

# '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 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**  
*Senior Pastor*

Reverend Robert E. Wobrock  
*Minister of Visitation*

Reverend Dr. John P. Uhlig  
*Pastor Emeritus*

Mr. Michael J. Mancini  
*School Principal*

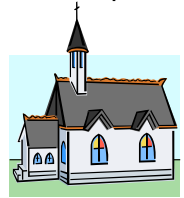
God, please bless the reader of this newsletter  
... may it lift up and edify ... strengthen and  
encourage ... challenge and make us  
dedicated ... to His Kingdom! In His Name,

From Pastor Hal

## DEEPENING YOUR LOVE FOR GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

As I was pondering what to share for February's 'Round Redeemer, I thought it should have to do with love. That made sense to me since Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and focuses us anew on the love our heavenly Father has for us – a love that would sacrifice His Son for us – and it contains Valentine's Day. Fortuitously, an article was shared with me that I thought could easily be adapted to help us think about how to deepen our loving relationship with God and with others. It has to do with a common roadblock to deepening relationships at every level – **BUSY!!**

It seems that Satan called a worldwide convention of demons. His opening address: We can't keep Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from forming an intimate relationship with their Savior. Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken. So let them go to their churches; let them have their covered dish dinners, BUT steal their time, so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ.



This is what I want you to do, said the devil: Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!

How shall we do this? his demons shouted.

Keep them *busy* in the non-essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds, he answered. Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow. Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days each week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children.

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As their families fragment, soon, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work! Over-stimulate their minds so they cannot hear that still, small voice. Entice them to play the radio or CD player whenever they drive and to keep the TV, VCR, CDs and their PCs going constantly in their home and see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly. This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ. Fill the coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogs, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services and false hopes.

Give them Santa Claus to distract them from teaching their children the real meaning of Christmas. Give them an Easter bunny so they won't talk about Jesus' resurrection and power over sin and death. Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted. Keep them too busy to go out in nature and reflect on God's creation. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, plays, concerts, and movies instead.

Keep them busy, busy, busy! And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so they leave with troubled consciences. Crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Jesus. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause. It will work! It will work!!

It was quite a plan! The demons went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there. Having little time for their God or their families. Having no time to tell others about the power of Jesus to change lives.

The question is: Has the devil been successful in his schemes?

You be the judge!!!!

Could **BUSY** mean: Being Under Satan's Yoke?



Will we be too busy this **Lenten Season** to make room for deepening our relationship with our God and with one another? Or will we invest in time well spent to make a difference for both life now and life in eternity? Will you continue to **worship weekly** (but not weakly) as a family and find time for the special moments with God that are offered during the Lenten Season at Redeemer? Knowing the life-changing love and grace of God, how will you invest your time for the next six weeks? Will you join us in the upcoming Lenten series, *Learning from the Master*?

## Redeemer's Wednesdays in Lent

Ash Wednesday	Wednesdays in February and March
Wednesday, February 6  7:00am ~ Worship Service <i>Imposition of ashes + Holy Communion</i>  6:00pm ~ Soup Supper  7:00pm ~ Worship Service <i>Holy Communion</i>	Wednesdays:  February 6, 13, 20, 27 March 5, 12  6:00pm ~ Soup Supper  7:00pm ~ Worship Service



### **LIFE WITH GOD 101**

### **LAUNCHES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7**

- Receive a basic overview of Christian faith
- Deepen your walk with God
- Sign-up in the church office (366-5892)  
or via e-mail [hdraeger@gmail.com](mailto:hdraeger@gmail.com)

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 semester-long class launches Thursday, February 7, 7:00-8:30pm. It meets in the newly remodeled Conference Room 1 and *there is room for YOU!*

### **SWEETHEART BAKE SALE**

Sunday, February 10 – between services.  
“Sweets for your Sweet” (or yourself!)  
Benefit: cloth tablecloths for new round tables  
in the Event Center  
Matching funds by Thrivent!



