



The Redeemer Review

“Redeemer Lutheran Church...where the Cross is brought to the generations”

May 2012

Discipleship

Now that we're on the other side of winter and Easter and looking forward to the beautiful Spring and Summer days, there can be a tendency to let our discipleship “slide.” When it comes to discipleship, many congregations see this time of the year as the gentle slide into summer slumber.

However, this shouldn't be. This is no time to let our worship, praise, and thanks to our Lord be neglected. This is no time to let our service to Him slack off.

Jesus tells us, “*Anyone who would come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.*” This is a call to discipleship. It's a time for us to have our discipleship renewed. To do this, we should consider the word “DISCIPLE.”

Depend A disciple is dependent on his or her heavenly Father! There's no way that we can make it through life on our own. Branches detached from a tree wither and die. The same goes for us. If we're not regularly attached to the Lord through Word and Sacrament then we spiritually wither. Stay connected and your faith will flourish!

Imitate A disciple imitates the one he or she follows. This is what we're now called to—looking not to our own will, but our Lord's. We are not our own. We have been bought with a price!

Serve A disciple serves. By grace, we see that we're called to *serve* others rather than *be* served. Jesus did this with His life. So it is to be with us—not because we *have* to, but because we *want* to serve as we have been served by Jesus!

Commit A disciple commits his or her life to the Lord! As we bear the cross, it will mean that we may have to make difficult decisions—like getting up and going to church on one of those beautiful

Sunday mornings rather than working in the yard, going to the beach, or to the golf course. But, when our lives are filled with God's Word, it fills us like nothing else!

Instruct The first disciples were instructed by Jesus Himself. Those of us who are still following today need to be instructed too. In addition to this, we're called to instruct others. Our simple presence in the House of the Lord is a witness and instruction to our families, our friends, and our neighbors who see us dressed-up on Sunday morning, and headed to church. Just by being in church, this instruction is begun for ourselves and others.

Pray A disciple prays—about everything: Their needs, the needs of others, for the Church, for our congregation leaders. In short, a disciple prays about everything. It's our privilege. It's our joy!

Love Jesus told His disciples in the upper room, “*Love each other as I have loved you.*” To love like this, a disciple today loves the people around them more than themselves. That means putting others first. This is hard. But, when we're weekly immersed in the love that Jesus has for us in His Word and Supper, we have the forgiveness we need to love others as Jesus loves us.

Enjoy A disciple will not look at any of these things as a dirge or a duty. When we're doing these things, we're enjoying the truth that we're serving the Lord who has served us so mightily, and serving his people. Try it. The Lord will make the joy of being His disciple known to you. Now is the time! God grant you the grace to follow as a DISCIPLE of Jesus!

Blessings,

Pastor Fischer



Redeemer Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation
“Christ Caring for People through People”



Food Bank News

Submitted by Karen Selepouchin

We are pleased to announce that through a generous donation to the Food Pantry we were able to purchase a new refrigerator and freezer for the kitchen. This will help, especially at Thanksgiving, to hold more food for baskets.

If you know someone who could benefit from a food basket, please have them call Social Services at 732-349-1500 and ask for a food basket. Social Services connects them to Ocean County Hunger Relief where they schedule appointments for them to come in to receive their basket. We are open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

During March we gave out 29 baskets for 55 adults and 21 children. Don't want to go shopping? Monetary donations are accepted as well as food donations. We give out \$10 Shop-Rite gift cards with each food basket to help purchase perishable items such as milk, bread, and eggs. Larger families receive 2 \$10 cards.

Most needed items are underlined:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Canned or dry milk</u> | <u>Canned ham & meats</u> |
| <u>Cereal</u> | Crackers |
| Coffee | Jelly & Jams |
| Juice | Ketchup & Mustard |
| Mayonnaise | Muffin Mix |
| Pancake Mix | Syrup |
| Sugar | Tea |



The following people are on our list: Irene Anderson, Julia Bidwell, Erna Collins, Margaret Degethof, Louise Halama, Henry & Ruth Hilbert, Muriel Krone, Grace McMullen, Al Mueller, Erika Niewandt, Jere & Gloria O'Neill, Charles Schwartz, and Louise Von Sprecklesen.

