

Christ the Redeemer

Lutheran Church

2550 East 71st Street
Tulsa, OK 74136

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TULSA, OKLA.
PERMIT NO. 176

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Help us eliminate expensive postal fees by notifying us of your change of address.

Mailing
Address
Goes
Here



Having a Life Filled With Prayer

See to Please

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

A Powerful Weapon

Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayer-less work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray. --Samuel Chadwick

A Word From Matthew Henry

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

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

Hard Faith

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

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

Faith and Health

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

Prayer Helps

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



THE
POWER
OF PRAYER



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



Ash Wednesday
February 26 - 6:30

Lenten Worship
March 4 through
April 1 at 6:30.

Maundy Thursday
April 9 - 7:00 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae
April 10 - 7:00 pm

Easter - April 12
7:00 - 8:15 - 10:45

Lenten Meal schedule
can be found with the
CTR-U schedule.



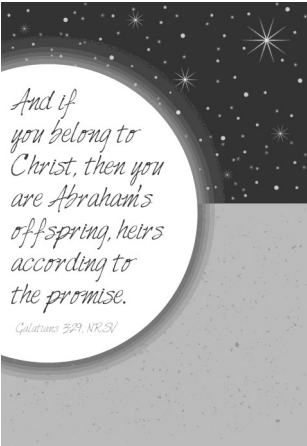


Fellow Redeemed,
Galatians 3:28-29 says, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.”

You cannot imagine how controversial these words are to a culture that would seek to divide people along lines of race, gender, creed, and religion. With these words, Paul ushers in a new reality and understanding, regarding identity for those who belong to Christ Jesus. We are all one in Christ. This is more important now than ever as we approach the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. I am writing this Newsletter article for the month of February, which is Black History Month. It is not a coincidence that Rev. Roosevelt Gray, Director of Black Ministry LCMS will be our mission speaker. I pray that Rev. Gray can help us understand the unity that we all have in Christ, as we all celebrate his ministry in the LCMS. I also pray that this coming year be a time of healing for our Tulsa Community. That we would be healed in those places that need healing. I pray that this year will be a time when we truly see our neighbors as Christ’s gift to us.

We are all heirs of the promise that was made to Abraham. God used Abraham to show his might and power to the whole world, and through Abraham the whole world is blessed by God. The promise to Abraham culminates in God’s Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are one in Him, by Him, and through Him. There are no longer any distinctions that would separate us. This passage from Galatians proves that neither ethnic, social, nor gender identities determine one’s standing before God. All who are baptized into Christ are one in His body, even while distinctions are present in the created order.

May God bless the month of February, so that we can take a good hard look at ourselves, and when needed, repent of any involvement we may have had in perpetuating differences within our communities. God has made us one in Christ. We will strive to experience that oneness with one another and with our neighbors as we come together to learn from each other, and express God’s love to those with whom God has made us one. Amen.



Summer 2020 will be here soon and Camp Lutherhoma is accepting applications for summer staff members. We are seeking quality Lutheran college students with servant hearts to join our team. Do you know any college students who love the Lord and have a desire to serve children, teens, and families?

Camp Lutherhoma offers opportunities for counselors to **grow their leadership skills**, as they guide campers through typical camp activities (hikes, crafts, sports), to **share the Gospel**, as they communicate the love of Jesus through Bible studies and devotions, and to **challenge themselves**, as they lead adventurous programs such as rafting, kayaking, rock climbing, mountain biking, and more! Working alongside like-minded college peers on staff brings personal and spiritual growth. Many personal and professional skills are gained through a summer at camp while counselors solve problems, care for children, and communicate the Gospel through words and actions. To find out more about the ministry of Camp Lutherhoma students can explore our website: www.lutherhoma.com or find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Staff members report to camp on May 25th for 2 weeks of staff training and 7 weeks of camp sessions. Summer camp ends and staff are dismissed on July 27th.

If you know of someone who might be an asset to our team this summer please send their contact information to erin@lutherhoma.com or encourage them to apply at www.nloma.org. I invite you to prayerfully consider who among your congregation and community might be willing to share the love of Jesus with children this summer.

Erin Busch
Camp Lutherhoma
Program Director
918-458-0704
erin@lutherhoma.com



Friendship Squares

This tasty treat doubles as a game to play with a buddy.



