

Redeemer's Reflections

Discovering Christ's community through building relationships

APRIL~ MAY 2024

This is a monthly newsletter
Of Redeemer's Lutheran
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Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Wow. How exciting to sing the Easter song of celebration again. Coming from our hearts and voices, we sing or shout it with the great cosmic chorus of new life, "*Christ is Risen, Alleluia!*" It is a breath of fresh air, a comfort and a new foundation to build our lives upon.

"Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying...she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but did not realize it was Jesus...Then he said to her, "Mary". And she turned and cried out, Rabouni! (Teacher!). John 20:11-18

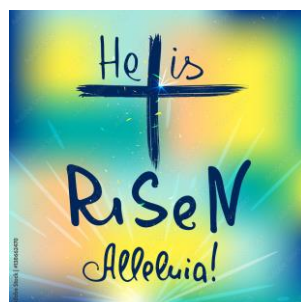
New life in Christ is a powerful reality for all who believe and sometimes it takes a while to accept and absorb all of the implications. When Mary Magdalene came to the empty tomb, she was first scared and confused.

She had lost her Lord to death and suffering and now it seemed like someone was disrespecting his body after death. But then everything changed. He called her name. She was not alone. He stood with her in all of life's challenges and confusion.

The powers of hatred, fear, jealousy or even death could not drive away the compassionate presence of Jesus and God's commitment to bring healing, hope and new life to Mary and each of us. He calls us by name and says, "I am here, you are not alone, your life is precious in my sight. We will stand together in this world and the next, chasing life." This is the final word right now, for all time, for all of creation, for each of us.

It has been a rich and meaningful Lenten journey with you, considering and strengthening our practices of discipleship. Your witness has been inspiring to me and our conversation has opened us to grow and gain confidence in living our own authentic path of following Christ. The Lenten journey has led us to this joyous moment once again: we are Easter people, invited to experience the transformative power of new life in Christ. Jesus calls us by name. We walk with him by faith to discover the importance of hope, forgiveness and new life. We have the opportunity to be his good news to the world. *Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Amen.*

In gratitude,
Pastor Soren Flessen



Redeemer's Family,

*Greetings and Happy Easter to all!
Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!*

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and kindred spirits. Let us all welcome spring and new beginnings. Take in the beauty and the promise of new life. We can all be grateful that our winter was not too harsh. It's great to watch my grass and gardens looking more green and alive day by day.

Looking back on our Lenten season and journey, I was very impressed and grateful on our Faith and Life series and discussions. We had tremendous participation and sharing by much of the congregation. Pastors preparedness and leadership, along with the treats, made our time together very uplifting and insightful. Thank you to all for your time and efforts. I was particularly moved with Erica's personal story and sharing of her experience of evangelism. I am always impressed with our young people's connection to God and His presence in their lives.

FROM OUR
President



Thank you to Marilyn and her "team" for providing another wonderful and delicious meal along with Easter baskets to families in need. Keep in mind that the pantry is always in need of donations. Talk with Marilyn to see what the needs of the pantry shelves are and help out as you can.

Finances are doing O.K. this past quarter. We are in the middle of looking for some new quotes with our liability insurance to try and save some money. Like everything else in the world, insurance rates are going up also. We will keep you up to date as things progress. Please remember with summer coming up, if you are traveling on vacation how important it is to the church to stay current with your giving.

Hopefully in the next couple of months we plan on having another "clean-up" day. More to come on that subject! Till next time.....

In His service,
Steve

TRANSPONDER COLLECTION

The Illinois Tollway is transitioning from using hard plastic transponders to a more efficient and cost-effective I-Pass window sticker. The stickers use radio frequency identification, eliminating the need for batteries. The Illinois tollway is asking that customers dispose of expired transponders, which contain lithium-ion batteries, in an environmentally friendly way, and not placed in regular trash.

There will be a box at Redeemers to collect these deactivated transponders. **We will collect them through April 21 only!** See below on how to obtain the new stickers:



ONLY DEACTIVATED TRANSPONDERS ACCEPTED!!

To deactivate:

1) Call Illinois Tollway 800-824-7277 *2 to order sticker for your car
2-3 weeks for delivery, after which you need to call the tollway again to deactivate the transponder and receive your \$10 deposit.

OR

2) Go to Jewel, pay \$2.50 for your sticker. After receiving sticker,
call Tollway 800-824-7277 *2 to deactivate the transponder and receive your \$10 deposit.



WOMAN TO WOMAN:

So, I was thinking the other day (which happens a lot) and remembering Pastor talking about a special code of sorts that he has with his daughters. A special phrase that they say under certain conditions that only makes sense to them. I don't remember the phrase exactly but it seems to me the certain condition was updating his wardrobe.

My family also has a phrase that would make no sense to anyone if they heard it. It's been going on for a good 20 years now and hasn't worn out yet.

So, here's the background. My Uncle Ted and Aunt Betty had 3 children. The first two came within years of each other and then the big surprise came 15 years later. This one is Chuck. Now the oldest got married, moved away and started a family. The second got married, moved to Wisconsin and enjoyed the outdoors and fishing. The surprise child went to school, graduated from college and stayed at home. Eventually my uncle passed away and Chuck took it upon himself to stay with Aunt Betty. They were a couple and showed up for all family events together.



