



# CHRIST THE REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Tulsa, OK 74136

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



### LWML WEBSITE UPDATES

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 amazon.com. They donate 0.5% of your purchase to your charity. You can also shop at hundreds of sites through **GoodShop** and **Gumdrop**. Use **GoodSearch** when you browse the web and support the LWML at the same time. The percentage donated depends on where you shop. **\$24,010 has been raised so far through these sources for LWML!**

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).



### 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.



February 2019

# The Cornerstone

A publication of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church

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 Adm.

Jacob Drengler  
Music Director

Craig Amendt  
Choir Director

Floyd Lemons  
Property Manager

"Leading people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ"

Sunday Worship:  
8:15 & 10:45 AM.  
Sunday School/Bible Classes:  
9:30 AM

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



You are invited to...  
Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church's Annual



# Candyland Daddy Daughter Dance

Saturday, February 9th  
from 6:00-7:30 PM  
CTR Fellowship Hall

\$25 per couple  
\$5 for each additional guest  
Ages 3 and Up

All fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and fathers-in-law are welcome to TREAT their SWEET-hearts! Get ready for a fun night of dinner, desserts and dancing!

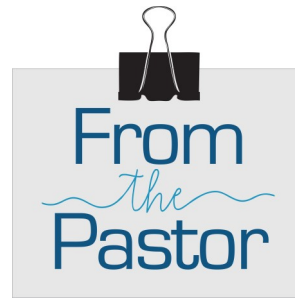


Chili Cook-Off - February 24 - 5:00-7:00  
Youth Band - Bounce House  
Bingo - Chili Contest

Please join us for a fun evening of food and entertainment for the whole family!!  
A door offering benefiting the area homeless vets will be collected during the services.  
Each person attending the cook-off will receive one ticket to vote for their favorite Chili.

Dust off your favorite recipe and enter the Best Chili Contest!





Fellow Redeemed,

How important is the Gospel? It is preeminent, supreme and of utmost importance. There is nothing higher, nothing sweeter, nothing that saves us apart from the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

What is interesting is that when many Christians are asked what the Gospel is, they have a hard time explaining it. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is this: Jesus is God's Son, who died on the cross to save sinners. That reality causes faith. This faith, created by God, includes recognition of sin, repentance from sin, forgiveness for those sins, reconciliation with God (living relationship), and a sanctified life by and through God's Holy Spirit.

Did you know that there are many threats to this Gospel? In our widow's/widower's Bible Study, on Wednesday mornings, we are walking through the book of Galatians. The first thing that Paul addresses in this book is this, "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – which is really no gospel at all" (Galatians 1:6). The Gospel can be almost too simple for us, and it is then that we sometimes feel the need to "beef it up", with things or actions that actually strip the Gospel of its grace. Listen to what Francis Pieper, second president of the Mis-

souri Synod, says concerning this. "Ever mindful of the purpose of theology, which is to bring men to faith and thus lead them to heaven, the theologian must concern himself with the means by which this purpose is accomplished. He must not be beguiled into employing the means suggested by carnal wisdom, such as worldly might, external compulsion, state support, social affairs, and the like. Men are strongly tempted to employ these unchurchly means. But the only thing that achieves the purpose of theology and builds the Church is the Gospel, and only he is fitted for the ministry of the Church who firmly relies, for his success, on the divinely ordained means and knows that the Gospel of the grace of God, though mean and contemptible in the eyes of the world and his flesh, is the power of God unto salvation."

It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ and, His death on the cross, that make atonement for our sins, lead us to faith in Him, and bring us into a living relationship with God. Nothing else is added. Nothing else is needed. Through the Gospel, and by God's grace, the Law of God becomes a blessing as well. In the freedom that comes from the Gospel, our relationship to the Law is one of deliverance. With the Gospel the Law becomes, as Jeremiah the prophet says, "as sweet as honey in my mouth".

As we continue to walk together as a family of faith here at Christ the Redeemer, let us look for opportunities to apply the grace of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Cozy Mountain Lodge**  
Where women find shelter in God.

Come enjoy some relaxation, Bible Study, laughter, and good company!

Where: Camp Lutherhoma Aspen Retreat Cabin in Tahlequah, OK

When: February 22-24, 2019

What: \$75 covers accommodations, programming, supplies and food for the entire week-

end

Transportation is on your own or you may choose to carpool with participants. Retreat cabins include all bed linens and towels.

Who: All women of CTR and their friends age 21 and over are invited to register

Sign up now with DCE Suzanne to hold your spot!

Limited space available! [suzanne.watt@ctrtulsa.org](mailto:suzanne.watt@ctrtulsa.org)

Annual CTR Women's Retreat



**CTR YOUTH MUSIC SCHEDULE**

Students are asked to meet in the choir loft by 10:15.