*Please ask Karen for an updated address list of our shut-ins, if you would like to send them cards.

Seated Service of Holy Communion

May 16 at 2:00 pm (no standing)

We once again will have a Communion service this month specially designed to accommodate our shut-in members. There will be no standing involved in this service and the pastor will come to you to serve Holy Communion. Seating will be in every other pew to allow room for the pastor to serve. All others are invited to attend this service as well. There will be a fellowship time after the service, so plan on staying to join us. We can always use volunteers to drive, if you can help please call Don Cousens at 732-371-3722. If you require a ride you can also call Don Cousens and let him make arrangements for that.

Shepherd's Corner

He is Risen! Alleluia!

The Shepherds hope that our “family” at Redeemer had a joyous Easter. Our church had beautiful services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Day. We are thankful to God for providing us with ministers for all the services.

We, on the Board of Shepherds, try to keep in touch with all the members of Redeemer. If we call and leave a message, please feel free to call us back. You can call us at any time if you just want a phone visit.

I realize I am always asking for one more person to add to our Shepherds' board. It isn't hard to do-and you can do it at your own time at home. By these phone calls we are able to find out who is in need of a pastor's visit, or who might be in the hospital, etc. Prayerfully consider this. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month for one hour.

In His name, Alma Filzen

April 2012 Official Records

Departed loved ones: Muriel Weber

Baptisms:

Weddings:

Call List for Redeemer, Manchester NJ (April 2012)

Rev. Kevin Bergmann, Candidate Born: 1956
 Married: 1990 Wife: Laura Attorney
 Children: Alison (1991)

Rated strengths: Outstanding in cooperation. Very good in patience, creativity, children's ministry, older adult ministry, teaching ability, and sick & shut-in visitation. Good in all other ministry areas. Evangelical in pastoral practice and theology, and flexible in both traditional and contemporary liturgical styles. His District President writes: "Pastor Bergmann is presently a Candidate, having resigned amidst economic struggles and declining membership in a changed neighborhood. Now serving as visitation pastor in two separate Lutheran Churches, with preaching opportunities and teaching confirmation classes. He completed his Doctor of Ministry degree at Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne. Served well as a Circuit Counselor for 3 terms, and faithfully at his Parish for 22 years."

Rev. Daniel Grams Pastor: St. Paul, Luxemburg WI Born: 1977
 Married: 1998 Wife: Susan Lutheran Teacher / Musician
 Children: Mitchell (2001), Katherine (2004), Nicholas (2007), Nathan (2011)

Rated Strengths: Very good in tact, cooperation, initiative administration, people skills, older adult ministry, preaching content, and worship. Good in all other ministry areas. He is considered conservative evangelical in his pastoral practice and theology, and flexible in the traditional and the high liturgical styles. His District President writes: "Pastor Grams did very well in his first parish, demonstrating the best qualities of having a "servant heart". He led the congregation to reach out into the ethnic community, demonstrating initiative and vision. Has a good rapport with his people, and has been responsive and flexible in meeting the needs of the parish and the community. He enjoys chanting the liturgy and does a good job at it. His present Call is filled with the challenge of running a congregation-sponsored elementary school, which has been frustrating."

Rev. Peter Kirby Pastor: Zion, Carlinville IL Born: 1963
 Married: 1986 Wife: Carla MSW – social work
 Children: Ian (1989), Amanda (1992)

Rated strengths: Outstanding in initiative, personal witnessing and teaching ability. Very good in cooperation, administration, leadership, innovation, creativity, people skills and community involvement, children's ministry, youth ministry, family ministry, small group ministry, lay leadership development, worship, sick & shut-in visitation, outreach and members' home visitation. Good in all other areas of ministry. He has had specialized training in Evangelism, conflict resolution and Clinical Pastoral Education. He is considered evangelical in his pastoral practice and theology, and flexible in the traditional liturgical style. His District President writes: "Pastor Kirby served as a missionary in Kingston, Jamaica for 8 years. He is a good preacher and pastoral visitor, hard working, good thinker, with a very caring approach to people. Possesses many skills for ministry. Pastor Kirby has participated in the DOXOLOGY workshops for pastoral care."

