

The Good News



Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School Honolulu, Hawaii



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's traditional, at the end of one year and the beginning of the next, to look back and to look ahead. What happened at Our Redeemer during 2009? What do we plan to do in 2010? As we look back, but particularly as we look ahead, I want to briefly focus on the Transforming for Ministry revitalization process that we began last year and will continue into the new year.

Transforming for Ministry is a district/synodical process "designed to reorient and retool a congregation so that it can provide dynamic and effective outward-focused ministry in a post-churched world." Our participation in this program began with a consultation by a team from our CNH district last June, in which the revitalization team evaluated our congregation for its strengths and weakness and then listed several prescriptions for us to follow to deal specifically with our weaknesses. With our participation in this process, the district has committed itself to "walk alongside" us as we seek to implement necessary changes.

The Transforming for Ministry team's prescriptions included: 1) Seeking to develop an outward focus. This involves studying specific outreach possibilities for our congregation to pursue and determining how best to share the gospel with our community. 2) Developing a unified vision for our mission outreach.

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Bible Class & Fellowship at Our Redeemer

Divine Service: Sunday, 9:00 am
Adult Bible Class: Sunday, 10:30 am, at auditorium
Wednesday Bible Class, 10:00 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
Rev. William Shimkus
Music Director
Rev. Karl Bachman
Secretary
Holly Maertens
Business Manager
Jerry Sobieski

President Lester Pellitier • **Vice-President** 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 Bachman • **Representative to Lutheran High Board** Nellie Miller

Our Redeemer Lutheran School

Principal
Bonnie Jo Alle
Administrative Secretary
Beverly Seki
Admissions Director
Lisa Pelt

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** Wil Schriefer • **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

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Lutheran High School of Hawaii

Principal
Art Gundell

Pastor's Letter (continued)

3) Reviewing our current organizational structure to find ways to be more effective. 4) Working to enhance our relationships with each other. This includes finding ways to more effectively work relate to our school families, to initiate small Bible study groups, to provide better and more effective communication with our members, and to more efficiently use the gifts of the members of our congregation in our mission and ministry. 5) To develop a long-term plan for maintenance and upkeep of our church and school properties.



To accomplish these goals we organized six task forces dealing with properties, governance, small groups, communication, mission focus and congregational vision. We have also had a "visioning" meeting led by Pastor Ted Hartman, our revitalization "coach" and an overview of a new model for church governance given by Joel Koerschen from the CNH district office. Several of the task forces have already met, others will be beginning their work this month. One of the results of our revitalization efforts is before you in this new format for our newsletter. The properties task force is busy evaluating our properties and prioritizing needed repairs. Using the results from the visioning workshop in October, we plan to combine the vision and mission focus task forces to work on developing a new direction for our outreach efforts.

Much has been done, yet there is much more to do. It's not too late to become involved in our revitalization efforts. If you're interested in taking part, please contact me. Above all, please keep our congregation in your prayers. In the past God has done great things here at Our Redeemer and, with him by our side, our best days lay ahead!

Pastor Shimkus

Did You Notice something new?



Over the next few months you will notice changes in the format of this monthly newsletter, making it more user- and people-friendly, thanks to our

Communications Committee. If you would like to contact any of them, the members are Riánna Williams (head), Karl Bachman, Don Lubitz, Nelda Peterson, Pastor Shimkus and Turro Wongkaren. Contributing members are Jeanette Ardiente, Nicole Dye and Wendy Pung. They will all appreciate your input.

The snazzy new monthly newsletter became available on the church website [www.orlc-hawaii.org] as of December 6th. It will now be available there by the beginning of the month. *We will be phasing out the U.S. mailed print copy in March or April UNLESS YOU SPECIFICALLY REQUEST TO RECEIVE IT THAT WAY*, in which case you may certainly continue to do so. If you prefer a U.S. mailed copy please notify church secretary Holly Maertens at the grade school at 945-7765.

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!

Ringin' Bells for the Salvation Army



On December 5, several members of Our Redeemer served as bell ringers for the Salvation Army in front of Sam's Club.

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.

Financial Matters



A brief note from Stephen Okumura, the Treasurer: Based on the report from our business manager, it appears that the church and school are doing somewhat better this year than last. In December, we were able to fix the leaky roof on the elementary school - Kudos to Paul Tirbak for helping with negotiations the contractor!