February 3: 3rd-5th Grades  
February 10: 6th-8th Grades  
February 17: 3rd-5th Grades  
February 24: 6th-8th Grades  
March 3: 3rd-5th Grades

**Ordination of Wangdoua Chang**  
February 9 - 12:00

The congregation is invited to attend the ordination of Wangdoua Chang at CTR on February 9 at 12:00. A reception will follow the service in the gym. Rev. Chang will be ministering to the young community through services at CTR on Sunday afternoons.

**ORDINATION**



**Jacob Drengler**  
Music Director

ship.

Over the next few months, I would like to use this article as an opportunity to share with you all some insights into what I consider to be the most important role of the organist in Lutheran worship: leading congregational singing. Hymn playing is one of the areas which has often elicited the most comments and questions from the congregations that I have played for and so I think that it may be instructive to offer some information about my approach to this important aspect of worship leadership.

It seems to me that the most logical place to start this series is at the beginning, that is, the hymn introduction. There are several main functions of the hymn introduction from my perspective, each of which will be addressed in this and subsequent articles. The first function is to ensure that the hymn tune is presented in such a way that the congregation is given sufficient reminder of the tune that is about to be sung, if it is familiar, or to allow them to hear the tune in full if it is a new or less familiar melody. My approach to this will vary from hymn to hymn. On a hymn that is very familiar, such as *Holy, Holy, Holy* or *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, I will often play a shorter, more improvisatory introduction that merely hints at the melody, rather than playing a straightforward statement of the entire tune. If the hymn is less familiar, or perhaps brand new to the congregation, I am more inclined to play through the entire hymn tune, often playing the melody of the hymn on a prominent solo organ stop, allowing the tune to be clearly heard.

The second and perhaps most important function of a hymn introduction is to in some way bring out the meaning of the text of the hymn; that is, to interpret the hymn musically. There are many ways to do this, and for the sake of brevity, I will limit myself to describing only a couple in this first article. In order to effectively interpret the text of a hymn, I always begin by reading through the whole hymn. Having done this, I underline a word or phrase which I feel captures the spirit of the text. Once I have done this, I work to find a musical way to interpret that spirit.

Perhaps the most basic way to bring out the meaning of a hymn in an introduction is through the judicious and thoughtful use of organ registration. Registration is the technique of selecting and/or combining various stops on an organ in order to create a particular sound. On the organ at CTR, registrational possibilities run the gamut from the whispers of the quietest String stops to the most thunderous combinations of Reed and Principal stops, and everything in between. Registration decisions are very free and often vary considerably depending on context. As an example, it would probably not make sense musically or textually to introduce *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* on Good Friday using the same combination of sounds used to herald the beginning of *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* on Easter Sunday. Even if I am playing a very musically and technically straightforward hymn introduction, at a minimum it is my goal that the chosen registration conveys the mood of the text about to be sung.

Next month's article will continue the discussion of conveying the meaning of a hymn text through the introduction. It is my hope that through sharing some information about what the organ (and the organist) is doing in worship that it will help you all to more deeply consider the words which we sing together each Sunday as we join together to make a joyful noise.

Jacob Drengler

## CTR Camp Lutherhoma Rebate 2019

**For Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Youth Attending Summer Camp at  
Camp Lutherhoma, Tahlequah, Oklahoma**

1. Rebates are offered to individual campers who are actively participating (*attending worship, Bible study &/or confirmation, youth activities, etc.*) at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church.
2. We will only offer a rebate for **one camp session per person per season.**
3. You may put up to 3 campers per household on one form.
4. Remember to send your registration to Camp Lutherhoma as soon as possible. When you receive your registration confirmation **attach a copy** to this rebate form and return it to Christ the Redeemer in the Lay Ministry of Youth drawer in the Office Work Room
5. The amount of the rebate will depend on how many youth apply by May 1:
  - it will not exceed 50% of the early registration price per individual person
  - it will reflect the total price paid after camp discounts (such as family and friend discounts) per person
  - it will be no more than \$500 per family and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.
6. Funds will be sent out **after May 3.** Forms submitted after May 1 will be considered with any funds that remain.

If you have any other questions please contact the Director of Christian Education, Suzanne Watt by phone 492-6451 or email [suzanne.watt@ctrtulsa.org](mailto:suzanne.watt@ctrtulsa.org). Enjoy Camp!

Name of Camper 1:
Camp Dates Registered For:
Amount Paid to Camp Lutherhoma:
\$

Name and Address to whom Rebate is to be sent:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Camper 2:
Camp Dates Registered For:
Amount Paid to Camp Lutherhoma:
\$

**Total Amount Paid to Camp: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rebate Submission Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please be sure to attach a copy of the registration form you receive from Camp Lutherhoma. It should show a **\$0 balance due**. Mail the completed application to the church or place in the Lay Ministry of Youth drawer in the Office Work Room:

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Attention: Camp Rebate  
2550 E. 71<sup>st</sup> St.  
**Tulsa, OK 74136**

Name of Camper 3:
Camp Dates Registered For:
Amount Paid to Camp Lutherhoma:
\$

<i>Office Use Below:</i>	
Reviewed by DCE:	Date:
Approved by Youth Chair:	Date
Amount of Funds Granted:	Line Item #1132

# LWML NEWS

LWML week will be February 11-17. Please remember the various mission grants and projects of the LWML in your prayers and in your service to others. We will be working with the children and youth during this week to increase their awareness of Missions. Patti Ross, National LWML President will be speaking to us on Sunday, February 17, during the Sunday School hour. LWML Sunday will be celebrated on February 17 with special music and emphasis on prayer and missions.



