



April Connection 2019

Equipping the Saints

To the followers of Christ Jesus, in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul writes:
"And [the Lord] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds [pastors] and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ," Ephesians 4:11-12, English Standard Version

As an "under-shepherd-pastor", of "The Good Shepherd-Pastor", Our Lord and Savior Jesus, I have, for many years, been equipping His saints, His redeemed followers, being sanctified, being set apart, being made holy for working and building up His Church.

From Potsdam, north east of Rochester, I actively serve the Word of the Lord, as an Area Guest and Vacancy Pastor.

I coordinate my equipping of you, Redeemer Saints, especially with Pastor Emeritus Flesch, the Elders, and Music Coordinator Klemp.

Sundays, I drive about an hour to Winona, arriving about 8 a.m., for leading the 9 a.m. Services, giving Children's Messages, applying the Scriptures in my Sermons, and teaching the Word in the Sunday Bible Class(es), following the Services.

At the Church, I will normally eat my Sunday noon meal, unless I am invited to your homes. I bring my own food, and I drink pure water, without ice.

On Sundays, I am open to spending time with small groups, and individuals, as needful, and by appointment, as well as visiting the home bound.

Please contact me by my Cell phone (218) 371-5647, or by my email frederick.morck@ecunet.org.

I pray each of you, Saints of the Lord, by His grace and truth, will be open to His Word, working in you, as I seek to equip you, for your working, in building up Christ's Body, and preparing yourselves, for receiving the Shepherd-Pastor, whom the Lord has in mind, to send you, in His good timing.

Vacancy Pastor Fred Morck





Tips in Extending an Invitation to Church

Rev Natske on March 3 talked about inviting people to church during his sermon at Redeemer. There are 76 million unchurched in Minnesota and ½ of those would consider coming to church if a friend invited them. There are 27,000 in Winona so based on that, there are 6,000 unchurched Winonans and they would come to church if invited by a friend.

The thought of inviting a friend or neighbor to church can be daunting so here are some tips.

Tips:

1. **DEPEND ON GOD** Appeal to God's promise that He will soften hearts to the gospel (Ezekiel 11:19) and ask God to open a door for opportunities to come with those you know. (Colossians 4:3)
2. **BE A GOOD FRIEND** Unbelieving friends have a lot to offer us, as they are a good gift from God. God calls us to love our neighbors, even if we do not always get to share the gospel. It is vital that we are a good friend first before extending an invitation to church.
3. **CROSS POLLINATE** God has richly blessed us with church family to partner with us as we share the gospel. Seek out ways to introduce those you invite to others at church. For example, try a new restaurant together or take your kids on a play date. By connecting your unchurched friends to those inside the church, or cross pollinating, when your invited friends come to church they will see a sea of familiar faces and feel more at home.
4. **TALK ABOUT CHURCH** Many of our friends have skewed ideas about church or just have no idea of what going to church entails. The more we talk about church; the more we help demystify church and break down misconceptions. Help those you know see that church is about getting to know God and his people, not rules and tradition. Talk about the benefits of belonging to a church and share about the exciting ministries you are a part of.
5. **SIMPLY INVITE** Questions such as, 'Hey, what are you doing Sunday morning, want to come along to church with me?' or "There is a men's meet night coming up at my church, want to come along?" are all it takes to extend an invitation to church. If they say no, do not become discouraged, as it may take multiple invites before they come. Continue to be their friend and wait for other opportunities to arise. When the timing is right, ask them again.

Utilizing these tips are just a few of the ways to extend that important invitation to church. Additionally, be sure to be welcoming when others bring their unchurched friends, a smile and warm hug go a long way.

Creation Museum and Ark Encounter, August 5-9, 2019

Bus trip departing on Monday, August 5 and returning on Friday, August 9. The trip includes two days at the Creation Museum with a show ticket to the Planetarium in greater Cincinnati and one day at Ark Encounter in Williamstown, KY.

Details on the information table in the narthex or speak with Sandy Bauer.



Pastor Kevin's Retirement Celebration February 25, 2019

Even though the celebration had to be rescheduled because of the weather, there was a good turnout, good food, and program that included the kids singing and performing a skit, a candy gram, presents, words of advice, memories, and thank you's for Pastor, a memory video and a prayer for him as he begins his new journey. Godspeed. Thank you for the last 6 years.



JOIN US FOR LENTEN VESPERS IN APRIL

Wednesday April 3

Lenten Supper at 5:30pm followed by Lenten Vespers at 6:30pm.

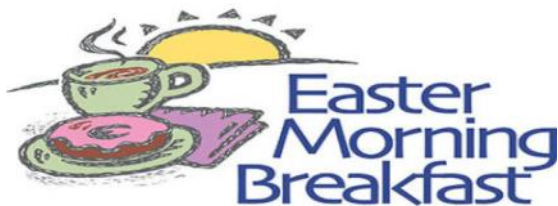
“Judge Not” is the topic. We recognize that we live in a very judgmental world, even Christians and the church join in this one. So Jesus’ advice not to judge sounds radical to our modern ears. When we leave all judgment up to God, we free ourselves to look at one another through fresh and forgiving eyes.

