

Te Deum

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40 Years of Grace

By Pastor Bucher

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor . . . to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18,19).

These powerful words from Isaiah 61 were read by our Lord when he visited the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth. They foretell the Ministry of the Messiah, describing what his mission would entail. Luke tells us that when he had finished reading, Jesus announced, "Today this word is fulfilled in your hearing." He was telling them that he was the Messiah of which these words spoke. His Spirit-filled Ministry had begun. *At the heart of Jesus' ministry and mission would be proclaiming good news to the poor and proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor.*

And this is what he did. Wherever he went, our Lord preached good news (gospel) to the poor in spirit--those whom the Law had convicted, who wrestled with the guilt of their sin,

Lines from LWML

Each month a bag of candies is in your mailbox, and in the bag is a message. Read the message because LWML wants to keep everyone up to date on the mission projects that were adopted at the District Convention held in June in Lexington. We are Women in Mission!

At our October 12th meeting, follow-

who knew they were deserving of God's judgment (Matthew 11:28-30). To these poor, Jesus preached the gospel that he had come into the world to save sinners (Mark 2:17). He told them that for all who repent and believe in Him (Mark 1:16), there is forgiveness for all sins (Mark 3:28), and eternal life is given as a gift (John 10:28).

Jesus also was anointed to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. In other words, with the coming of Jesus the Christ, a new age had come, one that would be marked by the Lord's favor or grace. Through Jesus, God was saying to his people and to the world, "Because of your sinfulness, you cannot meet the requirements of my holy Commandments; you cannot ascend to me. But now in the person of My Son, I have descended to you. The Son of God has become incarnate in order to keep My commandments on your behalf and suffer the punishment for your sin. What you could never have earned for yourself, I

ing a short business meeting at 6:30, we will have a hands on project...making greeting cards. Allison Hale will be our leader. If you can come, you will enjoy good fellowship and help with this project.

Thanks to all for the participation in our garage sale.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hurricane Charley Devastates Florida	3
"Well, She Was Just Seventeen"	3
A Financial and Care Inventory Saves Time and Frustration	4
Becoming a Generous Giver, Part II	5
Men's Group To Meet Monthly	5
Harvest Festival Playground Fundraiser	5
ORLC Upcoming Events	6
Focus on the Family	6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Membership photos will be taken each Sunday through October 10
- Blood drive and Harvest Festival playground fundraiser October 17
- Celebrating 40 years, October 31
- Retreat coming up November 13 at ORLC - watch for registration forms soon!

40th Anniversary

never have earned for yourself, I freely give to you, because of what he has done: forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life. I accept you not on the basis of your obedience of my Commandments but on the basis of Christ's obedience. As long as you believe in Him, you are living in the year of the Lord's favor, the age of grace" (See Romans 5:1-2, 18-21; 10:1-10; Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:1-2).

From that day until this, through His Church, Jesus has continued his ministry of proclaiming good news to the poor and the year of the Lord's favor. In no church is this more true than in the Lutheran church. For the Lutheran church is truly the church of the gospel. The Lutheran Church proclaim the gospel not merely to the unconverted, but also to the converted; for believers need the gospel as much as unbelievers.

This month Our Redeemer is celebrating its 40th anniversary. 40 years! This is no small accomplishment. Who would disagree that they have been 40 years of grace? The Lord has so richly shown his favor to Our Redeemer. 40 years of grace in which the gospel has been proclaimed to the poor in spirit. The gospel of God's grace and forgiveness in Christ permeates everything our congregation does. It comes to us in the sermon, in Baptism, the holy Supper, the reading of Scripture, holy Absolution, Liturgy, our Sunday School Classes, our Choir and hymns, our boards and groups, and in our counsel, our prayer, and our conversation with one another.

What grace God has shown Our Redeemer! Think of all the babies baptized, all the sinners absolved, all the weary strengthened, all the doubtful assured, all the discouraged encouraged, all the lost found, all the erring corrected, all the needy served, all the sorrowful comforted, all the weak empowered by grace, and all our Christian loved ones already in heaven because of our Lord's work at Our Redeemer. Through this congregation grace has been multiplied. Two LCMS churches have been planted and several sons have become Pastors. And we are currently working toward starting the first Lutheran school in Lexington. Isn't God good?! This has been a congregation that has been both

faithful and fruitful. Faithful in doctrine and fruitful in love and good works.

Our Redeemer is thoroughly Biblical and brooks no compromise because of trendy so-called wisdom. We confess the faith once for all delivered to the saints, as confessed in the ancient creeds, and taught in our Lutheran Confessions. We rejoice in the Biblical doctrine that God led Martin Luther to rediscover in the Sixteenth Century Reformation. We base all our teachings on Scripture, but we don't pretend that the Bible fell from heaven in our day. We highly value church history and the Christians who have lived before us and find in their writings much that agrees with Scripture and helps us to better understand Scripture..

Yet we equally have stressed the need to love and serve our neighbor. The blessed Gospel of grace has motivated us to love. We love because he first loved us. This congregation has cared for the needs of the body as well as the needs of the soul. We provide for one another and for the needy in our community.

