



Redeemer News

September 2009

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Pastor Michael Wolters

711 10th Ave W

483-4463

*From the
Pastor*



As we begin another year of confirmation instruction, Sunday School classes and so on, we are led to think about *why* we put so much effort into these things as students, parents, and teachers.

The following article by Sandy Sutter, a Lutheran mom and teacher from Illinois, gives us some insight into why we make God's Word a priority in our lives. It is titled ***Learning Together in Confirmation Class***:

"You know, after studying these stories of the Israelites week after week, it seems to me that all they do is try to make points with God! They disobey God, He punishes them, they ask for forgiveness and He forgives them," one of my sixth-grade confirmation students remarked one day.

"Ryan, you are right. But don't we all?" I replied. He looked at me with some dismay. I continued, "When life is going great and we are doing fine, we often push God aside. We think we don't need Him, right? But what about when something bad happens? We get sick or someone we love is sick. Or life just doesn't seem to be doing well, what do we do?" "Run to God," he answered. "Man, I don't know how He can take it!" "Our God is a very loving and forgiving God who only wants us to love Him first and foremost and to praise and worship only Him," I said.

Not only am I a lay person teaching this class, I am also the mother of one of the students. As a parent of a sixth-grader, I already know what they think about. I am aware of what is going on at their school and how demanding life can be on their time. I understand it, but we do not excuse them because of it. What is it like to teach confirmation class? Anyone who teaches children at all knows they have lots of energy and ask lots of questions. It is the same in confirmation class. The class is made up of four boys and two girls, an interesting

appropriate. The students have servant event hours to fill and sermon reports to do. They have a service project to work on, either individually or as a class. They voted to do a class project. The pastor grades their sermon reports and keeps track of their servant hours.

At the beginning of the class, the pastor has the students and their parents sign a covenant stating they will participate completely in their confirmation instruction. Because of the pressure on their time, it takes a great deal of commitment from both students and parents. We all must work together to make this program successful. If any of us fails in meeting the expectation, the child is the one who suffers. By teaching our children that confirmation is important enough to miss a practice or rearrange a schedule, we are sending a strong message—God is most important in our life!

Most coaches and teachers are very understanding of religious instruction. A phone call or a note of explanation regarding absences is all that is usually necessary. My son plays basketball and once we notified the coach of our plans to miss every Monday evening for confirmation class, we had no problem. My son was not "punished" in any way for the absences and was still allowed to play in the games. ***Our son learned that God comes first and everything else can be rearranged!***

The primary focus of the curriculum we are using is that God has a plan! We hear it every week. Not only did He have a plan for the Israelites but He also has a plan for everyone, including each of us. Together we explore the plan God had for the Israelites, the plan of salvation for all his children and the plan He is working out in our lives today. We learn that God insisted on being first in the Israelites' lives and in our lives! When we fail and ask for forgiveness, Jesus' blood is there to cleanse us.

These highly energetic youngsters can shower me with questions. Most of the time I can give them answers. Sometimes I need to ask the pastor. Isn't that part of what confirmation is about—an opportunity to ask questions about what we believe and why we believe it? With the help of God I prepare each week for my class. He always guides me in teaching his children his ways. Together we all learn and make a great team!

+++++

Acolyte Schedule

Sept 6 - Emily Tyrrell	974-3959
Sept 13 - Kacy Schaper	483-6715
Sept 20 - Tayler Johnson	483-8866
Sept 27 - Dynae Zubke	225-1835
Oct 4 - Shayna Monson	483-7916
Oct 11 - Eric Schaper	483-6715
Oct 18 - Kelsie Tyrrell	974-3959
Oct 25 - Reed Johnson	483-8866

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



+++++



In September we observe Labor Day, a legal holiday in honor of labor. The Bible deals with labor in a variety of ways. In Genesis 2:15 we read that *"The Lord*

God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." (NIV) It was part of God's plan of creation to make human beings for work and provide work for them.

Work is important for us. It is important enough that we often answer questions like who or what we are by referring to our work. We may answer in a number of different ways like I'm a teacher, or a plumber, or a carpenter, or an office manager, or a business owner, or a pastor, or a doctor, or one of many other vocations. No wonder people get depressed

when they are without jobs and meaningful work to do. Much of our self esteem is tied in closely with our work.

