

*THREE THINGS**- A Note from Pastor Ken -*

I wouldn't say I grew up overly political, but when I was younger I was always intrigued by the idea of the State of the Union. That is, the president would stand up and share with the country where the country was. I was intrigued, because it seems as though the country ought to know where it is. As I grew up, I began to realize that not only was the State of the Union about having the president share where the country was from their point of view, but also about imparting a vision for the future. Having the president share with the people where they hope the country goes over the course of the next year.

It was a real privilege to be able to see President Obama at Boise State on January 21st. At the beginning of his speech he promised that he wouldn't go as long as he did the night before and he stayed true to that promise. President Obama is an engaging speaker and he wove together not only where he thought we were, but where he hoped we would go as a country. It was a moving speech, but as I walked away I wondered how these dreams would become reality in the midst of such division among our political leadership. As I have continued to reflect upon this I haven't come up with any good answers, but as a mentor of mine is fond of saying, "hope springs eternal."

In some ways, our January annual meeting has become our own state of the union. It is a time when we stand together and talk about where we are as a church and where God might be calling us. For the benefit of those who were unable to attend, at this year's Annual Meeting I shared my hope to focus on three things in the coming year: communication within the congregation, leading a group that wishes to engage how we live this life of faith more deeply together, and financial stewardship. I thought it might be helpful to elaborate some on these three topics with the desire that we might find ways to engage them together.

Communication: I have been thankful throughout the fall that together, we as a congregation have been able to engage the question: Might God be calling once again for Redeemer and Grace to share the services of the pastor? While it has not been an easy conversation I am thankful for the active and prayerful engagement the congregation has displayed at the many forums we have held. That said, I am also troubled as I hear stories that some within our congregation felt unable to share their thoughts with the group. Therefore I want to spend time working on the way in which we communicate as a congregation. I would like to see us be a community where everyone knows that their prayerful consideration is valued and important for the congregation's conversation. As I stated at the annual meeting, I do not know how we will accomplish this. I only have a strong feeling that it is a step we need to take toward growth.

Living Together: I am very interested in drawing together a group of people willing to walk beside one another in faith in a more intentional way. I imagine a group that meets around a simple meal with some aspect of study, sharing and prayer. I imagine a group that makes an initial commitment to one another to meet at least twice a month. I imagine a group that becomes so inspired by their own meeting that 18 months to two years later they are branching and beginning their own groups among their family, friends, neighbors and church members. This is a group I would like to start during Lent. If you would like to talk more about it, please contact Pastor Ken.

WORD OF GOD

WAY OF LIFE

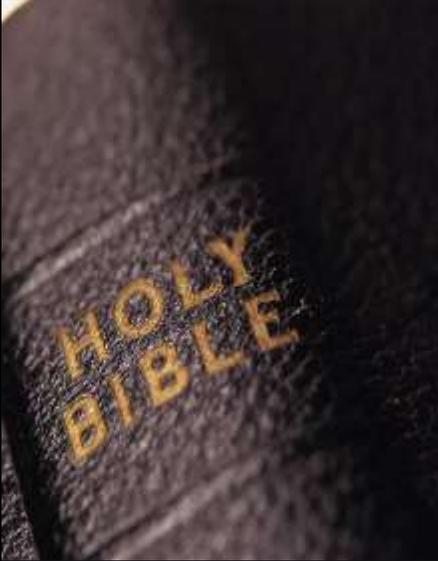
Financial Stewardship: The Stewardship Committee has been diligently working with us over the past couple of years, to come to the understanding that everything we have is a gift from God. And that stewardship is more than money, pledge cards, budgets and offering – stewardship encapsulates our whole life. This is absolutely true and at the same time does not preclude us from looking more deeply at the different aspects of stewardship. To this degree, I am going to ask the Stewardship Committee to focus on financial stewardship this coming year. I think it is an aspect of stewardship that we as a congregation can grow into. Money is a powerful force in our culture and one of which I am not sure we, as a church, do a good job in talking about. My hope is that we can change that.

I am not sure where all of this will lead, but I do believe there will be opportunity for learning on the journey... and I know I am thankful that we are on the path together.

Peace,

Ken

BIBLE STUDY—10AM TUESDAY



This study began one year ago during Lent. We have not only read through several books of the Bible, but just as important, we have grown to know one another and care for one another more deeply during our weekly hour together.

