## September 2020

# **The Cornerstone**

A publication of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church

**Rev. Scott Burmeister** Pastor

Suzanne Watt Dir. of Christian Education

> Nikki Witt **ECC Director**

**Michelle Stefanov** Office Administrator

**Mary Jane Landin Business Administrator** 

> **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

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Check out the construction updates on pages 8 and 9.







Grandparents are Great!

"What a bargain grandchildren are," said comedy writer Gene Perret. "I give them my loose change, and they give me a mil-Grandparents Day lion dollars' worth of pleasure."

When it comes to family herit-

age, grandparents are worth their weight in gold. They serve as storehouses of history and wisdom, helping children see how they fit into a family's legacy. Christian grandparents also provide a faith heritage that passes from generation to generation.

The apostle Paul acknowledged this important role of family elders when he wrote to young Timothy: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you" (2 Timothy 1:5 NRSV).

Grandparent's Day is September 13!





Fellow Redeemed,

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Do you hear what I hear? The sounds of construction and demolition fill my ears as I write this newslet-

ter article to you. Our parking lot has become a highway for trucks and heavy equipment. The sounds of progress echo, not only through our own halls, but through our community as well. I have gotten several calls over the last month from people I know in our community who have asked what we are doing. Others have asked how they, and the companies that they work for, can help. It is interesting to me how new construction can cause such excitement. They make comments like this, "oh things must really be going well there at the church". I understand why they say that and what is behind their comments. We have all been taught that "growth" is a measure of success. I want to take just a moment to understand what success is from a Biblical perspective. Success is not how big a church is, or how many people attend, or view a livestream. Jesus describes success in a much different way.

Let's take a look at the Gospel of Luke:15:3-7, "So he (Jesus) told them this parable: What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and family and his neighbors, say to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety -nine righteous persons who need no repentance." Within this parable, Jesus asks a question. He says, "which of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country...?" No one does that! We would all feel sorry for the one and concentrate on the ninety-nine, but that is not how Jesus functions. Success for Jesus is you! That you, a sinner, have repented, and have believed in Him. That is success.

Guess what? Another truck just passed by, heading to the construction site. Our facility is a tool, that will be used by God, to strengthen you in faith, so that you will go out and find His one lost sheep. God works through means. He works through the Means of Grace, that is His Word, and Sacraments. A new facility and renovation will create the condition for the possibility of future ministry for many generations to come. It is the spring board for the Gospel work that God has for us through His Holy Spirit. Success will be realized when one sinner comes to repentance and believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Heaven is ready for the party to begin. Another construction truck just drove through. Are you ready?

All things are ready if our Faith is such! May God continue to bless each of us with daily repentance, an increase of faith and the reconciliation that comes only through Jesus! Amen.

--Pastor Burmeister



"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them,



President<sup>.</sup> Brad Young President-Elect: John Meinders Past President: Tom Kirby Secretary: Connie Thomas Treasurer: **Iennie** Gard Director-at-Large: Cheryl Davison **Kyle** Stein Director-at-Large: John Campbell Director-at-Large: Sam Woodard Director-at-Large: Personnel Committee: Ed Fager Communications: James Morgan ECC. Chris Carson Education: Scott Chesher Elders: Jim Holt Steve Short Evangelism: Family & Children: Katie Michaels-Johnson Finance: Brenda Flasch Outreach: Patti Ross Danita Cockrell Parish Life: Property: Floyd Lemons Stewardship: Nancy Kirby Strategic Planning: Tim Kuehnert Worship: Cherry Volberding Amber Carson Youth: Endowment Fund: Rob Koch



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I was just reviewing my last message to you dated July 12<sup>th</sup> and my how things are changing regarding the construction! Since my last note, construction has begun in earnest.

All the east end of the interior (think ECC) church has been removed (unless it is going to stay). The kitchen and east half of the fellowship hall has been gutted. A lot of preliminary site work has been done in preparation for removal of the NE corner of the building where the two-story addition will be constructed. The GC will be conducting a "proof roll" test of the soil on August 20 and if it passes that test, then work can begin within a week to demolish the northeast corner. I admit that I had to learn what a proof roll test was.

