



CELEBRATIONS

The Monthly Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Madison, Wisconsin

May 2010

Life Begins at Easter!

Because I live... (John 14:19)

"It is finished."

"He is risen."

"He is risen indeed!"

So now what? Does life settle down after Easter? Do things "get back to normal"? Well did things settle down after that first Easter? The story had a happy ending: Jesus rose from the dead. He's okay. Let's go home and relax.



No, that's not at all what happened, and it isn't what should happen after your annual Easter. The season of the church year that follows Easter is not Vacation. After Easter comes Ascension and then comes Pentecost. Those oft-forgotten festivals are rooted in the story of salvation just as is Easter. They recount historical events that have a most profound impact on humanity also. No, Easter is not the end of the story. Rather it is the pivotal event in history that gives meaning to the rest of history, to our history, to our lives. Life begins at Easter.

The most important words Jesus spoke after his Resurrection are captured by inspiration of God at the end of the gospels and the beginning of Acts:

- † "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:46-49)
- † "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)
- † Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you. (John 20:21)
- † But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

These words give life its purpose. Sense the power, excitement, and energy in them. These are our marching orders. These words explain why the end has not yet come. So let us go on celebrating Easter by celebrating life – celebrating real life, the life he came to give us. When the end really comes, then we will all go home and relax.

"Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." (John 20: 19-20)—*Tom Koepsell*



St. Mary's Pediatrics Staff Says Thank-You

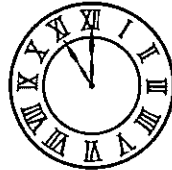
The following thank-you note was received from the St. Mary's Hospital pediatric staff:

Thank you ever so much for the donation of quilts and baby hats to the Pediatric Unit at St. Mary's Hospital! The quilts are beautiful and the patients really like the fleece ones best!!! Nice colors and prints for the patients to choose from. The hats we gave to the Neonatal Unit because of its size and we just didn't use them in Peds. They were very happy with them!! Thanks again for doing something so special for others to enjoy and love!!

Several ORLC members have donated their time to make quilts and hats as part of ORLC's knitting ministry. If you are interested in participating, contact Jill Kufalk at 213-2788 for more information.

Summer Worship Times

There will be two services: 8:00am and 9:30am. Summer hours are for the Sundays in June, July and August. There will be no Monday night worship on:



- » Monday May 31 (Memorial Day)
- » Monday June 14 (Outdoor worship and Picnic)
- » Monday July 5 (Independence Day)
- » Monday September 6 (Labor Day)

Forever It Seems In Harm's Way

Lord heal me from the injuries of life
The barbs, the thorns and the pain
Tend to my wounds and make me whole
Help me to live again

Shelter me from the winds that blow
The currents that pull me under
The waves that crash around my soul
Splitting my world asunder

Lord comfort me when I'm all alone
Destroy my demons within
Guilt seems to stab at my innermost being
I'm marred by the ravage of sin

You are the lifeblood I can't do without
Your forgiveness and guidance I need
Bruised and damaged I come to you now
Lord I'll follow wherever you lead

Your love and protection I need more than ever
Don't leave or forsake me, please stay
Lord why is it I'm always stumbling around
Forever it seems in harm's way?

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Bible Trivia

Did you know the answer to last month's question—What disguise does Satan use to try to fool Christians? The answer is an angel of light. See 2 Corinthians 11:14.



This month's trivia—Who initially resisted Elijah's suggestion that he wash seven times in the Jordan River to cure his leprosy?

Look for the answer in next month's newsletter!

CELEBRATIONS

Purpose: Celebrations is the monthly newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School, providing members with information about people and events occurring at Our Redeemer and articles to strengthen their faith.

Articles: Please forward information and ideas for articles to the church office by the 15th of the month. We reserve the right to edit any submitted materials.

