

'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!*

August 2008

Redeemer Ministries

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

Sundays @ Redeemer

Band-Led Service - 8:30 am
Organ-Led Service - 10:00 am
Adult Bible Study - 8:30 am
Sunday30 (children) - 8:30 am

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

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

God, please 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

Lead Pastor Ha Draeger shares with us

REDEEMER CARES BECAUSE JESUS CARES



When Jesus saw the crowds who were "helpless and harassed, like sheep without a shepherd" Matthew 9:36, He asked the disciples to pray for laborers in the harvest because He was moved with compassion. In the next verses, He sends the

12 disciples out giving them authority over evil spirits and "every disease and sickness." Our Lord's compassion for people who are lost and distressed prompted Him to heal and to give His disciples that authority as well. His ultimate goal was not only to heal physically but to heal spiritually, to reconcile people to the Father through His death and resurrection.

That compassion for people has been carried throughout the centuries to this very time. The church cares because people matter to God. Redeemer cares because we have been the beneficiaries of the Lord's compassion and now we share with others out of the resources that we have received from our giving God.

That prompted some people more than two years ago to go to San Francisco every third Saturday of the month to serve lunches prepared at Redeemer to residents at the Seneca Hotel on 6th Street. That prompted our involvement in Habitat for Humanity and missions to Mexico as was coordinated by Bill Fox and executed by an 8-person team in June. That prompts people to serve dinners at the Maple Street Shelter in Redwood City and to volunteer to serve homeless families through serving dinners and staffing shelters overnight with Interfaith Hospitality Network. It motivates some to volunteer as chaplains at local hospitals and to donate blood.

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That same compassion has led the Sunday30 kids to raise \$3300 to build a well in Rwanda. The money has now been sent and clean water will be more available as a result. Now Sunday30 has pledged itself to support children through World Vision. In partnership with members of Redeemer, more than 8 new children are being supported, adding to the number of people who are already supporting children through World Vision – some are 2nd generation, some for over 25 years. The Sunday30 offerings this year will go to the support of other children. ***Our children have definitely captured the vision of compassion.*** The cool thing about compassion is the number of doors that are opened to share the reconciling, life-changing love of Jesus. Our

thanks go to *Pamela Estes* and *Stephanie McCollum* for leading the Sunday30 compassion projects and to the volunteers who staffed concessions for the concerts at Stafford park this summer to raise funds for World Vision sponsorships.

God's love changes lives – ours, and through us, others. How great is our GOD!!

Outreach Pastor Eric Robinson shares with us

MY LITTLE PANIC ATTACKS

Luke 9:2a *"And he [Jesus] sent them out..."*

As I begin to look into the next few years and consider the mechanics of starting a new ministry here in Redwood City, I find that the sheer magnitude of the task overwhelms me. Actually, that is a mild way to put it: small panic attacks are probably more accurate. I can't really blame myself for feeling like that, either. It is remarkably difficult to convince people that they need something they don't even believe exists. And then, there are the details. Where will we take root, how will we get involved in our city's culture to meet new people, when will this take place?

It's a lot to panic over, and the details make me dizzy. But then I realize that I am probably making a serious mistake, or if not serious, I am forgetting something important. **JESUS** is the one who sends. He does the sending. *We are sent.* 'Are' is a passive verb. My high-school English teachers used to tell me that passive verbs are bad, but I like them. The passive verb means that Jesus is the active one. Outreach is hard, but I find that I get the most anxious when I start thinking as if I am alone in this endeavor.

Jesus sent out twelve in Luke 9. At another place, he sent out 6 times that number. He also gave them the power to go out and proclaim that God has come to save us. Two thousand years later, it is the same. Jesus doesn't send out Eric; He commissions Redeemer Lutheran, in Redwood City, to reach out to those who don't know His love and grace. He gives us the power to do so, through his Spirit. He promises to be with us. That makes me panic a little bit less.

THE LORD'S SPECIAL BLESSING TO HIS CONGREGATIONS

Every congregation in the Lord's expansive church has received a very special and unique blessing - the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We read about these gifts in Romans 12 & 1 Corinthians 12. These gifts are first of all the members. *"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."* (1 Peter 2:9). The church, the congregation individually, and the congregation collectively, is the body of Christ. *"For just as we have many members in one body, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."* (Romans 12:4-5) As the human body has many members, each with different functions (Romans 12:4), so each congregation has members, many or fewer, each one with a different specific function (Romans 12:5). It is the Holy Spirit Who bestows one or more special gifts (gifts of the Spirit) to each member. *"Since we have gifts that differ, according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly."* (Romans 12:6) Paul lists these special gifts in Romans 11 and 1 Corinthians 12. You will profit by reading these lists.