November 2009. Reformation Service (November 1st) - Offering collected given to Lutheran World Relief and designated for the victims of the recent tsunami and other natural disasters in the South Pacific. Total collected = \$820.00. November offering = \$21,270.00. Other Funds: Building Fund = \$40.00, Debt Reduction = \$5.00, Lutheran World Relief = \$5.00, Memorial Fund (In memory of Grace Fox) Altar Guild = \$25.00.

2010 Offering Envelopes have been in your mailbox in the Aloha Room since 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.

"On the Wilder Side"

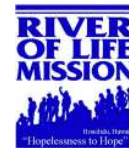
Our Redeemer Lutheran School Student Council sponsored its **Annual Candy Cane Sale**. Students/Faculty were able to purchase "mini candy canes" with personalized gift tags for 15 cents. The candy canes were then delivered to each classroom for distribution. They sold over 1300 personalized Mini Candy Canes. The proceeds from this sale will be used to buy animals/food/clothing for "World Vision" for needy people around the world. Many students contributed extra funds towards this worthy cause.



Congratulations to the following students who have succeeded in making it to the final school level **National Geographic Bee**: Nathalie Jones (grade 5), Cole Oxe (grade 5), Braydon Salas (grade 5), Sara Dotson (grade 6), Chase Yamada (grade 6), Elisha Manalo (grade 7), Jason Akamine (grade 8), Anuhea DeLude (grade 8), Joshua Terao (grade 8), and Missie

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.

Why River of Life Mission?



The River of Life Mission is special for many reasons. Their guests include the elderly and the young, the strong and the disabled, some are very dependent and others are fiercely independent; some are marginally employed, some are skilled but temporarily unemployed and many are virtually unemployable. They are ethnically diverse. Some are of strong faith - some of no discernable faith. All are equally welcome. The guests receive food, showers, clothing, personal care items, job training and some shelter. Many attend Bible Study, pray, hear the gospel and worship with staff and visitors. The mission relies on individuals and organizations such as ORLC to survive. They are totally faith-based with no government intervention.

Our Focus in January - In January we will focus on canned vegetables and fruit. As always - any item you wish to donate is well received. Thanks to all of you who so generously support this mission.

Yamamura (grade 8). The school bee will take place after the Wednesday, January 13, 2010 Chapel. One individual will become the school champion and will take a written test to see if they qualify for the state bee in April. Who will it Beeeeeeeeeee? Mrs. Lorine Pelletier, Seventh Grade Homeroom Teacher & Social Studies Teacher for Jr. High is the coordinator of this event. *Mahalo nui loa* Lorine!

Else where in our student body...**The Year Book Students** are busily taking pictures to meet their first deadline. Junior High students are working on **Science Fair Projects**.

From the School's PTO: The PTO had their first Fundraiser of the year. Students and their families sold McDONALDS Ronald McDonald House Charities McFUN-RAISER COUPON BOOKLETS. The fundraiser sale ran from October 27, 2009 – November 23rd, 2009.



The 4th Graders helping with the donated items to Kamaile Elementary School

1,019 coupon booklets were sold for a profit to the PTO of \$2,038.00. From this money, the PTO first paid for the buses that were used to take the children to their Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal at the Mamiya Theatre. Recess games and balls were also purchased for the 3rd, 4th and 5th Graders. From the 1019 booklets that were sold, \$3,057.00 was donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii from the school.

The ORLS PTO was sponsoring a donation drive for the children, and their families, that attend Kamaile Elementary School in Waianae. The children at this school were in need of many items to help ensure that their families had a warm and joy-filled Christmas and New Year. Many of the children that attend this school are homeless and the school work hard to try to supply the children with much needed items. The donated items were delivered to the school on Monday, December 14, 2009 by ORLS Parents. The PTO Executive Board would like to thank all the Our Redeemer Lutheran Church members who donated items.

From Lisa Pelt, the Admissions Director: Applications have started coming into the office for prospective students for the 2010-2011 school year. Interviews for new students will begin at the end of January. Over 100 prospective parent leads were gathered at the HAIS School Fairs this Fall and thirty-one families attend our two Open Houses. This was the highest amount of families that have attended our Open Houses in several years.

