

Good News!

February 2010

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Operation Christmas Child

The shoeboxes you filled with gifts in Nov. have arrived or will soon be arriving in Indonesia and The Philippines. They are being distributed at schools, hospitals, orphanages, and local churches. For the first time, many children around the world will be able to read the Christmas story (and share it with their families) in their own New Testament Bibles. These are being given, as part of the follow-up ministries, to children through the churches.

With your generous support, 2,500 shoeboxes from the Gorge (more than

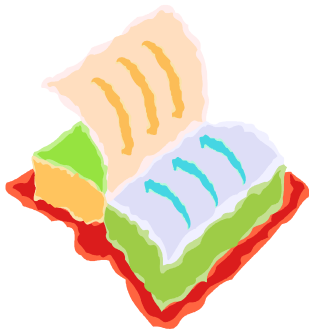
ever) were delivered to the Vancouver Collection Center. Because of this record setting participation everywhere, 8.2 million children will be reached with these tangible gifts of hope and joy! Thank you for your faithful help, year after year, packing a shoebox or contributing in some other special way to this outreach ministry which offers the Good News of Christmas. You make a personal, lasting difference in the life of a child.

And, yes, the children of Haiti will once again be receiving their own shoeboxes after the country has been stabilized.

Karen Goebel

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Sunday School

Our Sunday School program is going to pick up on Sunday February 7th after worship at around 11:15 am. We will be looking at the gospel lesson for Sunday February 21st – Jesus' temptation in the Wilderness – and learning a short drama to present in worship that morning

about that lesson. We will have Sunday School sessions on Sunday February 7th, 14th and then again on Friday evening the 19th which will also be a movie and family fun night. We hope everyone will find this schedule fulfilling.

Pastor Andy

Adult Education

Have you ever wondered how the different books of the Bible got to be in the Bible? Have you ever wondered what kind of community or time Isaiah was writing to verses Jeremiah or someone else? Do you know how many of Paul's letters in the New Testament scholars actually believe were

written by Paul? Do you have other questions about the book of faith, the Bible, that you've always been curious about? Beginning on **Sunday February 7th at 9:00am** we will start engaging some of these questions and others that you may have. We will be beginning with a general overview and then move into some of the more specific movements and histories, stories and reasons why the Bible looks the way it

does today and what that means for how we should or can understand or read it. This should be a fun class for all and we will look to engage the questions that you might have. So come, help us engage the Bible and our God as we seek to better understand this important book of faith! (This would be a great class to invite a friend to!)

Pastor Andy

A Word From Our Pastor

Pastor Andy

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our living and loving Savior Jesus Christ!

Early last month I was given an article from the December 2009 issue of Lutheran Women today. You can read the full article here ([click here](#)) but what follows are the excerpts that I thought were quite insightful and timely in our world today. It was written by a woman named Debra K. Farrington, a writer battling Multiple Sclerosis, who articulates the challenges we all face in dealing with keeping faith in times of change. Her focus is, of course, broader than just the changing realities we face at ORLC but in light of the important decisions made at the annual meeting last month her insights can be especially timely for that as well.

I hope you enjoy and find strength from these excerpts and I encourage you to read the article in its entirety.

In Peace,
Pastor Andy

Keeping the Faith in Times of Change



Over the last five years, there has been more change in my life than I can remember in any other five-year span. It started with a move to a new home. A beloved cat died, and then a second one. I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. I got engaged and then married, moved to a second new home, and became a step-parent—my first parenting experience—at age 49. Then I left my full-time job to write and lead retreats. After writing a book on living in covenant with our pets, I recognized a call to care for animals and started working in a veterinary practice. I then left that to open my own pet-sitting business a few months before the country slumped into a major recession. Then about a year later, my husband was laid off from his job, leaving us with a loss of income and our health insurance coverage.

That's enough change in my book. I've had more than enough learning experiences for now. Like the Israelites wandering the desert after fleeing their Egyptian taskmasters, I definitely have days when Egypt—despite whatever miseries it held—looks more appealing than the journey into the unknown in front of me.

Expect change to be hard.

Knowing that the twists and turns will be difficult to navigate—that they're not intended to be easy—helps me be a bit more patient with the shifting landscape. Biblical scholar Terence Fretheim, in his commentary on Exodus, wrote about how hard it was for the Hebrews to stop knowing themselves as slaves in Egypt and become, instead, the people of God. They spent 40-plus years working on that, and many of those who had lived a life of slavery never did make the transition to a new life.