- What you need:**
- Graham crackers
 - Chocolate chips
 - Microwave-safe bowl
 - Zippered baggie
 - Scissors
 - Raspberries
 - Blueberries

- What you do:**
1. Gently break cracker sheets in half to form squares.
 2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, then continue heating for 30 seconds at a time until melted.
 3. Spoon melted chocolate into baggie and snip a small triangle from one bottom corner.
 4. On each cracker, squeeze chocolate lines to form a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Let cool.
 5. Using the fruit as X’s and O’s, play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. The winner gets to eat the treat!

“Love is like a tennis match; you’ll never win consistently until you learn to serve well.”
--Dan P. Herod

Mission Sunday February 9



Christ the Redeemer will welcome Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, Director of Black Ministry for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for our Mission Sunday celebration on February 9. Rev. Gray will preach and teach Sunday School and a special dinner with Rev. Gray will be held Saturday evening, February 8th at Ti Amo’s restaurant. More information will be coming with details.

Rev. Gray is a graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and earned his Master of Divinity in 1988. LCMS Black Ministry provides encouragement, assistance, advocacy, and influence to LCMS districts, con-

gregations, and schools for engagement in ministry to people of African American descent and other ethnic cultures.

The black population in the LCMS is growing from new immigrant black groups—people whose origins are from Africa, but who are now coming in by way of Canada, Europe, Central and South America and other countries. “Some see this as a challenge for the nation, but the church must see it as an opportunity for the Gospel,” Rev. Gray says.

For you church history buffs, Rev. Gray wrote “The History of LCMS Mercy Work with African Americans”. You can read this history and find the “Timeline” newsletter of LCMS Black Ministry on their website at www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/black-ministry.



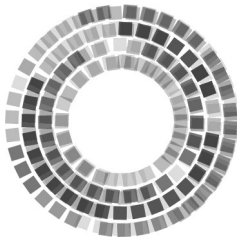
Confession

ORNER

Article XVII: Of Christ’s Return to Judgment

- 1]Also they teach that at the Consummation of the World Christ will appear for judgment, and 2] will raise up all the dead; He will give to the godly and elect eternal life and everlasting joys, 3] but ungodly men and the devils He will condemn to be tormented without end.
- 4] They condemn the Anabaptists, who think that there will be an end to the punishments of condemned men and devils.
- 5] They condemn also others who are now spreading certain Jewish opinions, that before the resurrection of the dead the godly shall take possession of the kingdom of the world, the ungodly being everywhere suppressed.

The Church as Mosaic: A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.



That is what our life in the church is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: “I make God visible.” But others who see us together can say: “They make God visible.” Christian community is where humility and glory touch. -- Henri M.J. Nouwen

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

LOVE NEVER GIVES UP. 1 CORINTHIANS 13

In Other Words

We’re so accustomed to hearing the Bible’s “love chapter,” 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words.

What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from *The Message Bible* reveal to you?

“Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut, doesn’t have a swelled head, doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always ‘me first,’ doesn’t fly off the handle, doesn’t keep score of the sins of others, doesn’t revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).

Love-ly Superlatives

To fall in love with God
is the greatest of romances,
to seek him the greatest adventure,
to find him the greatest human achievement.
--St. Augustine

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

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 every Tuesday at 10:00 in the fellowship hall.

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

Tie Quilts Assemble Tops

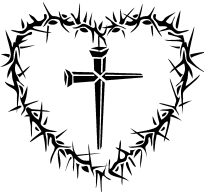
Faithful Measures

For the Month of December	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Total Worship Attendance	928	923
Weekly Average.....	232	231
SS/Bible Class Attendance	416	402
Weekly Average	104	101
December Giving	\$92,475	\$80,378
Monthly Budget	\$81,533	\$79,750
Year to Date Giving	\$841,644	\$837,386
Year to Date Budget	\$847,942	\$829,399
YTD Expenses.....	\$841,438	\$781,801

Building Fund Contribution:
December receipts: \$151,927.00
Balance: \$1,362,107.95

Totals for the Year:

Worship Attendance.....	12,725	11,143
Weekly Average.....	245	214
SS/Bible Class Attendance.....	4,168	4,541
Weekly Average.....	80	87



Our Lenten Focus

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn’t to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us to reflect on Jesus’ death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: “The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.”



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.

- 2:
2:
- 9: by Terry & Val Kolkmann in celebration of their anniversary
9: by Betsy Piantanida in honor of her parents
- 16: by Ron Phillips in celebration of Connie's birthday and in observance of her retirement from CTR
16:
- 23:
23:



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

Dean & Shelley Butler	Feb. 5	15 yrs
Jim & Gagle Pumpelly	Feb. 9	17 yrs
Bob & Langer Young	Feb. 29	56 yrs

RECEPTION celebrating Connie's retirement as our church secretary will be held on February 2 at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. All are invited to attend. There will be a basket for cards.