I belong to a small congregation one mile from our retirement facility. A remarkable feature of this fellowship that is soon noticeable is the Holy Spirit's gifts to the members. One person has and uses his gift of evangelism. He is always gathering similarly gifted members and calling on people in the neighborhood or at the beach, sharing Jesus with people who are willing to listen. By the way, he is a graduate of Stanford University. We have other members, male and female, who have the gift of teaching. I myself have this gift and enjoy sharing Bible truths. Some have the gift of administration and so they administer, with the Pastor, the affairs of the congregation - and they do it well. Many others have the gift of helps; they extend a helping hand wherever and whenever help is needed. That exercise of the gift of helps was so apparent in the recent Vacation Bible School session, where many came to help with the work. The Pastor has a special gift of reaching out to and communicating with children, especially the younger children with the message of the Gospel. They consider him their special friend, and some literally run down the aisle to him when he invites them to come for the children's message.

I still consider myself a member of Redeemer congregation, although in absentia) and I do write monthly articles that I hope you are enjoying. Redeemer also has members especially gifted by the Holy Spirit. Actually EVERY member has some special gift or gifts, given by the Holy Spirit, to be used to the glory of God for the spreading of the Gospel. The Lord does not expect the Pastor or Pastors to do all the things that need to be done, nor does He gift the Pastor with EVERY spiritual gift. He too is expected by the Lord to use his spiritual gift(s) as the Lord directs. Thus when every member uses his gift or gifts, together with the Pastor(s), the work of the Lord goes forward.

Time does not permit to mention all that Paul discusses and teaches in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 about spiritual gifts. But read and study these sections of the Bible. One gets the picture of a healthy human body functioning as it should, as all the members of the body perform their separate functions. That is also a picture of a healthy congregation, functioning as it should, to the glory of God, each member aware of his or her spiritual gifts, and using them as God directs. One gets a beautiful picture of a healthy Christ-glorifying congregation from Ephesians 4:11-13. Do read these verses.

The Holy Spirit is surely blessing our Redeemer congregation, where we "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), and "grow up in all aspects into Him, Who is the Head, even Christ."

*** **

Pastor John Uhlig was awarded an Honorary D.D. (Doctor of Divinity) from the California Graduate School of Theology, May 17 in La Habra, CA (correction from July 'RR)



ATTENTION SUMMER VACATIONERS!

- If your travels include hotel stays (vs. a staycation), please remember to bring any unused travel-sized toiletries back to Redeemer for the benefit of the residents of the Seneca Hotel (Bags of Love).
- If your plans include worshipping elsewhere, please bring a worship folder back to Redeemer to share with the staff. Check at www.lcms.org or Redeemer's church office for locations and times of worship of a Lutheran Church in the area you are visiting.

STATEWIDE FIRES CONTINUE TO RAGE AND HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Lutheran Social Services of Northern California is monitoring the California fires. Many lives are devastated and quite a few people have lost virtually everything but their lives.

Your donations are encouraged and they are tax deductible. Please note on your check or online donation that the funds are to aid fire disaster victims. Donations to the relief efforts may be sent to Lutheran Social Services of Northern California; 988 Oak Grove Road; Concord, CA 94518. Please note that 100% of your contribution to the relief efforts goes to help the victims restore their lives.

Contact Susan Hill for more information: 925.825.1060 x17, or SHill@lssnorcal.org.

FAMILY TIME TOGETHER IN RWC

The Redwood Shores Library, scheduled to open this fall, nestles into a curve of Belmont Slough, making it the perfect location for the planned Environmental Interpretive Center! This center will highlight the life in the sloughs, wetlands, and Bay, offering a community destination for interactive and fun environmental education. Among its elements will be larger-than-life models of mud and water life, a 200-gallon aquarium, and many hands-on and interactive educational activities emphasizing the benefits of wetlands, the interconnected food web, the diversity of microscopic life, and our connection to the environment. There will also be classes, weekend "Seaside storytimes," birding walks, family activities, and other environmental programs hosted by Marine Science Institute and the Sequoia Audubon Society.



