

Spirit of the Redeemer



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, NASHVILLE, TENN.

February 2017

Outreach at Redeemer

[The following article was submitted to the Mid-South District publication *The Encourager*]

Outreach is an every-member privilege. At Redeemer Lutheran, Nashville, the outreach plan is to highlight who we are in our observances of the Church Year. We desire to initiate the uninitiated into the life of the Church. Outreach Sundays/Days are designated for the high festivals and new seasons of the year, for example: First Sunday in Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, First Sunday in Lent, Good Friday/Easter Vigil/Easter, Reformation Sunday.

In addition to petitions that are offered in the Prayer of the Church, invitations are included in the bulletin for the two Sundays prior to the event. This affords every member the opportunity to personally invite a friend or family. Invitations are printed on card stock, two per page, making them 8.5 x 5.5 inches. Sample invitations are offered below:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

First Sunday in Advent
November 27, 2016, 10:30 a.m.

The first season of the church year, *Advent* serves to prepare us for the coming celebration of Christ's birth.

*"Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in" (Ps. 24:7).*

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
800 Bellevue Road · Nashville, Tennessee 37221 · 615-646-3150

www.redeemernashville.org * rlnashville@bellsouth.net

Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

*"And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,
but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus" (Luke 24:2-3).*

Holy Thursday & Good Friday Services — 7 PM
Easter Vigil, Saturday — 7:30 PM
Easter Sunday Service, March 27 — 10:30 AM

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You're Invited!

Reformation Sunday
October 30, 2016
at 10:30 a.m.

Luther Printing, Mt. Vernon, Pa. Photo

"...if the Son sets you free,
you will be free indeed."
John 8:36

"Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works. People are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight (Romans 3 & 4 [3:21-26; 4:5])."

*Augsburg Confession
Article IV: Justification*

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church
800 Bellevue Road
Nashville, TN 37221
www.redeemernashville.org
615-646-3150



Growing In Christ Sunday School

February 2017

Epiphany 5 February 5

[God] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:4

Jesus Calls Matthew Mark 2:13-17

In Sunday School today, students learn the story “Jesus Calls Matthew.” We sinners rejoice, for we, too, have been called from our own pigsty of sin to dine with Jesus around His table and to be a friend of the friend of sinners. Consider discussing, “*How did Jesus call Matthew to be one of His followers? How and why does Jesus call us to follow Him?*”

Law If I say I have no sin, I deceive myself, and the truth is not in me. **Gospel** Jesus is the friend of sinners, who says to me, “Fear not, I am faithful and just to forgive your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness.”

Epiphany 6 February 12

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

Jesus Calms a Storm Mark 4:35-41

Today the Sunday School students study the account “Jesus Calms a Storm.” Just as Jesus calmed the storm with His Word for the frightened disciples, so He calms and ends the storm of sin and death by taking our sin upon Himself and dying in our place so we may live eternally. Consider discussing, “*What did Jesus do to calm the storm? How does Jesus calm the storms in our life?*”

Law Sin causes me to fear and doubt that God cares for or loves me. My fears suffocate faith and lead me to despair and hopelessness. **Gospel** God’s Son, who suffered and died for me, is the proof that God cares for me and will never leave me nor forsake me.

Epiphany 7 February 19

We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

Jesus Heals Jairus’s Daughter Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

The story “Jesus Heals Jairus’s Daughter” serves as the focus of Sunday School today. Just as Jesus by word and touch raised the dead girl to life, so by His Word and Sacraments, He kills and buries death and raises us to eternal life. Questions for discussion include, “*How did Jesus heal this little girl? How does Jesus heal us from the sickness of sin?*”

Law Because of my sin, I fall short of the glory of God and deserve only death, the required price for sin. **Gospel** Jesus, the God-man, is life. Victorious over sin, death, and the grave, He forgives my sins and gives me life eternal through His Word and Sacraments.

