



# CHRIST THE REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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"?

## 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*

Church Staff

September 2018

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church is a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Rev. Scott Burmeister  
Pastor

Suzanne Watt  
Director of Christian Education

Carinna Corbett  
DCE Intern

Nikki Witt  
ECC Director

Connie Phillips  
Office Secretary

Mary Jane Landin  
Business Administrator

Angel Harris  
Communications Administrator

Jacob Drengler  
Music Director

Craig Amendt  
Choir Director

Norm Zanter  
Property Manager

"Leading people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ"

Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:45 AM.  
Sunday School and Bible Classes

PHONE: 918/492-6451  
Web: [www.ctrtulsa.org](http://www.ctrtulsa.org)  
You can view this newsletter online!

Email:  
[christredeemer@ctrtulsa.org](mailto:christredeemer@ctrtulsa.org)

Early Childhood Center Phone:  
918-492-1416



GUEST  
MISSIONARY

## Mission Sunday September 9

Our guest missionary will be Rev. Dale Kaster in Prague, Czech Republic. He will preach on Sunday at both services as well as teach the adult Bible class in the fellowship hall. A potluck will follow at noon. All are invited to attend. Please bring a dish to share for the potluck.



CTR-U begins  
September 5.  
Check out the  
schedule of events  
and classes on  
page 12!



Lutheranism 101 will be taught by Pastor Burmeister beginning Wednesday, September 5, at 7:00 in the fellowship hall during CTR-U. All members are invited but especially anyone interested in becoming a member of CTR. The classes will continue weekly on Wednesday night.

All music groups will begin practices in September. Check out page 10 for our music director, Jacob Drengler's article that includes the list of groups, the area of music interests and their schedule.







Fellow Redeemed,

We are in the midst of our capital campaign, *For Future Generations*. Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church is a vibrant congregation that dates back to 1954. For over 60 years, our church has ministered the Gospel to our community, country, and the world. While facilities and faces have changed over the years, one thing remains the same...our commitment to the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The biggest need in our church today is space and room to grow. We have been incredibly blessed to have continued growth and increased use of our space. Our church building has had two expansions thus far – one in the mid-1980s and on in the mid 1990s. Since that time, key ministries like VBS, Youth and Family, and our ECC are at (or past!) the maximum limit for their service because of facility space constraints. In addition, storage is a challenge all around the building. This affects how we present ourselves as a congregation for visitors, but also makes it difficult to keep staff and volunteers organized. Some people have reported to keeping things at their homes because there simply is not enough storage space in the building. Many items are being stored in hallways, which is not safe.

Our renovation plans will increase our total space from 28,514 square feet to 40,372 square feet. The resulting space will not only alleviate the current space challenges, it sets our congregation up to continue our growth in ministry and mission. In addition, our plans include significant amounts of new storage which will eliminate the clutter; no longer will we have boxes or strollers in the hallways. Members will no longer feel obligated to store items at home.

In order to address our needs and plans we are initiating an intensive effort to raise funds for this expansion. Our goal is to raise the full \$4,500,000, which will enable us to complete the project debt free.


In preparation for this important effort, I am asking for your help in three important ways.

First, please pray for God’s will through this process. We can accomplish nothing, in and of ourselves...God will accomplish all and will receive all honor and glory.

Second, please prayerfully consider lending a hand and becoming a campaign volunteer. Over 40 individuals and/or couples are needed to assist with the campaign in a variety of ways, to assure that the effort is efficiently run and that the job of volunteering is easy and enjoyable for everyone.

And finally, you will all eventually be asked to support the campaign effort financially. Long-term subscriptions or pledges are payable over a minimum of three years, and are made over and above whatever you do regularly for our church, in order that we do not jeopardize our regular giving and in any way erode our ability to provide support for current ministries.

Through the prayerful, volunteer and financial support of us all, I am confident that we will succeed in our task. Consequently, I am also confident that our past as a church community will only be a prologue to an even more promising and prosperous future filled with an improved willingness and empowerment by God to do His will and work. May God the Father, who created us, and God the Son, who has redeemed us, and God the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies us, continue to leads us according to His will. 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.

# Mission Sunday September 9

Special Speaker, Rev. Dale Kaster  
Missionary in Prague, Czech Republic

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster serve the Lord as career missionaries through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Prague, Czech Republic. In this role, Dale trains men from the country to serve as pastors of the Lutheran Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic (ECAVvČR). He will also serve as the pastor of an English language Lutheran Church in Prague, which serves our OIM Eurasia office staff and many English-speaking expats living in Prague. In addition to this, Pastor Kaster will assist in the regional chaplaincy position for those missionaries working in Silesia, Czech Republic. Through the relationships that are formed, Dale and Suzanne seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people of the Czech Republic.

Dale was born in Stephenville, Newfoundland, Canada. His home congregation is Celebration Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Florida. He graduated from Concordia College, Bronxville, New York, with a bachelor's degree in Judeo-Christian Heritage. He received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. Before becoming a career missionary, Dale served as a pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Point Pleasant, New Jersey (1989-1994); Celebration Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Florida. (1994-2010); Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, New Jersey (2010-2013). Before serving in Prague, Dale was Theological Educator/Missionary-at-Large in Tamale, Ghana (2014-2018). He also served on short-term mission trips to the Ntshongweni Village in South Africa (2007-2011). Dale's hobbies include cooking, skeet shooting, reading, and Civil War history.

