



# CHRIST THE REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

2550 East 71st Street  
Tulsa, OK 74136

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## Having a Life Filled With Prayer

### See to Please

Shift your prayer life from "Please, God" to Please God." Take the comma out of those two words when you pray, and transition your praying from asking God for things to asking God for the pleasure of God's pleasure. --*Homiletics*

### A Powerful Weapon

Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayer-less work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray. --Samuel Chadwick

### A Word From Matthew Henry

Seventeenth-century Bible scholar Matthew Henry had great insight into God's will when he proclaimed, "When God intends great mercies for His people, He first of all sets them a'praying."

Did you ever consider that when you feel the urge to engage in deep meaningful prayer, it might be God's preparation for "great mercies"?

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## Hard Faith

According to author Stephen King, "What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work."

Similarly, what separates the doubt-filled Christian from the Christian in good spiritual health is hard faith, working and praying diligently - and often - to build one's faith.

### Faith and Health

Dr. Herbert Benson of Harvard Medical School made a study of the effect praying can have upon those who pray. He discovered those who pray 10 to 20 minutes daily can lower their blood pressure, heart rate, breathing and metabolic rates. Prayer can work wonders. --*Proclaim*, Nov. 1, 1998

### Prayer Helps

A man was seen praying in a church and was approached by a fairly officious person in clerical garb. Said this person: "May I help you?" The response came clearly, "No thank you. I *am* being helped!" -- Anonymous



THE  
**POWER**  
OF PRAYER

# The Cornerstone

A publication of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church



May 2018

Rev. Scott Burmeister  
Pastor

Suzanne Watt, Director  
of Christian Education

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DCE Intern

Nikki Witt  
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Connie Phillips  
Office Secretary

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Choir Director

Norm Zaner  
Property Coordinator

"Leading people  
into a living relationship  
with Jesus Christ"

Sunday Worship: 8:15 &  
10:45 AM. Sunday School  
and Bible Classes for all  
ages at 9:30 AM.

PHONE: 918/492-6451  
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Early Childhood Center  
Phone: 918-492-1416

I want to say hello to everyone at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church! I am so excited to meet each of you and be able to learn from you and your congregation. I cannot express my excitement, joy, and eagerness to move to Tulsa and be a part of your family in Christ.



My name is Carinna and I am from Genoa, Illinois. This is a small town outside of the Chicagoland suburbs. My family includes not only my wonderful parents but also my brother who attends Northern Illinois University, and my sister who is finishing fourth grade. I am engaged to my best friend, Alex, who also attends Concordia University majoring in Computer Science. My family and I attended Trinity Lutheran Church in Genoa for more than 10 years, and have recently moved our membership to Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Belvidere. Immanuel holds a special place in my heart since that is where I am currently student teaching a class of fourth graders. I double major as not only DCE but also LTE, which stands for Lutheran Teacher Education. I will be receiving my Illinois state teaching license when I graduate with two bachelors. My joy, spiritual gifts and drive comes from education, including my own learning. I have been working for many years running the Summer Reading Program for the local public library. My programs have ranged from squirt gun painting, build a bear, crafts, and even live steel drum bands! I have also tutored students from many different types of backgrounds including foreign exchange students.

For two years at CUC, I completed fieldwork at Saint Paul Lutheran Church and School in Mt. Prospect. If you can name a ministry I have more than likely tried it out. I have been in a praise team, taught Sunday school, VBS, confirmation, led youth group, been a part of a worship board, and more. I am so excited for new experiences as I move to your congregation this summer. I have never lived outside of Illinois so this will certainly be a time of transition leaving my family, my fiancé, and my friends. I have been praying for many years that God would bless my future internship congregation and my serving for those families and members. I ask that you pray for me as I move and adjust over the next few weeks. I truly cannot express how excited I am to learn and grow in ways only God knows about over the next year with you! Thank you so much for supporting me in my education as an intern, without you I would not have as many opportunities to grow and become the best disciple I can be.





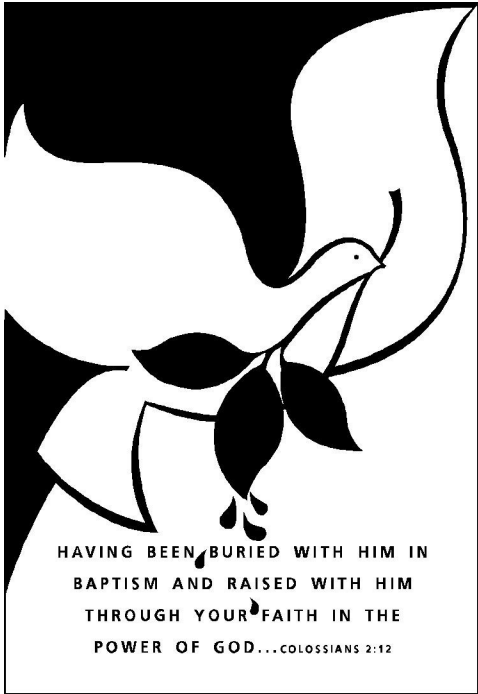



Fellow Redeemed:

“Until death do us part”, are words that are said at some of the most important moments in life. It is a pledge, one to another, that no matter what we will make it work. These vows are spoken at altars all over the world as a pledge of wedded love and faithfulness. “Until death do us part” are also spoken of and pledged in God’s Word. Romans 7:4-6 “So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.”