The Environmental Interpretive Center has gained some very significant grant support, but still needs an additional \$145,000 to be fully funded. Contributions can be made to the Redwood City Library Foundation, and donors of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on an outdoor Interpretive Center supporter wall. More information on the program and funding is available from Jacky Averill at (650) 780-7016 or averill@redwoodcity.org



ONGOING FOOD DRIVE

The **LARGE** basket by the information table at the entrance to the Event Center gladly receives your donations ... **PLEASE** no outdated, opened or partially used items.

Cans:

vegetables
pork and beans
spaghetti sauce
chili
meat ravioli
stew
soup
tuna fish
sardines
juice
Spam
condensed milk

Jars:

peanut butter
jam
jelly

Packages:

dry beans
pasta
dry rice
Ramen noodles
flour
sugar
toilet paper
Kleenex

Bottles:

syrup
juice

Boxes:

juice boxes
macaroni and cheese
cereal
pancake mix
instant potatoes
soup blends
cookies
graham & saltine crackers
powdered milk

Stephen Ministry

One-on-One Caregiving



Feeling down? Stressed? Unsupported? Lonely? Discouraged? ...

Redeemer offers you an opportunity to reach out for help. Confidential and free!!! Ask one of the Stephen Ministry Leaders (listed below) for your own Stephen Minister. It will really make a difference in your life!

Pastor Hal Draeger, Stephen Minister, Teaching & Supervision Leader, 366-5892 x 20
Karen Kneedler, Stephen Minister, Leader & Referrals Coordinator, 366-5892 x 16
or via e-mail, karenk@redeemerministries.org.

INTERESTED IN GROWING YOUR OWN FOOD?

Join the EDIBLE LANDSCAPING TOUR - Organic Food Grown in Our Neighborhoods, Saturday, August 2, 11:00am – 4:00pm.

Enjoy this self guided and bicycle friendly tour in and around Palo Alto. Learn what motivates your neighbors to grow their own food! Discover how folks weave edible plants into both garden beds and the landscape! Meet the gardeners and get inspired by the special features of their gardens!

To register call 650-493-6072 or online <http://www.conexions.org/vhd/gardentour>. Fee \$35. Registration packet including maps and garden descriptions is given at check in. 10:45am – 3:00pm at Common Ground located at 559 College Ave (1/2 block off El Camino) Palo Alto. Common Ground and the Valley of Heart's Delight, a project of Conexions are co-presenting the tour as part of their shared mission to strengthen the local food system.

If you have extra fruit and veggies in your garden and want to share with the congregation ... please bring them on Sunday with extra bags for easy pick-up and place in the kitchen serving window.



CORRESPONDENCE

*Dear Redeemer Friends and Members,
I cannot express in words how much I appreciate your prayers before surgery, during, and now my recovery! The many cards, telephone calls, and visits also gave me great joy and comfort. May God bless you all.*

In Christian love, Ellen Leroux

LIFE WITH GOD 101 LAUNCHES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17!



- Receive a basic overview of Christian faith
- Deepen your walk with God
 - Mark your calendar now and sign-up (below)

Life with God 101 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 will address a variety of topics and answer 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 is launching next month! It is held on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30pm in Conference Room 1. To register, contact the church office 366-5892 x11.

REDEEMER GOING “GREEN”

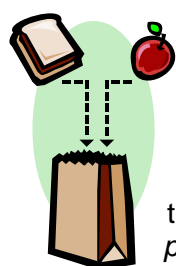


In our efforts to go more “green” around Redeemer, there are two items of interest for you to take note:

- *Redeemer water bottles are available for your use and to share with others. Suggested cost: \$5.00 with \$1.00 going toward World Vision Child Sponsorship. Please continue to save your recyclables to benefit Multiple Sclerosis Research.*
- *Adam and Clayton Duval and others are forming a “Duval Green Task Force.” If you have any ideas or would like to serve in this area, please contact Pastor Hal (366-5892 x20).*

Δουλος Χριστος Ιησου AWARD

Redeemer developed the Δουλος Χριστος Ιησου AWARD as a unique way to acknowledge the extraordinary service of people of God at Redeemer. Δουλος Χριστος Ιησου is Greek for "Servant of Christ Jesus." The Apostle Paul always considered himself as a servant of Christ the Lord. We have many people at Redeemer who have shown that servant heart of our Lord who Himself said, "I came not to be served but to serve." And that He did from Bethlehem's manger to the Jerusalem cross. People who have exemplified the servant heart of Jesus include a group of guys who faithfully maintain the yards of Redeemer and who do some routine handyman work. We lovingly call them **The Friday Guys**. Every Friday throughout the year, they care for the landscaping and fix sprinklers and do other odd jobs. *Les Voll* is approaching 30 years of service and is now in his 90's. *Roy Salvato* has recently retired for health reasons. *Vince Barbaria* is next in line for seniority and is followed by *Gordon Jones* and *Marion Kneedler*. The "newbie" is *Eddy Kehler*. They are not only great at talking and eating pastries and drinking coffee – they are models of what it means to sacrificially serve the Lord and His church. They were recently honored for their service to Jesus and Redeemer with "The Friday Guys" t-shirts, certificates and great big **THANKS**.



