

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR....

Where does it all go: the time? the energy? the contributions of talents and treasures? It's been a really active year for us here at Redeemer Lutheran Church, to say the least! Our Lenten and Holy Week Services were most edifying and, we pray, giving much praise and thanks to the Lord for His goodness to us always! The special times together and music (thanks, Ann Koehler, our Music Director!) were truly awesome and heart-warming!

But now it's back to normal - whatever "normal" is! For us here at Redeemer it has much to do with looking ahead during the spring and summer months to next year's most busy time of September through June and planning and preparing for the ever-increasing opportunities of ministry that the Lord keeps opening up to us. And we're just looking at where it all goes for us here at Redeemer Congregation. What about our Southeastern District, that covers 5 states and York, PA? What all is going through the over 200 congregations in our District, and how do we fit into it all?

On May 15th, Pastor Art Umbach, our District Facilitator for our region, will be with

us to share during the Sunday School hour, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., the ministry that is going on throughout our District, the support that's being given (including our 11% of our tithes/offerings) and the challenges ahead in the increased opportunities of spreading the Gospel throughout our District.

Following our 10:45 a.m. service on the 15th, Pastor Umbach, who is also our District's Director of Spiritual Life, will lead us in a congregational workshop on Health and Healing and how congregations can minister to each other with the spiritual resources with which the Lord equips His Church. Be sure to mark this date and plan to be with us. (Our own Jim Durante will be sharing the Lord's gracious dealings with him in his recent illnesses.)

May we all participate in this sharing of God's goodness in, and through, His Church on earth, and our congregation of Redeemer Lutheran.

Pastor Koehler

Redeemer Lutheran Church
5120 Harrison Rd.
Fredericksburg, VA 22408
540-898-4748
E-mail: info@embracedbyHim.org
Website: www.embracedbyHim.org

Check it out!

I have started a new blog as a way to reach many and give tips and ideas for Christians to pass on their faith to the next generation. Deuteronomy 11:18 – 20 notes, “You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” In other words, we need to have the Word of God surrounding us because He is guiding us. Ephesians 6:10-20 talks about putting on the armor of God so we are able to stand against the schemes of the devil. This is another reason we need to have the Word of God surrounding us. As ideas and thoughts are posted on the blog it helps us to stay in His word in the everyday life context. Christ is with us everyday and to incorporate Him in our everyday lives shares with the world what an awesome Savior we have.

This blog is for everyone. Not every post will apply to everyone but there will be something for all to consider throughout the week.

The address is...

Passingonthefaitn.blogspot.com

I look forward to sharing with you as well as hearing from you on the blog!

Cheryl Durham
Director of Family Life Ministry

FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTOR:

In April those participating in the Mission Development Academy learned about current models for sharing, witnessing, and growing in our community of faith. We meet for the last time on Friday, 13 May, from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. and again on Saturday, 14 May, 8:30 a.m. until noon. We are the host site for all of the groups that have been participating in the Academy this cycle. During those two days we will be working on the outreach plan for our church with a focus on three geographic areas: the area around Redeemer in Fredericksburg, the clusters of homes near Embraced By Christ, and out in the Orange/Culpeper region. If you would like to join to help form this plan let Pastor Rob know at pastor2@embracedbyhim.org. More information about the Mission Development Academy is available at <http://se.lcms.org/developing-leaders/mission-development.php>.

We are planning a Relational Evangelism workshop for Saturday, 25 June here at Redeemer. This event will provide you with skills to share your faith in the relationships that you have socially and at work as the Holy Spirit guides and directs you. This will be a full day event starting at 9 a.m. and lunch will be provided. Please talk with Dave Allen or Pastor Rob if you have any questions. We will have a sign up sheet in the narthex so we know how many intend to join us that day.

In His Grip,
Pastor Rob

***POST-RETIREMENT AND LOOKING FOR A MINISTRY THAT NEEDS
YOUR WELL-DEVELOPED SKILLS?
DO YOU ENJOY TRAVELING AND MEETING NEW PEOPLE?***

The 72® is now accepting applications for volunteer team members

Your skills would be used to equip and encourage LCMS members to confidently carry Jesus with them into their local communities through their daily lives, warmly welcoming guests and new members into their congregation's fellowship. Join Dave and Deanna Allen, and Marian Parker as they work with LCMS congregations within the Southeastern District. The next training cycle begins August.

As volunteers, members of The 72 are not paid a salary but all expenses for food, housing, and transportation during an assignment are covered by the partnering congregation.

To learn more about The 72 Ministry, please visit www.lcmsworldmission.org/the72, or call the office at 1-800-433-3954, ext. 1286. To request an application packet, please send an e-mail to The72@lcms.org or call the office at 1-800-433-3954, ext. 1286. Dave, Dee and Marian will be glad to share their personal experiences concerning The 72.

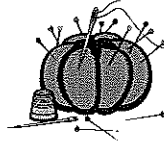
WE'RE LOOKING TO HAVE an Easter Egg Hunt at the church next year, Easter 2012.



