

Our Redeemer News

Web Page: www.ourredeemer-lcms.org

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Volume 22, Issue 5

May 2019

SERMON and SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR MAY

May 4/5:

OH, BLEST THE HOUSE

“Peacemakers”

Matthew 5:1-12

May 11/12:

MOTHER’S DAY

OH, BLEST THE HOUSE

“Pure In Heart”

Matthew 5:1-12

May 18/19:

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

OH, BLEST THE HOUSE

“Hunger And Thirst For Righteousness”

Matthew 5:1-12

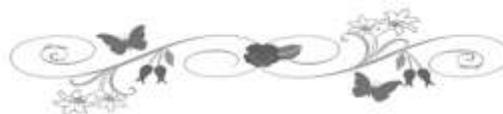
May 25/26:

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

OH, BLEST THE HOUSE

“Persecuted”

Matthew 5:1-12



For behold, the winter is past;

the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth,

the time of singing has come,

and the voice of the turtledove

is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12



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And Jesus said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:49-52)

May is one of my favorite months (and not only because my birthday is the 30th). Spring hits hard in May. School winds down in May. We get our first taste of summer in May. Mothers are celebrated in May. And, at Our Redeemer, we celebrate the Confirmation of the latest batch of eighth graders, after their two years of study. (Confirmation is always the 3rd Sunday of May.) May is a time of rebirth and refocus on the blessings of relationships.

This May I will be sharing a series of messages entitled "Oh Blest The House". We all want families that are blest. Families that are strong in love for each other and for God. Families that are happy. And yet too often we think those things just happen on their own. Somehow our homes will be blessed simply because we want them to be blessed.

In the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus gives a recipe for being blessed. I'm going to take that recipe and apply the blessings of being peace makes, being pure in heart, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, and being persecuted to our families and other relationships that we might experience a "Blest House." Jesus Himself, as a member of a family, grew in "wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man." As His disciples we need to follow His example, empowered by the grace and forgiveness he freely give to His family, and grow.

~In Him I am Faithfully yours, Pastor Draeger

QUEST FOR CHRIST

The Greatness of God Psalm 139:1-18

God is infinite. It's difficult for us with limited human minds to imagine exactly what that means, but it's important to think about His greatness. His love is immeasurable. Likewise, He is boundless in righteousness, mercy, and justice. Time and space cannot contain Him.

Can we go anywhere that God is not? There may be times when we think we want to hide from Him, but thankfully, there's nowhere we can go that is out of His reach. The last thing we should want is to be separated from Him. As believers, we are forever connected to God because He is eternal. He calls Himself the "Alpha and Omega," which means the beginning and the end. That is not to say the Lord started at some point in eternity past and ends somewhere in the future. Instead, it means that when time and space began, He started it. When it ends, He will still be there—He is the one "who is and who was and who is to come (Revelation 1:8).

Not only is God infinite and eternal; He is also unchanging. (James 1:17) So much of what we believe is based upon this characteristic of God. We can trust in His promises because they never change, and we can trust in His love because it is an absolute certainty.



I would like to thank Pastor Draeger and my friends at Our Redeemer for their flowers, cards, visits and support at this difficult time of Ron's passing.

Sincerely, Linda Verellen



From the Director of Worship and Music

Greetings!

Back in the day, when Lori and I led youth ministries, I would periodically give my “The World Hates You” speech. Often many of the kids (including my own) would roll their eyes, having heard it before. But it’s true. The point was to make them understand that their true life is found in the church, in their relationships with other Christians. The world might have a pretend love for you, but once you take a few serious steps down the road of discipleship you find very quickly that the world does not love you. Jesus warned us that this would be the case. “They hated me, and because you belong to me, they will also hate you,” he told the disciples. When he was told that his mother and brothers were outside waiting to speak to him, he replied by looking around at his disciples and saying, “Here are my mother and my brothers!” (Matthew 12:46-49)

The early church in its infancy lived as a community, as a family. They had to; they were up against real forces that wanted to do them real harm. But the life of the church has always been the most vibrant in the times and places where it is persecuted the most viciously. The disciples in the book of Acts were imprisoned for preaching the Gospel. They were eventually taken before the council and beaten, and then let go. We are told, “...they departed from the presence of the council rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple and in every house they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” (Acts 5:41-42) They could have decided it was too dangerous to keep meeting and simply given up. Instead, they continued in fellowship and the Church grew.

