that do not have e-mail. We also pray for anyone that requests prayer before surgery and after. Anyone that is prayed for on Sunday morning is added to our list. Cards are sent to everyone we pray for if we have the address. If someone is interested and would like to join the prayer group please contact Dorothy Lueders, Ph. # 641-752-0864.

I received a note from Mary Ann and Ken Cox that I would like to pass on.....

Dear Dorothy and Redeemer Prayer Circle,

God is so good to us when mishaps get in our way. He is good no matter what happens, but we feel every prayer and enjoy each contact by those Christians around us on our behalf. Thank you for your kind gestures of prayer and cards.

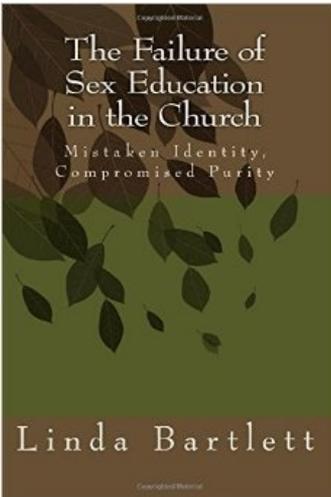
Lots of Love and Peace,

Ken and Mary Ann Cox

(This is a long recovery but each day sees improvement. We love you!)



**The Failure of Sex Education
in the Church:
Mistaken Identity, Compromised Purity**



Our Baptism is a daily reminder to see ourselves the way God does. Sex education is built on a foundation that diametrically opposes God's design for parents to instruct their children in purity.

Come to hear Linda Bartlett and a panel of pastors speak on this timely and vital topic for our church!

Sunday, October 11 at 2pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church,

Marshalltown



September 20th

Car pool from the church at
2:30 p.m.

(For those who just want to come, sit, eat a hot dog and enjoy
the fresh country air, that will be great as well.)

Hot Dogs, Drinks
and Table Service provided.



Please bring a lawn
chair if you can.

Sign up sheet in parish
hall.

The Making of a Minister

In the year 1975, Missouri Synod president Jacob A. O. Preus II (1920-94) was speaking to a group of students and professors at Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois about the state of the synod, including the recruitment of ministers. Preus had previously been a professor and president at that seminary and came from a long line of pastors (his father broke the pattern and served, among other things, as governor of Minnesota in the 1920s). Dr. Preus observed: “I think the average pastor is laying down on the job in the area of recruitment of new ministers.”

I do not know the statistics underlying that statement or if they hold true today. As synod president, Dr. Preus knew the basis for his understanding at the time and why he made that public statement about the “average pastor.” At any rate, his words remind me of my own childhood pastor and how he did not “lay down on the job of recruitment.” But he did “recruitment” more indirectly than directly. He did it by the ministry he modeled.

My childhood pastor (I knew him since I was five years old) fell asleep in Jesus earlier this month. It came as a surprise as he was not in poor or declining health at the time. His daughter informed me and I went on to inform other pastors who knew him. They, too, were surprised but comforted with the knowledge that an old soldier of the Cross had fought the good fight of faith and had been called home to rest from his labors.

John F. Domsch (1941-2015) was my pastor, mentor, and friend. If I could trace my decision to enter the ministry to one particular influence, it was this man. And I don’t recall him once saying anything like, “Marc, I really think you should consider going into the pastoral ministry.”

Pastor Domsch attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, in the 1960s, and had Dr. Robert D. Preus (1924-95; brother of Jacob) as one of his professors. Robert Preus once described how he and his older brother were influenced to go into the pastoral ministry. Interestingly enough, he did not cite his long line of relatives. He cited his childhood pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Highland Park, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago). He said that Pastor William Suhr (1887-1951) was “the best teacher I ever had”

and had gotten the Preus brothers “totally interested in theology.”

John Domsch was my William Suhr. He was my best teacher and got me totally interested. He gave me so much in the way of pastoral role modeling before I ever attended Concordia University, Chicago, Illinois or Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. The shaping process for me was taking place even before I took catechism instruction from him. And as a child so often imitates a parent, I absorbed much of his pastoral approach and, I hope, his pastoral heart. Much of who I am in the pastoral ministry today I attribute to Pastor Domsch.

