



Reflections



**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
And Preschool**

**First Avenue and Court Street
Iowa City, IA 52245
Phone: 319-338-5626**

**Email: redeemer@ourredeemer.org
www.ourredeemer.org**

Weekly Newsletter-January 28/29, 2012

--Fourth Sunday after Epiphany--

LECTIONARY READINGS

**January 15—February 19
Sunday Mornings (4 sessions)**

**Room 208
9:30 – 10:15 am**

Discussions regarding the LECTIONARY Readings (Scripture) for the Day.

Emphasis will be on practical everyday applications of God's Word for each of us. Ethics / Decisions / Attitudes / Habits—Based on our Christian / Lutheran Faith.

How do we decide to do what we do or don't do, at home, at work, in our respective communities? When do we speak up or not speak regarding our faith at home, work, in the community? What do we say, what can we say? What are some things we should not say? What about social justice for the poor, and/or those unable to speak up for themselves? What about food, jobs, housing, education and other opportunities for everyone? What about our health care, organ donation, organ transplant, end of life care, whole body donation, etc.? Our presentations and discussions may include these topics and many more depending on the scripture readings for that particular Sunday.

GOD'S WHERE DID THE BIBLE COME FROM

**January 15—February 19
Sunday Mornings (4 sessions)**

**Fellowship Hall
9:30 – 10:15 am**

The Bible – the holy and precious Word of God. Most Christians have their own copy or two. Your Bible might have a hard cover, be paperback, or be bound in genuine leather. It might fit into your pocket or be saved electronically upon your computer. You can read the RSV, ESV, NIV, KJV, or the NASB to name a few. Then, if English is not your preferred language, you could read the Bible in Spanish, German, Korean, Russian, Czechoslovakian or Latin. You can buy a copy at a bookstore, from online, at Wal-Mart or your local grocery store. But if you were asked – “Who decided which books belonged in the Bible, and how was that decision made?” – could you answer?

For most Christians the Bible just exists, as if it magically and naturally fell from the sky and landed on the shelves of the local bookstore or in the pew at church. So we will first explore the assimilation of the books of the Biblical canon. Then, we will explore various “pop culture” attempts of stripping the truth of scriptures.

MOVING FORWARD CAMPAIGN

Many families have recently learned the importance of eliminating their debts in the Financial Peace University Class. That message has also been conveyed to the Board of Directors. They have decided to really focus on eliminating our debt to ourselves through the Moving Forward Campaign. This year we will designate the Fifth Sunday for this purpose. Based on the previous two years of this campaign, we could pay off the remaining debt by the end of this 2012 year. When this debt is retired, Our Redeemer will be able to utilize the money with which we have been blessed to do more of God's work. Thank you for your support and contributions. Let's keep Moving Forward!



Members of Our Redeemer, Your elder serving you communion for the mouth of February will not be robbed. We will be wearing a tie and jacket during communion. We are doing this so serving Elders or Elder can sit with our family. We are looking for feedback so please talk to an Elder and let us know what you think.
Steven Scott

*February Calendars
available in the church office*

Divine Service Setting 1 today!!
Join in and learn Divine Service Setting 1
as we practice throughout this
Epiphany season.



It's that time of year again. Time to get ready for

Our Redeemer's annual Pancake Day.

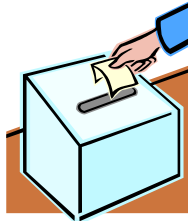
This year we will again be supporting the Crisis Center with the proceeds from this event.

In your communication box, in the narthex, there is a Pancake Day flier and a ticket booklet with more information. There are also volunteer sign-up sheets in the church office. Volunteers will be needed for set up, serving and clean up. Please consider donating a few hours of your time to help with this event.

VOTERS' MEETING

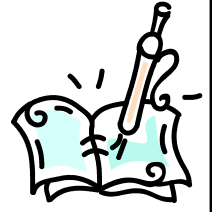
February 19 after late service.

