

'ROUND REDEEMER

Redeemer's Mission: *Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus and the community of faith, offering hope, help and healing in His name.*

Redeemer's Vision: *Connecting to God, connecting to people, connecting to life!*

February 2009

Sundays @ Redeemer

Band-Led Service - 8:30 am
Organ-Led Service - 10 am
Adult Bible Study – 8:30 am
Sunday30 (children) – 8:30 am

Reverend Dr. Harold S. Draeger
Lead Pastor

Reverend Robert E. Wobrock
Minister of Visitation

Eric Robinson
Outreach Pastor

Reverend Dr. John P. Uhlig
Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Michael J. Mancini
School Principal

Redeemer Ministries

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
468 Grand Street
Redwood City CA 94062-2062

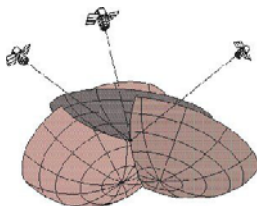
Church Office 650.366.5892
Church FAX 650.366.5898
www.redeemerministries.org
redeemer@redeemerministries.org

School Office 650.366.3466
School FAX 650.366.5897
www.redeemer-school.org
golsen@redeemer-school.org

God, bless the reader of this newsletter ...
may it lift up and edify ... strengthen and
encourage ... challenge and make us
dedicated ... to His Kingdom! In His Name,
Amen!

From Pastor Hal Draeger

RECALCULATING



A popular feature on automobiles is a GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) system. I have one on my car and bought one for Jacque's car last year. It is a handy gismo to find addresses and gas stations and restaurants. I have one on my phone that gives "real-time traffic" – especially nice in the Bay Area. For those who are too macho to ask for directions, it is a real life saver. Once considered a bit of a luxury – now it is a trusted traveling companion. It even has a voice to augment to on-screen directions. No matter how lost I am, it calmly and confidently leads me to my destination.

One of the features that it offers comes up on the display in the clever word "RECALCULATING". When I get off course, it instantly "recalculates" and provides an updated and reliable course to my destination. It doesn't get frustrated with me. It doesn't judge my ability (or lack thereof) to follow directions. It doesn't remind me that I should have listened to its voice. It simply recalculates from where I am and leads me until I hear those wonderful words, "Destination on the Left (or Right)" and ultimately, "Destination."

Consider the work of Christ's Spirit in our lives. More perfect than any GPS, He is able and willing to lead us to our heavenly Father, keeping us on the divinely mapped route of life in our Lord Jesus Christ. Daily and often we get off- course. We find ourselves hopelessly lost. In the midst of our self-abrading and condemnations--how we let ourselves and our God down again, or how could we have been so foolish to allow this situation to take place--comes the clear, gentle voice, "Recalculating." "Let's begin from where we are at this moment and proceed to where we want to be."

At the end of this month, we enter into the season of Lent. Lent is a time for 'RECALCULATING' as we, like a GPS system, zero in to that which orients us – the death and resurrection of our Lord, the cross and empty tomb. For forty days before Easter (not counting the Sundays), we recalculate our lives under the grace of our God. We will have the opportunity through messages on Sunday and small groups during the week to look at how we love others as we are repositioned around the love of God for people that would send His own Son to the cross to redeem us, so he could reposition us as we are locked in on Him. Our major theme will be "40 Days of Love."

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Wouldn't it be great if Holy Spirit would lead us as a community into *frequent worship* during Lent AND into a *small group experience* to help us be fixed on God's great love that will help us love in a healthier way as He leads us to our goal of being fully devoted and developed followers of Jesus? No anxiety producing behaviors, just **RECALCULATING** through the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Won't you join me in "RECALCULATING? See you in worship!

From Pastor John Uhlig

GOD HAS PLANS FOR US

The Book of Esther

I am reading again the ten chapters of the Book of Esther. If you haven't done so recently, reread this exciting story of a girl for whom God had plans, things to do, for Him, for His people, for His church.

Esther was a young, beautiful Jewish girl with a pleasing personality, parents probably dead, living with her uncle, both living as Jewish exiles in Persia. Most of the things that had happened to her were negatives - except God's remarkable plans for her. God had planned that she be the savior of her Jewish people living in Persian exile. It's so interesting to see how God led her into that role as savior of her kinsmen, step by step, but she does not realize it at the time.

