

# Church Chatter

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## Word from the Pastor



*Beloved,  
Sometimes, in a church's life, we feel stuck, incapable of planning, confused and worried about*

*the future. Generally, it's because we feel as though we don't see ourselves clearly; we don't see the situation clearly or which way to go to get out of it. Perhaps, that's because things just aren't clear to begin with. But many times it is we who pull the blanket over our own eyes like the comic book character Linus. We hold on to the idea: we prefer not to see. It is no accident that when churches are losing members and money is tight, they close in on themselves, and seek refuge in the illusion that they can distance themselves from reality.*

*Sometimes, it's the weight of our past that holds us back because we feel as if we cannot change. Too much water under the bridge. We can feel utterly lost, like time that slips through our hands without hope of ever being recovered*

*Sometimes, in the life of the church, we carry around a painful contradiction: we want to*

*thrive, but we find ourselves stuck. However, most of the good people at Our Redeemer hold on when everything seems at a standstill. They are looking toward the future in hope; they hold out for possibilities and cry for help. We carry with us certain resources that most times we don't even know we have. They come out at the moment of our most fervent prayer. God is listening. God is active at Our Redeemer. What is the hope given to us? What are its characteristics? Paul says, "We do not know." That is precisely right because God makes something new.*

*Sometimes, we need help to get back on our feet. We need help to throw off that which is holding us down, that which oppresses us, that which blocks our path, even if it seems to be the very thing that protects us, that keeps us warm, that defends us, a little like Linus' blanket. Let us cry out in prayer. **There is peace in believing.***

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I look forward to  
sharing time and  
getting to know you

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## **WELCA'S ON-LINE SALE**

WELCA will sell donated items on-line this summer and into the fall in place of having a rummage sale inside the church building.

WELCA is asking for donations of items which can be sold, such as dishes, pots and pans, silverware, utensils, home decor, and small furniture.

Please refrain from donating clothes, shoes, etc. as these are often difficult to sell on-line.

If you have any items you would like to donate, but are unsure about the donation of the items, please contact one of the WELCA Board members.

Items can be placed in the Sunday School rooms on the east side of the hallway. Tables will be available for your items.

Thank you, WELCA Board



### **Church Start Time Change**

LCOR will be starting worship at **9:00 a.m.** beginning **Sunday, July 21**. This will be the time until the Sunday after Labor Day, September 8, when we will change back to 10:00 a.m.

Also **Sunday, July 21**, Pastor Ruby will be having a Cottage Meeting. It will begin right after church in the fellowship hall. Pastor is providing cold cuts and sandwich makings for lunch. She is asking for everyone to bring either a side dish for the sandwiches or a dessert to share. *Be ready for good fun, food, and fellowship!*

### **Grief Support at LCOR**

Fourth Saturday of the Month 12-1:30 pm  
Summer Schedule: July 27<sup>th</sup>, Aug 24<sup>th</sup>  
Lite Lunch Provided.



*A place to speak about experiences of loss, receive care and support from other attendees, and share what is important and meaningful to you in your life.*

*Following the meeting, there will be an opportunity to create a collage or other art project. Art is a wonderful way to express feelings and find meaning. Materials provided.*

## **GRACIOUSLY SHARED BY.... June Martin**

*Last fall, a middle-aged guy and I arrived at the Fort Morgan office to pay for our utilities at the same time. I had brought \$200.00 and was waiting for my turn to make my payment. The middle-aged guy in front of me was talking to an office person. He said that he was a landlord and was there to take care of the business of one of his properties. He said the person in the house hadn't let him know they were moving at the same time the utilities were shut off.*

*I was then helped by another person who worked in the office. She said I had a bill of \$296.00. I told her I only had \$200.00 and that my son would get paid on Monday. She said they needed all that was due, or my utilities could get shut off. The middle-aged man went to the person I was talking to and gave her a \$100.00 bill to help me. I had never seen that man before then. The lady said that I was blessed. I agreed with her. I told the guy, "Thanks," and said a prayer to God to bless that person.*

**If you have a faith story you would like to share, please email [lcormorgan@msn.com](mailto:lcormorgan@msn.com) and we will include it in our newsletter.**

## **Volunteers Needed in the LCOR Media Center**

As many of you know, Stefanie Liston has been faithfully manning our media center since the departure of Bruce. A huge shout of thanks to Stefanie for taking on this major responsibility. Now that it is summer, she is desiring some much deserved time off. In fact, she will be out of town July 28 and August 4 and 11. We are needing someone from the congregation to step up and be trained to share in this ministry at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer. If you would be willing to be trained in July before she goes on vacation on July 22, please let the church office, Pastor Ruby, or Stefanie know. The church number is 970-867-8432 and the email for the church office is [lcormorgan@msn.com](mailto:lcormorgan@msn.com). Stefanie can accommodate most schedules to do the training. Your services are much needed and your willingness to serve in this capacity will be greatly appreciated!