The world thinks that life is in opposition to death. The world wants to live and do anything and everything to perpetuate and extend life. But, according to this passage, life is only attained through death, and by death. This reality is folly to the world. God is all about relationship. When He created the heavens and the earth it was for community and relationship, and it was perfect. With the shattering of God’s creation through sin, man has conceived a new and awful relationship. We are in relationship with sin, death and the power of the devil. It is only our death that can part us from these three, this unholy trinity. “By dying to what once bound us”, with these words we understand a new reality, and one that is true. In Baptism we died to sin death and the power of the devil. God raises us from that death and into a new life of and with the Spirit. We are not bound, in marriage, to Jesus Christ our Lord. The, “until death do us part” is our parting with sin, death and the devil, so that we now live in newness with Christ by the power of the Spirit.

Real life. True life is perpetuated by God’s Word through the sacrament of Baptism. It is there, and only there, that we find God’s grace, mercy, salvation and a new life. “Until death do us part” is no longer a reality for us. We have died, and the life we live now extends into eternity, because of the blood of Jesus Christ. For Christians the mantra should be this: Until Christ comes again! When He comes, we will rise. When He comes, we will be reunited with Him in complete and perfect unity. I would love to have that as the vows that man and woman say to each other on their wedding day. Not, “until death do us part”, but “until Christ comes again”. May the God of all peace keep us and guard us until that day when He returns. Until Christ comes again! Amen!





**Recycling Drive**

**DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**INK CARTRIDGES:** The LWML will recycle all the following items for you: empty inkjet and laser printer cartridges (NO Epson cartridges or remanufactured cartridges). Boxes are located at the collection center at the south entrance of the church.

**MOST Ministries** collects eyeglasses and distributes them to people all over the world. A collection box is located at the collection center. For more information go to [www.mostministries.org](http://www.mostministries.org).

**PAPER & OTHER RECYCLING:** You can recycle all your mail/newspapers, etc. as well as cardboard, metal cans and plastic containers (no glass items) in the collection bin in the southeast corner of the parking lot.

Join us for our  
2018 VBS  
AMPED  
June 11-15, 2018  
9:00 AM- 12:00 PM  
Ages 3 (and Potty-trained)  
through 5th grade

Participants can register  
online by visiting  
[https://goo.gl/forms/  
jr5xoSZII3mWPam03](https://goo.gl/forms/jr5xoSZII3mWPam03)

Invite your friends, family  
and neighbors to attend!  
Our VBS is free to attend  
and we will collect a daily  
offering for our mission  
project 410 Bridge.

Volunteers can register  
online by visiting  
[https://goo.gl/  
forms/9L2PyyXjLrq1H4052](https://goo.gl/forms/9L2PyyXjLrq1H4052)



Join us for a packed week of fun, fellowship and Bible study as we learn what it means to LIVE FULLY ALIVE! Together we will learn about the lives of Joseph, Esther, Jesus and Paul. We will also learn about the Early Church. Jesus told us, "I have come so that they may have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way. (John 10:19b)" Through large and small group time, games, snacks, crafts, mission and music we will learn to live like God is with us, live like God has a plan for us, live like Jesus is alive, live like people matter and live like we are part of a bigger story.



The second quarter Sunday School offerings will benefit the Community Block Party which will be held at Johnson Park on **August 11, 2018**. Last year with the help of Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian and the South Tulsa Community House, the residents of Savanna Landing (61<sup>st</sup> & Peoria) held the first "Ignite the Change" block party on November 1, 2017. This year the block party "Ignite the Change through Education" will be the theme. Plans are being made to have schools and non-profits participate in the event with the help of partner churches. Funds are needed for activities, food and school supplies for the local schools, Marshall and McClure Elementary as well as Memorial Junior and Senior High Schools. Volunteers are needed also. If you are interested in helping, a Community Block Party meeting will be held on **April 9, 2018** at the South Tulsa Community House at 3:30 PM.

Please give generously to this quarter's recipient of our Sunday school offering.



**The Power of Pentecost...**Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things; after Pentecost they found it easy to do hard things. --A. J. Bordon

### ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

As of the latest statements, the Morningstar account balance was \$599,106.95, and the brokerage account balance was \$36,495.25, for a total Endowment Fund balance of \$635,602.20. The Dupuis Trust account balance was \$234,842.15.

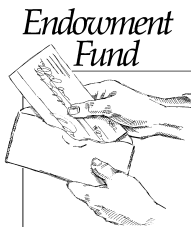
The Endowment Fund provides a means for us, as Christian stewards, to express in a tangible way, our deep gratitude for God's many gifts and blessings. A gift to the Endowment Fund is a reflection of our faith and Christian love over and above our normal regular support for the ongoing mission and ministry of our church.

