



Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Tulsa, OK 74136

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November 2019

The Cornerstone

A publication of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church



Thanks to God

Thanks for prayers that thou has answered,
Thanks for what thou dost deny.
Thanks for storms that I have weathered,
Thanks for all thou dost supple.
Thanks for pain, and thanks for pleasure.
Thanks for comfort in despair.
Thanks for grace that none can measure,
Thanks for love beyond compare.

Thanks for roses by the wayside,
Thanks for thorns their stems contain.
Thanks for home and thanks for fireside,
Thanks for hope, that sweet refrain.
Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow,
Thanks for heav'nly peace with thee.
Thanks for hope in the tomorrow,
Thanks through all eternity!
--August Storm, 1891



Having a Life Filled With Prayer

See to Please

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

A Powerful Weapon

Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying.

He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayer-less work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray. --Samuel Chadwick

A Word From Matthew Henry

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

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

Hard Faith

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

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

Faith and Health

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

Prayer Helps

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



Rev. Scott Burmeister
Pastor

Suzanne Watt
Dir. of Christian Education

Nikki Witt
ECC Director

Connie Phillips
Office Administrator

Mary Jane Landin
Business Administrator

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
Email:
christredeemer@ctrtulsa.org

Early Childhood Center
Phone: 918-492-1416

ACTIVITIES FOR
ALL AGES

Fall Festival

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3
4:30-6:30 PM

BINGO | GAMES | FOOD
BALLOONMAN NEIL, FACE PAINTING,
PUMPKIN DECORATING & MORE!





Fellow Redeemed,

November is the time when we, as a nation, stop and give thanks. I remember growing up with all of the normal Thanksgiving Day traditions. Who could ever imagine Thanksgiving without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, warm dinner rolls, stuffing, the list just goes on and on? When you think about it, many of our Thanksgiving traditions are done out of pure compulsion. We all feel it. It is that constrained feeling we get when we plan the dinner. There is no question as to what will be served. It will be the same items we have every year, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. But, I wonder if that constrained compulsion exists for actually giving thanks.

When I was a child, my parents raised me to always say please and thank you. It was the way I was raised. Even now, if I find myself not saying please or thank you, I feel a twinge of guilt, along with the voice of my mother saying, "Scott Edwin!". My head goes down and out of constraint I say the words, "please...and thank you". But do you know what is usually missing? The heart of pure gratitude. This is my confession. We pray constantly, "create in me a pure heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me." The heart and spirit that we pray for is not one that is produced purely out of constraint or in order to avoid guilt. Rather, a heart that is set on giving thanks.

1 Chronicles 16:34, Psalm 107:1, Psalm 118:1, Psalm 118:29, Psalm 136:1, Psalm 136:2, Psalm 136:3, Psalm 136:26 all say the same exact thing, "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever." If we give thanks to God just so that we can avert His anger, then we are not any better than any other practitioner of the law. A clean heart, created by God, and a new and right spirit within us, is created by God through His Son, Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus pours out from His sacrifice on

the cross, and it is there, and only there that we find salvation. That creates "thanks" in us. "Thanks" in us is the necessary movement of God's Holy Spirit that is sanctifying us in and through the one true faith. We do NOT give thanks out of compulsion, because of the law. "Thanks" is the absolute product of the Gospel of God's Grace, which is found only in the cross of our Lord. So, this Thanksgiving, remember what God has done for you in the person of His Son. Let the reality of God's Grace pour over you as you remember your Baptism, and then rise and bring your family and friends together to celebrate the feast of God's provision for your life, namely, the forgiveness of sins, grace and salvation. Amen.



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Psalm 107:1




Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving baskets will be given to families in need. Donations of canned food, non-perishable items and household products are needed no later than November 17. We will also accept monetary donations to purchase gift cards so families can buy perishable items for their Thanksgiving meal. These can be placed in the offering plate with Thanksgiving basket on the memo line or dropped in the collection box at the table in the narthex.

Bulletin Bloopers...

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.



A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.



In celebration of Pastor's birthday and in recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month, Parish Life presented Pastor with a print that was made up of words that members of the congregation felt describe him best. The words were then placed in the shape of a cross for the final design.

LWML Mission Grant #3

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me' (Matthew 25:40).

Young women in Kenya and Cameroon live in extreme poverty and violence; hunger and limited education force many to sell themselves for mere dollars. Nairobi has one of the highest HIV rates in Africa. With few public resources for treatment, dying from HIV/AIDS is a very real possibility.

In Cameroon, sexual exploitation, prostitution, and trafficking is so common that about 30 percent of girls ages 12 to 25 have given birth at least once. Many young pregnant women are forced from their homes, often after rape or domestic abuse. These women are outcasts with nowhere to go — not even to their church.

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is committed to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these countries. Through ministry centers, LHM reaches out by sharing hope and faith in Jesus, changing the lives of these women both physically and spiritually.

Through our mite offerings, "Reaching Rahab," a Christ-centered program in Kenya, is making a difference in the lives of women and their young children who often live on the streets or in prisons. The program offers counseling and teaches life skills to help break the cycle of poverty and prostitution. Income-producing trades help these women become independent and successful. Sharing Jesus and God's forgiveness, they become reconnected to the church.

