

# '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!*

## November 2008

### 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

**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 Administrator*

### REDEEMER MINISTRIES

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
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Redwood City CA 94062-2062

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

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

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 Hal Draeger shares with us

## GIVING THANKS – ALWAYS

As we enter November, we are mindful of the many good things we are privileged to experience. We remember the early settlers of our nation who paused to give thanks for the harvest. Their lives were not easy and they remained thankful. We are so blessed. The global economy has been a severe snow storm. However, our God is good. We have heard the expression "God is good all the time. All the time God is good." That remains as true today as it always has been. Paul wrote to the Philippians while under two years of house arrest, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice." The key thought is that our joy and thanksgiving is always in the Lord. It is always in connection with the Savior who died and rose that we might have life and have it abundantly. The abundance is not always financial security. It is always in the constant connection we have through faith in the One who died and rose for the forgiveness of sins. It is in the One who promised, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) In good times and in difficult times, our God is the constant with His grace offered through His Son. He invites us through that same Apostle Paul in the same letter to the Philippians (4:6-7), "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition *with thanksgiving*, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds *in Christ Jesus*. As we dig out from the global economic windstorm and as others in our country continue to dig out from



recent hurricanes, we continue to give thanks for the grace of God in our lives and for His constant presence and provision. And as we do, we continue to experience the peace of God that transcends all understanding. To help us focus our thanksgiving, we will have special Thanksgiving Day Worship at 9:00am, November 27. If you are not at home, I encourage you to find a place of worship so that you can gather with God's people to acknowledge His goodness and provision and our need for Him in our lives for material and spiritual blessings.

Thanksgiving Worship Service  
Thursday, November 27, 9:00am

## **ELIJAH IS TAKEN TO HEAVEN**

2 Kings 2: 11-13

What a tremendous story! Elijah is taken to heaven without experiencing death! Read about it in 2 Kings 2:11-13. They are walking along, the two of them. Elijah knows that the Lord is going to come for him to translate him to heaven (2 Kings 2:9). But he does not know HOW this was going to take place. Would he die first and then his soul be taken to heaven? Or would it happen in some other way? He did not know.

The way it actually happened was far beyond anything he could have imagined. We read in 2 Kings 2:11, one verse only, *"Then it came about as they were going along and talking, that there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire, which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven!"* Notice, that two of them, Elijah and Elisha were walking along in conversation, talking about kingdom work. Then - suddenly - a chariot of fire - and horses of fire - and a whirlwind. Elijah is swept up into the chariot of fire - then HEAVEN!! What an experience!

We hear nothing more about him until Matthew 17, the New Testament writing about the Mount of Transfiguration. There Elijah is on the Mt. of Transfiguration, with Moses, both in their glorified bodies, conversing with Jesus, who is revealing Himself in the fullness of His deity and glory. Conversing about what? Matthew does not say. We can only imagine. Was it about the salvation work which lay ahead of Jesus to complete his work of atonement - the cross, His death, His resurrection, His ascension into glory, His rule as King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

An astounding story this is! Note these points.

(1) Elijah knew that the Lord was coming to take him to heaven. So do we. You and I know this. Of a certainty Jesus is coming for us! John 14:3, *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am there ye may be also."* That is a for-sure truth!

(2) When will it happen? Elijah did not know for sure when. For him - anytime - and soon! Neither do we know when. But God has appointed a time, a day, an hour, a place when! Read Job 14:5 - *"Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with Thee, and his limits Thou hast set that he cannot pass."*

(3) Elijah was ready and prepared. He knew for sure that the Messiah would come (Job 19: 23-27), and that his salvation was sealed through faith in the Messiah to come. Also we can be fully and totally prepared for that moment! How? *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."* Lord, I do believe!

(4) In the meantime Elijah shared his faith with another, with Elisha, and Elisha did the same. We also fellowship with family and friends and we discuss with one another our faith and our future, and that one day Jesus will come for us. We strengthen one another.

(5) Then it happened for Elijah! Chariots of fire and horses of fire and a whirlwind! Then HEAVEN! Surprise! Surprise! Heaven! What a place - of glory - of fellowship - with Jesus - with the saints in glory, and worship, and service! Chariots of fire for US? Better than that. Jesus says that HE is coming for us. John 14:3.