Suzanne was born in LaGrange, Illinois, and her home congregation is also Celebration Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Florida. She attended Concordia College, River Forest, Illinois. Suzanne's hobbies include cross-stitching, reading, and working on genealogy. Please, pray for Dale and Suzanne as they serve in Prague, Czech Republic.

Please ask God to daily give Dale the strength and knowledge as he mentors men for the ministry and serves the congregation in Prague. Pray that the Holy Spirit leads and guides him as he serves in the chaplaincy. Please also pray for the men who receive Dale's instruction that their hearts and minds are open to what God wants them to learn. Ask God to help each student to grow to become faithful and compassionate under-shepherds serving His flock. In addition, please pray for all people of the Czech Republic who will learn of the Good News of Jesus Christ through the missionary work that is being done in this country.



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



### Why God Watches

An English bishop recalled a childhood visit to an elderly woman, who showed him a famed text that read “Thou God seest me.”

The woman told him, “When you’re older, people will tell you that God is always watching you to see when you do wrong in order to punish you. I don’t want you to think of it that way. Instead, take the text home and remember all your life that God loves you so much he can’t take his eyes off you.”

### LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS NEEDS YOU

2018 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> year of service that Lutheran Braille Workers has provided Bibles to the blind and visually impaired. Tulsa is fortunate to have a site at Our Savior Lutheran church where books of the Bible are printed in a variety of languages. CTR has been a part of this ministry for many years and we need fresh faces to replace some of our faithful volunteers who are no longer able to help with this ministry. CTR’s scheduled time is from 9:00-12:00 on the second Monday of each month from September through May and we get the summers off! There are a variety of “jobs” that are available, some of which require standing and some of which allow you to be seated. This is a great opportunity to enter the mission field as an individual, as a couple, or with a friend!

Can you spare three hours a month for nine months? That is slightly more than a full day out of 365 for the year! The year kicks off on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Please prayerfully consider making a commitment to this ministry that truly helps people see the light of Christ Jesus.

Contact Teresa Nightingale at 918-299-3396 or [tnightingale@cox.net](mailto:tnightingale@cox.net) for questions or to sign up.



# LWML NEWS


CTR LWML will be “kicking off” it’s new year with a salad luncheon on Tuesday, September 18 at 12:30 in the fellowship hall. Please bring a salad to share and a friend! Crackers/bread and dessert will be provided by the officers.

Tulsa Zone Fall Fest is Saturday, September 22 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Broken Arrow. Registration/brunch begin at 8:30 and the event concludes at 12:15. The MOST Ministry Team (includes CTR members Patti Ross and Sharon Schmidt) will be the Mission Program and Kathy Stephen (CTR) will lead the Bible Study-One in Spirit. Registration forms are on the LWML table and the cost is \$10. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the other women from the eight churches in the Tulsa Zone of the OK District LWML and learn how they are “serving the LORD with gladness!”

**Dates to remember:**  
September 9—Mission Sunday with LWR quilt/kit display and blessing  
September 10—Pack LWR quilts/kits 10 am  
September 18—Salad Luncheon 12:30 pm  
September 22—Tulsa Zone Fall Fest 8:30-12:15 at Trinity, Broken Arrow  
October 8—load the truck with LWR items  
October 16—Operation School Bell 8:30-12:00. More info to follow.

Women of all ages and stages in life are welcome to participate in the LWML. Please join us! If the times of the current activities don’t work with your schedule please contact me — maybe we can get some new activities started!

In His Joyful Service!  
Kathy Stephen  
CTR LWML President  
281-782-7783  
[stpn44@aol.com](mailto:stpn44@aol.com)



Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission



### Wealth is Worthless

It is said that for money you can have everything, but you cannot.

You can buy food, but not appetite;  
medicine, but not health;  
knowledge but not wisdom;  
glitter, but not beauty;  
fun, but not joy;  
acquaintances, but not friends;  
servants, but not faithfulness;  
leisure, but not peace.

You can have the husk of everything for money, but not the kernel.

--Arne Garborg



# QUILTS

An LWR quilt is special! It brings warmth and shelter to families by becoming a bed, room divider, backpack, 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

	2017	2018
Total Worship Attendance .....	1184	1073
Weekly Average.....	237	215
SS/Bible Class Attendance .....	520	397
Weekly Average .....	104	79
July Giving .....	\$69,700	\$81,533
Monthly Budget .....	\$79,735	\$80,573
Year to Date Giving .....	\$504,161	\$489,197
Year to Date Budget .....	\$494,357	\$503,254
YTD Expenses.....	\$425,444	\$534,356



Somehow these two words "Thank You" do not seem sufficient to express my gratitude and appreciation. Thank you for all the prayers, visits, food brought in, taking me out to eat and yard work while I was recovering from a total knee replacement. There is no way to identify each blessing that God grants us. My church family ranks very high in these blessings. Also, special thanks to my Roustabout brothers and Pastor. Thank you for all the prayers for Lois and myself. --Gods Richest Blessing, Johnny Barfield



