



Redeemer Reporter

A different look for a different time in our life together

The last few months have completely changed our daily lives. Going to the grocery store has turned from a simple endeavor to one needing immense planning. Working and socializing have transformed. And, of course, church has been entirely different as well.

With this different way of life in mind, the Redeemer Council met on Tuesday, May 26 to discuss the Treasure Valley ELCA COVID-19 Task force final recommendations for in-person congregational activities. The council agreed to join with the other congregations in adopting the task force recommendations, which includes forming a congregational team to work through a comprehensive safety checklist.

Even with these guidelines, we have a long road ahead. First off, no in-person gatherings will happen at the church prior to July 1, 2020 — and only then if we can demonstrate we have the resources, plan and team to maintain the guidelines set forth in the checklist. Furthermore, the council decided to focus on smaller groups gatherings rather than traditional worship gatherings in the sanctuary. For worship, we will focus on bolstering our online offerings.

This was a difficult decision, but one grounded in our devotion to caring for one another. The decision was further clarified by our understanding of what safety protocols would mean for in-person worship in our sanctuary: safely distanced capacity for only eight families, no singing (which is proven to spread more aerosols), little to no interaction with other worshippers, no communion, no liturgy spoken in unison, no traditional passing of the peace, and no fellowship time. In other words, worship would have a vastly different shape. What we came to realize is that when we talked about worship, we were longing for what worship was, not what it would have to be now.

At the same time, the council recognized that what we are truly missing and longing for is reconnecting with one another — and that indeed appears possible through some careful planning and agreed safety protocols. Therefore, again, the council will focus our energy on finding ways to connect with one another in new ways through small group gatherings.

I realize this information could come as quite a surprise to you. If your heart aches for what was, let it ache and know you are not alone. The council likewise aches for a time when we all can gather together safely. I know my call to public ministry

did not come from a love of speaking to a camera, but from a desire to be with people.

The council is hopeful about the ways we can use our imaginations and energy to bring us together, but we understand that this news may bring up a whole host of feelings. I assure you the council and I are available for conversation. If you would like to discuss this news, I encourage you to reach out to either myself or the council member who has been in contact with you during the pandemic.

Please know the council will continue to meet regularly to reassess. And we all will continue to walk through this time together — finding ways to connect to God, one another, and ourselves — even though we recognize God is always connected to us.

Peace, *KEN*

Outreach

Ministry of the Month

In June and July we will be collecting school supplies for the Horseshoe Bend Elementary school. The school Principal, Cora Larson, was raised at Grace Lutheran in Horseshoe Bend and feels connected to Redeemer for that reason. They are hoping for a traditional opening to school in August, but are preparing for other scenarios, just in case. She said, “These are such strange times and I have found that faith has been paramount for resilience and positive mental health”. Items needed: white board markers, white board erasers, binders, black and blue pens, spiral notebooks, headphones, Ticonderoga #2 pencils

WWW Distribution:

The WWW distributed to 57 families in May. Due to our present situation with the COVID-19 virus we continued to take the following precautions: Recipients drove in one drive way, collected the items they needed from their cars and drove out the other drive way. No names or information was taken.

We are so thankful for all who helped in this difficult time whether in purchasing, sorting, delivery or distribution.

April Financials

Total Income for the month of April was over budget by \$2,845. The positive variance was mainly attributed to regular offering being well over budget. Total Expenses were under budget by about \$1,343. Total Net Gain for April was \$2,943 which put Redeemer under budget YTD by \$4,616. Through April we are now at only a net loss of \$361 which puts us in good position for the remainder of the year.

	Mar. 2020 Actual	Apr. 2020 Actual	Month Budget	Annual Budget
Income	\$16,037.90	\$18,311.16	\$15,466.00	\$185,600.00
Expenses	\$13,611.03	\$15,368.36	\$16,711.00	\$200,543.00
Net Gain (Loss)	\$2,426.87	\$2,942.80	(\$1,245.00)	(\$14,943.00)

	Apr. 2019 YTD	Apr. 2020 YTD	2020 YTD Budg.	Annual Budget
Income	\$56,319.23	\$65,180.86	\$61,866.00	\$185,600.00
Expenses	\$62,938.31	\$65,541.99	\$66,843.00	\$200,543.00
Net Gain (Loss)	(\$6,619.08)	(\$361.13)	(\$4,977.00)	(\$14,943.00)

During these unprecedented times please keep a few things in mind when it comes to church finances. Since most of Redeemer's expenses are of the fixed variety (not variable but ongoing) there is still a compelling need to support the church financially at least at the same level of commitment or greater as during normal times. This is an obligation and commitment we should all make for the indefinite future. Please keep in mind the new monthly "Inviting Surprise" initiative which began in February to help out in this endeavor. Thank you for all your great support during the month of April and in the months ahead.

Submitted by Larry Kidd, Redeemer Treasurer

NOTE: Copies of the detailed Profit & Loss Statements may be viewed on request in the Redeemer office. Questions may be directed to Larry Kidd, Redeemer Treasurer.