A network of prison chaplains and volunteers helps these young women through counseling and Bible studies. Groups with mature female volunteers from a partner Lutheran congregation are formed to help them transition into productive lives out-side prison. The Prison Mums project provides help through HIV counseling and testing services.

In Cameroon, unwed teenage mothers and victims of sexual abuse are offered a holistic outreach program to empower and promote integration into society through education and spiritual growth. This provides the tools to prepare them for a better life.



News From Mission Central

My Dear Missionary Friends in Christ,

I just can't believe it's September already...where did the summer go? It was just like yesterday that I wondered if spring would ever get here. As Old Mission Gary dictates this letter to you, I want to thank you for your faithful gift of love for *The Lord's Mission Work*.

What a blessing to receive your gift of love of \$3,000 for Anton Lutz your missionary in the jungles of Papua, New Guinea. Also, thank you for the gift of love of \$3,000 for the support of Pastor Dale & Suzanne Kaster serving the Lord Jesus so faithfully in the Czech Republic. These missionaries are all doing great work for the Lord Jesus. This is the greatest thing your congregation could do. I will never forget coming to visit you there in Tulsa. The years have gone by so quickly, but I have not forgotten!

God bless and keep you each day and please know that we send our love and blessing to you. Thanks again for your gift of love for Jesus!

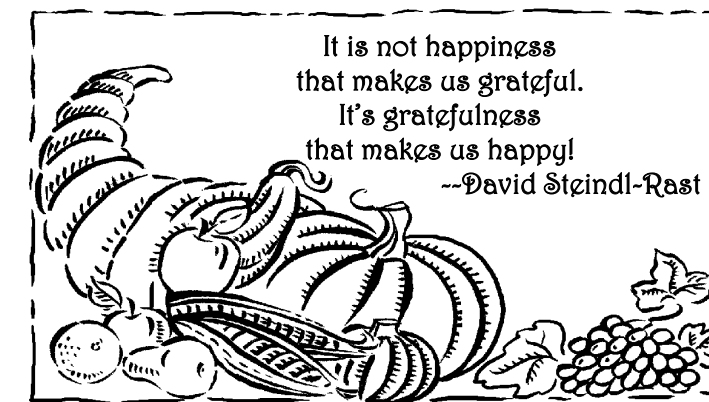
Your Co-workers for Christ,
Old Missionary Gary and Missionary Brent

Anton Lutz, Our Missionary in Papua, New Guinea

Anton Lutz serves the Lord and the LCMS as a volunteer community development worker in Papua, New Guinea (PNG). His responsibilities are carried out in coordination with the LCMS partner church, the Gutnius Lutheran Church, in health and education development, including helping community youth deal with the growing AIDS crisis. Anton also works with the Wanakip Development Project managing construction projects, such as a hospital water supply renovation project. He previously worked as a short-term volunteer missionary in PNG from September to November of 2002.

Returning to PNG, where his parents have served as missionaries since 1986, Anton attended Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, receiving a bachelor's degree in theology. His home congregation is Immanuel Lutheran Church in Valparaiso. He also considers the Chapel of the Resurrection at Valparaiso University a home congregation - a community that encouraged him both as a morning prayer leader and as an assistant on retreats.

Please pray for Anton as he adjusts to his new responsibilities and service to the Lord. Pray also for his health and safety. Anton asks for prayers "that leaders would be raised up who have the vision to lead their nation in peace to the glory of God."



It is not happiness
that makes us grateful.
It's gratefulness
that makes us happy!
--David Stzindl-Rast

"A single grateful thought
toward heaven
is the most complete prayer."
--Gotthold Lessing

"Variety's the very spice of life
that gives it all its flavor."
--William Cowper

Confession

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XIII: Of the Use of the Sacraments

1]Of the Use of the Sacraments they teach that the Sacraments were ordained, not only to be marks of profession among men, but rather to be signs and testimonies of the will of God 2] toward us, instituted to awaken and confirm faith in those who use them. Wherefore we must so use the Sacraments that faith be added to believe the promises which are offered and set forth through the Sacraments.

3] They therefore condemn those who teach that the Sacraments justify by the outward act, and who do not teach that, in the use of the Sacraments, faith which believes that sins are forgiven, is required.

Sunday School Offering for this Quarter

Sunday school offerings this quarter are designated for Tulsa's Domestic Violence Intervention Service (DVIS). The month of October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As we join Jesus in His mission in our neighborhood, we will encounter people in our families, schools, volunteer agencies, and public forums who are struggling with issues such as domestic violence, stalking, teen dating violence, and things we may not know much about. DVIS has much information, education, and help for us and for those we want to help. Learn as much as you can by going to their website: www.dvis.org.



About DVIS:

Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS), a Tulsa Area United Way partner agency, is the only nonprofit agency in Tulsa, and the surrounding communities providing comprehensive intervention and prevention services to men, women and children affected by domestic violence. The DVIS mission is to rebuild lives affected by domestic violence and sexual assault through advocacy, shelter, counseling, and education. DVIS offers a 24-hour information and crisis line [918.7HELP.ME \(918.743.5763\)](tel:918.7HELP.ME), hospital support to victims of sexual assault, counseling, transitional living, emergency shelter services, legal services, and numerous outreach and community education initiatives.