Maybe the changes in my life and in yours won't be as dramatic as what the Israelites faced, but then again, they might. New ideas, new ways of doing things, and living under changing rules and circumstances will be tough. God is okay with our grouching about it sometimes, as well as with our tears and frustration, at least to a point. God listened to the Israelites worry about food and water in the desert, and God provided those things that they really needed. In the midst of our own desert journeys, we each have to watch for the manna that God provides and find the courage to take it, to stop asking to go back to Egypt, and start moving forward.



Eat, drink, sleep, and stretch.

Living in the midst of transition takes an enormous physical toll on the body. Getting through the process goes more easily if we take good care of the frame that carries us around. In the midst of changing times, pay attention to consuming healthy foods and beverages, to getting plenty of rest, and to whatever kind of exercise helps you shed stress. Subsisting on fatty and sugary food and drink, eating too much or too little, sleeping too few hours each night, and being sedentary are all guaranteed to make navigating changing circumstances more painful.



God gave the Israelites the food and water they needed, and commanded them to rest from all that walking, not only on the Sabbath, but at other times as well. It was a good prescription then and it remains so today.



Give your imagination room to play.



Reading through the book of Exodus, I get the sense that many of those trekking through the desert were walking with their heads on backwards. Every time they hit a bump in the path they bemoaned the fact that they'd ever left that "kinder and gentler" life of slavery. In the midst of forging through new and strange territory the known behind us always looks better than the unknown in front.

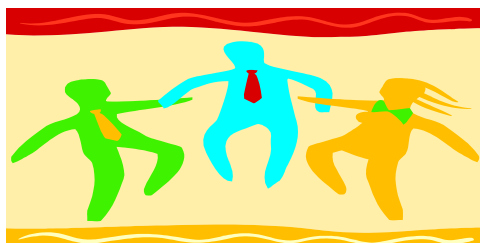
There are times when what we left was, in fact, very good. Maybe you've lost a beloved spouse or friend, or a program or service once offered at your church or other organization that you'll miss with all your heart. We need to mourn those very real losses, but there also comes a time, as Ecclesiastes 3:4 reminds us, when it's time to dance. At some point, God calls us to recognize that what is ahead of us may also be good and worthy of consideration, and even, ultimately, celebration.

The Israelites got caught in this situation at the edge of Canaan. The spies sent in to check out that land first reported that the land flowed with milk and honey, and produced good fruit. But, the spies quickly added (there's always a "but"), there were also strong people who could easily defeat the Israelites.

Caleb, one of the younger spies, asserted that any obstacles would be overcome with God's help, but the older spies continued to let their anxieties about change get the best of them. The strong people became giants that would step on the Israelites as if they were grasshoppers.

In the end, the Israelites allowed themselves to be swayed by the timid spies' exaggerated stories. Their fears about all the bad things that might happen overwhelmed the promises that God had been making to them for decades. They were not done mourning Egypt, so they could not move into the land God promised them.

Though it is challenging, one of the tasks of transitional times is to imagine what gifts the future might bring, instead of letting our fears get the best of us. ... All we really know is that God walks with us, comforting and challenging us as we journey, and that is more than enough.



**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2010**

Members Present: Randi Church, Rick Denis, Linnea Denis, Dottie Gilbertson, Pastor Andy Wendle, Kathy Terry, Patti Ludwig and Skip Fowler Absent Member: Frank Moore

Meeting was called to order by Council President Dottie Gilbertson. Devotions and prayer was let by Skip Fowler. The minutes from the December 8, 2009 council meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Rick Denis to approve the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Kathy Terry. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

An Audit will be done later this month by the audit committee.

A motion was made by Rick Denis to disperse all designated funds to the appropriate organizations. Motion was then seconded by Kathy Terry. Motion approved. Treasurer's report was reviewed and a motion was made by Rick Denis to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion was seconded by Kathy Terry. Report approved.

Old Business

Rental-ORLC will be receiving rent for 4 occupants for the month of January.

Refrigerator needs to be replaced soon per Craig Terry. A motion was made by Linnea Denis to look in to purchasing a new refrigerator for the Outreach House. Motion was seconded by Skip Fowler. Motion approved. Refrigerator has not worked well for a couple years.

New Council Members- One candidate has declined at this time but there are 2 members that are still considering joining the council. There are 2 members leaving the council with additional room for 2 more.