Because of her beauty and personality she became - this Jewish girl - the queen of the empire under King Ahasuerus. Almost unbelievable! She has access to the most powerful ruler of her time -the king, her husband.

An enemy of the Jewish people, Haman by name, has a diabolical plan to destroy all the Jews living in Persia. His plan is complete and ready to be carried out, except for God who now uses Esther to intervene. She reveals to the King the evil plot of Haman and the Jewish blood bath is averted.

What are some lessons we can learn from this story? The Lord has plans for all of us, and for each of us. Is this confirmed in the Bible? Yes, in Ephesians 2:8-10, "By grace are ye saved and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." This is our special position in our time and place. We are saved people, saved by grace, saved through faith in Christ Jesus -something that the Holy Spirit has done for us. But WHY did Jesus save us? Listen to the next verse in the Ephesian passage, "We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." The Lord has specific works which we are to do for Him. He has planned these for us to do.

Review your life thus far. See how things are working out for you. Do you see how what you are doing is a part of His plans for you? I am quite far along in my years now, and as I look back I can see how all sorts of pastoral activities and pastoral positions I have held in my life were all a part of His plans for me. As the years go by I cannot do all the things I did when younger. I cannot do as much as I once did. Also that is a part of His plan for me. But I can still do certain things; I can still teach Bible classes, and I do. This too is His plan for me. I look back upon the years and I see it so clearly - I was working out His plans for me. I look ahead - and I see fewer plans for me - because of age limitations. But then I see the culmination of all His plans for me - 1 Peter 1:4, "The inheritance reserved in heaven for you."

So know that the Lord has plans for you. Focus on them, one at a time. Then always move on to His new plans. Adapt to them and complete them. You will experience a life as fulfilling as Esther's life was. To Jesus be all the glory for the plans He has for us in our lives.

“SCARY”

Stop. Take a minute. What were you just worrying about? What felt like a life or death issue 30 seconds ago? Of if you weren't caught up in an anxious moment, why not? Salmonella outbreaks are possible at any time. The flu is always a concern. Our use of antibacterial agents and our overuse of antibiotics are creating an environment to form the dreaded superbug. Are you afraid of bacteria that we cannot kill?



There have been wars at virtually all times throughout our history. It would be naive to think that we, in the US, can't be touched. The attack of Sept 11, 2001 showed us that we aren't necessarily safe even when we are far away from anything resembling a war.

The economy isn't doing so great right now. My head hurts. My nose is stuffed up. Will we get enough rain in 2009? I think my car needs an oil change. What's for dinner? I hope that presentation goes well...

And on and on I go. Worry is remarkably unhealthy, but isn't it hard to look at what is happening around us and not feel a little anxious?

When Jesus said that we should not be anxious, did he mean it? I think he did. There are so many things around us that are in turmoil that it feels like a breath of fresh air to be sure of at least one thing: Jesus. All of the restoration and redemption that you have ever been promised is still there. God is still with you. The Sacraments are still there. You are still baptized.

One of my favorite poets, Yeats, wrote a line in a poem called *The Second Coming* that has run through my head for a long time: "Things fall apart, the center cannot hold." It's such a simple sentence, but there is something very profound in the way it strikes me. Every time I think of it, I tell myself, "I know that feeling." It may feel like things are falling apart, and you know what? That's ok. Jesus is still here.

FRIDAY NIGHT KID FLICKS

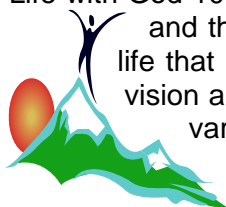
February 27 – 5:30pm-8:30pm – Event Center

Free to those kids who are accompanied by an adult. \$10 suggested donation per child for those dropped off. Theatre treats provided.

*Penguins of Madagascar (5:30pm-7:00pm)
Madagascar Escape 2 Africa (7:00pm-8:30pm)*

LIFE WITH GOD 101 LAUNCHES THIS MONTH

Life with God 101 class is designed to answer questions about life with the God Who made us, and then made us His own. Through Him, He keeps us growing and experiencing a life that is abundant. This class allows you opportunity to become acquainted with the vision and values of the Lutheran community facilitated by Pastor Hal. He addresses a variety of topics and answers many of your common questions. The class also provides a basis for deciding if you want to become a member of Redeemer in a formal way. This 16-week semester launches Thursday, February 5, 7:00pm-8:30pm. Call the church office to register, 366-5892.