The trustees continue to encourage all members to consider charitable gifts to the Endowment Fund as part of their long term financial and estate planning.

Also, consider memorial gifts to the Endowment Fund in memory of a friend or loved one, as well as gifts in honor of friends and loved ones on special occasions such as anniversaries, birthdays and graduations.

The Endowment Fund trustees truly appreciate the gifts the Endowment Fund has received in past years.

Questions can be directed to any of the trustees: Scott Mabrey, Brad Young, Janet Jamison, or Rob Koch.



### Just for Pun!

- ♦ Every calendar's days are numbered.
- ♦ A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- ♦ If you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
- ♦ Acupuncture is a jab well done.
- ♦ A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- ♦ Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- ♦ Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- ♦ When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- ♦ A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
- ♦ A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- ♦ The worker who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
- ♦ Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

## QUILTS



An LWR quilt is special! It brings warmth and shelter to families by becoming a bed, room divider, backpack to carry belongings, and at times even a home.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP??** We need help in purchasing the fabric to make the quilt tops. Each quilt costs approximately \$25 to make. Donations marked "LWML quilts" can be dropped in the mite box or put in the offering plate. Filler material of new/used blankets as well as flat sheets in twin size or larger are also needed (no other filler fabric can be used). Prayers for our quilt program are needed plus prayers for the recipients of our quilts.

The quilters meet every Tuesday at 10:00 in the fellowship hall. You can cut squares, sew squares, assemble the filler and tops, tie the quilts - anything you are interested in doing! Join us - we would appreciate your help!



## Faithful Measures

For the Month of March	2017	2018
Total Worship Attendance .....	886	950
Weekly Average.....	222	238
SS/Bible Class Attendance .....	444	391
Weekly Average .....	111	98
March Giving .....	\$66,441	\$60,611
Monthly Budget .....	\$63,788	\$65,226
Year to Date Giving .....	\$199,599	\$186,519
Year to Date Budget .....	\$207,311	\$195,679
YTD Expenses.....	\$168,123	\$193,593

Lord, thank you for touching my heart.  
Make me sensitive to see those in my life  
who need your touch.  
Use me to reach them for you.





*Congratulations and God's richest blessings to all of our couples as they celebrate their wedding anniversary!*

Brad & Michelle Jackson	May 2	13 yrs
Robert & Johana Fitzgerald	May 5	17 yrs
Rhoda & Charlie Transue	May 6	17 yrs
Jerry & Diane Morlock	May 9	48 yrs
Mark & Sherry Volberding	May 11	6 yrs
Bill & Ladon Bullock	May 17	48 yrs
Joey & Heather Orvis	May 17	15 yrs
Kevin & Sarah Drain	May 24	6 yrs
Russell & Carole Hansen	May 26	51 yrs
David & Teresa Nightingale	May 26	45 yrs
Frank & Connie Thomas	May 29	36 yrs
Scott & Julee Mabrey	May 31	21 yrs



**An Interesting Person**  
by: Ken Eggers

One of our CTR members, Ken Eggers, writes regularly for the newsletter that is created for the community that he lives in. We are sharing one of his articles:

*Most people I've met are interesting to me because they had entirely different lives, careers, etc. and lived in places I didn't. One such person is Hap Moran.*

*Hap and I worked for the same company - Western Electric. Western was part of the "old" Bell System. We manufactured or purchased all materials used in communications around the world. Hap and I were in the Purchasing Division. He was a Buyer and I worked in the department that inspected purchased material at the supplier's plants and accepted or rejected the material for shipment.*

*Both of our offices were in New York City but in different locations. Occasionally, we would visit the same supplier at the same time to initiate a new contract or resolve a problem. Most of these visits were to out-of-town locations requiring an over-night stay so we would have dinner together.*

*Hap had a number of interesting events in his life but two stand out in my memory. The first event involved football. In college, Hap had been an All-American football player at the end position. In those days, the players played both offense and defense. After graduating from college, Hap became a professional football player.*

*In Hap's rookie year, Bronko Nagursky was already an established star at the running back position and in fact he usually ran right over would-be tacklers. Before playing Bronko's team, Hap's coach would remind his players to never try to tackle Bronko alone. Instead they should try to slow him down until help arrived or try to push him out-of-bounds.*

*In Hap's first game against Bronko's team, Hap found himself the only defender between Bronko and the goal line. Being young, brash and inexperienced, he decided to see how tough Bronko was. So, he tackled him alone. To Hap's credit, he stopped Bronko from scoring but he spent the next two weeks in the hospital. After that, Hap did what his coach told him to do or not to do.*

*After relating this story to my boss, he said he had been a classmate of Bronko at the University of Minnesota. As a teenager, Bronko had worked as a miner and due to the hard physical labor, had developed huge shoulder muscles. It appeared he had no neck because his head seemed to be on his shoulders. His upper body was a mass of bone and muscle. He was built like a human battering ram. The second event occurred after Hap was finished with his professional football career.*