CTR FRIENDS will meet for lunch on February 9 at Apple Barrel Cafe (61st. & Mingo).

BUNKO will meet on February 11 at church with Diane Morlock as hostess. There is a signup sheet.

LWML will meet on February 18 at 12:30 in the fellowship hall for a short business meeting. All women are invited to attend.

OWLS will meet at 11:30 on Thursday, February 27, at Incredible Pizza. The speaker will be Andrea Leitch, Chief Market Officer at the Oklahoma Aquarium. Andrea worked for National Geographic for 12 years and will primarily speak about how the National Geographic brand has evolved from a scientific publication to a modern day media company, share stories from her time there, and discuss how we can support its mission from here in Tulsa. There is a signup sheet.

BLOOD DRIVE will be held at the church on March 8 from 9-12:30. Watch for the signup sheet and give the gift of life!



A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

Lord of the winds,
I cry to thee, I that am dust,
and blown about by every gust
I fly to thee.

Lord of the waters,
unto thee I call.
I that am wecd upon the waters borne,
and by the waters torn, tossed by the waters,
at thy feet I fall.

--Mary Coleridge (1861-1907)

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Week 19	
Monday:	Proverbs 5:1-7:27
Tuesday:	Proverbs 8:1-9:18
Wednesday:	Proverbs 10:1-13:25
Thursday:	Proverbs 14:1-17:28
Friday:	Proverbs 18:1-21:31
Saturday:	Proverbs 22:1-24:34
Week 20	
Monday:	Psalm 73:1-89:52
Tuesday:	1 Kings 5:1-6:38; 2 Ch 2:1-3:17
Wednesday:	1 Ki 7:1-8:66; 2 Ch 4:1-5:14
Thursday:	2 Chronicles 6:1-7:22
Friday:	1 Kings 9:1-28; 2 Ch 8:1-18
Saturday:	Proverbs 25:1-29:27
Week 21	
Monday:	Ecclesiastes 1:1-6:12
Tuesday:	Ecclesiastes 7:1-12:14
Wednesday:	1 Ki 10:1-11:43; 2 Ch 9:1-31
Thursday:	Proverbs 30:1-31:31
Friday:	1 Kings 12:1-14:31
Saturday:	2 Chronicles 10:1-12:16
Week 22	
Monday:	1 Kings 15:1-24; 2 Ch 13:1-16:14
Tuesday:	1 Kings 15:25-16:34; 2 Ch 17:1-19
Wednesday:	1 Kings 17:1-19:21
Thursday:	1 Kings 20:1-21:29
Friday:	1 Kings 22:1-53; 2 Ch 18:1-34
Saturday:	2 Chronicles 19:1-23:21
Week 23	
Monday:	2 Kings 1:1-5:27
Tuesday:	2 Kings 6:1-8:29
Wednesday:	2 Kings 9:1-11:21
Thursday:	2 Kings 12:1-13:25; 2 Ch 24:1-27
Friday:	2 Kings 14:1-15:38; 2 Ch 25:1-26:23
Saturday:	Joel 1:1-3:21
Week 24	
Monday:	John 1:1-4:11
Tuesday:	Amos 1:1-3:15
Wednesday:	Amos 4:1-6:14
Thursday:	Amos 7:1-9:15
Friday:	2 Chronicles 27:1-9
Saturday:	Micah 1:1-7:20
Week 25	
Monday:	2 Chron. 28:1-27; 2 Ki 16:1-17:41
Tuesday:	Hosea 1:1-7:16
Wednesday:	Hosea 8:1-14:9
Thursday:	Isaiah 1:1-4:6
Friday:	Isaiah 5:1-8:22
Saturday:	Isaiah 9:1-12:6



CTR-U Monthly Schedule

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

- 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
 - ♦ **Craft Class - February 5 - ECC lounge**

- 6:00-7:00 PM**
- ♦ February 5 - Cane's chicken, mac & cheese, salad, dessert
 - ♦ February 12 - Subs, salad, chips, dessert
 - ♦ February 19 - Tacos, salad, dessert



- ♦ February 26 - Ash Wednesday - LWML
- ♦ March 4: Youth
- ♦ March 11:
- ♦ March 18: Parish Life (Brunch)
- ♦ March 25:
- ♦ April 1:

- 7:00-8:00 PM**
- ♦ Choir Practice
 - ♦ Youth Group (Jr/Sr High 6th-12th grade) DCE Suzanne-outside/ gym

The last full session of CTR-U will be February 19. From February 26 through April 1, only the early classes will meet. The Lenten meals will begin at 5:30 followed by the Lenten worship services at 6:30. Choir will meet at 7:00 following each service.

