



Quo Vadis, Our Redeemer?

In **Quo Vadis**, a novel by Nobel Laureate Henryk Sienkiewicz, there is a scene where Saint Peter left Rome to avoid persecutions. Emperor Nero had just burned the city. Many Christians were killed. The night before, a band of Christian leaders met and discussed what to do. They were in distress, seeing many of their friends were martyred, and Jesus' promise of coming back had not materialized. The Christians felt uncertain and anxious about their lives.

In the novel, Saint Peter decided that he had to flee Rome. So he left with Nazarius, a traveling companion. In an empty road not far from the city, the two were greeted by a bright light. Nazarius could not see anything else. Saint Peter, however, fell down on the ground as if he was kissing someone's feet. He was silent, and then broke to a sob before saying, "Quo Vadis, Domine?"

Nazarius could not hear the answer to the question, but to Saint Peter's ears came a sad and sweet voice, "If thou desert my people, I am going to Rome to be crucified a second time."

Continued on page 2

Bible Class & Fellowship 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 Vacancy Pastor

The Rev. Paul G. Hoffmann

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 • **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 Nolting • **4th Grade** Tim Martin • **5th Grade** Kate Markert • **6th Grade** Crystal Stafford • **7th Grade** Lorine Pelletier • **8th Grade** Kristy Schroppe • **2 year olds** Mei Chun • **3 year olds** Carol Huth • **4 year olds** Jessica Guillemette • **Assistants** Sharilyn Garcia, Tawny Starritt, Lauren George, Jolyne Ishoda, Alex Morales, Yong Hong Hsu, Annie Huang

...

Lutheran High School of Hawaii

Principal

Art Gundell

Quo vadis... (continued)

The fiction novel can relate to us in two ways. The first is the situation in which the setting of the story took place. While we may not feel distress from being prosecuted (at least not the way the Christians in Rome at that time), there is no doubt that as an individual and as a congregation this is a period of uncertainty and anxiety. The economy is not fully recovered yet, which means we still have to tighten our belts. We do not have a definite pastor. We just committed to 'adopt' Lutheran High School back to our congregation. The list keeps going. In times like this, sometimes it is difficult to see things clearly as they are blurred by fear and helplessness. It is not uncommon to feel tempted to use our own judgments, and do what seems to be the most logical thing to do, without taking time to reflect and truly seek for His Will. Often, we respond to the challenges by running away and try to find solace somewhere else. Just like Saint Peter did in the story.

The second way the novel relates to us today is the fact that we are in the season of Epiphany, which runs from January 6 to the beginning of Lent. Epiphany means 'to reveal' or 'make manifest'. The season celebrates the fact that Christ has revealed himself to us as human. As human, he was exposed to the same challenges as we all are, such as hunger, pain, and even temptations. At the same time,

however, He is also God Almighty with all of his glory. The Epiphany season leads to Easter, where

His death reveals to us the greatest story ever told: As human, God Himself died on the cross for us.

On a personal level, while Christ does not physically reveal Himself to us the way He does in the novel, the effect of epiphany is the same. Through Bible stories that we heard since childhood, through people surrounding us, or through experiences, we came into personal realization of the meaning of Christ's death to us: To redeem us.

On a congregational level, today's uncertainty is not new. The church has seen many uncertainties before. Yet, again and again, Christ revealed himself in various ways, and often through people we know: either through new people brought to the church, or through 'old timers' who rise to the occasion. Each time, He touches our hearts as we gather every week to worship and serve Him. Each time, He reminds us that He will never forsake us and



God has revealed himself to us in many ways.
It is up to us how to respond to him.

encourage us to keep on going and returning to our mission: to connect people to Him.

God has revealed himself to us in many ways. It is up to us how to respond to him. When we struggle with life's difficulties, will we be relying on our judgment and take the seemingly easy road, or will we try to stand still, find God's will, ask for his guidance, and follow it through—even though we know that it may not be an easy road?

Saint Peter rose at last, seized the staff with trembling hands, and turned without a word toward the seven hills of the city.

Nazarius, seeing this, repeated as an echo, "Quo vadis, Domine?"

"To Rome," said the apostle, in a low voice. And he returned.

The Epiphany Season

What is *epiphany*? In pre-Christian time, the term refers to the action in which a Greek god reveals himself to human. In Christianity, the term refers to God manifests himself through Jesus Christ. In today's English language, the term also refers to 'sudden realization' or comprehension of

the meaning of something.