Rev. Stephen Lutz Pastor: Trinity, Elmore OH Born: 1965
 Married: 1986 Wife: Heidi Elementary Education Teacher
 Children: Sarah (1989), Ashley (1991)

Rated strengths: Outstanding in tact, patience, cooperation, initiative, leadership, people skills, lay leadership development, preaching content, and teaching ability. Good in all other areas of ministry. He is considered evangelical in his pastoral practice and theology, and flexible in the traditional liturgical style. He has had special training in crisis intervention. His District President writes: "Pastor Lutz is a good pastor who loves the members of his congregation and whom they honor and respect as their faithful shepherd. He is loving and compassionate as he interacts with his members. He relates well with people of all ages and levels of education. He has a good pastoral leadership style, neither authoritarian nor passive, but working with the elected leaders in a collegial way."

Rev. Gregory Michel Pastor: St. Matthew, Milan IL Born: 1969
 Married: 1996 Wife: Susan Lutheran Teacher / Musician
 Children: Jonathan (2000), Rebekah (2004)

Rated strengths: Very Good in tact, cooperation initiative, administration, leadership, community involvement, children's ministry, youth ministry older adult ministry, family ministry, assimilation of new members, personal witnessing, preaching content and delivery, teaching ability, worship and sick & shut-in visitation. Good in all other areas of ministry. He is evangelical in his pastoral approach and theology, and flexible in traditional liturgical style. His District President writes: "Pastor Michel is doing a very good job of caring for his sheep. He is loved by his people and respected by his peers. He is a good preacher and teacher."

Rev. Frank Ruffatto Pastor: Point of Grace Born: 1965
 Married: 1987 Wife: Terri
 Children: Alyson (1990), Kirstie (1994), Brianna (1995)

Rated strengths: Very good in cooperation initiative, administration, leadership, people skills, small group ministry, personal witnessing, counseling, preaching content and delivery, teaching ability, and worship. Fair in children's ministry, young adult and singles ministry. Good in all other areas of ministry. He is rated as evangelical in his pastoral approach and theology, and flexible in both the traditional and contemporary styles of worship. His District President writes: "Rev. Ruffatto is a good all-around pastor. Very conscientious and caring. Good preacher and teacher. He comes with a wealth of experience from the military (Air Force) and as a police detective (Maryland), because of which he is committed to a Peace Officers' Ministry through which he does outreach."

Combined May Voter's & Call Meeting

May 6, 2012 at 12:00 pm

It is very important that all members participate in this meeting. Church Council has agreed that elections will be held at the November's Voter's Meeting.

Memorials

Memorials received for the months of February are given in memory of:

William Anderson
Muriel Weber

Contributions for departed loved ones may be given at anytime during the year. You will find the Request Cards and envelopes by the Guest book, and also on the table in the Narthex area of the church.

Complete the card, drop it off at the office, mail it, or drop it into the offering plate, making sure it is clearly noted that it is a memorial gift.

Peace be with you, Marilyn Tipping

Blue Claws—August 21st

Yes, warm weather is coming and soon we'll be into baseball season again!

Redeemer has once again reserved a section for All Faith's Night on Tuesday, **August 21 at 7:05 pm** at the Blue Claws stadium in Lakewood. We are front and center behind home plate with seats saved just for us! Those of you who have attended in prior years know what a good time we always have there.

Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$7 for Jrs. and Srs.

**Payment is required at sign up time—
No exceptions please!**

Checks should be made payable to Redeemer with a notation "Blue Claws" on the memo line. An envelope is provided by the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Hurry, these tickets go fast!

Ladies Society

Submitted by Lesley Vergallito

Our next meeting is May 8 at 7pm.

May 6 is our Voter's Meeting luncheon; a sign up sheet for those attending is posted in the Narthex. Donations are accepted to cover the cost of the food.