Looking for Love

Though not a fan of making New Year's resolutions, Jen Kramer decided to add meaning to 2018 by declaring it #theyearoflove. Each day she wrote a "love note" to a different person, expressing gratitude and offering encouragement. Recipients ranged from waiters and custodians to relatives and a terminally ill friend.

The experiment may have stemmed from the sudden, unexpected death of Kramer's father while she was away at college. "Why don't we say those things to people while they're here?" she tells the *Chicago Tribune*. "It's easy to be kind, and it's easy to tell people how you feel."

Kramer's campaign didn't cost a cent, yet it changed her life and touched hundreds of people in the process. Wherever she went, she discovered that "love showed up." It's simple, Kramer says: "You just have to look."



CTR-U CRAFT CLASS
February 5 - 5:30

We will be making a Valentine frame decoration that can be hung or free-standing. This will be the last craft class of the season.



Our January craft class was a lot of fun! We had so much fun you would have thought we emptied the wine bottles used for the craft prior to beginning the class itself.



CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

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

Mike & Annie Wiederstein
8316 W Limelight St. Apt 108
Boise, ID 83714



"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."
-- Anne Lamott

Cuddling

Have you ever held a baby
That was just a few days old?
What a privilege to cuddle
This child more precious than gold!

Perhaps the baby was your own,
Or grandson, or granddaughter,
Or maybe a niece, or nephew.
It really doesn't matter.

Did it make you pause with wonder
As you gazed upon their face,
On this miracle from Heaven
And our God's amazing grace?

As Christmas time draws near again
I think of a Virgin mild.
Just imagine her thoughts in awe
As she cuddled God's own child!

She didn't need to choose his name.
This is not mysterious.
The angel of God had told her
To name her baby "Jesus".

Prophets foretold that He would bring
Everlasting Salvation!
Jesus became both man and God
Through this, his Incarnation!

Our Redeemer, Immanuel,
And from Jesse's stem, a rod.
He's the Alpha and Omega
And the chosen Lamb of God!

Oh, what an honor for Joseph!
God chose him to be the one
To walk hand and hand with Mary,
And help rear God's only Son!

They must have been in constant prayer
Raising Jesus from childhood.
Seeking guidance from God above,
In their role of parenthood.

I can't help but smile at children
In imaginary play.
It makes me wonder what they'll be
When they are grown up someday.

The little girl who shares her books
And reads to baby brother;
Will she grow up some day to be
A teacher like her mother?

And what about the little boy
Who plays in his hero's cape?
Will he one day be a soldier
And help keep our country safe?

Yet, Mary never had to guess
What her Son would one day be.
God's angel had announced to her:
"Christ would set the whole world FREE!"

You can't buy a gift while shopping
At local neighborhood stores
Or, order a gift from on-line
Like this "Gift" the Virgin bore!

God's gift was not wrapped in paper
With fancy ribbons and bows.
He lay in a humble manger
Wrapped snugly in swaddling clothes.

Jesus' birth brought to the world a
Dynamic relationship!
Believe the Savior died for you
And you'll never lose God's grip!

You'll find in Christ a resting place
When you are heavy laden.
For, when the earthly storms come near
He provides a safe haven.

As you sit with pen and paper
Making list of Christmas gifts;
Please add one for a child in need.
Give their holiday a lift.

Though, they can never pay you back
For the kindness you have shown,
Your holiday will be brighter
When God smiles down from His throne.

Perhaps someday when they are grown,
They'll pass this gesture forward.
And, so the gift of giving will
Continue moving onward.

"You" are God's special Christmas gift
Wrapped up in Christ's victory,
Once you offer yourself to God
And in Jesus you believe.

As the years are gifted to you
And you find you're getting old,
Remember that God cuddles you
Cause you're more precious than gold!

God paid a heavy price for us
When He gave the world His Son.
Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter
Shout: "THE VICTORY IS WON!"

Ruth Ann Atkins
Christmas Poem 2019



Sunday School Offering for January-March Tulsa Saints Foundation

What are you doing Friday night? Got any plans? How about meeting at the bus depot on 4th Street between Denver and Cheyenne and getting together with members of the Tulsa Saints Foundation? There's plenty to do as they provide food, blankets, backpacks, socks, gloves, and prayers for your brothers and sisters who are homeless, abused, downtrodden, or lost in Tulsa.

