

"REDEEMER REPORTER" FEBRUARY 2021

FROM PASTOR JOHN DREYER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you once again for your kindness, patience and very welcoming spirit in my time in transitioning from Fort Wayne to Kokomo. I can certainly see Christ's love here at Our Redeemer. Even during my transition, feel free to connect with me if you want pastoral care and please share with me your ideas of how we can move forward and meet the needs of our members. In the meantime, I will be making short trips back to Fort Wayne preparing my house for sale.

Many members have shared with me different aspirations for Our Redeemer. I am making a list of these opportunities and will begin to implement some of them and explore different ways we can reach into our congregation, into the community and explore Christianity in the world.

Likely beginning next month, I will be offering Zoom Bible studies and the like. Perhaps I will lead the same topic two different times in a week to accommodate people's schedules. The nice thing with my Zoom account is that people can call in and participate if they don't have internet at home. Also, certain classes could be recorded for later viewing. Most of the classes will not be recorded allowing the participants to be able to talk freely in a safe environment on the particular subject.

The following are ideas came from the members or ideas that I shared with the members:

HOW DOES ONE READ THE BIBLE?

Where does one begin reading the Bible? How did the people during biblical times read and interpret the Bible? Why do Lutherans interpret the Bible one way when some other Christians look at the Bible in other ways? Why is the Bible the way it is today from Genesis to Revelation? What do we mean when we say the Bible is inspired?

LET'S MEET UP WITH WORLD LUTHERANISM:

When I was at the seminary, I had an opportunity to meet pastors and Lutheran bishops from all over the world. I also taught across seas like in Russia. Did you know that the Lutheran Church was once the second largest Christian church in Russia? Did you know that there are more Lutherans in Madagascar than all of United States? But the same goes for Ethiopia and some other countries as well. Each week, we will connect across seas with my pastor friends and missionaries from Ethiopia, Ghana, Brazil, Russia, and from many other countries.

RETHINKING LUTHERANISM TODAY'S WORLD:

The internet has made our world smaller. We are confronted with different religions and philosophies, social agendas, from clashes and confrontations to seeking ways of acceptance and working together for the common good in a diverse world. Has the Lutheran Church (LC-MS) lost touch with the world in what we believe and practice or have we lost touch of why Lutherans believe the way we do? How can we speak faithfully but meaningfully in a diverse world? Let's not be that "frog in the pot" (it's a saying) as a congregation but rather let us learn and simply review in a refreshing way about the foundational teachings and practices of the Lutheran Church and how we can engage our society in a healthy and respectful way. This will also include some Christian apologetics (defense of the Christian faith).

PRAY THEN LIKE THIS (Matthew 6:9):

Our Redeemer is a caring and praying community. In this class, we will cover the Biblical understanding of prayer. What is actually happening when we pray? Why do Christians pray the way we do? Why does the Lutheran Church use liturgy and why is it constructed that way as we "pray, praise and give thanks"? When our Lord taught His disciples how to pray, He used the Lord's Prayer as the model of prayer. What makes the Lord's Prayer so special?

There you have it! Please let me know if you like these ideas, any additional thoughts or other ideas and opportunities for Our Redeemer. Again, my email is: pastordreyer@redeemerkokomo.org.in

In Christ, Pastor Dreyer



LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT: CATECHETICAL SERVICES

On **Wednesday, February 17**, we begin the Season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service. Two services will be held on **Ash Wednesday, 12 noon** and **6:00 PM**. Both services will offer Holy Communion, and the imposition of ashes. All remaining Lenten services will be held at **12 noon** and **6:00 PM**. **Pastor Dreyer's** theme this year is "**Catechetical Services.**" The time of Lent historically was a time of Catechesis, that is, the Catechism. Many were then baptized during the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday of Holy Week.

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 17

Feb. 24

March 3

March 10

March 17

March 24

Ten Commandments

The Apostle's Creed

The Lord's Prayer

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Confession

The Sacrament of the Altar

Please note Lenten Dinners will not be served this year.