New Business

A group call Dual Diagnosis Anonymous of Oregon is looking for a place for their group to meet on Tuesday for 1 hour. They meet weekly from 5:00 – 6:00 pm. Once a month they would need to meet from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. They are a group that works with people with drug, alcohol and other abuses, working toward an abuse free lifestyle. A motion was made by Rick Denis to make ORLC fellowship room available to DDA. Motion was seconded by Skip Fowler. Motion approved.

Synod Gathering-The Mt Hood Cluster would like to have a Synod gathering on Feb 20, 21 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Portland. Dottie Gilbertson and Rick Denis will go to represent the council. Pastor will be looking for other members to represent ORLC at this event. It will be titled Focus on Faithfulness. See attached Synod Cluster Retreat Proposal.

Council President Report-E-mail proposal to Council

On December 14, 2009 the ORLC Council was emailed concerning the distribution of funds asking them for e-mail reply of approval or disapproval of a proposal. All of the council members were emailed and six replies were received.

A gift of \$250.00 was given to ORLC to be used for the purpose of helping someone in need. Pastor Wendle proposed that the \$250.00 plus a match of \$250.00 be taken from the Family Preservation Fund making a total of \$500.00 be given to the Hospital Emergency voucher program. Pastor had received notice from the hospital that the voucher program was short of funds.

All the e-mail replies were in favor of Pastor Wendle's proposal. \$500.00 was given to The Immanuel Hospital Emergency Voucher Fund.

Pastor's Report

Pastor has had some changes in his families schedule and would like to work at home on wed afternoons. This is when he usually works on his sermon. Council agreed to support Pastor working from home on Wednesday afternoon at this time.

Deaconess Community Grant-See attached. A way to help ORLC become more involved in the community, with groups such as Fish/Next Door partnership. Also working with Asbury Methodist Church, Soul Café and St Mark Episcopal Church, to better serve the community. A motion was made by Linnea to submit a letter of intent to the Mission Support Committee of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA. Motion was seconded by Patti Ludwig. Motion approved.

Future Possibilities for ORLC

A motion was made by Skip Fowler that ORLC open discussion with Asbury Methodist Church, Soul Café and possibly St Marks Episcopal Church to discover whether entering into a formal arrangement to provide Pastoral services between our three organizations, might better serve each of our communities. Motion was seconded by Kathy Terry. Motion was approved to the Congregational meeting. A motion was made by Rick Denis to continue to develop a partnership with The Next Door and Fish as being explored by the Future's Committee. Motion was seconded by Skip Fowler. Motion was approved to the Congregational meeting.

Budget for 2010

Budget was reviewed and amended.

Kathy Terry made a motion to approve the budget as amended. Motion was seconded by Rick Denis. Motion approved.

Annual Meeting

Pastor Andy Wendle, Linnea Denis and Dottie will work together to put agenda together. Reports and proposals will be put together by Kathy Terry and Patti Ludwig. Congregation will be asked to bring items for the annual meeting potluck.

Next Council Meeting will be February 9, 2010. Kathy Terry will do devotion and prayers.

Council President Dottie Gilbertson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Patti Ludwig
ORLC Council Secretary

Annual Meeting Highlights

Elections

Two new council persons were elected to serve on the ORLC council for the next 3 years. Rose Miller and Cheri Anderson both agreed and are willing to embrace this form of service.

Council Officers for 2010 were presented. Dottie Gilbertson and Linnea Denis will again serve in their respective positions as ORLC Chairperson and Treasurer. While Rick Denis and Kathy Terry have agreed to serve as Vice Chairperson and Secretary.

Synod assembly delegates. Kathy & Phil Yokers have agreed to be our Synod delegates for the Synod Assembly in May.

Thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve in these ways!

Old Business

One piece of business was passed and that was an undesignated financial bequest policy. If you would like to see a copy of this policy please ask the church office.

New Business

The budget for 2010 was presented and passed. This budget, proposed by the ORLC council, is conservative for the upcoming year but all are invited to help us exceed our expectations.

Council Motions

In light of the budgetary realities and of the missional needs in the Columbia River Gorge there were two significant motions made by the ORLC council that were passed at the annual meeting. The first decision was to empower the ORLC council to open discussions with Asbury United Methodist, St Mark's Episcopal and Soul Café to discover whether entering into a formal arrangement to provide for Pastoral services between our four organizations might better serve each of our communities. This motion was passed by a vote of 37-0. The second decision that was made by the congregation was to reaffirm our commitment to continue to explore the fruitfulness of partnerships with The Next Door and Fish. This motion was passed by a 36-3 vote.

