

The Ringer

MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 5



“When Jesus^[a] had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; ²and there was a leper^[b] who came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.” ³He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I do choose. Be made clean!” Immediately his leprosy^[c] was cleansed. ⁴Then Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.” Matthew 8:1-4

It seems like in this difficult time we have very little choice. Your brand of ketchup, or pop, or toilet paper might be out at the store. Your favorite restaurant may not have drive up. We can't go to the places we want; we can't see the people we want. It is hard. We are a nation built on many, many choices in our day to day life. We pride ourselves in that. And it is in many respects good. Now our choices are being limited by a virus that has affected even the most mundane choice and hurt individuals and communities harshly. The choices that we have been given by authorities don't at some level seem fair. Why do I have to stay in when I am not sick? Why should my business suffer because of this illness...can't we just risk it? But we have seen how my choice can in the grand scheme hurt or even kill my neighbor. As Christians we above all should not want to do that. So again our choices are limited for a time. We have reports that hope might be down the road a bit. And again we as Christians above all are a hopeful people.

This notion of unlimited choice gets into our understanding of God as well. We hear preachers declaring “Choose God, Choose Christ”. But as the scripture quoted above shows, among others, it is the other way round. The Leper was living in a hopeless, isolated situation. The authorities, not just for a few weeks or months, but for centuries had “quarantined” people with this disease. You were cut off and you had to practice social distancing in the extreme. (In medieval times you were required even to wear special distinctive clothing and ring a bell to warn people you were coming.) Six feet would have been considered too close in Jesus's day. The leper though decides to break the boundaries and approach Jesus: “Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.” Jesus you see even goes further stretching out his hand and actually touching an untouchable! And he said “I do choose! Be made clean!” Do you see who has done the choosing? Yes, it is Christ. Christ was God's beautiful choice to save all of us. Christ comes to the hopeless, the choiceless, and touches us. In this difficult time remember that as you recall being part of the Body of Christ. No matter how much distance the world puts upon us, we are one and ever close in our Savior, our Cleanser, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Council News

Council Highlights for April

- ♦ The council approved that the Property & Outreach Boards move forward with the purchase of a pan-tilt-zoom camera (PTZ camera). This is a camera that is capable of remote directional and zoom control and will be permanently mounted in the sanctuary. This will assist Pastor in recording services to stream online during this time of quarantine. The boards will apply for funding from the Memorial Fund and the Church Foundation.
- ♦ Redeemer applied for the government Paycheck Protection Plan and we were notified by the bank that we were approved. The loan will be used to help stabilize the church payroll. Thank you to our church treasurer, Rick Henderson, for applying for this.
- ♦ The council worked to connect more deeply with the congregation the last few weeks of April. We all tried to reach members by phone to check in and see if there was anything we could do to help during this difficult time that we are all going through. If you weren't contacted and need assistance, please don't hesitate to call a council member or the church office. The church is still here for everyone and we will do what we can to help our members, even if we can't gather together. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again soon!!

Council Meeting Minutes are available to read on the Council Bulletin Board and in the office.

Council Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month



Budget Information

Treasurer's Report

Income \$130,326.16

Budgeted Income \$290,400.00

Total Expense \$76,234.16

Budgeted Expense \$298,375.00

Mortgage Balance \$373,316.46



Redeemer News

Needs of the Month

The needs of the Salina Rescue Mission for May 2020 include:

Hand Sanitizer
Allergy Meds
Cough Drops
Dry Cereal
Canned Fruit
Razors
Toilet Paper



This helps to feed and care for the hungry and homeless, it also stretches our general fund dollars. Please help; donations can be dropped off anytime at the Salina Rescue Mission at 1716 Summers Road in Salina, or call us at 785-823-2610.

For more information go on-line to www.salinarescuemission.com



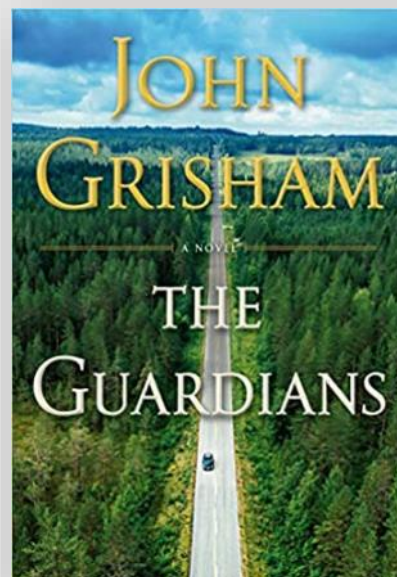
Committee Chairs, please email Becky with the list of members sitting on your committee. Indicate which is Council Liaison as well.

