



# REDEEMER REPORTER

*The newsletter of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Boise, Idaho*

from

*Pastor Marcus*



The Lutheran world is incredibly big and at the same time incredibly small. I met Pastor Eric last June at the Lutheran Campus Ministry conference in Chicago. Pastor Eric is the Executive Director of Emmaus Campus Ministry at the University of Montana in Missoula. When I met Pastor Eric through the days of the conference set aside for new campus ministry practitioners, I had no idea at the time our paths would cross again. Then, a few weeks ago, something unexpected happened. A member of Redeemer, Keith Hammer, reached out to Pastor Eric to hear about the climate care work he has been doing through Montana Synod as part of a greater conversation about climate care in our own synod. This connection led to another conversation—if Emmaus could stay at Redeemer on their way back from their spring break trip to San Francisco.

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Nearly 8 months ago I had no idea that the Holy Spirit was planting seeds for future connections and partnership in my conversations with Pastor Eric. Campus ministry, climate care, and a spring break trip have led to Redeemer having the opportunity to extend hospitality to and share a meal with 10-15 incredible college students in the month of March. We never fully know the seeds that are being planted. A conversation, encounter, conference, event, trip to the coffee shop, or volunteer opportunity could be shaped by the Holy Spirit into so much more than we could ever imagine, turning seeds into buds, into flowers, filling the gardens of our lives and faith communities with unexpected, yet abundant, life. As we turn towards the long-awaited spring, the sun stays out longer, and life bursts back up from the once frozen ground, may we be expectant of the ways the Holy Spirit is planting seeds that will one day, to our surprise and delight, bloom into something abundantly more than we could ever ask or imagine

In Christ's love,



Pastor Mariah Mills

## Council News

Redeemer Council met on February 15, welcoming new members Carolyn Rapp and Dawn King-Menzner. Officers were elected: **President:** Bonita Hammer, **Vice President:** Carolyn Rapp, **Secretary:** Denise Puisto and **Treasurer:** Larry Kidd. The entire council was installed at the worship service on Sunday, March 3rd. We look forward to working together in ministry. Monthly council meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month – the next meeting is Thursday, March 21

Council has accepted the resignation of Lin Carlson, our administrative manager, effective April 1. Lin will be moving out of the area. We are very grateful for all of her assistance and support during Covid times and the pastoral transition. We wish her all the best in her next adventure. Please join us in thanking Lin at our Easter Brunch following our Easter Service on March 31.

We ask for your prayerful support as we seek for the right person to fill the administrative manager position. If you know of anyone that might be a good fit, please contact a council member or Pastor Mariah.

Looking forward to sharing the Lenten Season, Holy Week and celebrating Easter Sunday!

## *Holy Week Schedule*

### **Maundy Thursday**

12pm service at Immanuel Lutheran  
6pm potluck dinner at Redeemer  
7pm service at Redeemer

### **Good Friday**

12pm Stations of the Cross service at Immanuel Lutheran  
7pm service at Redeemer

### **Holy Saturday**

Ecumenical Easter Vigil service at All Saints Episcopal

# Easter

*Celebrate the Resurrection!*

WORSHIP - 10AM

followed by an

**EASTER BRUNCH - 11AM**

Bring a dish to share and celebrate together!

## **Easter Brunch**

Please join us for a potluck brunch after the service Easter Sunday, March 31. Bring a dish to share and celebrate together! We will also be honoring and thanking Lin Carlson for her service to Redeemer and wish her well on her new adventures!



## Fellowship Time

We love the time we spend together in fellowship after services. Please join us to visit, catch up and enjoy some treats. If you would like to share your baking (or shopping) skills please sign up in the fellowship hall or let Bonita Hammer know when you'd like to bring treats. There are always additional snacks and beverages to add to yours. Thanks!!

## Welcoming the Stranger

A letter from our new Synod Vice-President

Dear Beloved Siblings in Christ,

I am Lisa Therrell, your new synod vice president. I attend Faith Lutheran Church in Leavenworth, Washington. What I want to share with you today are my thoughts on the importance of being a welcoming and invitational church as guests arrive through our doors.

First a confession. I am an introvert! When I attend a new church, I enjoy worship, but afterwards I want to rush to my car and drive away. I work to channel my more gregarious friends in new social settings. When visitors come to our churches, put yourselves in their shoes and remember how hard it is to interact with a group of strangers.

