



CHRIST THE REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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. The LWML Oklahoma District has updated their website at 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.



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.

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.



January 2019

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 and Bible Classes

PHONE: 918/492-6451
Web: www.ctrtulsa.org
You can view this newsletter online!

Email:
christredeemer@ctrtulsa.org

Early Childhood Center Phone:
918-492-1416

The Cornerstone

A publication of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church



**Sunday, January 13
9:30 - Fellowship Hall**

Please join Parish Life as we host a reception honoring our staff.

A basket will be available for cards.



- * Pastor Burmeister has served as our pastor since June, 2013.
- * DCE Suzanne has served as our DCE since June, 2007.
- * Music Director Jacob became our music director in August of 2018 and received his Master's Degree of Church Music on December 15, 2018.
- * ECC Director Nikki has served at CTR since April, 2006.



Jesus is our Model,
Teaching is our Ministry,
and Children are our Passion!

Join us January 27 during our worship services as we observe Lutheran School's Week and ECC Sunday

A door offering will be taken to support our ECC program. ECC children will sing during the late service.

Teacher gifts will be distributed during the week.



Fellow Redeemed,

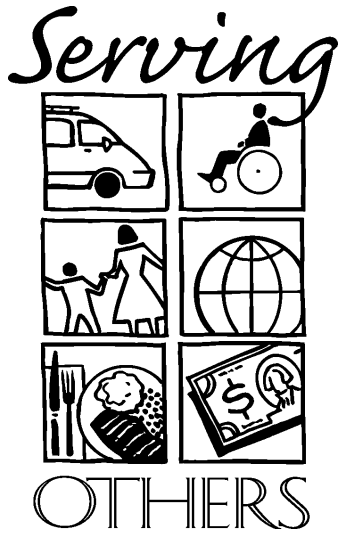
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Happy New Year!!! What a blessing this past year has been for us here at Christ the Redeemer. We have had a successful capital

campaign and raised over \$2.5 million dollars for our expansion and renovation. It looks like this year will be filled with exciting growth and many changes to our facility. What about our faith, service and witness?

Buildings and facilities are great, but they are only tools used for the expansion of the Gospel within our community. This year we will be concentrating on our outreach. I would like our congregation to take each month to focus on a different mission or ministry. Through the outreach ministry we could highlight each ministry and create a way to do hands-on service with them. I have a goal of starting this endeavor in August to correspond with the start of school. We all realize that there will be lots of construction, and that might be the perfect time for us to go off campus and do some work in the community.

The Lord has commanded us to go and make disciples of all nations. Our goal is to partner with ministries that already exist in Tulsa like Mend, Tulsa Community

House, John 316 and the like. If you have ideas or know of ministries that we can partner with, please let me or the outreach ministry know. Our new facilities will serve as a perfect launching point from which to engage our neighborhood and community. Please pray for your congregation and the staff here at CTR as we all work together to “lead people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ”. Amen.



HELP NEEDED: Christ the Redeemer does a video of one of the services every Sunday morning. We create a DVD of the service. A copy of it is sent with a bulletin to all the homebound members. We need some volunteers to help us with this recording and continued ministry. Anyone interested, please see Jim King, Wes Speer or John Muller for further information and training. Thank you for your needed help!



Outreach Ministry would like to thank CTR and ECC families for all their donations to the Thanksgiving baskets and remembrance bags that they provided. Eight families received full baskets and 10 members received the remembrance bags. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The Stewardship Committee thanks all members of the congregation that have submitted their annual pledge for 2019. Please help us complete the campaign by returning your pledge card to the church office, Attention: Stewardship.

Thanks for your help to bring our campaign, “God loves a cheerful giver,” to a successful conclusion.



End of a Season with Take H.E.A.R.T. Health Ministry

Dear CTR Family,

Thank you for the opportunity to share of my time and talent by serving in the health ministry at CTR over the past 8 years. It has blessed me with the chance to share of the gifts God gave me as a nurse to help improve lives small steps at a time and encourage followers to live a healthful life for God’s glory.

