



# CHRIST THE REDEEMER

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Tulsa, OK 74136

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**Rev. Scott Burmeister, Pastor**  
**Suzanne Watt, DCE**  
**Carinna Corbett, DCE Intern**  
**Nikki Witt, ECC Director**  
**Connie Phillips, Office Secretary**  
**Mary Jane Landin, Business Adm.**  
**Angel Harris, Communications Adm.**  
**Jacob Drengler, Music Director**  
**Craig Amendt, Choir Director**  
**Floyd Lemons, Property Manager**

**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)**  
**Email: [christredeemer@ctrtulsa.org](mailto:christredeemer@ctrtulsa.org)**  
**Early Childhood Center Phone: 918-492-1416**

### Graduation Reception - May 19 - 9:00



Parish Life invites the congregation to celebrate the graduation of our DCE Intern Carinna at a reception during the Sunday school hour on May 19 at 9:00. Carinna graduated with two bachelor degrees for teacher certification and DCE. There will be a basket for cards.

### Confirmation Reception May 5 - 9:30

The congregation is invited to a reception honoring our confirmands on May 5. The confirmands this year are Liam Bellmard, Conner Cling, Ella Mabrey and Emma Lou Orvis. There will be baskets for cards.



### Memorial Day

Is it enough to think today  
Of all our brave, then put away  
The thought until a year has sped?  
Is this full honor for our dead?

Is it enough to sing a song  
And deck a grave; and all year long  
Forget the brave who died that we  
Might keep our great land proud and free?

Full service needs a greater toll,  
That we who live give heart and soul  
To keep the land they died to save,  
And be ourselves, in turn, the brave!  
--Annette Wynne



### Joys of Motherhood

A hug for no reason. Belly laughs.  
The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.  
Smiles and giggles. Mud pies.  
Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.  
Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.  
Quiet moments on the couch.  
Reading aloud together.  
A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.  
Watching your child be kind to another.  
Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.  
A child's look of surprise and joy.  
A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.  
The words "I love you" - and a sticky kiss. -- Unknown





Fellow Redeemed,

John 19:36 “Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.’” This was Jesus’ response to Pontius Pilate’s inquiry as to what Jesus may have done for charges to be brought against him. This response from Jesus is rooted in the sermon that He gave on the side of the mountain, near the Sea of Galilee.

Matthew 5:3-12

- <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- <sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

### CTR TENNIS CLUB

The Tennis Club will be meeting on Sundays at 4:00 at the Jenks East Intermediate Tennis Courts beginning April 7 through August.

For more information, please contact Pastor Burmeister.



for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the kingdom of God. It is a humble, meek, and peaceful kingdom. The kingdom of God is full of grace and truth, because Jesus is the embodiment of grace and truth. This is the kingdom that we get to experience every Sunday at CTR. God comes to us through His Word and Sacrament, in order that He might save us and redeem us through our Baptism and by means of Jesus’ body and blood. All of this is for the forgiveness of sins, which, is the kingdom of God. We are gathered by God around His means of grace, and here we experience true family. We are a family of faith, bound together in Christ for the purpose of actively sharing the forgiveness of sins with each other. What a joy God creates in us, and what an amazing unity in doctrine that we share through God’s Word. There is nothing else like it on earth, and that is why Jesus responds the way He did to Pilate. May God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, keep us in this kingdom forever and ever.



### JESUS STAND AMONG US

Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power;  
Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.

Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;  
Bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.

Thus with quickened footsteps we pursue our way,  
watching for the dawning of eternal day.

—William Pennefather

GRADUATES

If your child is graduating from high school or college, please send their biographical information to Connie at the church office for the June/July newsletter deadline which is May 15...  
connie.phillips@ctrtulsa.org





**PALM SUNDAY**  
This year children and the CTR Choir processed at both services. It was a very blessed day!



**EASTER SUNDAY**  
The CTR youth ministry served a full Easter Breakfast to all in attendance on Easter morning. The youth got together on Friday and prepared all the casseroles themselves and made homemade pancakes! The annual Egg Hunt was held with over 2,000 eggs on the back lawn! The kids and families had a great time collecting eggs in the sunshine!