Thank you!



May 19
The Guardians
by John Grisham
Host: Janis Plumer
Leader: Larry Strahan

Pageturners meets
the 3rd Tuesday of
the Month at 4:00.



Earth Day celebrates 50 years

Don't Forget about the Trees

April 22 was the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Amid all the (online) celebrations of this big event, Arbor Day on April 24 went largely unnoticed. But Matthew Sleeth, a Christian author, hopes we'll give a little thought to trees this spring. Here are some excerpts from an article he wrote for the *Washington Post*.



Christians should get busy planting and protecting trees worldwide.

Did you know that trees are mentioned more times in the Bible than any living thing other than God and people? There is a tree on the first and last page of the Bible, and one stands by every important character and theological event in scripture. Even if you are unfamiliar with Charles Spurgeon, Martyn Lloyd-Jones and others from the last generation who taught on the Bible's trees, you may have encountered the fictional works of George MacDonald, J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. Their tree theology is derived from the Bible. Good guys plant and protect trees. In contrast, bad guys are clear-cutters of ancient forests. Ever notice that in the book of Revelation, heaven is a place where gold is used for asphalt, but a leaf from the Tree of Life "heals the nations"?

Remember, Isaiah tells us to be "oaks of righteousness" (61:3).



None of us has any idea if citizens 100 years from today will be living in blue states, red states, green states or some altered state that we cannot yet imagine. What we do know is that the next generations will need clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and green trees to walk under.

Matthew Sleeth is the executive director of *Blessed Earth* and author of *"Reforesting Faith: What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us."*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2019/04/22/earth-day-christian-case-embracing-hippy-holiday/>

How the Virus Stole Easter

By Kristi Bothur

(with a nod to Dr. Seuss)

'Twas late in '19 when the virus began
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.
The people were sick and the hospitals full,
Businesses shuttered, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring,
The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.
People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced and cleaned.

April approached and the churches were closed.
"There won't be an Easter" the whole world supposed.
"No sunrise services; egg hunts are out;
No need for new dresses when we can't get about."

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.
The world was all focused on masks and on tests.
"Easter can't happen this year," it proclaimed.
"Online and at home, it just won't be the same."

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.
The world woke on Sunday and nothing had changed.
The virus still menaced, and folks were estranged.

"So much for the saints," you could hear the world grumbling.
"They're finding out now that no Easter is coming.
They're just waking up, and we know what they'll do:
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
And then all the saints will all cry out, 'Boo-hoo!'
That noise will be something, quite something to hear."
So the world paused and put up a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound ringing forth through the skies.
It started down low and continued to rise.
But it wasn't forlorn—why, this sound was triumphant!
It couldn't be so! But it grew with abundance.

The world stared around, nearly popping its eyes.
Then it shook: what it saw was a shocking surprise!
Every saint in all nations, the tall and the small,
Was rejoicing in Jesus in spite of it all!

COVID hadn't stopped Easter from coming. It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same.
It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money.

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.
"Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

And what happened then?
Well....the story's not done.
What will YOU do?
Will you share with that one
Or two or more people the hope that you know?
Will you share Jesus' love and help it to grow?

The churches are empty—but so is the tomb,
And Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.
So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,
As the virus still rages around everywhere:

May the world see true hope when it looks at God's people.
May the world see the church is not building or steeple.
May the world find Faith in Christ's resurrection;
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival,
But not only that:
Let it start a revival!

AMEN !!



Lectionary for Sundays in May

May 3 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

[Acts 2:42-47](#)

[Psalm 23:1](#)

[1 Peter 2:10-25](#)

[John 10:1-10](#)



[Jesus said:] ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

May 10 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

[Acts 7:55-60](#)

[Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16](#)

[1 Peter 2:2-10](#)

[John 14:1-14](#)



[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can

we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

May 17 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

[Acts 17:22-31](#)

[Psalm 66:8-20](#)

[1 Peter 3:13-22](#)

[John 14:15-21](#)



[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Lectionary for Sundays in May

May 24 — 7th Sunday of Easter

[Acts 1:6-14](#)

[Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35](#)

[1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11](#)

[John 17:1-11](#)

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."



May 31 — Day of Pentecost

[Acts 2:1-21](#)

[Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#)

[1 Corinthians 12:3b-13](#)

[John 20:19-23](#)

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."