Gas lines are being relocated, roof top AC units are being prepped to be relocated, new duct work is being done, electrical conduit is being relocated, the plumber is saw-cutting the existing concrete slab so they can reroute the plumbing. Whew!

ECC enrollment has stabilized and they are seeing green shoots from parent inquiries especially as it relates to infants. Also, with so many schools deciding not to have in-person school, ECC may expand its enrollment to kindergarten thru  $3^{rd}$  grade students. It would be a service to those families and helps our financial situation.

Speaking of financial situations, we learned Monday night at our board of directors meeting that while our expenses are down significantly, so are our offerings. Offerings to date are \$48,000 below budget. I urge you to consider your personal situation and help make that deficit up if you are behind in your offerings. Between our normal ministry, construction and ECC, it is critically important to be in the best financial shape we can be. Fortunately, we are in a strong financial position and I think you would agree that we need to remain so.

Another decision that was made by the BOD Monday night was to not have a September voters meeting. It is simply too difficult to have an in-person meeting and meet all the social distance requirements with the construction. There are no pressing issues or decisions that need to be made by the voters. A packet of the lay ministry reports, financial statements etc. will be mailed to all members.

Regarding our lay ministry, things seem to be in a quiet period between the "Rona" and construction. I am heartened by what I have personally observed and heard. Our in-person services are being carefully conducted and I was happy to see that our Facebook views of the service were over 500.

I hope and pray that you and your families are safe and look forward to the day we can safely meet in-person. I so miss your hugs, handshakes and smiling faces. May the Lord bless and keep you.





Mail your weekly envelope in with your offering to the church. 2550 East 71st St, Tulsa, OK 74136

## ONLINE GIVING



You can visit www.ctrtulsa.org/on-line-giving to sign up through Vanco for one time or ongoing offering or donations. This allows you to set up weekly, bi-weekly or monthly offering.

MOBILE GIVING GIVE

For our smartphone users, you can contribute through GivePlus Church, our mobile giving app. It's a convenient solution whenever you have a smart phone. You can give anytime, anywhere, any day. Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to quickly find the app and download it for free.

Questions about E-Giving? Contact Mary Jane Landin at mjlandin@ctrtulsa.org to learn more.

Through the teaching, support, sacrifice, worship and commitment of the church, utterly ordinary people are enabled to do some rather extraordinary, even heroic acts, not on the



basis of their own gifts and abilities, but rather by having a community capable of sustaining Christian virtue. The church enables us to be better people than we could have been if left to our own devices.

> --Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon, Resident Aliens

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### **MILITARY COUPONS -**

Until further notice, the collection of coupons for military families overseas is going to be put on hold. I wish to thank CTR

members for their generous support of this program over the past several years. – Deb Drain

Brad Young, President



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

Gary & Mary Ames	Sept. 1	47 yrs
Ron & Phyllis Vause	Sept. 2	54 yrs
Duane & Donna Anderson	Sept. 5	61 yrs
Lynn & Sandy Moeller	Sept. 12	56 yrs
Nick & Renee' Colson	Sept. 18	28 yrs
David & Shannon Losacco	Sept. 21	24 yrs
Bob & Iris Wilson	Sept. 22	63 yrs
Hassan & Katie Haddad	Sept. 25	21 yrs
Brandon & Nikki Witt	Sept. 26	22 yrs

"The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace." ---Mahatma Gandhi



You can now sign up online to receive the CTR E-blast! This gives you access to the weekly news and events email as well as special announcements. Sign up today at <u>http://</u><u>www.ctrtulsa.org/emailsignup/</u> to receive it if you have not done so already.