**NATIONAL LWML CONVENTION** - June 2-23 - Mobile, Alabama  
Up-to-date information regarding the convention can be acquired by going to [lwml.org](http://lwml.org).

The Oklahoma district of the LWML has chartered a bus for the convention. The bus will leave Oklahoma City/Tulsa on June 19 and return June 24. Passengers will spend one night on the road going and returning from the convention. The price of the bus will be \$160. Overnight accommodations will be an additional cost. There are 31 passengers confirmed and another 20-24 are needed to have a full bus.

Contact Sharon Schmidt for further details  
([sharonschmidt216@gmail.com](mailto:sharonschmidt216@gmail.com) or 918-296-0121)

### Outreach Board — Giving Tree

Thank you to all who generously contributed to the Giving Tree Christmas project this past December. We provided Mend Medical Clinic/Pregnancy Crisis Center with diapers, wipes, baby supplies and clothing, and maternity clothes and toiletry items for the mothers. Walker Hall (Oklahoma Mental Health Association Transitional Living Center) received quilts, blankets, sheets, towels, socks, and toiletries. Monetary donations of \$150 was also given to our recipients. Both Walker Hall and Mend were very grateful for your gifts, prayers and loving support.

*“Patience with others is love, patience with self is hope, patience with God is faith.”* —Adel Bestavros.

*“All you need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.”* — Charles M. Schulz

*“In a world where people are looking everywhere for signs of God, where have you found God? What have you done about it? And who will you tell?”* —Robert Gorrell

What brings warmth and shelter to families by becoming a bed, room divider, backpack, and at times even a home???

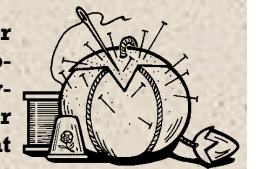
# QUILTS

**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.

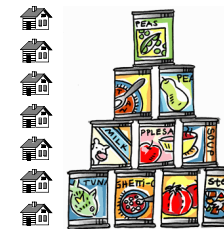
Prayers for our quilt program are needed plus prayers for the recipients of our quilts. These quilts are sent all over the United States as well as the world!



*Tie Quilts*  
Cut Squares      The quilters meet very Tuesday at 10:00 in the fellowship hall.  
Sew Squares      Join us !! We would appreciate your help!      Assemble Tops

### South Tulsa Community House Awareness Sundays

On the fourth Sunday of each month, we will observe a special awareness of the needs of South Tulsa Community House by placing the grocery cart at the north entrance for your donations. Regular weekly donations will still be continued throughout each month at the collection center near the south entrance.



**FOOD DRIVE**

Donations needed include food, toiletry, and household items as well as empty prescription bottles. Let's keep filling the grocery cart, sharing God's blessings with those who are less fortunate.



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

Dean & Shelley Butler	February 5	14 yrs
Jim & Gayle Pumpelly	February 9	16 yrs
Robert & Lanece Young	February 29	55 yrs

**CTR FRIENDS** will meet for lunch on February 10 at The Ridge Grill (9999 S Mingo Rd. #J; reservations under CTR).



**BUNKO** will be February 12 at the church at 7:00 with hostess, Sharon Schmidt. There is a sign up sheet.

**OWLS** will meet on February 28 at Incredible Pizza at 11:30 for their monthly gathering. Lori Fullbright will be the speaker. There is a sign up. Please join them!

**CTR-U CRAFT CLASS** will be held on February 20. We're going to make a burlap button wreath. Sign up today.

**CHILI COOK-OFF** will be held February 24 from 5-7:00. Come and enjoy a great meal - entertainment by the Youth Band - Bounce house will be available and BINGO! Should be a great evening for the entire family.

**FATHER-DAUGHTER DINNER** will be February 9 from 6-7:30. Check out the cover page for details.

**LENT IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER:** Ash Wednesday is March 6. Our meal and worship schedule is changing this year. We are going to focus on families during the evening worship service. For this reason, CTR-U will end it's first session at 6:00 so everyone can enjoy a meal together. The meal will begin at

5:30 for those who can come early and those attending CTR-U will begin their meal at 6:00. The service will follow at 6:30. There will also be an 11:00 am Lenten service each Wednesday beginning with Ash Wednesday. Please join us at whichever service fits your schedule.

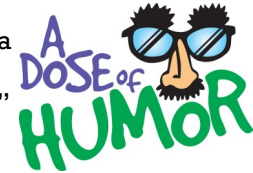


## The Joke Corner....

Esther: "Why did you get rid of your water-bed?"  
Sharon: "Bill and I were drifting apart."