At this season in my life, I feel God is directing me toward serving in other ways at CTR. Therefore, I need to share of my intent to end serving in the health ministry. My final health ministry contributions will be the end of Feb 2019.

We have been blessed at CTR to have on record 8 health fairs, 400 lives saved from blood donations, 90 Cornerstone articles, 400+ weekly bulletin notes, hundreds of flu shots, thousands of health handouts and books given out, and an assortment of other events and contributions over that time.

I will continue to serve our Lord and our church in other ways.

It has been a wonderful season and I am looking forward to the next one.

God will continue to bless us richly at CTR! God’s blessings to you,

Ann Holt



*For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Kingfisher Faith

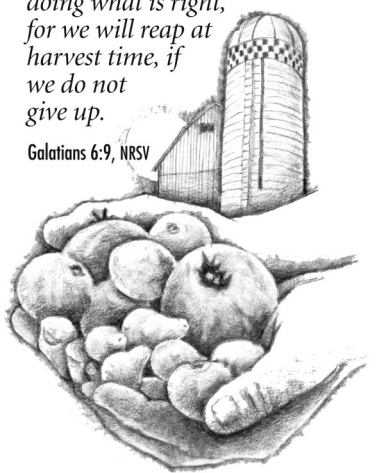
In a video on his publisher’s website, Eugene Peterson tells of watching a kingfisher repeatedly dive for fish in a lake. Peterson counted 37 dives before the kingfisher caught its supper! “And he’s the king fisher!” Peterson chuckles. From that bird-watching episode, he gleaned a ministry lesson: It may take a long time and many attempts - maybe dozens! - before something works out.

God calls us to live out his love faithfully, even when we don’t seem to be accomplishing anything. Maybe we extend 36 invitations to worship, work 36 monthly shifts at a food bank or utter 36 prayers without seeing results. “What’s the point?” we wonder. But the kingfisher urges us on: “Maybe number 37 is the charm!”

In the words of St. Paul (and missing fishing and farming metaphors): “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9 NIV).

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9, NRSV



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. Enjoy Camp!

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

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

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

Office Use Below:	
Reviewed by DCE:	Date:
Approved by Minister:	Date
Amount of Funds Granted:	Line Item #1132

LWML NEWS

The LWML Christmas Dinner Party committee would like to thank the following people for their part in making the event a success: Bill Ross and David Nightingale, Tom Kirby, Pastor Bening, and Mark Holt for being our wine stewards and servers; Susan Effron of M&M Catering for a delicious meal; Lynne Kollock, Carol Fruehling, Kathy Stephen, and Floyd Lemons for all their help, and Jacob Drengler for providing beautiful background music during the meal in addition to his help in planning and being such an important part of the program.




A very special thank you goes out to everyone who attended and those who brought items for MEND as part of our ingathering. We delivered: 41 containers of baby wipes for a total of 2,640 wipes; 20 packages of diapers for a total of 805 diapers; 3 diaper bags, 2 baby gates; and 1 boppy cover.

Sincere thanks from the LWML Christmas Dinner Party committee, Jane Holt, Katie Michaels-Johnson, Barb Sprunger, and Jody Zscheck



Lecture Series at Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran is the long-time location of a lecture series. The speaker this year is Rev. Dr. John Nunes, President of Concordia University New York. He is a dynamic speaker and has appeared at LWML Conventions, Synodical Conventions and more. His lecture is entitled "Tired of Talking about Diversity? Try This!" The lecture will be at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2331 E 5th Pl, Tulsa, OK 74104 on January 27, 2019 at 4pm. It is free, and a reception will follow.



Sunday School Offering

Comfort Dog Project


The offering for this quarter will go to St. Mark's 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.

