

THE EVANGEL

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - APRIL 23, 2009

Greetings Friends in Christ

By: Greg Ofsdahl Pastor

FROM THE



PASTOR

A son, away at college, wrote this letter to his father:

*Dear Dad,
School is really great! I am making
lots of friends and studying
very hard. With all my stuff, I
simply cannot think of anything
I need, so if you would like, you
can just send me a card, as I
would love to hear from you.*

*Love,
Your son*

To which the father replied.

Dear Son,

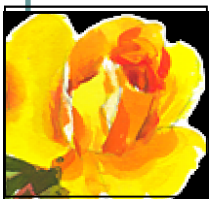
I know that astronomy, economics and oceanography are not enough to keep even an honor student busy. Do not forget that the pursuit of knowledge is a noble task, and you can never study enough.

*Love,
Dad*

Do your prayers to God sometimes sound like this young man? If they do, is God's response often like that of this father? I have been thinking about prayer quite a lot lately. There seems to be an unending list of persons and situations to be praying for. In all honesty, it is during difficult times that we find ourselves most often in prayer. Even people who have a reputation of being non-religious will utter a prayer when they are in a bind. But is this kind of prayer ok? Does God hear these prayers made in the midst of trouble? It could be every pastor's temptation to criticize this kind of praying. We are sup-

posed to pray at all times, not just when we are in trouble. God is not just God of certain moments of our lives. God is not simply a divine rescue worker. The problem with this criticism is that it does no good. Even worse, it attacks the spark of faith, which prompted the emergency prayer in the first place. We certainly do not ridicule the child learning how to take his or her first steps. Instead we encourage and help the child. And so it is with prayer. We discover that it is right to pray in ALL situations, even if the beginning point is only the sticky situation we find ourselves in day by day. Jesus prayed too when he was in a difficult situation. Remember his words in his agonizing prayers while in the Garden of Gethsemane before his crucifixion. Jesus prayer was a coming to God out of a deep dependence, out of a deeply human recognition that he needed God. God wants us to depend on him. So, to criticize this type of prayer would be to smother the faith which is gasping for life-giving breath. You might be thinking that some of the jams we get into are avoidable. I agree with that and hold that up as important. The seventh grader who didn't study for a test and then depends on God to pull him through with a serious last minute plea has a lot to learn! But the prayer is not wrong! What is needed are ears to hear God's answer, which most likely will not be, here are the answers, but rather, next time study! And God reminds us over and over again that there really will be a next time. Always prayer is right, if, in our plea for mercy, we are open to hearing what we need to hear. Sometime the answer is NO! Keep praying in all situations.

Crossroads Community Hospice April Mission Focus



Birth and death - our coming into and going from the world - are special times. Both should be full of warmth, love, happiness, reverence and dignity.

Crossroads Community Hospice is a program provided by a community network of caring professionals and volunteers that provide services to both the terminally ill patient and the family.

The hospice program is a philosophy of caring, rather than a location. Hospice brings comfort, support,

companionship and understanding to participants and to those who love them.

How can you help? By volunteering, or giving a memorial gift or donation. Your gifts are used to cover the cost of patient care and other services that are not reimbursed. For more information on gifts and memorials, or becoming a hospice volunteer, call 507-377-6393.

Today, the Mission Committee is taking a special collection for Crossroads Community Hospice. We hope you will give generously to this heartfelt program.

Visit a Nursing Home Today and Lift a Resident's Spirit

Our help is needed! Redeemer recently received a letter from Carla Reichel, Volunteer Coordinator at St. John's Lutheran Home. In it Ms. Reichel explains that there has been a decline in one-to-one visits over the last few years and she is "writing to enlist your help with visiting our residents."

Her letter explains that, due to current economic times, there is a shortage of volunteers which deeply affects the residents. During the winter months when it is so difficult for the elderly to deal with the weather and going out with oxygen tanks, residents become depressed and miss the opportunity to bask in the sunshine and get out of the house for a while. She goes on to state, "It is amazing what a visit from a smiling face can do to lift their spirits. It enriches all our lives to see a happy face, hear a kindly voice or share in a task."

As Ms. Reichel encourages us to visit, she also stresses the importance of documenting volunteer visits in resident's charts. If you volunteer you will be shown how to record your visits.

"It is amazing what a visit from a smiling face can do to lift their spirits."

If you are able to help, please contact her at 507-473-1028 or at creichel@stjohnsofalbertlea.org. She will be happy to answer your questions and explain the many volunteer opportunities available. A commitment to volunteering at St. John's is as little as two hours per month.

Pastor's Note: Residents of St. John's are not the people in need of our acts of kindness. All area nursing homes would welcome your visits.

A Note From Stewardship

We're Going Green! In order to reduce paper usage and save money on postage, effective immediately, Redeemer will print "Giving Statements" bi-annually instead of quarterly. This means you will receive your statement following June 30th and December 31st. However, if anyone would still like to receive them quarterly, just contact Lorraine in the office and she will print a statement for you to pick up.

Also, please remember the church as we are going into our spring and summer months. Everyone seems extra busy with family events and such but we still have to remember that the church needs support all year round to provide all the activities we enjoy throughout the year. One wonderful way of doing this is through "Simply Giving". Through this easy program your donation makes it to the church even when you can't. Contact the church office for details today!