Boy: "I'd like to marry your daughter."  
Father: "Have you seen my wife yet?"  
Boy: "I have ... but I prefer your daughter."

Teacher: "Johnny, name a great timesaver."  
Johnny: "Love at first sight."



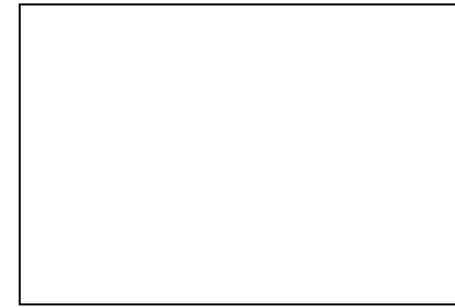
### Comfort Dog Project

The offering for this quarter will go to the Comfort Dog Program. The mission of the Comfort Dog Program is to provide a ministry for sharing God's presence with those in need due to tragedy or stress while providing a bridge of compassion connecting with people throughout our community. Locally they help with school programs and classrooms, special needs classrooms, children's hospitals, nursing homes, police and fire department crisis response, funerals, etc. The Comfort Dog Program is affiliated with Lutheran Church Charities.

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

## Faithful Measures

<b>For the Month of December</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Total Worship Attendance .....	1194	1104
Weekly Average.....	239	221
SS/Bible Class Attendance .....	493	501
Weekly Average .....	97	100
December Giving .....	\$101,211	\$92,475
Monthly Budget .....	\$79,735	\$81,533
Year to Date Giving .....	\$877,439	\$841,644
Year to Date Budget .....	\$845,191	\$847,942
YTD Expenses.....	\$799,250	\$841,438
<b>Totals for the Year:</b>		
Worship Attendance.....	12,896	12,725
Weekly Average.....	248	245
SS/Bible Class Attendance.....	5,573	4,168
Weekly Average.....	107	80



### A Message from Take H.E.A.R.T.

### Care Partner Support Event ~ 2019

Saturday, March 9th from 8:00 am to 5:15 pm  
Evergreen Church – 10301 E. 111th Street South Bixby, OK 74008  
Office (918) 369-6400

Register: January 1 - March 6 at <http://www.evergreenbc.org/carepartner>

Attend up to 6 Sessions - Pick from 13 Different Topics Such As:

- Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia .....Cathy Sullins
- When Is It Time to Consider a Move? ..... Chris Finley
- Hospice ... "I Wish We Would Have Known About You Sooner" ..... Ashlie Casey
- Caregiving 101 ..... Mickey Hinds
- Trusts, Wills, Estate Planning, DOPA's ..... Kathy Lee Hatchett
- Home and Community Based Services for Seniors and Care Givers ..... Carol Carter
- Guardianship, POA, Advanced Health Care Directives and End of Life Decision Making Curtis J. Shacklett
- Financing Long Term Care, Veterans Pension Planning and Medicaid Planning ..... Brandy Robles
- Financial Planning in the Shadow of Dementia ..... Kent Thiessen
- Developing New Care Partner Skills (PPA and HuH) or Learn Teepa's GEMS Model of Progression of Dementia and See How You Can Improve Your Caring Interactions ..... Cheryl Doyle
- The Wellness Wheel – Proper Nutrition for your Care Partners Health ..... Deanna Lawson
- Caring For Those Who Care .....Dr. David T. Willets

### CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please add these individuals to your church directory or change the information that is currently printed.

Alex & Hailee Gooseen (Calvin) - (918-902-8821)  
9410 S Winston Ave, Tulsa, OK 74137

Stephen & Kristie Ferguson (Hayden, Leland)  
1113 Sunset Drive, Tulsa, OK 74114  
(918-720-5339)

Terry Cast (918-240-5559)  
7327 S Victor #2401  
Tulsa, OK 74136

John & Roseanna Kretzschmar  
6727 S 67th E Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133  
(918-492-8230)

Barry & Daphnee Brian  
13214 S 21st St., Bixby, OK 74008  
(580-772-4711)

Gordon & Jerrie Shaiebly  
3505 E 72nd St., Tulsa, OK 74136  
(318-791-6033)

Walt & Barbara Sabourin  
211 S 117th E Place, Tulsa, OK 74128  
(918-437-4405)





# CTR-U Monthly Schedule

**5:00-6:00 PM** - Youth Band Practice- Jacob Drenkler

**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 - February 20

**6:00-7:00 PM - Advent Meals**

- ◆ February 6 - Tacos, salad bar, dessert
- ◆ February 13- Subs, salad bar, dessert
- ◆ February 20 - Chicken strips, mac & cheese, salad bar, dessert
- ◆ February 27 - Tomato soup, grilled cheese, salad bar, dessert

**7:00-8:00 PM**

- ◆ Choir Practice
- ◆ Men's Small Group continues
- ◆ Youth Group (Jr/Sr High 6th-12th grade) DCE Suzanne-outside/gym
- ◆ Books from the Bible - Pastor Burmeister - fellowship hall



**CTR-U CRAFT CLASS**

**February 20 - 5:30**

**Crafts** We will be making a burlap button wreath. Cost of the class is \$12.00 and is limited to 12 individuals. Please sign up today.