# LWML NEWS

**LWML will meet Tuesday, May 21, at 12:30 in the fellowship hall.** The program will be a Bible study from the spring quarterly—be sure to bring your quarterly to the meeting. Election of officers will be held. The slate of officers is: President — Kathy Stephen, V. President — Carolyn Benning, Secretary — Corene Cline & Lynne Kollock, Treasurer — Carol Fruehling.

Please bring a Bible verse that has to do with flowers, gardening (farming) or springtime.

There will not be a meeting in June as many will be attending the National LWML convention in Mobile, Alabama.

**NATIONAL LWML CONVENTION** - June 20-23 - Mobile, Alabama Up-to-date information regarding the convention can be acquired by going to lwml.org.

 **Lutheran Women in Mission**  
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 or 918-296-0121)

June 20-23, 2019 — 2019 LWML 38th Biennial Convention. October 18-19, 2019. Oklahoma District Fall Retreat Camp Lutheroma. Theme: Treasured - based on Deuteronomy 14:2

## Echoes of Easter

The Resurrection wasn't a "one-off"; it was a spark that lit a flame that continues burning even today, especially where people minister in the Risen One's name. One such outreach, Camp Noah, serves children traumatized by disaster. Nationwide, volunteers offer week-long experiences of kindness, love, listening and safety to kids who've recently survived a tornado, flood, hurricane, wildfire or shooting. Kids often open up for the first time to share their "storm stories" and begin a journey of healing.

Leaders at Camp Noah attest to God's power to bring joy out of sorrow, trust out of fear and life out of death. A boy who initially was aloof dances with another camper at the closing worship; kids who arrived with uncertain expressions leave with smiles and regained confidence.


Resurrection often happens in steps, not overnight. But wherever "ordinary" daily ministry takes place in Christ's name, extraordinary echoes of the first Easter are evident. —Heidi Mann




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!

**Cut Squares** The quilters meet very Tuesday at 10:00 in the fellowship hall.


















**Sew Squares** Join us!! We would appreciate your help!

**Tie Quilts**


















**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.


















                

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.

**Food Drive for Hunger**







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

Brad & Michelle Jackson	May 2	14 yrs
Robert & Johana Fitzgerald	May 5	18 yrs
Rhoda & Charlie Transue	May 6	18yrs
Jerry & Diane Morlock	May 9	49 yrs
Mark & Sherry Volberding	May 11	7 yrs
Bill & Ladon Bullock	May 17	49 yrs
Joey & Heather Orvis	May 17	16 yrs
Barry & Daphnee Brian	May 20	43 yrs
Kevin & Sarah Drain	May 24	7 yrs
Russell & Carole Hansen	May 26	52 yrs
David & Teresa Nightingale	May 26	46 yrs
Frank & Connie Thomas	May 29	37 yrs
Eric & Kara Kaplinski	May 31	11 yrs
Scott & Julee Mabrey	May 31	22 yrs

**BUNKO** will be on May 14 at 7:00 at the home of Tomie Whitacre. There is a signup sheet.

**OWLS** will meet on May 30 at Incredible Pizza for their monthly gathering. Baxter Thorman has invited a retired FBI agent who happens to be a CTR member to talk about the old FBI. There is a signup sheet.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** is scheduled for May 19 at noon following a meal. Babysitting will be provided. All are encouraged to attend.



### Bible Quiz

In Matthew's genealogy of Jesus, to what two women is Boaz connected?

- A. Rahab and Ruth
- B. B. Tamar and Rahab
- C. C. Ruth and Bathsheba
- D. D. Bathsheba and Mary

Answer: A (See Matthew 1:5.)

## The Joke Corner....

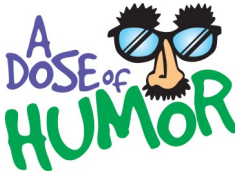
Jack: "My uncle swallowed a frog."  
Jill: "Goodness, did it make him sick?"  
Jack: "Sick! He's liable to croak any minute."

"I'm glad I attended your lecture on insomnia, Doctor."