Please consider joining us. We are beginning a study of the first letter of John. The format for the study is quite simple. We open in prayer asking for the Spirit to guide us in our study. Then we read a passage and discuss.

- What stood out to us?
- What do we hear God saying to us today?
- What questions does it raise?

As the discussion lessens and time allows we continue by reading another passage. This type of study does not require any prep work to join. Simply come and we will read the Bible together.



Ash Wednesday
Worship
will be held at 7:00 pm
on February 18th.



Wednesdays

6:15pm

Soup and Bread
in the fellowship hall

7:00pm

Holden Evening Worship
in the sanctuary

Beginning Wednesday, February 25th through March 25th

Lent is quickly coming upon us and we are needing to schedule our Wednesday Soup Suppers. We meet in the fellowship hall for a bowl of soup and bread prior to the mid-week Lenten worship services. They begin on February 25th through March 25th (five weeks).

In the past two years the supper has been provided by members of different committees. If you are a member of a committee or group at Redeemer, please consider contacting others in your group to provide the supper for one week during Lent. Or just call a couple of friends and share the experience. We need three pots of soup and two loaves of bread each week.

Please let the church office know on which date you would like to provide supper so the schedule can be completed. Thank you.



Redeemer Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes, January 8, 2015

Present: Andrew Finstuen, Pastor Ken Carothers, Carolyn Rapp, Larry Spencer, Lori Wambolt, Roxanne Wasson and Wanda Waybright

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:25 p.m. Roxanne Wasson was welcomed as the replacement for Andy Belanger to complete his year-long term. Due to the length of the agenda, Pastor Ken moved and Lori Wambolt seconded the motion to postpone Dwelling in the Word and Council Sharing and to cover these items at the end of the meeting if there was time. The motion passed unanimously.
- II. Discussion of Book, *Beyond Maintenance to Mission, A Theology of the Congregation*: Each council member shared important points from reading this book as follows:
 - importance of both Christian identity and mission, symbolized with the infinity diagram on page 9; this could be a good book for discussion in adult Sunday School;
 - centrality of worship as a grounding point;
 - God is active in worship; faith awakens imagination, not just trust and belief; the story of each Christian congregation “begins with God’s first Word spoken at creation and ends with the consummation of all things in God’s eternity” – we are in between;
 - thinking of the financial aspect, maintenance is mission itself; Grace Lutheran is an opportunity for mission;
 - understanding that the church exists for the purpose of mission as well as the stewardship aspect – God owns everything and is priority, gratefulness on our part;
 - it is not just the building, so much more;
 - the infinity symbol is not static;
 - mission is not just what we do in church but what we do in the everyday world.
- III. Consent Agenda (approval of minutes and reports from Property, Treasurer and Pastor – *included in council meeting packet*): Lori Wambolt moved approval of the consent agenda and Larry Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Discussion Items:
 - Grace-Redeemer Partnership (*see council meeting packet*):
 - Aaron Lindemann attended this portion of the meeting as one of the three Redeemer representatives who met with Grace Lutheran in Horseshoe Bend. The other two are Lori Wambolt and Steve Knick. Aaron and Lori reported that it was very enlightening to meet with Grace Lutheran representatives who are excited and seem ready to go with this partnership. However, it was a challenge to consider both congregations’ worship schedule and traditions. Grace Lutheran is a dynamic church for a small congregation. Aaron thanked Pastor Ken for his organization as they met twice with Grace and once with the Redeemer group. Aaron asked if we are willing to move our Sunday worship times.
 - Council will make the decision on the partnership but will “saturate” members of the congregation with information before the decision is made. **Action:**
 - Pastor Ken will update participants who attend the worship services on Sunday, January 11 and have copies of the Shared Ministry Covenant to pass out;
 - the Shared Ministry Covenant plus a cover letter will be mailed and emailed to all members on Tuesday, January 13;

worship participants will be invited to remain in the sanctuary after services on Sunday, January 18 to discuss and ask questions about this partnership and concerns, responses will be recorded; council members were asked to be a both session; a summary of the responses and concerns will be mailed and emailed to all members on Tuesday, January 20;

discussion will continue at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 25;
council will make the decision on the Redeemer-Grace Lutheran partnership by email the following week;

On Sunday, February 1 (if the council elects to move forward with the partnership) Pastor Ken will lead the worship service at Grace Lutheran which will be followed by a conversation with their congregation; one of our members of the partnership committee will also attend; following the worship services at Redeemer, the council will make the congregation aware of their decision in regards to partnership.