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



Gary and Mary Ames	Sept. 1	45 years
Ron and Phyllis Vause	Sept. 4	63 years
Jim and Norma Blackburn	Sept. 5	59 years
Duane & Donna Anderson	Sept. 12	54 years
Lynn and Sandy Moeller	Sept. 18	26 years
Nick and Renee' Colson	Sept. 21	22 years
Shannon and David Losacco	Sept. 22	61 years
Hassan and Katie Haddad	Sept. 25	19 years
Brandon and Nikki Witt	Sept. 26	20 years

Daily Fill Your Buckets

It's not in one huge, single splash,  
Our buckets are filled to the top.  
God often will nourish instead  
By filling our pails drop by drop.  
may our God's love daily fill you.  
May He your strength often renew.  
So you can serve fully refreshed  
And share that which He first gave you.



**ECC GRANDPARENTS DAY BRUNCH**  
will be held on September 6 at 7:30  
AM.

**CTR FRIENDS** will not meet in Sep-  
tember due to a conflict of schedule  
with other church events.

**MISSION SUNDAY** is September 9. Our mission speaker and  
adult Bible class leader will be Rev. Dale Kaster. He is a mission-  
ary in Prague, Czech Republic. A potluck meal will be shared at  
noon. Please bring a dish to share.

**BUNKO** will be at the home of hostess, Patti Ross, on September  
11 at 7:00. There is a sign-up sheet.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be September 16 at noon.  
A meal will be provided. All are encouraged to attend.

**LWML SALAD LUNCHEON** will be September 18 at  
12:30 pm. All women are invited to bring a salad and  
join them.

**LWML FALL FESTIVAL** is at Immanuel, Broken Ar-  
row, from 8:30-12:00 on September 22.

**OWLS** will meet September 27 at 11:30 at Incredible  
Pizza for lunch and program. Cost of the buffet is \$8.  
A sign up sheet is posted at the south entrance.

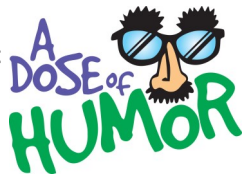


The Joke Corner...

Son: "Dad's birthday is tomorrow. What should we  
get him?"  
Daughter: "Maybe we should let him have his car  
for a change."

Here's my report card...and I'm tired of watching  
TV anyway.

The quickest way for a parent  
to get a child's attention is to  
sit down and look comfortable.



DON'T TRASH THOSE COUPONS!

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

A Work in Progress

A Christian is always in the process of becoming,  
never in the state of having become.

The Christian life is not being pious  
but becoming pious, not being healthy  
but becoming healthy, not being but becoming,  
not rest but exercise.  
We are not yet what we are to be,  
but we are becoming it.  
It is not yet done and has not yet happened.

It is, however, going on and coming to be.  
It is not the end, but it is the way.

--Martin Luther



Sunday  
School  
Offering

Oaks Indian Mission

The offering for this quarter will go  
to Oaks Indian Mission, a Lutheran  
ministry, that serves children from  
ages 4-18 from a multitude of tribal backgrounds.  
Please give generously to this quarter's recipient of  
our Sunday school offering.



A Message from Take H.E.A.R.T.  
What is the difference between Alzheimer's  
and typical age-related changes?

**Early Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer's**-Memory loss that disrupts daily  
life may be a symptom of Alzheimer's or other dementia. Alzheimer's is a  
brain disease that causes a slow decline in memory, thinking and reasoning  
skills. There are 10 warning signs and symptoms. If you notice any of them,

don't ignore them. Schedule an appointment with your doctor.

1-Memory loss that disrupts daily life

**What's a typical age-related change?** Sometimes for-  
getting names or appointments, but remembering  
them later.

2-Challenges in planning or solving problems

**What's a typical age-related change?** Making occa-  
sional errors when balancing a checkbook.

3-Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at  
work or at leisure.

**What's a typical age-related change?** Occasionally  
needing help to use the settings on a microwave or to  
record a television show.

4-Confusion with time or place.

**What's a typical age-related change?** Getting con-  
fused about the day of the week but figuring it out later.

5-Trouble understanding visual images and spatial  
relationships.

**What's a typical age-related change?** Vision changes  
related to cataracts.

**What to do if you notice these signs**-If you notice any of the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's in yourself or someone you know,  
don't ignore them. Schedule an appointment with your doctor. With early detection, you can explore treatments that may pro-  
vide some relief of symptoms and help you maintain a level of independence longer.



6-New problems with words in speaking or writing

**What's a typical age-related change?** Sometimes  
having trouble finding the right word.

7-Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace  
steps.

**What's a typical age-related change?** Misplacing  
things from time to time and retracing steps to find  
them.

8-Decreased or poor judgment

**What's a typical age-related change?** Making a bad  
decision once in a while.

9-Withdrawal from work or social activities

**What's a typical age-related change?** Sometimes  
feeling weary of work, family and social obligations.

10-Changes in mood and personality

**What's a typical age-related change?** Developing  
very specific ways of doing things and becoming irrita-  
ble when a routine is disrupted.