"Did you find it interesting?"  
"No, but it cured my insomnia."

Did you hear about the man who complained that every time he put on his hat he heard music? The doctor fixed him up. He removed the hat band.

Did you hear about the biblical secretary? She used the "seek-and-ye-shall-find" method!



## Faithful Measures

For the Month of March	2018	2019
Total Worship Attendance .....	950	1091
Weekly Average.....	238	218
SS/Bible Class Attendance .....	391	466
Weekly Average .....	98	93
March Giving .....	\$69,163	\$73,542
Monthly Budget .....	\$65,226	\$79,750
Year to Date Giving .....	\$125,908	\$213,406
Year to Date Budget .....	\$130,453	\$207,350
YTD Expenses.....	\$126,478	\$194,012

### Building Fund Contribution:

February Balance-\$924,353  
March Receipts-\$72,982  
March Balance-\$997,335



## Mission News Update



In front of the Brandenburg Gate

**Our Trip to Berlin, Germany:** We had a lovely train trip from Prague to Berlin, so that we might go to the Czech embassy there to apply for our long-term visas. Our meeting went very well and our application, along with all the accompanying documents, was received—there is always a chance that your application could be deemed "incomplete."

So, just having it accepted was a personal victory for us! We now are

in waiting mode, to hear if we will be granted our visas or not. In fact, we have heard that the authorities already have contacted some of our references.

**Travel That Lays Ahead for Us:** While we are stationed in Prague, there are meetings and ministry moments that also require travel for us. In the months ahead, we will be attending a pastoral conference in Heidelberg, Germany, to bond with and encourage a number of missionaries in Germany; a trip to Olomouc in the eastern Czech Republic to minister to our lay missionaries there, bringing in the Sacrament to them; a trip to Wittenberg, Germany, to attend a pastoral conference that will include confessional Lutheran pastors from all over Europe. We will report on each of these events as they happen. Please, include our safe passage in your prayers!

**Organizing for Work:** Our English-language congregation is a part of the much larger Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic. In order to bring our voice to the table and to encourage the faithful witness of the church, we are organizing at St. Michael's congregation, finding officers just like an American congregation. We are but a small church right

now, so we all are going to have to pull together. We thank God that indeed that is the spirit of the congregation. In the future, we will participate in outings and other fellowship events.

**Happenings in Prague:** Czechs love to be out of doors, when the weather permits. As the Easter season draws near, so too do the Easter markets. These are markets that sell a lot of Spring-related items and such. The big markets will open at the beginning of April. But already this market has started to operate in the city. Walking through that area lately, it caught us off-guard seeing it in business. The funny thing is, it is still cold here and does not feel anything like Spring!



**Theological Discussion Group:** In an attempt to get Czechs discussing theology and, ultimately, Christ, we are starting a theological discussion group that will meet in a public place. Our plan is to use either the Augsburg Confession or the Large Catechism. We are hoping to draw people into the Word of Life.

**And Also ...** We thank God for a new app that our Communications Director, Cindy Wrucke, has been working on. Czechs love their cell phones, and we are hoping that we can introduce them to Jesus through a simple Scripture and prayer app. Tied to this is also a Bible giveaway. Please, pray for all these works!

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

### Perfect Order

By the time the summer solstice occurs, it feels as if the season has been in full swing for weeks. It's bittersweet that just when summer officially starts, the length of daylight begins decreasing. Before we're ready to let go of the season, summer marches toward fall, and then winter with the year's shortest day.



Yet that is our Creator's plan: "You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter" (Psalm 74:17, ESV). God fashioned the world to be beautiful, good and perfectly symmetrical. With concise order, he ordained seasons, rhythms, orbits and natural boundaries. As God's beloved children, we're blessed to enjoy the intricacies and patterns of this magnificent universe. —*MaryAnn Sundby*

### Walk Unafraid

"Dark as my path may seem to others, I carry a magic light in my heart. Faith, the spiritual strong searchlight, illumines the way, and although sinister doubts lurk in the shadow, I walk unafraid toward the enchanted wood where the foliage is always green, where joy abides...in the presence of the Lord."