In Christendom, the Epiphany season is observed

differently in various traditions. Even though it is not as 'popular' as Christmas and Easter, the festival season has been recognized by the church since very early on. While at first Christmas festival, the celebration of the birth of Christ, and the Epiphany were considered parts of a same festival, later on they were separated: Christmas season ends when the Epiphany season starts. There are three events in the Bible that are associated with the Epiphany season: (1) Christ's manifest to the three kings from the East, (2) his miracle in the Wedding of Cana, and (3) his baptism in Jordan River. The celebrations of Epiphany by various traditions in Christendom are focused on one or combination of these three manifestations.

The Western churches set aside January 6, or the end of the twelve-days of Christmas, as the Three Kings' Day. It was on this day that people exchanged gifts—a reference to the Three Magi's gifts to the holy infant. Later on, the

exchange of gifts moved to Christmas—as is the common practice today.

Meanwhile, the Eastern churches set aside December 25 as both Christmas and the coming of the Magi, and January 6, the Epiphany (although they prefer to call it ‘Theophany’), is set aside for the baptism of Jesus. In Ethiopia, for instance, the Ethiopia Orthodox Church celebrates Epiphany by holding a celebration by a designated river. In Greece, people still hold ‘the blessing of the water’ festival where young men dive into a river to retrieve a cross, thrown by a priest.

Lutherans associate the season with all three Biblical events above. In addition, we also set aside January 1 as the date for the naming and circumcision of Jesus. The significant of this event is the recognition that the Lord began his ministries by submitting himself to man’s law. Also, the shedding of his blood through circumcision pointed to the ultimate shedding of His blood later on.



Transition Team.

The Board of Education announces the formation of a transition team to begin work with the

Lutheran High School of Hawaii as soon as possible. The goal is to be ready as soon as financing is secured. Members of the team are LHS Principal **Art Gundell** and faculty member **Frank Lutz**; LHS Association member **Cal Uhlig**; ORLC congregation member **Richard Lachmann**; ORLS Principal **BonnieJo Alle**; BOE member **Diana Kunz**; and BOE Director **Karl Bachman**.

Offering for the month of December. Total offering = \$19,801.01. Building Fund = \$5.00. Christmas Flowers = \$440.00. Christmas Music = \$490.00. Lutheran World Relief & Human Care = \$15.00. Meanwhile, total offering for 2010 is \$174,119.62.

Vacancy Pastor. The Rev. **Paul G. Hoffmann** has agreed to serve as Vacancy Pastor for Our Redeemer. The Reverend and Mrs. Hoffmann will arrive in Honolulu in mid February. He is scheduled to start on February 20. He served as a pastor in several congregations, the most recent one before he retired was in Los Gatos, CA. Currently he serves as C-N-H District Regional Vice President - Pacific. Rev. Hoffmann received an M.Div. from Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, MO, and an M.A. in



education from Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA.

As he will be here only for a limited time, Rev. Hoffmann will need a car. If anyone has an extra car that can be loaned for several months, please contact the church’s office (946-4223).

Many thanks to Chaplain **Bill Sager** and Pastor **Scott Jensen** who have kindly served our congregation during the period of November 2010 – February 2011.

Is Christmas Over? Christmas for some is never really over. It may look like it with our decorations, lights and nativity taken down. On January 8 we had a crew of volunteers working to return to a pre-Christmas look. These welcome volunteers were: **Richard and Takako Thompson, Sandie Stoutenburg, Ruth Crockett, Lorien Pelletier, Steven Okumura, Matt Schlechte, Betty Beringer, Nelda Peterson, Turro Wongkaren**, and 13 of the LHS Senior class under the leadership of **Kyle Kurata**. Supervising the nativity work was **Janelle** and her son **Chuck Dryden**. Thanks to all those who so willingly gave up their Saturday morning.

Special Voters Meeting. On **Sunday February 6**, immediately following the worship service, we will hold a special voters meeting to consider two amendments to the synod's by-laws. These two recommended amendments grew out of the last convention. Please plan to attend.