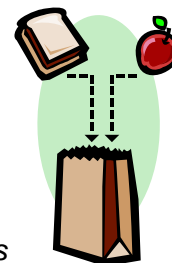
WANTED

- Old Portals of Prayer and other devotional material to distribute through Bags of Love in San Francisco
- Healthy non-perishable (not outdated) food for the Food Basket benefiting Second Harvest.
- 4 cooks (RLC), 7 servers (Maple St), 3 bakers – February 14, Contact Sharron Miller, 364-3124 or lolbiker@comcast.net
- Tutors for K-5 for Roosevelt School, one hour, once a week. Contact Carole Farnum to volunteer, 364-5899
- Chaplains needed for the Spiritual Care Department at the Stanford Medical Center. Interviews given before the first training class in a 6-week series. Contact: Gretchen 723-5101

BAGS OF LOVE

Saturday, February 21, 8:15am - - - help make PB&J sandwiches and pack bags in the Event Center before heading to SF to distribute food and friendship and prayer to the under-resourced folks in the Seneca Hotel. *Please consider this ministry as part of a way to serve God through serving others.* Contacts: Glenn Hessler, ghessler@comcast.net or 364-2739 and Paul Soule, 1pau5@sbcglobal.net or 364-0952.

*Additionally, it costs over \$200.00 per month to pay for supplies...if you would like to contribute make note on your check: **BAGS OF LOVE**. Also donations of creamy peanut butter and strawberry jam are accepted.*



February 25, Ash Wednesday –

7:00am Service with the Imposition of Ashes + Holy Communion

6:00pm Soup Supper

7:00pm Service with Holy Communion

HUNT serves as a venue to build bridges into the local community surrounding the church. HUNT is one of many events where we invest and serve our neighbors by providing a safe setting for families to enjoy a traditional Easter Egg hunt (loaded with lots of candies and prizes). Keep Saturday, April 11 open so you may serve in this ministry. *Redeemer is participating again this year for the 3^d time. More info coming out later.*



CHANGES IN SUNDAY PARKING



In order to accommodate the needs of some of our less mobile worshippers, in the church parking lot along the east side adjacent to the church building (10 spaces + 3 handicapped spaces) will be limited during 8:30am worship. However, the faculty parking lot on Hudson will be opened to general parking during the first service. This will allow for those who are less mobile to find parking for 10:00am worship. Beginning this month, cones will mark the reserved spaces.

ABC 7 SALUTES 3RD GRADERS HELPING KIDS IN TANZANIA

Friday, January 02, 2009 By Lyanne Melendez

REDWOOD CITY, CA (KGO-TV) -- One billion people worldwide live without clean drinking water.

A local organization called Blue Planet Run wants to change that and has challenged a group of Redwood City 3rd-graders to help them build some wells in Tanzania. ABC7 salutes Blue Planet Run and the 3rd graders of Redeemer Lutheran School of Redwood City for helping empower an entire community in Tanzania.

In a video provided by Blue Planet Run children can be seen collecting water to drink from a contaminated stream.

"I think it's kind of sad that they don't know that they're drinking dirty water," said 3rd grader Isaac Shaeffer.

"Other people don't really have clean water like we do. We take it for granted," added classmate Violeta Evans.

The children in Tanzania are forced to walk about four miles to get to the stream.

"On a normal day they would go to school for a couple of hours, and then they would have to leave and go find water in jugs and bring them back to their community," said teacher Lindsey Kinstler.

The money collected by the students and others will go to build wells and pumps.

The hand pumps will bring water to 1200 students at three different locations in Tanzania. The organization responsible for putting all of this together is Blue Planet Run Foundation, based in the Bay area.

"They do the cooking. They do the bathing. They drink out of it. And, as a result people are in the hospital, the community hospitals, all the time," said Lisa Nash.

Nash says bringing clean water would solve more than just health problems. The organization's motto has been, "Where there is a well, there is a way."

"Three villages that one of our partners actually measured after they put in wells, 84 percent more children went to school, and women started up 10 to 15 new businesses in every village," said Nash.

The local community will be in charge of digging the well. Once the project is completed, a management committee comprised mainly of women will be created.

The project fits well with the Redeemer's philosophy of global cooperation.