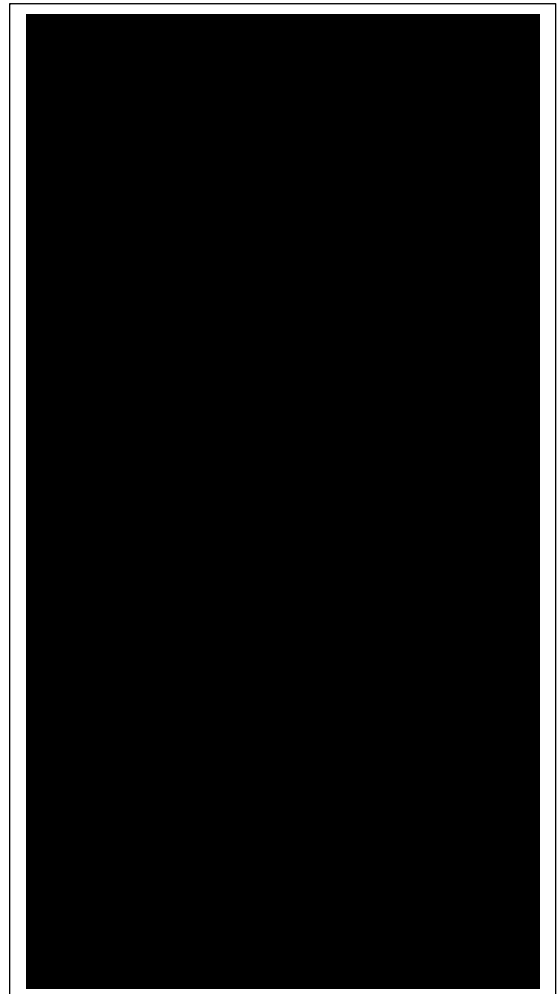
The Transfiguration of Our Lord February 26

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” Matthew 14:27

Jesus Walks on Water Matthew 14:22-33

Today in Sunday School, we study the account “Jesus Walks on Water.” Jesus was gracious to Peter when he feared drowning. Jesus is gracious to us and is ready to catch us as we sink in sin and unbelief; His hand is always strong to save us. Consider asking, “*How did Jesus rescue Peter? How does Jesus rescue us?*”

Law The First Commandment tells me that I should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. **Gospel** Jesus kept the First Commandment perfectly for me, and when I sink in unbelief, His faithful hand grabs me, pulls me up, and forgives me.





Johannes Gutenberg

c.1395 - c.1468

It may seem strange to think a man whose earthly life ended some 15 years before the birth of Martin Luther could have had an important impact on the Reformation, but it's true. However, it wasn't the man so much as his invention that proved indispensable to the success of the Reformation.

Without Gutenberg's moveable type for the printing press, Luther's voluminous writings would have had to be handwritten. Their viral spread throughout Germany and Europe would never have happened, and Luther would have remained an obscure monk. The Pope might have dealt with him quietly, and the Reformation would have been nipped in the bud. Gutenberg's moveable-type press made Luther a popular figure and brought a groundswell of public support that proved vital for the success of his reforming ideas.

Johannes Gutenberg was born on an unknown date around 1395. He was the youngest son of an upper-class merchant and the daughter of a shopkeeper. He was an enterprising stonecutter and goldsmith from Mainz, Germany. By the middle of the 15th century several print masters were on the verge of perfecting the techniques of printing with movable metal type. But Gutenberg was the first man to demonstrate the practicality of this invention. His process made it possible to print many copies of one document, and then reuse the separate pieces of type, or letters, simply by arranging them in the desired order.

Interestingly, the first documents Gutenberg printed were *indulgences*. He used profits from these to undertake printing the Bible of his day, the Latin Vulgate. He completed the printing of the Bible in 1455.

By 1517 there were many printers in Germany using Gutenberg's movable metal type. To expand their business they were looking for writings to print—writings that would appeal to a wider public. In the Reformation they found the perfect material and eagerly printed both sides of the argument: Roman Catholic and Protestant.

Gutenberg's printing press first entered the Reformation story after someone, probably students, translated Luther's *95 Theses* into German. These German translations went viral: within weeks they spread across Germany, and in two months all of Europe was aware of the defiance of this professor in Wittenberg—and anxious to hear how Rome would respond.

ROMAN REACTION TO THE 95 THESES

Within three months Tetzel responded to Luther's *95 Theses*. On January, 1518, he presented 106 theses written against Luther's view by a Frankfurt Professor named Konrad Koch at a disputation at Frankfurt. Again, thanks to Gutenberg's invention, these theses were hastily printed and eagerly read by the lay people of Wittenberg. Luther realized he needed to make his own *95 Theses* more accessible and understandable to the general public. To do this he wrote a sermon in German: "A Sermon on Indulgence and Grace." In April 1518 Tetzel wrote a German treatise, *Vorlegung*, a rebuttal to refute Luther's sermon.