—Helen Keller





# CTR-U Monthly Schedule



**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– Classroom near the youth room
- ◆ Men's Small Group - Bridal Room
- ◆ Craft Class - May 1

**6:00-7:00 PM**

- ◆ May 1 - Tacos, 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**

**FINAL CLASS - May 1 - 5:30**

We will be making a flip-flop wreath. The cost is \$8.00 and limited to 12 participants.



**Sunday School Offering  
Hmong Ministry**



The offering for this quarter will go to the Hmong Ministry. Supporting this ministry will help them as they look toward the funds for a rental property.

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

**Daily Bible Reading**

**Week 66**

Monday - Exekiel 47:1-48:35  
Tuesday - Daniel 1:1-21  
Wednesday - Daniel 2:1-49  
Thursday - Daniel 3:1-4:37  
Friday - Daniel 5:1-31  
Saturday - Daniel 6:1-28

**Week 67**

Monday - Daniel 7:1-8:27  
Tuesday - Daniel 9:1-17  
Wednesday - Daniel 10:1-12:13  
Thursday - Hosea 1:1-2:23  
Friday - Hosea 3:1-4:19  
Saturday - Hosea 5:1-6:11

**Week 68**

Monday - Hosea 7:1-8:14  
Tuesday - Hosea 9:1-10:15  
Wednesday - Hosea 11:1-12:14  
Thursday - Hosea 13:1-16  
Friday - Hosea 14:1-9  
Saturday - Joel 1:1-20

**Week 69**

Monday - Joel 2:1-32  
Tuesday - Joel 3:1-21  
Wednesday - Amos 1:1-2:16  
Thursday - Amos 3:1-15  
Friday - Amos 4:1-5:27  
Saturday - Amos 6:1-14

**Week 70**

Monday - Amos 7:1-17  
Tuesday - Amos 8:1-14  
Wednesday - Amos 9:1-15  
Thursday - Obadiah 1-21  
Friday - Jonah 1:1-2:10  
Saturday - Jonah 3:1-4:11

**SOME MILITARY HISTORY**

by Ken Eggers

I enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 1946 to be eligible for the GI Bill of Rights. After basic training at Fort Knox in Kentucky, our whole Company shipped to South Korea. This was in December 1946. Our mission was the occupation of South Korea. The unit I was assigned to was the First Infantry Regiment, 6<sup>th</sup> Division. I was not aware of any of the history of the First Regiment until I was handed a copy of the history as I was being discharged. This was in February 1948.

The history of the First Infantry started June 3, 1784 when Congress enacted legislation to form the very first Army unit under the auspices of the Constitution. Before this, all soldiers were volunteers who returned to their respective homes when the fighting was over. This initial Army unit was named First Infantry Regiment. Its motto is "Semper Primus" (Always First). Until March 3, 1792 when Congress approved formation of a second Infantry Regiment, the First Regiment was the entire U.S. Army.

The whole history of the First Infantry regiment is too cumbersome to recount here, so I'll just give a brief overview that includes the Foreword, a list of famous leaders the First fought under or alongside, a list of famous leaders and the major wars and battles they fought in.

The History Foreword is as follows: "To you who belong to the First Infantry this is a story of your brothers, brothers not of the same blood, but of the same spirit. Men of this Regiment, though they be of different races, different religions, and different generations, have, thru the years, fought alike and suffered alike for a common cause and that is true brotherhood. The soldier of the First Infantry who battled Indians on the Northwest frontier and the soldier of the First Infantry who sweat it out for 219 days on the death fields of Luzon have known the same fear and spit blood on the same ground, and they are comrades deeper than the wells of time which lay between them. You who today serve in the ranks of this century and a half old Regiment are a living part of this brotherhood of men who fought and died for an ideal and a country since its beginning. So, read this story soldiers

It is the gallant record of your comrades in battle since 1784 – a record soldier that you can be proud to live up to".

Famous members of the First Regiment are: John Francis Hantrack, Meriwether Lewis, Zebulan Pike, William Henry Harrison (Old Tippecanoe), Abraham Lincoln, Zachary Taylor, Jefferson Davis and Ulysses S. Grant.