**What will you give up?**

During Lent, some Christians give up a luxury or vice as a form of self-denial or to practice self-control. Ultimately, such a sacrifice should benefit one's spiritual walk with Jesus, who gave everything.

A Missouri teenager decided to give up talking for Lent. Decklan Conway 13, communicated through dry-erase boards, going through three markers in less than a week.

Although he lost a few friends because he wouldn't talk, Decklan wrote, "I'm doing this for a greater purpose." He added. "God gave up his only son for us... what are you willing to give up?"

A worthy corollary to that question is "What will you take on?" What can you do for God's kingdom during this season of reflection and recommitment.

**Daily Bible Reading**

**Week 53**

- Monday - Song of Solomon 4:1-6:13
- Tuesday - Song of Solomon 7:1-8:14
- Wednesday - Isaiah 1:1-2:22
- Thursday - Isaiah 3:1-4:6
- Friday - Isaiah 5:1-30
- Saturday - Isaiah 6:1-13

**Week 54**

- Monday - Isaiah 7:1-8:22
- Tuesday - Isaiah 9:1-10:34
- Wednesday - Isaiah 11:1-12:6
- Thursday - Isaiah 13:1-20:6
- Friday - Isaiah 21:1-21:18
- Saturday - Isaiah 24:1-25:12

**Week 55**

- Monday - Isaiah 26:1-27:13
- Tuesday - Isaiah 28:1-29:24
- Wednesday - Isaiah 30:1-31:9
- Thursday - Isaiah 32:1-20
- Friday - Isaiah 33:1-35:10
- Saturday - Isaiah 36:1-39:8

**Week 56**

- Monday - Isaiah 40:1-41:29
- Tuesday - Isaiah 42:1-43:28
- Wednesday - Isaiah 44:1-45:25
- Thursday - Isaiah 46:1-47:15
- Friday - Isaiah 48:1-49:26
- Saturday - Isaiah 50:1-52:15

**Character doesn't save**

A tombstone in an old London churchyard reveals the deceased knew that only Jesus saves:

If friendship, kindness, truth, goodwill and love prove a passport to the realms above, the soul that tenanted this moldering frame to God's right hand might justly lay a claim. But her own works she scorned as worthless dust: Her Savior's merits were her only trust.

# Mission News Update

As we have traveled about, we have been asked for prayer concerns. In every place, we shared the frustration we have had with getting our background checks from Ghana accomplished and also done to the level that the Czech Republic requires. We thank all of you for your prayers because they are done! We were able to get very well documents from Ghana, and they have gone through further authentication here in the USA. So, praise the Lord, we have that done; and we are closer to returning now. In fact, we have decided to return to Prague sooner than later and work on our long-term visas from there. Keep the prayers coming! The Lord has been good to us!

One thing that has slowed us down is a health concern. Suzanne and Dale have regular skin cancer checks; and during our most recent one, a small melanoma was found on Suzanne's forehead. It does not look like it has spread or that there will need to be a lot treatment for this, but it has to come off. Because of the location, she will have to under-go general anesthesia and have a number of stitches. Her surgery is January 10th. We would greatly appreciate your prayers for the procedure and for her quick recovery.

**Support Raising Completed**

We were able to finish our very busy schedule of support raising in the month of December. Since September, we have visited 21 congregations and ministries, dropped in on 17 congregations as we traveled, preached 13 different sermons, and visited Mission Central in Mapleton, IA, and the International Center in St. Louis, MO. We were warmly received wherever we went, even the one time we came late by accident! And we were able to reconnect with previous supporters as well as encourage new ones. We thank God for this wonderful time of encouragement!

**Christmas with Most of Our Family**

Just as we were able to see our oldest child for Thanksgiving, so too were we able to see the younger two. We spent Christmas with our daughter, Gretchen, and her husband, Tom, and our grandson, Isaiah. We also had our youngest, Jonathan (center), who is serving in Virginia with the Air Force, fly in to spend Christmas with us. With a group call to Joshua in NC, we were all able to be together, at least electronically!

As we prepare to move back to Prague, there are a lot of little things that need to be accomplished, all of which can be nerve-racking. As always, this is a trip based on faith. We do not know where and to whom the Lord is leading. But we know that He goes with us. We pray that all will be accomplished in His time and by His grace. And we pray also that you, too, would know that the Lord goes ahead of you to lead and behind you to protect. Let us all be Epiphany lights, shining the Light of Christ, because the days are evil and all people need to hear the love of God in Christ.

We commend you to Christ!  
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster  
*Your Missionaries*



**FINDING THE KEEPERS**

by Anonymous

Tom Brokaw wrote about "The Greatest Generation". Many of us fit into that category. But, do you realize how many changes we have endured? All the medical changes and advances are too numerous to enumerate here. But, here's a few common, ordinary things we can all relate to.