Worship at Home



Partners in Ministry

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Shaffer, Rod & Rosemary Anderson

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY 8:00 SERVICE

	May 1	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Greeters					
Communion					
Lector					
Sound					
<div> <p>For now we will not assign Partners in Ministry for May, but play it by ear day to day. We will keep all informed via Redeemer's website at www.redeemer-elca.org or on Redeemer's Facebook page. News will be sent out via Realm as well. Those who do not have email will be contacted via postal mail.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> </div>					
<h3>PARTNERS IN MINISTRY 10:30 SERVICE</h3>					
Greeters					
Ushers					
Communion					
Lector					
Sound					
Fellowship					

Women's Life Group will not meet again until June, at which time it will pick up same time, same place. At Redeemer 1:15 p.m.

**Thank you,
Anna Prockish**



TO OUR REDEEMER FAMILY,

We have loved being Redeemer Lutheran Church members since 1976! What a wonderful place to worship, raise a family, and make lasting friendships. We have loved the Pastors—Gearhart, Berka, Combs-Lay, Klein, Hawkins, Strommen, and our interim Pastor Monson. We will miss the choirs and bells we have sung and played with, and the talented directors: Our next destination is Kansas City to be closer to family. We've missed seeing our friends in Church during the Pandemic, but will keep all of you in our hearts and prayers. We would like to encourage all to pledge to the Mortgage Reduction Campaign for the future of Redeemer. Much love to all of you, and thanks for making us feel so welcomed at Redeemer!

**In Christ's love,
Larry and Pam Strahan**



In the News

VOLUNTEERS SEW MASKS TO DONATE

By Jean Kozubowski



Special to *The Salina Journal*, published April 7, 2020

In north-central Kansas, a few hundred sewing machines are turning out protective face masks. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was already in short supply before Friday, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that everyone who goes out in public wear a face mask because of the risk of the coronavirus.

"What I've seen is people really want to help," said **Noni Strand**, head of chaplaincy at Salina Regional Health Center. "People really want to be part of the solution." The solution is people sewing face masks and delivering them to hospitals, care homes and individuals who need them, free of charge.

"We have so many volunteers, and they're beautiful works of art," Strand said. "People just want to help. It's just so heartwarming." Last week, Strand had more than eighty volunteers on her list, but some of those are working with groups. The costume designer at Salina Community Theatre, for example, is working with a group of professional seamstresses and making masks out of canvas, she said. SHRC issued a call for volunteers on March 23. A week later, hundreds had been delivered. "I lost count," Strand said. "It's amazing."

The first week or two, the masks were sewn out of recycled surgical blue wrap. Blue wrap is a plastic fabric also used in reusable shopping bags. It's tough, it doesn't ravel, it filters well, and it can be autoclaved for sterilization, Strand said. "Plus, we can recycle," she said. But most of the stock has been used, she said, so SRHC is also taking fabric masks. "We are trying to anticipate what the needs might be," Strand said. The masks should be 100 percent cotton, double-layered and with a pocket in which to insert a filter.

Lindsborg Community Hospital, among other hospitals in the SRHC family, is working with SRHC, said Betty Nelson, director of marketing and development at LCH. "PPE is hard to get," she said. "We are running short, but we are not out." Nelson said about thirty people picked up fabrics for masks, and about 150 masks have been returned so far. "We couldn't be more appreciative," she added, referring to the steep rise in PPE prices. Nelson is encouraging people to use self-ties, made of seam tape or bias tape, instead of elastic.

Elastic has become hard to find, but, as it happens, self-ties stand up better to hot water washing and dryer heat, said Jayne Daily, infection control nurse at Bethany Home, a care facility in Lindsborg. "I made about twenty-five myself, just this weekend," she said. She encourages the use of patterned fabrics. "We like colorful things," Daily said. Bethany Home asked for about 300 after Friday, when "the CDC said go for it," she said. Bethany Home has about 100 residents and 275 employees. "We imagine that in time, maybe next week, we anticipate we will need masks for the residents to wear also," she said, but right now, only employees who come within six feet of a resident will need to wear one. Employees will check in, take their temperatures and pick up a mask. When they check out, they'll leave the mask, and the laundry department will wash and get them ready for the next day, Daily said.

"We just have to think about life differently," Strand said. "It's such an unknown time, you have to be ready for whatever."

Redeemer News & More!

