

The Good News



Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School *Honolulu, Hawaii*



Pastor's Letter

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Several times in recent months, as I was checking out a church's website, I came across a section with the above title. The title meant that, while there was presently no "content" to this particular part of the website, there would be eventually. That part of the site was "under construction".

The same is true of our church newsletter here at Our Redeemer. One of the first jobs of our new Communications Task Force under our congregational revitalization program is to revamp our newsletter. Hopefully, our "new" newsletter will roll out next month.

But that leaves December of 2009, a month in which a lot will be happening. To make sure that you know what's going on, we are putting together this special "Under Construction" edition of the Our Redeemer newsletter. For more information, please contact me at the church office. Have a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Pastor Shimkus

Bible Class & Fellowship at Our Redeemer

Adult Bible Class – Sunday – 10:30 am – at auditorium
Wednesday Bible Class – 10 am

LWML Bible Study: 3rd Thursday of the Month – 6:30 pm
Japanese Language Fellowship and Bible Study: 1st Sunday of the Month
The Men's Fellowship: Saturday – 8 am – at the Waioli Tea Room

ORLC Pastor

Rev. William Shimkus

ORLC Music Director

Rev. Karl Bachman

ORLS Principal

Bonnie Jo Alle

School and Church Secretary

Holly Maertins

School and Church Business Manager

Jerry Sobieski

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Peter Tirbak • Secretary Ruth Crockett •

Treasurer Stephen Okumura • Deacons

Richard Thompson • Fellowship Peggy

Pridgeon • Parish Education Nellie Miller •

Stewardship Clarence deLude • Property

Management Paul Tirbak • Education Karl

Bachmann • Representative to Lutheran

High Board Nellie Miller

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Principal and 1st Grade Bonnie Jo Alle •

Preschool Director Delle Tanioka • Music

Alan Bauchle • Computer Ali Beasley •

Library Bette Shimkus • Science Crystal

Stafford • Art Heidi Shiozaki • Preschool

Nancy Schultz • Kindergarten Michele

Zane • 1st Grade Wendy Quandt • 2nd

Grade and Choir Christine Eilers • 3rd

Grade Nicole Dye • 4th Grade Tim Martin •

5th Grade Kate Markert • 6th Grade Will

Schriever • 7th Grade Lorine Pelletier • 8th

Grade Kristy Schroppel • 2 year olds Mae

Chun • 3 year olds Carol Huth • 4 year

olds Mary Pang • Aides Mahe Garcia,

Yong Hong Hsu, Karen Ho, Annie Huang,

Brittany Pray, Tina Teves • Admissions

Director Lisa Pelt • Admin Assistants

Angela Pfohl, Beverly Seki

FROM THE PASTOR

For a devotional thought to begin this month, I'd like to share an article that a friend of mine, Pastor Henry Simon, once shared with his congregation, Signal Hill Lutheran Church in Belleville, Illinois. The holiday season is, as you well know, a very busy time of the year. As such, it's important to keep our priorities straight. Here's one reminder –

“Our family almost didn't have a Christmas tree last year.

“It was a busier Advent than usual at our house. With daughters Christy and Angie both away at college, it seemed we lacked enough hands to string on the lights and hang the array of ornaments we have gathered through the years.

“That changed when our collegians came home. Putting up a Christmas tree even if it is artificial) was part of what Christmas at home meant to them. So we reached a compromise: we put up the tree with strings of lights... but saved several hours by not adding any ornaments.

“Christmas without a tree' seems unthinkable to many people. Yet it's the case for people in a variety of situations. Some people don't decorate because they are still grieving the loss of a loved one. Other people “plug in” ceramic trees with the lights already in place.

“While 'Christmas isn't Christmas without a tree' for many people, some of those same people don't think it strange not to be in church for Christmas worship. To me, attending church is much more crucial than whether a person puts up a tree or not.

“I believe that Christmas without being 'in church' is like a birthday party without the birthday person being present. That's why it's called Christ-mas... not Hank-mas or Mary-mas or (fill in your name)-mas. Christmas is all about Jesus, the Christ, the promised Savior.