(6) Elijah is sent on a mission in Matt. 17, to meet with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, together with Moses, to share with Jesus about the great benefits of His work of atonement. The Lord is going to have things for us to do in heaven. Rest assured. We'll be busy and enjoying it too.

Read 2 Kings 2:11-13; read the entire chapter, at your leisure, perhaps alone and then with someone or family. Then discuss, and talk, and pray.

Also read John 14:3. What glorious truths. The Lord is coming one day - TO TAKE ME TO HEAVEN!! That simply makes me smile all over.

## THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

*Thursday, November 27 – 9:00am*

## CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP SERVICES

*Each Sunday in December – 8:30 and 10:00am*

*Wednesdays – December 3, 10, 17 – 7:00pm*

*Wednesday, **Christmas Eve**, December 24  
5:00pm and 11:00pm*

*Thursday, **Christmas Day**, December 25 – 10:00am*



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS** -Sunday, November 2, 2:00am  
*Set clocks back on Saturday night before you go to bed!*

## **FAMILY POTLUCK DINNER AND MOVIE**

### **Redeemer Families and Friends Invited!!!**

Friday evening, November 14, for a Potluck Dinner and Movie Night Hosted by Sunday30.

The Sunday30 Leadership Team would like to invite Redeemer families to come out for a potluck dinner and a movie on Friday evening, November 14! This will be a great opportunity to relax with other families, eat dinner, and enjoy conversation with other adults while the kids watch a movie. You and your children are welcome to bring friends!

⇒ Potluck Dinner: 5:30pm until 6:30pm followed by a Sunday30-sponsored Ice Cream Sundae Bar: 6:30pm until 6:45pm

⇒ Movie Starts: 6:45pm “VeggieTales’ major motion picture release: “The Pirates Who Don’t Do Anything” (Running Time: 85 minutes)

Before Wednesday, November 12, please R.S.V.P. to Pamela Estes, 780-9727 or [pkestes@rcn.com](mailto:pkestes@rcn.com) or Stephanie McCollum, 364-1319 or [stephanoli@yahoo.com](mailto:stephanoli@yahoo.com), if you plan to attend.

## **REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

*We Exist to Build a New Generation of Christian Leaders  
Prepared to Thrive in a Rapidly Changing World*

### **IS IT REALLY NOVEMBER ALREADY?**

There are roughly 60 days until Christmas! Bet you didn't want to hear that! Yet here we are, ready to FINISH our second full month of school. As I look back on the first quarter, it is great to see how God has blessed our ministry with this wonderful school - 52 years of educating young children spiritually and academically. We use Christ's message daily to be messengers and models of the gospel, as we become a permanent part of their lives. I realize how blessed we are to be lights that shine God's love to those with whom we come in contact. I am reminded of the words Jesus spoke in Matthew 5:14-16.

***"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."***

These words not only describe who we are, but they also describe what we are to be. Jesus spoke these words to remind each of us that we have a responsibility to shine *His* love to others in all that we do. So often it is easy for us to put our own light under a bowl and not allow it to shine to others. The question is, "Are we shining

bright enough to allow others to look into our reflection of Christ?" There is no better place and no better time to the light that God has called us to be than **RIGHT NOW!**

In a few days we will be electing a new President to lead our nation through these challenging times. Many people are anxious over the state of our Nation, our Church, and our School. Yet I know that we have a great God who reminds us daily to lean on HIM! We have seen many difficult times over the past 52 years at RLS, yet our awesome God has continued to guide us through to today! I continue to turn to the account of Jesus in the wilderness (Luke 4). This passage reminds me that as we experience the wilderness we also experience Jesus' amazing love!

The teachers and I will head down to Long Beach, for three days, at the beginning of Thanksgiving break for the annual Educators Conference. This year the conference will be hosted by CAPSO (Calif. Association of Private Schools Organization). We will join 3000 other educators as we look forward to an enriching and educational time together.