The groundwork for this response had been laid back in Acts 2, where we read, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42) Those who believed were together and had all things in common. Day by day they attended the temple and broke bread in their homes. (Acts 2:44-46) They did these things *day by day*. Not once a week, or a couple times per month. They got to know each other intimately. Actually, the true ground work had been laid three years earlier. Jesus selected 12 men to be his closest followers who would launch his church after he was physically gone. His method of preparing them for this monumental task was to have them simply live in fellowship with him for three years. The Gospels record many epic conversations, parables, miracles and other

notable events experienced by the disciples during their sojourn with Jesus. These were instrumental in forging the bond that the disciples shared. But in between the miracles, I imagine there were many more days of simply living life together. Conversations about relatively unimportant matters. Meals together. Long walks down dusty roads. Struggles to make 13 personalities mesh as they lived in close proximity with each other. These too, had their part – perhaps the greater part - in building the bond between them.

There is an old saying, “blood is thicker than water.” It means that the bond of family is stronger than any other allegiance. I believe that’s true, but I don’t think it’s the fact that families are (usually) blood relatives that makes it true. It’s living with each other through the mundane details of life, the shared experience of life’s triumphs and tragedies day in and day out that builds the bond. My wife and I have had tremendous experiences in the course of our life together. We’ve traveled to wonderful places, owned nice things, had mountaintop experiences of one kind or another. Those times are nice, but they’re not what really builds the bond between us. I know that she loves me because of what happens in between those events. She proves her love by simply living out her life with me every day, encouraging me in little things, overlooking my various faults and idiosyncrasies, and even forgiving me when I’m an unbearable jerk (hard to believe, I know, but it happens).

Jesus knew that by keeping his rag-tag group of disciples together with him, he would build them into a tightly knit family of men who, in the end, would willingly die for him and for each other. He grew their bond by doing life together day by day. He builds his church the same way today. And grow us he must. We must be the family of God that he calls us to be. I don’t know if you’re aware of this, but the world hates you. I know, some of you are rolling your eyes; but it’s still true. We are assured by Jesus that suffering will inevitably come, including suffering for belonging to Him. Look around at your fellow disciples; these are your mother and brothers. This is your true family. It’s only from this community that you will draw the strength to return, rejoicing that you are counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Until next month,

*Roger Hackelberg,
Director of Worship and Music*



The Only Reason for Living

“We live on earth only so that we should be a help to other people... that we may bring other people also to faith as He has done for us.” This is what Dr Martin Luther preached in a sermon on 1 Peter 2 in 1523. Really? Being witnesses of Jesus is our only reason for being in the world? Some might argue that Luther was overstating his case to emphasize that witnessing is very important and he didn’t actually mean that it is our only reason for living in the world. But he went on to say, “Everything then should be directed in such a way that you... make it your highest priority to proclaim this publicly and call everyone to the light to which you are called.” [quotes from Volker, Stolle, *The Church Comes from All Nations: Luther Texts on Mission*]

“Only,” “everything” and “highest priority.” Luther used these words to drive home the point that the Lord strongly desires His children to “be a help to other people” by bringing them to hope and healing that is found only in Jesus. God’s people boldly “proclaim the excellences of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9) to those who are captive to the darkness of sin and death. [Mark Wood, *Lutheran Witness*, condensed, 1-19]

★NATIONAL★
DAY of PRAYER

Thursday,
May 2, 2109



It’s hard to believe our year is coming to an end! Our last class will be May 15th.

Congratulations to our confirmands! Can’t wait to see what God has in store for you!

Have a wonderful summer everyone!!

Kathy Sowers, Mission Life Coordinator

May Acolyte Schedule

May 5th	Luke Bernthal
May 12th	Grant Newell
May 19th	Riley Burton
May 26th	Molly Addis



LWML Mites Working Hard

\$60,000 of National LWML mites will go to **Family Scholarships for Short Term Mission Trips**. Meeting the physical needs as a way to share the Gospel through missionaries and church leaders of the LCMS is the goal of MOST Ministries. They also build churches and schools and teach marketable skills. MOST feels it is important to recruit families into mission work not only because of the positive impact it has on the lives of those they serve, but on the families themselves. Serving as a family opens the eyes of their children to see how other people live and gives them a perspective of how fortunate they are in the US.

\$25,000 of Michigan District mites will go to **Expanding the “Connecting Kids to Christ Tutoring Program”** at East Bethlehem Lutheran in Detroit. Inner city kids are reached through tutoring programs in math, reading, and vocabulary. Evangelism activities include corporate and group prayer, Bible Study and classes for adult and child baptism and confirmation.