We were born before television as we know it today, before frozen foods, Xerox, Fax machines, voice mail, plastic, contact lenses, Frisbees, hula hoops and credit cards. We were before radar, transistors, split atoms, laser beams, and ball point or felt tip pens. Before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes driers, electric blankets, air conditioning, drip dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together and clothes closets were used for clothes. Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with our cousins.

We thought fast foods were what you ate during Lent and outer space was the back of the local theater. We were before house husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and computer marriages. We were before day-care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radios, tape decks, electric typewriters, word processors, spell check, yogurt and guys wearing ear rings. For us, time sharing meant togetherness - not computers or condominiums. A chip was a piece of wood. Hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

Back then, "Made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how well you did on your school exam. Pizza, instant coffee, McDonalds and KFC were unheard of. We were used to buying things for a nickel or a dime at the 5 and 10 cent stores. Drug stores sold ice cream cones (full of ice cream) for a nickel or a dime. For 1 nickel you could ride a street car, make a phone call, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail 1 letter and 2 post cards. You could buy a Chevy coupe for \$600 and gas for 11 cents a gallon.

In our day, grass was mowed, coke was a cold drink and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the principal's office. We were before sex changes, we bought only what we could afford, and we were the last generation that believed you needed a husband to have a baby.

I'm sure you can think of other things in addition to the above, but you get the general idea. Every change was not a negative one, but it's wearing on our constitutions to figure out which ones are the "keepers".

# Vicarage News

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

Greetings from lovely Edmond, Oklahoma. I recently had opportunity to reflect on the great blessing it is to be serving our vicarage in a part of the country that I call home. Some of my classmates have had to deal with culture shock during their vicarage year, like my friend Nathanael who grew up in rural North Dakota but is serving his vicarage in suburban Seattle. There are a whole slew of vicarage opportunities – small-town Nebraska, inner-city Philadelphia, metro San Antonio – but I have been blessed to be able serve in a place where I already “speak the language.” Understanding the history and culture of a place is a baseline for doing ministry anywhere and I have had a leg up by being able to serve in Oklahoma. I imagine I took this for granted until it was brought to my attention. Although having a vicarage in an unfamiliar locale provides certain learning opportunities, I think our family is plenty satisfied with a chance to spend a year close to home.

Speaking of being close to home, many of our friends at CTR have asked about when I am preaching here at Holy Trinity. I believe I have sent my preaching schedule to everyone who has asked, but it's possible that I've missed some people. I don't feel a need to advertise the dates broadly because I would never encourage you to miss a chance to worship with your CTR family in Tulsa, even if it means you'll be in worship with us in OKC. Supporting your friends and fellow redeemed at CTR with your presence is one of your greatest responsibilities as a member of Christ's church. The church suffers without you there to encourage and care for others. Likewise, you need to be there so others can encourage and care for you! If you still feel the desire to make the trip down the turnpike, you are always welcome at Holy Trinity. But you can also find our worship services and sermons online either on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityOk/>) or on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/HolyTrinityEdmond/videos>) and save yourself the money on tolls.

At the end of the first six months of vicarage, students have the opportunity to meet with their supervisor for an overarching mid-term evaluation. This evaluation works both ways. My supervisor grades me in 33 areas of ministry and pastoral care (like teamwork, preparation, creativity, and time management.) He also submits a written assessment along with his scores to the Seminary. Additionally, I evaluate my supervisor and the learning experience I've had on vicarage. The Seminary seeks my feedback on my supervisor's accessibility, openness and leadership, as well as my observations on the health and personality of the congregation. I imagine this information weighs into my final vicarage grade and informs future vicarage placements. As I sat down with my supervisor, Pastor Barrie Henke, he offered me direct and constructive criticism as well as a great deal of encouragement. I feel he gave me much more credit than I deserve. I am blessed to have this learning experience and a supervisor who recognizes “vicar” is just another word for “student.” I come to this role with lots to learn. I have certainly benefitted from being able to observe the work of faithful, experienced pastors like Rev. Henke.

Last month our congregation was touched by unimaginable tragedy. On a Wednesday morning, we learned that a little boy from Guthrie had been murdered. He was the 1-year-old grandson of members of our church. The boy's grandpa sits right beside me each Tuesday morning at our men's Bible study. To lose a family member – especially one so young – to senseless violence is heartbreaking. Yet, in this darkness, I have seen this church community wrap their arms around this hurting family. They have reflected the love of Jesus in their words and actions. As I write this update to you, we are planning the little boy's memorial service. He will have a Christian funeral and I imagine his grandparents will be surrounded by the care and support of their church family at a time when their biological family feels a deep sense of brokenness and loss.

