



Redeemer News

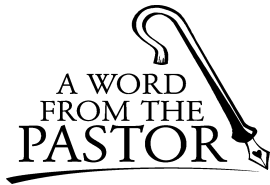
March 2009

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Pastor Michael Wolters

711 10th Ave W

483-4463



I was intrigued to read recently that in the early centuries of Christianity Lent was called a quarantine. This makes sense because Lent is 40 days long (excluding Sundays) and the name “quarantine” literally means “forty” (the Latin *quartus* means the fourth part). Thinking of Lent as a quarantine may help us in our understanding and practice of it. Webster’s Dictionary defines a quarantine as “any isolation or restriction imposed to keep disease from spreading.” According to Romans 3:10,23 the most widespread human disease is sin: *“There is no one righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* Lent, then, is a time to “quarantine” ourselves for the purpose of pondering and confessing our sin. Isaiah 30:15 says, *“In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.”* Lent is a quarantine in that it is a good time to withdraw somewhat from our regular activities to quietly reflect on our sin and need for God’s grace.

But as Isaiah says, we don’t really want to do that. It isn’t exactly fun pondering the depths of our sin. It takes time for such quiet reflection and we are not really a “slow down and meditate” society. Furthermore, our many activities and electronic gadgets (sports, television, computers, cell phones) constantly compete for our attention and make it difficult to practice a “spiritual quarantine” such as Lent. Dr. A.L. Barry, former president of our synod sums up the challenge with these words: *“Unfortunately, there is something about Lent that rubs our American sensitivities the wrong way. We don’t much like the idea of suffering, or trouble, or inconvenience. Our society*

seems to be bent on doing whatever it takes to avoid anything unpleasant.”

Difficult as it may be to admit our sin sickness and practice quiet meditation, repentance, etc. in a busy modern world, Scripture calls us to do just that. The writer of Lamentations (ch. 3) tells us: *“...it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man to bear the yoke...Let him sit alone in silence...Let him bury his face in the dust...”* St. Paul said to the Corinthians after they had gone through a painful period of repentance: *For you became sorrowful as God intended...Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”* Quarantining ourselves for quiet, even sorrowful, reflection on our sin and the hurt it brings is exactly God’s will for us. Though it “goes against the grain” in our fun-at-any-cost society and fast-paced world, maybe it is worth it for Christians to recover a more meaningful Lenten discipline of quiet meditation and reflection.

The purpose of any quarantine, medical or spiritual, is to ultimately bring healing and wholeness. This is especially true of our Lenten quarantine. We don’t withdraw for a time from worldly pursuits and activities because they are sinful and God thinks more highly of us if we are not engaged in them. We withdraw for a while so we have quality time to reflect on how deep our sin is and how much more deeply God has forgiven it in Christ. We don’t quarantine ourselves and give up certain things to *earn* God’s grace, but to *ponder* God’s grace in all of its richness and fullness. The Lenten quarantine is not practiced to make up for our sins, but to reflect upon how much our sins **need** to be forgiven and then, how much they **have been** forgiven through the cross and empty tomb of Jesus. The same writer who said it is good for us to bury our faces in the dust went on to say: *“Because of*

the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." The quarantine of Lent is ultimately about grace and healing and joy!

Since comparing Lent to a quarantine is a medical analogy, let me close with another medical analogy. Who will be more thankful for healing, a person who has struggled with warts for a week or someone who has battled cancer for years and finally been declared healthy? The answer to that question is self-evident. We can pass quickly through Lent, acting as if our sins were just small blemishes. But that will leave us much less thankful for Christ's salvation than if we take time for a full Lenten quarantine, recognizing that our sin is a "cancer" that has the power to devastate our lives. God bless your Lenten quarantine so that when it is over you will know the full joy of Christ's death and resurrection for you!