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

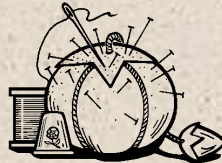
QUILTS

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


































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































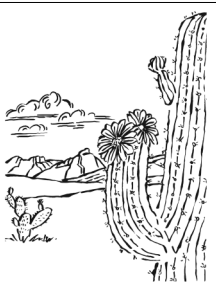


Congratulations and God's richest blessings to all of our couples as they celebrate their wedding anniversary!

Lonnie & Janet Jamison
Scott & Amy Merrill
Don & Vernice Bersche
Greg & Julie Littleton
Sam & Suzanne Romine

January 5 28 yrs
January 13 18 yrs
January 17 49 yrs
January 30 31 yrs
January 30 9 yrs

My path cut through a desert place.
Wind-burned and parched, I fell.
My Jesus gently scooped me up,
His eyes with tears up-welled.
He spoke life to my barrenness -
Oases, fountains, springs!
His Word refreshes, overflows,
'Til deserts round me sing.



CTR FRIENDS will meet for lunch on January 13 at 11:30 at Red Lobster 6728 S. Memorial Dr. (across Woodland Hills Mall).

BUNKO will meet January 8 at 7:00. Watch the bulletin for hostess and location.

OWLS will meet January at 11:30 at Burgundy Place (8887 S Lewis Ave.) for their monthly gathering. The presenter will be Johnny Barfield.

CTR-U CRAFT CLASS will be held on January 9 at 5:30. The cost is \$5 and is limited to 12 participants. Check out page 12 for further details.

STAFF APPRECIATION RECEPTION will be held during the Sunday school hour on January 13 for Pastor Burnmeister, DCE Suzanne, Music Director Jacob and ECC Director Nikki. There will be a basket for cards. Please join us!

CONGREGATION MEETING and MEAL will be held on January 20 at noon following the late service. All members are encouraged to attend.

LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEEK/ECC SUNDAY will be observed on January 27.

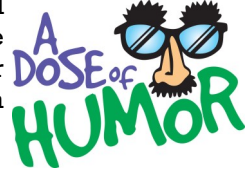


The Joke Corner....


Husband: "Janice, when I see you in that hat, I laugh."
Wife: "Good! I'll put it on when the bill comes in."

Wife: "Darling, you know that cake you asked me to bake for you? Well, the dog ate it."
Husband: "That's okay, Dear; don't cry. I'll buy you another dog!"

A hopeful young lady listed her requirements with a computer dating service. She wanted someone who liked people, wasn't too tall, preferred formal attire and enjoyed water sports. The computer followed her wishes exactly; it sent her a penguin.



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.

Faithful Measures

For the Month of November	2017	2018
Total Worship Attendance	1041	928
Weekly Average.....	260	232
SS/Bible Class Attendance	432	416
Weekly Average	108	104
November Giving	\$62,127	\$53,408
Monthly Budget	\$63,788	\$65,226
Year to Date Giving	\$776,229	\$749,169
Year to Date Budget	\$765,456	\$766,409
YTD Expenses.....	\$691,486	\$752,398

Cozy Mountain Lodge

Where women find shelter in God.

Annual CTR Women's Retreat



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

Where: Camp Lutheroma Aspen Retreat Cabin in Tahlequah, OK

When: February 22-24, 2019

What: \$75 covers accommodations, programming, supplies and food for the entire weekend.

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!

Email suzanne.watt@crtulsa.org with questions.



Several youth families went with DCE Suzanne and DCE Intern Carinna to volunteer to fill food boxes at the Salvation Army Area Command on Saturday, December 15. Jobs ranged from cart duty to making sure certain food items were boxed and cleaning up excess trash.





CTR-U Monthly Schedule

No CTR-U on January 2

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 - January 9

6:00-7:00 PM - Advent Meals

- ◆ January 9 - Tacos, salad bar, dessert
- ◆ January 16 - Chicken Potpie & Subs, salad bar, dessert
- ◆ January 23 - Chicken strips, mac & cheese, salad bar, dessert
- ◆ January 30 - 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
- ◆ Lutheranism 101 - Pastor Burmeister - fellowship hall



“Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that.”
--Martin Luther King Jr.

