

... Connecting People to Jesus
The Good News



Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School Honolulu, Hawaii



*He will be called
Immanuel,
which means,
God with us*



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this newsletter article, it's Tuesday of my last week here at Our Redeemer. My office is a mess as I have been going through my books, files and various papers; deciding what I will be taking with me to Oregon and what I'll either leave behind or dispose of.

There is a bit of a mess at home, too. There are so many things to do as we finalize our moving arrangements and prepare to set up household once again back on the mainland.

We're a bit of a mess emotionally as well. It hit me a little last Sunday, as I made announcements at the end of the service, as I finished teaching my last Bible class, as I was greeting the elementary school children yesterday. There is so much that we're going to miss here at Our Redeemer; so many people who have had special places in our hearts. Although as Christians we know that we never truly say "goodbye", for we look forward to that time when we will reunite before our Father's throne in heaven, partings in this life can still be somewhat sad.

Continued on page 2

Fellowship and Bible Studies at Our Redeemer

Worship with communion: Sunday, 9 am
Adult Bible Class: Sunday, 10:30 am, at auditorium
Sunday School: 10:30 am, at Aloha Room
Wednesday Bible Class: 10 am, at Aloha Room

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

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Pastor
The Rev. William Shimkus
(until late November 2010)
Music Director
The Rev. Karl Bachman
Secretary
Holly Maertens
Business Manager
Jerry Sobieski

President Lester Pelletier • **Vice President** Peter Tirbak • **Secretary** Ruth Crockett • **Treasurer** Stephen Okumura • **Deacons** - • **Fellowship** Peggy Pridgeon • **Parish Education** Nellie Miller • **Stewardship** Clarence DeLude • **Property Management** - • **Education** Karl Bachman • **Representatives to Lutheran High Board** Nellie Miller, William Schriefer

Our Redeemer Lutheran School

Principal
Bonnie Jo Alle
Administrative Secretary
Karen Dote
Admissions Director
Wyndy Quandt

Principal and 1st Grade Bonnie Jo Alle • **Preschool Director** Delle Tanioka • **Music** Alan Bauchle • **Computer** Ali Beasley • **Library** Bette Shimkus (until late November 2010) • **Science** Crystal Stafford • **Art** Heidi Shiozaki • **Language Arts/Athletics** William Shriefer • **Preschool** Nancy Schultz • **Kindergarten** Michele Zane • **1st Grade** Wyndy Quandt • **2nd Grade and Choir** Christine Eilers • **3rd Grade** Nicole Dye • **4th Grade** Tim Martin • **5th Grade** Kate Markert • **6th Grade** Crystal Stafford • **7th Grade** Lorine Pelletier • **8th Grade** Kristy Schroppel • **2 year olds** Mei Chun • **3 year olds** Carol Huth • **4 year olds** Jessica Guillemette • **Assistants** Sharielyn Garcia, Tawny Starritt, Lauren George, Jolyne Ishoda, Alex Morales, Yong Hong Hsu, Annie Huang

...

Lutheran High School of Hawaii

Principal
Art Gundell

Pastor's Letter (continued)

We've been through a lot together over the past seven and a half years. Yet as I think back to my first weeks here at Our Redeemer, to my first impressions of our congregation, there are some important ways in which very little has changed.

My first impression of Our Redeemer was of the tremendous opportunities for mission and ministry that are, quite literally, right outside our door. Through our preschool, elementary school and high school we daily touch the lives of children and families who know little of God's love in Jesus Christ. Our proximity to the University of Hawaii gives us an enviable "foot in the door" for outreach into that community.

And then there's simply being in Hawaii, with its incredible mixture of cultures from all over the world. Years ago, when I was serving on the mainland, I led a study in my congregation that sought to encourage people to reach out to their unchurched neighbors with the gospel.

After the second session a member approached me, concerned that they didn't know anyone who wasn't a member of a church. It's hard to imagine anyone having that problem here in Hawaii, with unchurched, de-churched and non-Christian people living in our neighborhoods, perhaps in our own families. As Jesus said, the fields are indeed "ripe for harvest."

Another thing that hasn't change is that we don't face these challenges alone. The same God who empowered and encouraged the members of the first Christian Church as they explosively grew throughout the known world continues to be with us today, giving us as his people all the help we need to carry out the mission that he's given us. That's been true all along the way, from the time that Our Redeemer was itself a mission congregation, as it helped plant other congregations throughout the islands and on into God's future.