Lead Contributor: Tom Koepsell

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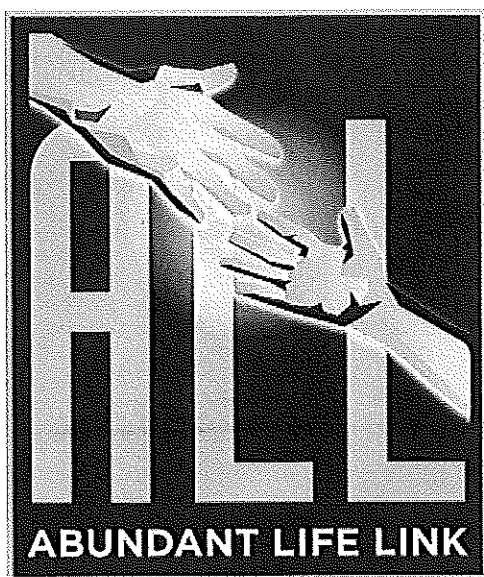
Gaining an Identity

Jail ministry is about more than jail ministry. With the Lord's blessing, we hope to minister to inmate families and also to people after they are released. To establish a name and identity in Dane County, we have adopted a name, logo, and slogan. The ministry will be known as "Abundant Life Link." Using the acronym "ALL" our slogan is, "ALL you need in Jesus." Thanks to Peter Schmitt for his artistic contribution to this effort.

These identity marks will be used on our web site that will serve as a contact and coordination point for this ministry. If you have those skills or know of someone who does, please contact Mr. Koepsell. We need someone who can give our web site a professional look and make it the useful tool it needs to be. You can see the site at danefait.org.

On April 21, we hope to have learned if we have gained access to doing Bible study in Dane County Jail. Check your bulletins or e-blasts for an update. Please pray that God uses this ministry to make Jesus known to these people also.

"He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom to the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Is. 61:1-2)



LWMS Holds Annual Convention in St. Louis

All ladies in the congregation are welcome, invited, and encouraged to attend a TOTALLY AWESOME experience this summer. The LWMS Annual Convention will take place in the central location of St. Louis, Missouri June 24 – 27. The time there promises to be very uplifting! There will be worship and communion and singing; workshops and fellowship and food. The missionaries will light your hearts on fire as they share how God is working in the hearts of people all over the world. It is our prayer that you will leave with a renewed zeal for sharing Jesus everywhere.



Check out www.2010lwms.org for more information on the convention.

\$crip Update

Have you taken the Scrip challenge yet? We're encouraging every ORLC member to give the Scrip Program a try. Once you try, we think you'll see how easy it is and will continue to use it to support ORLS. Now, in addition to helping ORLS, you will also help students wanting to attend ORLS but whose families may not be able to afford the tuition. The School Board has decided to place 20% of the funds received into the ORLS Scholarship Fund. The remaining funds from the program are used for non-budget items. Examples of how the funds were used in the past:



- » Helping fund the ORLS playground equipment
- » Upgrading the classroom lights
- » Purchasing athletic uniforms

It really is easy to use. If you've ever used a gift card, you understand scrip! Scrip is simply gift cards retailers offer at a discount. You pay the face value of the card and the retailer donates a percentage of the purchase to ORLS.

Order forms are located on the school web site. They are also located under the order box by the bulletin board across from the trophy case. Orders are due Mondays by 3:30pm and are ready later that same week. For more information, contact Bobbi Retzlaff.

ORLS News Corner

End of Year Draws Near

The Closing/Graduation Service is set for Wednesday, May 26, at 6:30pm. This is always a wonderful way to close out the school year as we gather around the Word and remind ourselves of the real purpose of Christian education.



Grades K-8 will sing and the 8th graders will receive their diplomas. After the service, our annual slide presentation, The Year in Pictures, will review some of the events that occurred throughout the school year. All congregation members are invited to join us as we emphasize this valuable part of our church's ministry.

The 2009-2010 school year officially ends on Thursday, May 27. After cleaning up rooms, taking care of last minute items, the Kindergarteners will be holding their graduation service in the church at 10:30am. The students in grades 1-8 will be enjoying their last two hours of school roller skating at Fast Forward. The day will conclude with the students and their families enjoying a noontime picnic. After the picnic the students will officially begin enjoying their summer vacation.

We thank the Lord for the many blessings that he has given to us throughout this year. Each year can become so busy that it is easy to forget what a blessing it is to have teachers faithfully presenting God's Word to the students each and every day. The Lord promises us in Isaiah 55:11, "The word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." How the Lord ultimately fulfills that promise we leave in His hands. But as we look back on another completed school year, we can be assured that the time, effort and money that makes this form of ministry possible, is well worth it. May the Lord continue to bless all our efforts as we bring His Word to the young, precious souls that He leads to us.