2015 Budget (*see council meeting packet*): **Action**: Since the decision about the Redeemer-Grace Lutheran Partnership will not be made by the time of the annual meeting, Larry Spencer moved and Wanda Waybright seconded the motion to present a proposed deficit budget for 2015 for approval at the annual meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Adjustments were made to the budget to provide for two worship services September through May.

Annual Meeting (*see council meeting packet*): The agenda for the 2015 annual meeting (part B) was developed.

Leadership Positions: Pastor Ken notified the council about the open positions and personnel possibilities for treasurer and Outreach and Endowment Committees. Carol James will assume the chairmanship of the Worship and Music Committee while Roxanne Wasson serves on the council.

Safe Space (*see council meeting packet*): Carolyn Rapp moved and Larry Spencer seconded the motion to accept the statement of #5 in the guidelines as printed so that council members would have some discretion (if they chose to do so) with juvenile offenders. The motion passed with six affirmative votes and one opposed. The safe space policy will be presented to the congregation after a final review for editing errors by Erin Fischer's mother.

Luther Heights Office Space – Shared Secretary (*see council meeting packet*): **Action**: Pastor Ken moved and Roxanne seconded the motion that Pastor Ken be tasked with exploring the possibility of shared office space and shared secretary for the Luther Heights program director beginning in the fall of this year. The motion passed unanimously.

Audit Committee (*see council meeting packet*): Pastor Ken moved and Wanda Waybright seconded the motion to defer the Audit Committee discussion until the next council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Butler Estate Gift (*see council meeting packet*): Larry Spencer moved and Lori Wambolt seconded the motion that the full \$5000 gift from Virginia Butler's estate be used to pay off the accounts payable loan of \$5000 borrowed from savings. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Before adjournment, Pastor Ken thanked council members for their work and living by the council covenant this past year; he then expressed his heartfelt appreciation to the outgoing members of the council for their three years of service, Wanda Waybright and Andrew Finstuen as well as for the affirmation and critique that Andrew, as council president, gathered from council members and discussed with Pastor Ken. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Council minutes submitted by Carolyn Rapp, Council Secretary, on January 15, 2015.

Ruth Circle

Tuesday, February 17th at 7:00pm

Plans are in the works for our February meeting.
Please be looking for details in your email or contact
Deanna Belanger at 761-9588 or adbelanger@cableone.net
Join us!

NO NAME MEN'S GROUP

The Redeemer No-Name Mens Group will hold their monthly meeting on February 9, 2015 at the Sockeye Brewing Company, 3019 N. Cole Road, beginning at 7 PM. We will include discussions based around challenges and good parts of the last month along with prayer considerations. Contact Steve Knick, 345-2801 or icsparrows@yahoo.com

Steve, Acting Secretary



Esther ~ Naomi Circles

Valentine's Luncheon
February 11th, 11:30 a.m.

Esther~Naomi Circles will meet for a no host lunch at the Olive Garden on Wednesday, February 11th, at 11:30 a.m. It will be a time of visiting and sharing.

Katie Davis will oversee this event making phone calls and emails to all the women in the Circle.

If you do not participate in the Esther~Naomi Circle but would like to join us please let Katie know by phone 344-7125 or by email Kathleendav@msn.com.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Our thanks to all the families and groups who provided snacks and made the coffee for our fellowship time during January.

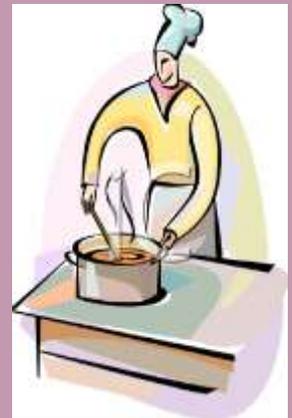
Please take note of the new sign-up sheet for our Fellowship Time and Flowers for the Church. You will find they are on one sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



We have a new sign-up sheet for the Flowers for the Church. If you would like to provide flowers for a "special" occasion, please look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board along with the Fellowship/Coffee sign-up. Thank you.

First Thursday Soup

Come and join us in the Fellowship Hall on the February 5th at noon, for soup, bread and dessert. We share a hearty lunch with great fellowship for only \$2.00. This is the best deal in town!



TV LYFE will meet at Hope Lutheran on Sunday, February 8th from 5:00-7:00 pm. All 9-12th graders welcome! Bring a friend!