LWIS /CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FOOD CO-OP DONATIONS

*Lutheran Women in Service is collecting donations to purchase gift cards to distribute to the seminary students and their families at Concordia Seminary in Ft. Wayne. This will allow them to purchase items that are not otherwise available through the co-op. The gift cards will be ordered through **SCRIP**. That way Redeemer Lutheran School will receive credit from our purchases. We will be accepting donations from through **2/19/21**. Please make checks payable to **SCRIP**. Envelopes labeled "**LWIS Scrip Card for Seminary Students**" are at the Welcome Center. Please drop your donation into the wooden offering chest in the Narthex, white box at the Welcome Center or church office. If you need additional information, please contact **Susan Young**. Thank you.*

FROM PASTOR DAVID & PEGGY STOUT

"Dearly Loved in the Lord.

It was a wonderful time for Peggy and I that we spent serving the Lord's saints at Our Redeemer. We enjoyed meeting everyone and sharing the period of time between pastors. We hope that Pr. Dreyer experiences the same caring, love, and warmth we did. If

so, I do not see how he cannot but have great success in ministering to not only the Lord's people at Redeemer but also to the Kokomo area in reaching out with the Gospel.

Please be encouraged to share the Holy Gospel of our Lord and our wonderful Lutheran heritage. People need the message of hope in the cross and resurrection so very badly.

God's blessings to you all and thank you again for your kindness and acceptance. We do and will miss you. God's blessings.

✝

Your servants in Christ,
Pr. Dave and Peggy"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FEBRUARY SENIORS



DODY BAIRD
Feb. 1



RUTH LUECKE
Feb. 3



SUSIE YEAKLEY
Feb. 4



DIANE ANDERSON
Feb. 10



DORIS TEMME
Feb. 11



JUDY WEHMEYER
Feb. 14



BARBARA GILLILAND
Feb. 20



HELEN GULLION
Feb. 23



SHARON REDMAN
Feb. 26

KOKOMO RESCUE MISSION FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY GUESTS

Shakira, Carol, JD, James, Kara

75TH BIRTHDAY CARD

SHOWER TO DORIS TEMME

Doris Temme celebrates her 75th birthday on February 11, 2021. Let's shower Doris with love and birthday cards to make her day extra special.

Please direct cards to:

Doris Temme
2200 S. Dixon Rd. #5
Kokomo, IN 46902

Thank you. ☺

February 2021 Newsletter
A WORD FROM WESS – GOSPEL AND LAW

³⁷*The Israelites set out on foot from Rameses for Sukkoth. There were about 600,000 men, not counting women and children.* ³⁸*A large number of other people and many sheep, goats, and cattle also went with them. (Exodus 12:37-38 GNT®)*

¹*God spoke, and these were his words: ²"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, where you were slaves. ³"Worship no god but me. (Exodus 20:1-3 GNT®)*

¹⁶*For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. (John 3:16 GNT®)*

One of the things I can remember about my mother's family unions was the talk of church and Jesus. It was always good to know I had so many kin folks. The big exception for my cousins and myself was doing our best to avoid Great Aunt Helen. Aunt Helen would carry her well-worn Bible everywhere she went. What we youngsters feared was she lead with Law not Grace. A list of the all the things that young people did that condemned us to hell is what I remember vividly. In fact, I don't remember ever hearing the wonder of the Good News in the Gospel from Aunt Helen. This does not mean Aunt Helen never shared the Good News but by the time she was done beating me up with the Law I was not listening or I had escaped.

When I looked at my own approach to trying to spread the Gospel of Jesus, I lead with the Law. By leading with the Law I my hope was showing the person they were a sinner. And in my own eyes, it made me look good because I was not using the same measuring stick to judge myself. Then I would open my Bible and come to **Matthew 7:1-3** ("*Do not judge others, so that God will not judge you, for God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others. Why, then, do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye?*"). If I used the same standards for myself I did not look so good either and it brought back memories of Aunt Helen. I learned to approach people by using the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with prayer for leading by the Holy Spirit.

I noticed in my Bible that Abraham was redeemed from Ur by God before the Law was given. Joseph was redeemed from the pit and jail before the Law. Then I get to the Exodus and find that God redeemed His people before He gave the Law. In the New Testament Jesus goes to the cross for sinners to make them saints not because they were already saints. If Jesus could reach out in love first why don't I do what He requested; "Come follow me".

All my life has been in the Lutheran Church and I have always heard about Law and Gospel. I suggest we change that to Gospel and Law. I am so happy that Jesus did not say that Wess has to get his act together before He would go to the cross. Let me reassure everyone that if it depended on Wess obeying the Law there would still be no Easter. I still have big trouble with the first Commandment. Let us look at each other through the eyes of Jesus' Grace. Especially, when we are making contact with what we perceive as non-Christians. The sword of the Word with Grace will win the world not the sword of judgment.