As God's redeemed stewards we recognize that God has entrusted to us many things to manage and work with according to His will and plan. To not be willing to work and still expect to receive good things is like stealing. Ephesians 4:28 says, *"He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need."* (NIV)

Honest labor provides us with a sense of fulfillment and provides for our own needs and something extra to share with others who are in need. The book of Ecclesiastes includes a number of passages like 2:24; 3:12-13; 22; 5:18-20 that encourage us to find joy in our work. Work is a blessing from God and He gives us the time, talent and resources to do our work in a way that honors God and blesses others as well as ourselves. The words of Hebrews 13:20-21 affirm this truth: *"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."* (NIV)

So this September as many things like vacations are over and new things start up again—school, mission and ministry efforts in our congregations as well as other September activities—let's remember that with the power of the Holy Spirit we can live and work as God's redeemed stewards who freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for His purposes. May we always be encouraged to give our very best when it comes to our financial gifts of love, our use of time and talents, and our willing service at home, in the workplace, in our communities and in our congregations.

+++++



Our preschoolers will shine like stars when they come to school starting September 9th. Ms Nikki, Ms. Kathy and Ms. Chris are expecting 40+ students and we can't wait!

We'll begin our year by talking about outer space and stars and then go into fall talking about season changes, all the while learning our ABC's and 123's.

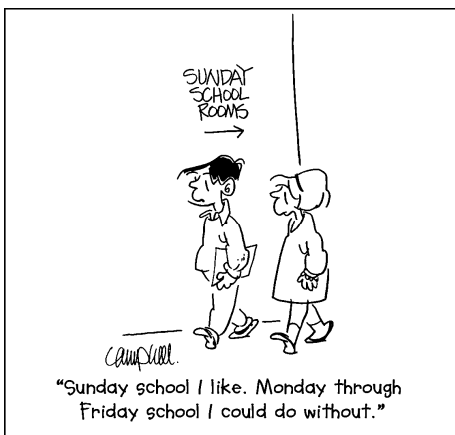
Jesus time will begin at the beginning with Creation. We will learn about how God made the world and everything in it. We will also talk about how God made us and loves us very much.

We still need Kleenex, Clorox wipes, Ziploc bags and foaming hand soap. You can drop your donations in the church office or Ms. Nikki's room.

Thanks for your continued support of this ministry to the little ones of our community, please keep our staff and students in your prayers as we embark on our new school year.

Jesus Loves You!

Ms. Nikki, Ms. Kathy & Ms. Chris



"I lift my eyes to the hills...where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of Heaven and earth." Psalms 121: 1-2

Please keep all of our teachers, students, and other education workers in your prayers this month, as they all head back to school for another wonderful year of learning and fun! All the ladies of Redeemer and other ladies interested in attending are encouraged to join us Monday September 14 at Redeemer for our meeting and update on how the Fall Retreat in Carrington went. There is still time to register if you would like to attend;)

A few dates to keep in your prayers for upcoming LWML events include:
September 14 - Meeting
September 11-13, 2009 – Fall Retreat, Carrington, ND
June 18-20, 2010 – ND District LWML Convention, Bismarck, ND

Christ's blessings to you all always.

For more information or if you have questions about LWML please contact Marni Neubauer at 483-5847.

Building the Home is a family life summit being held at Messiah Lutheran in Mandan on Oct 2nd & 3rd. Today's Christian families are hurting and parents have questions about how best to nurture their children in the faith. Recognizing that healthy churches are enhanced by healthy families is the goal of "Building the Home" is to equip families with skills to promote spiritual health within the home. Information and registration forms are located on the table in the back of the church.

Lutheran Women in Mission

Mission Update

In Kenya, Africa, there are approximately 2 to 3 million children who have been orphaned by disease, especially the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Six men from ND and MN went to Africa with Pastor Bernard Seter, vice chair of the LCMS Board for Human Care Ministries, to determine the mission needs in that area. As a result of that trip, their goal is to fulfill the dream of Rev. Walter Obare, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK), which is to build 24 orphan rescue centers and provide orphan support through scholarships. Each of these centers will be built near an ELCK church or school, so that the children will not only have physical shelter but may take refuge in Jesus, our Savior.

We will have the opportunity to hear about this dream, called Project 24, at our mission festival, scheduled for Sunday, October 18, when Pastor Bernard Seter will be here at Redeemer. We will also have the opportunity to give a special offering toward this wonderful mission. Be watching for a special envelope for that purpose. It is always so encouraging to hear how the Lord's work is going on in these areas where there is such desperate need. Don't miss this special day of encouragement.