Keep up with coming events, announcements, and updates: ~Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch

www.facebook.com/groups/ctrtulsa/

#### ~Instagram:

www.instagram.com/ctrtulsa/

**~Twitter:** @PastorBe\_CTR



<u>September to Remember:</u> New LWML Giving-Tuesday Date - Give to the Mission Goal on September 15.

Mark your calendar and DONATE online. Generous matching funds will DOUBLE your impact.

PRAY for the missions being supported--Find these resources and more at 1-800-252-5965 www.lwml.org.



**<u>Flu Shot Clinic</u>** will be held at CTR on September 27 from 9-1:00. Free with Medicare and \$10 without.

**Worship Ministry meeting** will be held on Sunday, September 13, at 6:00.

<u>CTR Christmas party</u> will be cancelled this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

### Barbara Sabourin

BJSABOURIN96@gmail.com



Lea Walker (Amelia & Ava Chandler) 12521 Babbling Brook Dr. Piedmont, OK 73078



You can sign up to provide altar flowers, which you may take home following the late service. On the sign-up sheet write your name by the date and the special occasion for the flowers. Write your \$50 check to CTR, with

ALTAR FLOWERS on the memo line.

#### September

6: by Jim Blackburn in memory of Norma
6:
13:
13:
20: by Suzanne Beauchamp in memory of Jim
20:
27: by John Neas in celebration of Sally's birthday
27:

# **CHRIST THE REDEEMER**

## **Confirmation Ministry**

Students will now have TWO options for class times, including:

- Sunday School from 9:30-10:30 am for 6th grade - 8th grade

• At Home with monthly Check-In Nights from 3:00-5:00 PM for 6th grade and up As long as social distancing and mask requirements are upheld they will be required at all in person classes. If necessary, we will continue Zoom class participation for those who require it.

#### SUNDAY MORNING 9:30 AM

30-Lesson Bible Overview Series (Green Workbook) & Faith Alive Bible

September 6 Summer Series

September 13 Overview of the the Bible

September 20 How We Got the Bible

September 27 Overview of the Bible Narrative

October 4 Creation

October 11 The Fall to Cain & Abel

October 18 The Flood to Babel

October 25 Abraham to Jacob

November 1 Israel to Joseph & Egypt

November 8 Moses & the Exodus

November 15 Wilderness Wanderings & the Law

November 22 The Conquest of the Promised Land

November 29- Thanksgiving Special Lesson

December 6 The Judges

December 13 Samuel to King David

December 20 David to Solomon

December 27- Christmas Special Lesson

January 3 The Divided Kingdom in the North

January 10 The Divided Kingdom in the South

January 17 The Place of the Prophets

January 24 The Exile

January 31 The Return and the Intertestamental Period

Key points will be taught in Sunday School. Students wanting credit for this class will have additional at home reading and assignments to turn in and complete each week in order to receive credit.

#### AT HOME/ MONTHLY 3-5 PM

60-Lesson Catechism Study (Blue Workbook) & Small Catechism (LSC) & Bible A weekly schedule will be sent to you

August 30

Review Lessons 1, 2, 3 & 6

Intro to Confirmation and the Small

Catechism

September 27

Review First Article of the Apostles Creed

October 25

Review Second Article of the Apostles Creed

November 22

Review Third Article of the Apostles Creed

December NO CLASS

January 24 or 31 TBD Review Intro & 1st-3rd Commandments



Year to Date Budget ......\$478,499 \$490,730

YTD Expenses.....\$447,227 \$492,525

**Building Fund Contribution:** 

July receipts: \$27,065.60 Balance: \$1,667,256.63



### In-Person Service Announcement

We resumed in-person worship on July 26 at 8:15 and 10:45. We WILL livestream the 8:15 service. We will have adult and high school Sunday School at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. We WILL livestream the Sunday school class. Elementary and Jr.

High will continue with online Sunday School.

We will adhere to the city of Tulsa Ordinance NO. 24408, dated July 15, 2020. Masks will be required at CTR. This will facilitate a two fold purpose; first so that we can serve one another by keeping the spread of germs to a minimum, and second so that we can sing all of the hymns and liturgy. Wear your masks while you sing and praise God as He serves us through Worship with His Word and Sacraments. Masks are available in the narthex.