Everyone is encouraged to save mites (money). Mites are coins/money given to missions. The term is taken from the story of the Widow’s Mite in Luke 21. Please leave your gifts in the church office with clear mite box identification. Thank you. *Our Redeemer LWML Ministry*



NEWS.....

Thank you everyone for your support of our Ladies Night Out. A portion of the monies raised will go to Grace Centers of Hope and to the LWML Michigan mites to help those in need. Without all of you this would not be possible.

The LWML Spring rally at Grace Lutheran was enjoyed by all. Our service project will benefit Luke 5:2.

Our next meeting will be on May 6th at 6:30 pm. We will be planning our year end potluck as well as events and speakers for next year. We invite you all to attend, enjoy some fun and fellowship and share any ideas for events and speakers for next year.

Thank you, blessings,
Joyce Mason LWML Secretary



SONshine Kids is quickly drawing to a close, last day is May 19, 2019. With that in mind I have so many "THANK YOU'S to extend....

1st and foremost.... I want to praise and thank God for the wonderful 24 children He has sent to us.

2nd... Thank You to Pastor Draeger for his continual support and encouragement.

3rd... Thanks to all of our Terrific Teachers who have been so committed to the students.

4th... Thanks to Mandi Wesley for her commitment to our Music program.

5th... Thanks to Tanya Addis for her continued support to myself and our program.

6th... Thanks to Olivia Friedli for meeting our substitute teaching needs.

7th... Thank You to Margie and Mary Jane for office support.

8th... Thank you to Tim & Kristie Newell for supplying treats!

9th... And, MANY, MANY thanks to our great parents that have been committed to trusting us to show their children the love of God.

SONshine Kids 2019/2020 will begin September 15, 2019. Have a happy and safe summer. See you in the fall.

Respectfully submitted.... Linda Martin, Director SONshine Kids



2019 Daddy-Daughter Dance
Thursday, May 23, 2019
6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.

Cost is \$20 per couple and \$5 for each additional daughter.

This special event is for girls ages 3 to 12 years and their Dad's.

The evening includes: Dancing, Pictures with Dad, Ice Cream Sunday Bar, Munchies, a Punch Fountain and a special gift for each Princess along with a rose to press!

So girls, put on your favorite party dress and your dancing shoes and bring your Dad for a night of making special memories you'll both treasure for a lifetime!

Sign-up in the Narthex by the office. Please pay church office by May 22nd. If you have any questions please call Margie at 586-781-5567.



Pro-Life, Pro-Marriage, Pro-Christ

The pro-life movement must focus on the life issue, not be diverted by other aspects of the sexual revolution. Stay in your lane, they say. Don't let your message become watered down. That's the advice I hear from all quarters. My guess is that it's born of fear, a lack of conviction, and perhaps ignorance of what we're up against.

We are tempted to believe that if we are nice, we will be safe. And for a while the sexual revolution will be happy to pat the heads of those they deem useful. But make no mistake: The sexual revolution takes no prisoners. It began with claims of autonomy, of sexual liberation and freedom. But license leads to cruelty and ultimately oppression.

We're heading into some dangerous waters. It's no longer about the freedom to do what is wrong and harmful; it's about Christians no longer having the freedom to do what is right and helpful. We all know that Christians must bake the cake . . . or else. So also the florist and photographer. The list of casualties grows ever longer. And I am stuck singing, "You used to say live and let live." And yet who says a word against it? We know Christian adoption agencies have been forced to close, and yet you tell me to stick to the life issue. Christian counselors are silenced, and we are silent voluntarily, perhaps to further our social advancement. And still they say to the pro-life movement, focus. Stay in your lane. A Brownsburg teacher is fired for not using the mandatory pronouns, and yet in Indianapolis, our Republican governor goes on and on about being a welcoming state. Or at least welcoming those who welcome the new ideology.

In all of this, we must remember who is Lord and who is that we aim to please. Children are given to us as trust from God. Ultimately, we must obey God rather than men. Remember, there is only one Lord, and it is God's Son alone who is our Savior.

And now it's parental rights. Well, that makes sense. We stand and smile, offering our blessing upon that which God frowns. But there are real consequences. If the state can redefine marriage, then parents have no natural rights. If children do not belong to the mother and father, then there is no family, only power. Perhaps, in the next election, the campaign slogan can be, "If you like your children, you can

keep your children." And you might fall for it again. And yet, as parental rights are stripped, do you still tell me to focus on life issues?