Please note: Because of the confidential nature of our organization, the location of DVIS' shelter and transitional living apartments are confidential.

Areas of Expertise

Domestic violence (Services for victims, offenders, effects of domestic violence on children)
Sexual assault (Services for victims) - Teen dating violence
Adult victims of sex trafficking - Stalking (Services for victims)
Protective orders - Safety planning -
Advocacy for rape exams - Legal services
Safe use of technology (texting, computer use, online dating)
Court advocacy - Healthy relationships
Education for pre-teens, teens and adults
Creek County services (counseling for victims, perpetrators, children and court advocacy)



Tulsa All-Lutheran Messiah December 7 & 8

This year the Messiah is moving from First Lutheran, to Grace Lutheran Church. Due to additional expenses as well as those involving with the move, there is need for monetary donations as well as volunteers for the choir, orchestra, ushers, setup and teardown.

Auditions for the orchestra and soloists will be held on November 3 at 3:00 at Grace. To register for an audition or any other volunteer participation, go to

<https://forms.gle/3RvPrkiUWUYGBkU88>
or email mhall@glctulsa.org or call 918-592-2999 to register by phone. Monetary donations can be made online at <https://gofundme.com/tulsa-area-all-lutheran-messish-presentation> or mailed to: Grace Lutheran Church
All-Lutheran Messiah
2331 E 5th Place
Tulsa, OK 74104

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.

Tie Quilts

Sew Squares

Join us !! We would appreciate your help!

Assemble Tops

Faithful Measures

For the Month of September	2018	2019
Total Worship Attendance	1241	1120
Weekly Average.....	248	224
SS/Bible Class Attendance	576	579
Weekly Average	115	116
September Giving	\$81,484	\$64,030
Monthly Budget	\$81,533	\$79,750
Year to Date Giving	\$634,818	\$624,933
Year to Date Budget	\$635,957	\$622,049
YTD Expenses.....	\$762,819	\$562,095

Building Fund Contribution:
September receipts: \$18,553.63
Balance: \$1,154,372.45



DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Recycling Drive

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.

SOUTH TULSA COMMUNITY HOUSE can use empty egg cartons, prescription bottles and plastic and/or paper bags. These can be placed in the grocery cart at the south entrance with any food donations as well.

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.

3: by Pastor Scott & Denise Burmeister in celebration of their anniversary
3:

10: by Dale & Cheryl Davison in celebration of Phyllis McKay's 93rd birthday
10:

17: by Kathi Loshe in remembrance of Art
17: by Brad & Janice Young in celebration of their anniversary and Art Fabrizio's 90th birthday

24: by Wanda Radke in remembrance of her and Roy's anniversary

24: by Jim and Rosemary Holt in celebration of their anniversary



OWLS program was presented in September by CTR member, Pastor Bening. He talked about his many experiences during his 49 years in the ministry. After graduating from the seminary, he served in Kansas for 9 years, then on to Michigan for 25 years and finally to both Faith and Redeemer here in Oklahoma. We are blessed to have him and Carolyn as members of CTR.



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

Scott & Denise Burmeister	Nov. 3	29 yrs
Ed & Anja Johnson	Nov. 5	30 yrs
Mark & Karla Carter	Nov. 8	16 yrs
David & Stacie Edwards	Nov. 11	19 yrs
Brad & Janice Young	Nov. 17	40 yrs
Jim & Rosemary Holt	Nov. 24	40 yrs
Timothy & Katie Michaels-Johnson	Nov. 29	11 yrs

BUNKO will meet on November 12 at church at 7:00 with hostess, Kathy Mathieu. There is a sign-up sheet.



CTR FRIENDS will meet for lunch on November 10 at Bravo's (71st & Sheridan). It used to be Marley's Pizza.

OWLS will meet on November 21 at the church at 11:30. The speaker will be Jim Diley. His presentation will be on the 75th anniversary of WWII. Pizza, salad and dessert will be catered at a cost of \$9. There is a sign-up sheet.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE will be held on November 27 at 7:00. Please invite your family and friends and join us as we give special thanks to God for his many blessings!



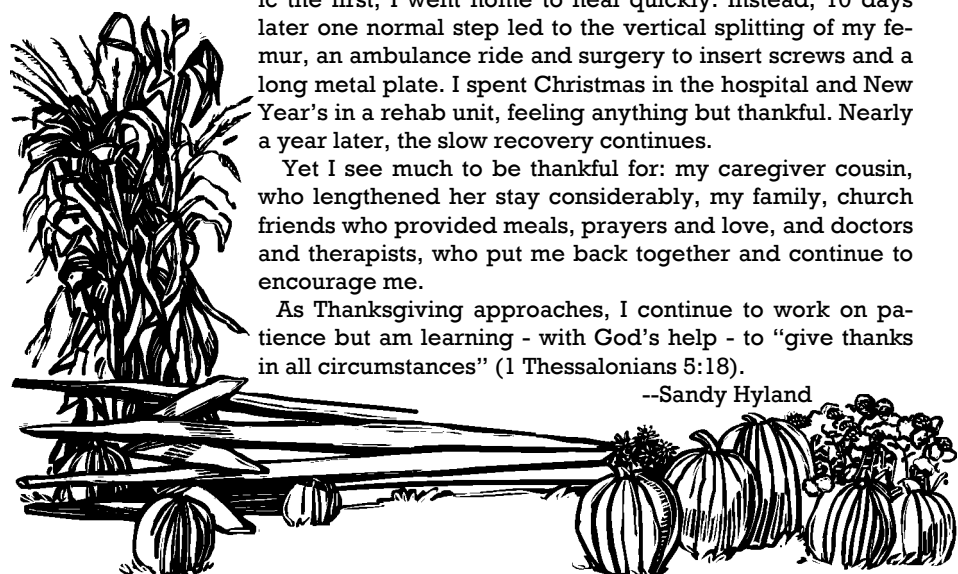
Every year Ministry of Outreach sponsors the "Giving Tree" at CTR. One or two agencies or programs are selected to be the recipients of the monetary and material gifts that CTR members and friends so generously provide. Be watching the bulletin and webpage announcements for more information.