School Plays

The school children in grades K-8 will be presenting their annual entertainment on Friday, May 7.



Grades K-3

Students in grades K-3 will be performing in the church starting at 1:00pm. Grades K-1 will be doing a play entitled "Blunder Down Under." Grades 2-3 will be doing "Don't Rock the Ark."

Grades 4-8

Students in grades 4-8 will be giving their performances in the evening starting at 7:00pm. This will take place at the Verona High School Performing Arts Center. The students in grades 7-8 will entertain the audience with the play "The Bachelor King." Grades 4-6 will be performing various commercials throughout the play.

The students have been working hard on these productions. We hope friends and family members will be able to attend! All congregation members are also invited and encouraged to attend these performances. The children would certainly enjoy having you there.

Luther Prep Jazz Band

On Tuesday, May 4, the Jazz Band from Luther Preparatory School will be visiting our school and giving a 30-minute concert. Luther Prep is operated by our Wisconsin Synod to help prepare high school students for the teaching or preaching



ministry. The band members will be performing in our new community room beginning at 10:45am. This will be the first time that they have come to our school so we are looking forward to their visit. All members of the congregation are invited to attend if their schedules allow. Why not take an early lunch break and listen to some great music before heading back to work?

Submitting a Newsletter Article?

If you have information to share in the church newsletter, please submit it by the 15th of the month. Electronic submittal is preferred (e-mail orlc.newsletter@gmail.com), but hard copy is also accepted – drop them off at the church office. If your article includes a picture, please attach the picture file as separate file. If you have any questions, contact Bobbi Retzlaff at 288-0365 or send an e-mail to the address above. If you cannot make the 15th deadline, please contact Bobbi before the 15th. Items received after the 15th are not guaranteed for inclusion.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

May 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9:00 AM Outing to Dobra Tea
2 Worship with communion at 8:00 AM Worship with Confirmation Service at 10:30 AM (no communion)	3 6:30 PM Worship	4 6:30 AM Bible Study at Resurrection 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 1:15 PM Bible Class at Prairie Park	5 2:00 PM Bible Class	6 6:30 PM Jail Ministry Team 6:30 PM Dead Sea Scrolls	7 6:30 AM Bible Class	8
9 Worship at 8 & 10:30 AM 9:15 AM Sunday School and Bible Class <i>MOTHER'S DAY</i>	10 6:30 PM Worship 7:30 PM Bible Class 7:30 PM Bible Information Class	11 6:30 AM Bible Study at Resurrection 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM WIC Nutritional Program 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 1:15 PM Bible Class at Prairie Park	12 2:00 PM Bible Class 5:30 PM Elders	13 6:30 PM Jail Ministry Team	14 6:30 AM Bible Class	15 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM Dead Sea Scrolls Field Trip
16 Worship with communion at 8 & 10:30 AM 9:15 PM Sunday School and Bible Class	17 6:30 PM Worship 7:30 PM Bible Class	18 6:30 AM Bible Study at Resurrection 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study 1:15 PM Bible Study at Prairie Park 5:00 PM School Board 6:30 PM Pioneers Awards Night	19 2:00 PM Bible Class	20 6:30 PM Jail Ministry Team	21 6:30 AM Bible Class	22
23 Worship at 8 & 10:30 AM 9:15 PM Sunday School and Bible Class	24 6:30 PM Worship 7:30 PM Bible Class	25 Last Day of Pre-K 3 6:30 AM Bible Study at Resurrection 1:15 PM Bible Class at Prairie Park	26 Last Day of Pre-K 4 2:00 PM Bible Class 6:30 PM ORLS Graduation and Closing Service	27 Last Day of School – picnic at noon 6:30 PM Jail Ministry Team	28	29
30 Worship at 8 & 10:30 AM	31 Memorial Day No Monday Night Service					

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The Newsletter of
Our Redeemer Lutheran
Church & School

The mission of Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church is to meet the spiritual needs of Christians, and to encourage non-Christians to hear the Word of God, by preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ through our church, education, community and mission activities.

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It's Here!
Your May copy of
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has arrived!

Celebrations!