Michael Bryan, Director of Safety at Airgas here in Tulsa and some friends have formed a 501C3 organization called **Tulsa Saints Foundation** in response to a calling to care for God's people in need. You may have met Michael in Sunday school where he sits with the Sprungers or in church. Michael came to Tulsa in 2015 from Memphis. When God called Michael to faith, He also called him to help Tulsa's vulnerable street people.

Currently, Michael and about four of his friends serve meals and

give out provisions from the back of a trailer at the 4th street bus station. They have also started a Sunday sharing time from 3-5 at the downtown library to meet with the homeless and be a friend for them. They are always in need of helping hands and donations to carry on their outreach to God's children.

Our Sunday School offerings for this first quarter of the year will go towards supplies for Tulsa Saints to continue their outreach and friendship-building with Tulsa's homeless people.

You can see photos and get news of their work on their Facebook page, **Tulsa Saints Foundation**. If you are interested in helping out, talk to Michael some Sunday or email him at tulsasaintsfoundation@gmail.com.



Mission News Update



A Visitor from Home!
We have been on the mission field since 2014 and during that time, we have never had a visitor come from home. To be fair, West Africa was a challenging place that required a lot of expensive shots. So, we were so excited to have our youngest child, Jonathan, join us for Christmas. He is

an airman in the US Air Force. We were able to take some time and make a couple of day trips, one to Dresden, Germany, and one to Plzen, Czech Republic. It was a wonderful time of reconnecting with one of our family. Hopefully, he will talk up Prague enough that the rest of our family comes over to see us!

Christmas Visitors in Worship
The Christmas season this year was blessed to have a number of LCMS Lutherans in our church services. One family in particular came all the way from Saudi Arabia where Christianity is persecuted. Another was an Egyptian and his family seeking an LCMS-connected congregation. And there were several other places represented. On top of that, there were locals looking for a Lutheran presence. We pray that all these people were fed and will be back to visit with us.



Sunday School Christmas Gathering
Christmastide always brings parties and gatherings around

Bulletin Bloopers...

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7 pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.



Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.



AND THE WINNER IS... Daphnee Brian won first prize at this year's chili cook-off. Floyd Lemons came in second and Pastor Burmeister third. Congrats to all our winners and contestants. The bounce house was a huge success for the youth. BINGO was a huge hit as always. Who would have thought such a simple game could be so competitive though!! We collected over \$600 for the "piano fund". Many thanks to everyone who participated.

food and goodies. We opened our home to the Sunday School children and shared some pizza and Christmas cookies. We also watched *Red Boots for Christmas* (a Lutheran Hour show) and *A Charlie Brown Christmas*—both of which point us to Jesus as the center of our celebrations. It was a great time of fellowship

A Welcomed Christmas Pageant
On January 12, our Sunday School youth presented to us four scenes from the Christmas accounts—the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angels' visit to the shepherds, and Simeon in the temple. It merged nicely with the theme of the day, which was the Baptism of Our Lord. Our Lord's birthday is filled with joy because it is the birth of our Savior. We are proud to see our youth growing in the Word.



We commend you and your witness to Christ!

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Your Missionaries to the Czech Republic

As many of you are aware, I will be retiring in February. I wanted to take this opportunity in my last newsletter to say thank you for allowing me the joy of working as your church secretary. I have truly loved working in the office with the staff and many members who have crossed my path over the almost 11 years that I have been in the position. I feel that God has always called me to work for the church in some capacity and has blessed me more times than I can count during those years with each and every congregation.

Ron and I are hoping to move to Iowa to be near our son and his family. We have our name on a waiting list at a retirement community and will move when a vacancy becomes available. In the meantime, we will remain in Jenks and at CTR.

Again, thank you so much for allowing me to share my skills and love of the work at CTR.

--Connie Phillips



Seminary News

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

Let me begin by offering a hearty and heartfelt thank you. I confess that I fail to express appreciation and gratitude can often slip through the cracks. Please forgive me and know what a great pleasure it is for our family to be members of CTR. We appreciate your kindness, your support and your prayers. As a congregation, your unfailing generosity has fueled our Seminary journey going on 4 years now. Individually, your personal words of encouragement have made a difference every step of the way. Thank you for coming alongside our family as we experience this adventure together.

And that family is growing. Allow me, for the first time in this newsletter, to introduce Luke Carl Brakhage, born 11/11, baptized into Christ 1/11. Little Luke was a strong 6 pound, 15 ounce newborn. Almost immediately, he demonstrated how he plans to be different from his big brother. Luke is incredibly strong and likes flexing his muscles. He picks up his head, looks around, and is always attempting push-ups. He's also often content to be awake *and* quiet. Luke's strength and calm demeanor are illustrations of his distinctive personality, but he shares some traits with big brother, Graham (especially enjoying cuddling with Momma.)