The current K-8th Grade enrollment is 148 and we are hoping to interview a few more students over Christmas Break that have recently moved to the island. If you know of anyone who is looking for a school for their child, please have them contact Lisa Pelt at 945-7765 ext. 224. Remember to tell them that we are still accepting students for the current school year and that Our Redeemer has NO Furlough Fridays. Mahalo!

Birthdays: 1- Frank Freitas, 11 - Doris Watanabe, 12 - David Lau, 12 - Allen Bauchle, 14 - Matthew Schroppel, 20 - Bette Shimkus, 23 - Carl Weinsteger, 23 - Shirley Laser, 24 - Marilee Baumgartner, 26 - Nick Freitas

Anniversaries: 12 - Karl & Betty Scholl, 16 - Brian & Pam Benton

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** or **Nelda Peterson** with your prayer requests. We know God answers prayers.

Call for Pictures... Share your pictures of our church/school's people, events, etc., with everybody through the *Good News*. Please send them to goodnews.ourredeemer@gmail.com or give to Turro Wongkaren. We can scan and give them back to you.

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4: 18-19, NIV)



**Our Redeemer
Lutheran
Church & School**

January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day The Name of Jesus The Circumcision of Our Lord	2
3 2 nd Sunday after Christmas (White) 9a worship with communion; 10:30a Sunday School and Bible Class 11:30a Japanese language Fellowship	4 Lutheran High resumes	5 4p Communications Task Force	6 Epiphany (White) Our Redeemer Lutheran School resumes 8:10a chapel service	7 8:30a Lutheran High chapel 6p choir	8	9 9a Congregational work day
10 1 st Sunday after Epiphany (Green) Baptism of Our Lord 9a worship with communion 10:30a Sunday School and Bible Class	11	12 6:30 PM Board of Education	13 8:10a ORLS chapel service	14 8:30a Lutheran High chapel 6p choir	15	16 Yuukikai Car Wash
17 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany (Green) 9a worship with communion 10:30a Sunday School and Bible Class	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day The Confession of St. Peter (White) NO SCHOOL	19 6:15p Board of Directors	20 8:10a ORLS chapel service	21 8:30a Lutheran High chapel 6p choir	22 Circuit Pastors meeting at Our Savior	23 9:30a Lutheran Mission Council of Hawaii meeting at St. Mark
24 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany (Green) 9a worship with communion 10:30a Sunday School and Bible Class	25 The Conversion of St. Paul (White)	26	27 8:10a ORLS chapel service	28 8:30a Lutheran High chapel 6p choir	29	30
31 4 th Sunday after Epiphany (Green) 9a service of the Word, ORLS Choir 10:30a Sunday School and Bible Class						

Serving January 2010

Worshipcare: Mike Pennell, Toni Tweet (primary); Nelda Peterson (backup)

January 3 9:00 a.m.

Assistants: Rick Thompson, Turro Wongkaren **Ushers:** Paul Tirbak, Wil Schriefer **Lectors:** Jeanette Ardiente, Nancy Beadle **Acolyte:** Christian Schroppel

January 10 9:00 a.m.

Assistants: David Lau, Sharon Shinno **Ushers:** Lester Pelletier, Paul Tirbak **Lectors:** Betty Beringer, Suzanne Bile **Acolyte:** Lorien Pelletier

January 17 9:00 a.m.

Assistants: Rick Thompson, Peter Tirbak **Ushers:** David Lau, Wil Schriefer **Lectors:** Doreen Chang, Nicole Dye **Acolyte:** Lynsey Pelletier

January 24 9:00 a.m.

Assistants: Turro Wongkaren, David Lau **Ushers:** Lester Pelletier, Paul Tirbak **Lectors:** Diana Kunz, Richard Lachmann **Acolyte:** Matthew Schroppel

January 31 9:00 a.m.

Assistants: Rick Thompson, Sharon Shinno **Ushers:** Wil Schriefer, David Lau **Lectors:** Lorien Pelletier, Nelda Peterson **Acolyte:** Christian Schroppel

Readings for the month of January

Jan 3 -- 1 Kings 3:4-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18

Jan 10 -- Isaiah 43:1-7; Romans 6:1-11; Luke 3:15-22

Jan 17 -- Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Jan 24 -- Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Luke 4:16-30

Jan 31 -- Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13; Luke 4:31-44

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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Our Redeemer Lutheran School

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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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