“It's good to have a tree for Christmas. That tree can remind us that we celebrate Jesus' birth because of his death – on a tree – and his resurrection with forgiveness and new life for us.

“It's even better to come and adore him, Christ the Lord, in worship. This newsletter lists the opportunities. I look forward to being with you in worship.”



READY FOR CHRISTMAS!

If you have driven by the church lately or been to the advent service you will be happy to see that our nativity is up and also the lights around the church. It



is a big job readying the church for Advent and Christmas. However to make it easier, we had a lot of help. Janelle Dryden and her son Chuck were the driving force for the nativity. We had great help from Pastor and Bette Shimkus, Rick and Takako Thompson, Mike Reiss, Mike Pennell and Tony Tweet, Ruth Crockett, Kristy and Christian Schroppel, Sandie Stoutenburg, Peggy Pridgeon, Christobel Sanders, Nelda Peterson and our President, Les Pelletier. Many thanks to all. The nativity and the lights will bless us all and will bless those driving or walking by.

CHRISTMAS SACKS: Anyone willing to donate wrapped candy, stickers, pencils to the children's Christmas sacks, please place your donations in the box in the Aloha room.

THREE THURSDAYS FOR CHRISTMAS is another opportunity for those who want to sing in the choir, but cannot commit to a full season of rehearsals. Join us – no strings attached – on December 3, 10, and 17 from 6:00 until 7:30 p.m. and sing with us for Christmas worship. Ask the choir: we start and end on time!! Please tell Karl Bachman so that music will be available for you.

MOSTLY MOZART will enhance our Christmas worship. With members of the Honolulu Symphony the rarely heard musical gems known as the “Church Sonatas” will be played for our Christmas worship. In addition the choir will offer anthems from classical favorites to American colonial gems and contemporary masterpieces. Christmas Eve music begins at 6:30 and 10:30 prior to both worship services.

Christ-Mass Schedule



Weds, Dec 2,9 Advent Services

6:00 pm Supper, 7:15 pm Service

Wed, Dec 16 ORLS Christmas Program

7:00 pm at Mamiya Theater

Sun, Dec 20 Children's Christmas Program

9:00 am Service

Thu, Dec 24 Christmas Eve

7:00 pm Service

11:00 pm Words and Sacrament (communion)

Fri, Dec 25 Christmas Day

10:00 am Chris-Mass Festival Service

Fri, Dec 31 New Year's Eve

7:00 pm Service

THIS IS THE SEASON TO GIVE WARMTH & ALOHA:

The ORLS PTO is sponsoring a donation drive for the children that attend Kamaile Elementary School in Waianae. Many of the children and their families are homeless and Kamaile works hard trying to supply the children with much needed items. We are hopeful that our Ohana here at Our Redeemer can help the school with this mission. Please help us by donating the items below on the following dates Wednesday, December 2nd through Friday, December 11, 2009. Your small donations will be greatly appreciated and help their families have a warm and joy-filled Christmas and New Year. Items will be delivered to Kamaile Elementary on Monday, December 14th. Items requested: Blankets, Tarps (to use for tent coverings for families that live on the beach), Clothing (If used – no rips or stains - for children & adults), Toiletries (Shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, deodorant, etc.), School supplies (no backpacks), Canned goods, Toys/Games, and Teddy Bears.

We are also in need of drivers to help deliver items to the school for drop off. If you can donate a few hours of your time on the morning of Monday, December 14, 2009, please contact Lisa Pelt at the school office. Mahalo!

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GREETING CARDS: Save your Christmas cards and donate them to the ORLS Library for bookmarks. Students love the sparkly ones. Tear off the front (with no writing on back) and give them to Bette Shimkus-she'll slice them up. Thanks.

LWML BIBLE STUDY: Our next study will take place on Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 6:30 PM in the Aloha Room (third Thursday of the month). The study is from the LWML Fall 2009 Quarterly and is entitled "Who Am I? Whose Am I?" If you would like to join up for dinner, meet in the upper lot at 5:30 PM to walk down to the Greek Kitchen (or be dropped off there). For more info contact Bette Shimkus or Peggy Pridgeon.