Wednesday April 10

Lenten Supper at 5:30pm followed by Lenten Vespers at 6:30pm.

“Build on Rock” is the focus. We often build our lives on very shaky foundations, and then we are surprised when things start collapsing. Jesus reminds us in his teachings that the only solid foundation is himself, the Rock of our salvation. On him alone we build.

In **Holy Week** we will celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday 9am, April 14; Maundy Thursday 6:30pm, April 18; Good Friday 6:30pm, April 19; and Easter Sunday 9am, April 21.



JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST EASTER MORNING!

Serving of the Easter breakfast begins at 8am Sunday, April 21. The menu includes biscuit and sausage gravy, fresh fruit, muffins, coffee, juice and milk.

An Easter egg hunt for children will take place at 8:40am on the Preschool playground. Easter worship is at 9am.

Preschool News

Here is a quick Preschool update.:

- ◆ Our enrollment is still growing; we currently have 39 students program wide. We are now offering open enrollment for next fall's registration as well.
- ◆ We will hosted our annual book walk on Saturday, March 30th.
- ◆ We miss Pastor Kevin, but are very thankful Bill Flesch has offered his time to come visit our preschool and deliver a message weekly.
- ◆ We are continuing to meet to further develop our outdoor nature space and hope to have a final vision for the space by the end of March. We continue to thank you for your support and prayers as we proceed with this project.
- ◆ This winter has given us more snow than we know what to do with, but the kids have really enjoyed their time climbing on the snow hill at the end of the parking lot. They have been really creative with what to do by making slides and snow forts all across the hill.
- ◆ We are patiently waiting for Spring to take on new adventures.



Being Salt, Being Light

In his Sermon on the Mount Jesus calls us his disciples salt, and he calls us light. These two word pictures of salt and light show us that our uniqueness is meant to make a difference in the world. It's one thing to be different. It's another to make a difference.

If we Christians are “the salt of the earth,” then the earth must need some preserving or it will go bad. If we are “the light of the world,” then the world must be a dark place in need of light. Salt and light, this is who we are!

Underneath these two word pictures is a deep love and concern for the world. We are here for the world just as Jesus was here for the world. In the familiar words of John 3:16: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.”*

The critical question this forces us to ask is: How are we doing as a faith community in being the salt and the light in our sphere of influence? How are we doing in connecting with people outside this congregation communicating God's mercy and love for them?

Sunday March 17, the adult Bible study started the conversation. Pastor Don Stein, who formerly served Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Onalaska, Wisconsin, and recently retired, joined the conversation. In accessing where we are currently, the group started with what are we doing to reach out to the community? The responses were many: hosting child-care Parents' Night Out; Preschool education for children regardless of race or creed; availability of garden spaces on church property to anyone interested; sponsoring People of Faith for persons with disabilities; the annual Holiday Bake Sale; being a sponsor of Hope Lutheran High School; hosting a week Vacation Bible School in August for any child preschool through fifth grade; giving support to parents by having speakers like Katy Smith; Coffee Connections where members of Redeemer visit with Preschool parents over a cup of coffee; the Preschool's annual Book Walk; our church's presence on Facebook; participating in the Halloween Trunk and Treat community event; food donations and funds for Winona Volunteer Services, Developmental Achievement Center, Every Child's Dream, the Warming Shelter, Hope Harbor, and support given to Camp Omega's building project; caroling during Advent to shut-ins and nursing homes. The list is impressive!

Years ago, when Mahatma Gandhi was the spiritual leader of India, he was asked by some Christian missionaries, “What is the greatest hindrance to Christianity in India?” Gandhi's reply was, “The Christians!” The same is true today. Many people outside the church view and experience Christians as being judgmental. Pastor Stein reminded us, one sin is not greater than another. Rather than condemn we need to offer mercy and love. We Christians should apply the law to ourselves and gospel to others.

The conversation continues Sunday March 24, focusing on what we can do to better be who we are, salt and light in our arena of the kingdom of God? Join the conversation. If unavailable, send your ideas to the church office: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1664 Kraemer Drive, Winona, MN 55987; email: officeassistant@redeemerlutheranwinona.org; or phone: 507-452-3828.



Palm/Passion Sunday

9am Sunday, April 14

Message: “Ask, Seek, Knock”

As we begin Holy Week we remember when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people asked, “Who is this King of Glory?” They were seeking one who saves when they shouted, “Hosanna!” They were knocking on the door for a new future. What they did not know was Jesus was opening the door to everlasting life through the cross. We gather in the narthex for the blessing of the palms.

