

Redeemer's Reflections

Discovering Christ's community through building relationships

APRIL- MAY 2026

This is a monthly newsletter
Of Redeemer's Lutheran
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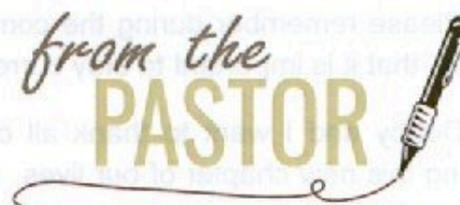
STAFF

Supply Pstr Soren Flessen
Office Admin. Deb Frawley
Music Coord. – Jan Strojny
Pianist/Organ– Amy Ogarek
President- Steve Nowlan
Vice President- Art James

Abundant Life with the Good Shepherd

The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ~ John 10:2-4,14-16

During the season of Lent, in February and March, we have been listening carefully to the voice of Jesus, calls us to break free from those things which bring heartache, pain. This is the reflective process that we call "**daily baptism**", seeking forgiveness and new life. We have heard Jesus' voice leading us into pathways of abundant life, with a focus on love of God and our neighbors. It is a beautiful invitation. The Gospel of John invites us to "abide" with God, letting the spirit of love be our home, fill our hearts and drive our daily intentions and aspirations.



The reason we observe Lent every year is a recognition that Jesus' invitation is not easy to fully accept and implement in our daily living. In our **faith and life forums**, many of you have had the opportunity to name the challenges in finding this abundant life as well as stories and songs of encouragement. This "daily baptism" is a process, and the community of faith can help you realize you are not alone.

In this sacred season, I invite each of you to hear and believe you are in Good Hands, held by the Good Shepherd who loves you deeply. May the power of Jesus' sacrificial love which we honor during Holy Week fill you and abide with you. May the gift of his Resurrection on Easter open you to new beginnings, with new possibilities for the Good Shepherd to fill you and this precious world, leading us to green pastures and pathways for peace. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Soren Flessen



Redeemer Family,

Spring is here.....I think! Hopefully everyone has survived winter and are ready for some warmer, sunny days. I know I am.

May God continue to bless all of us as we prepare for holy week and our Savior's resurrection. Easter and Jesus' resurrection always make me feel like it's the start of a new beginning, a fresh start, new light, brighter future and a time to celebrate. Christ has Risen, Alleluia!

We are currently in the process of taking care of the flood issues we recently experienced downstairs of the church. I anticipate the clean-up to be completed in the coming days making the church safe and healthy to be in. I will keep everyone posted on the progress.

On a personal note... Debby and I are looking forward to closing on our condo on March 30th. We have agreed to let the couple living there to rent from us until the 19th of April until their home is ready. Then we have contractors coming in for about 3 weeks to do some upgrades for us. After they finish, I will paint and prepare for furniture to be delivered. We also have a couple trips that have been planned that we will be taking. Bottom line being, in and settled by the end of June. We are still staying with my wonderful sister-in-law during this time in Arlington Heights. The process of selling and buying this time has been challenging from the last time we did this 21 years ago to say the least! Looking forward to July!!

Please remember during the coming months when we all start traveling for vacations and family times, that it is important to stay current with our weekly giving.

Debby and I want to thank all of our Redeemer's family for your support and encouragement during this new chapter of our lives. May God bless all of you for such great friendships and love we always feel here.

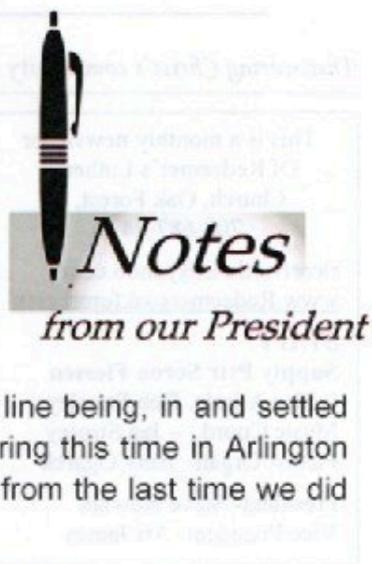
Peace and Love,
Steve

P.S. We will always be part of this congregation.

We are going nowhere!



A Lot Can Happen In 3 Days



Mission and Ministry



From our
VP

Yesterday, Marilyn shared with us that she got such a wonderful feeling from helping strangers. Having a ministry like helping people to feed their family and themselves is not only rewarding but help to restore their dignity. It is not about making you feel better but about making those we help to feel better.

My time with PADS gave me the opportunity to help strangers with shelter, food and with luck, permanent housing. Being able to see people to have their needs met is fulfilling.

Even though some people's situations may not improve dramatically, knowing that we may have made one day a little easier.

This is what mission is all about. Discovering the need of others and working to help meet those needs and helping them to help themselves.

Listen for your calling and find your ministry.