Learning to Give Thanks...Last December I had my second knee replacement. Expecting this recovery to mimic the first, I went home to heal quickly. Instead, 10 days later one normal step led to the vertical splitting of my femur, an ambulance ride and surgery to insert screws and a long metal plate. I spent Christmas in the hospital and New Year's in a rehab unit, feeling anything but thankful. Nearly a year later, the slow recovery continues.

Yet I see much to be thankful for: my caregiver cousin, who lengthened her stay considerably, my family, church friends who provided meals, prayers and love, and doctors and therapists, who put me back together and continue to encourage me.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I continue to work on patience but am learning - with God's help - to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

--Sandy Hyland



Daily Bible Reading

Week 104

Monday - Revelation 14:1-20
 Tuesday - Revelation 15:1-8
 Wednesday - Revelation 16:1-21
 Thursday - Revelation 17:1-18:8
 Friday - Revelation 18:9-24
 Saturday - Revelation 19:1-21

Week 105

Monday - Revelation 20:1-15
 Tuesday - Revelation 21:1-17
 Wednesday - Revelation 22:1-21

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Week 1

Monday: Genesis 1:1-3:24
 Tuesday: Genesis 4:1-8:22
 Wednesday: Genesis 9:1-11:32
 Thursday: Job 1:1-5:27
 Friday: Job 6:1-10:22
 Saturday: Job 11:1-14:22

Week 2

Monday: Job 15:1-19:29
 Tuesday: Job 20:1-24:25
 Wednesday: Job 25:1-31:40
 Thursday: Job 32:1-37:24
 Friday: Job 38:1-42:17
 Saturday: Genesis 12:1-15:21

Week 3

Monday: Genesis 16:1-19:38
 Tuesday: Genesis 20:1-22:24
 Wednesday: Genesis 23:1-26:35
 Thursday: Genesis 27:1-30:43
 Friday: Genesis 31:1-35:29
 Saturday: Genesis 36:1-39:23

Week 4

Monday: Genesis 40:1-41:40
 Tuesday: Genesis 41:41-44:34
 Wednesday: Genesis 45:1-48:22
 Thursday: Genesis 49:1-Exodus 1:22
 Friday: Exodus 2:1-4:31
 Saturday: Exodus 5:1-7:25

"Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread and pumpkin pie."
 --Jim Davis



CTR-U Monthly Schedule

NO CLASSES November 27

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

5:30-6:30 PM

- ◆ Faith Friends - Pastor - in the gym
- ◆ Confirmation Class - fellowship hall
- ◆ Women's Book Club- Classroom near the youth room
- ◆ Men's Small Group - Pastor's Office/ECC Lounge
- ◆ **Craft Class - November 6 - ECC Lounge**

6:00-7:00 PM

- ◆ Nov. 6: Canes chicken, salad bar, dessert
- ◆ Nov. 13: Pizza, salad bar, dessert
- ◆ Nov. 20: Surprise!!

6:30-8:00 PM

Financial Peace University - Johnny Barfield - library

7:00-8:00 PM

- ◆ Choir Practice
- ◆ Youth Group (Jr/Sr High 6th-12th grade) DCE Suzanne-outside/gym

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

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



- Rose Carbiener
2450 N Stone Ridge Dr. Apt. 1204,
Broken Arrow, OK 74012 - 918-940-5205
- Daone Reeves
1923 W Houston #3, Broken Arrow, OK 74012
- Jordan & Myrthe Flasch
1105 N Hemlock Ave., Broken Arrow, OK 74012
- Tasha Bury & family
12220 S Darlington Ave., Bixby, OK 74008
- Suzanne Beauchamp & Mary Jo Beaird
12523 S Birch Ave. Jenks, OK 74037 - 918-934-2816
smbeauchamp02@gmail.com
- Lea Walker (Amelia & Ava Chandler)
528 N Willow Ct.
Jenks, OK 74037 - 405-920-8671
lawalkerccrc@gmail.com

CTR-U CRAFT CLASS

We will not have a craft class in December but will resume on January 8! See you then...



The October class was a lot of fun. We hope to see many of you return for our January class. We'll be making snowmen out of wine bottles!



The Generosity Cycle



God makes us rich in every way so we can be generous on every occasion, which will result in thanksgiving to God. ...God doesn't bless us to provide for our own needs; he blesses us so we can be generous.