We picked Luke's name after a lot of debate. Suzy and I both hoped to pick a biblical name, and we ended up stealing the name of my favorite Gospel writer. Luke's Gospel informs so much of my own personal understanding of who Jesus is; I cannot imagine Jesus without it. I cannot picture a Jesus who wasn't born in a manger, whose birth is "good news of great joy for all people." I cannot picture a Jesus who never introduces us to the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, or the rich man and Lazarus. I cannot picture a Jesus who doesn't say from the cross: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" or "Today you will be with Me in paradise."

My Jesus invites Martha to rest and share Mary's good portion. My Jesus tells Zacchaeus that His plan for salvation runs straight through his living room. My Jesus turns a grieving mother's weeping into joy by raising her only son from death. My Jesus comforts His worried parents who find their preteen son in the temple by saying, "Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" My Jesus grows up to preach in His hometown, announcing the promises of Scripture and saying, "Today this is fulfilled in your hearing." My Jesus is crucified for sinners, while civil and military authorities declare Him innocent. And on Easter, my Jesus joins friends for an afternoon stroll and reveals to them the joy of the resurrection.

The portrait of Jesus I have in my heart wouldn't be complete without these details unique to Luke's Gospel. I cannot picture Jesus without them. And I cannot picture our family without Luke. I praise God for this son and this Savior.

Luke and Graham both proved to be good travelers, clocking plenty of miles during the Christmas break. We traveled to spend Christmas in Kansas with Suzy's parents. All of Suzy's siblings were home for Christmas, including Suzy's eldest sister who lives full-time in Australia. Month-old Luke got plenty of cuddles and Graham soaked up time with his cousins. Nana and Grandad con-

tinue to indulge our toddler's interest in trains, sending him home with a new wooden train set.

I made a trip back to St. Louis to preach on the Sunday after Christmas and attend the funeral for our church secretary's mother. Then I rejoined the family as we trekked to my grandparent's ranch in western Kansas for New Year's. Graham loved test driving all the tractors and Luke got to meet his great-grandpa Carl, who leant him his middle name. Our souvenir from our visit to the ranch was an ice chest full of beautiful beef. It was a blessing to be together.

When we returned to St. Louis, my mom and sister visited for Luke's baptism. Suzy's maternity leave ended the week after that and I restarted classes on January 27. I am looking forward to this final semester in the classroom and eager to discover what the Lord has in store for our family's future.

We've been getting some clues as to the possibilities for our next move. Congregations have been arriving at the Seminary to interview graduating students. Everything is arranged by the school's placement office. They touch base with congregational leaders, find out details about the position and the church's personality. Then they find four to six students who seem like the best fit and set up the interviews. Usually this all happens the same day so church leaders can make one visit to St. Louis and meet several viable candidates for their vacancies. Wives are encouraged to be a part of the interviews too, and afterwards, students are able to tell the Seminary whether they would be open to serving at that congregation or not.

In the end, the decision is in the hands of the Seminary's placement director, the LCMS Council of Presidents, and ultimately, the Holy Spirit. We pray that the Lord would be preparing the best place possible for our family and for my classmates as well.

It's beautiful to see the church home the Lord is preparing in your midst, too. We have been able to spectate on the renovation through the pictures shared on Facebook. It's a blessing to know the construction underway is all done with ministry in mind: how do we use the gift of this land and building to further the work of Jesus for our community? Construction is hardly ever free of surprises, but I am praying for the process to move forward as smoothly and quickly as possible. And the prayer for the future is that every square inch of space might be seen as an asset in the mission of making disciples – both strengthening the saved and reaching the lost.

Meanwhile, our family has hit the homestretch. The finish line is in sight and we are looking forward with eagerness to the home that awaits us at our next stop. Please continue praying for God's peace as we deal with the uncertainty of right now and live in hope of what's to come.

With anticipation,
Joshua
12 Founders Way, Unit B
St. Louis, MO 63105



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

LWML NEWS

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!

The LWML will meet Tuesday, February 18, at 12:30 in the fellowship hall for a short business meeting. All women are invited to attend.

The LWML OK District Convention will be held April 17-18 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Edmond. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Check out the display in the narthex and the church's LWML website for more information.

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

LWML GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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!

