

OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWS

February 2020

Show God's Love

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Human love says, 'I'll love you as long as you meet my expectations, agree with my politics, attend my church, or fit into my social circle.' God isn't like that. He didn't wait for us to become worthy before making the first move. **'God showed his great love...by sending Christ to die...while we were still sinners.'** And when He did, He changed all the rules. Jesus said, **'Now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you'** (John 13:34); **'Love others as much as you love yourself'** (Matthew 22:39); **'Love...without hoping to get anything back'** (Luke 6:35). Bill Hybels says: *'When I set about the task of loving, I usually end up giving instead of receiving. Love inevitably costs me the three commodities most precious to me – my time, my energy, and my money...When you're concerned about the well-being of others, you usually have to sacrifice.'* Another author adds: *'For a while I was angry at love...it wasn't all it was cracked up to be. It didn't last. It wasn't worth it. The deeper it went, the more it hurt. Love was irrational, complicated, elusive and unreliable. And I was done with it. Little by little the Lord healed my heart. My anger...began to fade...Now I...see it's humanity that scars and strangles love..."***Love comes from God***" (1 John 4:7), and it's worth it, whatever the cost. No matter what damage has been done in the name of love, we're incomplete without it.'*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me fulfill Your command to love others as You love them, and not to judge others too harshly. Help me to show YOUR love to all I know and meet, in Jesus name, Amen.

Celebrate February Birthdays at "Coffee And" Sunday, February 2nd

Come and celebrate God's gift of life during "Coffee And" immediately following church on Sunday, February 2nd. We'll sing "Happy Birthday" and share in some tasty birthday treats.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study!

Wednesday morning Bible Study will meet each Wednesday in the month of February at 11 AM in the Parlor. Come and join us as we gather around God's Word of Truth and life.

Wheeling Food Pantry Wish List

The Wheeling Township food pantry is in need of the following items: **chunky peanut butter, flavored potatoes (instant, mashed, au gratin, etc), pancake syrup, strawberry jelly, and tuna.** Items can be dropped off at Our Redeemer and placed beneath the preschool bulletin board.

Worship Service at Aspired Senior Living

On Sunday, February 2nd at **1 PM**, Our Redeemer will lead a Worship Service at Aspired Senior Living in Prospect Heights. Volunteers are needed to assist Pastor and the residents during the service. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with Pastor Rod.

Calendar and Greeting Card Collection:

Sue Perek is collecting Calendars and greeting cards for a prison in Illinois. If you have any to donate, please drop them off in the Church office.

Friday Fun Night:

Bingo Edition, Friday, February 21st 6:30 to 8:30 PM Join us Friday, February 21st from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. We'll have snacks and bingo games for children and adults. This is a great opportunity to invite someone to come with you. If you have questions, please see Pastor. See you on the 21st!

Driver Disciples:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we have several people who could use a ride to church, or and perhaps other appointments. If you would be willing to help out with such needs on a monthly basis, please sign-up at the Welcome Center. If you have questions, please talk to Pastor.

Sonshine Preschool Spaghetti Dinner **Saturday February 29th 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

Once again we will be having our annual Spaghetti Dinner and Auction Basket Fundraiser. This year our children will be performing a play, but you will still enjoy all of their songs. Thank you for your support in the past, we hope you will be able to join us again, to enjoy Mr. Burmeister's delicious spaghetti. Tickets will be available starting February 2nd. As always we thank you.
The Sonshine Staff

Take your kid(s) to lunch February 9th

Join us one and all immediately following service for "Take Your Kid to Lunch". Meet Pastor and Laurie in the Welcome Center.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Each Wednesday during Lent, a soup supper will be held in the Parlor from 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM. The soup suppers are prepared by volunteers each week. There will be two signup sheets posted on the What's Happening bulletin board, one for the weekly volunteer hosts and one for the people who will be attending (so the hosts have an idea how much to prepare).

If you're interested in hosting, all that is required is soup, crackers or bread, and dessert. Bowls, plates, utensils, and butter will be on hand for you to use and there are cooking pots in the kitchen, or you can prepare the soup at home and bring it in.

This is a great opportunity for some Our Redeemer fellowship. Please consider hosting one of the six weeks and plan to attend all six weeks to enjoy the company of your fellow members. Note that if you are planning to attend, you should sign up by the Sunday before the supper.

The first supper will be on Ash Wednesday, February 26 and the last one will be Wednesday, April 1.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Nusko

Lutheran Home Donation Requests:

The Lutheran Home is looking for items for their quarterly sales. The items they are looking for are unwanted jewelry, housewares, knick-knacks, bedding, towels, small appliances, books, puzzles, DVD's, games, holiday decorations...ANYTHING used or new EXCEPT clothing and furniture. 100% of the proceeds from your donation will directly benefit the residents of the Lutheran Home. Please mark your bag or box "Auxiliary" and leave it with a Lutheran Home receptionist. Any Questions, call Dorothy (847)506-0743.

Are you a Thrivent Member?