--Rich Warren
 (based on 2 Corinthians 9:11)

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.

Mission News Update

Upcoming Surgery on Dale's Ear



Dale has been dealing with a major loss of hearing in his right ear for quite some time. It has been diagnosed as otosclerosis, a hardening of one of the tiny bones God put in our ears. We first learned about a surgery to fix it back in 2013 as we were

preparing to deploy to Ghana, West Africa. It did not fit into our time table then because you cannot fly right away after the surgery. So we waited. African hospitals are not the best, so we did not pursue it there. We had hoped to get it fixed while we were stateside doing our support raising last year, but again it did not fit into our timetable. So, now we are here in the Czech Republic, and the medical situation is as good as the States. Therefore, on October 31, Dale will be having ear surgery in the town of Benešov (about 30 km south of Prague). The doctor performing the procedure is a highly regarded expert, and we have a lot of peace about it. Our only concern is that Dale will be at the mercy of a lot of non-English-speaking nurses. (The doctors are all English fluent.) He will be hospitalized for three days. So, we are trying to learn as much medical Czech as we can before the stay. Your prayer for our learning and their understanding would be greatly appreciated! As well as prayers for a successful surgery and speedy recovery.

St. Michael's Day Fellowship

Our congregational family celebrated St. Michael's Day not only in worship but also with a potluck luncheon. We had a wonderful time spending the afternoon together. As we have people of many ethnicities, we were able to try different foods from the USA,



from here in the Czech Republic, and even from Pakistan. It was delicious and we were able to give away some food afterwards to help the homeless as well. We will be trying to hold fellowship events from time to time as ways for us to share Christ's love.

A Busy Time at Our Parish

Many of the things we have written about before are still going on. Deacon Damašek is still being trained, learning Greek, doctrine, and good exegetical skills. Our Czech classes are challenging but very enjoyable. There is the monthly trip to Olomouc in the eastern part of the Czech Republic to bring the Sacrament and to share some fellowship with our lay missionaries. Dale still occasionally leads the Czech language liturgy at different times of the month. And there is the weekly schedule of office hours and worship. On top of

those, Dale is doing Hebrew readings with a young man of our parish who is planning to attend the seminary in the USA starting next year.

However, we are also seeking to establish new points of contact with English-speaking people here in Prague. We are looking into all sorts of advertising for the English -language service as well as encouraging our members to invite people to join us. And we thank God for the increase we have had lately of locals who have visited the congregation. We pray that the Word will grab their hearts!



Please pray for the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic (ECAVvCR). Know that we pray for your parishes in the States!

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

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.

Join CTR on Facebook & Twitter!

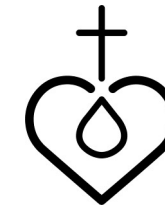
Keep up with coming events, announcements, and updates about recent events including pictures. The public events page is at: <http://www.facebook.com/ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch>

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



LWML NEWS



Lutheran Women in Mission

Tuesday, November 19 — CTR LWML meeting at 12:30 in fellowship hall. Carolyn Bening will be leading a Bible Study for the program. Please bring your Fall Quarterly.

Thursday - December 12 — Annual Women's Christmas Party, 6:00 pm in fellowship hall.

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

Serving the Lord with Gladness!
Kathy Stephen, CTR LWML President
281-782-7783 - Stpn44@aol.com

LWML GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

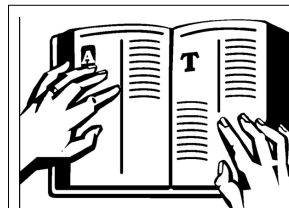
Raise money while you shop and browse the web! To support Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Oklahoma District, shop at Amazon Smile. The products and shopping experience are the same as shopping on Amazon.com. Just choose Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Oklahoma District as your charity! To support Lutheran Women's Missionary League, use GoodSearch, GoodShop, and the Gumdrop feature!

FYI: Your mites and offerings support our local LWML projects/programs, Oklahoma District LWML Grants (\$105,000 for 2018-2020) and National LWML Grants (2,100,000)
LWR final count for 2019 from CTR: Quilts-314; Health Kits-85; School Kits-378; Sewing Kits-67; Soap-54lbs for a total of 2,513.

Mission Trip Opportunity

LWML Oklahoma District is sponsoring a Mission trip to Belize on March 5-12, 2020. It will be an eyeglass clinic and giving out eyeglasses. The team will be serving a new LCMS church in Orange Wells, Belize. The cost is approximately \$2500. We have a grant that pays \$1000 for applicants that qualify to help cover expenses. It is always exciting to put eyeglasses on people who would never be able to afford eyeglasses and now they can read street signs, newspapers and their Bibles. Also, we have the opportunity to witness about our Savior Jesus Christ.

If you are interested in going on this mission trip or have questions, please contact Sharon Schmidt 405-605-9518.



A Much-Needed Message

National Bible Week, now observed every Thanksgiving week, got its start on a turbulent day. Founders of the National Bible Association were reading Scripture over the NBC radio network on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Because of the traumatic events, the network asked that the Bible-reading continue all day, in between news updates. Radio stations throughout America picked up the programming, allowing countless listeners to receive words from God - "who comforts you" (Isaiah 51:12) - when they needed it most.