“Kindness is like snow
it beautifies everything
it covers.”
-- Kahlil Gibran





CTR-U CRAFT CLASS

January 9 - 5:30

We will be covering a metal serving tray with designer napkins and sealing it with decoupage. Sign up today.

Cost is \$5.00. Class is limited to 12 participants.



Mission News Update

Visiting Old Friends

One of the nice things about support raising is that we get to visit churches that we are tied to through past service. Recently, we made a trip through New Jersey, which gave us an opportunity to meet with two congregations that mean a lot to us, Good Shepherd Lutheran in Point Pleasant and Martin Lutheran Chapel in Pennsauken. It was at Good Shepherd that Dale was ordained and began his service as pastor. And it was at Martin Luther Chapel that he served last in the parish before taking the call to Africa in 2013. Obviously, we have a lot of friends there who were glad to see us and who are standing behind us as we now serve in the Czech Republic. Thank God for old friends!

Getting Back to Prague

At many of our visits, we are asked for prayer requests. We have asked for prayers with getting our Czech visa requirements met. We thank you all for the prayers! Recently, we found out that the background checks from Ghana are close to being met. Praise the Lord! We thank you for your prayers, and we ask you to keep on praying for our visas so that we can get back to Prague and the very crucial work of sharing Jesus with the people there. Know we pray for you!

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Your Missionaries in Prague,
Czechia



Jesus stood up and said
in a loud voice,
“If a man is thirsty,
let him come to me and drink.
Whoever believes in me ...
streams of living water
will flow from within him.”
John 7:37-38



BLISTER RUST CONTROL IN SUPERIOR NATIONAL PARK
by Ken Eggers

Dave Hutchens’ story in the September *Village Voice*, “Driving Mrs. Wilson to Los Angeles” and working on Blister Rust control in Sequoia National Park, reminded me of my experience on Blister Rust control in the summer of 1949 while working in the Superior National Forest on the Minnesota/Canadian border.

Blister Rust is a destructive disease of white pine trees caused by a fungus (*Cronartium Ribicola*) that produces orange-colored blisters on the bark and branch tips of the white pines. Left untended, it will eventually kill the tree. Botanists discovered that the fungus needed to live on plants in the *Ribes* family to develop their killer potential before migrating to the trees. The *Ribes* family includes gooseberries and currants.

It was obvious that if *Ribes* plants were not present, the white pines would survive. White pines are a very important part of the lumber industry.

Before we were turned loose in the forest, the head Ranger had to be sure we could identify the correct plants. This didn’t take long because the crew was composed of college students working towards a degree in forestry and a few regular Forest Service employees who had been doing this work for a number of years. The students had experience keying out plants using Gray’s Manual, so we were quick learners.

Blister Rust control is not a glamorous job. Crew chiefs marked areas in the forest with strings strung six to eight feet apart and running straight ahead for a distance that we could cover in a day. Each person was required to pull up all the *Ribes* plants (including roots) in his assigned lane. There was a lane for each crew member. The plants were placed in a bag and incinerated later. All our work was done with one eye on the surrounding area so we did not disturb or surprise any of the numerous bears in the area.

I am not sure of the time frame, but I learned years later that the entire Superior National Forest was cleared of the *Ribes* and the white pines were saved. Our hard work paid dividends.

Working in the Forest Service includes the job of fighting fires. During the summer of 1949 we luckily had only one fire. This was the summer nineteen firefighters died in a fire in Montana. We lucked out again because our fire was small and on a small unnamed island. Lightning had struck a “snag” (a tall dead tree) and this caused the fire. Using axes, madaxes, shovels, Swedish bowsaws, a gasoline powered water pump and lots of hoses, the fire was put out in one long day.

