

Spirit of the Redeemer

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

May 2019

He Is Risen!

During Holy Week I received the following greeting that brought me great joy:



Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) reminded me that the Good News of Jesus' resurrection is shared throughout this dark world in numerous languages. Praise God! The words of the angels given to the women at Jesus' tomb are recorded and translated for the nations! And LHF explains what the Good News means by publishing Lutheran teaching, that is, the pure doctrine, in over 100 different languages!

Despite the bombings of Christian worshippers in Sri Lanka, the persecutions in other parts of Asia and the Middle East, and the ridicule that is received by Christians in the west, there is Easter joy that cannot be taken away and that is confessed on the lips of believers by the power of the Holy Spirit.

How wonderful that the truth is recorded and spoken that many may believe in the One who is "the resurrection and the life"! (Jn. 11:25). What comfort in the promise of Christ that the gates of hell shall not prevail against his Church! (Matt. 16:18).

During this Easter season as we continue to greet each other in our congregation with the Good News of the resurrection, we are to realize that we are not the only ones! In languages we have never heard spoken the joy of Easter is proclaimed! May it continue and increase until the Day our Lord comes again.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

– Pastor Young



Growing In Christ Sunday School May 2019

Easter 3 – 5/5

Jesus Calms a Storm Mark 4:35-41

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

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.

Easter 4 – 5/12

Jesus Heals Jairus’s Daughter

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

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

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.

Easter 5 – 5/19

Jesus Walks on Water Matthew 14:22-33

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

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

For the Month of May

Ushers:

Altar Care:

Sunday Morning Refreshments

Birthdays

Baptismal Birthdays

Wedding Anniversaries

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.

Easter 6 – 5/26

Jesus Heals a Blind Man John 9

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:4

Today in Sunday School, children learn about Jesus healing a blind man (John 9). Jesus came into this world to forgive us and grant us faith—spiritual sight. He gives sight to our souls by forgiving our sins. In your family faith discussions talk about how sin blinds us in our life of faith. Consider asking, “*What ways does sin do that? How do the Word and Sacraments give us ‘eyes of faith’ so that we can believe?*”

Law Sin has blinded my eyes so that I cannot see or believe in Jesus. **Gospel** In His Word and Sacraments, Jesus gives me eyes of faith so that I can believe in Him as my Savior and trust His love for me.

Movie Review: *Unplanned*

Directed by Cary Solomon and Chuck

Konzelman

Starring Ashley Bratcher, Brooks Ryan, and

Robia Scott

Rated R for some disturbing/bloody images

On Tuesday, April 9, the brother pastors of Ascension, Concordia, Our Savior, Redeemer, Shepherd of the Hills, and Trinity Lutheran met for a viewing of one of the most controversial films ever released. *Unplanned* is based on the story of and same-named book by Abby Johnson, who at one time was one of the youngest Planned Parenthood directors in the United States. It follows her volunteer work, employment, and eventual resignation from Planned Parenthood after witnessing an ultrasound-guided abortion. Ms. Johnson herself had two abortions before her departure from Planned Parenthood, which is one of the many intriguing aspects of the story: how she initially justified what she came to be a leading voice against.

The film is absolutely brutal—there’s no other way to put it. The directors and Ms. Johnson wanted to portray what truly happens during an abortion, and specifically, during the abortions she witnessed. The ultrasound-guided abortion is illustrated through computer-generated imagery; her own abortions are related in very bloody scenes; a dismembered baby is shown lying on a table; a woman who faced a crisis resulting from the procedure is graphically portrayed. The MPAA got it right when assigning an “R” rating—the sick irony of it all is that many states allow young women to have an abortion who would be denied entrance to this film. In fact, the rating affirms that abortion is not simply a “routine medical procedure.”