*Please continue to spread the word about our school and the great things that are happening around Redeemer. Our greatest recruiting tool is word of mouth. You are our most important spokesperson. Make a difference in a child's and their family's educational experience. Have them come by or give us a call.*

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**Nov. 4 ~ ELECTION DAY....EVERYONE PLEASE VOTE!**

**Nov. 15 @ Redeemer ~ D.C. Fundraiser ~ Spaghetti dinner and Bingo Event 5:30-8:30pm**

**Nov. 24-28 ~ Educators Conference/Long Beach & Thanksgiving Break**

**Redeemer Lutheran Ministries is An Acts 2 Church**

*Connecting People to Jesus and Helping Them Grow Spiritually*

# THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

Thanks to everyone who has already participated in our Redeemer School fundraising programs. These fundraisers have helped our school purchase a new library management system. They also pay for field trips, for materials for the "Art in Action" classes, and a lot more!



An easy way to contribute is by purchasing any of the gift cards via the attached order form at the end of the newsletter.

These gift cards are just like cash, and are available in different denominations for hundreds of local stores. You can use these gift cards to purchase everyday staples like food, clothing, and other essentials - and with every purchase, revenue is generated for Redeemer School.

November 3 and December 2 are the last order dates for this year. *There is an order form attached* and additional order forms are available from the church and school offices.

## BRIGHT IDEA:

*As the time changes (2:00am on November 2) consider also changing the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors!!!*



## INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Every day needy families in San Mateo County are welcomed and cared for by the dedicated volunteers that form the IHN community. Many individuals from the Redeemer congregation offer their evenings, their nights, their food and their smiles to ensure that no one is without a warm place to find peace.

Please join us for our Annual Thanksgiving Service as we give thanks to these wonderful volunteers and celebrate the tremendous difference they make. All members of Redeemer are welcome to join us for this interfaith evening of music, sharing and thanks. Redeemer IHN volunteers are especially invited and urged to attend.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 7:30pm.

COLLEGE HEIGHTS CHURCH (located between Alameda and Freeway 92 off 280)  
1150 W. HILLSDALE BLVD., SAN MATEO



## TEDDY BEAR DRIVE

The annual **Teddy Bear Drive** kicks into high gear the Sunday after Thanksgiving (November 30) right through the end of worship on Sunday, December 14. Children love huggable, lovable, cuddly dark-colored bears (new -12"-18") to help reassure them during stressful times. Bears will be on display in the Worship Center. Benefit: San Mateo County – Children's Fund. Our goal this year is over 1000 bears.

# MISSIONARY CAROL LEE HALTER TO SPEAK AT REDEEMER NOVEMBER 2 AND 3



For about 20 years, Redeemer has partnered with the Mission Board of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in supporting with monthly offerings the missionary ministry of Deaconess Carol Lee Halter in Hong Kong. Every three years, Carol returns on Sabbatical to the States to give us an update on what God is doing through her ministry in Hong Kong. She will be speaking to the congregation in both worship services on November 2 and will have time with the students of Redeemer School on November 3. We look forward to hearing of the progress of the Gospel in this part of China.

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*Warm greetings to you from Hong Kong.*

*Not long ago I made an appointment with a teen-age girl to share the Gospel with her. I brought along some Christian materials and other presents that I wanted to give her. As it turned out, she never showed up. But just as I was walking down the street from her home, her aunt came out of a clothing store. Her aunt, Mrs. Tam, had never heard about the Lord Jesus before, and was thrilled to hear of His love as we walked along together. When I told her of God's love, she kept repeating in wonder, "God loves me. Jesus loves me. He really loves me." I assured Mrs. Tam that this is true.*

*(When I talk about walking around with Mrs. Tam, it means we are walking on the ground level between all the buildings. The ground level is where the shops and schools are).*

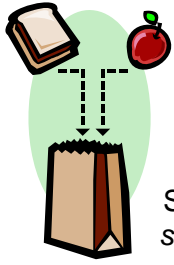
*The next day Mrs. Tam invited me to her home to meet her husband. As he did not know how to read very well, I brought some pictures of the life of Jesus along with me to explain about God's love. Both husband and wife came to believe, and so I gave them a big plaque saying, "Christ is the Head of My House." I did not give them a picture of Jesus to hang up lest they think they should worship the picture, or that Christ is somehow inside the picture. When I visited them the next time, I saw that they had put wide red ribbons around the plaque to indicate how much they honored Christ. Do pray for them that they will be baptized soon.*