"The staff had talked about it at staff meetings you know, how can we reach out, how can we make somebody else's life a little better?" said Redeemer Principal Mike Mancini.

The 3rd-graders also learned about the importance of physical activity to stay healthy.

"I love to run because actually, when you run you are actually stretching while you are doing something," said 3rd grader Isaac Bibbs.

The students are doing more than just "something." They are about to change the quality of life of an entire community.

"People will be healthy. Kids can go to school. Women can start businesses. They can even sell the excess water to other communities and make it into a business of their own," explained Nash.

DO WE HAVE A TREAT FOR YOU...

...we're talking about our LIFE ENRICHMENT LUNCHEON dates for February through May. You may want to make some notes on your social calendar if you are 60 or older because these will be fun events you won't want to miss.

Our usual meeting time and day is the second Saturday of the month at 11:00am. That will hold true for our special Valentine Luncheon on Valentines Day, the 14th of February at 11:00am.

However, in March we will meet on Saturday, the 14th at 9:30am in the church parking lot for a trip to Sunny View Retirement Community in Cupertino for a tour, a brief Bible study, and lunch in their dining room.

In April, we will be back in Fellowship Hall for our first annual *Bunco Tournament*, with white elephant gifts galore. Lunch to follow at 12:30pm.

Now really people ... why would you even think of being any place else on the second Saturday of the month when we can have all of this fun and fellowship .. and an excellent lunch to boot!

So sign-up early in Fellowship Hall and bring your best friend along with you. Both of you will be happy you did. If you have any questions at all, feel free to check in with any member of the Life Enrichment Ministry Group ... that is:

Helen Botnarescue, 366-9206

Ruth Finkelstein, 574-3460

Dawn Herman, 366-0519

Elise Hoffman, 366-8891

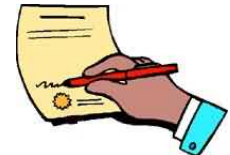
Carolee Nicholson, 595-4321

Fran Rothe, 366-1504

We'd love to see you anytime! Pastor Bob Wobrock

CONGREGATION EXTENDS CALL TO PASTOR ERIC

The paper work is being submitted to Synod's Placement Committee to Call Pastor Eric as the permanent Associate Pastor of Outreach. Subsequent to the completion of his internship and the assignment by the Board of Assignments, he would then become a permanent pastor on our staff. The tentative date for his ordination is the afternoon of June 7.



ROBERT GALBRAITH JOINS WORSHIP LEADERSHIP TEAM AS ORGANIST



We welcome Bob Galbraith as our new organist. Bob comes as a highly experienced organist, accompanist and violinist. He performs regularly as guest organist for churches of various denominations, and with his wife Janet, served as musicians at the BYU Jerusalem Center from April 2007-April 2008. Bob served as organist/choirmaster, and Janet as director of concerts.

As a composer, his works for ecclesiastical venues have been performed by choirs in the United States, and have received broadcast performances both nationally and worldwide by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Bob has served as a judge for the Mu Phi Epsilon Young Artists Competition held at Stanford University, and in the Israeli section of the International Violin Competition held by Lion's Club International.



Stephen Ministry

Stressed? Grieving? Feeling "low"? Please consider accepting a Stephen Minister (this is a non-cost ministry of Redeemer) to walk with you through the many challenges in your life offering hope, help and healing through our Life-Giving God.

Redeemer's Stephen Minister Leadership Team:

Pastor Draeger, Stephen Minister, Teaching & Supervision Leader, 650-366-5892 x20

Karen Kneeder, Stephen Minister, Leader and Referrals Coordinator, 650.366.5892 x16 or via e-mail, karenk@redeemerministries.org.

From Helen Botnarescue, ministry group member

LIFE ENRICHMENT



God enables us through the Life Enrichment Ministry to enhance our latter years by sharing with others our Christian love and fellowship.

Approximately 35 people enjoyed the Life Enrichment luncheon Saturday, January 11. New members *Bob and Michele Stanghellini* were our guest chefs and planned a delicious roast beef, mashed potatoes, and fresh asparagus meal, plus birthday cake with a middle layer chocolate mousse dear to the hearts of all chocoholics for dessert. *Pastor Bob* spoke again about the basics of our faith--the 10 Commandments, the Creeds, and the Lord's Prayer--which form the foundation for "**Aging Faithfully.**" Our guest speaker, *Diane Dvorkin* from the San Mateo County Office on Aging and Adult Services spoke to us about depression. She included what to look for as signs of depression as well as providing ideas for how to combat depression should we experience it.