Property Committee – July Activity

**Sanctuary Roof Project** – The roof has been replaced over  
the sanctuary. One small leak is being fixed, and some  
cleanup on the roof deck remains. The roof vendor added a  
very nice trim to the roof deck which improves the look of  
the church. Thanks to Marty and Lynn for watching this suc-  
cessful project.

**Stained Glass Window Project** – A few of the glass sections  
had developed leaks, and one section was broken. The leaks  
and broken section were repaired. Thanks to Norm for coor-  
dinating this effort.

**Parking Lot Sealing** – The parking lot was sealed, and some  
cracks repaired. We are working with the vendor on some  
remaining cracks. The parking lot needs more extensive  
repair, and we will obtain estimates for that work. A decision  
regarding the parking lot with respect to the building pro-  
ject will be made later. Thanks to Norm for coordinating this

effort.

**Kitchen ice maker** – The main kitchen ice maker failed and  
was cleaned and repaired. Thanks to Norm for coordinating  
this repair.

**Carpet cleaning** – The kitchen area carpet was cleaned.

Upcoming activities:

Door repairs to several doors in the sanctuary and ECC  
will be done.  
Estimate for gym roof inspection  
Estimates for gym HVAC duct repairs and lighting will  
be requested.

Thanks for taking care of our church facility. If you notice  
something that needs attention, please let Norm or a mem-  
ber of the committee know. Remember to turn off lights  
when you leave the building.



# CTR-U Monthly Schedule

**NO CTR-U ON OCTOBER 31**

**5:00-5:30 PM** - Children's Chimes Choir Practice - Sanctuary  
**5:00-6:00 PM** - Youth Band Practice– Jacob Drengler

- 5:30-6:30 PM**
- ◆ Faith Friends - Gym– DCE Intern Carinna
  - ◆ Confirmation Class - Library - DCE Suzanne
  - ◆ Youth Ministry Bible Study– Youth Room– Pastor Burmeister
  - ◆ Women's Small Group– Conference Room
  - ◆ Men's Small Group - Bridal Room
  - ◆ Craft Class - Fellowship Hall - October 10

- 6:00-7:00 PM - Come & Go Dinner Menu**
- ◆ Oct. 3 - Pizza, salad bar, dessert
  - ◆ Oct. 10 - Taco & salad bar, dessert
  - ◆ Oct. 17 - Chicken strips, salad bar, dessert
  - ◆ Oct. 24 - Tomato soup, salad bar, dessert

- 6:45-7:45 PM**
- ◆ Pre-Confirmation (4th-5th grade) DCE Intern Carinna - youth room

- 7:00-8:00 PM**
- ◆ Choir Practice
  - ◆ Men's Small Group continues
  - ◆ Youth Group (Jr/Sr High 6th-12th grade) DCE Suzanne-outside/gym
  - ◆ Lutheranism 101 - Pastor Burmeister - fellowship hall



**Crafts**

**Craft Class**  
**October 10 - 5:30**

This month's class will be a wine bottle vase. This technique can be used for other bottles so you can make a collection of them to show off your favorite cut flowers or silk arrangement and change it up for every holiday or season.

Class is limited to 12 participants.

Cost of the class is \$5.00.



Daily Bible Reading	
Week 33	
Monday - 2 Kings 17:1-41	
Tuesday - 2 Kings 18:1-19:37	
Wednesday - 2 Kings 20:1-21	
Thursday - 2 Kings 21:1-26	
Friday - 2 Kings 22:1-23:37	
Saturday - 2 Kings 24:1-25:30	
Week 34	
Monday - 1 Chronicles 1:1-4:43	
Tuesday - 1 Chronicles 5:1-8:40	
Wednesday - 1 Chronicles 9:1-12:40	
Thursday - 1 Chronicles 13:1-14:17	
Friday - 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:43	
Saturday - 1 Chronicles 17:1-27	
Week 35	
Monday - 1 Chronicles 18:1-20:8	
Tuesday - 1 Chronicles 21:1-30	
Wednesday - 1 Chronicles 22:1-19	
Thursday - 1 Chronicles 23:1-27:34	
Friday - 1 Chronicles 28:1-21	
Saturday - 1 Chronicles 29:1-30	
Week 36	
Monday - 2 Chronicles 1:1-2:18	
Tuesday - 2 Chronicles 3:1-5:14	
Wednesday - 2 Chronicles 6:1-7:22	
Thursday - 2 Chronicles 8:1-9:31	
Friday - 2 Chronicles 10:1-11:23	
Saturday - 2 Chronicles 12:1-16	

## Grandparents Day

**A Legacy of Faith...**

National Grandparents Day became an official observance in 1978, thanks largely to the lobbying efforts of Marian McQuade, a West Virginian who had 15 children and 43 grandchildren during 60 years of marriage.

The purpose of National Grandparents Day, celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day, is threefold: to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children and to help children become aware of strength, information and guidance older people can offer.