*I will am visiting Redeemer November 2 and 3, I would greatly enjoy seeing you and invite your family and friends, too.*



*With love in Christ,  
Carol Lee Halter  
Missionary to the Chinese people  
LCMS World Mission  
800-433-3954  
<http://www.lcmsworldmission.org>  
Serving the Lord and the LCMS in Hong Kong*

*We want all to believe and be baptized.  
Brother Wong baptizes Mr. Ho  
Concordia Lutheran Church  
Kowloon, Hong Kong*



## **BAGS OF LOVE**

**Saturday, November 22, 8:15am**

Are you available to offer your time to 1) help make PB&J sandwiches and pack bags in the Event Center of Redeemer and/or 2) going 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: Glenn Hessler, 364-2739 or Paul Soule, 364-0952.

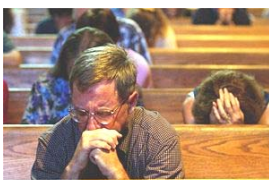
### PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAVE

- Jackets, sweaters, blankets (gently used and clean)
- Used batteries for recycle
- Food to be left in the food basket or in refrigerator if it is perishable
- Campbell Soup labels - vans for Lutheran Navajo Mission, Rock Point, Arizona
- "Education Box Tops" to benefit Redeemer School
- Personal hygiene supplies, cosmetics, dental supplies, and travel size toiletry for "Bags of Love"

**Please bring all (except perishable food that can be left in the church kitchen refrigerator – plainly marked) to the recycle center at the entrance to the Event Center.**

## **SHARING THE VISION – THIRD INSTALLMENT**

In 2002 Redeemer embarked on its first *Sharing the Vision Funding Campaign*. At the time the vision was still in its infancy. By the end of Sharing the Vision, we had drawings and sketches of the new building, and construction was underway. We raised over \$1 million. We launched a second funding campaign in 2005 which to date has raised over \$785,000 toward a goal of \$834,000. We are now launching a third Sharing the Vision Funding Campaign because on January 1, we will be facing a \$22,000 monthly mortgage payment with no Sharing the Vision funds to assist. We anticipate that the enrollment of the School will continue to grow over the next three years to a place that, between revenues from school tuition and regular offerings, we will be able to meet the monthly mortgage. In addition, we have not been able to build out the old classrooms into an administrative center so that we can recover the space temporarily taken for school offices. The space in the Event Center that was used for a nursery and café needs to be opened up for congregational use once again. The build-out is estimated to be \$355,000. This has been in the plans since the first funding campaign and was a main feature of the second. We hope to be able to complete this part of the vision as well as meet the mortgage needs over the next three years. Special meetings will lay out the need during November, and a new Commitment Sunday with a Special Event will be on December 7.



### **PRAYER VIGIL**

**Saturday, November 22, 7:00am-7:00pm**

**Redeemer Worship Center - *If you would like to host one or more hours, please contact the church office (366-5892).***

Ministry Leader Helen Botnarescue shares with us

## **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.*

Apologies for late kudos to *Rose Gsell*, our chef who prepared a delicious dinner of cabbage rolls for the September Life Enrichment luncheon.

Our Oktoberfest Life Enrichment luncheon was beautifully prepared by chefs *Rick* and *Donna Beaman* with *Frieda Gress* preparing her delicious, authentic red cabbage. All present, including members of the San Mateo Senior Center Band who stayed to eat with us, praised the bratwurst, German potato salad, red cabbage and carrot cake dessert. It seems appropriate to thank our loyal kitchen crew who month after month assist our volunteer chefs: *Madel Duval* and sons *Adam* and *Clayton*, *Virginia Nelson*, *Dorothy Patterson*, and *Mardell Rogers* with help also from *Fran Rothe* and *Corinne Wobrock*. A big thank you also goes to *Dawn Herman* who arranges our great entertainment and sets out cards for us to send to absent friends with health difficulties. *Pastor Bob* was in his usual element and reminded us that he will be beginning a series of talks related to "spiritual discipline" which all starts with Martin Luther's reminder that everything we have comes from God through scripture, faith, and His grace.