Communion will be distributed in a walk through manner, maintaining social distancing. When you are at the distribution table, lower your mask, receive Christ's body and blood and then raise your mask and return to your pew. The mandatory mask mandate will allow us to return to normal Divine Services as before the pandemic, with full singing (through our masks). Thank you for adhering to the Tulsa Ordinance, and if you do not feel comfortable coming to church, please enjoy the services online. We thank God for His Holy Spirit that will produce in us the fruit of patience as we move through this pandemic with our faith firmly in Jesus Christ.

# When God Crosses Your Path

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions." Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God "sending us people with claims and petitions." Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, "thinking of you" cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distancelearning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).

### Alpha and Omega

God created this world, everything that it holds. And God still is creating as each day unfolds. What we once called the future, we now call the past. While the present is fleeting, God stays — first and last! —Peggy Ferrell



### The Bottom Shelf

I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above the other and that the taller we grew in Christian character, the more easily we should reach

them. I find now that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath the other and that it is not a question of growing taller but of stooping lower, and that we have to go down always down, to get his best gifts. --F.B. Meyer





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

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



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

**DCE Suzanne Watt** 



# Lower Elementary (Pre-3rd Grade)

Lower Elementary students are SIMPLY LOVED! In this Sunday School series children simply experience God's love and explore a foundational, Jesus-centered journey through the story of God's love. Classes will be taught in the Fellowship Hall and will begin September 13 with a special series of lessons. Teachers and volunteer helpers are needed. If you are interested, please contact DCE Suzanne.

# **Upper Elementary (4th & 5th Grade)**



FAITH

**30-LESSON** 

**BIBLE OVERVIEW** 

BE BOLD is specifically designed for kids in upper elementary. It's not about having all the answers— it's about being willing to listen to kids and explore what Scripture has to say. Be BOLD tackled faith questions head-on. Students will receive a student book and a weekly mystery mission. Meet in the Fellowship Hall starting on September 13. Teachers and volunteer helpers are needed. If you are interested, please contact DCE Suzanne.

# Jr High/Confirmation (6th-8th Grade)

Confirmation students will have 2 choices for classes this fall:

- Sunday School from 9:30-10:30 am for 6th grade 8th grade
- At home with monthly Check-In Nights from 3:00-5:00 PM for 6th grade and up
- There will be an introduction for both classes on Sunday, August 30, from 3-5 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

The Sunday School class, a 30-Lesson Bible Overview is also open to non-confirmation students. If necessary, we will continue to Zoom Sunday School classes for the participation of those staying at home. Classes will be led by DCE Suzanne.

# High School Youth (9th-12th Grade)



We are working to get a teacher in place for this class. Until that date, students may attend Pastor's class or can volunteer to help with one of the Elementary classes.

High School students are invited to High School Small Group twice a month on Sunday evenings beginning September 13 and 27. If any families are interested in hosting a gathering, please contact DCE Suzanne.





Our church has been blessed by God with the continued growth in our congregational membership, requests for children and infants to learn in our ECC, participation in Youth and Education activities, and opportunities for Outreach. The challenge that comes with this blessing is that our building is being stretched to its effective limits. The building committee has presented the Congregation and the Board of Directors with a complete master plan for a building expansion. With the help of W Design, our selected architectural firm, interviews with all ministries and staff members have been conducted. Surveys and other input from the congregation have been collected as well. All this input has been digested into defining the goals for a building expansion and developed into a site master plan. The presentation of this master plan was submitted to the congregation by W Design's lead architect on our project, Shane Hood, on March 26th 2017.

Our groundbreaking ceremony was July 29, 2020.







With the groundbreaking of the building project, we would like to remind the CTR community of a few important points to keep in mind as we move forward:

1. While the ministry staff will continue day to day work in the offices, the remainder of the building will be closed off as an active construction zone. There may be occasions when the staff cannot be in the building and we will make every effort to notify members ahead of time if possible.