Chairpeople, please get your committee reports to the office for inclusion in the annual report.



FLOWER CALENDAR SIGNUP-

The 2012 flower calendar is up in the library. Stop by to claim a Sunday to provide flowers.



COFFEE SIGNUP

FOR 2012 is on the counter in the office. Please sign up for times to serve.

HEY
YOU....
YES,
YOU !



Do you like sunshine, fresh air and exercise? Great! This is for YOU!

Board of Outreach is seeking a volunteer who will form a short-term committee which will oversee the planning and logistics for Sunday, June 3rd.

What's happening June 3rd? Why, it's Our Redeemer's Servant Event Day - "Serving the Community."

Please contact board chairman, Arlan Thompson, 338-2938 or arlanmarlene@yahoo.com for further details.

Thank you.



IS FEEDING THE HUNGRY YOUR MISSION?

CROP WALK 2012 needs a coordinator

This year's Crop Walk is scheduled for April 1. An informational meeting will be held February 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church. If you have a desire to help feed the world's hungry, let the church office know so we can get you the packet of material and contact information. 338-5626

LAST PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
BEFORE THE ONLINE PICTORIAL DIRECTORY
IS AVAILABLE

February 4, 5, and 19 photographers will again be available in the library after every service to get photos of new members or those who may have missed out having theirs taken earlier. Please help make the new directory as complete as possible.



For further questions, contact Pam Wilson at 338-4059 or e-mail markpamwilson@msn.com.

CELEBRATE WITH
MARILYN & LOUISE

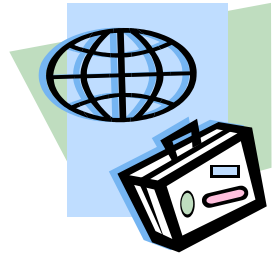
On February 5th Marilyn will celebrate 25 years as our church organist. On February 12th Louise will celebrate 12 years directing the choirs. Please join them after the 10:30 a.m. service on those days. There will be cake served in the narthex.

2011 Contribution statements were emailed out last week. If you did not get yours, contact Larry Freeman at 338-5626 or bookkeep@ourredeemer.org.

Pick up your contributions envelope in the narthex today or they will be moved to the church office.

This is a good time to automate your giving directly from a bank account—contact Larry Freeman.

Tasting Bee April 21, 2012~~Can you believe it? It's that time of year again to start planning for the Tasting Bee, which is being held Saturday, April 21, 2012. First of all, for those who are new, "What is the Tasting Bee?" . . . It is the LWML spring fundraiser. We ask ladies of the congregation to find a new or unique recipe which they are willing to make enough for 180 tastes. A teaspoon is a taste, anything else is a helping. They submit the recipe and we compile a cookbook which each guest at the Tasting Bee receives as she registers when she arrives at the Tasting Bee. We have a theme. This year's theme is "Oh, The Places We Can Go". We ask ladies of the congregation who are willing to decorate a table of ten (rectangular) or a table of eight (round) in the theme of the Tasting Bee. When you sign up to decorate a table and/or submit a recipe, you are entitled to purchase 3 tickets for each task you sign up for. So if you decorate a table and submit a recipe, you could purchase a total of 6 tickets for guests of your choice. Tickets will sell for \$10 each. We have applied for matching funds from Thrivent for this year's Tasting Bee. Funds raised will go to a mission project to be announced later.



Sign up starts TODAY. Look for the signup sheets in the Narthex. There will be someone there to answer any of your questions. Also if you think you would like to chair or co-chair next year's Tasting Bee and would like to help this year to learn the ropes, please talk to Pat Sexton (629-5422). Thanks for your willingness to be a part of this fun event.