In May 1518 Johann von Staupitz invited Luther to present his disputation to a gathering of the Augustinian Order in Heidelberg. Luther never mentioned the *95 Theses*, but began to expand his theological foundation with a presentation of his "theology of the cross," which he used to expose the Catholic Church's "theology of glory."

Also in May Tetzel escalated his argument by publishing 50 theses he had used in defense of his doctorate at Leipzig. These were based not on the theology behind the indulgences, but the Pope's authority to issue them.

In August, Luther produced a printed sermon that questioned the historical primacy of the Catholic Church in Rome and cast doubts on its authority to excommunicate in every case.

By that same August, Pope Leo X's investigation into Luther's teachings was complete. He sent Luther a citation to appear in Rome to answer the charge of heresy. The man who delivered that citation was the next member of our Reformation Twelve—Johannes Tetzel's earlier superior in the Dominican Order, Cardinal Cajetan.

Redeemer's Reformation 500 Events 1517-2017

Beginning in March 2017 – Adult Bible Study – Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m.

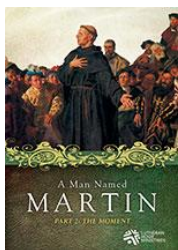
A MAN NAMED MARTIN (PART 1)



DVD Bible Study. Session 1: Luther's World; Session 2: Life in a Monastery; Session 3: Purgatory; Session 4: Luther Changes His Approach; Session 5: God's Word Comes Out of Hiding

Spring 2017 – Adult Bible Study – Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m.

A MAN NAMED MARTIN (PART 2)



DVD Bible Study. Examines the errant teachings of purgatory, penance, celibacy, prayers for the dead, transubstantiation, devotion to Mary, the papacy, and the sale of indulgences.

Summer 2017 – Adult Bible Study – Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m.

LUTHER (PART 3) – **Soon to be published!**

June 2017 – Summer Reading Group – Luther biography

September 30 – October 1, 2017 – Guest Lecturer and Preacher Prof. Gerhard Bode



October 21, 2017 – Reformation Picnic at the Tiesler lake house.

October 29, 2017 – Reformation (500) Day observed! Divine Service, 10:30 a.m.





**Lutherans
For Life**

Equipping Lutherans to be
Gospel-motivated voices For Life

12/27/2016

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Rev Philip Young
800 Bellevue Rd
Nashville, TN 37221-2702

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Redeemer Lutheran Church,

The LORD be with you! I thank you for the generous gift of \$1,061.33 that you entrusted to Lutherans For Life. I assure you it has been received with not only rejoicing but also with a sense of responsibility. You have offered yourselves as representatives of Jesus Christ and instruments of Almighty God in supporting our ministry. So we commend ourselves to you as your servants, working on your behalf to equip Lutherans across the country (and around the world!) to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

You are an answer from God to our prayers. Our deepest and daily desire remains that our message be received, and in you He has richly granted this, along with funding our mission – now in its thirty-eighth year. Your partnership with us provides the precious assurance that we do not journey or strive alone. Other than the presence and blessing of the Lord Himself, the backing of life-minded congregations is the most important component to the sustenance and success of Lutherans For Life.

Please accept our many resources and activities as demonstration of our gratitude. We seek to lead those whom our message reaches and touches into your fellowship, and our efforts are the more effective because of it. Our materials and speakers are extensions of and supplements to the Word you proclaim, the Sacraments you celebrate, and the Life and Lord you embody. May He continue to perfect His love and power in your midst until the hearts changed and lives saved by our Gospel thank you for themselves.

In truth and love,

Rev. Michael W. Salemink
Executive Director, Lutherans For Life

Lutherans For Life is a 501(c)(3) organization (non-profit and supported entirely by charitable donations!). Your gift is tax-deductible. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this gift.

info@lutheransforlife.org • www.lutheransforlife.org • 888-364-LIFE • 1101 5th Street • Nevada, Iowa 50201-1816

Jesus said, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

January 3, 2016

Rev. Philip Young
Redeemer Lutheran Church
800 Bellevue Road
Nashville, TN

Established in 1983, we equip women, men, and families to make healthy choices with unplanned pregnancies, prevention, pregnancy loss and postpartum depression.

