

# THE REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1054 Truman Avenue

Owatonna, MN 55060

July August - 2017

*A Congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

The Rev. Kirk Griebel, Pastor

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Dear Fellow Redeemed,

One thing you will be hearing a lot about in the weeks to come is The Great American Eclipse that will happen on Monday, August 21. There are many things that make this eclipse unique. The eclipse will cut a 60-70 mile wide path from Oregon to South Carolina, giving millions of Americans the opportunity to see it. The total eclipse will literally go from coast to coast and in the prime viewing areas it will last for almost three minutes.

Scientists call it a “remarkable cosmic coincidence” that the sun appears to be the same size as the moon in our sky. The sun is actually 400 times larger than the moon but because the moon is 400 times closer to the earth than the sun they both appear to be the same size in our sky, thus making it possible for a total eclipse to occur.

Those of us who believe that God created the heavens and the earth don't see this as a coincidence at all but part of God's design: “And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:16-18 ESV)

There is also a reason why scientists can predict the exact timing and location of this historic eclipse. Despite all the storms and chaos in nature, we still live in a very organized universe that allows us to measure and predict the way things will act. Again, believers in the Bible see this as God's hand at work while unbelievers see this as a coincidence.

Many consider a total solar eclipse as the most spectacular sight in nature. The sky suddenly darkens as the sun is covered by the moon's shadow but the sun's corona, a shimmering haze around the sun, becomes visible because the light of the sun is blocked out.

Here in Minnesota we will only see a partial eclipse. The closest place for us to go to see the total eclipse will be in northwest Missouri. Many predict that millions of Americans will travel to the areas in which the total eclipse will occur so if you want to see the total eclipse you are going to have to plan ahead.

One question that comes to mind is if the physical parts of the universe behave in a very predictable way, can the same be said for the moral parts of the universe? Are there permanent, eternal laws that govern the moral universe as clearly as there are laws that govern the physical universe?

Again, as believers we would say “Yes,” following the moral laws of God summarized in the Ten Commandments results in lives that are as stable and predictable as the motion of the stars and planets.

The problem is that none of us ever do follow God's laws perfectly. We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). So God sent his Son, Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins and bring us his perfect righteousness. Just as in an eclipse the moon completely blocks out the sun, Christ comes between us sinners and God, completely protecting us from his wrath.

If you would like more information about The Great American Eclipse, go to:

<https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com>

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Griebel

## **REVITALIZATION PRAYER VERSE FOR JULY:**

**2 Corinthians 3: 17 (NIV)** – Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

## **REVITALIZATION PRAYER VERSE FOR AUGUST:**

**Philippians 2:5 (NIV)** – Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.



**MIGHTY FORTRESS** is the theme of our Vacation Bible School this year. If you would like to help with teaching, crafts, snacks, games or music please contact Pastor Griebel or Steve Strusz. The dates for VBS this year are July 17-21 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Our

VBS is open to children of all ages so if you know of any neighborhood children or grand children who would enjoy the week of VBS, pick up a registration form from the sign in the narthex.

**I'D LIKE TO HEAR ALL ABOUT...**Over the summer months, one Sunday a month refreshments will be offered in the narthex following the worship service. Find out what's going on in the lives of your fellow members. The next two chats will be held on July 30 and August 20. Coffee and refreshments will be provided but the chatting is up to you! Please join us.

**ADULT BIBLE CLASSES AT REDEEMER** Our regular Bible classes will resume in September but that doesn't mean you can take the summer off. Redeemer has lots of resources for personal Bible study, plus you could help with “Mighty Fortress” our Vacation Bible School in July (see above).

**HANDS AT WORK** – Redeemer “Hands at Work” group has been busy making prayer shawls. These shawls are given to people experiencing health issues, or to reach out and give comfort someone, each of the graduates were given one this year, also many go up to the Twin Cities Union Gospel Mission. We also make handmade projects at holidays for the shut-ins of our congregation. Our hands are always busy. We encourage new people to join us. Watch the bulletin and monthly calendar for times we meet. Currently we have a shortage of yarn so if you happen to have some that you would donate to our group it would be appreciated. You can leave it in the visiting room off of the narthex. Thank you!