LWML--

Heads up for February

Since we don't meet in January, we are eagerly looking ahead to our meeting of February 20th at 7:00pm. Martha Mitkos, a member of Our Redeemer, is now Director of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative for LCMS and will be our speaker for the evening. Come and learn more about this ministry of our church which is so vital to countries where people suffer from malaria, and what we can do to help. Devotions will be led by Cynthia Freundt, and hostesses will be Beth Hargens and Ruth Langehough. See you there!

I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me... (Acts 20:24)

New Year Reflections

- January is National Celebration of Life Month. Celebrate your life in Christ and add to your Mite Box so others may have the same opportunity.
- Jan. 18-25 is the Week of Christian Unity. Pray for all those touched by the mercy of Jesus through our Mission Grants. Give generously, for all we have is the Lord's!
- Jan. 23 is National Handwriting Day. Take a moment to send a handwritten note to tell someone you're praying for them. Add to your Mite Box, in thanksgiving for the freedom to praise Christ openly.

Stay Strong through February!

- February is National Expect Success Month. Take your Mite Box off the windowsill and make it the centerpiece of your table this month. Expect to fill it many times and praise God for His faithfulness.
- Feb. 4 is Ice Cream For Breakfast Day -- really! So eat your ice cream, laugh out loud, and put the cost of the ice cream in your Mite Box.
- Feb. 14 is also National Have a Heart Day. Share the heart of God today by sharing the story of mites with a neighbor or co-worker.
- Feb. 29 -- Take a LEAP of faith by giving sacrificially today. Just as the woman gave her mites, trusting God would provide, trust God in a big way in this Leap Year!

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
www.lwml.org



Small Group Ministry Mission Statement: *To grow in grace using our spiritual gifts, through good stewardship for the benefit of the group so that the body of Christ may be built up.*

Updates from Small Group Ministries...

Church Wide Spring 2012 Campaign: Old Testament for Jesus

This six-session Bible study is based on the themes of the Lenten worship series Old Testament for Jesus.

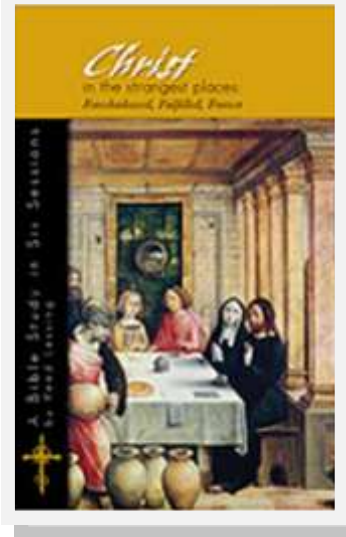
Two tablets of stone, a few vessels of oil, simple markings, a small army, a remote field, a solemn oath--these are some of the strangest people, places and things through which God revealed himself to his people in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is chock-full of passion themes, from the serpent being crushed in Gene-

sis 3:15 to Isaiah's Fourth Servant Song. Yet this series looks at some of the lesser-known Old Testament passion themes and focuses on them by means of single words. This study will follow Pastor Hartwig's weekly sermons during Lent, beginning on February 26th.

Small groups will be held on Wednesday's from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM at church, Sunday's from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM in a home, as well as offered at other times/places.

Small Group Sunday:
January 29th

Be sure to visit the table in the narthex this weekend to sign up for the spring church wide campaign and to get all of your small group questions answered!! Contact Denise Holidia with any questions.



LENTEN SERMÖN SERIES

Feb. 26	"Mine!" Exodus 20:17	Our desire to acquire
Feb. 29	"Refuge" Joshua 20:7-9	Cities of refuge, the body of relief
March 4	"Nothing" 2 Kings 4:1-7	Elisha provides for a widow
March 7	"Family" Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Abraham and Sarah are our parents
March 11	"Marked" Isaiah 44:5	God marks his people
March 14	"Nobody" Deuteronomy 7:7	Israel... least of all the people
March 18	"Enlist" Judges 6:16	Gideon's call
March 21	"Buried" 2 Kings 13:21	Death and life... for us all
March 25	"Invest" Jeremiah 32:25	Jeremiah buys a field in wartime
March 28	"Promises" Jeremiah 31:31-34	Our promises, our Christian witness
April 1	"Finish" 1 Kings 11:3	Finishing what he started

LENTEN WÖRSHIP

Weekends: Saturday 5:30 p.m., Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Mid-week: 1:00 p.m. and 6:10 p.m.

