

Redeemer's Reflections

Discovering Christ's community through building relationships

SEPTEMBER~ OCTOBER 2025

This is a monthly newsletter
Of Redeemer's Lutheran
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STAFF

Supply Pstr Soren Flessen

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Vice President- Art James

Living as the Body of Christ

When we pray the “Prayer of the Day” every week during worship, I proclaim we have been made into the body of Christ are invited to pray with one voice. The body of Christ image is used by the Apostle Paul in Corinthians and Ephesians to invite followers of Jesus to respect each other and encourage one another in faith, even while recognizing our differences.

I have been thinking about the different practices that build Christian community. Clearly we are brought

together when we worship together, pray for each other and work together for the common good of all. However, the Mission Statement at the top of our Sunday bulletin states that we are “Discovering Christ’s community through building relationships.” How do we build relationships?

This Fall, starting September 14, we will opportunity to discover Christ’s community in 6 weeks of “Faith and Life” forums. On Sundays after worship, we will meet to build community by discussing our own joys and struggles of faith and encourage each other along the way.

We will use themes like Forgiveness of Self and Others, Finding Strength amidst Illness, Praying for the World while listening to the News, and Favorite Song, Films and Books that inspire us. I hope you can attend these forums to discover Christian community in new ways and keep growing in your relationships of mutual care and respect.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Soren Flessen



Many thanks to Pastor Flessen, who is celebrating 7 years with his Redeemer's family!

Redeemer's family,

As summer draws to a close and we look forward to the fall season, I hope that everyone survived the rather warm weather we all experienced the last few months. Personally I am looking forward to some cooler autumn type temperatures.

Hopefully, by the time everyone reads this newsletter, the parking lot project will be completed. I know you all have noticed the cutting and patching that has been taken care of to our parking lot, well the seal coating and re-stripping should be done by the 28th of August if all goes according to schedule. This should make our parking lot look much better, hopefully give us some more stability to the surface and satisfy our insurance liability requirements. This was a tedious process that took many hours during the two hottest weeks of the summer, in July. For a person that had worked in trades my whole career, this was by far, something I never want to do again, period!!



from our President

I need to call out to the other brave souls who, without their time and efforts, this job would never have been completed. My thanks and appreciation to: Jay K., Mick S., Dan F., Art J., Tony O, Drew O., Alec O., Jim W., Jerry M., Gary M. and Jesus (the good Samaritan). Thank you to all these men who did not hesitate when I asked. I so appreciate all your time and efforts to help sustain your congregation. You all helped save Redeemer's thousands of dollars that we just did not have. May God continue to bless you all.

Other happenings around the congregation, our church liability insurance is now securely in place for the year. Gary R. is always on top of the nuts and bolts of the building. He has been a blessing to the "facilities" of our congregation for more years than I can remember. If Gary lets me know something needs to be replaced or repaired, I know it does! All I need to do is ask "how much", and I know it is taken care of. Thank-you my friend.

Several weeks ago in late July, something transpired in my life that re-enforced my faith and what 20 plus years of recovery has taught me. There was a situation where I had no immediate control over. I was powerless. All I could do was pray and turn it over to my higher power, God. My faith and recovery brought me acceptance and a sense of peace with the situation. I was able to let it go and sleep that night. The next morning, I was able to start taking the necessary steps to bring the problem to a favorable conclusion. My favorite prayer over many years that had guided me daily, sometimes several times a day, is the Serenity Prayer:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I can not change,

the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference,"

Patience, understanding, and remembering it is God's will and not always mine is a beacon of peace and hope to me each day of my life. More to come....

Peace,
Steve





From our
VP

From the Vice President

Martin Niemöller (1892–1984) was a prominent Lutheran pastor in Germany. In the 1920s and early 1930s, he sympathized with many Nazi ideas and supported radically right-wing political movements. But after Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, Niemöller became an outspoken critic of Hitler's interference in the Protestant Church. He spent the last eight years of Nazi rule, from 1937 to 1945, in Nazi prisons and concentration camps. Niemöller is perhaps best remembered for his postwar statement, which begins "First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out..."

The Quote

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Thank You

Art James



WOMAN TO WOMAN

So, my dad was a maestro on the accordion. I'm talking Myron Floran caliber (hope someone gets that reference). He could "Lady of Spain" shake that instrument (another reference I hope you get). Any party or celebration in the family brought out the accordion and he would play and we would all sing. It only stands to reason that he would want to share his talent with his children.