Together these motions represent some challenges and opportunities for how we are going to go forward as a congregation and we invite everyone to help support these decisions by continuing to be involved and ask questions of those in leadership positions here at ORLC. Additionally, ORLC's council meetings are open meetings and everyone is invited to attend. These meetings, occurring on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm, are regularly advertised in our various publications.

Thank you to everyone who attended, helping to create a positive atmosphere for the meeting and for ORLC's life together.

Faith in Action Update

Faith in Action at ORLC has set the 5th Sunday designated giving, beginning with January 31st, which will be for LWR-Lutheran World Relief/Haiti through the ELCA. This will be additional 'special' offering for this cause, over and above our regular offering. That may be placed in an envelope and marked accordingly. Designated giving Sundays are for Global, Synodical, Regional and Local. Audio-visual aides will be presented on these Sundays.

We also began to plan our next fund raising event, which will be the Mother's Day, May 9th repeated May 16th. We would like to include more flowers, so if you have some to share, some seeds, pots, baskets [to place the flower pot plants into], mylar pot covers, we will accept donations at anytime. In addition, we are looking for persons willing to help us with this, either starting plants, transplanting, digging extra perennials from existing gardens, hauling, potting soil donations-whatever you can offer to do to help our small committee would be appreciated. Funds from this will be designated for the Green Light Project.

We are hoping to arrange an energy audit for our existing billing, which is done free of charge by the Energy Trust of Oregon, through Pacific Power. We are hoping to make some changes that will save money in the long run, and take advantage of incentives in place, as well as rebates being offered. We will keep you abreast of what happens.

Emelia will be handing out her 20 Green Light bags during one of the Food Bank days the week of January 25th. Our committee shared some of our acquired products to help her with this project. Thank you for your support.

Sharon Pantely, Chairperson

Building Usage

Please note: We now have three different anonymous group meetings that occur here at ORLC on a weekly basis. On Sundays and Thursdays at 7:30 we have a Narcotics Anonymous group that meets for one hour and then on Tuesdays we have a Dual Diagnosis group that meets from 5-6pm. Please plan accordingly or inquire if you need our space for some reason. Each of these groups help us welcome and reach out to communities and people who are in need.



Help Wanted!!! We need a smart and savvy person who might help us get noticed in the Hood River News, The Enterprise and at public, religious, private events around town. We are looking for someone who might help highlight the varied and impactful ministries ORLC engages on a daily basis. This person would help bring to light the ways in which we would love for our community to join us in these activities/ministries/reflections of the gospel of Jesus Christ come to life! If this sounds like something you would like to do please see Pastor Andy for a fuller job description and help our brothers and sisters in our community know about the good things that are going on here!!!

ASBURY METHODIST INVITATION

Our Redeemer Lutheran has had two very meaningful and enjoyable encounters with Asbury Methodist in December. Most of us who took part agreed that our church life is enhanced with this sharing of mutual gifts and friendship.

Asbury Methodist has now invited Our Redeemer congregation to come to their church on

Sunday, February 14 following our worship. To celebrate Valentine's Day and enjoy a mini "Mardi Gras" before Lent begins that week, they will host a pancake/sausage/egg lunch at **12 noon**, followed by an informal sing-a-long.

Audrey Bentz

Special Worship Opportunity

On **Wednesday February 17th** we will recognize and celebrate Ash Wednesday. This service, celebrated by millions of Christians around the world, reminds us not only of our own mortality but also our inability to earn God's favor on our own and thus our dependence and need of a savior. We gather on this evening to mark our foreheads with a visible sign of these two things. Gather with us 7:00pm on this evening and let us seek our source and norm in worship as we begin to journey with Jesus to the cross where God brought about the salvation of the whole world. This is a powerful service for friends and kids alike as the symbols and ritual of the evening make the event very real and palpable. "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Pastor Andy



SERVICE & CINNAMON ROLLS

As was discussed and presented at the annual meeting we will be shifting our Lenten focus this year from midweek opportunities for learning and formation to Saturday morning opportunities, "Service and Cinnamon Rolls." Our first opportunity to do this will be **Saturday February 27th** as we look to engage The Next Door in a service opportunity. We will meet at **ORLC at 9:00am** for some rolls and a devotion and then depart by 9:30 for our service opportunity. At the time of printing we have not confirmed exactly what that will be but we will let everyone know as soon as we can. Please look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex of the church as we celebrate our Lenten time of renewal and recommitment through service.