Mid-week Meal: 5:10 p.m.

Faith-Based Talk
from Iowa
Hawkeye Athletes
- *Athletes in Action*



Join us on Sunday, Feb. 12th, from 12:15-1:45 pm, in the Fellowship Hall, for a catered meal and faith testimonies. Cost is \$5/person to help cover the expense of the meal. Please sign up in the church office and drop off your payment in the box. A freewill donation basket will be present on the 12th, with the proceeds going towards the University of Iowa Athletes in Action program. Continue to look for more details to come in the following weeks!!



Thank you to Anita Nicholson for contributing the Parish Nurse News. See the February Beacon for an American Heart Month article relating to heart health.

***“CONSIDER NOW
WHAT GOD HAS DONE”***

Hymn Festival 2012

presented by the junior high and high school
choirs, handbells and instrumentalists from
St. John Lutheran Church and School,
Seward, Nebraska

Thursday, March 8th at 7:00pm

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1363 1st Ave SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

Call (319) 366-1569 for more information.
Free-will offering



THEOLOGY 101

The word theology is derived from two Greek words: Theos (God) and logos (speech or reason). Therefore, theology in its simplest terms is rational discussion about God. It has been described as “the science of God and his relationship to man and the world” and “the attempt to reduce religious truth to an organized system.”

Systematic theology is any study that answers the question, “What does the whole Bible teach us today?”

If you would like to understand these basics about the Christian faith, such as the doctrine of the Bible, God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, mankind, the church, salvation, and the future, this is the group for you.

To Martin Luther, pure doctrine was not just the correct content of Scripture, but also that content conveyed effectively into the lives of those who hear God’s Word.

Join Pastor Hartwig once a month in studying Robert Kolb’s “The Christian Faith” and the quick, usable, comprehensive, concise “Lutheranism 101” books. Pastor Hartwig will also make additional readings available and discussion questions for each lecture.

January 31, 2011

Justification & Conversion

Study packet available in church office

Student Prayer Partners: *Would you like to be a Prayer Partner to a college-age student? We would like to team up all college/trade/technical school students from Our Redeemer with a prayer partner. We will give you information about the student and we would like you to be committed to that student for one year. Please keep them in your prayers, send them cards, and do other things you think would help them through their years after high school. The years after high school are wonderful years, but they can also be scary, trying, and indecisive years---and the students may need extra help, friendship, prayers and guidance through those years. Please consider being a Prayer Partner to one of these students. The partnership will begin in January of 2012. There is a sign-up sheet in the church office. Contact person is Sandy Wagner (319) 338-1710; email: packratsandy@yahoo.com*

BASICS OF THE FAITH



Appropriately titled, this course begins a six unit examination of the basics of the Christian Faith. Taken from the Bible and as understood by the Lutheran Church, we will explore the role of the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The revelation of God through the Bible and the role of the catechism will be discussed first. The Biblical message of Law and Gospel will be detailed. Finally, we will end with discussing the victorious and sanctified life of the Christian.

February 17-18 Weekend Immersion
Friday 7:00 – 9:00 pm &
Saturday 8:30 – 2:30 pm

Volunteers Needed: The International Student Ministry (ISM) program at St Paul's Lutheran Chapel and University Center in Iowa City needs YOU! Due to several new requests by international students looking to practice their English, we are in need of new volunteers to serve as conversation partners or conversation class leaders. The commitment is typically one hour per week, and you choose the day and time that works for you. Weekends are especially needed. To sign-up, or for more information on this awesome opportunity, contact Deaconess Miller at ismstpaul@gmail.com or (319) 377-3652. Thanks!