*Helen Botnarescue* and *Ruth Finkelstein* each read a short essay about an event they remembered from childhood. Helen spoke about her experiences in the hurricane of 1939; Ruth spoke about taking her niece to Canada and visiting the town in which Ruth had grown up. Next month Pastor Bob has asked for volunteers to write and talk about a Thanksgiving experience they remember. Fran Rothe will be one of our presenters, and already we have volunteers to speak about their fond memories of Christmas.

November's Life Enrichment luncheon will come on November 8, so mark your calendars right now. Thanksgiving dinner is the plan for turkey, trimmings, sweet potatoes, and, of course, pumpkin pie! Entertainment will be provided by singer and musician Lionell Sequeira.

See you all there!



**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

***Wednesdays, 6:30am-7:30am***

President Helen Botnarescue shares with us

# 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.*

October started off with the first Fall Women's Bible Breakfast program. Study leader *Lisa Mancini* continued with an excerpt from Max Lucado's 3:16 which she had been using last Spring. As always, those present were challenged to relate the reading to our current lives. *Special note for the November Bible breakfast\**.

A few Redeemer members attended the Zone 8 LWML Fall Rally, held at Trinity Lutheran Church Saturday, October 18 with the Rev. Jeff Schufreider leading an inspiring Bible study on the theme of "Deep Waters: Grow in Faith", based on John 7:37b-38. "Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him'." The Rev. Woo from Hope Lutheran in Daly City also spoke. The ingathering consisted of monetary donations to benefit the Northern California fire victims.

At the October LWIM meeting we were privileged to hear *Dorothy Hessler* share her experiences as a missionary in Papua New Guinea. She regaled us with examples of some of the differences that exist between cultures and how she learned about the good that resides in all people. We all enjoyed her photos of people and life in Papua New Guinea.

Remember: **No meeting in November** and here's an advanced "heads up" for December--We'll have our usual Christmas Tea, starting at 12:00 Noon with finger sandwiches and cookies, followed by entertainment by the 5th and 6th graders from the school. So mark your calendars now for December 11.

## November Calendar

\*Saturday, November 1 – 8:30am Women's Bible Breakfast, Baker's Square, RWC  
*Contact Lisa Mancini with questions, menu and attendance, 365-3835*

Monday, November 3, 10:00am LWIM Board Meeting (if needed)

Sunday, November 9, 5:00pm-9:00pm

Auction, Entertainment and Dinner

Grace Lutheran Church, 3149 Waverly St., Palo Alto

5:00pm – Silent Auction & Entertainment

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Live Auction

\$25.00 to benefit Lutheran Social Services of Northern California

Remember there will be **no regular meeting in November!**

## December Calendar

Monday, December 1, 10:00am LWIM Board Meeting, Event Center

Saturday, December 6, 8:30am: Women's Bible Breakfast, Baker's Square, RWC

Thursday, December 11, 12:00pm (noon): LWIM Annual Christmas Tea (Event Center)

# Stephen Ministry

One-on-One Caregiving



Feeling down? Stressed? Unsupported? Lonely at the holidays? 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 Kneeder**, Stephen Minister, Leader & Referrals Coordinator, 366-5892 x 16  
or via e-mail, [karenk@redeemerministries.org](mailto:karenk@redeemerministries.org).

## BAPTISM

Brandon Quandt  
Parents: Andrew & Sharon



## CORRESPONDENCE

*Hi Redeemer, I sponsored a child thru World Vision, and I just got my first "letter" from her (she's only 4 years old and has no siblings); the "letter" was written in Spanish and translated for me - but she enclosed a drawing - she traced her little hand on a piece of paper and drew 2 little stick figures!! Absolutely adorable!! I had sent a picture of me and my shih-tzu puppy, P.J. for her to see and also wrote her a letter. It's so rewarding. I've never done anything like this before; I'm so glad I did!! Thanks! Lauren Spini*

### **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A CHILD THROUGH WORLD VISION:**

<http://www.worldvision.org/content.nsf/sponsor/sponsorship>

**OR TELEPHONE: 1-888-511-6548**

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*Dear Redeemer Members and Friends:*

*Thank you very much for your many prayers, cards, gifts (even the nose), and best wishes during my surgery and initial recovery. The Lord has mightily blessed me again and I am very grateful. "Blessings in Jesus" to you all, Glenn Hessler*

