



## *Fellowship and Refreshment Time*

*“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” Hebrews 6:10*

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:9-13*

*“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10*

*“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:” 1 Peter 4:10*

These verses, and others like them, emphasize the importance of serving one another in the church. One way in which this happens at Redeemer is our time of "Fellowship & Refreshments" following the Sunday morning service. Here we have a chance to see familiar faces and greet newcomers, become better acquainted, and encourage each other in times of joy and sadness.

Yet providing beverages and snacks requires a certain amount of preparation and also a period of cleanup each week. It may be that we sometimes take for granted the efforts of others who work behind the scenes to make it happen. In recent years, our Ladies Guild has facilitated refreshment time – purchasing supplies, turning on the coffee urns, setting out cups, plates and cake. At the end of Bible class, items needed to be put away and the dishes washed. How many of us are aware that many coffee cups had to be individually wiped in order to remove lipstick residue which might not be washed away during the dishwasher cycle? And even though the Ladies Guild in recent months developed a sign-up sheet to enlist a broader swath of members for hosting and cleanup, response has been limited. Much of the work has been continuing to fall to a few dedicated individuals.

Out of concern for this issue, our Ladies Guild has decided to try a different approach. In an effort to streamline setup and cleanup, we recently began using disposable coffee cups, paper plates and plastic forks and spoons. As in the past, members are encouraged to continue donating home baked goods or store bought refreshments. But when possible, it is suggested that items be easy to serve. For example cookies, mini crème puffs, or donut balls are able to satisfy sweet teeth with less labor involved. We can still bring more luscious desserts for our special potluck events.

The ladies would like to encourage those of you who are able, to sign up to host the coffee hour from time to time. As one would expect, the change from washable dishes to disposable paperware will involve some financial outlay. Even if you are not able to host a refreshment time, please consider using the donation basket on the refreshment table to help defray the cost of paper goods. The ladies hope that you will not mind these procedural changes too much, and they would welcome your feedback and suggestions. Our intention is to allow our members to continue enjoying the blessings of each other’s company, but in ways which might better respect and value the time and efforts of our fellow church members.

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35*

## *Ladies' Guild News*

Our Ladies' Guild has been busy lately. We held elections at our January meeting, and there are some new officers. The president is now Carole Clingan, Sue Muth has taken over as vice president, Erica Olson is the secretary, and Shaylene Jessup is now the treasurer.

During the season of Lent, our church has hosted soup suppers before each of the midweek services, and those suppers have been well attended. Thank you to everyone who spent time and their own money and resources, and contributed soup, and thanks to those who attended.

The Ladies' Guild will be hosting the annual Easter Brunch after the Divine Service on Easter Sunday, April 5, and has posted a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who wish to bring a dish.

We would also like to draw your attention to our support of the Alpha Pregnancy Center, which provides help for pregnant women in the Valley who might not have access to resources and support. It is staffed by volunteers from, and is affiliated with, the WELS. The center provides life-affirming support and help for women who do not want to have abortions, but might not have the support they need from friends and family to continue their pregnancies.

According to their website ([alphaaz.org](http://alphaaz.org)), the following are services that they offer for "free and with strict confidentiality":

- A 24 hour Hotline
- Pregnancy testing
- Nonjudgmental counseling on all the alternatives to abortion
- Documented medical information as to prenatal development and the risks and complications inherent in an abortion
- Adoption information and referrals
- Post abortion counseling and referral
- Spiritual and emotional support (ongoing, if needed) for you, your parents, boyfriend or husband
- Referrals for assistance with baptism and/or marriage
- Advice on continuing your education
- Referrals to agencies that assist in finding a job
- Assistance in finding temporary shelter
- Maternity, infant, and toddler clothing
- Diapers, formula, and other baby supplies, when available
- A weekly support group

If you would like to help support Alpha Pregnancy Center, they could use your donations of money, but also baby items such as clothing, shoes, diapers, formula, etc., for the babies, as well as financial support for the mothers. Of course, they could also use your prayers. Please consider donating. Donated items may be left in the Sunday school room next to the fellowship hall, where the ladies have their meetings. Lori Wendt will deliver these items directly to Alpha Pregnancy Center. All donations are tax-deductible. You can call their hotline at 602-285-0050, or email them at [contact@alphaaz.org](mailto:contact@alphaaz.org)

– Erica Olson,  
Ladies' Guild Secretary

## *Devotion: From the Lowest Low to the Highest High*



If you've ever been to Machu Picchu in Peru, chances are you were warned about the possibility of altitude sickness. Many trips to Machu Picchu begin in Lima, Peru, which is at sea level. Then you fly to Cusco, Peru, which is at an altitude of over 12,000 feet. Going from sea level to 12,000 feet in under two hours does not give your body much time to adjust, and many people suffer some ill effects from going from such a low spot to such a high spot.