*(If you would like to bake an item of two contact Mardell Rogers, 591-4778 - - -  
monetary donations also gladly accepted)*

# **DOES GOD SOMETIMES SAY NO TO OUR PRAYERS?**

Deuteronomy 3: 23-27

A very interesting event in the life of Moses is here presented. The forty years of Israel's wandering in the desert were now over. The people were ready to cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land. Moses, who had led the people from Egypt to Canaan, desired so much to lead the people and enter the land of promise with them. That was his earnest wish as he says to the Lord, "Let me, I pray, cross over and see the fair land that is beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon." (verse 25)

God's answer? A resounding, "No"! "But the Lord was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me; and the Lord said to me, 'Enough! Speak to me no more of this matter. Go up to the top of Pisgah and lift up your eyes to the west and north and south and east and see it with your eyes for you shall not cross over this Jordan.'" (verse 26)

Why did God deny Moses' request? Because of Moses' sin, when he struck the rock twice to provide water instead of speaking to it "(Numbers 20: 1-12 and Deuteronomy: 4: 21-22)."

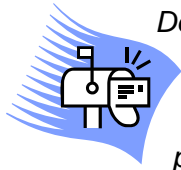
So Moses saw the Promised Land, but God said "No" to his request to lead the people into the land! Ask yourself this question, "What would I have done in this situation if I were God?" A good number of us, perhaps most of us, would have answered, "Yes", to Moses' request.

"Of course you can lead the people across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. You've been leading them for forty years; certainly you can have your heart's desire, and finally lead them into the Promised Land." I too probably would have granted Moses' request.

But God did not! He was very firm with Moses, demanded much of him, above all- obedience!

What can we learn from this story?

1. God sometimes does say "No" to our requests, and for a variety of reasons. Sometimes the thing requested is not right. Sometimes the timing is not God's timing. Our hearts are sometimes not right with God. Because He always has our best interests in His plan for us. And sometimes the Lord wants to discipline us as a parent disciplines a child.
2. Comforting to me are the many, many times God says "Yes" to my requests. Yes, your sins are forgiven! Yes, you stand before me spotless and cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Yes, you can cast your burdens on Me. Yes, I will walk beside you always and see you through. Yes, I have your place in heaven reserved for you.
3. But as a parent to a child sometimes God does answer us with a "No"! When and if He does it is not because He does not love us. There may be a variety of reasons for His saying no. When he does say no, it's for us to accept His decision and to believe that He does everything for our good, and because of His love for us. Always be bold in your requests; but also always be obedient to His will.



Dear Redeemer Family,

Thank you for the calls and cards and especially the prayers during Gordon's surgery and recovery time. They are really treasured. We are so grateful for your love and caring and appreciate it more than we can say. With great love in our precious Jesus,

Gordon and Judy Jones

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Dear Friends at Redeemer, Thanks to all those who called and sent cards and brought over food during my illness from a bad fall in mid-December. Your kindness and thoughtfulness were very much appreciated. I am doing much better now and am happy to be back to my old self. God's blessings and a Happy New Year to all. In Christian Love,

- Grace Schnereger

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### **Bags of Love Ministry Continues to be a Blessing**

We received the following email from Shirley Pounds, Director of City Team Ministries:

*Glenn, we are so grateful for all your church is doing to make a difference on 6th Street (in San Francisco). I am glad to report that the Bible Studies in the Seneca are now underway. It was your church group that found Raymond, who has been inspiring others to attend the Bible studies. Please continue to keep the people involved in this Bible study in your prayers!! We want to see many give their total lives over to Jesus Christ and be forever changed!! We love you and thank you for your partnership!*

Shirley Pounds, Director

The stories that people from Redeemer tell about their experiences in the Bags of Love Ministry are inspirational. Thank you to all who participate, whether it be in making lunches, bringing and wrapping gifts, or in delivering the bag lunches. Special thanks to Glenn and Dorothy Hessler and Paul and Rose Soule for their leadership in this ministry.