To help with the logistics for that please consider purchasing plastic Easter eggs, and other non-food items that can be used, at the after-Easter sales this year.

There will be a box in the narthex to collect the items that are donated.

REDEEMER QUILTERS: The Redeemer Quilters will meet Saturday, May 21st at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. All ladies of Redeemer are invited to participate in this important ministry of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief and Veterans at the McGuire VA Hospital in Richmond.



REPRESENT REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH while performing community outreach! Are you looking for where you can get clothing items you have seen some of our members wearing with the church logo on them? If you missed the chance to purchase or order Redeemer Apparel, it's not too late! You can still order t-shirts, sweater shirts, polos, oxfords, hats, etc. Just contact Joan Woollard (540-785-4360) or Kim Beck (540-972-1546). The proceeds will go to purchase additional apparel for Redeemer members to wear while participating in mission outreach programs.

OUR SOCIAL MINISTRIES FUND has been very busy since our last congregational newsletter. So many people continue to be hurting in our economic slow down. Through our tithes/offerings in our Lenten services, we were able to help more people than usual. The following families were helped:

44 families with utilities	\$3862.59
5 families with water/sewer	378.07
2 people emergency motel rooms	95.30
1 family with rent	100.00
<u>1 congregational family with emergency needs:</u>	<u>1165.00</u>
53 families with 71 children	\$5600.96

PRESCHOOL NEWS:

For March, we chose the Bible Story, "Daniel and the Lions". Daniel was a good man and loved God very much. God protected and took care of Daniel, even in the lion's den. He sent an angel to close the mouths of the lions. After a whole night with the lions, Daniel walked out of the den unharmed. Daniel knew that, when in the care of the Lord, anything is possible.



March was the month of field trips. Our 3 year old classes went to the newly renovated Salem Church Library for a wonderful story time with books about Spring. Our 4 year old classes had the opportunity to go to Chick-fil-A to help conclude our unit "Healthy Kids". Our children toured the restaurant, ate chicken nuggets, and played in their indoor playground.

Next month, we will talk about the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our glorious Lord.

HAVE A VERY HAPPY EASTER!

God bless you,
Donna M. Bartholomew and Preschool Staff

Our thanks to our members for their help during the month of May:

USHER SCHEDULE - Early

May 1 - Ed Grandowski (Lead)
Tom Church, Mike Evenson, Don Schumann
May 8 - Ken Petermann (Lead)
Jim Pittman, Kirk Hymes, Dave Hunter
May 15 - Ed Grandowski (Lead)
Kevin Trowbridge, Jason Biscamp, Mike Weiland
May 22 - Mike Bush (Lead)
Tom Barlow, Dave Bye, David Rhodes
May 29 - Tom Church (Lead)
Ed Minnich, Don Schumann, Tom Barlow

If you are unable to usher on your assigned date, please arrange for your replacement. ****Note**** Additional ushers are welcome to participate in this important ministry. Contact Tom Barlow, 1st Service Coordinator, 804-742-5315.

USHER SCHEDULE - Late

May 1 - Glenn Weaver, Mark Fife, Greg Brown
May 8 - R.O.M.A.N.S.
May 15 - Mark Fife, Jerry Limerick, Mike Diederer
May 22 - Ted Smith, John Hinz, Mike Mullinax,
Ken Billings
May 29 - Berner Johnson, Ted Smith, Brandon Sullivan

Volunteers needed! Please call Mark Fife, 2nd Service Coordinator, 786-2336 and leave a message or email to chofudgeman1@yahoo.com if you can help.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR MAY

EARLY:

May 1 - Eric Weiland/Tyler Fehrman
May 8 - Ryan Tutchings/Vinny Tutchings
May 15 - Zechariah Vigil/Jacob Waltman
May 22 - Devon Montgomery/Maeve Montgomery
May 29 - Hayley Groover/Abigail Durheim

LATE:

May 1 - Emma Leidy/Cara Gasperoni
Crucifer - Lauren Hybl
May 8 - Tion Edmonds/Trejon Edmonds
Crucifer - Jonathan Cerritelli
May 15 - Kristian Hovda/Kacey Schwenzer
Crucifer - Sam Medlin
May 22 - Josiah Koehler/Philip Wiltenmuth
Crucifer - Mathew Zimmerman
May 29 - Trejon Edmonds/Emma leidy
Crucifer - Cara Gasperoni

LAY READERS:

May 1 - Donna Verbosky (E) - I Peter 1:3-9
May 8 - Ruth Robbins (L) - I Peter 1:17-25
May 15 - Keith Verbosky (E) - I Peter 2:19-25
May 22 - Mark Sullivan (L) - I Peter 2:2-10
May 29 - John Overbey (E) - I Peter 3:13-22
Rebecca Richey (E) - I Peter 3:13-22

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE IN MARCH:

	Church	Sunday School
2011	340	130
2010	363	134
2005	370	132
2000	209	100
1981 (1st yr.)	66	36

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY is May 22nd. This year we are blessed with 7 Confirmands: Jonathan Cerritelli, Rachel Gregor, Lauren Hybl, Katy Joy, Sam Medlin, Vinny Tutchings, and Jacob Waltman. During the Sunday School hour they will review us all in the foundational doctrines and confessions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. During the 10:45 a.m. service, they will share with us portions of their Statement of Faith, and after the Rite of Confirmation, share with us in their first Holy Communion. Keep these young people in your prayers and plan to share with them on this very important day in their continued walk in faith with the Lord.