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As your VP, I have enjoyed visiting more ELCA churches in our synod, especially in the Lewis Clark Valley which is near my family farm; however, in some churches, no one even takes the time to introduce themselves. In one church, a lady invited me to come next door for coffee, but then immediately rushed away. In another, I have been there about 5 times, and they still don't recognize me so I reintroduce myself, even though the first time they were very friendly. In another, I went to the coffee hour, searched for a table where there was an extra chair and I thought the people looked friendly. They said I could join them, but then proceeded to chat as if I was invisible. I will admit, I am testing for hospitality. Finally, a teenager came and sat beside me. I turned to them, introduced myself, they introduced themselves, we shook hands, and FINALLY, the rest of the family introduced themselves. It goes better if I show up early, tell those around me that I am their synod VP, and then I am well received. But what does this say about how we treat the stranger in our midst?

When in my early 20s, I worked at a nature center in rural Pennsylvania. One beautiful Sunday morning I rode my bike for about 12 miles to get to the nearest church, which was out in the country. I arrived in time for Sunday School and then worship. A young family invited me to come to their farm for Sunday dinner! I accepted the invitation. I played with the kids and helped the dad put together a mechanical swing to rock their baby. We ate and enjoyed fellowship. Then I began the long bike ride home. I am so grateful for those instances in life where hospitality is extended and I have taken the time to receive that gift.

At Faith Lutheran we have lots of tourists joining us. Even though I know I will probably never see them again, I set aside my inner introvert and make sure they are welcomed and invited next door for coffee. After my own experiences, I am modifying my line to this, "You are welcome to come next door AND JOIN ME for coffee." In that way, they know they are accompanied, not set adrift in a sea of strangers who are more interested in catching up with each other.

"...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25

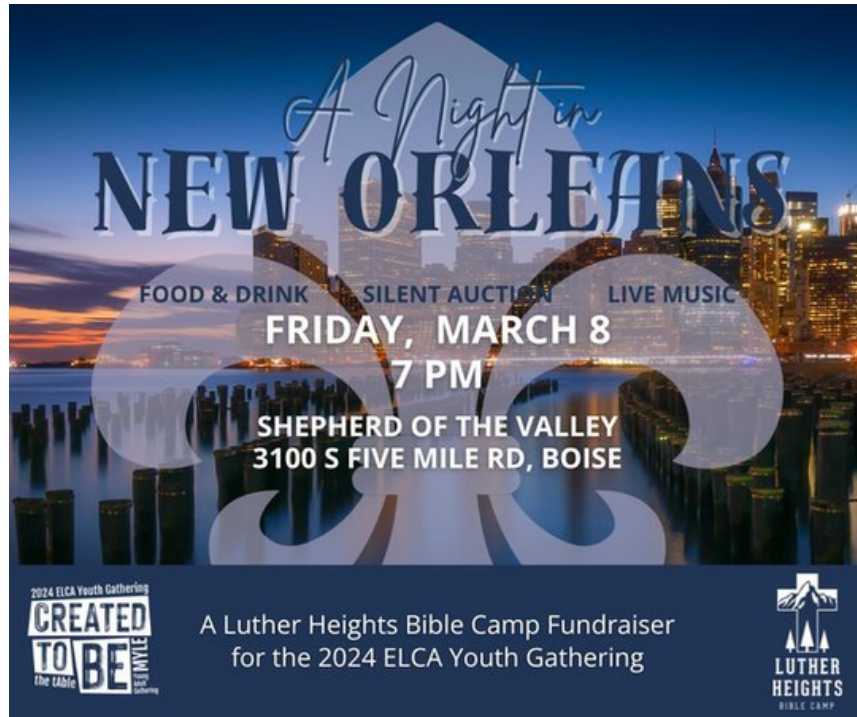
We lament that many of our churches are in decline. So let's open up our Lutheran arms to receive and welcome the stranger. Think of a few conversation starters, and be invitational. Blessed be.

Lisa Therrell



MARCH 2024

# Youth Gathering Fundraiser A Night in New Orleans Friday, March 8 - 7PM



This past month, we had youth in three congregations serving up pancakes and celebrating Mardi Gras to raise money for our trip to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering this July! This event means so much to our youth, they are doing all they can to get themselves there. Thank you for all who showed up and supported them!