## **CHRISTMAS DONATIONS-UPDATE**

During December 2007, the Sunday30 program offered coffee, tea and hot chocolate for sale as a fundraising event. All inventories were sold and all profits, in the amount of \$152.30 were donated to Shelter Network, for the benefit of Redwood City Maple Street Shelter. Thank you for your support of this fundraising event.

The Lewman Family Organized Blanket Drive: 61 blankets were donated to the Shelter Network in December!

During the month of December, 28 school and church families ordered Gift Card Scrip through Redeemer School. The total order value was \$8,763.50. This resulted in a net profit of \$545.04. Thank you for participating in this program.

We are pleased to experience a slight increase, from month to month, in the number of families who are participating in the program. (We started in October 2007 with 17 families placing an order.) Thank you for participating in this fundraising program for the school. The four orders that were placed between October 2007 and December 2007 resulted in a net profit for the school of \$1,746.49.

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### **What is Gift Card Scrip?**

Gift Card Scrip is Retailer Gift Cards. When Redeemer families purchase Retailer Gift Cards, they're purchasing negotiable gift cards that are used just like cash. These gift cards are issued by national and local retailers where many of you already shop. These retailers want to support non-profit organizations, and in return ask you to support them by shopping with these gift cards at their stores. You can use the gift cards to make everyday purchases like food, clothing, toys, gifts, gasoline and many other essentials. With every purchase, you help earn revenue for Redeemer School.

### **Why should I purchase Gift Card Scrip?**

*Gift Card Scrip is "shopping cart fundraising"*

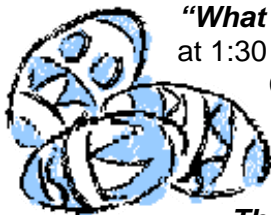
The reason for the effectiveness of Gift Card Scrip is simple: families generate revenue through purchases they would make anyway. Groceries, clothing, toys, gifts; even gasoline can be purchased with Gift Cards. For example, an organization of 150 families easily spends over one million dollars per year on food, clothing and other essentials. If Redeemer families use Gift Cards for these purchases, they can raise \$40,000 or more per year for their Redeemer School --without spending an additional penny.

**Here are some of the more popular retail cards that are being bought by Redeemer families:** Safeway, Lucky's (formerly Albertson's) Food Stores (i.e. Save Mart), Starbucks Coffee, Pete's Coffee, See's Candies, Amazon.com, Shell and Chevron gas cards and iTunes!!!!

**The next order is due February 12.** You can find order forms in the Event Center entry, and in the school and church offices.

If you have any questions about this program, contact Pamela Estes at 650-780-9727 or [pkestes@rcn.com](mailto:pkestes@rcn.com).

## ***JOIN HUNT '08!***



***"What is HUNT '08," you say? We're glad you asked!*** On Saturday, March 22 at 1:30 p.m. Redeemer Lutheran Church, in partnership with Peninsula Covenant Church, is hosting a massive community Easter Egg HUNT for the Redwood City community. This is Redeemer's second year to co-host this event.

***The Big Idea of HUNT...is to serve as a venue to build bridges in our community that surrounds the church.*** The time-honored approach to building influence in a community through acts of service and meeting felt needs (with no overt agenda except to bless), is an important way for the church to forge new ground in building the kingdom of God. More specifically, HUNT is an opportunity for YOU to love and serve your neighbors by providing a safe setting for families to enjoy a traditional Easter Egg hunt (loaded with lots of candies and prizes).

***Staffed...***The HUNT site will be staffed with a crew from the church that is friendly, welcoming, and helpful to our neighbors who respond to the invitation to participate.

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**Serviced...** HUNT provides YOU and other Redeemer members an opportunity to excel in creativity and innovation when it comes to serving our neighbors. Christ has served us well, this is our chance to serve others well.