This month a delicious "dinner" will be prepared by guest chefs *Carl and Denise Maier*. *Pastor Wobrock* continues to remind us of the basic foundations of our faith and amuse us with his pithy and insightful remarks. Entertainment by the Binns, husband on the piano, wife joining him in singing, will delight us, too! Come be a part of this wonderful group of 60 somethings!

In March we will be going to Sunny View Retirement Community in Cupertino and carpool from Redeemer's parking lot. (Details found in Pastor Bob Wobrock's article on the previous page). We will return to Redwood City by 2:00pm. See you all there!



983 TEDDY BEARS COLLECTED IN 2008!

Thanks to all who contributed Teddy Bears to benefit San Mateo County – Children's Fund.



"My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all our friends at Redeemer for their prayers, kind words, cards, phone calls, meals, and flowers given to Ben and me during my recent surgery for breast cancer. God is so GOOD! I am doing well and the pathology reports are positive. Blessings and a Happy and Healthy New Year to all. Grace Cummins-Schnereger

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To all the people that spent so much time in making all those delicious Christmas cookies... I tried so hard to eat just one cookie a day but sorry to say there were days I had 3. Redeemer has the best cooks and bakers. I love the church I've been made to feel so at home here. Love you all, Opal Van Wey

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My deep thanks to everyone in the Redeemer family for your cards, phone calls, and most importantly, for your prayers during my siege of pneumonia. I truly appreciate all the support. Blessings in Jesus, Judy Buchan

From Helen Botnarescue, President

Lutheran Women in Mission

Lutheran Women in Mission affirm, encourage, and enable women, in relationship with the Triune God, to use their gifts in ministry to people of the world.

The start of a new year in January brought a busy Zone 8 schedule for the Redeemer Ladies. Coming in February is not only our regular board meeting on February 2 but Etta Hansen's Bible study at our meeting February 12. With the closing of Baker's Square our regular women's Bible breakfast is "on hold" until a new restaurant is found and available. Already on the 2009 calendar are the advance notices and publicity for the February 21 "Women's Morning of Prayer" to be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Pacifica; the Spring Rally coming March 21 at Grace, San Mateo; and the June 25-28 biennial convention to be held in Portland, Oregon. See the schedule below:

February 2009

Monday February 2, 10:00am: LWIM Board Meeting, Room 2
Thursday February 12, 1:00pm: LWIM Semi-Monthly Meeting, Room 2 (Study Leader: Etta Hansen)
Saturday, February 21, 9:30am: Women's Morning of Prayer, Our Savior's Lutheran Church,
4400 Cabrillo Hwy, Pacifica, 9:30 am: Hospitality (Coffee, tea, juice, snacks)
10:00-11:00am: Worship Service, Leader: Rev. Daniel Kistler
See flyer in Ladies Room and announcement in the Sunday worship folder for more information.

March 2009

Monday, March 2: NO LWIM Board Meeting
Thursday, March 12: NO Regular LWIM Meeting
Saturday, March 21: Zone 8 Spring Rally, Grace Lutheran Church, Alameda, San Mateo
"Speaking the Faith in Everyday Life," Bible study leader, The Rev. Charles Froh
Matthew 16:16, "Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"
Guest speaker: Janet Malzahn, Palo Alto with the question for all: "Have you ever walked away from a conversation and said, 'Now why didn't I share something about my faith?'"
*Ingathering: A \$5.00-\$25.00 gift card from Target, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Wal-Mart, Sears, Walgreen's, or grocery store (you may bring more than one). *More information next month.

Advanced Notice ~Registration opening March 2~

Thursday, June 25 - Sunday, June 28: LWML 33rd biennial convention, Portland, Oregon
Theme: "Look to the Hills - God Reigns" with speakers:
Heidi Floyd - *God reigns... when breast cancer strikes*
Dr. Mary Hilgendorf - *God reigns... with Biblical women of influence*
LCMS President Jerry and Terry Kieschnick - *God reigns... in our church body*
Ruth Koch - *God reigns... in my grief*
Missionaries Michelle Hoepfner & Danielle Putnam - *God reigns... in the mission field*
Jan Struck - *God reigns... in my life story*