Art



WOMAN TO WOMEN:

So, I was always an A student through grammar school and first year of high school and then the unthinkable happened. I received a D on my final project for music of all classes. Imagine my shock!! Now while mine was only the second D in the class everyone else received an F!!! Fortunately, we had a very compassionate teacher, Miss DuBose. She decided to give us an extension over the weekend to improve our grades. The project was titled "The Music in My Life" and it needed to be at least 3 pages. I used pictures of radios and stereos from Sears Catalogue. I used photos of my dad playing the accordion and myself singing in the band. I drew out some horns and violins. I added some sheet music and thought I had a very complete project. I was only worth a D. So, I went to bed Friday night hoping to wake up to inspiration.



Saturday morning I was disturbed by the cacaphony of many chirping birds outside my window. I went downstairs, passing an open window and heard my neighbor's wind chimes. Not too much longer, the fire truck across the street had a called and left in a hurry blasting it's siren. Wait a minute!!! Birds singing, chimes, sirens, could this be the music in my life? I really started listening.

Went to the corner store and a little bell jingled when I opened the door. Two blocks away a train was going through a crossing and blew it's whistle plus you could hear the clackety clack of wheels on rails. Add to all these an alarm clock, a doorbell, a rooster crowing and the sounds just kept coming.

With magazines, photos, drawings, catalogues and words cut from the newspaper, I went to work re-doing my original paper. When I was finished, I had 10 pages and I was very proud of it. I can honestly say I didn't worry so much about the grade as I thought I would. I knew it was the best effort I could give. I did get an increase in my score. I got an A+.

So, when people tell you to take time and smell the roses, I like to say take time and listen to the music of your life. And listen, really listen.

Til next time-----nice chatting with you

Jan Strojny

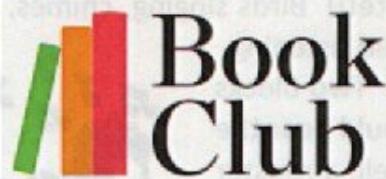




***June 7 will be our first outdoor worship.
Please come prepared with sunblock and a chair.
This will also be our annual picnic.***



- To Steve, Jan, and Erica for creating a nice worship experience on days pastor was absent.
 - To Steve, Art and all who were part of the clean up after the flood in the basement.
 - To all who provided special music this Lent season.
 - To Sophie, Kim, Jan, Kathy and Linda for providing altar and table flowers and new bulletin board art.
 - To Pastor for all you do for our congregation.
 - For those providing treats for our Sunday Forums.
- *Those setting up, cooking, clean up, and participating in the Meal in the Upper Room this year.*



APRIL SELECTION

Have you been lucky enough to have a group of friends surround you all through your school years and beyond. Friends who always have your back through thick and thin. Our book this month tells of the relationship of Vivi's lifelong friends, sharing a scrapbook of their youth, revealing trauma and love that shaped Vivi's life leading to reconciliation. It's an older book and you might have already read it in

the 90s but it's worth reading again and discussing.

We meet at Jan's house on Monday (note the change in day) at 7 p.m. to talk about "**The Divine Secrets of the YaYa Sisterhood**" by author Rebecca Wells.

MAY will be at the home of Diana Carr. Book selection and date TBD.

LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 29, 9:30am

Thursday, April 2:

Combined Meal in the Upper Room /

Good Friday Worship 7pm

There will be NO worship on Friday, the 3rd

Sunday, April 5: 9:30am

The Resurrection of Our Lord!



Mother's day

In 1907, a lady in Philadelphia, Anna Jarvis, began lobbying for a day when our nation would honor mothers. She persuaded the leaders of the church her mother attended to designate the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day.

After Mrs. Jarvis had written countless letters to political authorities across the nation, by 1911 Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day a national holiday. He chose the second Sunday in May for the annual celebration. The second Sunday in May was the anniversary of the death of Mrs. Jarvis' mother



**Happy
Mother's
Day**



We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" for our sake.

May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Fern Schara, Diana Carr, Pat Kropack, Lottie White, Pete & Debbie Animagi, Mike & Traci Stephens, Ryder Conrad, Noah Coyle, Chris McAuliff, Gary Miller, Eric Nemzow, John Tondini, Marie Burge, Tim Anthony, Laura Besowshek, Gary Cummins, Kuzmanich Family.

Prayer
LIST

April

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Deb Peloquin
- 16 Michael Stephens
- 28 Steve Nowlan
- 30 Pastor Soren



Please let the office know if your birthday or anniversary has not been acknowledged.

We may not have that information.

APRIL READERS

- 5 Drew Ogarek
- 12 Gary Rickert
- 19 Steve Nowlan
- 26 Alec Ogarek

May

BIRTHDAYS

- 8 Gary Rickert
- 13 Bill Cummins
- 19 Winnie French
- 24 Linda McHugh
- 25 Sophie Mueller

ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 Gary & Patti Schoenbeck
- 26 Jennifer & Jeff Kanacki

MAY READERS

- 3 Tony Ogarek
- 10 Deb Nowlan
- 17 Bob Hecht
- 24 Jan Strojny
- 31 Erica Strojny