**Supplied...** HUNT will be well stocked with goodies to demonstrate the measure of grace that God has given us... LOTS!! HUNT will have 20,000 plastic eggs (with candy\*) for kids to find. That is 4X the number we supplied last year. There will be raffle prizes, photographs with the Easter Bunny, and refreshments for everyone.

(\*Candy must be individually wrapped, and small enough to fit inside a plastic egg. There is a preference for non-chocolate candy such as Starbursts, SweetTarts, Laffy Taffy, etc.)

Our prayer in co-hosting HUNT is to far exceed the expectations of our community in the way HUNT is *staffed, serviced, and supplied*. That's where you come in! We need YOU! Last year we were expecting no more than 500 people to attend, but over 1,500 people showed up! Praise God!

Plan to be a part of this amazing community-serving event. Sign up sheets are located in the Fellowship Hall. Candy and small prize\* collection bins are located in the Fellowship Hall too. (\*Small prizes such as your new, but overstocked party favors from your child's last birthday party!) Contact Pamela Estes, 780-9727, or Stephanie McCollum, 364-1319 to be a part of HUNT.

*"...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."* Matthew 5:16

## Stephen Ministry

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*One-on-One Caregiving*



*Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of training before they are commissioned and assigned to care receivers. They learn skills such as listening, identifying and expressing feelings, setting boundaries, and being assertive. They also learn about specific challenges such as hospitalization, divorce, grief and depression. Stephen Ministers feel well-prepared to walk alongside people in crisis, whether it is with an assigned care receiver or in their own relationship with family, friends and coworkers. If you are struggling and would like a caring Christian to talk to, contact one of the members on the Leadership Team:*

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

**Karen Kneedler**, Stephen Minister, Leader & Referrals Coordinator, 366.5892 x16 or via e-mail, [karenk@redeemerministries.org](mailto:karenk@redeemerministries.org).

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## *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 ladies started the January meeting with much laughter by listening to a CD, "Laughter" by Elaine Bickel, a nationally known humorous and inspirational speaker. Upcoming events:

### **February 2008**

Saturday, February 2	Women's breakfast, 8:30am, Bakers' Square
Monday, February 4	Board Meeting, 10:00am, Redeemer Event Center
Thursday, February 14	LWIM meeting, 12:30pm, Conference Room 1 Bible Study Leader: Etta Hansen Topic: Anna – the woman waiting for the Christ Child
Saturday, February 16	Zone 8 "Day of Prayer" @ Redeemer Secure in Jesus, My Rock and Fortress Worship Leader: Rev. Jeff Schufreider Prayer, Praise and Song, 9:30am-11:30am

### **March 2008**

Saturday, March 1	Women's breakfast, 8:30am, Bakers' Square
Monday, March 3	Board meeting, 10:00am, Redeemer Event Center
Thursday, March 13	LWIM meeting, 12:30pm, Conference Room 1 <i>Ablaze! Sharing the Faith</i> (DVD) Packing of Easter cookie baskets for homebound

### **April 2008**

Saturday, April 5	Women's breakfast, 8:30 am, Bakers' Square
Monday, April 7	Board meeting, 10:00 am, Redeemer Event Center
Thursday, April 10	LWIM meeting, 12:30 pm, Conference Room #1 Program: <i>On the Road to Bakersfield</i> CA-NV-HI District Convention, Bakersfield
Friday-Sunday April 25-April 27	Topic: "Amazing Grace" Bible study leader: Rev. Dien Taylor Song leader: also the Rev. Dien Taylor Speakers: Terry Kieschnick, Keynoter, and Jan Wendorf, Inspirational speaker, LWML President, Speaking on "Stuck on Struck"

Thanks to all who made and/or delivered cookies to Redeemer homebound folks. The cookies and visits were very much appreciated. Several hundred cookies were given to the San Mateo County men and women jails. This is a community project that LWIM and Redeemer congregation has been doing for many years with several other Redwood City churches. 'Get your baking sheets out – Easter cookie baskets will be done on **Thursday, March 13!**

## **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.*

***“Aging Faithfully”*** through Life Enrichment...

February 0 will be a “smasher” in every way as *Karl* and *Denise Maier* will be the guest chefs. With recipes fresh from Italy, you are in for a treat! “The Golden Tunes” (San Mateo Senior Center) gals will entertain us with all the “Amore” songs you can handle as we celebrate Valentine’s Day together.

