

THE EVANGEL

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - JUNE 17, 2010

Greetings Friends in Christ

By: Greg Ofsdahl Pastor

FROM THE



PASTOR

There are two kinds of people: the just, who consider themselves sinners, and the sinners, who consider themselves just.

~Pascal, *Pensees*, 1670

It is early summer time, corn is growing and flowers are blooming. Where you find flowers, there is a good chance you will find a bee buzzing around the bloom. No problem, unless you are puttering around in the yard or garden and accidentally get too close to one of these buzzing creatures. If you are not careful you will get stung and that is never any fun!

Every year, about 40 people die of insect stings, usually from yellow jackets, wasps, honeybees or fire ants. The venom of these insects penetrates cell membranes, manipulates neurons, and sometimes can alter the function of the heart and cause paralysis. Many people have severe allergic reactions, and some die if not treated quickly.

That is what sin is like. It is a sting of rebellion which if left untreated can gradually cause the heart to harden in disobedience and unbelief. It can rupture relationships and cause discord in the Body of

Christ ~ us, the church.

That is why a “sin sting” must be cleansed immediately through confession, repentance and forgiveness. That’s why, when we know we have done wrong through a misspoken or unkind word, or through a malicious deed, we must make the wrong right.

If we don’t, it could injure the life of the one we have stung, and can cause harm to ourselves as well.

Once, in the Southwest, there was this wise, old rancher who saw a scorpion floundering around in the water. He decided to save it by stretching out his finger, but the scorpion stung him. The man still tried to get the scorpion out of the water, but the scorpion stung him again. A man nearby told him to stop saving the scorpion that kept stinging him. But the rancher said, “It is the nature of the scorpion to sting. It is my nature to love. Why should I give up my nature to love just because it is the nature of the scorpion to sting?” That is a good answer! It is the nature of Christ’s church, and those of us who comprise it, to love and not to sting. It is the nature of the church to love, even when it seems like the world around loves nothing better than to sting, to hurt, to abuse, to cause suffering. Let’s not give up loving. Let’s not give up doing good. Let’s not give up showing mercy; even if once in a while we sting or get stung in the process.

Habitat For Humanity - June Mission Focus

Funding for Freeborn/Mower Habitat for Humanity comes primarily from local individuals, churches, the business community and The United Way. They use as much donated material and volunteer labor as possible. **The homes they build are sold at no profit and no interest to families who would otherwise not be able to afford home ownership.**

Having built 28 previous homes in the areas of Austin, Albert Lea, Leroy, and Adams, Habitat for Humanity began work in Albert Lea on May 1st on its 29th home.

What can you do to help? One way is to make a designated mission donation on Sunday, June 27th. Your gift will go specifically to this project. To find other ways you can help, call 507-433-1349 or visit www.habitataustinmn.org online.

With your help, Habitat will continue to work in the community, providing a **hand up—not a hand out—to struggling families** in Freeborn/Mower County. Thank you for your gracious gifts!



Grow in LOVE - Serve with JOY

Non-profit Organization
Standard Mail
U.S. Postage PAID
Alden, MN
Permit No. 1

191 Water Street
Alden, MN 56009

Change Service Requested

Phone: 507-874-3343
Parsonage Ph: 874-3269
Pastor's Cell Ph: 402-3928
rlc@redeemeralden.com



JOIN US FOR SUMMER WORSHIP

Sundays - 9:00 a.m. & Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

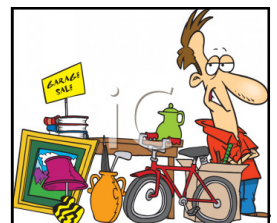
Announcements

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone for supporting our Brats & Burger Cookout. The funds raised will be used for property expenses.

The **Evangel** will not be published in July. Please note that both the July and August calendars are in this issue. **Bulletin Information** must be turned into the office no later than noon on Tuesday to be published in the upcoming Sunday bulletin.

Redeemer Youth to Participate in Alden's City Wide Garage Sales, July 17

We are looking to the congregation for rummage sale items. Please be courteous and donate clean saleable items - **not junk**. Please drop your donations off at the church office by July 15th. Thank you for supporting our youth and helping to make this event a success!



Stewardship Notes

Month End Finances June

Income: \$12,766
Expenses: \$13,558

Liabilities

Operating Loan: \$ 14,650
SBA Loan: \$ 771
'04 Endowment Note: \$ 6,000
'08 Roof Notes: \$ 25,200

*"When it comes to church giving,
some people stop at nothing!"*

Although you might find this comment humorous, for many, it is sadly true. What does God expect? God wants us to be **willing stewards**, moved by the Holy Spirit and voluntarily sharing our blessings. God also wants us to be **proportionate stewards**, giving to the best of our ability, according to our means. Our weekly offering is our "first mile" giving. However, sometimes members feel particularly committed to a specific ministry or cause and then designate special contributions; such as world

hunger, a roof project, missionary, disaster relief, etc. Giving to these causes is called, "second mile giving." This is one way we express our commitment beyond regular contributions. Giving is a reflection of one's faith. The question is, "how do we respond to God's blessings?" As you can see in the box to the left, Redeemer is getting deeper into debt by borrowing from our Operating Loan. Please keep this in your thoughts and prayers as you consider your weekly "first mile" offering.

Redeemer Summer Schedule

Worship: May 30 - September 5

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship followed by 10:00 a.m. Fellowship

June 9 - August 25

7:00 p.m. Wednesday evening service

Office Hours: June - August

Monday - Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.