BAGS OF LOVE

Saturday, August 16, 8:15am

Help make PB&J sandwiches and pack bags in the Event Center of Redeemer before heading to San Francisco 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.* Questions: 366-5892.

Redeemer being an Acts 2 worship center fits under the description of what was happening for the followers of Christ after their baptism in Acts 2:41-47. It reflects both the Great Commission (to make disciples by baptism and teaching) and the Great Commandment ("love one another as I have loved you"). It is consistent with the words of Paul, who wrote,

"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).

It parallels our own understanding of the five key features of discipleship that reflect being committed to the Christ who committed Himself to us on the cross: **Celebrate** God's grace, live together in **Community**, **Cultivate** our relationship with God, **Care** for those in our fellowship and those in the community, and **Communicate** Christ to those who do not have a relationship with Him.

SUNDAY30's COMPASSION FUNDRAISING



⇨ Angila painting Sarah Stanghellini's face (Jake McCollum in background)

For almost two years, the Sunday30 kids have been collecting their offering to raise \$3,000 to construct a water well in Rwanda through the Rwanda Clean Water Project so that more people in that country can have better access to clean water. During June, the Sunday30 kids learned about the importance of clean water for good health, and the fact that many people in our world don't have ready access to it. Many of the kids were moved with compassion and wanted to do something to make sure we reached our goal. We contacted the Redwood City Parks and Recreation Dept. to see if we could put a spotlight on our cause, and do some fundraising at one of the summer concerts at Stafford Park. The Parks and Recreation Dept. gave us permission to sell at a concession booth and do face painting and temporary tattoos at two of the summer concerts on June 25 and July 2. We were grateful for this opportunity.

RLM booth with Challeen & Karl Flick, Gabriela & Violeta Evans ⇨



Before the summer concerts began, the Sunday30 kids reached their goal of \$3,000 to construct water well in Rwanda. Praise God! So, we turned our fundraising efforts to our next compassion project – child sponsorship through World Vision. According to World Vision, there are 2 billion children in the world, and half of those children live in poverty. Think about that. For every child that you know who is well taken care of, another child in the world is living in poverty.

On June 25 and July 2, we set-up a canopy, tables and chairs at Stafford Park and went to work! We sold cookies and Rice Krispy Treats with milk and offered face painting and temporary tattoos for a donation. We didn't sell that much food (we donated the remaining food and milk to St. Anthony of Padua's kitchen), but the face painting and tattoos were a hit! We all had a great time, and raised \$135 that we will contribute to sponsoring one or more children through World Vision.

A BIG thanks to all who participated in this successful fundraising event:

Stephanie & Jake McCollum

Challeen & Karl Flick

Bob, Michele, Sarah & Zachary Stanghellini

Monika & Angila Rodriguez

Susie & Dave Gilbert, Taylor Madsen, Sarah & Caitlin Gilbert

Gabriela Mendoza Evans & Violeta Evans

Eric & Katy Robinson

Pamela Estes & Alexander Nemzek



Ministry Leader Helen Botnarescue writes

LIFE ENRICHMENT



God will enable us through the Life Enrichment Ministry to enhance our latter years by sharing with others our Christian love and fellowship not only in this life but for that which is yet to come.

Introducing the coming year's theme for the luncheon get-togethers for the over-50 crowd **AGING FAITHFULLY**. Beginning on Saturday, September 13, 11:00am (devotional, entertainment, food and sharing of friendships) you have a standing invitation every second Saturday, as together as God's family in this place, we age faithfully. Please mark your calendar and bring a friend, too!