The challenge remains the same. It is my prayer that God will continue to be with you as you seek to share his love in word and deed! God bless you!

Pastor Shimkus

Fear Not! A Savior Is Born

We are at the end of 2010, and will soon enter 2011. Many things might bring us fears, either as an individual or as a congregation. The situation is not much different for those who were there on the first Christmas.

On that first Christmas, the world was in desperate times, too. A census was being conducted in order to raise already high taxes. Murderous, paranoid Herod the Great was king of the Jews. It was cold on Bethlehem's hillsides. Inside a cave in the town sat a poverty-stricken carpenter and his young wife -- far from home, chilled to the bone. She was in labor. Her child would be born in a stable, of all places. "Why is it like this?" She may have asked.



**The same God who empowered
and encouraged the members of the first
Christian Church continues
to be with us today...**

And then she recalled an echo of the angel's words to her, "*Do not be afraid, Mary....*"

A Savior Is Born

On the windswept hillsides outside of town, shepherds were huddling, too. All of a sudden the sky lighted up and an angel proclaimed:

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Fear not. The shepherds' fear was turned to joy as they heard news that a Savior was born. The Messiah! In Bethlehem, the city of David himself!

And so they ran down the hillsides into the town and hurried from stable to stable until they found the Child in the manger, just as they had been told. Tucked in that manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes against the cold, was the Savior himself.

The Savior Will Provide

A Savior comes to rescue people in danger, preserve those who are threatened by harm, and protect his people from

the troubles that surround them. That's what saviors do!
That's what Jesus came to do for us.

Do not be afraid because God has sent a Savior to us -- Jesus Christ the Lord. He is the One who will never leave us or forsake us, and will add to us all the things we *need* as we seek him and his Kingdom.

Christmas Is About a Savior

The world doesn't know. Many think that Christmas is about gifts under a tree and a spirit of good cheer, with Christmas dinner and family around the table. But as good as all that may be, it isn't nearly as good as the Real Christmas.

The Real Christmas message is this: God has sent a Savior for you. To save you from your sins and to help you in this life -- to lift your burden and ease your fears. That's it! A Savior who is Christ the *Lord* -- God himself!

The world is gripped by fear. But fear's hold has been broken in those of us who believe the angel's words:

"Fear not ... for a Savior is born to you -- Christ the Lord!"

(Summarized from *Joyful Heart* by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson.)



Offering for the month of October

Total offering: \$13,192.50. Building fund: \$10.00. Parsonage Kitchen Repair: \$1,755.00

Total for parsonage kitchen repair over 2-month period is \$2,100.00

From the Board of Directors' Meeting

President Pelletier and **Pastor Betker** will arrange for pastors in the pulpit. A Call Committee of 5-7 members will be appointed, none from the Board of Directors.

As of October 31, \$2,100 have been donated for the **parsonage kitchen renovation**. *Mahalo* for your *kokua*. There are photos in a glass case in the hallway.

The meeting also discussed the schedule for December. The results can be seen below and on the calendar. Important notes: *there will be no 11pm service on the Christmas Eve nor will be 7pm service on the New Year's Eve.*



Christmas @ Our Redeemer

Pre-Christmas events

- Dec 1** – 6 pm Soup Supper, 7:15 pm Advent Service
- Dec 4** – Put up the Nativity and decorate the church
- Dec 8** – ORLS Christmas Program at Mamiya Theater
- Dec 15** – 6 pm Soup Supper, 7:15 pm Advent Service
- Dec 19** – 9 am Sunday School Christmas

Christ-Mass

- Dec 24** – 7 pm Candlelight Service with communion, preceded by Christmas Music (see below)
- Dec 25** – 10 am Christmas Festival

Harpist Nyle Hallman to play at Our Redeemer on Christmas Eve



This Christmas Eve we will be the recipients of a very special musician to enhance our Christmas worship, harpist **Nyle Hallman**. She is Organist Emerita at Central Union Church where she and her husband, **Roy**, led the music ministry for 29 years. She is a graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey and did graduate study at Union Theological

Seminary in New York City. She was Principal Harpist for the symphonies in El Paso, Tulsa and Honolulu. She played in the Don Ho Orchestra and was Emma Veary's harpist at the Halekulani and Royal Hawaiian Hotels. Since retirement in 1998, Nyle has continued her solo career on both harp and organ. She is an associate organist at Central Union Church and plays many weddings and other events in the community.