*He bought a surplus Navy vessel, hired an experienced sea Captain and crew and sailed wherever he wanted to go. On one such desire to visit a new port-of-call, Hap discovered his ship was missing along with the sea Captain and crew. Lo and behold, years later, the old sea Captain appeared as a contestant on the TV show "64,000 Dollar Question". And he won! The only problem he had was that Hap and the police were waiting for him outside the TV studio building. The sea Captain was arrested and the money given to Hap. The old sea Captain had used Hap's ship to smuggle alcohol into the United States during prohibition.*

**A MESSAGE FROM TAKE H.E.A.R.T.**  
**10 Tips for Better Digestive Health**

Your digestive health is directly impacted by the foods you eat and the lifestyle you live. By taking steps to improve your digestive health, you'll help your body function more efficiently therefore improving your overall health and sense of well-being. Try these 10 tips for better digestive health:

**1. Eat a high-fiber diet.** That is a diet rich in whole grains, vegetables, legumes, and fruits. It can also help you achieve a healthy weight.

**2. Get both insoluble and soluble fiber.** Insoluble fiber can't be digested by the body and Soluble fiber draws in water. Good sources of insoluble fiber include wheat bran, vegetables, and whole grains. Good sources of soluble fiber include oats, nuts and seeds, prunes, and beans.

**3. Limit foods that are high in fat.** Fatty foods tend to slow down digestion so limit fatty foods. If you cannot, then pair it with high-fiber foods to make it easier on your digestive system.

**4. Choose lean meats.** When you eat meat, select lean cuts, such as pork loin and skinless poultry.

**5. Add probiotics to your diet.** Probiotics are 'good' bacteria that help your body combat the effects of a poor diet, antibiotics, and stress. Aim to consume low-fat yogurt or kefir on a daily basis.

**6. Eat on schedule.** Consuming your meals on a regular schedule can help keep your digestive system in top shape.

**7. Stay hydrated.** Drinking plenty of water is good for your digestive health.

**8. Skip the bad habits: smoking, excessive caffeine, and alcohol.** Liquor, coffee, and cigarettes can interfere with the functioning of your digestive system and lead to problems like stomach ulcers and heartburn.

**9. Exercise regularly.** Exercise helps keep foods moving through your digestive system. Make it a point to work exercise into your weekly schedule.

**10. Manage stress.** Too much stress or anxiety can affect your digestive system so add in stress-reducing activities you enjoy and practice them on a regular basis.

**"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in good health, just as your soul prospers."** 3 John 1:2

*Adapted from Everydayhealt.com*



**DON'T TRASH THOSE COUPONS!**

Military personnel and their families stationed at major overseas bases in Europe and Asia can use those manufacturer's coupons up to six months after they have expired. A box marked "Coupons for the Troops" is located at the south entrance.

**Altar Flowers**

The sign-up chart is available at the information center. Write your name on the date and share the special reason for the flowers. Simply drop your \$35 check (put **ALTAR FLOWERS** on the memo line) in the offering plate the week before or that Sunday! You may take the arrangement home following the late service.

**Flowers for the Altar**

- 6: by Robert & Johana Fitzgerald in celebration of their 17th anniversary
- 6:
- 13: by Roger & Nancy Witte in memory of their parents
- 13: by Marty & Rosalie in memory of their mothers
- 20: by John & Sally Neas in celebration of Greg's birthday
- 20: by William & Ladon Bullock in celebration of their 48th anniversary
- 27: by Kasey & Laura Simpson in celebration of Kaiser's birthday
- 27: by David & Teresa Nightingale in celebration of their 45th anniversary

**Walk the Walk**

Do you rush, push, shout and become generally unpleasant on Sunday mornings? Do you complain about church? Are you irregular in your attendance? Are you over-conscientious about matters that are not really important?

Do you always criticize the pastor, the choir, the length of services and the usher crews? Then don't be surprised if your children grow up to look at Sundays as the worst day of the week.

--Karen Burton Mains,  
author of *Making Sunday Special*



# LWML Oklahoma District

The Hilton Garden Inn, Lawton, Oklahoma, was bustling with joy and excitement as 203 servants, including seven from CTR, gathered in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the LWML Oklahoma District, April 13-14, 2018.

LWML Oklahoma District President Dianna Just presided over her first convention and welcomed all to this special celebration. The theme of this convention was “Great is Thy Faithfulness” based on Lamentations 3:22-23: *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases: his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

The business of the district included voting for 20 mission grants which totaled \$104,600. The objectives of the attendees to this convention were to:

**Celebrate His Mercy  
Receive Strength Today  
Hope for Tomorrow**

Cindy Steinbeck was an engaging Bible study leader; Rev. Dr. Brent Smith was a captivating mission speaker; and Past LWML Presidents, Linda Reiser and Virginia Von Seggern were the very well received “duet” keynote speakers. LWML President Patti Ross, representing the LWML and playing herself in the 2019 LWML Convention sketch, stated, “It was a thrill for me, an Oklahoma girl to be addressing you as national LWML President on the 90th Anniversary of the FIRST district to organize as the LWML!”



**Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission**

## Surprise!

“Each day holds a surprise,” wrote Henri Nouwen. “But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us. Let’s not be afraid to receive each day’s surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy.”

Wait - *sorrow* as a surprise? And I’m not to fear it? Aren’t surprises supposed to be happy things? What does Nouwen mean?



He continues: “It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity.” And I remember, too, the psalmist’s words: “The Lord is near to the broken-hearted” (Psalm 34:18). Maybe that’s the surprise in our sorrow: that when we ache, as when we celebrate, God is there - in new friends, in shared humanity. Surprise!

--Heidi Mann

## The Prayer Whisperer - Annie Wiederstein



WARNING!! WARNING!! WARNING!!

Once you begin praying for people you find everyone wants you to pray for them.

Are some people gifted with the ability to pray? Are some people “tuned” to the needs of others?

Well, prayer isn’t listed in the gifts or fruits of the spirit.

“Does that mean that it’s not a spiritual gift? No. What we do see is that in intercession we use many of the other gifts listed in the scriptures. We are all commanded by God to pray but we know that some Christians actually have a gift of Intercessory Prayer.” <https://www.missionariesofprayer.org/2013/08/gift-intercession/>

If you’re interested, I urge you to read the article. Very enlightening!

I believe that some people are gifted with an eye & ear to the needs of others. I believe our Heavenly Father has so gifted me. And WARNING!! It’s a weird responsibility. I look and listen and read to see more of what my Father wants of me. But I wouldn’t have it any other way. It is a way for me to serve my Father’s family.

*Father God, bless us to recognize our spiritual gifts. Bless us to search our gifts out, learn more about our gifts and use to benefit your kingdom in this world. In Jesus name. Amen*



THANK YOU SO MUCH to everyone from Outreach Ministry! Many of your brought clothing and household donations to CTR in March. All donations have been delivered to the Harvest House neighborhood program.

The next CTR Harvest House drive will be in the fall!

**South Tulsa Community House  
Awareness Sundays**

**FOOD DRIVE**

On the fourth Sunday of each month, the grocery cart will be placed at the north entrance. We encourage you to continue regular weekly donations at the collection center near the south entrance. Donations of food, toiletry, and household items are welcome. Let’s keep filling the grocery cart, sharing God’s blessings with those who are less fortunate.



The month of May this year is probably the most diversified in observations and themes. May 6 and 13 are the last two Sundays of Easter, but on May 13 we also observe the Day of Ascension which is the Thursday before (May 10). On May 20, we celebrate the Day of

Pentecost (50 days after Easter and 10 days after Ascension). Then on May 27 which is on Memorial Day weekend, we observe the Sunday of the Holy Trinity. Wow! I’m excited to be playing so many strong wonderful hymns and leading your singing. What a blessing for me as I hope it is for you.

This year I’ve been sharing the contents of our hymnal Lutheran Service Book. This hymnal is copyrighted in 2006, 12 years already. This month I will complete leading you through this hymnal, but there is more in it, some of which I shared when I was new at CTR as your organist. This one time more, I will encourage you to purchase your own copy of Lutheran Service Book from Concordia Publishing House for use in your home with your family – for reading or singing the hymns and liturgies, for using in your devotions, for learning about our worship, for praying from the plentiful source of prayers, and for learning AND re-learning, such as I will now present.

On page 319 – 320 you will find the Athanasian Creed, but you will also read in the red italicized print a brief history of two of our creeds – the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. It is so much easier to digest when you can read it slowly and re-read portions of it for better understanding (a good reason to have your own hymnal). Next on page 321 and following is The Small Catechism. Yes, that is right. It includes the encouraging

statement in the poetic form:

“Let each his lesson learn with care,  
And all the household well shall fare.”

Now I want to draw to your attention to a few hymns which you probably don’t know, but they can have value with your devotions with Portals of Prayer or another aid. Hymns 517 and 518 “By All Your Saints in Warfare” are about various saints so for verse 2, we insert the verse about the saint we want to remember. The Portals of Prayer will list saints on the day of remembrance so you can look up a verse for that saint.

Another hymn which is special and unusual is 520 “Stars of the Morning, So Gloriously Bright”. It is about angels. The text was written by Joseph the Hymnographer, c. 810-86. Interesting!

So, I hope I have piqued your interest and curiosity enough for you to not only peruse the hymnal, but to make good use of it along with your Bible.

God’s Blessings,  
Norma Muller



Norma Muller



## Thanks, Mom!



At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. “I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life,” he said. “She’s a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice.”

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. “It’s really hard to read my mom’s handwriting,” he said.

**A Sign of Honor...** Even he who died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of his mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought - the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight to heaven.

--Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## Join CTR on Facebook & Twitter!