Hardly anyone says a word. Groups push the revolution, and we smile. And the unwelcome guest is the one who defends the truth. The LGBT revolutionaries are taking children from parents who will not play along, who will not give their children puberty blockers, hormones, soon to be followed by disfiguring surgery. You may be the parent, but the state knows better. And the court will take your children. This has long been a matter of logically seeing how this plays out, but now it's just observing what's already happening. Do well to remember that the "T" is for totalitarianism. And if we marginalize, ostracize, fine, fire and silence Christians, well, there goes your life movement too. So much for staying in your lane.

So, what to do, dear Christians? Be strong in your faith and your confession. Do not forget your first love. And do not forget the One who loves you. I might add this is the time to return to the Scriptures. Read Genesis 1-3. See what our Lord says about marriage in Matthew 19 and Mark 10. And then remember that our Lord laid down His life for you. You, the Church, are Christ's precious bride, washed clean by the blood of Christ. Be strong and be confident. Knowing that Christ loves you and is strong to protect, boldly confess Him with your mouth and in your lives. *by The Rev. [Dr. Peter Scaer](#) is associate professor of Exegetical Theology and director of the Master of Arts program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. [submitted by Donna Zuehlk, Lutherans For Life representative]*

Be Informed

Learn why [Michigan Orders Faith-Based Adoption Agencies to Violate Their Religious Beliefs.](#)

Be Equipped

Listen to the Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz discuss issues concerning people of faith in current events, current culture, and the court system. Check out [Free to Be Faithful: Religious Liberty in Culture and Courts.](#)

Be Encouraged

"Be strong in your faith and your confession. Do not forget your first love. And do not forget the One who loves you."



Congratulations to ORLC's own Tammy Lorts! She is now the new Samaritan House Event Coordinator!



21st Annual Golf Outing- Saturday, July 27, 2019

**Greystone Golf Course
67500 Mound Road
Washington, Mich. 48095**

We are seeking sponsors and gift donors for our 21st Annual Golf Outing, which will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2019 at Greystone Golf Course. Registration is at 7 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

Tickets are currently on sale at Samaritan House, 62324 Van Dyke, Washington, MI 48094. Tickets will NOT go on sale online, so come in to purchase yours today!

If you would like to sponsor this event or to donate an item, please contact shevents@att.net or call (586) 336-9956 for more information.

YOU'RE INVITED TO "FASHION & FOOD AT THE ORCHARDS!"

Please join us for an early summer fashion show in a scenic orchard and winery!

You're invited to Fashion & Food at The Orchards, hosted by Westview Orchards & Winery, located at 65075 Van Dyke, Washington, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 9, 2019! Our goal is to raise \$10,000, which will enable Samaritan House to provide 5,000 meals to local, food-insecure families.

This event will feature a fashion show with clothing and accessories from T.J. Maxx and jewelry from Premier Designs!

The afternoon includes an assortment of light appetizers, desserts, wines and beverages provided by local businesses, as well as unique merchandise available for purchase. A tasting of Westview Orchards' wines will be available.

Tickets are \$25 each, advance purchase only. No door sales. Tickets can be purchased at Samaritan House, 62324 Van Dyke, Washington, MI 48094 or online at www.samaritanhousemichigan.org

For more information, contact (586) 336-9956 or email shevents@att.net



Pantry Needs

- children's snacks
- juice
- jelly
- vegetable soup
- canned fruit
- canned salmon
- crackers
- Sloppy Joe sauce
- laundry detergent
- dish detergent
- bath tissue
- diapers (size 4-6)



Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota

Financial Column

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Phone: (586) 726-8899 ext. 227

Four Tips to Help Maximize Social Security

Incorporating Social Security into a retirement strategy is a smart move

Money taken out of your paycheck every month may be unwelcome now but it can give you monthly income later in life.

However, some question if Social Security will last long enough for those in the workforce now. According to Social Security trustees, enough reserves exist for the system to pay 100 percent of promised benefits until 2033, without further reform. Full benefits are available at age 65 for those born before 1938, gradually increasing to age 67 for those born in 1960 or later. However, there is more to Social Security than just applying for retirement benefits when you are eligible at age 62 or over. By waiting, you can maximize your benefits, which will increase every year until age 70 should you choose to wait to file for Social Security retirement benefits.

Thrivent Financial suggests considering these four tips before applying for Social Security.