Since the fire was on an island, we had to cross two lakes by canoes and portage across one island. Another student and I had experience handling canoes so the two of us transported everyone and all the equipment to the fire and back to the mainland. By the way, the name of the other canoeer was Arabian Mansur Storres from Massachusetts. Not a very common name.

There was one enjoyable event that summer. It was the display of the Northern Lights that we saw a number of times.

After having spent fifteen months in Korea from 1946 to 1948 in the First Infantry Regiment, and the summer of 1949 on Blister Rust control, I knew I wanted to avoid those two government agencies when I looked for employment. I accepted a position in the “Old” Bell Telephone System and enjoyed thirty-two years with them until the U.S. Justice Department broke us up in 1984.

Vicarage News

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

Happy New Year! Can you do me a favor? Will you pause for just a second and think of one way the Lord has blessed your life in the year past? Maybe you can come up with more than one. One of the biggest blessings I can think of from the past year is how many words He has allowed Graham to learn. Just this morning, Graham found a plastic cup he had been playing with in the bathtub the night before. Trying to avoid an accident, I asked him, “is there still water in the cup?” He tipped the cup to inspect it and water splashed all over the floor. “No more,” he replied, holding the now empty cup. As he surveyed the puddle he just made, he had a one-word, matter-of-fact summary: “mess,” he said.

Maybe your 2018 was a mess. Maybe the end of the year has you pleading “no more.” No more bills. No more health problems. No more deaths. No more anxiety. No more politics. No more ugliness. Please, Lord; no more! It’s all too easy for us to reflect on the negative memories we’ve collected over the past year. It’s scientifically proven that we retain memories of our bad experiences longer and more clearly than we do our positive emotions. It has something to do with our human survival instincts; we’re programmed to remember bad things so we actively work not to repeat them. But being a Christian – living out your baptism – means you are no longer a slave to your human instincts. Our human instincts also drive us to lie, steal and hurt others in order to protect ourselves. Being a Christian comes with the gift of the Holy Spirit, who lives inside us and guides our words and works into righteousness.

Through the Holy Spirit’s power, we can resist our sinful human instincts. We can choose good over evil. We can help others, rather than act solely in our own self-interest. Through the Holy Spirit, we have the ability to treasure the good memories (just like Mary pondered the wonders she witnessed at Christmas in her heart.) And through the Holy Spirit, we have the gift of faith that connects us to our Savior Jesus, no matter what bills, health problems, anxiety or ugliness lies ahead. May the Holy Spirit fuel your reminiscences of 2018, allowing you to treasure the Lord’s blessings to you in the year just past. And as you wrap up 2018, may He allow you to look forward to all the excitement ahead in 2019. Because we certainly are.

The excitement ahead includes a move back to St. Louis, starting our final year of classes at the Seminary and Graham turning 2. It’s also possible by this time next year that interviews for final placement will already be underway. Looking toward 2019 makes it’s hard to believe that our vicarage experience in Oklahoma is already half over! The first six months in Edmond have flown by. It has been full of amazing events and lots of learning. We have loved the warmth of our vicarage church family at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmond. This congregation is characterized by its generosity and sense of humor. The patience and kindness of the congregation has made it a great place to learn.

The kids at our grade school are on Christmas break. When they return, my 6th grade class will spend the spring semester learning about the New Testament. We started in the fall with Gene-

sis, and we’ve been walking through the entire Bible. I will admit that we shortchanged the prophets as time ran out at the end of December, but we will aim to sprinkle a little Old Testament prophecy in as all of God’s promises are fulfilled in the life of Jesus. I have loved teaching the Bible to these kids. Being with them every day to soak in Scripture has been a highlight of the vicarage experience. I cannot wait to see how the Lord continues to work in the lives of these young Christians. I pray that their interest in God’s Word grows and that interest drives them to be part of worship and Bible studies even as they get older and stuff like that gets to be inconvenient or uncool. Please pray for all Christian children that the Spirit would instill (or renew) a commitment to their faith and to their participation in the family of God.