Famous military leaders the First Regiment fought under or alongside are: Andrew Jackson, John Charles Fremont, Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, Teddy Roosevelt and George S. Patton.

Major battles and wars the First fought in are: from 1790 to 1890 the First fought Indians throughout the country to secure and make safe the frontiers for the migrating multitudes. Wars and battles include: The War of 1812, including the Battle of New Orleans, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish American War in Cuba and the Philippines, no fighting in World War 1 because their mission was to guard Hawaii from invasion and securing captured ships and World War 2 in New Guinea the Philippines and the Occupation of South Korea.



**CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES**

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

Tom & Barb Sprunger  
1184 E 148th St. S  
Glenpool, OK 74033  
keifersprunger@gmail.com

Nathanael & Lindsay Rake  
3121 W Elgin St.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74014

John & Lori Meinders  
11305 S Hudson Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74137



**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.

**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.



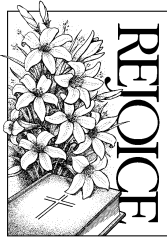
# Vicarage News

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

The school year is racing to an exciting finish. Before we know it, school will be out and summer will be officially here! I hope the Lord has given you a lot to look forward to – both this summer, and in the few weeks that serve as summer’s prelude. As I write, our school kids have just finished up mandatory spring testing. I had forgotten how stressful those tests are, but our kids bore up under the strain admirably. They already have summeritis and I’m right there with them; I recognize how it can sometimes be hard to concentrate when vacations and summer’s freedom are staring at you from a sunny classroom window. I know the same is true for the kids Suzy sees at school for speech therapy. Please pray for kids and teachers everywhere, that they would stay dedicated to getting the most out of their time in the classroom just as they look forward to getting the most out of their summer vacation.

I will truly miss the class of 6th graders I teach. We have eight in our class: six girls, two boys. It has been an incredible year, spending 45 minutes each morning reading and applying the Bible to our lives. And there have been plenty of surprises this year. A majority of them are Christian, but non-Lutheran, and many expressed a concept of salvation that including “doing good things” to get to heaven. Our class now has a number of catchphrases including: “How do you get to heaven? By believing in the One who gives heaven to me: Jesus.” Way more conversations that I would’ve expected have focused on death (particularly suicide), demons, hell, and the scarier aspects of the Bible’s story. But each of those topics also affords the opportunity to reflect on the power of God, the light of Christ, and His victory over worldly and spiritual darkness. If these 6th graders end their year seeing Jesus as a superhero – their superhero – I feel I have done my job.

Likewise, we are approaching the end of the confirmation year. The 7th graders I’ve taught have been extra special. As a group, these 20 students have been more thoughtful and academic than I would have predicted. Most of our hour-long classes build a logical argument, and it’s fun to see that logic click with different students throughout the hour. At the same time, the class has been teaching me a great deal as well. The students’ thoughtful answers and their insightful (if sometimes unexpected) questions have challenged me to present the Catechism’s contents in new ways. The final two classes I’ll teach are on Christian worship, a personal favorite of mine and a topic I taught to the confirmation kids at CTR. Plus, I will get to take the curriculum I created for the year with me as a starting point for any future confirmation classes I teach.



Our family is still recovering from Easter and Holy Week. What an amazing experience to share with our vicarage congregation. Still, it was a jam-packed week. I even helped tune the organ in the middle of Holy Week! We had 14 worship services from Palm Sunday to Easter. Suzy’s choir sang at seven of them. I was involved in 12, including authoring our Easter

sunrise service. It was “Avengers”-themed, connected to the release of “Avengers: Endgame” later that same week. Last summer’s “Infinity War” kinda ends like our Good Friday service: it appears the good guys have lost and the side of evil has triumphed. But yet, we know the sequel is coming. And Jesus’ resurrection victory is the endgame that undoes death’s short-lived victory. “The last enemy to be destroyed is death.” (1 Cor 15:26) In Greek, “death” is thanatos, not all that dissimilar from the name of the Avengers’ villain, Thanos.