Outreach "Giving Tree" Christmas project update

Thank you so much for your generous support of our congregation's "Giving Tree" project. We took two full loads of items to Mend Medical Clinic and Pregnancy Crisis Center and one full load of items to Mental Health Association of Oklahoma's Walker Hall. Thank you to Star Tiger for the use of her Expedition vehicle and to Diane Fager for her SUV. We also had donations of \$420 which was divided between the two recipients.

Both of our recipients were very appreciative of the gifts. Below is part of the thank you note that was received from Walker Hall.

"I do not have enough words to express my gratitude towards you and your Church. This is such a huge blessing for us. Your generosity is overwhelming, I just sat in the donation room organizing and cried tears of joy, knowing that there are so many people out there that care about these young adults and have never even met them. You have no idea how much of a blessing this is for us to give them new, nice items and warm gear this winter. This has come in perfect timing, since we are moving so many new residents in at one time.

Again, Thank you so much."
Lacey Howell, Walker Hall Team Lead
Mental Health Association Oklahoma

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GUATEMALA AND CHILD BEYOND INTERNATIONAL Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus for Guatemala — \$100,000

Guatemala is a beautiful country, called "The Land of Eternal Spring" because of the pleasant climate. However, many people suffer in extreme poverty. Over 50 percent of the children are malnourished and have no access to any form of medical or dental care. Over 65 percent live in poverty. Most children have no pre- or post-natal care and often die from preventable diseases.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hood River, Oregon, and the Lutheran Church of Guatemala have partnered to share God's physical and spiritual healing with as many souls as possible in the decades to come. Rev. Abdiel Orozco, Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Guatemala, and his brother, Rev. Elry Orozco, are doctors. They have developed a network of LCMS partner churches that sends medical professionals and mission teams to Guatemala on short-term mission trips.



In order to reach isolated villages, they need the right tool, namely a Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus called the "4M Bus." This grant will be used to purchase and retrofit a bus with medical equipment and provide the sanitary area needed for medical and dental procedures in remote and inaccessible villages. Along with physical care, a group of non-medical missionaries will offer Bible school classes and worship services for both children and adults.

"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).

Subsequently, the local Lutheran churches will follow up with each person served through the medical clinic, enabling thousands of Guatemalans to experience God's healing power and grace, both physically and spiritually. The one-day bus clinics will be held monthly in three selected communities surrounding Lutheran churches beginning in 2020 and continuing indefinitely. Additionally, monthly one-day clinics for up to three additional communities will begin in 2021. When the grant funds are received, less than four months should be needed for the bus to be purchased, retrofitted, and stocked for use by the medical mission teams to share the love of Jesus with the people of Guatemala.



LWR Update...

In 2018-2019 we had the following kits shipped to these countries: School Kits (Serbia, Peru, Honduras, Guatemala, Syria, Sierra Leone and El Salvador) - Quilts (Angola, Syria and Burkina Faso) - Personal Care Kits (Serbia, Peru, Guatemala and Syria) - Fabric Kits (Peru).

Many thanks to all the CTR members who have helped over the years with hands-on help and donations! We are truly serving those who are less fortunate than we ourselves.

ECC

We are getting ready to move and playing until we do! We are having the space measured this month so we know our capacity there per DHS. We are packing items that are not used on a daily basis right now.




Nikki Witt, Director



The children love Ms. Sarah and her music class. She did a wonderful job directing our Christmas program this year as well.





Amazon Smile!

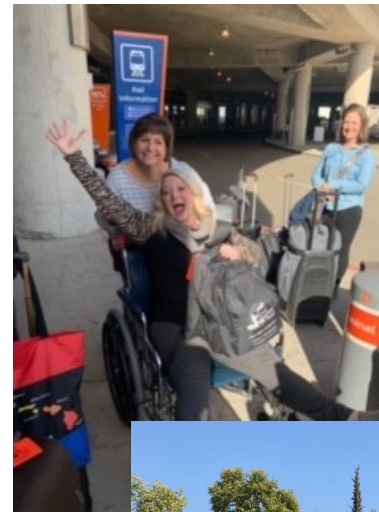
Help support ECC by shopping on Amazon Smile. Simply select Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church and .5% of your purchase will be given back to the ECC.

Cornerstone 10

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church - Cornerstone,

And so the journey to the Holy Land begins....

This is just a sample of pictures from the trip. More details and highlights will be shared in the next newsletter.



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.



These ladies from Outreach helped with the ECC Children's Christmas Program and later had an opportunity to meet up with Santa along with DCE Suzanne!