I feel that I am speaking for the “old folks” and those with health concerns when we say “thank you” to Pastor, Anita, and the Church Council for checking on us and offering help when needed. We know this has been a difficult time, especially for these people and any others who have offered to help. We know this, too, will pass and our God will still be with us forever! Until we all meet again in our special Redeemer Lutheran Church.

*Thank you,
Loren & Phyllis Harris*



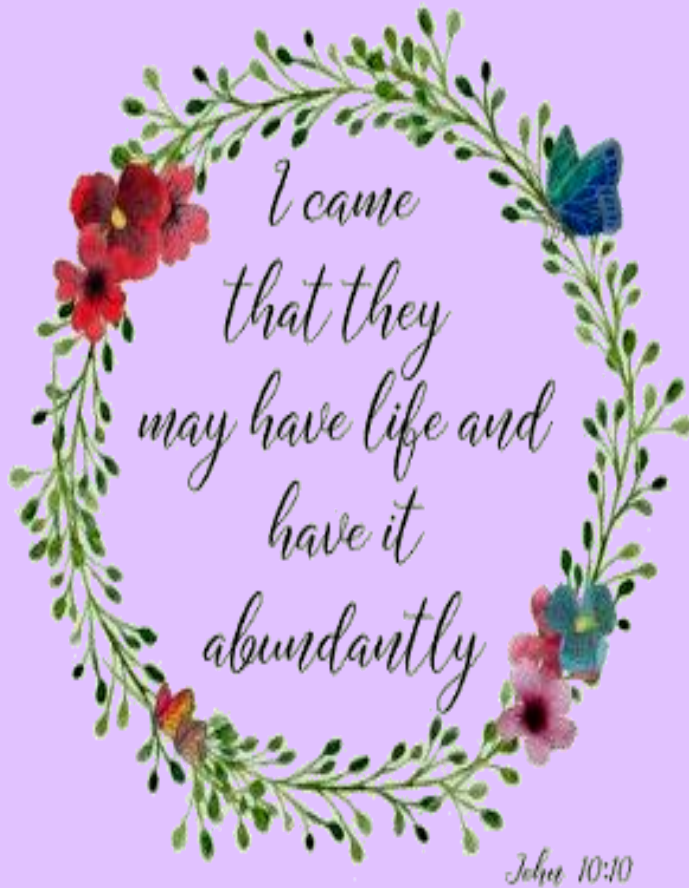
3	Grant & Kris Johanson
8	Jason & April Augustine
20	Kyle & Brenda Tonniges
21	Derrick & Larissa Dusin
26	Steve & Shellee Callahan
26	Phil & Jean Sedo
29	Scott & Cheryl Itschner

Anniversaries

Birthdays

4	Stephen Albin	20	Jean Sedo
4	Marty Holmquist	20	Easton Pickering
5	Janet Gill	20	Lyla Potter
6	Sheila Alstatt	21	Gail Weinhold
8	Paige Alstatt	22	Tim Mertz
9	Cole Nuss	22	Arlene Keil
10	Jeff Hawpe	22	Vivi Peterson
10	Amy Gronewoller	23	Madison Garrison
11	Amanda Nuss	24	Josie Hartley
14	Larry Strahan	26	Scott Itschner
15	Earl Hansen	29	Melissa McKee
17	Luke English	30	Brian Dusin

Content of the Ringer depends on you, the members of this church, for articles, photos, important dates, etc. **The June newsletter deadline is May 25th at 12:00 pm.** Information turned in after this date might not be included. The newsletter is available by email, mail or at the church.



REDEEMER LUTHERAN

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Phone: 785-827-8195
Office Hours: 9:00 - 2:00 Monday-Friday
Becky Shulda, Administrative Assistant



"Chosen by God...to love one another."



**Like Us On
Facebook!**

Find us on the web

www: redeemer-elca.org

Sunday Sermons can now be heard
on the Redeemer Website



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's Work. Our Hands.



Pastor David Strommen

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dstrommen@redeemer-elca.org

Weekly Church Events

TO BE ANNOUNCED!
Will send out weekly calendar
updates via Realm.

Organist: Ruth Mirtz

Choir Director: Ann Metcalfe

**Bell Director and
Worship Accompanist:**
Britney English

2020 Council

Alan English, President	643-4078
Kendra Albin, VP	452-0498
Kris Neff, Secretary	404-7991
Rod Anderson	492-1022
Ray Beckman	825-6551
Jody Biegert	819-4479
Tom Drown	493-1592
Charlotte Herrman	643-9445
Jan Jackson	342-5298

Treasurer: Rick Henderson

Financial Secretaries: Mike Ramage and Joe Plumer