As my sister was the oldest, she was first. He found a teacher about a half mile from the house and every Monday evening the two of them would walk there for her lesson. She lasted a year and then said it wasn't cool. The baton was then passed down to me. Plus, I was three years younger, not a teenager and didn't know what cool was. My dad would practice with me and between the walks, the lessons and the practice, we had some very memorable one on one time. I cherished those times. The accordion teacher moved out of the area after three years and without a car it was very difficult to get to her new location, not to mention lugging a big, heavy, awkward suitcase. So, my lessons stopped.

Sixty years later I've been gifted a youth sized "squeezebox" and tried to draw on my senior geriatric brain to play a few tunes. Outdoor service has been my outlet and lo, and behold, a couple guys in the congregation came up to me and said they too played back in the day. (the accordion was a popular instrument back then). Who knows, maybe I'll be able to talk them into testing their brains and muscle memory too and we can get a little combo together. We'll be the new sensation!

So, thank you for indulging me once a month outside and taking me down memory lane. I hear my dad playing along with me and it's such sweet harmony.

Til next newsletter-----Nice chatting with you

Jan Strojny





*Part of the crew fixing our parking lot in temps in the upper 90's!
Thank you to all that participated!*



*Reformation Sunday is October 26th.
Please **wear red** if you have it, as part of this festival Sunday.*



Sunday, November 2 is All Saints Sunday. Please call the church office or place in the offering plate, with names of those who have passed away that you want remembered on this day.



The sign up sheet for goodies for our “Faith & Life” forum is now available out in the narthex.



Our hearts and prayers go out to:

Family and friends of Ida Mae Walsh, especially Pam, on the death of her mom.

May they all be comforted by the resurrection and the life yet to come.

Fern Schara, Pat Kropack, Lottie White, Pete & Debbie Animagi, Gus Scott, Joanne, John, Ryder Conrad, Carole, Tom DeLeeuw, Noah Coyle, Kevin, Nick, Percy, Tommie, Steve S, Ralph, Virginia Drogula, Carol Burge, Bev, Silvia Magana, Howard Doyle, Chris McAuliff, Mike, Bob Graniczny, Kris Neumann, Kristen Richardson, Kim Wisniewski, Gary Miller, Russ; Amber, Tim Dragoon, Jim Mueller, Ralph Mueller, Sommer Trella, Jennifer J., Courtney Flynn, Blake Murphy, Scott & Brandy, Phil Peloquin, Hayley Jeralowicz, Cheryl, Matt Kuh, Joan Coyle, Greg, Dave Dau, Steve Kryl, Brett, Billy Mueller

Please inform the office for any name removals or additions. Thank you



SEPTEMBER

“Sandwich” by Catherine Newman

For the past two decades, Rocky has looked forward to her family’s yearly escape to Cape Cod. Their humble beach-town rental has been the site of sweet memories, sunny days, great meals, and messes of all kinds: emotional, marital, and—thanks to the cottage’s ancient plumbing—septic too. It’s one precious week: everything is in balance; everything is in flux. And when Rocky comes face to face with her family’s history and future, she is forced to accept that she can no longer hide her secrets from the people she loves.

Join us September 30 at 7pm at the home of Linda McHugh for discussion and refreshments.

OCTOBER

“The Rules of Magic” by Alice Hoffman

This is the second in a series by this author. It’s the story of three siblings_ Franny, Jet, and Vincent – growing up in New York City in the mid-20th century. They have all inherited magical abilities from their mother, who has run away from her family to try and escape all things magical, and in particular, the family curse.

Join us on Monday, October 27th at 7 pm. The cauldron will be brewing at Jan Strojny’s house.





SEPTEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

8 Jim Woolard
Kathy James
Marilyn Rickert
11 Jennah Kanacki
15 Carol DeVos
Max Minnick
22, Deb Majewski
25, Diana Carr
Cathy Thrun
29 Georgia Karash
30, Andrew Ogarek



ANNIVERSARIES

3....Chuck & Fern Schara
6, Tony & Amy Ogarek
8, Gary & Marilyn Rickert
10 Ray & MaryAnn White

September Readers

7 Gary Rickert
14 Erica Strojny
21 Bob Hecht
28 Drew Ogarek



If you are interested in providing an artificial flower arrangement for the altar, please contact the office, or see Deb Frawley.



OCTOBER

birthdays & anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

6, Judy Carver
7, Alec Ogarek
9, Tom DeLeeuw
Natalie Caswick
17, Deb Frawley
26, Deb Animagi



ANNIVERSARIES

2, Peter & Deb Animagi
11, Wayne & Bonnie Trella
14, Mick & Jan Strojny

OCTOBER READERS

5 Tony Ogarek
12 Alec Ogarek
19 Steve Nowlan
26 Dan Frawley