WELCA

To all women of the Treasure Valley Cluster: We are reconvening our spring and fall gatherings, with the next cluster gathering to be held in April, hosted by Trinity of Nampa. Now comes the privilege of electing board members. There are four open positions on the board, so please consider participating on a board of fun, energetic, faithful women with a meeting commitment of twice a year. Your cluster nominating committee consists of Susie Dietz (672-1814), Shepherd of the Valley; Sharon Jones (880-6707), Trinity; and Patty Larson (343-2667), King of Glory. Please contact one of these committee members if you feel a call to this fabulous ministry or have any questions. *Otherwise, we will be calling on ladies to participate so please be prepared to say “yes” when called. J*

Community Health Screenings

Screenings & Health Services Offered Include:



- Basic Physical Exam/Assessment (Includes Blood Pressure Check, Medication Review, and Disease Education)
- Depression & Alcohol Screening (Questionnaire)
- Oral/Dental Health Evaluation & Education
- On-site Testing for Blood Sugar, Cholesterol, Hep C & HIV
- Flu Shots*
- Hearing & Eye Screenings
- Traumatic Brain Injury Screening
- Nutrition Assessment & Education

* Flu Shots and other screening tests provided as supplies last.



FREE Health Screenings!

Provided for **adults 18+** with no insurance or limited access to preventive health care.

Screenings take place from 4:00pm—7:00pm as follows:

Participants can arrive any time between 4-7pm, & should plan 60-90 minutes to complete the screening process.



Idaho State University - Meridian Health Science Center will be at Redeemer on Thursday, February 19th, from 4:00-7:00pm to conduct free health screenings for adults 18+ with no insurance or limited access to preventive health care.

If you or someone you know can benefit from these services, please take advantage of this opportunity.

Adult Education

Taste the Joy

Adult Sunday School will resume the first Sunday after the new year (January 4) with something new this year. Luanne Tangedal will facilitate a discussion of the book, "Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life" by Donald S. Whitney. The disciplines discussed will be biblical practices and NOT character qualities. Can you make meditating a daily discipline? How about Bible reading? Let's look into it together. As we continue our devotion to the birth of Christ and his public ministry, we are well aware of the upcoming season of Lent. This is the perfect time to discover your habits of devotion and learn about other personal and interpersonal spiritual disciplines. We will meet the first three Sundays in February from 9:45AM to 10:30AM. Grab a beverage and cookie and join us. ALL ARE INVITED!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE



February 1	Chapel	9:45 am
February 8	Chapel	9:45 am
February 15	Chapel	9:45 am
February 22	Connection Sunday—Fellowship Hall	

Connection Sunday

The last Sunday of the month is a time for all ages to gather and share together.

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 9:45 Education 10:45 Worship 5:00 Prayer Group	2 Office Closed 12:00 NA 8:00 AA	3 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 NA 6:00 Prayer Group 7:00 NA	4 12:00 NA 6:30 Confirmation	5 12:00 1st Thursday Soup 12:00 NA	6 10:00 Folders 12:00 NA 8:00 NA	7 12:00 NA 7:00 NA
8 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 9:45 Education 10:45 Worship 2:00 NA 5:00 Prayer Group	9 Office Closed 12:00 NA 7:00 Men's Group 8:00 AA	10 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 NA 6:00 Prayer Group 7:00 NA	11 11:30 Esther & Naomi Circle @ Olive Garden 12:00 NA 6:30 Confirmation	12 12:00 NA	13 10:00 Folders 12:00 NA 8:00 NA	14 12:00 NA 7:00 NA
15 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 9:45 Education 10:45 Worship 5:00 Prayer Group	16 Office Closed 12:00 NA 8:00 AA	17 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 NA 6:00 Prayer Group 7:00 Ruth Circle 7:00 NA	18 Ash Wednesday 12:00 NA 7:00 Ash Wednesday service	19 12:00 NA 4:00-7:00 Community Health Screening	20 10:00 Folders 12:00 NA 8:00 NA	21 12:00 NA 1:00 WWV 1:00 Sherry's recital 7:00 NA
22 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 9:45 Connection Sunday 10:45 Worship 5:00 Prayer Group	23 Office Closed 12:00 NA 8:00 AA	24 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 NA 6:00 Prayer Group 7:00 NA	25 12:00 NA 6:15 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten worship	26 12:00 NA 6:00 Council meeting	27 10:00 Folders 12:00 NA 8:00 NA	28 12:00 NA 7:00 NA

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