And then, as we “AGE FAITHFULLY,” Pastor Bob has discovered a simple seven-step process in how we can “Live Long and Love It.” We have opportunities to love all around us. Spend a few hours with the Life Enrichment Group on Saturday, February 9 at 11:00am...have a wonderful time, a super lunch and be motivated to “Live Long and Love It” as you age faithfully.

*An added PS – many thanks once again to Rick and Donna Beaman for stepping up to the plate (literally) and serving a most delicious luncheon in January – you two are greatly appreciated.*

The schedule looks something like this:

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 10:00am | Folks begin arriving to help set up or just sit around and chit chat.  |
| 11:00am | Pastor Bob delivers a few remarks, mostly humorous in nature. This is followed with a few moments spent on “ <i>Living Long and Loving It.</i> ”                                       |
| 11:30am | <i>Dawn Herman</i> schedules fantastic programs each month (example: <i>Broadway by the Bay</i> entertainers, or a senior band, or a women’s quartet, or an educational presentation). |
| 12:10pm | A few minutes doing chair exercises led by <i>Ruth Finkelstein</i> or <i>Carolee Nicholson</i> (these are exercises you can do at home while watching television, too).                |
| 12:15pm | Lunchtime has arrived and WOW what a delicious full meal it always is – with guest chefs doing their own original thing.   |

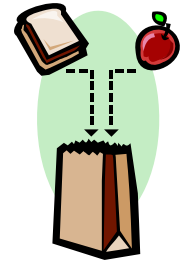
*Then following dessert and some “round the table” small talk, you are free to go on your merry way or ... hang around awhile and join in a relaxing game of Scrabble or Pinnocle or Bridge ... it’s your choice!*

*So, why not join us on the second Saturday in February (2/9) for some Valentine Fun? I can guarantee you if you try it once you’ll be back for more.*

# BAGS OF LOVE

Saturday, February 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 Baldwin House and Seneca Hotels. *Please consider this ministry as part of a way to serve God through serving others.* Questions: 366-5892.



**Redeemer Lutheran School** is currently accepting enrollment applications for Kindergarten, school year August, 08 – June, 09. Priority kindergarten enrollment dates are January 8 - February 14, 2008. Open enrollment for grades 1-8 begins March 1. Applications are available by calling the school office or they can be downloaded from [www.redeemer-school.org](http://www.redeemer-school.org). For more information or to make an appointment to observe the classroom and/or meet with Principal Mr. Mike Mancini, please call the school office at 366-3466 ext. 10.

## SHARING THE VISION COMPLETES 2ND YEAR



We have now completed two of the three years of the latest capital funding campaign to pay for the Educational Center at Redeemer. The contributions for 2007 totaled \$267,807, bringing the campaign total to \$654,255. This was achieved through \$89,685 in the month of December alone. We are well on our way to achieving the \$850,000 goal of the three-year campaign. We are blessed with committed givers at Redeemer who sacrifice for the benefit of the common good. Thank you for your prayers and gifts of love.

### ***Priests for the Nations***

Convocation @ St. Mark Lutheran Church, 125 E. Arques, Sunnyvale  
February 10 (lunch at 12noon/order ahead) meeting starts at 1:00pm  
Dr. Robert Newton vision-casts for the LCMS California-Nevada-Hawaii District.  
RSVP: [office\\_admin@stmarksunnyvale.org](mailto:office_admin@stmarksunnyvale.org) or 408.736.6605