There's an oddly specific hymn in our hymnals that I have looked at in the days since learning about this boy's death. *When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love* is #764 in Lutheran Service Book. Praise the Lord that many congregations will never have the opportunity to sing this hymn, but it's lyrics seem appropriate in this situation. Here is a sample: “Our faith may flicker low and hope grow dim / Yet You, O God, are with us in our pain / You grieve with us and for us day by day / And with us, sharing sorrow, will remain. // Through long grief-darkened days help us, dear Lord / To trust Your grace for courage to endure / To rest our souls in Your supporting love / And find our hope within Your mercy sure.” In the face of such a tragedy, we have nowhere else to turn than the mercy of God evidenced in the cross of Jesus. Our loving God didn't spare even His own Son from tragedy so that we could know the hope of everlasting life. I pray that this hope is shared with the hurting members of our church family at this sensitive time.

I've recently had a chance to do more teaching at Holy Trinity. In a later letter, I'll share a little about the unique pressures that come from substituting in our Sunday morning adult Bible class. But I spend most of my teaching time with middle schoolers. I teach 6th grade Bible classes each weekday at our school. We spent the entire fall semester studying the Old Testament. It gave us a solid foundation as we started studying the New Testament (and allows us to see why the arrival of Jesus is truly Good News!) There's something to be said for looking at the Christmas story outside of Christmas time. Reading the Bible's account of Jesus' birth without all the customary clutter of the Christmas season gave our kids the chance to reflect on the story with new eyes. They met a young family forced to come to grips with the out-of-nowhere announcement of an unexpected pregnancy. The kids liked recalling the moment they learned a little brother or sister would be joining their family and how it turned their lives upside down. It's in comparisons like these that I think they can reconnect with the real people in the Biblical narrative who often are portrayed as one-dimensional. Now that we're several weeks removed from Christmas, give yourself the pleasure of re-reading Matthew 1 or Luke 1; allow yourself to appreciate the enormity of this news and sympathize with Joseph or Mary who were forced to come to grips with their roles in God's mission of salvation in Jesus. And if you do, let me know what you discover.

With curiosity, Joshua  
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(918) 706-1632 (Joshua's mobile) (785) 393-3117 (Suzy's mobile)  
2605 Greenfield Dr., Edmond, OK 73012

# Confession

CONFESSOR

## Articles from the Augsburg Confession

### Article II: Of Original Sin

1] Also they teach that since the fall of Adam all men begotten in the natural way are born with sin, that is, without the fear of God, without trust in God, and with 2] concupiscence; and that this disease, or vice of origin, is truly sin, even now condemning and bringing eternal death upon those not born again through Baptism and the Holy Ghost.

3] They condemn the Pelagians and others who deny that original depravity is sin, and who, to obscure the glory of Christ's merit and benefits, argue that man can be justified before God by his own strength and reason.



During Jesus' time in the wilderness after his baptism, Satan tempted him to do three things. Which of the following was *not* one of the temptations.

- A. To change water into wine so wedding guests would know he was God's Son.
- B. To throw himself down from the top of the temple, expecting angels to save him.
- C. To turn stones into bread to satisfy his hunger.
- D. To worship Satan in order to gain all the

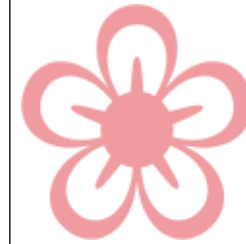
Answer: A (See Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13)

## TULSA LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS NEED YOUR HELP!

CTR needs volunteers to continue their commitment to this mission. Please prayerfully consider joining our team. Additional info can be obtained by contacting Teresa Nightingale at 299-3396; [tnightingale@cox.net](mailto:tnightingale@cox.net)

### 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.



### February Flowers for the Altar

- 3:
- 3:
- 10:
- 10:
- 17: by Sarah & David Ross in memory of Gayle Ross
- 17:
- 24: by Chris Carson in celebration of his mom's birthday, Pam Carson
- 24:

### 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>



Stay in Touch

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)



### 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.

**EASTERN OKLAHOMA LCMS  
Middle School and High School Youth  
PRESIDENTS' DAY  
YOUTH LOCK-IN**



Only  
\$30/person

Stay all night and enjoy:

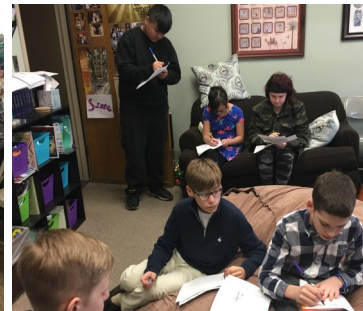
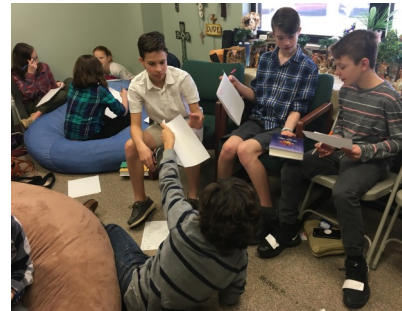
- Bible Study
- Unlimited Laser Tag
- Other Games and Prizes

**SUNDAY - MONDAY  
11:00PM, FEBRUARY 17  
6:00AM, FEBRUARY 18**

**CELEBRATE PRESIDENT'S DAY WITH  
LASER TAG, GAMES & PRIZES!**



↑  
Junior high students  
doing Sunday  
morning bells.



