

OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWS

May 2024

Are We Grateful for Every Gift from God?

A long, long, time ago, in a nation far away, in Japan, to be exact, there lived a poor farmer named Shobei. He had never traveled more than a few miles from the village in which he had been born, and he was very happy about that, for the most part.

One day, though, he felt restless, and so he went for a walk through the countryside on the other side from his farm. While crossing a path, he stumbled on a stone, and tumbled over and over in the dirt. When he stood up, and dusted himself off, he found that there was a straw in his mouth, and he felt kind of foolish. "Well," he said, "it seems I was supposed to pick up this piece of straw. It's worthless, but I better hold onto it."

As he went along, holding the straw in his hand, a large dragonfly came and circled his head, around and around and around, and wouldn't go away. "What a pest," Shobei said, and he stretched out his hand toward the dragonfly. But, instead of shooing it off, he found that he had caught it. "Amazing," said Shobei, "it seems I was supposed to catch this dragonfly." So he split the end of the straw, and tied it around the tail of the dragonfly, and off they went.

As he was going along, a little boy saw the dragonfly, and wanted it very badly. "Mother, please get that dragonfly for me, please!" he began to wail. "Here, little boy," said Shobei, just giving him the dragonfly, "you may have it since you like it so much."

The boy's mother was very pleased, and to express her thanks she gave Shobei three of the prize peaches she was taking to market. Shobei thanked her, and went on his way, with the three peaches resting in his arms. Before too long, he came across a traveling merchant going the other way. The merchant saw the peaches, and commented, "Those are beautiful. I have never seen anything so wonderful, especially since I have not eaten all day." Shobei just smiled, and gave the three peaches to the merchant, saying, "You may have them. I ate this morning already." The merchant was very surprised, and accepted the gift. He was so pleased that he gave to Shobei a small bolt of silk cloth from his cart. Shobei had never seen anything so fine as this cloth, and he gratefully walked on, with the cloth resting on his shoulders.

As he was going along, he saw coming down the road a host of soldiers, with an enameled carriage behind. He knew it to be a prince or princess, so he stepped to the side of the road, and bowed his head, waiting for them to pass. As he stood there, though, the carriage came to a stop by him, and a young girl's voice called out, "Oh, such lovely cloth, that would be perfect for the pillows I'm making." One of the soldiers came close and told Shobei to stand up, and he saw that in the carriage was a very young princess. He was so honored that he smiled, and handed the cloth to her, "You may have it, Princess, for it is too good for me." The princess smiled, and in gratitude had her soldiers give to Shobei a large bag of gold coins. Then they went on their way.

When Shobei returned home the next day, he used the gold to buy land for everyone in the village. He divided it all up equally to the people. The village became very prosperous because the people worked the land very hard. Shobei became a very important man in the village, and he was respected greatly for his generosity. When the harvest came, Shobei found that he would never be hungry again. And all this because Shobei did not despise one little straw that fell into his hands - or rather, his mouth.

Do we despise the little things that God gives to us? The littlest things that we think are unimportant? We need to rethink, don't we? Especially important because of what God tells us about a good life: "Better is a single handful, and a quiet house, than two hands full, and turmoil." If we learn to be content with what we have, and there is peace in the household, what more could anyone want?

God's Peace, Rev. Jeffery H. Leichman

Network Name and Password

ORLC Network Name: ORLC-Sanc-WiFi
Password: OrLcWiFiWax214

ORLC Outdoor Network Name: NETGEARACA35F-SETUP
Password: sharedsecret

Click-meeting link: Ourredeemerph.clickmeeting.com

Website

Our website: ourredeemerprospectheights.org contains links for Livestream online worship, Bible Studies, Bulletins, Monthly News, and Online Giving. Check it often.

Email address for Pastor Leichman

If you would like to send an email to Pastor Leichman, please use the following address: Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org

Prayer Request Information

If you have a prayer request, please notify Jim Burmeister via text at (847) 343-3798, Phone (847)934-5963 home or (847)343-3798 cell; or via email at elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org.

Bible Study

Join us in the Parlor on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm or Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am for Bible Study.

Hunger Jar

Please remember the **Hunger Jar**. The jar is located on a stand at the top of the steps.

Coffee and...

Please join us for our special May Birthday celebration at 'Coffee and...' following Worship on Sunday May 5th.

Mother's Day

Please join us for a special Coffee and... following Worship on Sunday May 12th. We would like to celebrate all of our Women of Faith on this special day.

Outreach Programs

Most Recent Update

The Elders (Mission and Ministry Board) and Pastor, would like the community to know that ORLC is a place to come for support when needed. The following is what we are pursuing:

- Community Food Pantry
- Prospect Heights Block Party
- Offering community meals all year, as an extension of our summer suppers program

We need everyone's prayers, help and support to make this successful. There's something everyone can do, regardless of age or abilities!!!! Watch for further details via emails, weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters. Remember, please feel free, at any time, to contact Stacey Hall, Traudy or Jim Burmeister, with any questions, ideas or suggestions.

Summer Suppers Program

Once again we will be helping the 'homeless' population in our community by supplying them with a meal on the 2nd Thursday during the months of May, June, July, August and September. As in the past, we are in need of some items to go with the meals, such as:

- **water bottles, gatorade/powerade**
- **small snack bags of cookies or dessert type items**

These items can be continually brought in throughout the 5 months. Also, signup sheets will be located on the Welcome Center for those of you interested in helping to get things ready and/or to serve. Thank you so very much for your support. Questions - just ask Stacey Hall, Traudy or Jim Burmeister.

Thank You

Calendars 2024

The St. Edna Prison Ministry is grateful to all of the many 2024 calendars you donated. The calendars are distributed by facility Chaplains to incarcerated individuals. Thanks to your sharing, we shipped over 2,600 calendars to 12 Illinois prisons. These calendars bring a bright light to those who receive them.

Thanks again for your generosity and sharing spirit. We will collect 2025 calendars later this year.

Sue Perek

Sonshine Preschool News

Taco Night

The Sonshine Preschool Staff would love to thank everyone who came on Thursday April 25th for some fellowship while enjoying a taco meal and watching our Preschoolers perform. Thank you so much for your continual support of our school.



Cindy Reschke – 2nd
Barb Zommer – 11th
Marion Champion – 13th
Hannah Drake – 16th
Tim Perek – 16th
Sue Winter – 17th
Cheryl Gerson – 17th
Rev. Jeff Leichman – 21st
Janet Koelper – 24th



No Anniversaries this month



May	1	11:00 am	Bible Study
	5	9:00 am	The Ascension of Our Lord (observed) With Communion Coffee and... May Birthdays
	6	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	8	11:00 am	Bible Study
	9	6:30 pm	Summer Suppers
	12	9:00 am	7th Sunday of Easter No Communion Coffee and... Mother's Day
	13	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	14	4:30 pm	BOD Meeting
	15	11:00 am	Bible Study
	19	9:00 am	The Day Of Pentecost With Communion Coffee and...
	20	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	22	10:00 am	Sonshine Preschool Graduation/Picnic (No Bible Study today)
	26	9:00 am	The Holy Trinity No Communion Coffee and...
	27	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	29	11:00 am	Bible Study