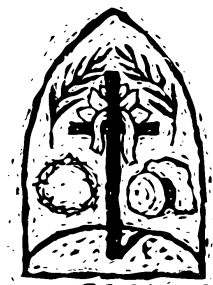
In Him,

Pastor Wolters

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Redeemer Lutheran has been taking part in an outreach program produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries that will continue through the summer months. We receive names of people who have moved into Dickinson and invite them to our church by sending them postcards. A welcome packet with information about our church is delivered to each of these homes. If you are interested in helping with these brief visits, please see Pastor Wolters or a member of the Board of Missions and

Outreach. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to our community with the good news of Jesus. Please pray for this ministry and prayerfully consider how you may help.



Worship Schedule *For* Lent

LENTEN LIES?

We Christians are interested in knowing and proclaiming the truth. Oddly enough, one helpful way of finding and seeing the *truth* is to put it up against its opposite: *lies*. Satan, along with our old sinful nature, has been lying to us almost from the beginning of time. The world has long since joined in with its lies. The only way to overcome the lies of the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh is with the truth of God's Word, made flesh in Jesus Christ, who is Himself the very definition of truth (John 14:6). This will be our pursuit this Lenten season as we consider the theme **LENTEN LIES?** Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (Lenten Suppers begin March 4 at 5:30 p.m.). We observe the following schedule:

February 25	<i>You Know Best</i>	Luke 22:2-4
March 4	<i>You Are A Brick</i>	Matthew 26:40
March 11	<i>Sit Back and Wait</i>	Matthew 26:58
March 18	<i>A Little Is All Right</i>	Matt 26:69-75
March 25	<i>Church Leaders Are Always Right</i>	John 18:28
April 1	<i>Entertainment Is Always Entertaining</i>	Luke 23:8-9



Blessings to all in the name of our Heavenly Father

Hello to all. March has arrived! This year is passing so quickly! Spring is just around the

corner! Praise God for the blessing of seasons. "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Thank you to all the parents who participated in our Parent Sunday. We enjoyed having you in our classrooms.

Students will be singing in the month of March. Once a date has been set, notes will be sent home with the children.

This month we will meet Jairus' daughter, learn about the Transfiguration, hear of Jesus calming the storm, Peter's confession, and Jesus clearing the temple. The students have now earned 256 keys on their way to 500! Thank you for bringing your children to learn of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

There are lots of exciting adventures waiting during our Sunday school time together. We encourage your child to bring friends when ever possible. Please come and learn about Jesus with us!!

Let us praise God for the seasons and purpose he has given each of us!!

The Sunday School Staff



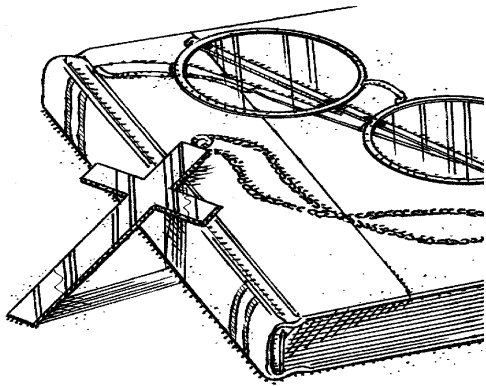
Hopefully March will come in like a lamb and go out like a lamb, and spring is on its way! WE have been studying the weather, and we are wondering, will there be more "lion" days or "lamb" days in March? We will keep track.

Pre-K day began in February. Ms. Marni and Ms. Kathy have eighteen eager students who can't wait to get ready for Kindergarten in the fall.

Jesus time in March will focus on Christ's miracles. We will look at his early ministry and how he healed many people.

Blessings to all! Thanks for your continued prayers and support. Be sure to check out the information about our Open House elsewhere in the newsletter!

Ms. Nikki, Ms. Kathy & Ms. Marni



Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Hebrews 12:2



“Newness and Balance”

In March we observe the beginning of spring, that season of the year in which the plants that lay dormant during the winter begin to grow again. It is

also a day on which there is balance—twelve hours of sunshine and twelve hours of darkness.

Spring is a good reminder of these two important things about stewardship—newness and balance! By God’s grace in Jesus Christ we are freed from the failures of the past and freed to live in the present with purpose and look to the future with hope. How refreshing a new start is!