Keep up with coming events, announcements, and updates about recent events including pictures. The public events page is at: <http://www.facebook.com/ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch>  
The private group is at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctrtulsa/>  
For the Twitter account use: @PastorBe\_CTR

To join the private group, click Join Group in the top right hand corner of the page or contact James Morgan via e-mail: [communications@ctrtulsa.org](mailto:communications@ctrtulsa.org)



Stay in Touch



# News from the Seminary

To friends dearly loved by the Brakhages and by our Lord Jesus Christ:

If you haven't already, take a step back and see all the incredible ways the Lord was working through the people of God at CTR in April. Even at a distance, we have been overjoyed to witness your vibrant ministry. First of all, three cheers to all those who volunteered with the School Camp; a loud, proud 4<sup>th</sup> cheer to those who spearheaded the event; and a rock solid 5<sup>th</sup> cheer to whomever had the idea to host the camp in the first place. What a helpful, visible way to interact with and serve the community. It's always great to have children in God's house, spending time with His people. Congratulations on seizing on this clever ministry opportunity.

You also packed the house in April! Like we mentioned last month, Suzy, Graham and I were sorry to miss it, but this was another clever ministry emphasis. We build each other up in love by being together. This is how we live out our calling as the Body of Christ! Jesus came to us in flesh and blood, to see and touch and talk to people in their everyday situations. We ought to do the same. We need to see one another, touch one another, and talk to one another as often as possible. Being present for one another is at the core of our Christian identity and it's how we model Christ to the world.

What else happened in April? Oh, a ton! There was the always entertaining ECC live auction, providing for CTR's ongoing ministry to countless children and their families. You also reached out to an ECC family in need after a devastating fire. The DCE intern watch party was an exciting moment as we welcomed Carinna Corbett to our CTR family. We celebrated current DCE intern Myrthe and her engagement to Jordan at a wonderful reception (and our family knows first-hand how well CTR hosts receptions!) Myrthe and Club 345 made a trip to Camp Lutherhoma (with a few parents in tow, too!) And to top it off, you witnessed four young Christians pledge to keep the faith – even unto death – and received the body and blood of the One who defeated death for them. Our family congratulates Hannah, Kaleb, Adrienne and Camden on their confirmation. Plus, CTR-U, OWLS, Senior Friends, Braille, Bunco, Reconnect... whew!

Please take the opportunity to admire the work God is doing through you and the ministry team at CTR. And if you have the chance, **take the time to show your appreciation** to those who serve – especially the staff and volunteers who have poured so much time and energy into making this such a memorable month. People *need* to be appreciated, and I know the family of faith at CTR is a pretty appreciative bunch. We can't wait to see the aMAYzing things May has in store after such a momentous April.

Switching gears to what's going on here in St. Louis, in some ways this letter feels like I'm keeping a secret from you. By the time you're reading this, you may have heard where the Brakhage family will be headed for the 2018-19 school year. But as I'm writing this, Suzy, Graham and I are still in the dark. We are eagerly anticipating learning where we'll be serving our year-long vicarage assignment. In an interview with the vicar-

age placement director, he asked what the #1 most important, top-of-the-list consideration was for our family. We told them it was a warm, welcoming family of faith – like the one we enjoy when we're with you in Tulsa. The friendliness of the congregation and the support you show to our family through emails, texts and cards is priceless. We hope to have a similar experience for our vicarage year; I can think of no better place for Suzy, Graham and I to spend a year of ministry than at a congregation that loves the way CTR loves.

In the meantime, we can't wait for the mystery to be revealed. The vicarage placement service on Call Day is a big deal. The chapel on campus is packed. All the students sit (in alphabetical order) on the right side of the church. Families and friends sit on the left. I'll be sitting with my classmates and Suzy and Graham will be sitting with other Seminary wives and kids who are equally as eager to hear where they're headed next year. It's a fun moment to spend together with our Seminary family, the people who have seen Graham grow up day-by-day, the people who have shared our milestones and allowed us to share in theirs. It will be hard to hear the vicarage locations being read as the future distance between us becomes real and immediate. In an instant, the upstairs neighbors are thousands of miles away. Mentally, you imagine the friends you see every day dispersing to locations across the country. I anticipate Call Day to be both exciting and emotional. I will be able to write more about our vicarage destination in next month's newsletter.

We've done a good job keeping busy in April, too. Suzy and I attended a weekend marriage seminar sponsored by the Seminary. I had the chance to emcee a trivia fundraiser for our church in St. Louis. Preps are underway for Graham's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday this month. Friends have given birth. Babies have been baptized. We've made meals for new parents and folks who've recently moved. Exams, essays, bureaucratic paperwork, and part-time jobs have demanded our attention. Please pray for our renewal and strength through Christ and His people.