The making of a minister so often begins in those early years when a boy is being regularly brought to worship, Sunday school, catechism class, and Bible study. He sees the ministry modeled for him by a faithful pastor and he asks himself, “Should I become a pastor, too?” In my case, the answer came to be “yes” as I publicly declared at the time of my confirmation. And, years later, this same childhood pastor would participate in my service of ordination at my home church in Iowa.

So I say, “Thank you, Pastor Domsch, for your way of recruiting me into the confessional Lutheran ministry.” And in thanking God for the gift of this man, Hebrews 13:7 comes to mind as an appropriate passage of Scripture: “Remember your leaders who told you God’s Word. Consider how their lives ended, and imitate their faith.”

Above all else, this departed brother was a fellow sinner saved by the grace of God in Jesus Christ. For him, for me, and for everyone else that is all that matters. Jesus calls it the “one thing needful” in Luke 10.

*For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*
(LSB 677:1)

M. L. F. Freiberg Sr.
27 July 2015

The Iowa
Veterans Home

**You
can make
a difference!**

Become a Friend to a Vet

What does that mean... volunteers will be a "Friend" to residents that are without family and have few visitors.

The volunteer will be asked to come in a few times a month to visit with the resident for a short time providing support, friendship and encouragement while going for a stroll, talking, reading, writing letters, playing games, getting a snack at the Canteen or going to the Library to check out a book or DVD.

Become a FRIEND
today—you will get as
much out of it as they
do!

Call Aimee today to
find out more—
641-753-4406.

BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

Complete an application and submit it to the IVH Volunteer Services Office.

The Volunteer Services Coordinator will conduct a background check through the FBI and the Abuse Registry, as well as obtaining three personal references.

Each new volunteer will receive a volunteer handbook, a their volunteer identification, as well as a volunteer name tag and parking permit.

Additional training will be provided in the volunteer's area of assignment. Must be at least 22 years of age to become a registered volunteer.

WE NEED YOU!

Volunteers



BOARD OF ASSIMILATION

We hope you all had a wonderful summer. Now that the temperatures are cooler (hope it lasts), and a few leaves are already falling, it is time to think about some fall activities at Redeemer....so looking ahead:

September 20th – We have planned a old-fashioned hayride! This is for EVERYONE - young, mature and in-between. We will leave at 2:30 p.m. carpooling from the church parking lot. Our destination is about 25 minutes from town. Once there, we will get the hayride organized and going. For those who just want to come, sit, eat a hot dog and enjoy the fresh country air, that will be great as well. There is a machine shed to get inside if it is pretty cool. Refreshments will be provided. Please bring lawn chairs if you can. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Please sign up by September 13th!

October 18th – Our final brunch of 2015 following the 9:00 a.m. church service.

October 25th – Our much anticipated return trip to the Amana Old Creamery Theatre to see the final play in the Church Basement Ladies series, entitled THE LAST (POTLUCK) SUPPER. We have 35 tickets reserved and we can get more, if needed, at a cost of \$26 per person. The performance is at 2:00 p.m., after which we will enjoy a wonderful meal at the Oxyoke Inn before returning home. (Plan on carpooling from the church parking lot at 12:30 p.m. to travel to the Amanas.) A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall beginning September 20th. Final count and ticket money will be payable to Sandy Rhodes on October 11th.

More details on a November bowling event and church Christmas decorating dates in the October newsletter.

Come join us for these social activities. We do get to know each other better, and we do have good Christian fun!

— Sandy Rhodes, Director of Assimilation

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
Thursday, August 20, 2015

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:03 PM by President Keith Egger. The Collect for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity was read as an opening prayer. John 8:48-59 served as a Bible study.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President: Keith Egger; 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; Director of Youth Ministry: Rheba Yost; and President Secretary: Rebecca Baedke.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Second Vice President: Bruce Johnson; Pastor Alex Post; Treasurer: Sam Zoske and Board of Church Property: Edwin Wignall.