YOUTH GROUP: Collection of HI5 is ongoing so keep saving your aluminum cans and plastic bottles for the Youth Gathering expenses. The next Gathering will be in New Orleans July 17-21, 2010. Lorien and Lynsey Pelletier are planning on attending with Our Savior's youth group and have been busy with car washes and helping their mother collect and sort HI5's!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our Veggie Tale Connection has come to an end after two years. We thank the Benton family for making it possible as a memorial to their son Joey. Practices for the Christmas program have begun (contact Lorine Pelletier if your child is interested in taking part) and are being held during Sunday School time. During this Advent and Christmas season think about serving as a Sunday School teacher in the new quarter beginning January 2010 and helping to tell the story of Jesus to our children, from the manger to the cross for us.

RIVER OF LIFE OFFERINGS FOR THANKSGIVING

Thanks so very much for all the food and other items which graced our sanctuary this Thanksgiving. We collected the following:

Cans of fruit -10, vegetables – 58, Meat/fish – 9, Pasta – 14, Soup and crackers –5, Miscellaneous food items – 9, Hair products –31, Deodorant – 4, Soap – 41 Lotion – 42, Tooth care – 3.

River of Life, like other service organizations, have experienced an increase in their clients. Praise God for each of you giving to the homeless and needy in our area and also to the River of Life staff that share the Gospel with their guests. Thanks.

For December, we will focus on Personal Care items. These are items for those used for cleanliness of hair, body and teeth. As always, anything you choose to contribute is very welcome.. Thanks for your continued support of this important mission.

2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be in your mailbox in the Aloha Room on Sunday December 27, 2009. You're encouraged to use your offering envelopes. This will be helpful for the volunteer counters. Please note: Your envelope numbers may not be the same as 2009. Due to several deaths or families relocating, envelope numbers may be re-assigned. Please contact Sharon Shinno if you have any questions or if you did not receive your offering envelopes. Thank you.

Please remember the following people and events in your private devotions this week for continued healing, strength and courage: **Birthdays:** 5- Rose Lubitz, 8- Marcy Reginelli, 10- Nellie Miller, 12- Anne Krakowiak, 14- Gary Beck, 15- Mano DeLude, 16- Mark Matteson, 16- Kenneth Celli, 17- Carol Riess, 25- Jim Schroppel, 26- Charles Fox, 26- Jayme Cornel, 28- Roger Koopman, 29- Alyssa White, 31-Peter Tirbak. **Anniversaries:** 14- David and Gertraud Lau, 20- Ken and Doris Watanabe, 29- Duane and Carol White. Help our members celebrate...**send a note, make a phone call, pray a private prayer** of blessing upon our friends.



Prayer Chain – Please call **Bette Shimkus, 988-1738** or **Nelda Peterson, 923-4064** with your prayer requests. We know God answers prayers.

Serving December 2009 Worshipcare - Christobel Sanders and Sandie Stoutenburg

December 6 9 a.m.

Assistants: Peter Tirbak , Turro Wongkaren
Ushers: Les Pelletier, David Lau
Lectors: Mike Pennell, Richard Lachman
Acolyte: Lynsey Pelletier

December 13 9 a.m.

Assistant: Sharon Shinno
Ushers: Paul Tirbak, Wil Schriefer
Lectors: Nicole Dye, Kristy Schroppel
Acolyte: Christian Schroppel

December 20 9 a.m.

Assistants: Rick Thompson, Turro Wongkaren
Ushers: Les Pelletier, Paul Tirbak
Acolyte: Lorien Pelletier

December 27 9 a.m.

Assistants: Peter Tirbak, Sharon Shinno
Ushers: Les Pelletier, David Lau
Lectors: Sandie Stoutenburg, Peggy Pridgeon
Acolyte: Matthew Schroppel
Flowers: ORLC

Readings for the month of December

Dec 6 Malachi 3:1-7b, Philippians 1:2-11, Luke 3:1-14

Dec 13 Zephaniah 3: 14-20, Philippians 4:4-7. Luke 7:18-28

Dec 20 Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

Dec 27 Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15, Colossians 3: 12-17, Luke 2:22-40