On a personal note, I have to tell you, this is one very special congregation. The way you embrace visitors with the love of Christ. Your hunger for God's Word and earnestness to understand it and live it. Your willingness to serve God with your gifts, to give of your time to serve on boards, and your financial generosity. The way you love one another, pray for one another, and care about each other's sorrows as well as joys. All of this amazes me and causes me often to thank my God.

Yes, God has truly blessed Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of Lexington with 40 years of grace. And whether we are founding members or recent additions, how blessed we are to be here at such a time and place as this. If God wills it, may we continue to be recipients and instruments of his grace for many years to come. May God grant it for Jesus' sake.



Hurricane Charley Devastates Florida

On Friday afternoon, August 13, Hurricane Charley struck the Gulf Coast of Florida as a category 4 storm. Charley battered the state with winds that reached 145 mph and a 15-foot storm surge. Hardest hit were the Gulf Coast communities of Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda, which are just north of Fort Myers.



Reports of loss and damage include the following:

- 19 storm-related fatalities; hundreds of injuries
- an estimated \$11 billion in property and business damage; this estimate is likely to climb as details become clearer;
- an estimated 250,000 homes destroyed;
- eighty percent of all structures in Charlotte County, Florida have sustained severe damage;
- an estimated 11,000 people are homeless. Federal officials have received 20,000 catastrophic housing requests;
- several area hospitals have
- been destroyed or damaged.

Among those affected are LCMS church facilities and congregation members. Florida-Georgia District officials report that there have been no injuries to church members, but many have sustained dam-

age to their homes. A number of the 35 congregations in the affected area are dealing with loss of power and damage to sanctuaries, fellowship halls and schools—while at the same time working to offer as-

sistance to others in their communities. LCMS World Relief and Human Care is on the scene in Florida, working with the Florida-Georgia District, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Services Florida and other emergency management agencies to help assess damage, identify needs and develop short- and long-term response strategies.

You can help. LCMS World Relief and Human Care is accepting donations to assist people whose lives have been impacted by Hurricane Charley. Your gift designated for hurricane relief can help alleviate suffering and make a world of difference. For more information, call LCMS World Relief and Human Care, 1-800-248-1930, Ext. 1380 or 1381. †

Please designate checks “Florida Hurricanes.”

Send donations to:

LCMS World Relief/Human Care

P.O. Box 66861

St. Louis, MO 63166-9810

Credit card gift line: 1-888-930-4438

“Well She Was Just Seventeen”

Although I didn’t quite grow up in the generation of the Beatles, I did know that this was the first line from the hit “Saw Her Standing There”.



For all the younger generation who may not even know who the Beatles are, I want you to know that you just have to be seventeen to donate blood.

ORLC is hosting a blood drive Sunday, October 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You can sign up for a specific time on the table near the adult Bible classroom or you can just drop by. You will need to bring a picture ID.

Here are more interesting facts about donating:

- Anyone weighing at least 110 pounds and in good health can donate.
- There is no upper age limit
- Most medications will not exclude you from donating
- Donating blood can help up to three different people
- Someone needs blood every three seconds
- Giving blood will not decrease your strength
- One out of ten hospital patients needs blood
- 32,000 pints - amount of donated blood used each day in the United States

Please take the time to save a life! †



Don Schilling recently received a letter from Pastor Huddle in Vero Beach, FL. Pastor Huddle was our 4th minister at Our Redeemer. Copies of the letter are available on the resource table by the coffee pots.

A Financial and Care Inventory Saves Time and Frustration



Each year, thousands of Americans are thrust into the uncomfortable role of making financial and care decisions for their senior family members or untangling the financial records of that family member. The task can be time-consuming, expensive and stressful for those unprepared for this responsibility.

Fortunately, there is a simple remedy to reducing the stress connected to these crises: communication. By informing loved ones, in advance, of the location of your key financial documents as well as your care directives and wishes, you can greatly reduce the stress that your loved ones face in dealing with your illness, disability or death.

While raising the subject may create some momentary awkwardness for both parents and their adult children, it is far better for seniors to inform their children about their wishes in advance of a care crisis than to force them to guess what “mom or dad would have wanted.”

Clear communication can also eliminate the problem of not passing assets to one’s adult children because they were never aware the asset (or financial account or contract) existed. Spelling out the location of these accounts, as well as your care wishes, ensures that your loved ones have the information they need to provide for your care or handle your estate.

A Financial and Care Inventory can help your loved ones carry on in the event of your incapacitation or death. It provides loved ones with a roadmap to critical information. It is focused on the “where,” not the “what,” of your financial holdings. The inventory is not a legal document, and it need

not divulge personal or confidential details that you are not prepared to share. It should, however, enable your loved ones to quickly locate your financial, legal, care and legacy records should a crisis occur.

This inventory should be updated at least annually, and copies should be given to your loved ones, lawyer or executor -- or placed in a secure location where your loved ones can find it.