Ms. Hallman will begin playing a pre-service concert at 6:30 pm on Christmas Eve. She will be joined in several selections by two of our very own musicians, **Lynsey Pelletier** on violin and **Courtney Bynum** on flute. She will also accompany the congregational singing on many of the Christmas carols including *Silent Night* for our candlelight service. Invite your friends to join us for this very special Christmas worship event.

Aloha Party for Pastor and Bette Shimkus

On Sunday, **November 21**, the congregation had an Aloha Party to bid farewell to **Pastor** and **Bette Shimkus**. Pastor has accepted the call from Trinity Lutheran Church at Portland, Oregon. They have been with Our Redeemer since 2003 and have become good friends to many of us.

Pastor has provided important pastoral and spiritual leaderships to our church and school members. Bette has been involved in many capacities beyond those of being a pastor's wife. (Among others, being the school librarian, an active member of LWML, Worship Care, Fellowship, and Chair of Parish Education). We will miss them, and wish them all the best in the new congregation and beyond!



The address of their new congregation: **Trinity Lutheran Church** 5520 North East Killingsworth, Portland Oregon 97218.

New Bibles for the Pews

One of our members began recycling long before the HI-5s. Money he received from recycling plus other sources amounted to enough to gift the church with new Bibles. The new Bibles are large print, hard covered in the English Standard Version - the same version used in our worship service readings.

If you should like to dedicate one or more of these Bibles to a loved one or would like to purchase some, please contact **Richard Thompson**. The cost is \$11.00. The Bibles will be a great asset to worship in our sanctuary and a blessing to our people as they use them. At some point, the old Bibles will be available for the asking.

Worship Care Chairmanship

Due to health problems, **Sandie Stoutenburg** is stepping down from being the Worship Care Chairman. Sandie has been a wonderful chairman. As the chairman she compiled a most impressive book of instructions for the job. It is with sadness that we lose Sandie as our leader. It is with thankful hearts that we reflect on the extraordinary job she has done for ORLC.

We are looking for a new chairperson who will take over this responsibility. We are always looking for volunteers who will work on the committee. This work involves setting up for communion, oiling some of the

wood, dusting the pews and setting out items in the pews. Most of the volunteers will be asked to work an entire month and function as backup for another month. Please prayerfully consider joining Worship Care and taking the job as Chairman.

Get ready for Christmas

On Saturday, **December 4**, at 9 am we will gather to set up the nativity in the front of the church and to put up the lights on our building. We will unwrap the nativity pieces, build the stable, and set the lights on and in it. Also we will unwrap the lights and string them around the courtyard and the columns. Most of the jobs require no talent or experience. A few will require muscles and ability to climb a ladder. We will also decorate the inside of the church. The tree will be put up at a later date. We really need your help. If we have 20 people we should be done by noon. **Janelle Dryden**, our nativity expert, will again help us. Lunch will be served.

Walk/Run for Hunger Results

A big thank you to each and everyone of you who walked, ran and/or donated money to the River of Life fund raiser. Our total donation was \$2,840.00. About \$625.00 of this came from Our Redeemer Lutheran School in multiple fund raisers. Thanks to the faculty, students and the "S" Force. You were great!

Christmas Gifts for River of Life Guests



Each Christmas, River of Life Mission hosts Christmas Stores for children, women and men all on separate days. Each receives new underwear and gently used outer clothing and shoes.

They also receive personal care items such as teeth and hair items, anti-bacterial lotions, mirrors, mini flashlights, body lotions, deodorants etc. If you prefer, you can take these items directly to the mission. For directions and information call **Nelda Peterson** at 923-4064.

Voters' Meeting

On Sunday, **December 5**, there will be a voters' meeting during the Adult Bible Study time. Two items are on the agenda: The Call Committee and the Lutheran High School. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

Handel's Messiah. The annual concert by the Central Union Oratorio Choir will be held on Sunday, **December 5**, at 7 pm. The choir will be accompanied by the Chamber Ensemble. Conductor: **Sangeet Gellhorn**. ■



Here's what's happening on "the Wilder Side"...