Photo:
Star-advertiser

Farewell to Robert Baldwin Ebert. On December 22 **Robert (Bob) Ebert**, a long time member and founding member of ORLC, died at his home at age 98. Bob regularly attended services until a few months ago, when his health prevented his attendance. He was originally from Wisconsin, where he joined the US Army in WWII. He became a combat photographer in Burma. After wounding his hand he was sent to Honolulu for recovery and remained here. Later in 1945 as a Stars and Stripes photographer he photographed the Japanese surrender on the USS Missouri. Bob was the Chief photographer for the Honolulu Star Bulletin and retired as a Hawaii State Safety Engineer. In 1946 his photograph of a returning soldier being embraced by his father was submitted for a Pulitzer Prize. The photograph was removed from competition due to anti-Japanese sentiment. Bob’s leadership in establishing ORLC also

was evident when as a member of the board he established Hawaii Pacific University.

Bob Ebert is buried at the National Memorial Cemetery at Punchbowl. He is survived by his son Anthony, and daughters Nancy, Judith, and Elizabeth, ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Elizabeth and Judith both attended ORLS. Many friends and members of ORLC will long remember the contributions he made to our church and to our community, and we praise God for having had him in our midst.

Our Sympathy at the death of **Leah Schroeder**, granddaughter of **Susan Schroeder**. Each little child is precious to the Lord. Leah Schroeder, not yet seven years old passed away on the first of January. From birth, she experienced major health issues. Leah and her twin sister, Caitlin were born to Ralph and Jana Schroeder on 25 March 2004. Her grandmother and Leah's uncle **Mark** and aunt **Rica** will join the family in Kailua for the funeral and burial. We pray for the family as God strengthens and showers them with His love.

RIP. ORLC member **Berna 'Jeane' Yamamoto** died in the Lord on Saturday, January 8. Her body was donated to the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii at Manoa. Jeane leaves behind two daughters and two grandsons. Blessed are those who die in the Lord.

Marathon. Wow! Double wow! **Eddie Bruhnke** just broke his own record. In 2010 he finished his 12th Marathon. His total of miles run in 2010 was 2,188.3. If you haven't guessed that is quite a record considering that at least a month of that time he was on the mainland not running at all. The 2,188.3 miles is further than from Boise, Idaho to the middle of Atlanta, Georgia. Congratulations Eddie! Well done!

Collection of Used Eyeglasses. The Lutheran High School Leo Club is assisting the Lions Clubs International by collecting used eyeglasses. If you have a pair lying around the house, please consider contributing them to the cause. They can be dropped off at the LHS office. Thanks.

The **LHS Zippy's Benefit sale** is the month of February. This year there are several options: Chili: original, no bean, vegetarian; Portuguese bean soup; Meat sauce; Napoleon's bakery cookies: peanut butter, oatmeal raisin, chocolate chip. Tickets are \$7 and valid for two months after the expiration date on the ticket.

This month's **Lutheran High School Sunday**, a monthly event where faculty members worship together at one of LCMS' churches at Oahu, falls on February 13. Trinity Lutheran Church will be the host.

**A benefit concert for
the Lutheran High School of Hawaii**



Roland Cazimero and Friends

Friday, February 11

7:30pm

Hawaii Theater

A \$5 discount for LHS family and friends is available if you tell the box office when you call.

Price: \$75, \$60, \$45 (plus \$3 restoration fee).

Please, no children age 3 and under.

Call and charge by phone Tuesday through Saturday, 9 am until 5 pm. Hawaii Theatre, 1130 Bethel Street, Honolulu, Hawaii.

February Focus for River of Life. Thanks so much for all the donations to help the homeless that visit River of Life and also those who are poor but still trying to maintain a home. Every donation is greatly appreciated. In February we will focus on starch of all kinds, Such as potatoes, macaroni, and rice. Any cash donations should be put in an envelope and labeled River of Life and put in the collection plate. River of Life continues to be the only faith-based mission of its kind that does not receive funds from the state or city/county. Thanks again.

Prayer Request from Carol Halter - Hong Kong. Deaconess Carol Halter writes "I have a special prayer request for a non-Christian lady and many others like her. She is a relative of one of our church members, is not in good health and has not been able to sleep. She sought help from different people at the local Chinese temple. They sold her paper charms with directions that she should burn them, mix the ashes in water, and then drink the water. Other charms she was to fold and hang all over her house.

The temple lady also told her that three of the bricks in her kitchen are demonic-possessed and that her kitchen door faces the wrong direction and the way to solve this problem is to do major reconstruction so that the kitchen door opens to the east. To make matters worse, all this kind of activity has frightened her little 10-year-old son who does not like to come home and see all these things

happening. When he is at home he is afraid, aimlessly runs all around the house and refuses to eat.