Balance is the other important thing associated with wise Christian stewardship. The Rich Fool in Luke 12:13-21 lost his stewardship balance and the result was disastrous. He already had more than enough to meet his personal needs and when he was blessed with even more he decided to tear down his barns and build larger ones where he could store up all his goods for himself and take life easy with the attitude of “eat, drink and be merry.” Jesus called him a fool because he tried to store up riches for himself but was not rich toward God.

We in the United States of America live in a very materialistic culture. There is the emphasis on getting ahead, building a solid nest egg and saving up for retirement. Now, if these things were kept in a good Christian

balance, the picture would not be so bad. The danger is that we try to keep all these material things for ourselves with too little concern about the purposes of God or the needs of others. The Rich Fool had so much he could have at least shared his excess with others in need. He could also have generously given for the support of the “church” of his day. If he had done that then all would have benefited, including him. But he didn’t and he died a lost and condemned sinner.

How can we take advantage of new starts in stewardship and maintain a good balance as we manage the material riches God pours down upon us? One simple plan for keeping balance is to adopt and follow the 1-1-8 principle. This plan involves giving the first 10% to God in response to His great love for us and for the support of His work in this world, then saving or investing the next 10% and finally living on the remaining 80%.

Mathematically it adds up perfectly. In practice it can be a real challenge, one that seems unreachable to many who may currently be trying to live on 100% (or more) of their income.

It may not work for everyone to adopt the 1-1-8 plan immediately, but what joy God’s people can experience as they move in that new direction for balance. Oh, by the way, many Christian stewards have learned from experience that they can give more than 10%, save even more than 10% and live very comfortably on less than 80%.

May God grant to all of us His grace, good judgment and discipline to take advantage of each new start and manage our material blessings in a way that honors Him, blesses others and refreshes us!

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Acolyte Schedule

Mar 1 - Tayler Johnson	483-8866
Mar 8 - Kelsie Tyrrell	974-3959
Mar 15 - Reed Johnson	483-8866
Mar 22 - Lindsay Tyrrell	974-3959

Mar 29 - Kacy Schaper 483-6715
 Apr 5 - Kelsie Tyrrell 974-3959
 Apr 9 - Tayler Johnson 483-8866
 Apr 10 - Josh Brevik 575-4030
 Apr 12 - Shayna Monson 483-7916
 Apr 19 - Lindsay Tyrrell 974-3959
 Apr 26 - David Brevik 575-4030

Advent Suppers for Seminary Student
 \$185

Thrivent has allocated \$1020 to Redeemer for 2009. Part of this has already been allocated for Redeemer Pre-School Silent Auction which was held in January and for Lenten Suppers for a Seminary Student. If you have a cause in mind that could use funds contact Paula Martin, 483-6662. If you would like information about Thrivent Financial for Lutherans contact Rick Tabert at 483-4600.

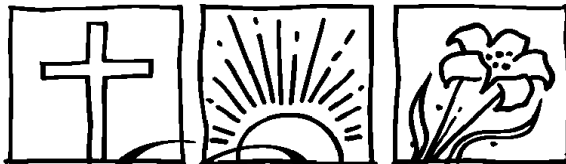
Please make arrangements with someone else on the list if you are unable to serve for your assigned Sunday.



You can find us at www.redeemerdickinson.org
 - many of the areas are still under construction so if you have info that would help

get it completed please email the church.

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LENT

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Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has been very generous to Redeemer Lutheran this past year with supplemental funds. Thrivent gave the following amounts to supplement these causes. Thank You Thrivent!!!

Lenten Suppers for Seminary Student
 \$500
 May Brunch for Seminary Student
 \$500

- 1 - Shannon Heinle
- 6 - Paula Martin
- 7 - Bonnie Olson
- Ed Wojahn
- Marni Neubaure
- 10 - Cord Wolters
- 11 - Jesse Urlacher
Donna Seborg
- 17 - Eric Schaper
- 18 - Don Neumann
- 19 - Tate Senger
- 20 - Chris Carattini
- 27 - Phyllis Christianson
- Darcy Urban-Dahmus
- 28 - Keyauna Ridel Gregory
- 29 - Jennifer Schuh
- Kathy Krenz
- 31 - Mary Guenther

- 12 - Dale & Tracy Barth
- 20 - David & Donna Seborg



March