As I move forward in life I am going to try to exercise the love for Jesus more. I find two of the tools I have at hand from God are prayer and the submission to the Holy Spirit. I do not use them enough. How about you?

Wess Mechler, P.H.D. (Past Having Doubts)
In the grip of Grace!

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER - SERVING THE CONGREGATION IN 2021 ARE:

** = NEWLY ELECTED / ^ = APPOINTED*

OFFICERS

President	*Bob Hingst	Secretary	Joelene Boyles
Vice President	*Al Harvath	Treasurer	^A Kevin Klepfer
Assistant Treasurer	*Jim Durr	Financial Secretary	Jenny Sewell

BOARDS

DEACONS

DA 1	Jerry Satterfield
DA 2	Steve Gaunt
DA 3	Dan Dinkel
DA 4	*Bill Hingst
DA 5	Mark Pearson
DA 6	*Kyle Street
DA 7	*Dick Harrison
DA 8	Bob Hoch
DA 9	Jim Heinzman
DA 10	Gene Miller
DA 11	*Roger Davis
DA 12	*Steve Sewell
DA 13	John Hubbert

PARISH LIFE

Rhonda Katter
Mandi Stout
*Nadine Pearson

RLS

Tiffany Creason	Beth Seawell
Dave Glatt	Lori Seaman
*Liz Anders	*Darlene Welke

STEWARDSHIP

Lora Lacy
Matt Seawell
*Wess Mechler

PROPERTY

Ned Trout
Jerry Hartman
*Mary Moeller
*Brent Seaman

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Peter Davis
Hugh Hunkeler
*Tim Brubaker

Online Calendar

https://www.lcorkokomo.org/full_calendar

DATE	TELLERS
1	Ellen Benziger, Nancy Trout, Ross Morkal
8	Vivian Heronemus, Sharon Morkal, Connie Howard
15	Teddi Heinzman, Jane Brubaker, Eva Glatt
22	Marjie Sullivan & Jama Youngdale

DATE	SANCTUARY STEWARDS	COLOR
7	Ellen Benziger & Caroline Howard	Green
14	Kitty Davis & Amy Shrack	Green
21	Anna Gaunt & Cindy Sewell	Purple
28	Marie Harvath & Jane Sipe	Purple

		DEACONS	
MONTH	SATURDAY	EARLY = 9:30 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	
February	Dick Harrison John Hubbert	Roger Davis	Gene Miller
		Mark Pearson	Kyle Street

		GREETERS	
MONTH	SATURDAY	EARLY = 9:30 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	
FEBRUARY	Gene Miller	Caroline Howard	Mark & Suzanne Dunkin

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is Ash Wednesday all about?

You may see something strange happening in church on Ash Wednesday. You'll see your family and friends go forward to receive the sign of the cross on their foreheads. The strange part about all of this is that it will be done with the ashes from last year's Palm Sunday palm branches.

Why do we do this?

Usually when someone gets dirty they know they need water to get clean. The ashes that are put on our foreheads remind us that in sin we are dirty and need to be cleaned. It also helps us to remember the first time the sign of the cross was made on us at our Baptism. In the waters of Baptism, we are cleaned and the dirt of sin is washed away. Ash Wednesday helps to remind us of this.



Parents: At home after the service, when your children are washing the ashes off, remind them once again that we are washed clean of sin at our Baptism. Jesus did all of this for us through His death on the cross which we prepare for during Lent. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of this time of preparation.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is "Lent"?

Lent is a season of the Church Year that lasts six weeks. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the day before Easter Sunday. During these six weeks we look forward to Good Friday, the day our Lord died on the cross to pay for our sins, and to Easter Sunday, the day He rose from the dead to prove it!

How can I remember to think about Jesus during Lent?

You can give up something you enjoy during Lent. You might see your parents give up their morning coffee. Maybe your brother or sister has decided not to eat candy during Lent. Every time you think about doing what you gave up for Lent, it will remind you of what Jesus gave up for you — His life! Blessings to you as you experience the wonderful journey of Lent!



Parents: We encourage you to help your child decide on something in their life that they can give up during Lent. Be sure to give up something too. Being their example and companion on this journey makes a big difference!