2. Ministry meetings, activities and events will be able to be scheduled on Sundays only. The contractor is making every effort to ensure portions of the building will be available for us to use on that day however, sometimes extreme circumstances may present themselves. Please speak with Floyd Lemons to schedule a space.

3. The East driveway (the ECC side of the building) will be closed off as well as some parking spaces. Areas in the rear parking lot may be used to store equipment and machinery.

4. All rooms and hallways east of the Fellowship Hall will be closed off as active construction zones. Please use the water fountain and restrooms in the south hallway near the soda & snack machine when you are here on Sundays.

5. As the project progresses the accessibility of some area are subject to change and as some areas are completed other areas that had been open may become closed off. We will update you with changes as we receive them.



Now that construction has begun, church activities are confined to Sundays only with limited room access. If you or your group wish to use the church facilities, please fill out the forms that are located in the narthex or contact Floyd Lemons. Floyd will confirm the date and location and get back to you with that confirmation.







(right) ECC Playground





Youth Room







Nikki Witt, Director











### **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.















**Greetings from St. Louis Seminary!** 

Deb and I are doing well. We have settled in and are making many new friends and getting reacquainted with some old ones. I am blessed to attend seminary with some wonderful people that God has called from all walks of life and all regions of the country. God is equipping those He has called.

The seminary experience has been pretty much what I expected. There is a lot of studying to be done, but there is some time for interaction outside of class. What has been so surprising is how accepting and supportive everyone is. I was kind of afraid that because of my age I wouldn't fit in socially, but I haven't found that difficult at all. You never know who you will meet. Just the other day, I ran into Jacob Drengler's brother. The faculty and staff are focused on the seminarians and families to make sure that no one is left out. Deb goes to a book club meeting and has opportunities to expand her theological knowledge. Seminary isn't just for the seminarian.

By the time you are reading this, I will have successfully completed Summer Greek, Lord willing. With a strong final week, I should be able to attain an "A". Learning the Biblical languages is interesting, and I cannot wait to continue expanding my knowledge of Greek and picking up Biblical Hebrew next summer.

We haven't had much of a chance to see the sites of St. Louis as the study and work schedule precludes a lot of other activities, and with the COVID response much of the city remains closed or restricted. The sports teams are trying to get going, but they are having difficulty. Deb and I did take some time to reconnect with one of her high school teachers. She credits him with being the guiding influence that directed her to Concordia, River Forest, where Deb and I met. The influence of caring adults on youth and children can not be taken for granted if the church is to grow.

During the week I attend classes and homework, on the weekends however, I will serve a local congregation in some capacity. The COVID response has forced everyone to be creative and stretch beyond their usual comfort zone. I keep connected with CTR by watching worship and Bible study online. Hopefully, we can get back to normal soon and gather as the Body of Christ is meant to do. In the meantime, it will make field work experiences interesting. Most of the time the work includes assisting in services, preaching, teaching Sunday school or confirmation.

I covet your prayers for continued strength as I head into the fall semester and a new set of classes and challenges. Before Greek class, it has been a long time since I have been a student. Managing class schedules and deadlines for multiple classes may be challenging. Debra has an interview today with a ministry in St. Louis and might have to make some decisions soon. Please pray for the citizens of Beirut and the people delivering relief supplies. Our son in the Air Force, Steven, is working in harsh conditions at his deployment station in the Middle East. Because of the extreme heat and humidity, the "feels like" heat index can reach 140 degrees.

Your prayer support and financial partnership with us is crucial to us. Words can't adequately express my gratitude. Thank you for that blessing. We praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

Yours in Christ, Deon Hull 14 Founders Way, Unit B St Louis, MO 63105

> "Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow." --Anthony J. D'Angelo

#### Six Little Stories With Lots of Meanings

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. *That is faith*!