One of the more unique assignments that I've worked on recently was for my pastoral counseling class. This class gives you the basics of pre-marital counseling. In addition to the class lectures, students complete an online training to become certified SYMBIS facilitators. SYMBIS stands for "Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts." It was pioneered by a pair of married Christian counselors with ties to Oklahoma. SYMBIS founders – Drs. Les and Leslie Parrot – were appointed by former governor Frank Keating as Oklahoma's official "marriage ambassadors" back in 2000. Equipped with my SYMBIS training, I walked a real-life couple through their pre-marital counseling and wrote a wedding sermon. The sermon was just a class assignment won't be used at an actual wedding, but it was a fun process.

Thanks, as always, for keeping our family in your prayers. You remain in ours.

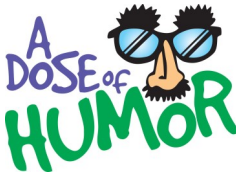
With Christian brotherhood,  
Joshua  
[joshua411@gmail.com](mailto:joshua411@gmail.com)  
(918) 706-1632 (Joshua's mobile)  
(785) 393-3117 (Suzy's mobile)  
2 Founders Way, Unit A, St. Louis, MO 63105

# The Joke Corner....

Visitor: "Does your baby brother talk yet?"  
Freddy: "He doesn't have to. He gets everything he wants by yelling."

Nothing is more annoying than to have friends drop in unexpectedly and find the house looking as it usually does.

Mother: "How could you be so rude to tell your sister she's stupid. Tell her you're sorry."  
Boy: "Sis, I'm sorry you're stupid!"





### Camp Lutherhoma

**Register Soon -  
Camp Will Fill Up!**

Get your child registered for  
c a m p o n l i n e a t  
[www.lutherhoma.com](http://www.lutherhoma.com).

Get ready to...swim, learn about God, make friends, hike, sing crazy songs, eat good food, learn archery, hang out with cool counselors and staff, ride bikes, play rumble ball, make crafts, buy cool t-shirts, make smores, laugh, explore God's creation, read cool Bible stories, play huge field games, listen to devotions, guess counselors nick names, watch the sunset, build a campfire, go rafting or kayaking, learn about wildlife, go rock climbing, play sports, grow on the challenge course, eat snacks, enjoy air conditioned cabins, hear funny stories, be in the weekly video, bring a friend.

## Mommy-Daddy And Me Weekend



A Camp Lutherhoma favorite summer weekend event is our Mommy/Daddy and Me Weekend, June 22-24. Come as a family, or just a parent and child, or even a grandparent and grandchild. All are welcome. The campers are of preschool age, and the parents or grandparents come as their guests. The weekend is full of fun family camp activities, and time with the summer staff leading you in Bible studies, games, crafts, campfire and much more. Tell a friend to bring their young campers to this super fun weekend! Register online today! [www.lutherhoma.com](http://www.lutherhoma.com)

## Daily Bible Reading

**Week 17**  
Monday - Deut. 27:1-26  
Tuesday - Deut. 28:1-68  
Wednesday - Deut. 29:1-29  
Thursday - Deut. 30:1-20  
Friday - Deut. 31:1-29  
Saturday - Deut. 31:30-32:52

**Week 18**  
Monday - Deut. 33:1-29  
Tuesday - Deut. 34:1-12  
Wednesday - Joshua 1:1-18  
Thursday - Joshua 2:1-3:17  
Friday - Joshua 4:1-5:12  
Saturday - Joshua 5:13-7:26

**Week 19**  
Monday - Joshua 8:1-9:27  
Tuesday - Joshua 10:1-43  
Wednesday - Joshua 11:1-12:24  
Thursday - Joshua 13:1-15:63  
Friday - Joshua 16:1-17:18  
Saturday - Joshua 18:1-19:51

**Week 20**  
Monday - Joshua 20:1-21:45  
Tuesday - Joshua 22:1-34  
Wednesday - Joshua 23:1-16  
Thursday - Joshua 24:1-33  
Friday - Judges 1:1-36  
Saturday - Judges 2:1-23

## Craft Ideas

Remember the burlap cross class???? Well, you can make similar crosses from burlap and cover wooden pallets, pillows, mirrors, painted canvases, etc. If you wanted to coordinate with the same ribbon we used in class, you can purchase more of it from Michael's or Hobby Lobby.



Happy Crafting!!!!!!!!!!



# HEART LIGHT

This Mother's Day, make a bright gift for someone special in your life.



- What you need:**
- Scissors
  - Cardstock
  - Tape
  - Mason jar
  - Primer paint
  - Acrylic paint (3 colors)
  - Paintbrushes
  - Battery-operated tea light
  - Paper and pen
  - Hole punch
  - Twine

- What you do:**
1. Cut out two cardstock hearts and tape them to the jar sides, near the bottom.
  2. Paint the entire jar with primer paint. Let dry.
  3. Paint splotches of acrylic paint over the primer. Let dry. Remove the heart shapes.
  4. Place the tea light in the jar.
  5. Write a note that says, "Mom, you're the light of my life!" Punch a hole in one corner of the note, thread twine through the hole and tie the note around the jar's neck.