Grandparents - and, in the mobile society, surrogate grandparents - also serve as examples of how to endure challenges with God's help. Elders describe how God remains present, faithful and steadfast throughout the years. As Psalm 145:5 (NIV) says, "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

**Seniors Solve Problem**  
*(taken from The Village Voice by: Ken Eggers)*

In preparation for retirement, my wife Dot and I, along with our two RVing friends, purchased lots, side by side, near the little town of Hemet, California. Hemet is located on the west side of Mount San Jacinto while Palm Springs is in the desert on the east side. We called Hemet "Poor Man's Palm Springs".

A year before we all retired, we purchased manufactured houses and had them placed on our lots. Knowing we would be traveling at least four months each summer, all three of us landscaped our yards with gravel, boulders and driftwood. We also took into consideration the high cost of water in Southern California. Most of the water came from Northern California and the Colorado River. In addition to our three houses, there were only 10 others so far in our development which was for seniors only.

When we finally retired, we sold our homes in Orange County and moved into our houses in Hemet. While the three of us had inorganic landscaping, the other residents had lush green lawns (they must have been wealthy). Being a seniors only development, we had a Home Owner's Association to enforce the CC&R's - Covenants, Conditions & Regulations. The property to the north of our development was planned to become a seniors only development like ours but since not all of our 116 lots were sold yet, it was just empty fields of weeds.

North of the empty fields of weeds lay the Soboba Indian Reservation. Most of the reservation was undeveloped fields of weeds also.

Our first summer of traveling and RVing together went very well. But when we got back to our homes in Hemet, the dozen or so residents, who spent the summer at their homes were very upset. It turned out that the Indians leased their empty fields of weeds to ranchers for grazing their cattle. During the dry, hot summer the cattle became aware that there was lush green grass south of their dry weed fields. They broke out of confinement and helped themselves to the lush green grass. They completely ignored our CC&R's.

Each summer for several years the lush green lawns were invaded by reservation cattle no matter how much fencing the Indians put up. The cattle always found a way to get out.

So, being seniors, a plan was created. While our friends and Dot and I were RVing one summer, the residents who stayed home were called early one morning and advised the cattle were on their way to our development. Seven or eight seniors sprang into action. Our development had around 30 homes by this time. Each lot had been provided with fencing on three sides by the developer. The open side faced the street. The easiest way for the cattle to enter our development was where our paved street ended at the edge of the field of weeds. Fortunately, the first lot, where our street met the field of weeds, was unsold and empty. Cars were positioned in such a manner that the cattle ended up in the empty lot. Then the cars were quickly repositioned so the cattle, including a huge bull with horns, were blocked in.

Animal Control was called and they arrived with a very large

truck. A car was backed out of the lineup so the truck could back in and be in position to receive the cattle. When the two animal control guys saw the bull, they decided they were not going into the lot as long as the bull was free to roam.


So, being seniors, several of them got a fist full of weeds which was used to lure the cow nearest the truck onto the bed of the truck. One by one all the cows were lured onto the truck. When the bull saw where all his girl friends had gone, he meekly joined them.

The next day the local newspaper proclaimed "Seniors Solve Problem". The problem was really solved by Animal control. When the cattle were unloaded, Animal Control took note of the brands on the cattle. In California, it's a law that all range cattle be branded and the brand and its owner be registered with Animal Control - including name, address and phone number. Each owner was contacted and given the choice of a hefty fine plus costs such as labor transportation, feed, etc. or donate the animal to be slaughtered, processed and given to non-profit organizations. All the owners chose to donate.

When we arrived home that year, the residents were ecstatic. No more cattle problems because by this time, the Indians were totally involved in their brand new Casino. Leasing their fields of weeds for cattle grazing was no longer in their plans.

"Everybody lived happily ever after."


**BRIGHT FUTURES**  
**LIGHTING A WAY TO A BETTER TOMORROW**  
**September 18 - 6:00-8:00 PM**



**Auction**

Tickets are on sale now for the Second Annual Dinner and Silent Auction to support the South Tulsa Community House's work to help our neighbors live more productive, self-sufficient lives. The mission of South Tulsa Community House is to empower Riverwood families and individuals by reducing hunger, combating poverty, and providing an Empowerment Pathway to improve their lives through direct services and collaboration.

Where: Tulsa Historical Society located at 2445 S. Peoria Ave.  
For tickets or sponsorship opportunities contact Karen Streeter at 918-551-7368 or [Karen@SouthTulsaCommunityHouse.org](mailto:Karen@SouthTulsaCommunityHouse.org)  
[mailto: Karen@SouthTulsaCommunityHouse.org](mailto:Karen@SouthTulsaCommunityHouse.org)



**Thank You!**

The South Tulsa Community House Board of Directors wishes to thank Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church and their members for the continued support of the South Tulsa Community House and the 61st and Peoria area. We hope that you will join us for a fun evening on September 18th.



# Vicarage News

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

I cannot believe how quickly the summer flew by. September is here, school is back in session, and football has kicked off! Some OU season ticketholders from Holy Trinity have offered to take us along to see the Sooners, so look for the Brakhages on a jumbotron near you! Even without the football tickets, we could not have asked for a warmer welcome from our vicarage congregation. People have been incredibly friendly. Suzy has joined the adult choir and Graham comes to rehearsals and plays with the other kids in the back of the room. Several church families have invited us for dinner. Last month, all the staff and their families got together with new members who had recently joined the church for a barbecue at the pastor's house.