2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. *That is trust!* 

3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning but still we set the alarms to wake up. *That is hope!* 

4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. *That is confidence.* 

5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. *That is love!* 

6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." *That is attitude!* 

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!



Jacob Drengler Music Director

Unlike many of the reformers of the Church who came before and after him, Martin Luther received and embraced the traditions of the historic form of the Mass as the framework of the Church's worship, making alterations only where he found it to be in conflict with the Word of God. Unlike John Calvin, the French reformer, who eschewed all music in worship aside from the Psalms, or Ulrich Zwingli, who

rejected the use of music in formal, corporate worship entirely, Luther embraced the act of presenting music in worship as a marvelous and indispensable gift from God. For Luther music was the natural expression of praise in response to the wondrous works of the Lord, not merely as an aurally pleasing accessory to the rest of the worship service, but as a means of the proclamation of the Gospel.

While Luther's musical output primarily took the form of hymns and liturgical music, he was also well acquainted with the works of many of the most prominent and celebrated composers of his day. He had particular words of praise for the choral works the great Renaissance master Josquin des Prez, writing:

What is law doesn't make progress, but what is gospel does. God has preached the gospel through music, too, as may be seen in Josquin, all of whose compositions flow freely, gently, and cheerfully, are not forced or cramped by rules, and are like the song of the finch. (*Luther on Music: Paradigms of Praise,* Carl Schalk, p. 21)

A further example of Luther's interest in the polyphonic musical forms of the Renaissance may be found in the

story of how his only known choral composition came to be. During 1530, while he was ensconced in the Coburg Castle during the Diet of Augsburg, Luther wrote to the composer Louis Senfl, asking him to create a musical setting of Psalm 4:8, "I will both lay me down and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety." Senfl responded to this request by instead setting another verse, "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord" (Psalm 118:17). This verse was a favorite of Luther's which he had at one point written on the walls of his room in the Coburg Castle. Indeed, so fond was Luther of this verse that he would later write his own Latin polyphonic choral motet based upon the same text. It is a modest work, only about one minute in length, but it is crafted in a manner that shows a familiarity with the compositional conventions of the time. A particularly lovely recording of Non moriar sed vivam (I Shall Not Die, but Live) by the National Lutheran Choir may be found on YouTube.

As members of the Church on earth, called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified through the redeeming acts of God, we join together to give praise to God, and to proclaim the wondrous works of the Lord. As members of the Lutheran church we have received an especially rich treasury of music to draw from; a "goodly heritage" in the words of Lutheran organist and composer Paul Manz. This heritage is not homogenous, rather, it comprises the experiences of believers of all times and places. In whatever forms our music takes in these days of uncertainty, I pray that the Gospel will continue to be proclaimed to the joy and edifying of God's people.



#### 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





### Always Within Reach

As I grow older, I appreciate help getting up from the couch. Often, my husband extends his arm to boost me up. This act of kindness reminds me how the Lord reach-

es out to me each morning. He is the strength to lift me up so I needn't depend on myself.

Looking back through the years, I can see how the Lord endlessly extended his arm to me. Isaiah 33:2 says, "O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble." Too often I haven't waited for the Lord, and my impatience resulted in no-good results. Waiting for — and accepting — God's guidance isn't always easy, but he always comes through, and we're never out of his reach.

I'm so thankful my heavenly Father graciously extends his arm to help me up, get me "unstuck" and keep me from trouble.

—MaryAnn Sundby



school, student, wisdom; prosperous

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read,



Which of these was *not* one of the 10 plagues God brought against Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go?

A. an abundance of frogsB. the Nile River turned to blood

C. the collapse of the pyramids

D. thick darkness

Answer: C (See Exodus 7:14-12:32.)

# All Workers are Essential

The concept of vocation, Latin for "to call," previously referred only to a calling to church work. But then Martin Luther emphasized the importance — and even sanctity — of *all* types of labors. The reformer pointed out that "God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbor does."