## Club 345 Retreat to Lutherhoma

Last month, twelve third, fourth, and fifth graders attended their first church-sponsored retreat to Camp Lutherhoma. The weekend was filled with SNOW, games, Bible studies, yummy food, rumble ball, trail building, messy tie-dye, hikes, crafts, archery and a ton of fun!



# ECC



**Easter Bunny Visits and Egg Hunts!!**  
What fun.....



**Help support ECC by shopping on Amazon Smile. Simply select Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church and .5% of your purchase will be given back to the ECC.**





Jr. Roustabouts Christmas Program  
Winter VBS  
Youth Events  
Club 345 Retreat



# FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



DCE Intern  
Myrthe  
Harkenrider

For more information about any upcoming activities, please contact families@ctrtulsa.org

What a year it has been! Just twelve months ago I was a nervous college student, waiting to move to a state I had never been to serve people I had never met. One year later, I can confidentially say that God gave me a new home with a church family who I love, appreciate and admire.

As I transition out of being a DCE Intern, I am thrilled for you all to embrace Carinna. Over the course of my internship, I strove to form Family and Children's Ministry around the needs of the kids, rather than the skills of the individual who is in the position. In doing so, I had the wonderful opportunity to hear the need for programing like Jesus Time in the ECC, new Sunday School curriculum, Winter VBS, Jr. Roustabouts and Club 345. With this in mind, I am elated to see the fresh perspective that Carinna will bring to positively build up-on the framework for these programs.

As I have thought over my internship, so many amazing memories come to mind. With these, I cannot help but be filled with gratitude at your willingness to welcome me as your DCE Intern. I sincerely appreciate your investment as I have grown into a more confident, positive, motivated and mature Child of the King.

As my time as an intern comes to an end on June 1st, I am excited to announce that I will officially transfer my membership to Christ the Redeemer. With this, my vocations at church are going to change dramatically. In the coming months, I am looking forward to my new callings as a parishioner, a colleague, a mentor, a worker and a wife.

I couldn't conclude this letter without thanking each of you for your outpouring of support for Jordan and me not only at our shower, but throughout this year. I am filled up with gratitude that this congregation has brought up the most loving, patient, humble and caring man that I have ever met. In the years to come, I am eager to see how the two of us will continue to play an active role at CTR.

With full confidence, I know that God placed me in Tulsa to gain an entire family who unconditionally loves me and each week brings me a deep joy that I cannot begin to put into words. Thank you for your support as I come to a close of this chapter of my life and begin the next exciting plan that God has in store for me.



Cup

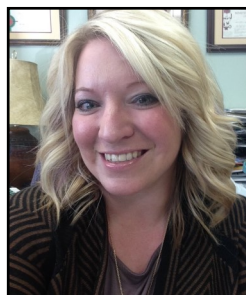
Fall Festival

Pre-Confirmation LWMML Work

Sunday School

Jesus Time

## CHRIST THE REDEEMER YOUTH MINISTRY Jr. High (6-8th graders) Sr. High (9-12th graders)



DCE Suzanne Watt

*"8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*  
Acts 1:8



### Save the Date!

VBS Volunteer Training is May 6, 2018 following late service, pizza will be served  
VBS Set up dates June 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, 2018  
VBS is June 11-15, 2018  
Summer Mission Trip June 23-July 1, 2018



Sunday Night Schedule! Fall 2017-Spring 2018 we will have youth events 2 Sundays a month! You will have the option of participating in a Confirmation class or a Small Group Bible Study followed by a light snack and games. Other weeks we will have week-end retreats or special events.



May 6 VBS Volunteer Training--12PM after late service- Pizza lunch!

**SIGN UP NOW  
TO  
VOLUNTEER  
AT VBS!**



**All youth completing 6th-12th grades are eligible to be volunteer leaders at VBS. Please visit the CTR Volunteer Registration website on Google forms to choose a position and volunteer. Need more information? Attend the volunteer meeting on Sunday, May 6 for more details and to look over materials.**

Registration for the 2019 Gathering will begin in August 2018 to be submitted by September 30, 2018 with full or partial (\$200) registration payment. A non-refundable registration fee of \$365 will be required and due in full by October 31, 2018. After registration the remainder of the cost will be fundraised. Any money not fundraised by the time of the Gathering will be the responsibility of the participant.

**When and where is the next gathering?**

The next LCMS Youth Gathering will be July 11-15, 2019 in Minneapolis, MN.

**Who can attend?**

The LCMS Youth Gathering's primary focus is for youth participants between the ages of 14 to 19. To register for the 2019 Gathering, youth participants must meet ONE of the two following eligibility requirements:

– Must be 14 years old at the time of the Gathering (July 2019)

OR

– Entering his or her ninth grade year at the time of the Gathering. (August 2019)

While we do allow students from the ages of 14 to 20 to attend, please keep in mind that some of the program content may not be relevant to older youth participants.

**Who can chaperone?**

Participants who are 21 years or older by the time of the Gathering are able to attend the Gathering as an Adult Leader.