Immanuel Celebrates

November 2 - 10:00-5:00 pm
Reformation Renaissance Faire
Enjoy traditional Renaissance Faire games, food, fun and fellowship. You will also be able to follow a map through Martin Luther's life and learn more about him, his 95 theses while playing games, singing and making crafts.



November 2 - 9:00-4:00 pm
Holiday Craft Fair

BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN FAMILIES

On Sunday, November 10, we will have a special opportunity to view products and creations in wood created by the hands of Christian artisans in and around the Holy Land region. The Rishmawi Family has been designated as the representative for these wonderful Christian artisans and has been authorized to show their olive wood carvings.



The tradition of Olive wood carvings in the Holy Land has been handed down from father to son since the 12th century. Due to the difficulties the last few years in the Middle East, tourism has been dramatically reduced and these folks have suffered greatly. This is causing the Christian community to immigrate to different countries leaving the Christian population at 2% today from 25% fifteen years ago.

We invite you to visit their display tables and view some of the finest handcrafts available from the Holy Land. This Family strives to bring these fine carvings to our church.

You can view these beautiful items On-Line @ <http://www.bethlehem-art.com/>

God is in control, and therefore in everything I can give thanks - not because of the situation but because of the One who directs and rules over it.

--Ray Arthur



Christ the Redeemer Jr High and High school youth are again selling greenery from Lynch Creek Farm as a fundraiser for the summer trips we have planned in 2020, 2021 & 2022.

Support us by shopping using this link:

<http://www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/213204>

You are welcome to share this with family and friends!



Seminary News

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

We're waiting on pins and needles. Baby #2 is due this month. We cannot wait to welcome this new little lad into our world. He's already made himself a special part of our family, but we're looking forward to meeting him face-to-face. Of course, bringing a baby home comes with lots of worries. Will he sleep? Will big brother adjust? Can we keep him healthy during 'sick' season? So with equal parts fear and excitement, we're hanging on to see when the new baby will arrive.

At this point, we had already picked out Graham's name, but it's been harder this time around. We have lots of names we really like, but no clear favorite has risen to the top. We know that the baby's middle name will be Carl. That name runs in my family. My mom is Carla, her dad is Carl, and his dad was Carl. So our little guy will carry on the tradition. Graham's middle name is Allen, which is Suzy's maiden name, so now both sides of our family will be represented.

If you asked our family how we are doing, I think we could honestly tell you "unsettled." There just seems to be so much happening - so much *changing* - that it's hard to ever feel like you truly have your feet under you. A lot of that has to do with being in the middle of the Seminary's placement process. Suzy and I sat down for an initial interview for final placement last month. After we were finished, a Seminary administrator wrote a recommendation for placement that was shared both with us and with District Presidents throughout the Synod. Now, we're just in a sort of holding pattern until congregations potentially come to interview us after the New Year. It's odd to feel like placement is far away and coming up quick at the same time.

We've had plenty to keep us busy in the interim. Since we're not sure how the new baby will impact our holiday traveling this year, our family took some trips in October to see friends and family. First, we went to Chicago for Suzy's 10-year college reunion. It was my first trip to the Wheaton College campus. I got to see Suzy's old dorm, classrooms, and the amazing chapel on campus. Lots of Suzy's fellow Wheaton alumni were curious whether Graham was named after famous Wheaton grad, Billy Graham. (Nope.)

Later in the month, we visited two congregations in southern Nebraska. Faith Lutheran in Humboldt and Zion Lutheran in Pawnee City have generously sponsored our family since our first year in Seminary. I preached at both congregations and led an hour-long Q&A about TV news and the Seminary during a potluck after worship. Those two churches are led by Pastor Tim Llewellyn and his wife, Keri. Their family is characterized by kindness care. The Llewellyns have been so generous to us - especially Keri - who has made herself available to Suzy for any "future pastor's wife" questions. It was good to make a first visit to their churches in Nebraska to express our personal appreciation.

That same trip brought us through the Kansas City area where we had the chance to drop in on Suzy's parents. Two of Suzy's sisters were around that weekend, too, so it was like a miniature family reunion. Suzy's twin sister's youngest son, Theo, is about 6-months-old and we had the chance to meet him for the first time.

Theo's reign as the baby of the family will be short-lived, however, as Brakhage #4 arrives shortly!

And there's been plenty to do in the classroom. I'm writing this newsletter while on the Seminary's Fall Break. I have the week off from classes, but not from homework. I had papers to write for my Psalms and Religion & Society classes and had to preach a sermon in class to the top preachers at the Sem. Before Christmas, I'll have two big projects in my Rethinking Confirmation class. I'll also start new classes on St. John's writings and the life of Athanasius. Another class looks at some of the stickier issues a pastor might run into. My spring course schedule is set, too. And I'll be having classes with all the really desirable professors at the Seminary, many for the first time.