Please pray that this lady will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ so that she can find her refuge and strength in Him (Psalm 46:1)"

There are so many others like her that need our prayers.



"On  the
Wilder
Side"

Aloha Everyone!

It's "Bees" time (Geography and Spelling, that is). After chapel on Wednesday January 12, we had our annual **Geography Bee**. The grades involved were 4th through 8th (the 3rd graders stay to watch so they know "what to expect" next school year when they advance to 4th grade). And the championship round question that determined the 2011 Geography Bee winner was "Africa's highest peak is part of a national park in Tanzania. Name this mountain!" (Do

you know the answer?). **Sean Kinel** (grade 8) knew it was Kilimanjaro so he is our Geography Bee winner this year. Sean has already taken a 70-question test that is on it's way to Washington DC to be scored. If he does well enough, he will be invited to compete in the State Geographic Bee in April. **Jensen Doi** (grade 8) came in second place and **Jasmine Lee** (grade 7) came in third place. Congratulations to these fine students---we are very proud of them!



On Thursday, January 20, representatives from third through eighth grades (students who had won their grade level "class bees") took part in our annual **Spelling Bee**. **Courtney Bynum** (grade 8) took first place and **Carter Kawai** (grade 8) was runner up. Both of them will take part in the Regional Spelling Bee. Congratulations to both of you--- we're very proud of you!

On Friday, January 14 the "**S Force**" (a.k.a. Student Council) hosted **Sunset on the Playground**. They showed a double feature. The movies were: "A Bug's Life" and "Despicable Me." Admission was free, but they sold refreshments.

On Thursday, January 27 students in Kindergarten and First Grade celebrated **the 100th Day of School**. Each student had to bring in a project of 100 items or bring in 100 items. They were put on display in the Multi-Purpose room during the morning hours (prior to lunch). Have you ever seen 100 mustard seeds taped to an index card? Do you know 100 ways to say/ write hello?



Scholastic Book Fairs

That's a "recap" of January; so, now on to February...

There will be a **Scholastic Book Fair** the week of February 7-10... **Crunch Bars** will be delivered to students (who pre-ordered them) on February 11(just in time for Valentines' Day.

This fundraiser is being sponsored by the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). Students began taking orders on Wednesday, January 26... On Thursday, February 17 there will be a **Free Dress Day**. This activity is sponsored by the "S Force". Students donated \$3.00 each to participate. The money is donated to a worthy cause... It's Third Quarter so that means that on Friday, February 18 we will be having **Parent Teacher Conferences**. Wow; this school year is "speeding by rapidly!"

Have a "Fabulous February!"

God's Peace,
Principal Alle

Focus of the Month: Wendy Pung



Wendy (Nee Suzuki)

Pung was born and raised in Honolulu, the second of three daughters of a Japanese carpenter and his stay-at-home wife. Her childhood was not a normal one as she was sickly and then handicapped by a bad hip from the age of 11.

With the grace of God, His never ending blessings and the first of many surgeries, she was able to graduate from Kaimuki High School, attended UH Manoa, married her high school classmate **Andy**, gave birth to two beautiful daughters, Tara and Kelly, and worked for the Federal Government for 10 years.

The religion of the typical Japanese family in the 1950's was a combination of Buddhist and Shinto traditions, so Wendy had no clue what a Lutheran was. Her conversion and subsequent baptism in the Church was a result of her children attending Our Savior Lutheran School in Aiea.

After moving from the Pearl City area to Hawaii Kai in 1988, the children began attending Our Redeemer Lutheran School and they transferred their membership to ORLC.

The past 25 years has truly been an adventure—Andy's dream of owning his own business became a reality when the full-service gas station on the corner of Monsarrat and Campbell Avenues at the foot of Diamond Head became Andy's Texaco Service. The whole family worked pretty much 24/7 at the station, pumping gas and servicing the customers. In 2004, the business downsized into just a repair facility in Kalihi, where Wendy now helps Andy out with all the paperwork.

Since becoming a member at Our Redeemer, Wendy has served as Treasurer, Financial Secretary, member of the Lutheran High School Association's Board of Directors (as its Secretary for most of her term), Sunday School Teacher, Board of Fellowship member, Communications Committee member and Choir member.

When not at her husband's shop, she is babysitting her granddaughters Haylee (age 6) and Chiara (2), attending UH football or Men's basketball games (as a die-hard fan) or just "vegging out" at home with their 3 dogs.