1. **Don't assume it won't be there.** Social Security is projected to last at least until 2033, so the first mistake is writing it off as a resource that won't be available. Planning early for the role Social Security will play in your retirement will prevent you from being caught off guard and missing out on increased benefits once you are ready to start collecting.
2. **Know your situation.** Retirement income planning is critical. Social Security has many nuances, so adopting a personalized approach is necessary in order to get a better grasp of your retirement future. By using your current information from the Social Security Administration, financial representatives may be able to create scenarios that give you an idea of how the age you begin receiving distributions by can impact the monthly amounts you will

receive. For example, if you're divorced or widowed, a financial representative will be able to calculate the different ways you can claim benefits and how they shape your retirement strategy.

3. **Wait to draw.** Now that you are planning for it, figure out when is the right time for you to start receiving benefits. For many people, this will most often be after the age they are eligible to start collecting full benefits. For every year that you delay, Social Security benefits will increase by a set percentage, eventually putting your monthly benefit above 100 percent. Delaying can also multiply the benefits after it is adjusted for cost-of-living and can potentially reduce the number of years your benefits are subject to income taxes. Factors to consider when thinking about when to file for your Social Security benefits include: health status, life expectancy, need for income, future employment and survivor needs. A financial representative can help you build all of this information into an overall retirement strategy.
4. **Get your financial house in order.** If you delay your Social Security benefits, you will need to have another way to pay for your needs while you are not working. If you planned early enough, you will likely have adjusted your finances so that you are prepared. Again, talking to a representative can help you plan the best option in the interim before Social Security paychecks.

Social Security can be confusing, but talking to a representative can help you clarify the role it can play in your retirement strategy. Once you have a strategy in place, you will be able to enjoy your retirement years without worrying about where the next paycheck will come from.

This article was prepared by Thrivent Financial for use by local area representative James Riske. He has offices at 14460 Lakeside Circle Suite 250 in Sterling Heights and can also be reached at (586) 726-8899 ext. 227.

My Father's House



NEW LIFE IN HEAVEN:
Rick Braun



TRANSFERRED IN:
David Mark Stroupe
From Christ Evangelical-Lutheran Church
New Baltimore, MI

NEW MEMBERS:
Karen & Dale Furney
Linda Irwin
Gail & Kevin Mocerri



NEWLY BAPTIZED:
Ethan Everest Klemm



Initial plans for our 2019 Vacation Bible School have begun. Please plan on joining us for this summer's "mane" event July 15-19 for an epic African safari adventure that is bound to be a roaring good time as we explore God's goodness and celebrate our ferocious faith that powers us through this wild life.

Register online today!
www.ourredeemer-icms.org

Life is wild! God is good!



There's a spot for you to help at VBS!

We are looking for junior high and high school students, as well as adults, willing to volunteer during our VBS program July 15-19th.

If you're interested, sign-up online at www.ourredeemer-icms.org for the position you're interested in, or contact Lisa Johnson at 586-381-3426.



May 5th
May 12th
May 19th
May 26th

Lisa Johnson
Margie Kirsh
Christin Peyerk
Vanda Cardamone

Ava Johnson
Gabby Kirsh
Amanda Wellhausen
Gabby Cardamone



TALK WITH GOD *(Please remember these friends in your prayers)*
THOSE WITH LONG- or SHORT-TERM ILLNESS:

Barb Pieters *(broken hip)* **Dorothy Brinker**
Barb Pellegrino *(Muellers' friend; cancer)*
Frank Cody *(Margo Schuch's brother)* **Mona Pfent** *(Christin Peyerk's mom; cancer)*
Colin Segerlund *(Margo Schuch's grandson; asthma)*
Rae Lynn Koen *(Lanny Shepherd's sister; thyroid cancer)*
Lawrence Thom
Tina Hayden *(Haydens' daughter-in-law; cancer)*
Grace Angela Beachnau *(Mueller's granddaughter)*
Kim Cameron *(Brenneckes' friend; cancer)*
Sharon Allen **Carlo DeAngelis** *(friend of Nancy Ray's; stomach cancer)*
Ron Barrows *(MS)* **Janice Repphun** *(surgery)*
Bob Wales *(ALS)* **Janet Rohrbeck**
Charlotte Robinson *(Chuck Brennecke's sister-bladder cancer)*
Denise Neddermeyer **Bill Dais**
Heidi Wolf
Rich Mason **Lucille Fruchey** *(surgery)*
Nancy Mikolowski *(mother of Judy Laurie-hospitalized)*



OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES:



Jim Pfahlert *(June Shaver's nephew)*
Jon Ede *(June Shaver's nephew)*
Brad Morris
Sean Duggan *(Bridget Felax's brother)*
Mary Hampton *(friend of Orlin & Sharon Allen)*