### **BOUNDLESS ROOTS FARM VOLUNTEER**

**OPPORTUNITY** Boundless Roots is an organic farm located in Medford. They are working with the Owatonna School district to provide fresh vegetables for the summer food program which targets children and adults who are in need of a helping hand. Boundless Roots is looking for people who are willing to assist in harvesting the vegetables for the school program. I am particularly looking for workers on Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. If this date does not work you can choose any Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. from now through August. Please call Vickie Vannatta to sign-up, 651-261-8373,

### **WHY I BECAME LUTHERAN – by Steve Vannatta**

Let me start this way. As a child growing up in Missouri, I was raised Southern Baptist. I regularly attended Sunday School and was active in many child and youth activities at church as well as attending worship services whenever they were offered. I was even blessed with expanding my Christian experience through a couple of Bible camps. Needless to say, this had an influence on my life, primarily on personal behavior and moral beliefs as a young adult. Like most Baptist children, around age 12, the minister of our church had arranged to come visit our home to discuss my relationship with God, my faith in Jesus and how I felt about being baptized. Naturally, I felt this was the right thing to do. So, we set a date and my baptism was consecrated in the name of the Triune God.

Also during these early years, God brought a Lutheran family into our lives when they moved in next door. I mention this because that family was influential on our entire family. I personally developed a very close relationship with the son in this family (we were about a year apart in age) and my parents developed a similar close relationship with the parents of my newest best friend. As a result, our families spent time together regularly. As we became closer in our relationships, we naturally began to share bits and pieces of our lives, our beliefs and about some differences in our denominations. Over the next couple years, both families had moved and eventually we became neighbors again. Ahh, best friends together again!

As I moved into my teenage years, I continued to be active at church, involved in youth groups and other church related activities. Of course, as one moves into High School and especially college, you become more aware of others around you and their behaviors and

beliefs. Also, like many young adults, you become curious about why there are such differences among people, particularly among those of your same age. Believe me, some of them can be quite different and even persuasive in their opinions. So, naturally you begin to question some of these differences. I have often praised God for bringing this Lutheran family into our lives, because as I developed a relationship with the youngest daughter of this family, I also interacted more with the father. He became like a second father to me. We would have brief moments together doing some chore together and he would share both his humor and faith with me. What I saw in his family and his children, I wanted for my family. I had a great regard for the Christian education that was provided to their children through confirmation class and the understanding they had of the Bible. That was something I admired and wanted to make sure my children received.

While at college, I contemplated many things about my faith, my career, about a wife and how I should move forward in my relationship with the youngest daughter. As a Baptist, I had to consider these religious differences, also. So I attended classes at one of the local Lutheran churches to get a more thorough understanding of the Lutheran religion and its beliefs and practices. I have to admit, I struggled with some of the differences! I was able to resolve these differences, with the help of God, and moved forward. To make a short story longer, I became Lutheran probably much like other people who make decisions. In this case, a decision about what denomination or set of beliefs I would follow going forward. In summary, we all have people throughout our life that have an impact on our life, our beliefs and/or values. I must give the majority of credit to both of my families in this regard.

By the way, yes, I eventually married the youngest daughter of that family. To this day, I am thankful that God brought us together. We still share fond family memories and funny stories when we all get together and reminisce about days past. My prayer for my children has been that our family, and the future families and spouses of my children, might have as much of a positive Christian impact on them as my families have had on me.

**REDEEMER ON THE INTERNET** Our services can be seen anytime on the internet. Simply go to <http://www.owatonnalive.com/Church-services.html> and click on the picture of Redeemer.

**REDEEMER ON THE AIRWAVES** – Charter Cable TV broadcasts our services on Channel 181 each Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Friday at 3:30 p.m.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** for the months of July to September are available on the register stand in the narthex. Pick one up for yourself and one to share.

**Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. except for the Noon hour.**

## PROVIDING THEIR TIME & TALENTS JULY & AUGUST:

**LAY MINISTERS:** July – Dallas Ketchum  
August – Steve Frodl

**READERS:** July – Dallas Ketchum  
August – Steve Frodl

**ORGANIST:** Janda Pitan

### **ALTAR GUILD:**

July 2 & 9 – Angie Reynolds & Jane Dauffenbach  
July 16 – 30 – Jeanette Kispert & MaKenzie Schmidt  
August 6 – 20 – Kathy Brage  
August 27 – Vickie Vannatta & Wilma Halbe

**USHERS:** **July** – Steve Vannatta, Steve Frodl, Ralph Bos,  
Wayne Christofferson

**August** – Steve Schmidt, Tom Brage, Richard Grunklee,  
Jeff Dauffenbach

### **FINANCIAL STATISTICS**

#### **As of June 25, 2017**

Actual Receipts: \$81,227.74  
Budget: \$87,745.58  
Over (under) amount: (\$6,517.84)

**DEATH:** Lynn Klages  
12-5-1940 to 6-21-2017

### **JULY BAPISMAL BIRTHDAYS**

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Michael Boerner | Audrey Long    |
| Shannon Boerner | Kenneth Long   |
| Nathan Brage    | Gail O'Brien   |
| Dee Ann Frodl   | Melissa Rappe  |
| Joanne Grunklee | Larry Reynolds |
| Roger Johnson   | Dennis Schiltz |
| Annie Larson    | Drake Stursa   |
| Gaynor Levos    | Lonnie Timm    |
| Aaron Litke     | Amanda Ulrich  |
| Hayden Litke    | Marvin Worrell |

### **AUGUST BAPISMAL BIRTHDAYS**

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Alexandra Anderson  | Jilene Rappe      |
| Madison Bieber      | Julie Rappe       |
| Emily Burns         | Zachary Reynolds  |
| Jersey Coleman      | Craig Schmidt     |
| Kristi Cook         | Ronald Schmidt    |
| Jeffrey Dauffenbach | Norma Schwartz    |
| Irma Grabau         | Kimberly Strusz   |
| Barry Hanson        | Steven Strusz     |
| Joel Kubista        | Pat Talbert       |
| Samantha Nelson     | Jordan Thostenson |

**NOTE:** If you baptismal birthday is not on this list and it should be call the church office and it will be added.

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!** And when your travel or vacation plans take you out of town, please don't forget to remain current on your weekly offerings as the church budget needs continue year round. You can even donate now online with a credit card by clicking the "Donate Now" link either on Redeemer's web site or on our Facebook page.

## **THE COOK'S CORNER – Hot Fudge Sauce**

¾ cup semisweet chocolate chips

½ cup butter

2 Cups powdered sugar

1 1/3 cup evaporated milk

1 tsp. vanilla

Melt chips and butter over low heat, stirring occasionally. Gradually add sugar and milk, blending well. Bring to a boil and cook for about 8 minutes, stirring constantly. Add vanilla. Serve warm. Makes 2 ½ cups sauce.

Note: We like it over ice cream or cold as a dip for apple slices.

**VOTERS NEWS** Our next Voter's meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2017 in the Social Hall after church. Here are highlights from the April Voters meeting.

**New Voting member:** Lorraine Dostal.

**Minutes** of the January, 2017 Voter's meeting were approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Maynard Maas reported all bills are paid. Expenses are tracking normal for this time of the year. We received a rebate of \$884.00 from Concordia Plans.

**Executive Director's Report:** Steve Schmidt thanked Dallas and Peg Ketchum for taking on the new stove project and for all the donations to this project. The stoves are paid for. The old stoves will be going to Camp Omega this fall.

### **Board Reports**

**Lay Ministry:** Steve Frodl reported we have extra readers to help with the Scripture readings on Sundays. Highway clean-up was on April 24. Thanks to Paul Kujath for putting it together. On Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> we will be having a video on Noah's Ark, thanks to Roger and Doreen Bogen who visited the Ark in Kentucky. AED was paid for by the endowment fund interest. Roger Bogen made a beautiful cabinet for it. 10 people took the CPR/AED training provided by Jarrod Schmol from the Owatonna Fire Department on April 22. There are funds available for two more people to get the training.

**Christian Education:** Steve Schmidt reported that the Youth Easter breakfast was a great success. We have some good chefs in Steve Strusz and Paul Kujath. Peach kick-off will start in May.

**Evangelism/Fellowship:** Rally Lurken reported that the Ash Wednesday soup supper was well attended. In March we served a light breakfast and lunch to the Pastors conference here at Redeemer. Easter baskets for the shut-ins were made by the "Hands at Work" group and delivered by several volunteers. Planning a graduation reception on June 4.