Wittenberg English Ministry, Germany
Keith Loesch, shares a story from a person on the
Lutherland Tour.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.
Psalm 19:14

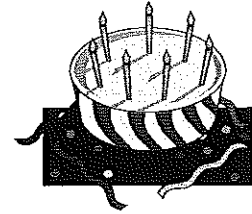
The visit to Wittenberg was a highlight for me. I was raised Baptist but had not attended church on a regular basis since I left home. While I believe my parents did a great thing by raising me in the church, I never quite felt at home. I have attended numerous churches of various faiths with friends but never quite found the right fit. When I walked through the doors of the church in Wittenberg, I felt a calm and belonging I had not experienced in quite some time. I was anxious for the service to begin so I could experience more. I was not disappointed with the service and left wanting more. When I returned home, I began looking for a church to attend. Having a friend who was a member of Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church in Ashburn VA, I asked her if she would meet me at the door for Sunday service. True to her word, she met me at the door and introduced me to folks before service began. Pastor Peterson presented the service and it was absolutely wonderful. Afterward, Pastor Peterson and Pastor Mann both took the time to talk with me. I feel that after many years of being lost, I found a home in the Lutheran Church. The tour to Lutherland and the time in Wittenberg was a time for making new friends and rediscovering my faith. I was truly blessed.



Pastor Koehler is teaming up with Pastor Mike Raming of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Callao, VA, in hosting a tour group to Germany, October 26 - November 3. On Reformation Sunday, we will be in Wittenberg, where Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses beginning the Protestant Reformation. There's still time to join us. Pamphlets are located on the table outside the church office.

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 - Amanda Stone
- 1 - Carroll Legg
- 1 - Wayne Sprick
- 3 - Karen Williams
- 5 - Richie Fredenburgh
- 5 - Kacey Schwenzer
- 5 - Brandon Sullivan
- 5 - Evan Sxhwenzer
- 6 - Alaura Collis
- 6 - Isabella Stairs
- 6 - Sophia Stairs
- 6 - Kirk Hymes
- 6 - Josh Garrett
- 7 - Johnny Hinz
- 8 - Mike Mullinax
- 9 - Kim Payne
- 10 - Wayne Winslow



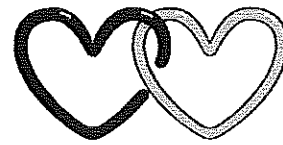
- 10 - Caleb Durheim
- 10 - Rachel Gregor
- 12 - Jonathan Payne
- 13 - Bonnie Wagner

- 14 - Pastor Koehler
- 15 - Bettye Garner
- 15 - Briana Way
- 17 - Rose Gregor

- 18 - Anna Jennings
- 19 - Abigail Durheim
- 20 - Laura Wiltenmuth
- 21 - Glenna Stark
- 22 - Jonathan Beck
- 23 - Matt Fox-Moles
- 24 - Alexandria Barlow
- 25 - Cindy Anderson
- 25 - Jolene Jonas
- 26 - Allan Rathke
- 27 - Lester Jedlicka
- 27 - Cindy Lloyd
- 29 - Becky Elam
- 29 - Josiah Koehler
- 29 - Liam Miller
- 30 - Roy Roberts
- 31 - Margareta Snook

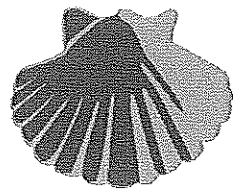
MAY ANNIVERSARIES:

- 1 - Karl & Zsuzsanna Fehrman
- 2 - David & Diane Jenkins
- 2 - Ron & Terry Byrd
- 4 - Michael & Sandi Graves
- 9 - Les & Bonnie Wagner
- 9 - Keith & Diane Dixon



- 10 - Dick & Kathy Bogle
- 13 - David & Karen Hunter
- 18 - Steve Cumber & Lisa Cottrell
- 19 - Mark & Vicki Sullivan
- 20 - Howard & Amy Kohl
- 24 - Tim & Rachelle Moles

WE WERE PRIVILEGED TO WITNESS the Lord's adopting into His family of faith through Holy Baptism:



JENNIFER ROSE WITTHUHN
on Sunday, March 27, 2011
And
DAVID MARK WITTHUHN
Infant son of Jennifer & Joshua

SETH MARTIN ROBBINS
Infant son of Chris & Ruth
Brother to Ty & Levi
on Sunday, April 10, 2011