We still feel like we have a lot of people to meet, faces to learn and names to remember. It's a large congregation, but people have been infinitely patient with us. It's been fun to discover some connections we weren't aware of. So far, we've met some of Rosalie Weber's family, some of the Holts' relatives, and even some Brakhages(!) who worship here in Edmond. Some others are related to people I grew up with in Coffeyville, and a childhood friend is on the board of directors at the other LCMS church in Edmond.

Maybe the most pleasant surprise was bumping into a pair of familiar faces in the hall last month. I was just heading to the drinking fountain when I spotted Pastor B and Deon Hull visiting Holy Trinity on official Oklahoma District business. It's always good to see our CTR family and even better when they just happen to show up where you are. Given how busy it is around here on Sunday mornings, I'm not sure how often we'll make it to Tulsa this year, but it's a priority for us to stay connected to our dear friends at CTR.

I briefly mentioned the rigor of Sunday mornings here. We have four worship services each Sunday, and if you're scheduled to preach, you give the sermon at all four. That was me on my first weekend as vicar! I had the opportunity to preach in our three traditional services as well as the modern worship service. Most of the services are simply back-to-back. As soon as one is finished, you get ready to welcome a new group of faces for the next service. But from 11:00-12:00, there are two services going on simultaneously in different parts of the church. There's modern worship in the church's original sanctuary space while traditional worship is happening in the new sanctuary. And somehow, they've managed it where I can preach in one service, take off my robe and such, get into street clothes, and make it to the modern service just in time to present the sermon. It's some pretty tricky choreography, but I'm glad they already had it all figured out.

And if you preach on Sunday, then you're responsible for preaching on Wednesday. We have Wednesday night worship all year round. I am going to try to challenge myself on Wednesdays to preach exclusively from the Old Testament. I didn't grow up hearing too many sermons on the Old Testament, and the ones I did hear (Adam & Eve, Noah, Moses, David, etc.) you

heard over and over. I'd like to develop a greater level of comfort with the Old Testament texts, especially those less familiar books of the Bible. The Holy Spirit has preserved all 66 books of the Bible for a reason; let's see what treasures the Old Testament holds.

Wednesday night worship here is unique because all the hymns are chosen by request. Anyone in attendance can suggest what we sing next, providing a challenge for whomever is playing piano for worship. One Wednesday when I wasn't preaching, they asked me if I would play for worship. Our music director was out of town for a wedding, and the substitute canceled because her husband was in the hospital. I told them I'd play if I could reserve the right to veto songs I didn't know by heart. Luckily, no one picked anything outlandish, and I was able to stumble my way through the service. It went fine, but I'm hoping I don't have to pinch hit again any time soon.

I was talking about our music director with Pastor B during his visit to Edmond. I said he was the son of a Lutheran pastor, who moved here from another part of the country to pursue his doctorate degree from the University of Oklahoma, but is hungry to build the music program here. Pastor B then told me about your new music director, Jacob Dregler, and it almost sounded like we were talking about the same person! Obviously, both congregations are blessed to have young, talented musicians who are willing to serve and lead the musicians who offer their gifts to amplify the service of God. We will pray God's blessings on Jacob's ministry among you, and we know that you will support him with your time, your words and your eagerness to see CTR's music program flourish. We can't wait to hear how he's been able to build upon the solid foundation that you already have.

This past month afforded us ample opportunities to see family. My little sister is just a few hours away in Fort Smith, and she came over to spend the evening with Graham while Suzy and I had our first “date night” since he was born 14 months ago. Just before school started, Suzy’s mum and elder sister visited with their little ones; Graham loves spending time with his cousins (and almost anyone who is his size!) Over Labor Day weekend, Suzy and Graham are joining my mom and sister on a road trip while I stay back home for worship. And Suzy and Graham got to meet a lot of the Brakhage family for the first time last month as we traveled back to Coffeyville for my grandmother’s funeral. We saw aunts, uncles, and cousins who I hadn’t seen in years. Many – just like me – are now married with kids, and Graham was excited to have so many young ones to play with.

My grandma never had the chance to meet Graham before she died. That realization probably hurt more than anything. Yet, I know that she is now surrounded by the family of God, celebrating her freedom in the presence of her Savior. And one day, I'll join her. And so will Graham. Praise be to Jesus Christ, who claims us in Baptism, joining us with Himself, and sealing us with the promise, "whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." (Jn. 11:25)

Living in the promise, Joshua  
[joshua411@gmail.com](mailto:joshua411@gmail.com)  
 (918) 706-1632 (Joshua's mobile)  
 (785) 393-3117 (Suzy's mobile)  
 2605 Greenfield Dr.  
 Edmond, OK 73012