Cornerstone 7



**CHRIST THE REDEEMER
YOUTH MINISTRY**
Jr. High (6-8th graders)
Sr. High (9-12th graders)

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

DCE Suzanne Watt

OK'D IN CHRIST: will be March 6-8 in Norman, OK at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center. 9th-12th grade youth and their friends will be invited to attend.



Registration is \$90 a person and includes the weekend event, nightlife activities, all meals, a t-shirt, hotel and transportation as long as you register by February 10. After February 10 the price goes up to \$125 a person. Hotel arrangements must be made by February 14 therefore registrations will be cut off on that day.

We will be completing service projects during the day on Saturday as well as having our own dinner out.

To register, please fill out the registration form that was emailed to you or print copies can be found on the youth table in the narthex, 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 2020.

JR HIGH RETREAT: at Camp Lutherhoma is February 7-9, 2020. You should be at the church no later than 6:15 pm on the 7th. Please eat dinner prior or bring a sack meal with you!



We will eat lunch in Tahlequah on Sunday and return to CTR between 2-2:30 PM. A text will be sent to parents using Remind. If you have not signed up for Remind yet, please do so by texting "@ctrj" to 81010

TULSA AREA LCMS LOCK-IN: will be February 16-17 and open to 6th-12th grade students and friends. More information to come soon!



"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

Hope
ON THE BEACH
CTR Youth Summer Mission Trip 2020
June 2020
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida
Open to youth who will be entering 8th grade and up in Fall 2020. We will be hosting a VBS for Hope on the Beach Lutheran Church and doing other local mission opportunities as well as enjoying the beach! All youth interested in attending please RSVP to DCE Suzanne by January 31. We are looking at June 22-26 for the VBS week. Departing Tulsa on June 20 and returning June 29. A meeting for those interested will be February 5 at 6:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
How much: The estimated cost is \$275 per person to attend. A \$50 deposit is due 2/16, a second \$50 is due 3/15 and the final balance of \$175 is due 5/31.



Jacob Drengler
Music Director

Congregational song is an integral part of our worship life together here at Christ the Redeemer. Each week we sing of the wondrous, powerful, creative, enlivening works of God. We sing the Incarnation, we sing of Christ's Passion, we sing the Resurrection story, we sing of the One who called us out of darkness into God's marvelous light. We sing songs of great joy and songs of deepest lament. We sing songs that evoke the most resounding shout of praise and the mutest whisper of a prayer. We proclaim through song the good news of all that God has done. Gathered into community as the Church, we give voice to the praise of the Creator of the universe.

As we sing, we should be mindful of the fact that the Church's song is not confined to one time or to one place. The song of the Church began long before any of us started our time on this planet and it will continue to resound long after we have all departed. Still, during our pilgrimage here on earth, we are privileged to join in that unending hymn, if only for a brief time. In his "Treatise on the Last Words of David," Martin Luther wrote:

Saint Ambrose composed many hymns of the Church. They are called church hymns because the Church accepted

We're Recycling
DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
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.

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.

them and sings them just as though the Church had written them and as though they were the Church's songs. Therefore, it is not customary to say, "Thus sings Ambrose, Gregory, Prudentius, Sedulius," but "Thus sings the Church." For these are now the songs of the Church, which Ambrose, Sedulius, etc., sing with the Church and the Church with them. When they die, the Church and her songs survive.

And so we sing. We join with the hosts of heaven as they sing "Holy, holy, holy" (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8). We join with the morning stars which sing for joy before the Lord (Job 38:7). We join voices with one another as we encourage and lift each other up through the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19).

There is a hymn by the Lutheran pastor and hymnist Jaroslav Vajda, "So Much to Sing About," the first two stanzas of which perfectly capture the spirit of the Church's song as one of joyful response to God's wondrous works.

*So much to sing about, so much to praise You for,
So much I cannot live without and so much more:
At which display of majesty the very stones
are moved to shout.*

*So much to sing about: once orphaned and alone,
How could I dare believe the news that You would come
To live and die for me, for me!
And so make sure my welcome home.*

We do indeed have much to sing about, so let us sing together!

Heavenly Appearance

Our omnipresent God shows up in some unexpected places. People have "miraculously" seen Jesus' face on everything from junk food to a rusty water tank. We don't know what Jesus looked like, of course, but Scripture indicates his appearance was rather ordinary: "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him" (Isaiah 53:2, NIV).



On one occasion, however, Jesus' face was majestically transformed. At his Transfiguration, observed by many churches on the Sunday before Lent, Jesus' "face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light" (Matthew 17:2, ESV). Some disciples witnessed Jesus' glory - which will be ours, thanks to his death and resurrection. As 1 John 3:2 (NIV) promises: "When Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."