The comparison to a comic book movie is not to trivialize Jesus’s victory, but to in a very real way, affect the way Christians view superhero movies in general. Think about it. The Catechism says that without the Holy Spirit, it is easier for us to believe the “Avengers” are real than to believe that Jesus Christ truly suffered, died and rose again for us! The power and scope of the Gospel is beyond belief. And Jesus’s victory is more astonishing, more spectacular than any CGI blockbuster. If anything, as people enjoy the jaw-dropping special effects in their favorite superhero film, I hope they reflect on the fact that Jesus’s heroic saving work on their behalf is even more breathtaking. I was grateful for all the support I had in creating the service and hope it made a unique impression on our congregation’s Easter celebration.

As this newsletter is delivered, brothers of mine are learning where they will be taking the next steps in their formation for ministry. One of my best friends from remedial Greek class – Tim Roggow – will be assigned a convertible vicarage at the Seminary’s Call Day service on May 1. It’s called a convertible vicarage because it takes the place of the student’s final year in Seminary. After spending the school year as a vicar, the congregation and the student have the opportunity to “convert” the vicarage into an official pastoral call. Tim’s family is from Blackwell, OK and he and his wife, Annalisa, have been good friends to Suzy and me. They were the first to give us a baby gift for Graham: a Noah’s ark picture that still hangs in his room. On top of everything, Tim will make a fantastic pastor. His caring heart, cheerful demeanor, and listening ear all make him someone I’d want as a pastor. I hope that our paths cross again at some point in ministry.

Seeing friends like Tim, Alex, Nathaniel, Matt, Dan, Rako, Miguel, Justin, Trevor, Kevin and Luke discover what the Lord has in store for their journeys almost forces me to think about April 28, 2020. That’s the day Suzy, Graham and I will discover where the Lord’s steering our path toward ministry. Maybe it will be to a place that’s close to home. Maybe it will be to a new place we’ve never imagined that we’ll learn to call “home.” Wherever it is, we rest in the faithfulness of our God and our family in Christ. Thank you for your vigilant encouragement throughout our seasons of transitions. May God bless the excitement you have ahead, just as He is for us.

With heartfelt sincerity,  
Joshua  
joshua411@gmail.com  
(918) 706-1632 (Joshua’s mobile)  
(785) 393-3117 (Suzy’s mobile)  
2605 Greenfield Dr.  
Edmond, OK 73012



## CTR YOUTH MUSIC SCHEDULE

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

May 5: 6th-8th Grades

May 10: 3rd-5th Grades

May 24: 6th-8th Grades

May 31: 3rd-5th Grades



### 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 \$50 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

5:

5:

12: by Brad & Janice Young in memory of their mothers

12: by Jim Holt in celebration of Rosemary Holt’s birthday

19: by Sally Neas in celebration of Greg’s birthday

19: by Pastor and Denise Burmeister in celebration of Elise’s birthday

26: by David and Teresa Nightingale in celebration of their 46th anniversary

26:



### 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/ctrltusa/>  
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@ctrltusa.org](mailto:communications@ctrltusa.org)

# Confession

## Article IV: Of Justification

1] Also they teach that men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for 2] Christ’s sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. 3] This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight.

--Romans 3 and 4

## You Took My Parking Space At Church

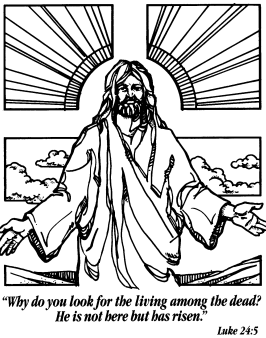
This should wake us up. One day a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver, got out and said, “I always park there! You took my place!”

The visitor went inside for Sunday school, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, “That’s my seat! You took my place!” The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday school, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, “That’s where I always sit! You took my place!” The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, “What happened to you?” The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, “I took your place.”

When you read this, say a prayer that’s all... With Easter still fresh in our minds, let us never forget “Who took our place!”