Our Redeemer Lutheran Students and Faculty brought in their "extra" **Halloween Candy** and donated it to a local dentist who sends the candy to deployed troops. Several students wrote letters to accompany the candy. The dentist told us that the "troops" actually enjoy the letters more than the candy!

Students in Grades Pre-K through Eighth Grade participated in **Operation Christmas Child** by **Samaritan's Purse**. "Operation Christmas Child brings joy & hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through simple gift-filled shoe boxes and evangelistic materials that tell the Good News of God's love." Students brought in a variety of items, which included: small toy gifts, school supplies, personal hygiene items, socks, hard candy, and other useful items. All items were to be new. Liquid items (such as shampoo), chocolate, and anything that had to do with war or guns were not allowed. Each box was labeled with the gender and age group of the child. Letters were written & included within the boxes. Eventually, we will hear from the recipients and learn who has received our "Gifts of Aloha."



Mahalo nui loa to everyone who took part in our "tasty" fundraiser at the **Ala Moana California Pizza Kitchen** (CPK). The **Parent Teacher Organization** (PTO) received a check in the amount of \$328.85 which is 20% of the sales generated by orders accompanied by the ORLS "CPK" fundraiser flyer.

On Wednesday, November 17, the Faculty gave **Pastor** and **Bette Shimkus** an **Aloha Party** after our scheduled faculty meeting. We sure are going to miss them. Each morning (rain or shine) Pastor Shimkus greeted the ORLS students as they arrived for their classes. (Can you guess who's going to do it now?---Smile!!!!) Bette has been a wonderful librarian (her unique ideas for our Book Fairs have always brought smiles to all our faces). She agreed to work until the end of November.

Please mark your calendars---our **Christmas Program** is being held at **Mamiya Theatre** on Wednesday, **December 8**, at 7:00 pm. This year's Play Production was written by our own **Nicole Dye** (3rd Grade Teacher at Our Redeemer Lutheran School).

Aloha and Merry Christmas!

Principal Alle



Focus of the Month: **Richard F. (Rick) Thompson**

Rick was born in Florida on September 20th 1936. His parents moved to the New York City area when he was about eighteen months old and he grew up there, attending the public schools. He early had an interest in singing and became a chorister at Trinity Church on Wall Street where he also served as an acolyte.

He graduated from Providence-Barrington Bible College in Rhode Island in 1959, then taught school on Long Island and to missionaries' children in Puerto Rico before attending the Reformed Episcopal Seminary in Philadelphia. Relocating to Baltimore, he assisted in a small Reformed Episcopal church and was employed at

the Enoch Pratt Free Library as a cataloguer. Upon the urging of his supervisor in 1968 Rick relocated to Honolulu to attend the University of Hawaii's School of Library Studies, where he obtained an MLS degree. Intending to return to Baltimore he nevertheless began employment with the Hawaii State Library a few months after graduation, later transferring to the Hawaii State Archives, where he was the librarian for some twenty-five years. He is a life member of the Hawaiian Historical Society, and continues his interest in his family history research.

In 1971 he first volunteered to be a summer missionary in Japan and assisted at Okutama Bible Camp for several years. It was there that he first met **Takako Murofushi**. They were married in 1975 and their daughter **Charlotte** was born in 1978.

They were active in the life and ministry of the Christian Reformed Church on Pacific Heights until the congregation relocated to the Kapolei area whereupon they became active in Saint Mark Lutheran Church in

Kaneohe, where Charlotte was attending school. She later transferred to the University of Hawaii Laboratory School and graduated in 1996, then moved to the Washington D.C. area for college and work.

About the time that Charlotte moved to D.C. Rick and Takako moved their church membership to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church where they have been active up to the present. He has been a member of the Board of Directors, a deacon, and a worship assistant.

He has been active in musical pursuits, singing with the Honolulu Symphony Chorus, the Honolulu Chorale, Our Redeemer's choir, annual performances of Handel's Messiah and other special choral events. Rick and Takako enjoy traveling to the east coast (to visit Charlotte and other family members) and to Japan. He is a lifelong stamp collector and especially enjoys the stamps of Japan and other foreign countries.