June 8th & 9th Stacey Hadley and Leslie Vergallito will be attending the LWML New Jersey District Biennial Convention in Mount Laurel, NJ. The ladies that attend this convention vote on Mission Projects for 2012 & 2013. Stacey and Leslie also attended the LWML New Jersey District Spring Rally/Servant Event on Saturday, April 28. Attendees at this meeting helped to spruce up Lutheran Haven in Asbury Park.

June 10 is the date for Redeemer's Church and Sunday School Picnic. Be sure to plan to attend this fun event.

Nursery News

Submitted by Diane Mueller



The year is quickly coming to an end.

On May 4th our four year class will be spending the day at the Garden State Discovery Museum in Cherry Hill, visiting the museum and attending a workshop on "Bubble Magic". On May 10th and 11th we will be holding our annual Mother's Day Tea honoring our moms for all they do. On May 24th and 25th, classes will be going to Cowboy Park in Toms River. School will be closed May 28th for Memorial Day.

Registration is now available for the 2012-2013. For further information, please call the school office at 732 657-0333. Children whose parents are members or children who have been baptized at Redeemer receive a discounted tuition.

Sunday School News

On May 20, 2012 We will be celebrating

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY

at both services. Hope you all can join us!

Other news: June 10th is the date for the Church/Sunday School Picnic.

Treasury Note

March 2012

Income total \$15,586.77
Expense total \$16,007.09
 -420.32

Did you know ... If you pay your bills on-line, you can also make your church contribution the same way? If you don't use on-line bill pay, most banks can setup an automatic withdrawal for the same purpose. This is a good way to keep up with your church obligations.

Submitted by Eileen Seal, Treasurer



Choir Notes

PLEASE READ THIS EVEN IF YOU DON'T SING IN THE CHOIR!

Have you noticed how the choir has gone down in numbers? Those of us that are singing in it have and we would like to ask you to help us.

We have 7 women and 6 men that are now actively participating in choir. Now, we can do fine as long as we all work hard. We're not complaining. We love to sing and that's why we joined. We also care about each other and try to be there so as not to let down the people in our sections. (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) The problems come when we have illness, vacations and other things that come up with family. It sure would be nice to have some others that can spare the time to sing. You **DO NOT NEED TO KNOW HOW TO READ MUSIC!!!** It does help, but we will make sure you know your part. We don't expect you to become an accomplished chorister overnight. If you can only sing twice a month, we understand that also, although our hope would be each week that you are able. Please call and discuss it if you have a conflict. Sometimes taking a step you've had nagging at you can change your life. I'll tell you a little secret, I wanted to join the choir in my last church, but had another very important commitment. The choir director at the time agreed to meet with me on Saturday mornings to teach me the anthem. I got to sing and he got another alto. His name was Tom Hadley. We've been married for 36 years now! You have that little whisper that's telling you to join, follow your heart and come out. You never know what God has planned for you!

Sallie Hadley

Elder's View

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, our wonderful and all knowing God continues to guide and protect us through this journey that we know as a vacancy. Where this journey will take us we can not be sure, however we can be sure that our heavenly Father does know where this journey will take us and He will provide for us as He always has. Let us review what He has already done for Redeemer. He has sent us four Pastors and one vicar to make sure that we continue to hear His Word and receive His Sacrament. I know that you will join me in thanking these Faithful servants. Pastor Qualman who served four month as our Vacancy Pastor, Pastor Fischer who served us at the beginning of our vacancy and then again when Pastor Qualman received his call to Texas Pastor Fischer responded to our need. We also have been blessed by having Pastor Dunne conduct our Saturday services and also help us with shut in and hospital visits. Our Lord did not stop there, He has sent us Pastor Minnix who conducts our seated services and has been there when we needed his help. When Pastor Fischer went to South Africa to visit his daughter and to see his first grand child, our Lord provided Vicar Travis Lautenbach to conduct the services that Pastor Fischer was to miss. All praise and glory to our wonderful and gracious God. We can be certain that He will continue to lead, provide and protect us as we seek the Pastor that He has selected for us.