## Man In Blue

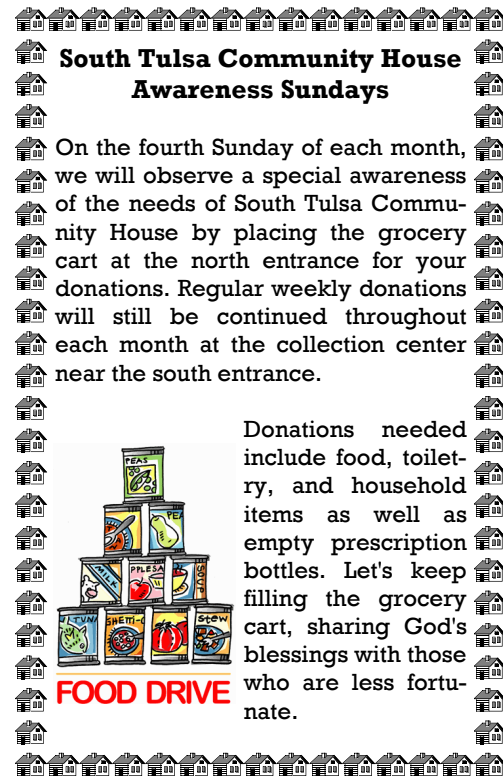
I spoke a prayer for you today  
I asked God to keep you safe.  
He placed you in my line of sight,  
Your concerns upon my heart.

What other cares are on your mind,  
As you work up there so high?  
I see you 'midst the tall pine trees,  
Clad in a shade barely darker than the sky.

Who waits for you to finish work?  
What else must yet be done?  
I pray your loved ones let you know  
How much you mean to them.

Your Heavenly Father knows your worth,  
And watches you today.  
May His angles guard you all  
As you go upon your way.

I wonder then, who else will He  
Place for me to see?  
Will my eyes be open wide?  
...Or will my focus be on me?  
--Wendy Linbemann, Hope on the Beach

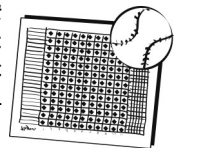


## Keeping Score


Baseball purists often delight in keeping detailed scorecards. So do many Christians - often unknowingly. Do you give yourself "credit" for your years in the faith? for the number of services or studies you attend? for the good deeds you perform? for the Bible verses and creeds you know by heart?

In Philippians 3:4-6, Paul recites his impressive scorecard, yet despite those credentials, he couldn't earn God's favor. Neither can we. Our tallies are all "loss" (v. 7) when compared to the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ (v. 9).


Attending church, serving and memorizing Scripture are good things. But we do them not to get right with God but because we are right with God - through Jesus.




## ***Raise Money While You Shop & Browse the Web***

 To support Lutheran Women's  
Missionary League, shop at  
**Amazon Smile**. The products, shopping experience, and  
even your login and password are the same as on ama-  
zon.com. They donate 0.5% of your purchase to your char-  
ity. You can also shop at hundreds of sites through **Good-**  
**Shop** and **Gumdrop**. Use **GoodSearch** when you browse  
the web and support the LWML at the  
same time. The percentage donated de-  
pends on where you shop. **\$24,010 has**  
**been raised so far through these**  
**sources for LWML!** 

## LWML WEBSITE UPDATES

 LWML has a new webpage on the CTR website! We will post upcoming events, pictures of LWML at work and play, and links to a variety of resources. You can check it out at [ctrtulsa.org/lwml](http://ctrtulsa.org/lwml). The LWML Oklahoma District has updated their website at [oklwml.org](http://oklwml.org) with all of the district happenings, regular updates on our mission goals, an archive of The Voice of Service newsletters, Young Women, Forms & Resources and more. As always, you can find up-to-date information on LWML at the national level at [lwml.org](http://lwml.org).

## *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

2:  
2:  
9: by Lynn and Sandy Moeller in celebration of their  
54th anniversary  
9:  
16:  
16:  
23: by the family of Jacque Fader in loving memory  
of her birthday  
23: by John Neas in celebration of Sally's birthday  
30: by Dale and Cyndy Malwick in memory of Ra-  
chel Welch  
30:





**Jacob Drengler**  
**Music Director**

As I begin my journey as Music Director at CTR, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for being so welcoming and encouraging during my first weeks here. Fall is fast approaching and with it comes many opportunities to participate in the music ministry at CTR.

support and encourage the congregational singing of the hymn and liturgy; they will also regularly provide special music in worship, drawing from the rich heritage of sacred choral music from around the world. New members are always welcome. We **Bell Choir** would love to have you sing with us!



The handbell ensemble, under the direction of Craig Amendt, will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 2nd following the 10:45 service. This ensemble is also open to anybody of high school age and above. Prior ringing experience is not necessary (we will teach you what you need to know!), although some music reading ability is undoubtedly helpful.

Middle school and high school students with interest in performing contemporary Christian music are invited to participate in the youth praise band. Vocalists, guitarists, bassists, keyboardists, and percussionists are all welcome. Starting this fall, I will be working



with the youth praise band. Rehearsals will take place on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:00 pm and start on September 5th.

The children's chime choir is open to students in 4th-6th grade and rehearses with Craig on Wednesday evenings from 5:00-5:30 pm, starting on September 5th.