Andy's and her passion for UH sports has taken them traveling to the Holiday Bowl in 1992 and the Sugar Bowl in 2007. She is also a "foodie" (a result of coming from a family of good cooks) with a massive collection of

cookbooks and recipes, and a big fan of "Law and Order" type dramas on TV. ■

February Birthdays. **1** Jerry Bruhnke, **1** Diana Kunz, **2** Paris Bile, **4** Clara Ventzke, **4** Masami Lachmann, **5** Paul Tirbak, **6** Troy Tirbak, **7** Karl Bachman, **9** Rachel Lum, **16** Doreen Chang, **16** Don Lubitz, **18** Elynore Hambleton, **22** Michael Riess, **25** Kona DeLude.

Anniversary. **4** Willie & Rianna Williams, **6** Andrew & Wendy Pung, **6** Dan & Marilyn Secretario, **14** Gary & Sharon Shinno

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.



Readings

February 6

Isaiah 58:3-9 | Psalm 112
1 Corinthians 2: 1-16 | Matthew 5:13-20

February 13

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 | Psalm 119: 1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9 | Matthew 5:21-37

February 20

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 | Psalm 119: 33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-13 | Matthew 5:38-48

February 27

Isaiah 49:8-16 | Psalm 115
1 Corinthians 4:1-13 | Matthew 6:24-34

“...these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.” **1 Corinthians 2: 10-11**



Our Redeemer
Lutheran Church
Connecting People to Jesus

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1 4:30p Communications Task Force 6:30p Board of Education Jerry Bruhnke's birthday Diana Kunz's birthday	2 Paris Bile's birthday	3 6p Choir	4 Clara Ventzke's birthday Masami Lachmann's birthday W& R Williams' anniversary	5 Paul Tirbak's birthday
6 5 th Sunday after Epiphany 9a Worship with communion 10:30a Voters Assembly Troy Tirbak's birthday A&W Pung's anniversary D&M Secretario's anniversary	7 Karl Bachman's birthday	8 6:15p Board of Directors	9 Rachel Lum's birthday	10 6p Choir	11 7:30p Roland Cazimero Concert	12
13 6 th Sunday after Epiphany 9a Worship with communion 10:30a Christian education	14 Valentine's Day G&S Shinno's anniversary	15 4:30p Finance Committee	16 Doreen Chang's birthday Don Lubitz's birthday	17 6p Choir	18 Elynore Hambleton's birthday	19
20 7 th Sunday after Epiphany 9a Worship with communion 10:30a Christian education	21 President's Day	22 Michael Riess's birthday	23	24 6p Choir	25 Kona DeLude's birthday	26
27 8 th Sunday after Epiphany 9a Worship with communion 10:30a Christian education	28	1	2	3	4	5

Serving February 2011

Worshipcare: Richard & Takako Thompson (primary), Sharon Shinno (backup)

	February 6	February 13	February 20	February 27
	9:00a	9:00a	9:00a	9:00a
Communion Assistants	Richard Thompson Turro Wongkaren	Peter Tirbak Stephen Okumura	Sharon Shinno David Lau	Peter Tirbak Turro Wongkaren
Ushers	Lester Pelletier David Lau	Paul Tirbak William Schriefer	Lester Pelletier William Schriefer	David Lau Paul Tirbak
Acolyte	Jack Dotson	Troy Tirbak	Leilani Delude	Paris Bile
Altar Flowers	Karl Bachman	Charlie Fox		
Reading 1 (lector)	Isaiah 58:3-9 Psalm 112 Doreen Chang	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119: 1-8 Richard hompson	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 Psalm 119: 33-40 Richard Lachmann	Isaiah 49:8-16 Psalm 115 Takako Thompson
Reading 2 (lector)	1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Marcy Reginelli	1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Peggy Pridgeon	1 Corinthians 3:10-13 Christian Schroppel	1 Corinthians 4:1-13 Wendy Pung
Reading 3	Matthew 5:13-20	Matthew 5:21-37	Matthew 5:38-48	Matthew 6:24-34

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

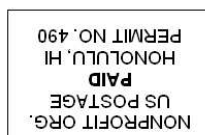
2428 Wilder Ave., Honolulu HI 96822, Ph. (808) 945-7765, Fax. (808) 944-1414, Email: bjalle@redeemer.org, Website: www.orls-hi.org



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

Return Service Requested



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
1404 University Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96822