Graham’s excitement for his family of faith has grown. He loves coming to choir rehearsals with Suzy. He typically tries to conduct the choir, plays the piano or maracas, or pals around with the other kids in the room. Graham has grown in his appreciation of Mothers’ Day Out at the other LCMS churches in Edmond. He made it through half of our Lessons & Carols service with no other distractions than a snickerdoodle cookie; he was having fun just watching people read, listening to the music, and trying to sing (and dance) along. He is well-known by friends within the congregation, including one member who has become his regular babysitter. His favorite thing to do is trying to keep up with kids a little older than he is. Graham would be perfectly content to jump ahead to being four or five, but neither of his parents are ready for that.

As kids head back to school after this break, so will Suzy. She continues to work at Myers Elementary in Yukon on Mondays. She recently helped train a new speech therapist who jumped in to cover a co-worker’s maternity leave. Suzy also treats students at our congregation’s school and she loves sending home notes about the progress their making. She especially appreciates the classroom teachers she gets to work with, which is a testament to the quality of the experience students receive. On top of this, she provides screenings and treatment through a contract agency that continues to pursue a greater commitment from her. Overall, our year in Oklahoma has provided more than enough professional opportunities for Suzy to continue using her gifts and abilities.

I want to leave you with a hearty “thank you” on behalf of our family. We deeply appreciate the unwavering commitment we’ve seen in the hearts of our beloved CTR family. The Seminary *expects* home congregations to support students, but your generosity has gone over and above what we have any right to expect. Thank you for your cards, texts, Facebook messages, and personal visits. Thank you for the rich support we’ve received for our tuition costs and the very special Christmas gift you sent last month. Thank you, most importantly, for your prayers and for seeing yourselves as partners with us in this adventure into ministry. You are appreciated and loved, deeply and personally.

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

Confession

Articles from the Augsburg Confession


R **N** **E** **R** **Article I: Of God.**
1] Our Churches, with common consent, do teach that the decree of the Council of Nicaea concerning the Unity of the Divine Essence and concerning the Three Persons, is true and to be believed without any doubting; 2] that is to say, there is one Divine Essence which is called and which is God: eternal, without body, without parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness, the Maker and Preserver of all things, visible and invisible; and 3] yet there are three Persons, of the same essence and power, who also are coeternal, the Father the Son, and the Holy Ghost. And the term "person" 4] they use as the Fathers have used it, to signify, not a part or quality in another, but that which subsists of itself.

5] They condemn all heresies which have sprung up against this article, as the Manichaeans, who assumed two principles, one Good and the other Evil: also the Valentinians, Arians, Eunomians, Mohammedans, and all such. 6] They condemn also the Samosatenes, old and new, who, contending that there is but one Person, sophistically and impiously argue that the Word and the Holy Ghost are not distinct Persons, but that "Word" signifies a spoken word, and "Spirit" signifies motion created in things.

RECYCLE CHRISTMAS CARDS

If you received Christmas cards that you do not want to keep, please set the complete card aside for a future CTR-U craft class. They can be turned into Connie at the office.






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.

January

Flowers for the Altar

6:	
6:	
13:	by John & Sally Neas in celebration of Matt’s birthday
13:	
20:	by Dana Whitacre in celebration of her mom’s birthday, Tomie
20:	
27:	
27:	




Join CTR on Facebook & Twitter!