Years went by and Chuck still took care of his mom. Needless to say, she looked after him (or so she thought). So now picture a family event with about 20 of us and we're all going to the pot luck table, making our plates and finding a place to sit. And all the while Aunt Betty is asking Chuck if he took some turkey, did he take potatoes, doesn't he like the jello - he should try some and Chuck has steam coming from his ears because he's 45 years old and capable of fixing his own plate and that's when he turns to her and says, "Betty's plate! Betty's plate."

That phrase stuck for every get together since but it doesn't just refer to a plate of food. If anyone gets too pushy with their opinion on how something should be done, we simply say, "Betty's plate! Betty's plate"! In other words, mind your own business. And I've even said it to friends who have no idea why I'm talking about Betty and her plate but in my mind, I know that I've just told them to mind their own business.

So if you ever want to tell someone off without them knowing it, by all means, use our cute little phrase. It works well in all circumstances and keeps them guessing..

Til next month-----nice chatting with you Jan Strojny

EASY CHEESECAKE LOG

- 2 cans (8pks) crescent rolls
- 1 8 oz pkg cream cheese
- 1 egg separated (save white)
- 1 T. lemon juice
- ½ c. granulated sugar

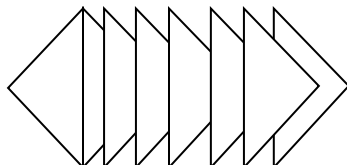


In the kitchen with.. **Winnie French**

Mix all ingredients, but the rolls (which are laid out as sketch below on parchment paper or greased sheet/ tray) Make 2 logs.

Use ½ filling on each log and seal ends.

Fold edges over in a crisscross pattern. Brush with egg white (or save white for after cooking for powdered sugar and/ or sprinkles). Bake for 15 min. at 350. Cool. Slice down middle and then side to side for more pieces





In **APRIL** we will be reading:

This one's an oldie but deserves a re-read and discussion. **Cold Sassy Tree** by Olive Ann Burns is about a 14 year old boy in 1906 Cold Sassy, Georgia. The book centers on Will Tweedy's relationship with his grandfather and the small town scandal that begins when his grandfather remarries a young woman two weeks after his wife's passing. Think about that time in history in the south and what the problems this situation could stir up.

*We will get together on April 23 at 7 pm at Jan Strojny's.
Hope to see y'all!*

In **MAY** we will be reading:

"Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult & Jennifer Finley Boylan

Beekeeper Olivia McAfee fled her abusive husband in Boston for New Hampshire with her six-year-old son, Asher. Twelve years later, Asher is charged with murdering his high school girlfriend, Lily, a newcomer to town.

Join Linda McHugh, at her home on Monday, May 20 at 7pm for discussion and refreshments.

Thank you to:

All those who made our Lent special: those who brought treats, contributed to our discussion group, special music, Pastor, Amy, Tony & Jan.

Those who put together, cooked, set up, cleaned up and attended the Meal in the Upper Room/ Good Friday service and meal.

To Gary Rickert, whose "spidey" sense saved the boiler once again!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:



Dolores Sheputis, Shirley Aggen & family, Fern Schara, Pat Kropack, Mary O'Malley, Gus Scott, Joanne, Eddie McDermott, John, Ryder Conrad, Pete & Debbie Animagi, Tom Stormer, Carole, Bridgett Arista, Dave Murphy, Lottie White, Noah Coyle, Tammy & John, Kevin, Nick, Kevin H, Percy, Tom DeLeeuw, Tommie, Steve S, Theresa Bentley, Ralph, Richard Coyle, Trisha Williams, Lisa Byrom, Robert Ogarek,

Virginia Drogula, Carol Burge, Bev, Audrey, Keith Buhs, Silvia Magana, Howard Doyle, Linda McDonald, Chris McAuliff, Harold Carver, Mike, Bob Brennan, Bob Graniczny, Kris Neumann, Len Schaafsma

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

OUR CURRENT SELF HELP GROUPS' MEETINGS

SUNDAY~AA 7pm/ NA 7pm every 4th Sunday

MONDAY~AA 10:30am/ AA 7:30pm/ NA 7pm

TUESDAY~

WEDNESDAY~AA 10:30am/ OA 7:30pm

THURSDAY~TOPS 5:30pm/ NA 7pm

FRIDAY ~ CANA 2nd Friday/month

SATURDAY~NA 10:00am





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

APRIL READERS	
7	Dan Frawley
14	Jerry Marquardt
21	Tony Ogarek
28	Gary Rickert

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR APRIL ARE GIVEN BY:



- 7 The Strojny's who are thankful for life & each day
- 14 In celebration of Lucia's first birthday!
- 21 Jim Woolard in loving memory of James F. Woolard, Sr. & Wilma Woolard
- 28 The Ogarek family who are "loving life"!

Please consider signing up for altar flowers. They are \$28 for 2 beautiful bouquets.



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



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

MAY READERS	
5	Steve Nowlan
12	Bob Hecht
19	Art James
26	Deb Nowlan



ALTAR FLOWERS FOR MAY ARE GIVEN BY:

- 5 **STILL AVAILABLE**
- 12 Pam Walsh in celebration of her mom, Ida Mae's 99th birthday!
- 19 Deb & Steve Nowlan for blessings received.
- 26 Linda McHugh in celebration of Rylan's birthday!