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. O Lord, You preserve both man and beast. How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 36:5-7

Suggested Prayer Focus for the Month: Please pray for:

- International Night at Redeemer Sept. 9
- The Youth Board and our youth as they prepare to host the youth gathering on Oct. 11
- Preparations for the mission festival on Oct. 18
- Our confirmation and Sunday school students

- LCMS seminaries as they face financial hardships
- Missionaries to Latin America: James & Christel Neuendorf, serving in Panama; Erin Mackenzie, serving the Ysleta Mission in El Paso, TX

Remember to check out the LCMS World Mission website for information on our synod's work throughout the world and for specific websites on our missionaries. mission.lcms.org

-
- 1 - Janet Bauer
 - Debbie Theurer
 - 2 - Erv Abel
 - 4 - Daryl Andes
 - 7 - Ashley Anton
 - 8 - Jenna Johnson
 - 9 - Jody Mann
 - 11 - Dawson Zubke
 - 12 - Jessie Twardoski
 - Richard Wolf
 - 13 - Kyle Witt
 - 15 - Justin Schaper
 - Harley Schepp
 - Shane Johnson
 - 17 - Paul Huber
 - Pam Wolf
 - 18 - Laverne Ziegler
 - 20 - Daniel Berg
 - 21 - Kelsie Tyrrell
 - 24 - Brittany Wolf
 - Larry Will



- 6 - Greg & Renae Schneider
- 15 - Lyle & Joyce Scott
- 17 - Shane & Jenna Johnson
- 20 - Terry & Cindy Stickel
- 23 - Grandon & Dawn Schenider
- 27 - Jason & Kim Balliet



Hurray for Sunday school! Sunday school officially begins September 13th at 10:20 a.m. following our 9:00 Worship service. We are all ready and excited to begin another year of



Sunday school instruction. Thank you to those of you God has called to teach our youth.
Mary Freeman – Preschool/Kindergarten
Tayler Johnson/Christiana Wolters – 1st grade/2nd grade
Chris Carattini – 3rd grade/4th grade
Travis Wolters - 5th grade/6th grade
Karen Berg – Jr. High
Chantell Zeller – High School

Also, thank you to those who have offered to be substitute teachers for the upcoming year. We are always looking for extra hands, so if you feel God is calling you to help in this ministry please do not hesitate.

In addition to our weekly Bible lessons, we will also be working on committing God's word to memory during each class time. We encourage you to work with your child, helping him/her to grow in their faith.

Don't forget to bring your offering! Our mission project this year is the "Amigos en Cristo!" project. Our monies will go to provide copies of the Spanish Bible with Small Catechism to be given to churches and missionaries throughout Central and South America and to Hispanic ministries all across the United States. We will collect offering at closing each Sunday morning.

We are so thankful for each of our returning Sunday school students. We thank you parents for positively promoting Sunday school attendance. We encourage you and your child/children to bring friends whenever possible, so we may share in the joy of knowing Jesus Christ our Savior with them. Please join us each Sunday morning as we visit God's word and learn of his people and the message he has for us today; a message of love and forgiveness through Jesus.

Many Blessings in
Christ,
The Sunday school staff



*Congregation Preparedness and Volunteer Training
Event*

The all new Congregation Preparedness training, "Be Aware, Be

Prepared, Live by Faith", will address key areas like:

- 1) Christian Care in Times of Disaster
- 2) Congregation Preparedness
- 3) Personal Safety and Security
- 4) Meeting Immediate & Unmet Needs
- 5) Meeting Community Needs

The revised "**Lutheran Early Response Team**" basic training exceeds the minimum new guidelines for disaster volunteers by focusing on five important areas:

- 1) Work Site and Personal Safety
- 2) General Clean up/Debris Removal
- 3) Tarp & Patch Training
- 4) Flood/Hurricane Clean Up Training
- 5) Chain Saw Training

Two trainings events will be offered:

(1) Saturday, September 26 from 8:30am – 12:30pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church located at 1258 North Broadway in Fargo.

(2) Sunday, September 27 the workshop will be repeated at Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck at 413 East Ave D from 1:30pm-5:30pm.

Please contact Vicki at the ND District Office in Fargo by phone at 701-293-9001 or by email: ndlcms@ideaone.net to register in advance. Or, return the form below by mail or fax.

Registration is \$10 per person which includes the new "Preparing to Meet the Challenge" manual complete with checklists and handouts plus one LCMS World Relief and Human Care "Volunteer" T-shirt per participant. Checks payable to: ND District LC-MS.