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

The agenda was accepted as presented with additions of appointment of Rheba Yost as Director of Youth Ministry; and financial information posted in the bulletin. The minutes of the previous month were read. Brian motioned, with a second by Nancy to approve the minutes of June and July. Motion carried.

STATISTICAL REPORT: Last month attendance averages were: Sunday morning: 100; Wednesday evening: 22; Adult Bible class: 33. Member totals last month were 312 Baptized and 248 Communicant, decrease due to death of Don Clayton on July 13 and Elsie Minor on July 31. New members added by July 26, (Craig Flanagan, Mike McKibben, Brad Pennington, Patrick and Emily Ryherd, Andreama Runge, and Sharon Trent) will be shown within the August report.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Sam Zoske absent and Charles Swanson shared financial reports, which 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 next meeting will be Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 PM.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP: Director Brian Mohr reported letters have been sent to families regarding direction of memorial funds for the men's basement bathroom project.

BOARD OF ASSIMILATION: Director Sandy Rhodes reported of upcoming events:

1. Rather than Bingo on September 20th, a hayride near St Anthony at property owned by Blake Rhodes may be planned. Details will follow.
2. Redeemer will host Linda Bartlett, the afternoon of Sunday, October 11, 2015.
3. The next brunch following the worship service will be held Sunday, October 18. Redeemer members and friends will travel on October 25th, to see "The Church Basement Ladies in: The Last (Potluck) Supper" at the Old Creamery Theater.
4. A bowling night is being scheduled for November 15.
5. On December 5th, the church will be decorated for Christmas beginning at 9 am.
6. Christmas caroling will be scheduled for December 13.
7. On January 9, 2016, Christmas decorations will be taken down from the church.
8. Assistance in serving donuts will be needed September 6th and September 13.

BOARD OF SOCIAL MINISTRY: Director Nancy DeKock, reported more than 50 were served at the House of Compassion on August 4. Tuesday, September 1st will be our next date to serve at the House of Compassion, with

servers needed. House of Compassion Supply Closet items are continually needed.

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION: Position vacant. Recent adult education classes concluded.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Position vacant. No report.

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTY: Director Edwin Wignall absent. Byron Rhodes has been mowing the lawn in Ed's absence. Roger Mathews met the Fire Marshall and received a report requiring nonworking emergency lights be repaired or replaced, additional exit signs be added, a basement fire extinguisher be inspected and a drop cord be replaced by a power strip.

PRESIDENT REPORT: President Egger reported Redeemer received \$315 Thrivent Choice Dollars at the beginning of this must, making \$2,608 the total received in 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

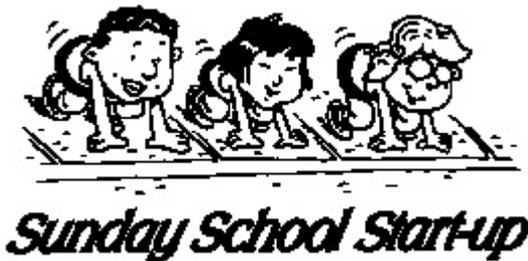
1. Progress is being made in the Men's Room Remodeling project.
2. Recent parsonage repairs and improvement include: a new dehumidifier in the basement to help remove dampness; Keven Kirk installed a new bathroom fan and connected it to an exterior vent; Keven will replace bathtub and shower fixtures. The hole in the bathroom floor will be fixed and flooring may have to be replaced. The front storm door screen was replaced and Keven will replace the closer on the basement screen door. Additional flooring projects will be addressed following the bathroom project completion.
3. After three examples of Lutheran Service Builder Sunday Morning bulletins had been shared by Brian and Pastor Post with the Council, further conversation will continue during the annual meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion to appoint Rheba Yost to the Youth Ministry position for a term ending February 2016 was made by Brian and seconded by Steve. Motion carried.
2. A delegate to the circuit forum on Sunday, September 20, at 2:30 pm, is needed. Anyone available and willing is asked to contact Pastor Post or President Keith Egger.
3. A nominee will be sought for the 2016 LCMS Convention, Saturday, July 9, through July 14, 2015, in Milwaukee, then voted upon at the circuit forum.
4. Published income and expense information in the bulletin was discussed and will be modified to reflect a more realistic view of finances.
5. A maintenance plan for the alarm system, formerly contracted through Howgan, was received and will be reviewed.