Jacob Drengler  
Music Director

Most of the hymns in Lutheran Service Book, the hymnal that we use here CTR, are written in a straightforward, homophonic four-voice setting with the Soprano line (the melody which the congregation sings in unison) underpinned by three accompanying parts. Organists will most often play the four-part setting found in the hymnal with the top three lines (soprano, alto, and tenor) being played on a single manual (keyboard) with the hands and the lowest line (bass) with the feet in the pedals. This approach is excellent for supporting and leading congregational singing, however, it is by no means the only option. By analyzing the text of the hymn, a process I have outlined in previous articles, it is possible for the organist to find a myriad of creative ways to vary the accompaniment in a manner which both supports the communal song and enlivens that song through sensitive variations on selected hymn stanzas. Note that I say “selected” stanzas. Taking this varied approach on every single stanza may initially be entertaining for the organist (and the occasional attentive congregant), but overuse of these ideas may rob them of their effectiveness.

One approach to varying the accompaniment on hymn stanzas may be as simple as changing the texture. It can be effective, particularly on a well-known hymn, to occasionally play all four voices on manuals only, omitting the pedal for a stanza or two in order to produce a lighter sound. It is even possible, on occasion, to omit the fourth (bass) line entirely, playing a stanza using a three-part texture. When I take this approach, it is usually improvised as I will often have to adjust the harmonic movement of the two remaining lower parts in order to compensate for the original bass line being absent. Adding a fifth line, known as a descant, above the melody is also a possibility. If I choose to add an organ descant above the melody which the congregation is singing, it is often on the final stanza of a hymn when the congregation is singing confidently and is able to continue singing with less straightforward leadership from the organ. One of my favorite ways of coming up with a descant on the spot is to play the hymn tune an octave lower than written, often on a separate manual (usually using a trumpet stop), and creating a composite form of the alto and tenor parts (played an octave higher) to form the outline of the descant. It is also possible in some cases to simply invert the soprano and alto lines, as the alto line played one oc-

tave higher than written can be an effective descant (provided that the alto part is somewhat musically interesting).

Reharmonizing a hymn stanza can be an effective way to add excitement to the singing of a hymn and to highlight a particular idea or phrase present in the text. Done poorly or too frequently, however, and it can merely serve to distract and confuse. Reharmonization merely involves varying the harmonic setting of a given hymn from what is written in the hymnal. Reharmonization can be as simple as altering a single chord or as complex as a full revoicing of every single chord in a hymn stanza. Hundreds of arrangers and composers for the organ have published volumes upon volumes of these hymn reharmonizations and, as one might expect, the quality and practicality of such works varies wildly. I will on occasion use reharmonizations devised by others, my particular favorites are by Michael Burkhardt, Paul Manz, David Cherwien, and John Ferguson, but 90 percent of the reharmonizations which I use are my own; whether written-out or improvised. This is not because I automatically assume that mine will be better than what others have written, rather, it is because it allows me to adjust my approach from hymn to hymn and stanza to stanza in a manner which most effectively supports and leads the singing of the congregation that I am playing for. As with organ registration, the choices that I make regarding whether and to what extent to vary the harmonization are always guided by the text of the hymn.

The final topic I will address is that of the use of interludes between stanzas of hymns. These interludes may be played between any stanza of a hymn but are most often heard prior to the concluding stanza. One reason that I might play an interlude is if I am moving to a new key for a hymn stanza, often though not always, the final stanza. I tend to do this very infrequently, perhaps half a dozen times a year, as the effect can become rather unnecessarily theatrical and mind-numbingly predictable if overdone. More often I will play an interlude (without modulating to a new key) prior to the concluding stanza if the text is doxological, that is, a song of praise or prayer addressed to the Trinity. Such stanzas are marked with a triangle in Lutheran Service Book. It is the custom at CTR and many other Lutheran congregations to stand to sing these stanzas. If the congregation is sitting, I will play an interlude to allow all who are able to rise to sing, however, even if the congregation is already standing, I will often play an interlude prior to a doxological stanza to draw attention to the text. A final instance in which I might add an interlude (in this case often not before the final stanza) is if is a hymn with a significant number of stanzas (more than five, let us say). In those cases, I find that occasionally inserting a short interlude between a stanza or two can be an effective way of giving a bit of a musical lift to the singing of the following stanza.