Have you directed your Choice Dollars? Please remember to check your Thrivent account at least on an annual basis and indicate where you would like to have them directed. Both Our Redeemer and Sonshine are included in the recognized recipients and would appreciate being designated. Thrivent provides this free of charge to members, so remember to take advantage of their generosity!

EYES ON JESUS

(LENT AND HOLY WEEK SERIES COMING TO OUR REDEEMER BEGINNING ON ASH
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH)

*O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of
our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the
cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the
throne of God.*

(Gradual for Lent, based on Hebrews 12:2)

When the characters in the Passion narrative look at Jesus, what do they see? In most cases, people misunderstood who He is and what He was doing. In some cases, by faith, people recognized Him aright. Our Lenten series this year, *Eyes on Jesus* is based on Passion according to St. Mark. We will examine how the various people around Jesus viewed Him—and how we should view Him. We will “fix our eyes” on what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death, and celebrate what God sees on account of His work: our justification for His sake.

On Ash Wednesday, we will see how, in spite of Jesus’ repeated predictions about His upcoming Passion, the disciples with “Misjudging Eyes” fail to recognize that soon He will not be with them, and they cannot see the anonymous woman’s anointing of Jesus as preparation for His burial. But Jesus sees her actions as a beautiful deed that will be proclaimed throughout the world wherever the Gospel is heard.

At our midweek service after the First Sunday of Lent, we will look through Judas’s “Betraying Eyes” and learn why he did this awful deed. Yet the behind-the-scenes-reality is that Jesus was “handed over” (another way of translating the verb for “betray”) by God the Father Himself, so that Jesus could die for the sin of the world.

“Sleepy Eyes” is the theme for the second week of Lent. In Gethsemane, Jesus’ inner circle of Peter, James, and John cannot keep their eyes open to watch and pray with Jesus for even an hour, while Jesus comes to see that His Father’s will is that He drink the cup of God’s wrath when He comes to the “hour” of His suffering.

In the third week of Lent, we stare into the “Denying Eyes” of Peter and the other apostles. They could not see how they could ever fall away from Jesus, but after Jesus is betrayed by Judas, ten of them flee, and Peter—when he is spotted by a servant girl and sees that his own neck is on the line—sees fit to deny Jesus, which leads to his own eyes weeping in remorse. We sinners likewise deny our Lord in many ways, but Jesus denied Himself to take up the cross for our salvation.

“Murderous Eyes” is the theme of week 4 in Lent. The chief priests and scribes saw Jesus as an obstacle to be rid of by murdering Him through the Roman

judicial system. Yet during the Passover festival, they would unwittingly bring about the Father's sacrifice of the ultimate Passover Lamb.

In the fifth week of Lent, we look through the "Worldly Eyes" of Pilate, the Jewish leaders, and the Roman soldiers. Pilate can only view matters in a worldly, pragmatic way, wishing to placate the worldly Jewish leaders and crowd, so he consents to handing Jesus over for crucifixion. The soldiers see the opposite of a worldly king, but their ironic hailing of Him as "King of the Jews" proclaims who He really is. The world looks for power and glory; God's way is suffering and the cross.

On Maundy Thursday, there is "More Than Meets the Eye" to the Lord's Supper. We will look into the Old Testament background of the Last Supper and rejoice in the mystery that Jesus, in and with, bread and wine, gives us His body and blood in order to deliver to us the benefits of His Passion.

On Good Friday, we look through "God's Eyes" to see what is happening during the Passion: the once-for-all atonement for the sin of the whole world and the justification of all sinners on Easter.

Finally, Easter Sunday gazes upon "Angel Eyes." The angel in the tomb knows the whole story of Jesus' resurrection. When he sees the women, he proclaims the Gospel to them, shows them where Jesus' body had formerly lain, and tells them that they can see Jesus themselves in Galilee. Likewise, the "angels" or messengers of the Church in the apostolic ministry tell God's people where they can find Jesus and His salvation in the Means of Grace.

With *Eyes on Jesus* as our theme this Lent, we will continuously focus on Jesus Christ and Him crucified, buried, and risen for our justification. This is a vision that will never disappoint, for by trusting in Jesus, He promises that we will gaze upon His beautiful face now by faith and forever in heaven!

Join us beginning Ash Wednesday, February 26th at 7 PM as we journey through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter with our Eyes on Jesus!!



Gifts of Love for the Lutheran Home



The Auxiliary of Lutheran Home and Services is collecting "Gifts of Love" to be used as gift items to cheer residents as they help them celebrate their birthdays. The following new items are suggested:

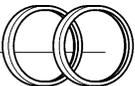
Kleenex (120 - 160 count), Birthday Cards, Pens, Pads of Paper, Games, Puzzles, Handkerchiefs, Bar Soap, Packaged Tooth Brushes, Tooth Paste, Deodorant and Lip Balm

A box for these donations is available across from the Welcome Center.

Thank you!



February 19 - Tim Hartmann
20 - Beverly Chudy
27 - Jean Staffa

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

February 2 - Dan and Sallyann Bacchiere
14 - Richard and Charlene Schweigel

Whatever you do, do it with Love