Lift Your Voice In Song - Join the Choir

We are seeking confirmed for services the 3rd Sunday of each month. If you have a love of singing challenging music, through adult age members to join Redeemer's Adult Choir come next fall. Rehearsals are between services on Sundays and the choir sings for services the 3rd Sunday of each month. If you have a love of singing challenging music, singing in a group can be very rewarding. Please contact Stu Potter at 874-3206.

ELW Hymnals

New ELW Hymnals can now be purchased.

The cost is \$20 each. Order forms are available in the Narthex. Orders may be placed in the offering plate or submitted to the office. Payment should be made out to Redeemer Lutheran Church and must accompany order form.



Hospital Visitation

It is important for members to know that the hospitals do not notify churches when members are hospitalized, even if you indicated church membership when admitted. Because of privacy regulations, pastors can no longer view a list of people who are in the hospital. This means that if someone wants

the pastor to know he or she is in the hospital and desires a visit, it is necessary to notify the church office with this information. This information can either be kept confidential or shared in Sunday prayers. If you do not specifically give permission to share the information, it will be kept confidential.

Youth & Family Activities

Pepsi Products Needed for Youth

The Redeemer Youth will be having a food stand during Morin Lake Days in June. Watch for us out at the Dane Shoot and downtown later in the afternoon. The youth are looking for donations of pop (Pepsi products) and bottled water for this event. If you would like to donate pop or bottled water please drop it off in the hallway next to the church office.



Thank You!!!

The Redeemer National Youth Gathering students would like to say "Thank You" for everyone's support this past year with all of the fundraisers that they have been doing. The Gathering is only 3 months away! when we started planning It seems like that it would never get here but it's just around the corner. Thank You once again for supporting the Youth of Redeemer!!

Register for Redeemer VBS Today!

Come to Rome! You'll travel back into Bible times – without setting foot outside of Alden.

Experience this fun, hands-on Bible-times empire at VBS this summer at Redeemer, June 14th -18th. We will kick off Sunday, June 14th, after services and end Thursday, June 18th, with an evening concert. Bible school will run from 10:15 to 2:30 Monday – Thursday, with Sunday, June 14th's session beginning after services.

The registration fee is \$10 per child or \$25 per family. This includes a snack, lunch, and craft supplies. A t-shirt may be ordered for an additional fee.

Forms are available from Jenny Jensen, at the Redeemer Church office, or you may also download a form from the church website at <http://www.redeemeralden.com>. The direct link to the registration form is <http://www.redeemeralden.com/Youth/Rome%20Registration%20Form.pdf>



If you would like to help teach the Bible's message to our youth we are still looking for volunteers!

The VBS team needs people to

- Housing for Captive Free
- Drama Story telling- Need storytellers to relay the story of Paul & guard in the early church
- Family Leader (help Shepherd the *groups* of learners)
- Cook for a day. Kitchen help to prepare the noon meal and clean up. Day's meal will be planned
- Provide a dozen cookies
- Games leader – Teach the Bible lesson through face paced games and Olympic trials.
- Donate materials or cash! Keep a look out for our donation wall coming soon. If you can provide materials take that slip with you and return to church when you have filled it.

Yes, I would like to help with those items checked above! Please return this slip to the office or place it in the offering plate.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

If you have questions, please contact Tanya Fure at tanyafure@ymail.com or 874-3948; or contact Jenny Jensen at jena-jen@frontiernet.net or 874-3429.

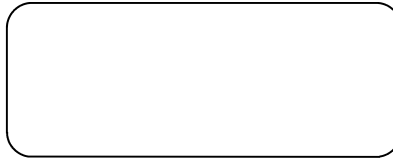
Grow in LOVE - Serve with JOY

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 SUNDAY WORSHIP
SERVICE OF WORD, PRAYER AND PRAISE
8:15 and 10:30 a.m.



Confirmation Reception
April 26 at 9:15am in Luther Hall

Please join us in honoring this year's Confirmands.

Confirmation will be May 3rd at 10:30am worship.

Introducing the 2009 Confirmands

Shane Douglas McClees Johnson was born August 6, 1993, and is the child of Doug & Evon Johnson. He was baptized October 17, 1993, at Redeemer. His sponsors are LaNelle Klanderude and Randy Bredenberg.

Shane's confirmation verse is: 1 Samuel 16:7. "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Dustin James Gilbert was born December 22, 1993, and is the child of Mark Gilbert & Christina Hansen.

Dustin's confirmation verse is: John 3:16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Ana Louise Guenther was born February 3, 1994, and is the child of Curt & Lori Guenther. She was baptized March 13, 1994, at Redeemer. Her sponsors are Lance & Tanya Peterson and Lon & Tracey Peterson.

Ana's confirmation verse is: 1st Corinthians 13:13: "And meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love."

Friends and relatives are invited to a Confirmation Open House honoring Ana on Sunday, May 3, from 2-4:30pm at her home, 118 Mason Ave., Alden.

James Aaron-Patterson Ofsdahl was born April 28, 1994, and is the child of Gregory Ofsdahl. He was baptized October 29, 2005, at South Beef River Lutheran Church, Osseo, WI. His sponsors are Gail Olson, M. Renee Schulz, Robert M. Ofsdahl and Greta Rice.

Jimmy's confirmation verse is: Revelation 21 6b-7. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. 7Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

Friends and relatives are invited to an Open House honoring Jimmy on Saturday, May 2nd, from 1-3pm, at his home, 177 Euclid Ave, Alden.

Yearbook Correction: In the directory portion of the yearbook, please change Pastor's home telephone number to 874-3269.