DINING FOR DOLLARS

Redwood City FRESH CHOICE – Tuesday,
August 19

11:00am-9:00pm lunch or dinner/benefit 15% of your bill to RLS
http://www.freshchoice.com/flyers/redwoodcity_rls8-19.pdf

HEAD TO HEART STARTS SEPTEMBER 9

The Middle School Ministry that leads to Confirmation and communicant membership launches its new season on *Tuesday, September 9* from 7:00-8:30pm. The group meets each week for conversation and study of the Scripture and Luther's Small Catechism. It involves discussion in large and small groups, prayer, servant events, and some social activities. It is a three-year curriculum that begins typically with those in grade 6. Pastor Hal and Pastor Eric will team facilitate the class with guides who will lead the small group experiences. Register in the church office by phone (650-366-5892 x16) or email karenk@redeemerministries.org



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.*

Calendaring events for you:

Fri.-Sun., 5-7 September	CNH LWML Fall Weekend Retreat at Villa del Mar, Santa Cruz Registration deadline: August 5
Mon., 8 September, 10:00am	LWIM Board meeting, Classroom 2 (as needed)
Sat., 4 October, 8:30am	First meeting of the Women's breakfast group, Baker's Square, RWC
Thurs., 9 October, 1:00pm	Fall LWIM meeting in Classroom #2

HA HA HEALTH AND HEE HEE HOPEFULNESS

Friends, we mustn't deny it any longer. We are happy. Yes, it's true. We have been known to chuckle in movie theaters, giggle at jokes on the internet, cackle in public and some of us have even laughed while at church! It's shocking! But the time is now to come clean. The Secret Society of Happy People¹ has declared August "Happiness Happens Month" so we can finally admit that happiness still happens in this crazy, chaotic world. We can be free to flaunt our happiness—really, it's ok! To further back our argument in favor of happiness, the Mayo Clinic offers some ways in which laughter is good for your health.² Read on "humor hound"....

Physical Benefits

Laughter...

- ☺ Stimulates your heart, lungs, and muscles
- ☺ Enhances oxygen intake
- ☺ Increases endorphins released by your brain
- ☺ Helps combat stress by easing digestion and stimulating circulation
- ☺ Produces natural pain killers in the body
- ☺ Eases difficult situations

Think Happy Thoughts...

When you think positively, neuropeptides are released in your body that can help combat stress and possibly other illnesses. So think happy!

Here's Help to Happy-It-Up

- ☺ Spend more time with friends
- ☺ Watch a funny movie
- ☺ Read the comics
- ☺ Share amusing stories with others
- ☺ Play games
- ☺ Look on the bright side of things and try to find humor in unexpected places
- ☺ Remember God's love for you!

Good Joke or Bad Joke?

Knowing what is and isn't funny is important. Laughing at the expense of others can be hurtful and isn't appropriate. Be creative and thoughtful when trying to make others laugh so a good time may be had by all.

1. "Celebrate Happiness Happens Month & Day." The Secret Society of Happy People. Available at <http://www.sohp.com>; Internet; Accessed 7/2/2008.
2. "Laugh Your Way to Stress Relief." MayoClinic.com. Available at <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/stress-relief/SR00034>; Internet; Accessed 7/2/2008.

[Halternews] newsletter

LCMS World Mission
800-433-3954 <http://www.lcmsworldmission.org>
Carol Lee Halter
Serving the Lord and the LCMS in Hong Kong

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last June I had the great joy of going with the San Francisco Chinese Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit to visit government (Three-Self) churches in Sichuan. One year later, this June, I went there again—but this time it was because of the earthquake. Our team of three, Rev. Carl Hanson, Miss Michelle Hoepfner and I went there to assess the needs that are being met locally and also those that are in need of further support. We were able to see some of the same people whom I have known for several years.

But now many of their churches have been destroyed by the earthquake. How can I tell you the sorrow in my heart? Please pray for all these dear Christians. The Bible says that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39) He is our strength and our steadfast hope forever. Do pray that these church buildings will be re-built quickly so that they can be used for the proclamation of this good news of God's love to the many people in Sichuan who do not yet know our Lord and Savior. Thank you for your love and prayer support.

With you in Christ,
Carol Lee Halter

You might have read the following information in the June 2008 Asia Ablaze Newsletter: "LCMS World Mission will work together with its partner, The Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod, to provide assistance to the CCC as it begins relief efforts in the areas of counseling for survivors, and rebuilding churches and training centers destroyed by the earthquake, along with a host of additional humanitarian projects. You can help support this work by responding to an appeal for donations issued by LCMS World Mission, along with LCMS World Relief & Human Care and Lutheran Hour Ministries. Checks can be sent to LCMS World Relief and Human Care, P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861, making sure to mark the check "China Church Earthquake Response," or call toll-free in the U.S. at 1-888-930-4438."

