

'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!*

September 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
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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 Hal Draeger shares with us

OLYMPIC CARING



We have had the opportunity to see an Olympic-sized opening ceremony and some magnificent athletic performances. It has been truly impressive watching world record after world record fall. While Olympians were performing at high levels, so were the people of God at Redeemer. Since the injuries from the cycling accident have slowed me down on the first weekend in August, the caring of God's people has certainly been of Olympic proportions. Cards, visits and phone calls have evidenced the caring of the Redeemer community. Offers to help in very practical ways have been greatly appreciated. Encouragements to not over-do the recovery demonstrate Olympic Caring. But then that is so typical of this congregation. Not that we are perfect – the Olympians aren't either. But because we are so well cared for by our Lord, we care for others – both those within the community and those far away. We serve those whom we know and those we have never met.

That caring has motivated people's involvement in the Maple Street Shelter, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Bags of Love. That caring has sponsored more than a dozen kids through World Vision. When we care for one another and others, we are clearly living as the church did in Acts 2. The church in Acts 2 gathered in Community, Celebrated in worship, Cultivated faith through conversations around God's Word, Caring for others, and Communicating Christ to those far from Him. That's the kind of church we at Redeemer want to be. And I am pleased to be a part of a church that demonstrates Olympic-sized caring.

God cares
for us and
in that
caring we
respond to
other's
needs, too.

Thanks again to all (far and near) for your loving expressions.
You are Olympians in my book.

IT'S NOT AS GLOOMY...

Over the past three years, I have noticed that people like to make excuses for suffering in their lives. They are usually similar, like "well it's hard, but it will work out for the best," or "I just have to stay positive." We even have our Christianized excuse: "God will work good out of it." However, the vacuous look in peoples' eyes as they share something horrendously painful, while excusing or explaining it away, tells me that a dreamily-positive response is not always helpful. It seems that the substance has almost been sucked out of this important area of someone's life.

I don't intend to give you a brilliant psychological/therapeutic remedy for pain in our lives. Your best bet would be to talk to the 'resident counselor' for that. There is, however, an important part of our spirituality that speaks to struggle in our lives, and even though it is somewhat subversive to how our culture tells us to think during the dark times of life, I have found that it is always well appreciated.

Suffering is suffering. Struggle is struggle. Pain is pain. Ignoring it will not make it go away, and positive thinking by itself will not change the fact that we hurt. Be honest about it. As I began to get used to life as a cancer patient, I found a lot of strength in saying "terrible" to someone who asked how I was doing. It felt good because it was the reality of the situation, and it usually frightened the person who asked. An honest, raw answer is not very common in polite conversation.

But, there is more to the story. The power in Christian spirituality that I hinted at above does not come from us moping around all the time telling people how terrible life is. That kind of brutalizing view of life is all too common around us, and it never represents the full picture. Neither does our faith have us pretending that everything is "peachy." Sentimentalized living is a fairly empty existence. Instead, the Christian life is all about *Redemption*. Our God *redeems*. As I struggled with cancer and the depression that came with it, I noticed that a byproduct developed: a strong relationship with part of my family with whom I had not generally interacted during my adult life. And until insurance and related issues were resolved, the manufacturer of the chemo drug that saved my life shipped it to us for free. At \$3000.00 a month, that was a significant help! In other words, God redeemed a tremendously difficult time in my life, because that is what He does.

I love explaining this to people, because the idea of redemption is so attractive. During the dark times in life, honesty and the hope of redemption reaches out to people in powerful ways. Outreach is all about living, after all...

GOD'S THREE CHOICE – "DAVID, CHOOSE ONE"

2 Samuel 24

David had done a very foolish and God-displeasing thing. He told his generals to take a census of the men able to serve in the military. Joab, one of David's generals, advised against such a census as foolish and even sinful. "We trust in the Lord, not in our own might; He fights for us." Joab was correct, but David had to have it his way. So Joab and his generals began the task of numbering which took almost ten months. The result - 13,000 men who could bear arms.

But the Lord was displeased with David's census and sent His prophet, Gad, to call David to recognize his sin and to repent. "You are not trusting in the Lord, but in your own strength," he told David. David saw the error of his ways and confessed his sin. "So David said to the Lord, 'I have sinned greatly in what I have done, but now, Oh Lord, please take away the iniquity of Thy servant, for I have acted very foolishly'" (2 Samuel 24:10).

As chastisement God offers David one of three choices. (1) Seven years of famine in the land. (2) Three days of pestilence. (3) Three months of fleeing from his enemies (as David had often done, fleeing from Saul).

David is hard put to choose. "Do not let me fall into the hands of man," he says, and so he rejects choice three. He really does not choose one of the remaining two, but he says, "I'll trust the Lord to chastise me, for I can depend upon His grace and mercy" (V. 14). So God chooses, and He sends pestilence, the second choice, so that 70,000 people die! The victims possibly were the men of military age. The pestilence is also intended to strike Jerusalem, David's capital city (V. 16).