Pastor Andy

On February 20th leaders from the various congregations in the Mt. Hood cluster will gather at Gethsemane Lutheran Church to discuss with our various synodical leaders the missional needs and realities we face in our own communities. This opportunity is open to anyone from ORLC who might wish to attend. Ideally we would like to have at least 5 people attend from our congregation. If you are interested in this opportunity please talk to Pastor Andy about the details of the event. Thank you.

We are excited to welcome **Janet Hamada** to ORLC on **Sunday February 28th** to speak about The Next Door Inc and all of the wonderful things that they do in our community. During worship that morning she will highlight not only their organization but also some of the wonderful program and people that they engage in our area. Please come that day and help us welcome this important leader from the Columbia Gorge community.

Cindy Morus has put her house at 3466 Avalon Drive in Hood River on the market. She'd appreciate it if you'd pass the word to anyone you know who's house hunting! Remember, if they haven't owned a home in 3 years, they may qualify for \$8,000 in tax credits. If they have owned a home (such as someone divorcing or moving to the area), they may qualify for a \$6500 tax credit. Thanks.

Cindy

Worship Assignments

If you find that you cannot serve on the date you are listed, please make arrangements for a substitute.

| 2010 | Feb 7 | Feb 14 | Feb 21 | Feb 28 | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Asst Minister | Kris White | Cindy Morus | | Debby Chenoweth | |
| Lector | Bob Havig | Sharon Pantely | Jennifer Fowler | Marlene Lahti | |
| Acolyte | | | Ethan Fowler | | |
| Greeter/Usher | Marlene Lahti | Rose Miller | Rick Denis | Bob & Kris White | |
| Altar Care | Debby | Chenoweth | and | Linnea Denis | |
| Coffee Hour | Rose Miller | Sharon & George Pantely | Evi Kujula | Dottie Gilbertson | |
| Flowers | Blanche Donahue | George Bentz | | Jennifer Fowler | |

Nursery will be staffed weekly

Committees, Councils, and Meetings of ORLC

Church Council

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7pm

2009 Members :

Dottie Gilbertson (President), Rick Denis (V.P.),
Kathy Terry (Sec.), Randy Church, Frank Moore

Financial Officers:

Linnea Denis (Treasurer), Jennifer Fowler (Fin. Sec.)

WELCA

Kathy Rice & Kathy Terry (Co-Presidents),
Roberta Schweller (Treas.) Blanche Donahue (Sec.)

Worship Committee

Contact Audrey Bentz for meeting times

Evangelism Comm.

Contact Don Shalhope for meeting times

Faith in Action

Contact Pastor Sharon Pantely for times

Mutual Ministry

Contact Pastor Andrew Wendle for times

Women's (WELCA) Bible Study

4th Tuesday of each month
Check calendar for location

Down Manor Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:00am

Quilting

1st and 3rd Wednesdays
At 9:00am, Fellowship Hall



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|----------|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 10:00 Down Manor Bible Study | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9:00 Adult Ed 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sun. Schl | 8 | 9 7pm Council Meeting | 10 10:00 Down Manor Bible Study Pastor Andy Afternoon home | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:00 Adult Ed 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Sun. Schl | 15 President's Day Office Closed | 16 | 17 10:00 Down Manor Bible Study 7pm Ash Wed Service | 18 | 19 Sunday School Family Night | 20 Synod Gathering In Portland |
| 21 9:00 Adult Ed 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship | 22 | 23 7pm Women's Bible Study | 24 10:00 Down Manor Bible Study | 25 | 26 | 27 9am Service & Cinnamon Rolls |
| 28 9:00 Adult Ed 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Guest speaker Janet Hamada | | | | | | |

- * Study at Down Manor 10:00 on Wednesdays
- Women's Quilting is the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall of the Church at 9:00am
 - Narcotics Anonymous, Sundays & Thursdays from 7:30-8:30 in the Fellowship Hall
 - Cleaning on first and third Saturdays

*In case of emergency of if you are in need of pastoral care, please contact
Pastor Andrew Wendle at 541-490-6703.*

God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true—
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs, *poemsource.com*

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: **February Newsletter submissions** :
: Due: February 21, 2010 Send to: :
: orlc@gorge.net :
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