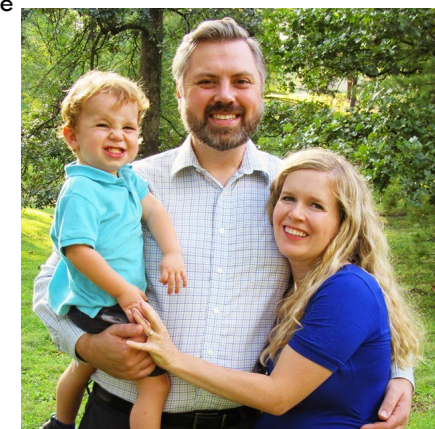
But sometimes you need a break from the academic rigors of the Seminary. That's when it's been nice that we've been connected to a church here in St. Louis. Once a week, I've gone in to teach 5th grade religion at their parochial school. The kids are terrific and love learning about the Bible. It's so interesting to see how a 5th grader and a Seminary student can hold the same Bible and look at it so differently. I've also continued to preach and teach as our lead pastor recovers from a significant back injury. He's doing **much** better and has returned to work, but still has a lot of healing to do. One of the things I'm helping with is planning next month's Advent midweek services; I can share more about that next month.

While I'm here in St. Louis, it means I'm missing out on fun events in Oklahoma, like the Oklahoma District Fall Churchworkers Conference. It was great to attend during vicarage, because it meant spending time with Pastor B, DCE Suzanne, and other familiar faces from the Tulsa area. The District Communications Task Force presented a seminar at last month's conference. I'm honored to be a part of that group, alongside Suzanne. I'm always excited to stay connected to CTR. We are watching from afar as building plans take shape. We join you in prayer, anticipating the wonderful ministry that will occur in the new space - and all the wonderful ministry that will happen until then!

Since I last wrote to you, the president of the Seminary - Dr. Dale Meyer - announced his retirement. Dr. Meyer is probably best known for being *The Lutheran Hour* speaker from 1989 to 2001 (basically my entire childhood!) If you've ever met him in person, he was likely wearing a smile. Dr. Meyer exudes warmth and charisma. Similarly, his wife, Diane, is a fixture within our campus community. The Meyers' home is on campus and Graham loves exploring their Christmas light display. Dr. Meyer's retirement reminds us all of the transitions ahead and the sure and certain hope we have in Jesus, God With Us.

With faith, hope and love,
Joshua

joshua411@gmail.com
(918) 706-1632
(Joshua's mobile)
(785) 393-3117
(Suzy's mobile)
12 Founders Way, Unit B
St. Louis, MO 63105



ECC



Nikki Witt, Director

Thank you to everyone who came out and showed support for the ministry of the ECC during this exciting time of expansion and building. We will hopefully be able to move into the Good Shepherd facility sometime in January or February. We have enrolled five new students already and are continuing to open our enrollment until we move and possibly afterwards. All of the current staff are willing to continue to be on staff at the new location as well.

Amazon Smile!
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.




Meet our future firefighters!!



Construction time and science projects.



Paintball for Cystic Fibrosis...

November 2, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Paintball Adventure Games
10242 S. 49th W Ave, Sapulpa

For more information:
Daphnee Brian - 580-772-4711
Daphbrian223@gmail.com

\$30
Includes:
Field fee, rental, air and
500 rounds of paint



Lunch will be available for \$7

If participant is 17 years or younger, you must have a parent or guardian sign field waiver, found on the web site and include with registration form.
www.pbadventuregames.com

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Amount enclosed _____

Registration forms can be mailed to Daphnee Brian at 13214 S 21st St., Bixby, OK 74008. You can contact her if you have questions as well (580-772-4711).

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT FUND

Pursuing a career in service to the Lord through the church is a fulfilling opportunity, but it is not an inexpensive choice. Those who pursue professional church work many times incur educational debt, just like anyone else may do. Repayment of educational debt is often made more difficult by the more modest salaries of church workers, compared to other professions.

In order to encourage and retain our professional church workers here at Christ the Redeemer, several years ago the congregation established a fund to assist our Pastors, DCEs and other synodically-trained church workers in repaying their student loans. This fund relies on the donations of our members here at CTR. The fund is currently in need of additional funds. Please prayerfully consider a designated donation to this cause. You may place your gift in the weekly offering with a designation of "Student Loan Fund" or you may give your gift directly to one of the Elders and we will ensure that it is deposited in the correct fund.

Thank you for your past generosity and for ongoing support.
- Jim Holt, Elder Chair

Simple truths to repeat when you're in a spiritual battle:

- God's got his
- The Lord fights for me
- Jesus loves me
- Not today Satan
- I am a child of God
- He is able
- It is finished
- His Grace is sufficient
- Joy comes in the morning
- I am not alone
- I am fearfully & wonderfully made
- Fear has no grip on me
- Christ is enough for me
- He has overcome the world
- I am a new creation in Christ
- Jesus conquered the grave
- Sin doesn't define me, Christ does
- Be still & know
- God is good

Sinners and Saints

As sinners we may not be able to change the world, but as saints we may be able to change our communities.

As sinners we may not be able to change our communities, but as saints we may be able to change our neighborhoods.

As sinners we may not be able to change our neighborhoods, but a saints we may be able to change our homes.

As sinners we may not be able to change our homes, but as saints we may be able to change ourselves.



As sinners we may not be able to change ourselves, but as saints we may offer ourselves up to the grace of God and experience nothing less than a changed world.