RJ Grunewald, in a blog post titled "God Makes Pizza," describes how this looks today: "God is busy about *his* work in the midst of *your* work whether you realize it or not. The laundry, the spreadsheets, the phone calls and the cups of coffee are all deeply spiritual because God is at work in the world. He is serving your family, your coworkers and your community through the work you do. God is at work providing 'daily bread' through the work that you do, no matter what that work is."

The CTR LWML changed leadership August 1<sup>st</sup> and have starting discussing the upcoming year and how we will grow and move forward.

On August 23, we met and put together school kits, personal care kits and quilt kits. They will go to OKC on October 7. The ladies continue to make quilts even though we haven't been able to get together on Tuesdays. They have been sewing quilt tops in their homes, then they exchange for layering, another exchange for trim and turn and tying. *in Mission* 



It's been difficult working apart but we have made it work.

We also had an installation of officers on August 23 at the late service. May the Lord give us officers strength for the mission he has set before us.

The officers met recently and decided to have a meeting on Sunday, September 20, 2020, at 12:30. Because we can't meet during the week like we usually do, we will try meeting on Sunday afternoon. We will discuss having a Christmas party in a different location, Valentines Dinner, having a Mother/Daughter tea, etc. If you don't feel comfortable attending the meeting, that is okay. We will adhere to the Tulsa Ordinance No. 24408, dated July 15, 2020. Masks will be required for this meeting and they will be available in the narthex.

Tulsa LWML Zone is planning on having a Zone Fall Fest October 17. We aren't sure of the location or if it will be by Zoom. Please stayed tuned for more information.

I'm also going to try to get the CTR LWML site up to date so you will be able to access it for up to date information.

Even through the Pandemic of Covid 19, the mission work of the LWML continues. Please continue to support the many missions of LWML with your prayers and offerings. LWML.ORG has lots of ways to support and learn more about mission grants. For the Oklahoma district go to OKLWML.ORG.

Thank you for your continued support and please be flexible as we figure ways for our group to meet together to fulfill our outreach and missions.

Daphnee Brian, President

# **Outreach News**

#### South Tulsa Community House

CTR members continue to make donations of non-food items to South Tulsa Community House (STCH). Although our usual number of people coming to church regularly on Sunday has been low because of virus restrictions, a faithful few are contributing much needed items, especially those that can't be purchased with food stamps. They exclaim over the useful items of soaps, paper products, and household supplies, grooming items, toothpaste, and baby items that can be very expensive to buy.

So, please continue to fulfill a need of a family when you are out shopping. We pick up the items from church on Wednesdays and deliver to STCH on Thursdays. It really helps! If you want to help and can't go shopping, we'll shop for you. Leave a check in the office and designate it to "Outreach Ministry-STCH". **STCH is currently not taking any food items or plastic bags at this time.** 

#### Feeding People through Sunday School Offerings



Even though we did not meet for Sunday School during the second quarter of the year, Sunday School offerings came in! With the match from the Outreach budgoffering et, CTR sent a check to the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma in the

amount of \$562.50. This is so helpful during this time of high unemployment and children home during the summer. Thank you for feeding God's children. If you would like to contribute what you would usually be putting in the Sunday School offering, leave a check to CTR in the office with the designation "Sunday School Offering".

Missionary Support Support from the Outreach budget continues for several missionaries: Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster in the Czech Republic, Antoine Lutz in Papua New Guinea, and Rev. Chehab, Salam Christian Fellowship in Illinois.



Contact Patti Ross at 918-691-5328 with questions and suggestions for the Outreach Ministry.





Paintball for Fibrosis

October 3, 2020 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Paintball Adventure Games 10242 S. 49<sup>th</sup> W Ave, Sapulpa



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



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

Mail registration to Daphnee Brian, 13214 S 21st Street, Bixby, OK 74008

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed

Makes checks payable to Paintball Adventure Games First 10 to pre-register will receive a special gift bag.

A special thank you to our Sponsors: Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, Tulsa Paintball Adventure Games, Sapulpa









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