Many reviews that disliked the film focus on the style, giving critiques of the acting, writing, directing, or production quality, frequently labeling it “propaganda”—one review ended condescendingly, “‘Unplanned’ views humanity itself in black and white.” But no review I’ve read critiques the substance, which is the harsh reality of abortion. No review I’ve



Pastors from the Nashville and Middle Tennessee Circuits attended the movie *Unplanned* to show their support for the sanctity of human life. From left: Lane Reuter, Greg Bauch, David McMinn, Philip Young, Ken Shaw, Eric Phillips, Erik Christensen.

read wrote the equivalent of, “This film’s depiction of abortion is fantasy.” That’s because it’s not. People indeed claim that Ms. Johnson invented her assisting in an ultrasound-guided abortion, to which I direct you to her response: <https://thefederalist.com/2019/04/08/yes-really-see-ultrasound-guided-abortion-made-pro-life/>. I, for one, believe her. Is the film, as another review puts it, “non-stop proselytizing [against] abortion”? Yes. But to dismiss a film because it wishes to convey a message is to go against artistic intent in general. That many believe the anti-choice message of *Unplanned* to be wrong is undeniable—similarly undeniable is the violent reality of abortion portrayed on-screen.

The film certainly preaches to the choir. And the heavy heavy majority of viewers entering the theater know this film’s message. But there have been testimonies of those contemplating abortion leaving the theater with a view toward life. Praise God! For the choir, the film keeps urgency for pro-life action alive. It’s our human tendency to become lackadaisical over time—abortion was deemed legal over 45 years ago. But like Norma McCorvey, the story of Abby Johnson provides hope for our culture’s return to God’s absolute morality at the most basic level. She’s a modern-day St. Paul of the





abortion industry: an enemy converted to a voice of truth. I'm not sure I could view this film a second time unless I went to support those who were unsure of viewing it themselves. For those who think they can endure the gruesome visual of abortion, I urge you to support this film; for those who think they can't, I suggest Ms. Johnson's book; for those who neither want to see nor read of the brutal reality of abortion, I fully understand. And to everyone I remind that Jesus "came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (Jn 10:10). Special thanks to Rev. Phil Young for organizing the viewing.

—Rev. Greg Bauch, Ascension Lutheran Church

Kroger Community Rewards Program

Are you a Kroger shopper? If so, you can link your Kroger Plus Card to their Community Rewards Program online and Redeemer will receive a quarterly check. Redeemer has elected to place these dollars in the Sanctuary Renovation Fund. In fact, we just received a check for \$60.92. Simple, easy stewardship! Contact Redeemer's office for details on how to participate.

Mission Presentation at Redeemer Lutheran – May 19, 2019
 Guest Preacher and Teacher: Rev. Nicholas Salifu, Ziako, Ghana, West Africa
 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana



Abundant Life Giving Society

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect ..." (1 Peter 3:15).

April 10, 2019

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

Dear Friends of Life,

The Lord be with you!

Thank you so much for your courageous, compassionate support of our ministry. You have joined over 200 other Gospel-motivated voices For Life as members of our **Abundant Life Giving Society**, an exclusive group of people who have given \$1000 or more in the last twelve months.

You're making the fortieth year—the fourth decade!—of Lutherans For Life possible. Your partnership is enabling us to reach nearly 200,000 ears and hearts this year. Your charity is warning them about the dangers of using death as a solution to our difficulties. Your generosity is winning them over with the message of how our Lord creates, redeems, and calls each human life to be His own precious treasure forever. Your enthusiasm is inspiring individuals and volunteer communities across the country to reach and touch their endangered neighbors, to change minds and save lives.

And our hope and joy are strengthened and sustained by yours. Your fellowship brings comfort and encouragement to our national staff every day. The better way is prevailing. The abundant blessings of God's gift of life are overcoming guilt and grief, anxiety and anger, far and wide. We're proud to have you as our leaders, our brothers and our sisters!

Well done, good and faithful servant!

In truth and love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Michael W. Saleminsk".