Maundy Thursday

6:30pm Thursday, April 18

Message: “The Golden Rule”

Tonight we remember Jesus lived out the Golden Rule the night he was betrayed, but with a twist. He taught his disciples to do to others as he had done to them: washing their feet, forgiving their sins and loving them unconditionally. Communion is celebrated in the liturgy.

Good Friday

6:30pm Friday, April 19

Message: “The Tree and Its Fruit”

Jesus preached that good trees can be recognized by their fruits. Despite its appearance, the tree of the cross on Good Friday proved to be the best tree of all, because by Christ’s death upon it came the fruit of everlasting life.

Easter Sunday

9am Sunday, April 21

Message: “The Treasures in Heaven”

Easter reminds us that Jesus taught to lay up treasures in heaven and not on earth. His resurrection is a wake-up call to us all that while the things of this earth are temporary, we have the precious gift of life with him forever awaiting us. Communion is celebrated in the service.

Parents Night Out

Both the kids and volunteers enjoyed Parent's Night Out, an annual outreach activity organized by Christian Growth and coordinated with the Preschool. Nearly 40 kids came. It was great fun to listen to them laugh hilariously together as they watched a cartoon at the end of the night.



Dear M.C.

In this article, congregation members pose questions to M.C. (our Music Coordinator) who thus responds with whatever words of wisdom the Lord chooses to give him.

Dear M.C., Now that we are in a pastoral vacancy, have your duties changed?

MC: Pastor Kevin choose music and liturgy for the organ accompanied services on the first two Sundays of the month, and now that will be done by me in consultation with Pastor Morck.

The music for the contemporary services and the assembly of the service order were already part of the Music Coordinator responsibilities, so only a little extra time will be needed for these weekends.

Pastor Flesch has been providing the service order and music selection for the midweek Lenten services, but there is some additional formatting that is required for those worship orders.

And finally, coordinating with visiting pastors has taken some extra efforts. All in all, my time spent on church music activities at Redeemer has increased, but this will hopefully be offset by the summer months when things generally slow a bit. Thank you for your prayers during this time of vacancy!



If you have a question you would like addressed, please feel free to ask our Music Coordinator personally, send an email to paklemp@hotmail.com, or call him at 507-312-4784.



Great message on the roof, we  u .

Thanks David Fruechte

Church Council Notes

The Council did not have a meeting in February but met in March. These are the highlights.

- Developers wrote up a sales agreement to purchase the back strip 195' x 15' for \$13,455. We will be having it reviewed by a lawyer.
- Hired Matthew Moesch through the ORC to do the cleaning. Changes include: he has scheduled times during the day M, W, F so it may mean that we need to pitch in before or after an event and he will only be cleaning and not doing any repairs or maintenance tasks, which Properties will address.
- Sunday services and midweek services are covered. Thanks Dietrich Flesch for organizing all of that. Rev Frederick Morck will fill in as vacancy pastor starting March 24. He lives in Elgin. At this time, he will not be keeping office hours. Rev Flesch is graciously donating his time for the services he is providing. God certainly provides.
- Pastor Kevin is now officially retired and will be moving to the cities. He really enjoyed the celebration. \$525 was collected as his going away gift. Thank you all.
- Preschool continues to make progress on the Nature-based programming; designing the outdoor area. They are planning to move the garage to the other side of the property. There are 39 children enrolled. The Book Walk is coming up and hopefully a an Ice Cream Social & Day on the Farm May 16; weather permitting!
- The Call committee will be submitting the information needed by the district in order for them to provide a call list. Continue to pray for patience. Pray that the committee would wait upon God's timing.
- Lenten Contributions will be equally directed to Volunteer Services and to the ministry of Rev Ryan McDermott and Emily. They serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) as career missionaries in West and Central Africa, based in Togo, working in deaf ministry.
- Fellowship is planning an Easter Brunch. Plus the last Wednesday Service will be pizza from \$5 Pizza.
- Redeemer made a donation to the Warming Shelter and has been invited to their donor dinner. If you have an interest in representing Redeemer let Sandy know by April 5. The dinner is on April 15 at the Elks at 5 PM

WELCOME

Redeemer welcomes Pastor Fred Morck who is serving Redeemer as Vacancy Pastor.

Redeemer also welcomes Matthew Moesch who serves Redeemer as the janitor and Tasha Almatrok who will serve Redeemer as the bookkeeper. To God's glory; God has provided.

FAREWELL

Thank you Joe Whetstone for you 4 years of bookkeeping work and for the years he did the custodian work. He has been a great asset. All the best to you.

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HOLY WEEK



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Redeemer Church ...
Welcomes you to come praise His Love for Us!
Sunday at 9 am.
The 1st , 3rd & 4th Sundays
are Communion Sundays.

Office hours are:
Mon-Thurs 9 am—1 pm
Fri 9 am— noon