# Daily Bible Readings

<i>Monday, July 1</i> Psalm 88 Leviticus 21:1-15 2 Corinthians 8:16-24	<i>Monday, July 8</i> Psalm 119:81-88 Ezekiel 2:8—3:11 2 Corinthians 11:16-33	<i>Tuesday, July 16</i> Psalm 142 Amos 9:1-4 Acts 23:12-35	<i>Wednesday, July 24</i> Psalm 100 2 Samuel 5:1-12 Luke 15:1-7
<i>Tuesday, July 2</i> Psalm 88 Leviticus 15:19-31 2 Corinthians 9:1-5	<i>Tuesday, July 9</i> Psalm 119:81-88 Jeremiah 16:1-13 James 5:7-12	<i>Wednesday, July 17</i> Psalm 142 Amos 9:11-15 Luke 7:31-35	<i>Thursday, July 25</i> Psalm 145:10-18 1 Kings 19:19-21 Colossians 1:9-14
<i>Wednesday, July 3</i> Psalm 88 2 Kings 20:1-11 Mark 9:14-29	<i>Wednesday, July 10</i> Psalm 119:81-88 Jeremiah 16:14-21 John 7:1-9	<i>Thursday, July 18</i> Psalm 23 Jeremiah 10:1-16 Colossians 1:15-23	<i>Friday, July 26</i> Psalm 145:10-18 2 Kings 3:4-20 Colossians 3:12-17
<i>Thursday, July 4</i> Psalm 123 Jeremiah 7:1-15 1 Corinthians 4:8-13	<i>Thursday, July 11</i> Psalm 85:8-13 Amos 2:6-16 Colossians 2:1-5	<i>Friday, July 19</i> Psalm 23 Jeremiah 10:17-25 Acts 17:16-31	<i>Saturday, July 27</i> Psalm 145:10-18 2 Kings 4:38-41 John 4:31-38
<i>Friday, July 5</i> Psalm 123 Jeremiah 7:16-26 2 Corinthians 10:7-11	<i>Friday, July 12</i> Psalm 85:8-13 Amos 3:1-12 Colossians 4:2-18	<i>Saturday, July 20</i> Psalm 23 Jeremiah 12:1-13 Luke 18:35-43	<i>Sunday, July 28</i> 2 Kings 4:42-44 Psalm 145:10-18 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21
<i>Saturday, July 6</i> Psalm 123 Jeremiah 7:27-34 Matthew 8:18-22	<i>Saturday, July 13</i> Psalm 85:8-13 Amos 4:6-13 Luke 1:57-80	<i>Sunday, July 21</i> Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 23 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	<i>Monday, July 29</i> Psalm 111 Genesis 18:1-15 Philippians 4:10-20
<i>Sunday, July 7</i> Ezekiel 2:1-5 Psalm 123 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13	<i>Sunday, July 14</i> Amos 7:7-15 Psalm 85:8-13 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29	<i>Monday, July 22</i> Psalm 100 Jeremiah 50:1-7 Hebrews 13:17-25	<i>Tuesday, July 30</i> Psalm 111 Exodus 24:1-11 Romans 15:22-33
	<i>Monday, July 15</i> Psalm 142 Amos 5:1-9 Acts 21:27-39	<i>Tuesday, July 23</i> Psalm 100 Zechariah 9:14—10:2 Acts 20:17-38	<i>Wednesday, July 31</i> Psalm 111 Isaiah 25:6-10a Mark 6:35-44

# PRAYER CHAIN

Please pray for the following who have been submitted to our prayer list:

Nichole Woodward

Kate Barnes

Ron & Kay Seiler

John Strauch

Randi Warbasse

Dayle Neddo

Jessa & Taylor Pickering

Andrei, Joanna, & Atlas

Nicoleta and Rebecca

James, Sidonia, & their children

Christine Reedy

Jodi Brown

Callie Sidor

Mikaela Martinez-Harman

Luke Lay

Braxton Speicher

Luke Makings

Zach Griffith



## July Birthdays

Diane Nicklas 2<sup>nd</sup>

Julie Castor 6<sup>th</sup>

Delora Ticnor 8<sup>th</sup>

Marian Robertson 10<sup>th</sup>

Zoey Sneed 17<sup>th</sup>



John & Karen Liston 15<sup>th</sup>

Gary Kolpin & Roxie Larson 23<sup>rd</sup>

Randy & Diane Nicklas 31<sup>st</sup>

*Please let the church office know if there is an omission or error.*

## **LCOR Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**June 2, 2024 @ 11:30 am**

**In Attendance: Karen Temple, Marian Robertson, Jeff Edwards, Kay Johnson, Pastor Ruby**

- 1. Call to order by Karen Temple**
- 2. Opening Prayer**
- 3. Approval of agenda – motion to approve by Jeff; seconded by Marion; approved by council**
- 4. Approval of Secretary Report – motion to approve by Kay J; seconded by Jeff; approved by council**
  - a. Minutes submitted ahead of time for review
- 5. Approval of Treasurer Report – motion to approve by Jeff, seconded by Marion; approved by council.**
  - a. Report submitted ahead of time

Noted that donations were down in May, deficit increased which is covered by savings. A separate line item for the Boiler was created based on a donation.