New Member:

Amanda Gontarek

Amanda joined us on October 17. She comes to us originally from Casper, Wyoming. She lived there until attending the University of Wyoming at Laramie. Amanda received a nursing degree and began working in Denver, Colorado. She joined the traveling nurse program and had an opportunity to work in Hawaii. She fell in love with Hawaii and now works at Tripler and Kaiser Permanente as a neo-natal nurse.



Amanda and husband, **Brett**, are anticipating the birth of their first child in mid-January. Brett works in construction. They enjoy playing volleyball at Fort DeRussey with other couples and have begun sailing in their 35 foot sailboat. We are delighted that they joined our 'ohana.

December Birthdays. 5 Rose Lubitz, 8 Marcy Reginelli, 10 Nellie Miller, 11 Andrew Pung, 12 Anne Krakowiak, 14 Gary Beck, 15 Mano DeLude, 16 Mark Matteson, 17 Carol Riess, 25 Jim Schroppel, 26 Charles Fox, 26 Jayme Cornel, 28 Roger Koopman, 31 Peter Tirbak

Anniversary. 14 David & Gertraud Lau, 20 Ken & Doris Watanabe, 29 Duane & Carol White

Help our members celebrate...send a note, make a phone call, pray a private prayer of blessing upon our friends.

Prayer Chain – In the absence of a permanent or vacancy pastor in ORLC, **Ruth Crockett** will maintain the prayer list. She can be reached at 963-4223 (please leave a message) or email crockett@lhshawaii.org. Requests for prayers via the Prayer Chain can continue to be called into **Nelda Peterson** 923-4064.

Scripture Readings (English Standard Version)

Dec 5 Isaiah 11:1-10 | Romans 15:4-13 | Matthew 3:1-12

Dec 12 Isaiah 35:1-10 | James 5:7-11 | Matthew 11:2-15

Dec 19 Isaiah 7:10-17 | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-25

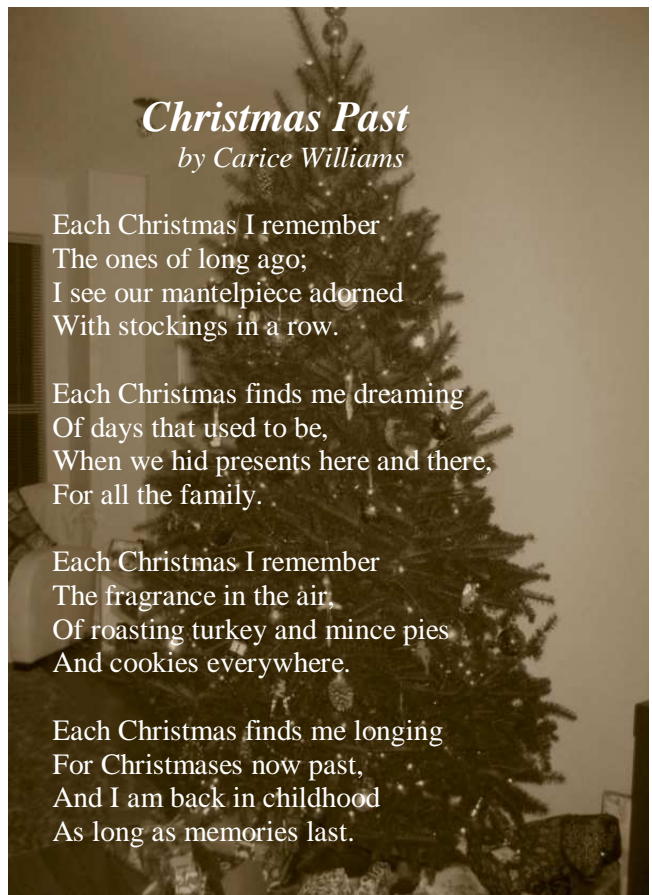
Dec 24 Isaiah 9:2-7 | Titus 2:11-14 | Luke 2:1-20

Dec 25 Isaiah 52:7-10 | Hebrews 1:1-6 | John 1:1-14

Dec 26 Isaiah 63:7-14 | Galatians 4:4-7 | Matthew 2:13-23

Dec 31 Isaiah 30:15-17 | Romans 8:31b-39 | Luke 12:35-40

End Note



Christmas Past by Carice Williams

Each Christmas I remember
The ones of long ago;
I see our mantelpiece adorned
With stockings in a row.