Children & Youth MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Toddlin' to Jesus Rachel Deutsch
Cradle Roll Paula Caylor 337-0620
Sunday School Melissa Mullane 351-3290
 or Charma Wenck 338-0882
Pioneer Club / Faith Explorers
 Denise Schwarting 358-9590
 or Becky West 430-3809
Children & Youth Ministry Director
 Kaja Mueller kaja@ourredeemer.org
Education Committee Chair
 Lynne Westphal 338-3197
Youth Committee Adult Chair
 Anita Nicholson anichols@coe.edu
LYF President – Darra Stuart



*** Kids & Parents get your email addresses to Kaja! Children's Ministry Board and ORKS 5th -8th grd. Info. Board is in the hallway upstairs across the hall from the library. LYF 9th-12th grd. Info. Board is downstairs in hallway.

Lexi Stephens



School: WEST High School

Graduation year: 2015

Birthday: 5-18-1997

Interests: Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis, Skiing, Softball, Instruments, Band, Drama, Computer, Reading, Outdoor Recreational Activities

T.V. & Movies: Anything

Spare time: Read, Draw, Hang Out with Friends or Family

Describes herself as: Quiet, Athletic, Fun

Proud parents: Jeremy & Erin



12.29.11

Youth Weekly News

Lutheran Youth Fellowship & Our Redeemer KidS

Sunday School Classes are every Sunday from 9:15am – 10:00am. LYF have no opening, start time is at 9:30am in the Youth Room. **Confirmation classes** for 6th-8th grade are well underway. We experience Large group Lecture and Small Group Bible Study. **LYF Enter the GAP:** As we gather together, we will be entering God's Awesome Presence. Come fill the GAP on Wednesday nights, beginning 6:45pm till 8:00pm in the youth room.

Key Verse Romans 12:4-5 "Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Mission Statement Through God, as youth of Our Redeemer we will build a faith community that identifies our God given talents which trains and equips our youth in living and sharing what they believe and serves the congregation and community.

5th - LYF & 8th grade SUPER BOWL PARTY. All 8th graders through current 12th graders are welcome to come. The place will be announced the week prior to the party. Email and texting will notify the place. Arrive around 4:30pm and stay until the game is over. Bring: Snacks & drinks to share. We will have a great night just gathering, playing games, rooting for our team, and eating snacks together!

ALL ORKS, LYF & Families February 12th, 11:30pm come attend the Faith-Based Talk from Iowa Hawkeye Athletes in the Fellowship Hall for lunch. More information on page 5 Reflections.

ALL ORKS, LYF & Families Valentines Day Shut in Visits —> February 12th, at 4:30pm, a light dinner will be provided, more information to come in Beacon and February Reflections.

Does God Exist? High School Juniors, Seniors, and parents will be exploring the proofs of God's existence starting February 12th at 7pm in the Youth Room. <<http://www.trueu.org/en/dvd-curriculum/does-god-exist.aspx>>

LYF Winter Retreat 'Judge NOT' Registrations are available in the church office. February 17th-18th. Please return completed forms to Kaja's office mail box by January 29th. Cost-\$10.Camp IO-DIS-E-CA.

Save the Date– For this year's Summer Servant Event we will be going to Camp SonRise in Anderson, IN. We will be leaving on July 29th and returning on August 5th. Our 1st Meeting Date is February 5th after the Youth Committee meeting, in the youth room, with pizza lunch, bring chips and drinks to share. Registration Deadline will be February 12th. I will send all our registrations to the camp on the 13th. The cost is \$125 per volunteer. Adults will be covered by church. We are looking for one male and one female adult.

Children's Ministry

"Our Mission is to nurture and support families; equipping them for a lifetime of learning, praying and celebrating God's love in every aspect of life."