### **6. Committee Reports – No discussion at this time.**

- a. Building/Grounds – (see Boiler item below)
- b. WELCA
- c. Men's Group

### **7. Pastors Report – Pastor Ruby**

- a. Pastor Ruby will continue to use 16 font for the bulletin. Council validated that it's easier to read.
- b. Has read the church constitution and the bylaws (updated in 2019). Reviewing and updating them will be done in the future.
- c. Will review job descriptions and organizational tree one at a time. Goal is to improve communication.
- d. Worship services – Currently following traditional settings but will also bring in other formats and begin offering communion weekly in September.
- e. July 21<sup>st</sup> will be the first Cottage Meeting that Pastor Ruby will hold. She will bring cold cuts and sandwich makings. Will invite parishioners to bring chips, jello, etc. Planning a fun and stimulating agenda. The purpose is to build connections, teamwork, and direction for moving forward.
- f. Transition Team (4-5) will be created with parishioners and a council representative.

### **8. Old Business**

Outdoor Project – Eric W attended this portion of the meeting to review the submissions. Good ideas were submitted and appreciation for the parishioners who submitted them was expressed. A plan of combining the various ideas was discussed. Research will be done to assess the costs of the combination plan. Eric and Jeff will work together to develop this and present it at the next council meeting.

- a. The focus of the decision making will be on “what's feasible” in cost, will work on the site that has been identified, and won't take a lot of caretaking.

Prairie Parrish Report-Karen Temple. Held in Akron on 6/1. During small group discussions the issue of the lack of pastors available for the need was addressed. Pastor Jeff and Deacon Ro will be retiring in about a year and there are not enough pastors to meet the need of the five churches. All Saints is currently without a pastor. As an experiment, the other parishes (except LCOR) in the Prairie Parrish will be rotating the Pastor, Deacon, 2 lay pastors among 5 parishes over the next 3 weeks. The struggles of parishes related to this were discussed.

#### **9. New Business**

- a. Personnel -Kay J moved that Karen Liston (who applied) be hired for the administrative assistant position for up to 20 hrs per week for \$15/hr; Jeff seconded; Approved by the council. Given the brief length of time until her council term ends (Dec 2024), she will finish out her term on the council while being the administrative assistant. Pastor Ruby will provide training.
- b. The Job Description was reviewed.
- c. Worship service has traditionally shifted to 9 am between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Discussed keeping it at 10 am. (addendum – at the meeting on 7/7, this was discussed again. Pastor Ruby has received feedback from parishioners that they prefer changing it to 9 am during the summer months. It was decided to make this change on 7/21 until Labor Day to give time to communicate to parishioners during the Sunday service, via email, and the phone chain.
- d. The goal of communicating about changes was discussed. This will be applied to changes to the worship services and future activities.
- e. Boiler Estimate \$16,500 actual estimate (doesn't include wiring)– Jeff
- f. Support for Lay Ministry class participants. The service and dedication of Bob Dorn and Roxie Larson to lay ministry is valued and supported, but it was decided to not provide financial support. They will have opportunities to use this ministry in the church at large as well as filling in for Pastor Ruby and will be paid for their ministry. There was also concern expressed about setting a precedence for the future for others who may wish to pursue this ministry.
- g. Trinity Lutheran request – wedding being held next year. It's unclear if their building will be completed by then. Will ask them to complete the building use request. There is a funeral for Trinity at LCOR in the coming week.

#### **10. Other Business**

- a. Teem project- Pastor Ruby will contact Rick Mai's son, Alex, (Barbara Mai's grandson) to follow-up with previous contact with him about the Teem project.

#### **11. Adjourned with Lord's Prayer**

#### **Next Meeting**

**LCOR Council next meeting – July 7, 2024**

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A graphic with the words "Mission Statement" in a serif font, enclosed in a decorative border that resembles a piece of parchment or a framed sign.

## Mission Statement

The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer exists to learn, teach, and proclaim the Word of God, and to nurture one another in the Christian faith in order to create a worship family; serve our community; and build the kingdom of God.