David is full of self guilt and pleads with the Lord (V.17), "It is I who have sinned, and it is I who have done wrong. But these sheep - what have they done? Please let Thy hand be against me and against my father's house". That is true confession, which is reflected in the words of our General Confession, "O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor miserable sinner confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being."

Jesus has atoned for our sins by taking our transgressions upon Himself, "having nailed them to the cross" (Colossians 2:14). That's the message of the Gospel which we accept by faith in Jesus Christ. The Heavenly Father declares us forgiven, cleansed, and righteous, because of Jesus Christ, and in faith we accept this gift.

Now read the wonderful 25th verse of 2 Samuel 24, "And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. Thus the Lord was moved by entreaty for the land, and the plague was held back from Israel." I am depending entirely upon the Father's grace and mercy because of Jesus Christ. Indeed we have a wonderful God and a wonderful salvation!

We need VOLUNTEERS

YOU COULD BE A TUTOR AT ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Redeemer has been partnering with Roosevelt School, 2223 Vera, Redwood City, for several years, offering them tutoring by our folks for students 2nd grade through 5th grade. This is a wonderful way to serve Jesus, through serving his children, in a loving, compassionate school setting. If you have a heart for helping children and can spare 1 hour, or more, a week in this capacity, please contact Carole Farnum at 364-5899, or Marcia Boone.



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

“SMART DISCIPLINE...A PROGRAM FOR PARENTS”.

“SMART DISCIPLINE...a Program for Parents”

This FREE workshop is for parents with children of all ages!

“Give us 2 hours...we’ll give you kids that behave!”

Just answer this...would you come out of your snug home for a proven way to stop the fighting and bickering between your kids...or, to get your kids to do what you ask the first time (without screaming at the top of your lungs)? If your answer is yes, we have a great deal for you! We’re bringing the nationally acclaimed *Smart Discipline* workshop to Menlo Park. You’ll learn proven ways to sky-rocket self-esteem (even in negative kids) and proven techniques to get your kids to cooperate! We hope you will join us!

**Where: Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park
Thursday, September 25, 7:00pm-9:00pm**

RSVP Deadline: September 18th. Call 854-5897, ext. 217 OR e-mail: lindab@bethany-mp.org

Include your name, phone no., e-mail address, and no. of adults attending. **Adults only, please.**

SHARING THE VISION UPDATE

Through the month of July, contributions to *Sharing the Vision – It’s Happening* have reached \$751,246.00, \$75,000.00 short of our goal. There are still 4 months left to the current funding campaign. In order to continue to meet our mortgage payments over the next three years while school enrollments reach 200 students and to build out the old education wing into administrative offices, the congregation in its June meeting approved following up the current campaign with a new three-year program that will be launched this fall.

LIFE WITH GOD 101 LAUNCHES THIS MONTH!



- Receive a basic overview of Christian faith
 - Deepen your walk with God
 - Mark your calendar Wed., September 17

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 this month! It is held on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30pm in Conference Room 1. To register, contact the church office 366-5892 x11.

HEY KIDS: JOIN US FOR SUNDAY30 ON SEPTEMBER 14

Fall is just around the corner! The fall season signals many fun activities, including the beginning of a new Sunday30 year!

Sunday30 is Redeemer's Sunday School program which promotes Christian educational opportunities for children between the ages of **3 years and 6th grade**. Yes, that's right – 6th grade. Previously, Sunday30 didn't include sixth graders, but this year we welcome sixth graders to join us.

Sunday30 happens on Sunday mornings during the 8:30am worship service. From week-to-week, the kids will participate in either a small group, or large group format. Small group study is divided into the following 4 groups: Preschoolers; Kindergarten and First Graders; Second and Third Graders; Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Graders.

This fall Sunday30 will incorporate the Faithweaver curriculum which presents the same Bible story to each age group in a creative way with clear, age-appropriate Biblepoints. When every student learns the same Bible truth each week, it will naturally allow families to share in deeper faith conversations. There is a relational component to every lesson, too, that encourages siblings and families to apply what they have learned together.

Please take the time to register your child for Sunday30 to help us plan for supplies and activities. Each registered child will receive a Sunday30 t-shirt, in addition to a monthly subscription to Clubhouse or Clubhouse, Jr. magazine. Registration forms are available in the Event Center, foyer and Worship Center. A registration fee of \$20.00 is the suggested donation, but not required.

The first Sunday30 teaching team meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 7th at 4:30pm. If you are interesting in being a member of the Sunday30 teaching team, or have any questions about the program, please contact Pamela Estes, 780-9727 or Stephanie McCollum, 364-1319.

REDEEMER GOES "GREEN"



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

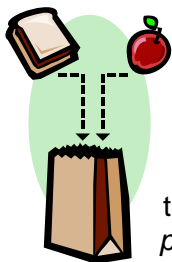
- Redeemer water bottles are available for your use and to share with others. Suggested cost: \$5.00 with \$1.00 going toward World Vision Child Sponsorship. Please continue to save your recyclables to benefit Multiple Sclerosis Research.
- Adam and Clayton Duval and others are forming a "Duval Green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

REDEEMER VOLUNTEERS HELP IHN FAMILIES

Delicious dinners were served and overnight helpers accommodated four families (a total of 5 adults and 9 children) of the Interfaith Hospitality Network on the evenings of Monday, July 21 and Wednesday, July 23 at St Dunstan's Catholic church in Millbrae.