--Homiletics

CHRIST THE REDEEMER YOUTH MINISTRY

Jr. High (6-8th graders)

Sr. High (9-12th graders)

DCE Suzanne Watt



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

FALL & WINTER YOUTH MINISTRY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

6th-8th Jr High Youth Ministry	9th-12th High School Youth Ministry	6th-12th Combined Youth Ministry
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NOVEMBER

**NOVEMBER 3, 2019
FAMILY MINISTRY
FALL EVENT**
4:30-6:30 PM
Food, Games and More! Bingo, pumpkin painting, balloon man, face painting...
For all ages

**NOVEMBER 17, 2019
COMBINED YOUTH
MINISTRY EVENT**
3:00-5:00 PM
Event for 6th-12th Grade Students
Urban Air



DECEMBER

**DECEMBER 15, 2019
JR HIGH CHRISTMAS PARTY**
3:00-5:00 PM
Event for 6th-8th Grade Students
Location To Be Determined
Bring a "white elephant" gift for exchange

**DECEMBER 20-21, 2019
HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS
LOCK-IN AT IMMANUEL**
9:00 PM- 7:00 AM
Event for 9th-12th Grade Students
Bring a "white elephant" gift for exchange



Confirmation Schedule for Wednesday Classes

- November 6– Prayer
- Practice Prayer Models & begin work on Final Project
- November 13– Prayer
- Work on Final Project, Due next week
- November 20– Prayer
- Final Project Due



JOURNEY IN JANUARY
HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT
JANUARY 17-19, 2020



The songs which we sing and hear each time we gather for worship serve many purposes within the liturgy and our worship life together. Three of the chief functions of the Church's song, according to Lutheran pastor, professor, and church musician, Rev. Dr. Paul Westermeyer, are praise, prayer, and proclamation. Last month's article dealt

with the function of music as praise. This month we consider the role of music as proclamation. In *The Church Musician* Rev. Dr. Westermeyer writes:

"The church's song is also a song of proclamation. The author of Ephesians expressed this by saying, 'Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.' (Eph. 5:18b-19a)

Here it is clear that music is a means by which the words and Word of the Gospel are proclaimed. Luther referred to the parallel verse in Colossians (3:16) and wrote:

"St. Paul exhorted the Colossians to sing spiritual songs and Psalms heartily unto the Lord so that God's word and Christian teaching might be instilled and implanted in many ways." (Paul Westermeyer, *The Church Musician*, Augsburg Fortress, 1997, 33)

Westermeyer sees this proclamation of the word of God through song as a critical part of the Church's musical heritage, writing:

"Much of that heritage is exegetical or proclamatory: music helps to proclaim, to interpret, to break open the word of God. That is in part what happens when the congregation sings. That is why from ancient times, Biblical lessons have been sung or chanted" (Paul Westermeyer, *The Church Musician*, Augsburg Fortress, 1997, 34)

Many of the hymns which are our musical heritage as Lutheran Christians are deeply rooted in the proclamatory role of hymnody in worship. Consider these examples from the hymns of Martin Luther:

Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, with exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice and holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
how His right arm the victory won
What price our ransom cost Him!
Dear Christians One and All Rejoice (LSB 556, stanza 1)

From heaven above to earth I come,
to bear good news to every home;
glad tidings of great joy I bring,
whereof I now will say and sing
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (LSB 358, stanza 1)

My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong"
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (LSB 358, stanza 14)

Luther understood the value, and indeed, the necessity, of proclaiming the Word of God through song:

"I have no one to sing and chant about but Christ, in whom alone I have everything. Him alone I proclaim, in Him alone I glory, for He has become my salvation, that is, my victory. (Martin Luther,

Lectures in Isaiah, Chapters 1-39, 1527/29, 129)

"They praise only God's grace, works, words, and power as they are revealed to them in Christ, this is their sermon and song, their hymn of praise." (Martin Luther, *Commentary on Psalm 118*, 1530, 81)

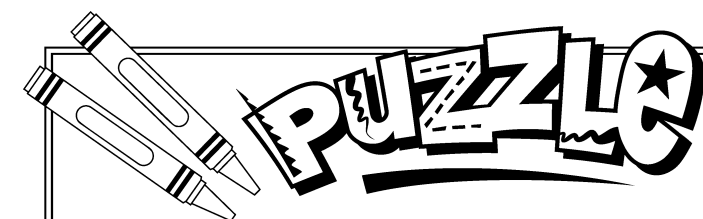
In the Church's song, proclamation and praise are inextricably linked. As a community of believers, we gather to give praise to God in song. We also gather to "proclaim the wonders God has done." That proclamation is at the heart of our worship life together. We sing in response to the good news that through the saving work of Jesus Christ we are brought out of darkness and into God's marvelous light.

Jacob Drengler, Music Director



**Jacob Drengler
Music Director**

Pics from Joy 2019 at Camp Lutherhoma



A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



Directions: Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| "I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3 | Hannah |
| "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47 | David |
| "He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2 | Mary |
| "My heart rejoices in the LORD." 1 Samuel 2:1 | Paul |
| "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30 | Moses |

Answers: Philippians 1:3, Paul; Luke 1:46-47, Mary; Exodus 15:2, Moses; 1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah; Psalm 69:30, David