Each Christmas finds me dreaming
Of days that used to be,
When we hid presents here and there,
For all the family.

Each Christmas I remember
The fragrance in the air,
Of roasting turkey and mince pies
And cookies everywhere.

Each Christmas finds me longing
For Christmases now past,
And I am back in childhood
As long as memories last.

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name **Immanuel**" (which means, God with us). **Matthew 1:22-24**



Our Redeemer
Lutheran Church
Connecting People to Jesus

December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 8:10a ORLS Chapel 6p Advent Supper 7:15p Advent worship	2	3	4 9a Putting up Christmas decorations and nativity scene
5 2 nd Sunday in Advent 9a Service of the Word 10:30a Sunday School and Bible Class <i>Rose Lubitz's birthday</i>	6	7	8 7p ORLS Christmas program at Mamiya Theater <i>Marcy Reginelli's birthday</i>	9	10 7:30p LHS Christmas program at Calvary by the Sea <i>Nellie Miller's birthday</i>	11 <i>Andrew Pung's birthday</i>
12 3 rd Sunday in Advent 9a Worship with communion 10:30a Sunday school and Bible class <i>Anne Krakowiak's birthday</i>	13	14 <i>Gary Beck's birthday</i> <i>David & Gertraud Lau's anniversary</i>	15 8:10a ORLS Chapel 6p Advent Supper 7:15p Advent worship <i>Mano DeLude's birthday</i>	16 8:30a LHS Chapel 6:30p LWML Bible study <i>Mark Matteson's birthday</i>	17 <i>Carol Riess' birthday</i>	18
19 4 th Sunday in Advent 9a Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30a Sunday school and Bible class	20 ORLS/LHS Christmas Break <i>Ken & Doris Watanabe's anniversary</i>	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 6:30p Christmas Music 7p Candlelight service 	25 Christmas Day 10a Festival Service with communion <i>Jim Schroppel's birthday</i>
26 1 st Sunday after Christmas St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr 9a Worship with communion <i>Charles Fox's birthday</i> <i>Jayne Cornel's birthday</i>	27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist	28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs <i>Roger Koopman's birthday</i>	29 <i>Duane & Carol White's anniversary</i>	30	31 New Year's Eve <i>Peter Tirbak's birthday</i>	1 New Year 2011

Serving December 2010

Worshipcare: Nellie Miller (primary); Diana Kunz (backup)

	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26
	9:00a	9:00a	9:00a	9:00a
Communion Assistants	Stephen Okumura	Peter Tirbak David Lau	Richard Thompson Turro Wongkaren	Sharon Shinno Stephen Okumura
Ushers	Lester Pelletier David Lau	Paul Tirbak William Schriefer	Lester Pelletier Paul Tirbak	David Lau William Schriefer
Acolyte	Adam Quandt	Faith Kollien	Troy Tirbak	Grant Kollien
Flowers	Sharon Shinno	Chang	Nelda Peterson	Members of ORLC
Reading 1 (lector)	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalms 72 Takako Thompson	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalms 146 Betty Beringer	Isaiah 7:10-17 Psalms 24 Diana Kunz	Isaiah 63:7-14 Psalms 111 Peggy Pridgeon
Reading 2 (lector)	Romans 15:4-13 Jeanette Ardiente	James 5:7-11 Nicole Dye	Romans 1:1-7 Wendy Pung	Galatians 4:4-7 Richard Lachmann
Reading 3	Matthew 3:1-12	Matthew 11:2-15	Matthew 1:18-25	Matthew 2:13-23

The Good News

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

1404 University Ave., Honolulu HI 96822, Ph. (808) 946-4223, Fax. (808) 943-1247, Email: ourredeemer@live.com, Website: www.orlc-hawaii.org

Our Redeemer Lutheran School

2428 Wilder Ave., Honolulu HI 96822, Ph. (808) 945-7765, Fax. (808) 944-1414, Email: bjalle@rredeemer.org, Website: www.orls-hi.org



Lutheran High School of Hawaii

1404 University Ave., Honolulu HI 96822, Ph. (808) 949-5302, Fax. (808) 947-3701, Email: office@lhshawaii.org, Website: www.lhshawaii.org

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