Sincere thanks and appreciation for all your help to *Dorothy Patterson, Mardell Rogers, Grace Schnereger, Elise Hoffman, Doreen Lamprecht, Frances and Kurt Schreiner, Lorna Boales, Barry Dixon, John and Helen Geer, Rose Soule, Sharron Miller and Ruth Finkelstein.*

If you are interested in becoming a part of this exciting outreach ministry, please talk to any of the above named persons or call the church office. More volunteers are gladly welcomed.



BAGS OF LOVE

Saturday, September 20, 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: Glenn Hessler, 364-2739 or Paul Soule, 364-0952.

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.

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.

The annual July barbecue was a major success; about 50 attended and enjoyed Pastor Bob's humorous remarks as well as his more serious description of our topic for next year, **Aging Faithfully**. Chefs *Rick and Donna Beaman*, with *Norm Lamprecht* helping on the grill, plus their helpers, *Madel Duval*, her son *Clayton* and *Blake Kneedler*, prepared a delightful meal. The hamburgers with all of the toppings we could want--mustard, ketchup, lettuce, tomatoes, thinly sliced onions, and pickle relish--plus Rick's divine baked beans and cabbage salad...who could ask for anything else? And then came the ice cream bars for dessert! Wow! In retrospect, it was probably good that *Ruth Finkelstein* had us go through several chair exercises prior to our meal!

Remember to mark your calendars now for Saturday September 13 @ 11:00am when our chef may be *Christine Leslie*. As we all may remember, her vegetarian lasagna is heavenly. Let's see what she prepares for us this year. Entertainment is not arranged as yet, but we can anticipate eagerly whatever comes.

Did you know we have an on-going need for Redeemer School of ...

Any WORKING network printer
Any iMacs or eMacs
Any G4, G5 or Intel based Macintoshes
Any Mac or PC computer with hard drives larger than 30 GB
Any extra hard drives larger than 30 GB
Any LCD flat panel monitors

If you have any questions, Please contact John Madden jmadden@redeemer-school.org

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

President Helen Botnarescue writes

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 Summer Retreat at Bethany unfortunately came at the same time as Redeemer's Life Enrichment barbecue. So there were few LWIM women from Redeemer in attendance. Karen Kneeder and Mardell Rogers praised Pastor Coyne's Bible study on life changes experienced by all. There were also fun craft activities.

Coming the first weekend in September (September 5-7) is the CA-NV-HI District Retreat at Villa Del Mar in Santa Cruz. We hope all interested got their reservations in early so that they might have a room with a view of the ocean. ***It isn't too late to drop off in the church office any items you would like to donate for the ingathering: (standard size) liquid or bar soap, shampoo & conditioner, deodorant (not aerosol), toothbrush & toothpaste, disposable razors, lotion, feminine hygiene pads, hairbrush, comb or pick.***

Good news from Ada Towers from Zone 8: she emails that the first four C-N-H LWML Mission Grant Projects for 2008-2010 have been funded. So we're off to an outstanding start!

September Calendar

Fri.-Sun., 5-7 September - - - C-N-H LWML Fall Weekend Retreat at Villa del Mar, Santa Cruz
See below

Saturday September 6, 8:30am: Women's Bible Study, Baker's Square, RWC

Monday, September 8, 10:00am: LWIM Board Meeting, Room #2

October Calendar

Saturday October 4, 8:30am: Women's Bible Study, Baker's Square, RWC

Monday, October 6, 10:00am, LWIM Board Meeting, Room #2

Thursday, October 9, 1:00pm, LWIM Meeting, Room #2

Remember the new starting time--1:00 pm

Saturday, October 18, 9:30am-3:00pm, Zone 8 Fall Rally, Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlingame

Bible Study Leader: Pastor Jeff Schufreider

Topic: "Deep Waters, Grow in Faith"

Guest Speaker: Pastor Woo, Hope Lutheran Church, Daly City

Ingathering/Donation to help the Katrina victims

Thanks to all those who donated various items for the ingathering in Santa Cruz.

ADDRESS/PHONE CHANGES

Please call the church office at 366-5892 with any address/phone changes, or note them on the Friendship Pads at Sunday Worship in order to keep staff current ... e-mail addresses for eNEWS are also welcome.

FACILITY KEYS - - - Church/Event Center doors are being re-keyed. In the event that you need a new key ... please contact Laurel in the church office.

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.

TRANSFERS

Berne & Grace Schepman
to The Lutheran Church of our Savior, Cupertino

DEATH

Irma Pianka

CORRESPONDENCE



Dear Members and Friends, What joy you have brought me through telephone calls, e-mails, cards, food, visits, balloons, altar flowers and continuing prayers during my surgery and recovery. Thank you to my brothers and sisters in the Lord! -Karen Kneedler