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

Enc. ALGS certificate

Lutherans For Life – Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

www.lutheransforlife.org • 888.364.LIFE (5433) • info@lutheransforlife.org



Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



March 2019



Luther's Sacristy Prayer (A Pastor's Prayer)

O Lord God, dear Father in heaven, I am indeed unworthy of the office and ministry in which I am to make known Your glory and to nurture and to serve this congregation.

But since You have appointed me to be a pastor and teacher, and the people are in need of the teaching and the instruction, be my helper and let Your holy angels attend me.

Then if You are pleased to accomplish anything through me, to Your glory and not to mine or to the praise of men, grant me, out of Your pure grace and mercy, a right understanding of Your Word and that I may also diligently perform it.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, shepherd and bishop of our souls, send Your Holy Spirit that He may work with me to will and to do through Your divine strength according to Your good pleasure. Amen.

Lutheran Service Book
Pastoral Care Companion, page xviii



As Through Means ...

March 3rd was installation day here at St. Michael the Archangel Lutheran Church. First, I was installed as pastor and missionary by our Eurasia Regional Director, Rev. James Krikava. Then later, Martin Damašek was installed as vicar and deacon of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic by Bishop Marián Čop. With that accomplished, the work begins in earnest.

Martin is a very devout, conscientious and bright man. He is a Ph.D. candidate in philosophy. He is, simply said, a student that every teacher would want to have. And now I do.

We thank God for Martin because he is a part of what we, as Lutherans, see as the gifts of Christ to His Church. In the Augsburg Confession, Article V, we hear this wonderful confession: *To obtain [justifying faith] God instituted the office of the ministry, that is, provided the Gospel and the sacraments. Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit, who works faith, when and where he pleases, in those who hear the Gospel.* (Tappert, page 31)

Pastors are not independent contractors, no matter what the IRS might say. They are Christ's servants; He provides them. Therefore, a pastor cannot teach what he wants, what will make him popular, but instead teaches from the Gospel, i.e. the Word of God. Pastors do not have their own tools; they have been given the Sacraments to apply Christ's grace to the broken, hurting sinner. Through pastors, as through means, God is working in the lives of people to bring them to faith which saves.

So, now, we have a lot of work ahead of us. Some we have already started. Martin already is serving as lector and communion assistant in the Divine Service. He is already working, under my guidance, on a sermon for April 6th. And he has been a big help in many mundane things that I cannot do, due to lack of Czech language ability. But ahead of us lays Greek classes, which we will start in May. Also ahead of us is some teaching on exegetics (Biblical interpretation) and hermeneutics (rules for Biblical interpretation). Additionally, he could use some teaching of liturgics and doctrine. But we are progressing little by little. There is no microwave oven version of pastoral formation. It takes a lot of time and hard work, but we do it because it is the means by which Christ gives His gifts to the Church.

Yet, even when the class work is done, it is not done, because pastors are constantly wrestling with the Word. The good news is that, like Jacob, we are wrestling with God and saying, "Bless me!" And, also like Jacob, He does. Please, in your prayers, pray for Martin as well as for me and for all who will be a part of his formation. Pray for your pastor as well. In fact, let him know that you are grateful that he is the means by which Christ gives His gifts to you!



We always thank and praise our Lord for all our supporters, donors, and those who offer prayers for us. This month we lift praise to God for the support given by the following ministries:

Bethlehem Lutheran
Jacksonville Beach, FL

St. John Evangelical Lutheran
Casey, IA

St. Paul Lutheran
Mt. Prospect, IL

Watch for your congregation in
the coming months!