HOPE
CLINIC
for women

Dear Rev. Philip,

*But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added unto you.
Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:31-32*

After thirteen years at Hope Clinic there are still seasons where I hold my breath waiting for financial updates to see if we hit our revenue goals, or client numbers to see if we are reaching enough clients AND if they are leaving more whole and more equipped. But I hold my breath knowing that God has this place firmly in His care. So maybe it is healthy anticipation? Because I know at the end of the day, even if I mess up, or the client makes unhealthy choices or if a donor cannot fulfill a pledge or a volunteer can't make their time slot, I know God has not changed and His care over Hope Clinic will sustain us.

December giving and the end of our 'first' fiscal quarter is pivotal and sets the tone for the rest of our fiscal year. I am happy to report because of your generosity we have met our very large December and first quarter goals. This makes it possible to continue to provide excellent care to our clients. I walked by the lobby many times during the holiday season, knowing that clients were here in crisis. I prayed for every one of them on my way. I don't know their stories but God does. I do know their life is in a season where they need a big God to show up and tangible hands and hearts to serve them right now. I am so grateful they found us. I am grateful you make it possible for us to be here for them.

I pray God is covering you and your family for 2017. There is a lot of noise that can discourage us. But rather, I hope we look up, focus on what God has planned for us and trust Him with everything else. I pray that God blesses you abundantly for your faithfulness to us.

Blessings,

Renée Rizzo

Renée Rizzo
President/CEO
rrizzo@hopeclinicforwomen.org * 615-321-4428

THANKS SO MUCH!

Date of Contribution: 12/28/2016 Amount of Contribution: \$1061.33 Non Tax Deductible Amount: \$- 40120 Church Undesignated
Total 2016 Giving: \$1061.33

Please keep this letter for tax purposes. Hope Clinic for Women gratefully acknowledges your donation. We confirm that no goods or services were provided for the tax-deductible portion of your contribution. Please contact Emmely Duncan with any donor-related questions at eduncan@hopeclinicforwomen.org or 615.515.6922.



The Glories of God in Ghana

Psalms 87

News from the Kasters, Serving the Lord in Ghana

Email us: dale.kaster@lcmsintl.org



A Blessed Visitation

Busy, busy, busy! We have been very busy. Over the months of November and December, we visited nine congregations (from Oregon to Virginia), a class of pre-seminary/pre-deaconess students at Concordia University in Seward, and presented about the work at the International Center in Saint Louis as well as at Mission Central, Mapleton, Iowa. We have, without any exaggeration, been blessed through these visitations. It has given us an opportunity to put face to name. It has given us a chance to tell our story and the stories of many in Ghana. And it has also allowed us to present our prayer needs as we serve the Lord there. We thank the Lord for this period of home-service, this time of visitation. But as blessed as we were to visit, we are even more blessed because of the visitation of this season – the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ who has come that we might know God’s love and grace by His salvation!

There is a fifteenth-century macaronic that celebrates this visitation by meditating on what transpired in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Its title is “There Is No Rose of Such Virtue.” Throughout the stanzas, the author meditates upon what the mystery of the incarnation means. He writes:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
<i>Alleluia.</i> | 2. For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space.
<i>Res miranda.</i> (A miraculous thing) |
| 3. By that rose we may well see
That He is God in persons three,
<i>Pari forma.</i> (In equal form) | |

A blessed visitation – that is what this season holds before us! We are to ponder the amazing truth that God has come into our flesh. In theology, we call Mary the theotokos, which means, “mother of God.” It is not so much a statement about who she is as it is about whom she bore. That is, within the womb of the Virgin was the infinite God, the eternally existing Second Person of the Holy Trinity. God has come to visit us and to bring us salvation; in the manger lies our Redeemer!

As we pass through these twelve days of Christmas, let us ponder this thought each day. Let the lights on the Christmas tree draw you to Him who called light itself out of nothing. And as the Christmas season gives way to Epiphany and its season, let us be reminded that this Light is the Light we all are to shine whether in Ghana or here in the U.S.A. In every stop, before every group, we reminded the people of that. And now we remind you here. Let the name of the Savior be proclaimed. Let the Church say, “*Res miranda*” (A miraculous thing)!

Dear brothers and sisters, we wish you all a most blessed Christmas, and we pray that the New Year may bring you many, many blessings. We pray that you, like Mary, might ponder in your hearts what you have heard this season. And like the shepherds you might go and tell. God be with you! Amen.