Children's choir, a new musical opportunity for 1st-5th-grade students at CTR is coming soon. This choir will introduce children to a wide variety of Christian music. In addition to singing, I hope to incorporate various world percussion instruments as the children explore sacred music from many backgrounds. For parents of children who may be interested in participating, I am planning on holding a brief informational meeting which will also include an opportunity to discuss potential rehearsal times and days, so look for more information about that in the coming weeks.

Instrumentalists and soloists are always welcome to participate in the worship life of CTR.

If you have any questions or would like to become involved with the music ministry at CTR, please feel free to email me at [jacob.drengler@ctrtulsa.org](mailto:jacob.drengler@ctrtulsa.org) or speak to me following any worship service. I look forward to many opportunities to make a joyful noise with you all.



**LUTHERAN HOUR**  
**SPEAKER**

Lutheran Hour Ministries is pleased to announce that the Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler of St. Louis has accepted a call to serve as speaker of The Lutheran Hour radio program. Zeigler succeeds to the microphone following the departure of Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz. He will officially begin his ministry with LHM on October 1 and will broadcast his first sermon on Reformation Sunday.



The Lutheran Hour is the world's longest-running Christian radio program and currently airs on more than 1,800 stations throughout North America as well as the American Forces Network. The program reaches more than one million listeners each week and is also available online, through a mobile app, and on various new media platforms.

# ECC



**Nikki Witt, Director**

## Summer fun in the Sun!!



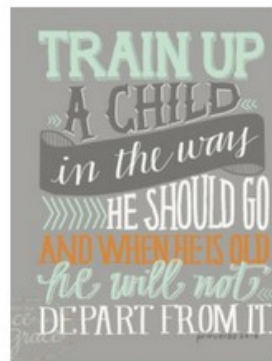
Now and then....  
They're not so young any more.



**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.**







## CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
FAMILIES@CTRTULSA.ORG  
918-549-0957



DCE Intern Carinna Corbett

We have so much to look forward to at CTR. Not only do we have CTR-U starting again, we have a new Sunday School year, fall festival, family nights, and more. This September at CTR we have a Reconnect Night planned to discuss how families can be more intentional about family time and devotions together. The Bible equips families to grow in their faith and keep their focus on God when so much around us seems to be focused in another direction. We hope you can join us.

The new Sunday School year kicks off officially on September 9<sup>th</sup>, we hope you can join us as we Dig into God's Word to build up our Faith. We are learning about the life of Jesus as we explore his birth, death, and resurrection. We want to thank all our wonderful Sunday School teachers who have stepped up to teach this year: Sarah and David Ross, Chris and Brenda Flasch, Tessa Chesher, Melissa James, Amber Carson, Kathy Stephen, Lisa and Larry Bellmard, Wanda Radke, Lindsay and Nathanael Rake, Kasey Simpson.

Faith friends and Pre-Confirmation will begin on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Faith Friends will continue to meet in the gym at 5:30, and Pre-Confirmation will meet in the youth room at 6:45. The schedules for both Faith Friends and Pre-Confirmation can be found on our updated website.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Family Fun Day in July! It was wonderful connecting with families before summer ended.



DCE Suzanne Watt

## CHRIST THE REDEEMER YOUTH MINISTRY

Jr. High (6-8th graders)  
Sr. High (9-12th graders)



*"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*

### UPDATED INFORMATION ON NYG 2019



Registration for the 2019 Gathering will begin in August 2018 to be submitted by October 7, 2018 with full or partial (\$200) non-refundable registration payment. A non-refundable registration fee totaling \$365 will be required and due in full by December 31, 2018 for each student. After registration the remainder of the cost to attend NYG will be fundraised. Any money not fundraised by the time of the Gathering will be the responsibility of the participant.

Our next planning meeting is Wednesday, September 19 at 6:45 PM at CTR. Please bring your form if you have not submitted it as well as ideas for group activities and the group covenant.

### Save the Date!

CTR-U Starts Sept 5, 2018  
National Youth Gathering Meeting Sept 19, 2018  
NYG Registration DUE Oct 7, 2018  
Joy Jr High Gathering Oct 12-14, 2018  
C.L.A.S.S. Student Leadership Conference Oct 18-20, 2018  
High School Christmas Lock-In @ Immanuel Dec 19-20, 2018  
Journey in January High School Retreat Jan 18-20, 2019  
CTR Jr High Retreat Feb 1-3, 2019  
OK'D in Christ High School Gathering March 29-30, 2019

Jr High Youth entering 6th-8th grade! Save the date for JOY Jr High District Gathering at Camp Lutherhoma in Tahlequah, OK the week-end of October 12-14.



Registration forms are now available!

This year's cost is \$110 for a Student and \$85 for Friends as long as you register by Sept. 5th. (\*Note a friend is a non-church member who has not attended Joy previously.) Spots will be available after Sept. 5 but the price will be \$130 each as long as there is still space. You may pay a \$55 non-refundable fee to hold your spot when you turn in your form and the rest on or before October 1. Cost to attend covers your weekend programming, retreat cabins and linens, t-shirt, transportation and meals.

Parents are needed to chaperone!