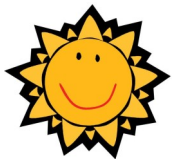
I hope that you have found the information which I have shared these past few months about the role of the organ in leading worship to be helpful. This has been but a fairly broad and cursory glimpse into the world of organ playing and I may revisit and expand on the subject in future articles. It is my hope that gaining a deeper understanding of these matters will allow us all to join together to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

-Jacob Drengler

# ECC



Nikki Witt, Director



Now that summer is here, our friends down at the ECC are free to play outside

As you can see, the kiddos at ECC are expert Easter Egg Hunters!



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

### Mark your Calendars

**May 4:** Family Gathering Place outing 11:00-1:00. Please bring a sack lunch and join us at the Gathering Place for fellowship and fun. Families can feel free to stay as long as they wish.

**June 1:** Summer Fun Day  
Families are invited to join us for a water fun day at CTR 12:00-2:00. Lunch will be provided.



**June 10-14:** VBS  
Children are invited to join us 9:00-12:00 as we explore how to Power Up through God's Word.

## Wanted: Summer Sunday School Teachers!

Teachers will have lessons and supplies prepared for them. We need volunteers to teach our wonderful kids May 26th - August 18th.

Contact me if you are interested in helping, even for just one week.



## GATHERING PLACE OUTING

Join us at The Gathering Place on **May 4th from 11:00-1:00** for lunch at the park. We will meet at the park entrance near the parking lot located at Riverside and 31st Street. Families can bring sack lunches and feel free to stay as long as they want before or after the event. CTR will meet at the park entrance at 11:00. Sign up by May 1st. All are invited.



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!

Family Outing to The Gathering Place  
May 4  
VBS Work Week  
June 3-7  
VBS Week  
June 10-14  
National Youth Gathering  
July 10-16, 2019

**VBS WORK WEEK** is June 3-7. There will be items needed to be done daily such as sorting and painting. Please talk to DCE Suzanne about which days/times you can volunteer. Do not show up without RSVP'ing and confirming with DCE Suzanne.

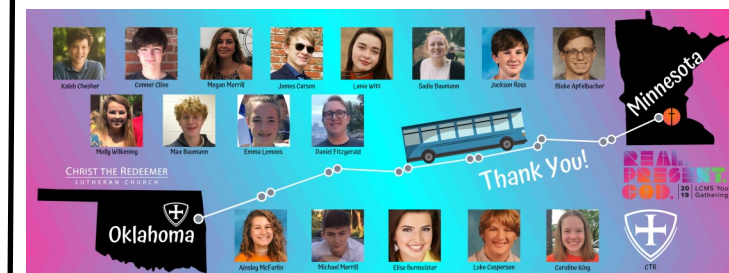
**VBS VOLUNTEERS** Sign up online through the CTR Volunteer Google Form for a spot. We have lots of positions available for youth who have completed 6th-12th grades.



## National Youth Gathering Envelope Fundraiser



1. Visit the Envelope Wall by the South church entrance on the glass windows.
2. Pick your white envelope. The number on the outside reflects the amount you will donate. (For example Envelope 57 = \$57)
3. Inside you will find a letter, blue envelope and yellow Donor Information Card.
4. Keep the letter inside the white envelope from one of the youth attending NYG and pray for that youth before, during and after the trip.
5. Return your donation in the blue envelope along with the Donor Information Card to CTR. All checks should be made payable to "Christ the Redeemer" with "NYG Fundraiser" in the memo line
6. During the Gathering July 11-15 expect a special surprise from your youth!



### NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING MEETINGS:

- Sunday June 2 at 5:30 PM
- Dinner will be served so please RSVP to DCE Suzanne
- We will be discussing:
- ♦ Transportation Info Review
  - ♦ Signing Waivers
  - ♦ Signing Covenants
  - ♦ Introductory Gathering Bible Study
  - ♦ More trip details...
- A parent must attend with each youth.