Prayer Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- Praise God for our area director and his wife, Gary and Stephanie Schulte.
- Pray for our team here in West Africa. In Ghana: Rev/Mrs. David Erber, Rev/Mrs. Mark Moss, Rev/Mrs. Steven Schumacher, Rev/Mrs. Doug Thompson, and Rev/Mrs. Ryan McDermott
In Togo: Rev/Mrs. Micah Wildauer, Valerie Stonebreaker, and Rev. Jacob Gaugert.
In Burkina Faso: Rev/Mrs. Gary Schulte and Rev. Fred Reinhardt.
- Pray for Bishop Fynn, head of the ELCG.
- Praise God for the start of a new school year in the Togo seminary.
- Pray for Pastor Konbat
- Ask God to bless our Tamale congregation with a spirit of outreach.

You can write us at:
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
TL 375
Tamale, Ghana
West Africa

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Health Care Issues at Home

Currently, we are still in the States. We were supposed to return on December 16th, but we are following up on some health concerns we need to deal with while we are still here. Dale is seeing a GI specialist next week to receive reports about the biopsies he had taken a few weeks before. On top of that, Suzanne needs to have a routine test since she is now in her fifties. Getting older, as many of you could tell us, comes with its own set of problems.

Items in Tamale, Ghana

While we have been away, things continue to move forward in our town of Tamale. A building on our church property, that had been poorly treated, has been renovated and rebuilt into a dwelling place for our Ghanaian helper, Rev. John Konbat. They are awaiting my return to dedicate it as a parsonage, but Pastor Konbat is moving in this Saturday, December 31. We thank God for the many gifts that have been received for this.

We are planning some make-up training at the end of January. Men who have missed the first four courses that happened a year ago, will be given a chance to come and learn at our church building in Tamale. Please, pray that our group of diverse men, from different tribes and mother languages, may grow as church leaders.

We are also preparing for a meeting with those pastors who represent our training areas. We are working together with them to set training standards for the men who come to our training. We all want men who are well-trained, serving the Church and her people.

People Who Need Your Prayers

We ask that you keep in prayer those who have needs. In Ghana is our partner's wife, Susan, whose finger needs healing from an irritation. Also, Lazarus has been battling an eye disease that could have left him blind. He was able to get the medicine in time to help, but his eyes are still healing.

Here in the States, we ask you to pray for our son and daughter-in-law, Joshua and Sarah, who are expecting their first child, a daughter, on February 5. And we would appreciate your prayers for our son Jonathan, now serving in the US Air Force in Guam. Ask God to help him adjust to his new life.

Thank you to all of you who pray for us! We ask that you petition the Lord that the work laid out before us would be clear and blessed by God. Ask the Lord to expand our ministry that many people who do not know the love of God in Christ might hear of it and of Him through our lips and lives.

We commend you and yours to Christ Jesus, our Lord,
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Your Missionaries in Ghana, West Africa

To support the LCMS through the work of the Kasters, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR** Mission Central
P.O. Box 66861 40718 Hwy E16
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Mapleton, IA 51034c

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Kaster – Ghana," in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/kaster.

Visit us at www.facebook.com/kastersinghana - no FB membership needed!

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10 Bible Study 5 Confirmation 7 Choir	2 <i>The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord</i>	3	4 4 "Joy in the Light" Capital Campaign Picnic
5 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service Door Offering	6 8 AA	7	8 10 Bible Study 5 Confirmation 7 Choir	9	10	11
12 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service	13 8 AA	14 7 LWML	15 10 Bible Study 5 Confirmation 7 Choir	16	17	18 8:30 Men's Breakfast
19 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service	20 8 AA	21 6:30 Council	22 10 Bible Study 5 Confirmation 7 Choir	23	24 <i>St. Matthias, Apostle</i>	25
26 The Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service LWML Mite Collection Chili Cookoff	27 8 AA	28 10 Ladies Home Improvement Group				



REFORMA LUTERANA
2017 *Todo Aún* Es Sobre
Jesús



REFORMA LUTERANA
2017 *Ainda* Todo É Sobre
Jesus



REFORMATION
2017 *It's Still* All About
Jesus



*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path..
Your statutes are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart. Psalm 119: 105, 111*

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Joy in the Light

Capital Campaign 2017

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