Please join us for **Sunday School** hour from 9:15am to 10:15am. Classes range from Toddlin' to Jesus (for expecting parents and families with children through age 3 accompanied by their parents) to adult Bible study. **Toddlin' to Jesus and the Preschool classes meet in their respective rooms**, while 4 yr. olds through 3rd graders meet in the music room and the 4th through 8th grade meet in the Chapel for opening prior to going to their individual classrooms. For more information please contact Melissa Mullane or Charma Wenck.

The Nursery is always available to those who would like to use it, just past the restrooms upstairs.

We also have an adventure on Wednesday Nights for **Midweek Classes**. We have **KID'S CLUB** each week. It is separated into two larger groups; **PIONEER CLUB** for children aged 2 years through 2nd grade and **FAITH EXPLORERS** is for children in grades 3rd through 5th. For more information, please contact Denise Schwarting or Becky West.

Kids Club Sunday, February 5th

8:40am meet in the Narthex area

9:10am Sunday School Classes, all are welcome

10:20am meet in the Narthex area

* Wear your Kids Club t-shirt

* Attend either worship service your family normally attends and be ready to meet in the narthex.

Contact: Denise Schwarting #358-9590

OUR REDEEMER OFFICE DIRECTORY

Office: 338-5626 Fax: 338-9171 Website: <http://www.ourredeemer.org> Preschool: 338-3949
 Prayer Chain: 351-5297 or prayerchain@ourredeemer.org Special Announcements Line: 338-3505

<u>STAFF & EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>STAFF & EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
Brent Hartwig, Senior Pastor bhartwig@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 337-2403 (home)	Heather Young, Preschool Director Tina Gossman, Assistant preschool@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool) 338-5626 (church)
Kaja Mueller, Director of Christian Ed. dym@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 541-4827 (cell)	Denise Holida Director of Small Group Ministry smallgroups@ourredeemer.org	351-4301 (home) 930-0165 (cell)
Vacancy, Parish Nurse parishnurse@ourredeemer.org	358-9714 (home) 338-5626 (church)	Marilyn Paetz, Organist organist@ourredeemer.org	351-4262 (home)
Louise Klopp, Director of Choirs choirdirector@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Laurel Sellers, Office Manager redemer@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Larry Freeman Bookkeeper & Director of Technology technology@ourredeemer.org or bookkeep@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Harold Scheer, Visitation Pastor haroldscheer2@q.com	337-4855 (home)
	Seth Illich, DCE Intern intern@ourredeemer.org		338-5626 (church) (815)-236-9502 (cell)

2011 Board of Elders Congregational Assignments

Steve Scott, Chair – 563-432-6977

Glenn Abernathy {F, G, T, U}	512-2219
Ryan Haack {B, W, X, Y, Z}	688-9513
Myrl Holida {H, J}	351-4301
Jeff Kucera {I, K, L}	512-6789
Alan Meyer {A, C, D, E}	319-461-1748
T. J. Ramsey {P, Q, R}	665-2534
Steve Scott {S}	563-432-6977
Tom Strumpel {M, N, O, V}	627-4322

Each family of the Our Redeemer flock is assigned alphabetically by last name to an elder, as shown above, to insure each family is prayed for and feels they “have an elder”. It is the sincere feeling of the Board of Elders that we are to love and be of service equally to the entire body of believers. We encourage any one of you to contact any one of us so we can share your spiritual journey, ideas or concerns.

DEADLINES

Reflections (printed weekly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) each Wednesday by 5:00 p.m.

Beacon Newsletter & Church Activities Calendar (printed monthly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) by noon on the 16th of each month.

TELEVISION ~ RADIO

Our Redeemer Worship Service on Public Access TV Channel 18 every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. and every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.

The Lutheran Hour Television Ministries talk show “On Main Street” is shown on Public Access Television Channel 18 on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. and Sundays at 10:00 p.m.

Lutheran Hour Ministries on Radio—WMT 600 AM Radio on Sunday mornings at 6:30, and KXEL 1540 AM Radio on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.