This Church Council will meet again on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Brian motioned and Steve seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca J Baedke



September 13, 2015

HOUSE OF COMPASSION

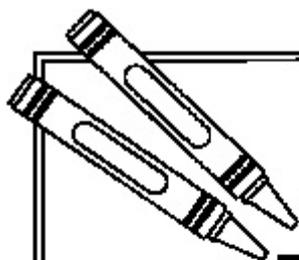
The House of Compassion “Stuff the Bus” school supply give-away held on August 8th and 10th was a huge success thanks to everyone who donated and worked on this project. The Supply Closet Team wants to thank you for contributing school supplies at the bus and at your church. It helped make the School Supply Project successful again this year. We were able to give out school bags to children who would have otherwise gone without or, at the very least, found it a hardship for the family to buy what they needed. With your help, we were able to collect supplies and give out 719 backpacks/bags at St. Paul’s and upwards of 100-150 additional zippered bags filled with supplies at HOC the following few weeks (no backpacks). One woman said, “Thank you so much for these supplies. Our family lost our home and all of our possessions. The world is an amazing place when a family like ours experiences something like this/so devastating, and we move here and have been blessed with the assistance we need. Thank you. I’m crying, so time for me to leave!” Another family wrote, “I’m so happy organizations like this are around. With my husband being laid off and 4 children I thought I was going to be in such a hole with school just around the corner. But thanks to this organization I remain hopeful. Thank you.” Thanks so much for helping to make the beginning of school so much more enjoyable for many students!

Sincerely,

The HOC Supply Closet Team

—Margaret Good, Deb McMullen, Carol Rahn, Char Riveland, Maryna Salas, Patty Schutt, Rita Smith, and Karen Frohwein (director)





Just for **KIDS**

back to school

It is back to school time! You will continue to learn, grow and change. The Bible tells us that we are like clay and that God is forming us everyday.

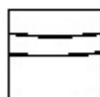
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E5



B2



B3



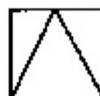
D2



C1



C5



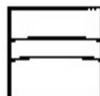
D4



D5



B5



A3



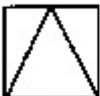
C2



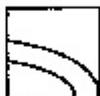
C4



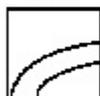
E1



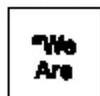
D3



A4



A2



B1



B4



D1

	1	2	3	4	5
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					

Been “thumped” lately?



When a potter bakes a pot, he checks its solidity by pulling it out of the oven and thumping it. If it “sings,” it’s ready. If it “thuds,” it’s placed back in the oven. The character of a person is also checked by thumping.

Been thumped lately?
Late-night phone calls.

Crouchy teacher. Grumpy moms. Burnt meals. Flat tires. “You’ve got to be kidding” deadlines. Those are thumps. Thumps are those irritating inconveniences that trigger the worst in us. They catch us off guard. Flat footed. They aren’t big enough to be crises, but if you get enough of them, watch out! Traffic jams. Long lines. Empty mailboxes. Dirty clothes on the floor ... Thump. Thump. Thump. How do I respond? Do I sing? Or do I thud? Jesus said that out of the nature of the heart a man speaks (Luke 6:45). There’s nothing like a good thump to reveal the nature of a heart. The true character of a person is seen not in momentary heroics, but in the thump-packed humdrum of day-to-day living.

— Max Lucado in *On the Anvil*

What you are is God’s gift to you. What you make of yourself is your gift to God.

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
1600 South Center Street
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Address correction requested