While each family’s inventory will differ, the inventory should include information related to where your loved ones can find the following:

1. Living wills/health care directives
2. Insurance contracts (health, life, long-term care, annuities, auto, homeowners, etc.)
3. Wills, trusts and deeds
4. Bank accounts and investments/investment accounts
5. Credit card accounts and outstanding debt
6. Contact information for lawyers, accountants, brokers, agents
7. Jewelry and other valuables
8. Essential keys
9. Instructions related to funeral arrangements
10. Personal instructions or messages
11. Location of birth, marriage and military discharge certificates.
12. Information related to charitable gifts.

By providing your family members with this information prior to a crisis, you can eliminate a great deal of potential stress. What better gift can you give to your loved ones than peace of mind in the midst of life’s uncertainties and troubles?



Just a note...The Hymnals are currently being rebound. In the meantime, all service hymns will be copied and distributed.



Don't forget to stop by one of the three photography stations to get your family picture taken for the membership wall and directory. Each Sunday after church through October 10. Located in the hallways on both sides of the church.

Becoming a Generous Giver, Part II

Taken from "Becoming Money Wise", Stewardship Advisors, Inc.

You give because God first gave. "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son .." (John 3:16). By nature, God is a loving and giving God. Because God is love, He gives and keeps on giving. The natural response of love is to give. Love is never close-lipped or tight-fisted. Love never asks how little must I give, but how much can I give. When you are filled with the love of God, you give.

As a steward, you become God's channel through which He can give. In order to help the needy and to support the Church, God has chosen to work through people.

He gives you enough so that your surplus will supply the needs of people and will aide in extending His kingdom here on earth. The Apostle Paul wrote, "At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality" (2 Corinthians 8:14). At times, you may be the recipient of people's gifts, and, at other times, you will be the giver of gifts.

Because you are God's channel, He will continue to

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son..."
John 3:16

provide His blessings for you so He can work through you. God promises you as His conduit that His supply won't stop. "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8). When God

opens your eyes and heart to the needs of others, you will, with God's help, make every effort to give because you will understand your function as His channel.

When you give your time and money, you are fulfilling one of His purposes for you. If you choose to close your channel and stop giving, you become a terminal rather

than a channel. As a terminal, you withhold from others what God wants them to have. In addition, you forgo the blessings that God shares with those who give faithfully.

In reality, your giving may be more accurately described as returned. Paul asked, "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7). God has already given you all that you have so you are really only returning to Him what He has given you.



Men's Group to Meet Monthly

Attention all men of the congregation...you are invited to join us for a new group fellowship and Bible study. Beginning Saturday, October 23 at 8:15 a.m. at church, we will start a second monthly men's group including breakfast, fellowship and Bible study led by Pastor Bucher.

The original second Tuesday men's breakfast and study will continue. The weekend get-togethers are

for those who are unable to make it during the week or those who are just looking for more opportunities for fellowship and Bible study.

This is a new and exciting fellowship that we hope you can experience. We're looking for a good turnout, so if you have any ideas/input, please contact Ted Fraebel or Bill Gruber.



Harvest Festival Playground Fundraiser

As the toddler playground is complete, we are still looking to add a couple more pieces of small equipment (picnic table and teeter-totter), as well as starting to prepare for the bigger kids playground for next year. With this, comes fundraisers.

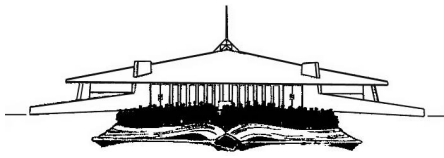


We are planning a Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 17 after service. We ask that you bring

"unpriced" harvest-themed items to sell - jams, jellies, baked goods, crafts. We will also have pumpkins and pumpkin recipe booklets for sale and some fun ways to decorate your pumpkin.

Our goal is to raise at least \$800, all of which will be matched by Thrivent. Hope you can stop by and contribute toward a great cause!





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Sunday School9:00 a.m.

Divine Service10:15 a.m.

Wednesday Service7:00 p.m.

Missouri Synod

We're on the web!
www.orlutheran.com



Please note that the church office has a new email address - update your address books!
churchoffice@orlutheran.com

ORLC Upcoming Events

- October 2 Good Shepherd's Fall Fair
- October 10 St. John's "Oktoberfest"
- October 17 Harvest Festival Fundraiser after Service
- October 17, 11:30 – 2:30: Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall
- October 23 LWML Bluegrass Zone Rally @ St. John's
- October 31 40th Anniversary Celebration
- Nov 12, 9–3:30 p.m. Retreat at ORLC

Focus on the Family

Taken from Lexington Herald-Leader, September 1, 2004

Army Pvt. William P. Jones has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Knox. During the training, the trainee received instruction in drill and ceremony, weapons, rifle marksmanship and bayonet training, chemical warfare, field training, and tactical exercises, armed and unarmed combat, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, traditions and core values. He is the son of Phillip (Randy) and Becky Jones of Lexington.



Sending a warm ORLC welcome to our newest members!
Ken and Jenny Burner
Jim and Cheri Clemons