Our address in Prague:
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Bubenečská 365/41
Praha 6 160 00
Czech Republic

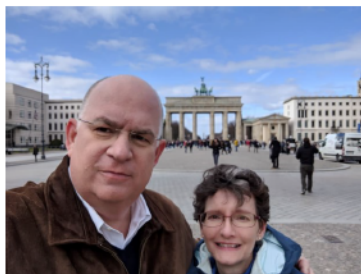
The church address in Prague:
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
V Jirchářích 152/14
Praha 1 110 00
Czech Republic

Pray for outreach activities being
done here in the Czech Republic

Please, pray that the officials will
approve our visa application

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

Our email address is
Dale.Kaster@lcms.org



In front of the Brandenburg Gate

Our Trip to Berlin, Germany

We had a lovely train trip from Prague to Berlin, so that we might go to the Czech embassy there to apply for our long-term visas. Our meeting went very well and our application, along with all the accompanying documents, was received—there is always a chance that your application could be deemed "incomplete." So, just having it accepted was a personal victory for us! We now are in waiting mode, to hear if we will be granted our visas or not. In fact, we have heard that the authorities already have contacted some of our references.

Travel That Lays Ahead for Us

While we are stationed in Prague, there are meetings and ministry moments that also require travel for us. In the months ahead, we will be attending a pastoral conference in Heidelberg, Germany, to bond with and encourage a number of missionaries in Germany; a trip to Olomouc in the eastern Czech Republic to minister to our lay missionaries there, bringing in the Sacrament to them; a trip to Wittenberg, Germany, to attend a pastoral conference that will include confessional Lutheran pastors from all over Europe. We will report on each of these events as they happen. Please, include our safe passage in your prayers!

Organizing for Work

Our English-language congregation is a part of the much larger Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic (ECAV v ČR). In order to bring our voice to the table and to encourage the faithful witness of the church, we are organizing at St. Michael's congregation, finding officers just like an American congregation. We are but a small church right now, so we all are going to have to pull together. We thank God that indeed that is the spirit of the congregation. In the future, we will participate in outings and other fellowship events.



Happenings in Prague

Czechs love to be out of doors, when the weather permits. As the Easter season draws near, so too do the Easter markets. These are markets that sell a lot of Spring-related items and such. The big markets will open at the beginning of April. But already this market has started to operate in the Náměstí Republiky area of the city. Walking through that area lately, it caught us off-guard seeing it in business. The funny thing is, it is still cold here and does not feel anything like Spring!

Theological Discussion Group

In an attempt to get Czechs discussing theology and, ultimately, Christ, we are starting a theological discussion group that will meet in a public place. Our plan is to use either the Augsburg Confession or the Large Catechism. We are hoping to draw people into the Word of Life.

And Also ...

We thank God for a new app that our Communications Director, Cindy Wrucke, has been working on. Czechs love their cell phones, and we are hoping that we can introduce them to Jesus through a simple Scripture and prayer app. Tied to this is also a Bible giveaway. Please, pray for all these works!

We commend you to Christ!

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster

Your Missionaries to the Czech Republic

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

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR**
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Mission Central
40718 Hwy E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

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

May 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10 Bible Study	2 Confirmation	3	4 1-4 Second Harvest Food Bank Work Day
5 Third Sunday of Easter 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service Door Offering Choir	6 8 AA	7 6 Country Villas Annual Meeting	8 10 Bible Study	9 Confirmation 6-7:30 Doral Country Villas meeting (not same as 5/7)	10	11
12 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service Choir Mothers' Day	13 8 AA	14	15 10 Bible Study	16 Confirmation	17	18 8:30 Men's Breakfast
19 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service Visit from Pastor Nicholas Salifu, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana Pot-luck luncheon following Divine Service	20 8 AA	21 6:30 Council	22 10 Bible Study	23 Confirmation	24	25
26 Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service Recognition of Graduates LWML Mite Collection Choir	27 8 AA Memorial Day	28 10 Ladies Home Improvement Group	29 10 Bible Study	30 The Ascension of Our Lord 7 Divine Service	31	

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church

800 Bellevue Road

Nashville, TN 37221

(615) 646-3150

www.redeemernashville.org

rlcnashville@bellsouth.net