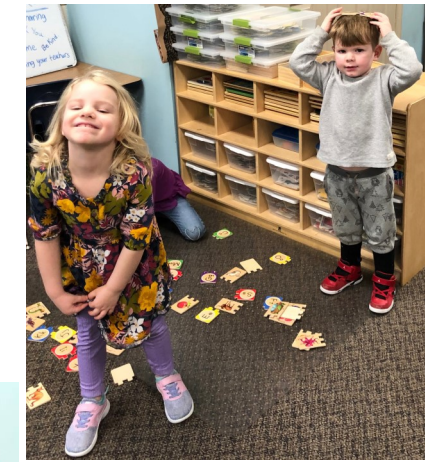
Students are currently learning about world religions in an effort to understand what others believe and how we as Christians can best share our faith and the love of Jesus with them.

**CTR'S Ninja Warriors!!**

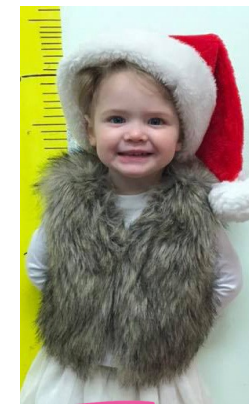
Parish Life hosted an appreciation reception honoring our staff, Pastor Burmeister, Nikki Witt (ECC Director), Suzanne Watt (DCE) and Jacob Drengler (Music Director). Many thanks for all that they do for CTR, its members and families!



# ECC



**Nikki Witt, Director**



LET IT SNOW



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

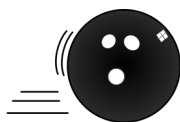
### Coming up in Children and Family Ministry

February 9: CTR is hosting the annual Father Daughter Dance from 6:00-7:30, the cost is \$25 per couple.

Winter VBS: February 15-17. See below for details

February 23: Jump Start event for 4th-6th graders. Students can experience a mini children's conference at the Mabee center with games, challenges, bible study, and more!

March 9: Mother-Son Outing to AMF Bowling from 1:30-3:30. Cost is \$7.00 per person for two hours of unlimited bowling, shoe rental, pizza and drinks. Sign up is located near the church library.



### Winter VBS Schedule

Friday February 15: We will have dinner at 5:00, and VBS will officially kick off following dinner! The youth band will provide us with music as we explore a new country each day.



Saturday February 16: Join us as we continue to learn about other cultures from 9:00-12:00 with lunch provided. We will be participating in a service project this day too!

Sunday February 17: Join us during children's Sunday School at 9:30 as we wrap up our explorations of new cultures and how God is working in other countries. Adults are invited as well to join us in the gym!

Sign up by the library, noting which days you will be joining us. If you are interested in helping with Winter VBS please contact Miss Carinna. All activities will be designed for families to learn and grow together.



DCE Suzanne Watt

## CHRIST THE REDEEMER YOUTH MINISTRY

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

<http://www.ctrtulsa.org/youth-5-12-grade/>



*"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!

CTR Jr High Retreat  
Feb 1-3, 2019  
OK'D in Christ High School Gathering  
March 29-30, 2019  
Easter Breakfast  
Apr 21, 2019  
National Youth Gathering  
Jul 10-16, 2019

#### YOUTH MINISTRY FUNDRAISERS:



Celebrate the Resurrection with us on Easter Sunday!  
The CTR Youth and their families invite you to an Easter Sunday breakfast.  
When: April 21 from 9 AM-10:30 AM  
Where: CTR Fellowship Hall  
All donations will help support the youth attending the 2019 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

All youth going to the 2019 NYG will have a breakfast prep day on Friday, April 19 beginning at 5:30 PM. Please plan to come and take home casseroles to bake as well as help decorate.



**JR HIGH RETREAT** at Camp Lutherhoma is February 1-3, 2019. This year's theme is "Everlasting" and is open to youth and their friends in 6th-8th grade. Registration is \$75 each for retreat cabins. This includes bedding and towels. Due by January 15, then add-ons can be done as space allows. After the 15th you will not be guaranteed a t-shirt. You should be at the church no later than 6:15 pm on February 1st. Please eat dinner prior or bring a sack meal with you! Forms can be printed off from the youth webpage found at <http://www.ctrtulsa.org/youth-5-12-grade/> You may also pay online or return a check to the Church Office "Youth Forms" mailbox with JR HIGH RETREAT in the memo line.

**OK'D IN CHRIST** is March 29-30, 2019 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmond, OK. Open to all current 8th-12th grade students and friends. This year's theme is "Real.Present.God." and features speakers, music, breakout sessions and fellowship with other teens from Oklahoma. Registration is \$55 a person and includes programming and overnight hotel stay. Saturday lunch and snacks are also included. Please bring cash for dinners. We will be collecting non-perishable goods and hygiene items for a service project so please bring an item/items with you. Please turn in a registration form and your fee no later than March 6. Forms can be printed off from the youth webpage found at <http://www.ctrtulsa.org/youth-5-12-grade/>