It's just the opposite when you think about the trip from Good Friday to Easter. On Good Friday, Jesus died. The very Son of God took on himself the sins of the entire world—*our* sins—and was nailed to a cross to pay the penalty demanded by God. What a low spot! Many of Jesus' followers even lost hope since they thought Jesus had come to this world as a victorious Savior, not a dying criminal.

But the highest of all high spots came three days later! On Easter, Jesus showed he had defeated death by rising from the dead. His rising from the dead was proof that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice on the cross as payment for our sins. What's more, Jesus' resurrection from the dead means that someday we too will rise from the dead. The apostle Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians, "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22; ESV).

Because of our many sins, we are supposed to die...eternally. That's the low. But because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we have heaven waiting for us. That's a high that cannot be beat!

*From the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Board for Home Outreach*

## ***World Outreach Update: Exciting News About A Matching Grant for India***

Recently the ELS Board of Trustees made available a generous \$7,500 grant which will match donations toward the expenses of the start-up costs at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Guntipalli, India. This means that contributions made now will actually have a double impact for the students in our Lutheran elementary school!

During this past year, builders have been busy constructing the new school in the village of Guntipalli. Not only will the children in our orphan home there now have access to education, but the children in the village will also enjoy having a school near their homes. The finishing touches are being done now in anticipation of opening day in June. The faculty is being hired and students are being registered. We hope to cover start-up costs such as furnishings, books, fees, etc.

Gifts to missions like the school at Guntipalli bring blessings to children who need not only a secular education, but who also must be made "wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15)." If you can help with a special gift at this time (one that is matched!), your support will make a difference in the lives of many children - now and forever!



*St. Paul's orphan home residents and  
future students of the Lutheran School*

## *Holy Week and Easter Schedule*

Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday  
Divine Service at 9 a.m. with Choir  
Sunday School and Adult Class at 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday  
Divine Service at 7 p.m.

Friday, April 3: Good Friday  
Tenebrae Vespers Service at 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 5: Easter Sunday  
Divine Service at 9 a.m. with Choir  
Easter Brunch at 10:30 a.m.



*Redeemer Lutheran Church  
April 2015*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7 p.m. DS  Internet Study Group canceled	3 <b>Good Friday</b> 7 p.m. Tenebrae Vespers  Bible Study canceled	4
5 <b>Easter</b> 9 a.m. DS 10:30 a.m. Easter Brunch (AC/SS canceled)	6	7	8	9 7 p.m. Internet Study Group	10 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	11
12 <b>Easter 2</b> 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. SS/Congregational Forum	13 7 p.m. Voters meeting at the church	14	15	16 7 p.m. Internet Study Group	17 10 a.m. Bible Study at the Nelson residence	18
19 <b>Easter 3</b> 9 a.m. DS Ladies' Guild meeting after the service 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	20	21	22	23 Internet Study Group canceled	24 Bible Study canceled	25
26 <b>Easter 4</b> 9 a.m. SW with Spoken Communion 10:30 a.m. AC/SS	27	28 7 p.m. Elders meeting	29	30		

Abbreviations:

DS – Divine Service; SW – Service of the Word; AC/SS – Adult Bible Class/Sunday School

**Divine Service** – Full Word and Sacrament Service with Communion, on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, and on major festivals

**Service of the Word** – a brief spoken order of Holy Communion follows the public service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays

Refreshments are served after the Sunday morning Services

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### **Notice!**

Audio recordings of sermons  
and of entire services are  
available on the church  
website.



## *About Redeemer Lutheran Church*

Our mission is faithfully to preach the Word of God, both Law and Gospel, in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; correctly to administer the Holy Sacraments for the forgiveness of sins; and to reach out to those who have not yet come to faith in Christ Jesus.