If you missed out on pancakes but still want to support the 21 youth and 4 adults Luther Heights is sending to the Gathering, join us at Shepherd of the Valley on Friday, March 8 at 7pm for "A Night in New Orleans." Featuring:

Dinner, drinks, live music, storytelling, an auction, and most importantly, FUN!

Talk to a youth at your church that is going, or buy a ticket at the door. If you can't make the event, but want to support these youth, make a donation online at [lutherheights.org](http://lutherheights.org) or send a donation by check with "gathering" in the note line to Luther Heights Bible Camp 707 W. Fort St, Boise, ID 83702

Help us reach our goal so we can cover our hotel stay!

We are hoping to raise \$10,000 to cover our nights in New Orleans.

## ALL IN THE FAMILY



# MARCH

## Celebrations

### Anniversaries

Jean & Carl Pollock 21  
Larry & Kari Spencer 21  
Keith & Bonita Hammer 24

### Birthdays

Cheryl Walsh 5	Angie Briggs 23
Gunner Mahn 6	Larry Kidd 23
Ashley Seymour 8	Sue Nass 24
Sean Briggs 9	John Howard 25
John Mattison 19	Perrin Arnold 28
Sam LeBoeuf 19	

## CARES AND CONCERNS

Neva (DeMayo) Mahon & family, William  
Dirk Alexander  
Cheryl Wadams  
Jill Carlson  
Pam Mayer  
Roger Oldenberg  
Bonnie Yamaski

*Keeping in  
Prayer*

## GRIEVING

Family of Shirley Olson  
Family of Laura Stetter (Woodall)  
Family of Ed Blakeslee  
Family of Judi Ratzleigh (Anderson)  
Family of Kathryn "Kitty" Patton, McCaskill/Patton

## MILITARY

Seth Erickson  
Devan Irons  
Jonathon Negrón  
Jon Savage  
Jim Schmeits  
Brian Waybright

# Emmaus Campus Ministry Visit

On March 23rd, Emmaus Campus Ministry from the University of Montana will be arriving in Boise as their near halfway point from San Francisco to Missoula. 10-15 students will arrive around 5:30/6:00pm to camp out in the church and rest before the second half of their journey home on Sunday the 14th.

Ways you can help:

- Help with preparing food for the group to have dinner when they arrive. They will have spent 10 hours in the car and will likely be tired and hungry!
- Be willing to engage in conversation with the students about what campus ministry is like and about their week in San Francisco during dinner on the 23rd
- Participate in a worship service the evening of the 23rd as a way for the students to end their trip well
- Help with providing a light breakfast before the group leaves early on the morning of the 24th

If you would like to help in any of these ways, or have another idea of how to extend hospitality to Emmaus during their short stop here, please email Pr. Mariah ([pastor@redeemerboise.org](mailto:pastor@redeemerboise.org)).

## NWIM Synod News

Regional Gatherings What, Why, and Who  
by Bishop Meggan Manlove

[Read Here](#)

Our local gathering is in Twin Falls on May 4. Let Pastor Mariah know if you are interested in attending.





## Events Coming Up:

- March 5: 10am - Book Reading Group on Climate Care
- March 5: 9am - Quilters
- March 6: 6pm - Lent Soup Supper
- March 6: 7pm - Lent Worship
- March 8: A Night in New Orleans - Youth Gathering fundraiser at Shepherd of the Valley
- March 10: Daylight Savings Begins! Move your clocks forward.
- March 13: 1pm Esther Circle
- March 16: WWW
- March 21: Church Council
- March 16, 23, and 30: 9pm Bells

## OUTREACH

### WWW - Wash, Wipe, Wear

February has been busy with so many activities at church. We are thankful to Pastor Mariah for helping create many ways for us to get together in fellowship and community. Our community WWW event in February was made possible by many volunteers. Thanks to you all! Thanks to Gale F for picking up the diapers, and for Sandy W, Martina N, Ruth M, and Terri L for helping to bag everything up on Thursday. And thanks to Naomi L, Lisa Gravett, and Marija Papuga, who helped hand out items and diapers on Saturday. We gave away 168 washcloths, 84 bars of soap and 336 rolls of toilet paper! We also gave out over 2150 diapers, 2 cartons of wipes, and a donation of cans of formula to those in need. What a blessing to be able to give to people here!

Yours in Christ,  
Jean Pollock