**Church Properties:** Roger Bogen reported that we had to put a new water pump in the boiler. The State came and

inspected the boiler and everything turned up well. The fire extinguishers were also inspected and updated.

**Staff Report:** Pastor reported that all the Synod constitutional amendments that we approved in January were adopted by the required number of congregations. A follow up Koinonia meeting will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> in Peace, Faribault. We had great success in the Camp Omega retreat center project, raising over \$11,000. We still need people of the congregation to write newsletter articles on "Why I am a Lutheran?" Starting in May, Pastor will be doing a five-part sermon series on the first 500 years of Lutheranism to get ready for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in October. May 18 is the deadline for subscribing to the Lutheran Witness. In the month of May, Pastor will be doing Nursing home services, every Thursday at three nursing homes in Owatonna.

### **Committee Reports**

**Endowment Fund:** Steve Frodl reported fund balances are at a total of \$202,191.59. \$1,574.00 of interest from the endowment fund went to purchase the AED equipment.

**Scholarship Committee:** Steve Schmidt reported that we still have \$1,400.30 left in this fund. Several students would be eligible to receive scholarships this year.

**Revitalization Committee:** The team is looking into the possibility of having a bluegrass service and another movie night. They are thinking of having an ice cream/hot dog outreach event in one of the apartment complexes downtown.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** – Board & Officer Candidates for 2017-2019.- Motion to accept by Steve Frodl and seconded in Vaughn Kispert. Motion carried to unanimously approving the list of officers and board members.

Adjourned with prayer by Pastor.  
Attendance - 24

Respectfully submitted ,  
*Jan Worrell*  
**Church Secretary**

**WORSHIP AT ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES** Pastor Griebel will be conducting worship services on Thursday afternoons at two of our local assisted living facilities during the month of August. On August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 pastor will be at:  
Ecumen Countryside, 650 El Dorado St SE, at 3:00 p.m.  
Park Place, 125 Park St E, at 4:00 p.m.  
The residents really enjoy these informal services and, if you join us for this mid-week worship opportunity, you may just run in to an old friend or find a new one.

### **2017-2019 Officers and Board Members** **(\* are newly-elected officers or board members)**

**Executive Director:** Steve Schmidt\*

**Assistant Executive Director:** Vacant

**Treasurer:** Maynard Maas

### **Board of Education (need 2 more)**

Steve Schmidt                      Melody Schwartz\*

### **Board of Christian Fellowship/Evangelism**

Dave Fjordbak                      Bonnie Lurken\*  
Rally Lurken\*                      Elda Krause\*

### **Board of Church Properties**

Roger Johnson\* - Chairperson      Tom Brage  
Wayne Christofferson\*              Chris Blaker  
Douglas Ebeling

### **Board of Lay Ministry (need 1 more)**

Steve Frodl\* – Chairperson              Ralph Bos  
Vaughn Kispert                              Dallas Ketchum

If you would be interested in filling any of the vacant positions listed above, please contact Steve Schmidt at 507-676-4930.

**LARGE PRINT** copies of the hymns and readings we use in the worship service on Sunday are available from the ushers at each service.

**SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS** If you would like to provide flowers to beautify our altar for worship on Sunday morning to honor a loved one or a special occasion, simply sign your name on the Flower Chart located on the bulletin board next to the office and follow the instructions that are posted there.

**LUTHERANISM – THE FIRST 500 YEARS** In July and August we will continue with two more installments of the five-part sermon series, Lutheranism – the First 500 Years, in preparation for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in October. The July 16<sup>th</sup> sermon will cover the years 1717-1817 and the August 20<sup>th</sup> sermon will cover the years 1817-1917. We will hear about J.S. Bach, one of the greatest composers of all time who was also a devout Lutheran and learn about how Lutheranism was introduced to America.

Perhaps most amazing of all is that for 500 years, by God's grace we have been able to maintain the pure teachings of God's Word that were re-emphasized in the church due to the Reformation.

**VBS CLOSING PROGRAM** The closing program for VBS will be held on Friday, July 21, starting at 8:00 p.m. Refreshment will follow. Come and find out what our children learned about Jesus, our Mighty Fortress.