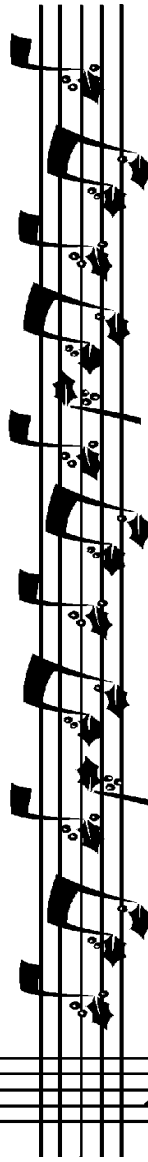
Keep up with coming events, announcements, and updates about recent events including pictures. The public events page is at: <http://www.facebook.com/ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch>

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



Stay in Touch



Jacob Drengler
Music Director

As we enter into a new calendar year, we also prepare to enter into a new season of the Church year. On January 6th, we will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. The day of the Epiphany is principally a commemoration of both the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child and, more broadly, the appearance and physical manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. The readings, hymns, and prayers associated with the season of Epiphany are full of references to light. The Old Testament reading for the Epiphany of our Lord is taken from Isaiah 60, “Arise, shine, for your light has come.” The Magi follow the light of a star to find the Christ Child. The theme of light recurs once again in the Hymn of the Day for the feast of the Epiphany, *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright*, which has come to be known as the “Queen of Chorales.” Consider the rich, deeply scriptural language of the following excerpts from stanzas 1 and 2:

*O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God’s own truth and light.
Aglow with grace and mercy.*

*Come, heav’nly Bridegroom, Light divine, and deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying.*

Each time I play or sing this hymn, I am particularly struck by the fifth stanza:

*O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gladly blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way. Today, tomorrow, everyday! His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!
Great is He the King of Glory!*

May we continue to blend our voices in praise of the One who is our Light and our salvation.



At the OWLS gathering in November, Jerry Morlock was presented with the prestigious OWL Award for his presentation on The Gideons.



Over 70 CTR members enjoyed the CTR Christmas party at the Glenpool Convention Center.

Food, Fellowship and Song were shared by all!



ECC

Thanksgiving Celebration



Nikki Witt, Director



Snow Day!!

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

January 12: Connect night at the Chesher Household. Sign up by the library.

January 26: Reconnect night will be hosted at CTR. We are making blankets for those in need and will be watching a family movie together! Sign up by the library.

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! Sign up by the library by January 6th. Cost is \$45.

Winter VBS

Travel with us as we learn about Christians around the world and how their faith has shaped them!

Mark your Calendars for February 15-17

Explore Kenya, Cambodia, and Peru as a family this spring!

More details coming soon!

Questions? Please contact DCE Intern Carinna at
families@ctrtulsa.org or 918-549-0957



Thank you to everyone who came out to the Night in Bethlehem program! The program turned out wonderful, and the kids had a blast!



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!

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

Easter Breakfast

Apr 21, 2019

National Youth Gathering

Jul 10-16, 2019

UPDATED INFORMATION ON NYG 2019



We have been accepted into the Gathering! We are still continuing fundraising throughout the spring and summer toward our goal.

Our travel plans have us departing Tulsa on July 10 and returning to Tulsa on July 16. Gathering programming will be July 11-15. We should receive information on our hotel assignment in early Spring 2019. Our next group meeting will be in February 2019,

JR HIGH RETREAT: at Camp Lutherhoma is February 1-3, 2019. 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 the 1st. Please eat dinner prior or bring a sack meal with you!

JOURNEY IN JANUARY HIGH SCHOOL RE-

TREAT: at Camp Lutherhoma is January 18-20, 2019. Open to youth and their friends age 14-18 in high school. Registration cost is \$110 each for retreat cabins (those serving on the committee pay \$100). Retreat cabins include bedding and towels. Due by December 31, then add-ons can be done as space allows. After January 8 the price is \$170 a person if there is space. Cost includes transportation, meals and housing for the weekend as well as all programming and a t-shirt.

You should be at church no later than 6:30 PM on the 18th. Please eat dinner prior or bring a sack meal with you! We will return on the 20th at approximately 1:30 PM.

To register, please fill out the registration form and return it with the fee or pay the fee via the online link on the youth webpage. Please also ensure you have updated your medical forms for 2019.

OK'D IN CHRIST: will be March 29-30 in the OKC area. All 8th-12th grade youth and their friends will be invited to attend. Registration information to come soon!