The seated service continues to provide a wonderful service to four to six members who struggle with mobility issues. We want to thank the Opportunity Seekers who have provided the transportation and the tasty soup for the fellowship time. Our drivers: Don Eelman, JoAllyn & Mark Vlosak, and to our soup maker Betty Cousens, thank you all.

As we continue to make this journey through the vacancy, your Elders will do all we can to make the road as smooth as possible. Even so, it is God who has all the answers, it is God who provides us with all we need and it is God who we must rely on.

Elder Don Cousens

May Givers of Time & Talent

Acolytes

8:30am	11:00 am
May 6 Mackenzie Collins	Breanne Burrets
May 13 Alyssa Warren	Michael Greco
May 20 Kayla Moreno	Anja Kane
May 27 Spencer Grizzle	Kayla Burrets

Altar Guild

Joan Grefski, Carole Richter, Elaine Braun

Counters

Mary Gall, John Sajban

Greeters

8:30 am	Alma Filzen
11:00 am	Lila DeVogel

Lay Readers

8:30 am	11:00am
May 6 Barb Miceli	Sharon Grizzle
May 13 Marianne Pennucci	Tyler Sheridan
May 20 Nicholas Gonzalez	Diane Mueller
May 27 Joe Milko	Tom Sheridan

Lay Servers

May 6 8:30 am	Obed Gonzalez, Jon Ballis
May 13 11:00 am	Bill Grizzle, John Marvin
May 20 8:30 am	Don Cousens, Joe Milko
May 27 11:00 am	Tom Hadley, Bill Grizzle

Ushers

8:30am	Joe Filzen, John Sajban, Eleanor Miesemer
11:00am	Bob Bodine, Dave Bodine, George Black, Harold Dibble

Ruth Siegmann

Memorial Scholarship

Applications are available for this scholarship, which is a one-time award given to one student graduating from high school this year, with plans to go on to college. The student must be an active member of Redeemer. The deadline for application is Sunday, May 27, 2012. Please see Karen Selepouchin in the church office to pick up your application.

Church Council

Tom Sheridan	President	732-267-7100
Obed Gonzalez	Vice President	732-370-8122
Vinny Cerpa	Secretary	908-433-6770
Eileen Seal	Treasurer	732-657-6341
Joan DiBartolomeo	Financial Sec.	732-961-9280
Diane Mueller	Christian Ed.	732-350-2356
Valerie Marvin	Chr. Outreach	201-387-6179
Don Cousens	Elders	732-557-9326
Walter Dzuoska	Property Board	732-255-0223
Alma Filzen	Shepherds	732-657-3003
Jan Strader	Stewardship	732-600-7781
Ernest Muller	Trustees	732-408-9168

Staff, Committee & Group Leaders

Administrator	Karen Selepouchin
Administrative Assistant	Stacey Hadley
Organist	Debbie Hadley
Preschool Director	Diane Mueller
Altar Guild	Elaine Braun
Busy Bees (Crafters)	Mary Gall
Greeters	Betty Cousens
Ladies Society	Lesley Vergallito
Lay Readers	Patrice Galler
Stephen Ministry	Otto Sodoma
Ushers	
Youth Coordinator	Vinny Cerpa

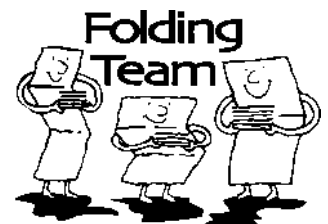
Newsletter Cut-off Date

The cut-off date for the June/July issue of the Redeemer Review is Sunday,

May 20 Please have your articles in on time. If you can, submit them by email, the address is

redemermanchester@gmail.com

or submit them on a CD, or a written copy to the office. The Newsletter Team will meet on Tuesday, May 29 at 9:15 am.



Redeemer Lutheran Church of Manchester

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May 2012

****Church office email address: [redeemermanchester@gmail.com](mailto:redemermanchester@gmail.com)****

Worship Services

September -June Sundays 8:30 am & 11:00 am

June - September Sundays 8:30 am & 10:00 am

Saturday Evenings at 5:00 pm all year

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study

September - June 9:45 am to 10:45 am

Happy

Mother's Day

