

Good News!

February 2011

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Faith in Action/ Green Light Project ORLC

ORLC Faith in Action committee had a meeting January 17th to outline our plans for the upcoming 6 months. We discussed two efforts that we will begin again, and we will finish our Green Light Bag distribution.

Our special giving Sundays have been pre-designated rather than choosing the 5th Sunday, as often there is a conflict. Our first Sunday will be **February 13th** when you will have the opportunity to give from the heart to support **Lutheran World Relief**. With one of the lowest overhead of benevolent organizations, money helps where it should, and we can be proud of our church effort to keep it going in difficult financial times. These offerings are over and above your usual offering to ORLC.

Last year, ORLC began a Lenten "Service and Cinnamon Roll" Saturday community outreach. Three Saturdays have been designated for this effort again: **March 12 and 26** and **April 9**. Outreach efforts have

not been selected, but if anyone has a suggestion, please discuss it with a member of the committee, or Pastor Andy when he returns from leave. Instead of Lenten Bible Study, we are offering to serve our community as a way of commemorating the pensive season.

In addition, we are thinking ahead to our plant sale, and have set the dates for **May 1 and 8**. If anyone would like to contribute by donating extra plants from their yard, or would start vegetable plants at home, you are welcome to do so. Questions can be directed to the committee.

Our **Green Light Bag** distribution continues, and 16 bags were given to appreciative recipients at the Bingen/White Salmon food bank right before the snow storm January 11th. We hope to distribute more in Parkdale soon.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Feb. 14 at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall**. We are still recruiting new members!

Sharon Pantely

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A Word From Our Pastor

Pastor Andy

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

Ahhh, February. The month of amore! In honor of this month (and because I'm on parental leave at the moment) I offer you a meditation on Valentine's Day. Enjoy!

As you might have guessed Valentine's Day, or more properly St. Valentine's Day, does have some Christian origins. However these origins, like many within our world and lives, are convoluted at best. The name Valentine most likely comes from an early Catholic priest named, appropriately enough, Priest Valentio. Not much is known about this priest or even whether there was such a priest. The best guess is that he was either an early priest in Rome, a bishop of Terni (a town in Italy) or a martyr in a Roman province in Africa. In either case a day honoring him first appears in 496. That year an act by Pope Gelasius I set forth February 14th as a date to honor Valentine among those "whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God."

From 496 on St. Valentine's day toiled in relative obscurity. It wasn't until 1260 that St. Valentine was given more prominence in the Latin *Legenda Aurea*. There Valentine was described as an early Christian priest persecuted by none other than Roman Emperor Claudius II himself. According to the *Legenda Aurea*, a study of the Saints published by [Jacobus de Voragine](#), Claudius was impressed by Valentine and tried to convert him to paganism and when Valentine refused he was executed but not before healing the blind daughter of one of his jailers. St. Valentine's Day then remained a feast day in the Catholic Church until the Second Vatican Council in 1969.

And yet as exciting as that story is, it has absolutely nothing to do with the sentimental version of Valentine's Day that we celebrate on February 14th and I doubt that any of that would sell very many cards or flowers. So where did all that come from?

Well, since the time of 1260 and the publication of the *Legenda Aurea* the story has of course, like all good stories are, been embellished. Valentine came to be thought of as a priest who opposed the Roman law that required soldiers to be single. Valentine, out of his belief that this was against God's will, supposedly performed marriages for young men in secret thus defying Roman law for the sake of amore! And when this was found out Claudius threw him in jail where the rest of the events then unfolded. (Note: There is one more embellishment that was added much later which said that Valentine apparently fell in love with the daughter of the jailer he healed and sent her the very first valentine card on the day he was executed, February 14th, signed "From your Valentine.")

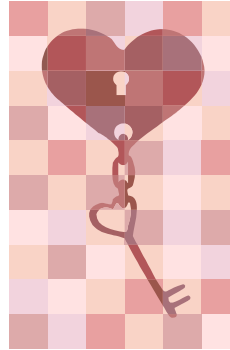
So there you have it, the convoluted origins of Valentine's Day. So send your cards, give your flowers and remember perhaps not just the man or men who were called Valentine but the human desire evident in this story to seek and find love. We find that love through the God who claims and calls us in Jesus the Christ. May we share that love through our lives every day, including Valentine's Day.

In Peace,

Pastor Andy

Other fun Valentine's Day Facts:

- * **73%** of people who buy Valentine's Day flowers are men.
- * **Cupid** is a symbol of Valentine's Day. Cupid was associated with Valentine's Day because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty.
- * The oldest surviving love poem to date is written in a clay tablet from the times of the Sumerians, inventors of writing, around **3500 B.C.**
- * On **February 14th** wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on Valentine's Day in Wales. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favorite Valentine decorations on the wooden spoons. This Valentine decoration meant, "You unlock my heart!"
- * **Verona**, the Italian city where Shakespeare's play lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters every year sent to Juliet on Valentine's Day.



Not to harp on the whole “love” theme but..... Love takes many forms. This past week, the ORLC office had several letters come in from organizations that we donated money to at the end of 2010. Some of this money was the result of your donations when we had special giving Sundays for a particular group. The letters are posted in the Fellowship Hall, but here is some of the info:

- * **Lutheran World Relief** - A gift of \$1130.00 “will help impoverished communities in developing nations to grow food, earn income and build better lives”.
- * **ELCA** - donation of \$234.00 to support Mount of Olives Housing project. “Global Gifts help schools, hospitals and congregations in areas of extreme poverty”.
- * **Peace House Africa** - A gift of \$750.00 . “Peace House is a secondary school giving children hope and encouragement”.

I enjoyed reading the letters, but what struck my heart the most was seeing handwritten “thank you’s” on each letter. “*Thank you so much!*”, “*We certainly appreciate your contributions!*”. These are “real” people who help other “real” people. It brings the world much closer in an age where emails, texting etc, sometimes is too much. So consider these letters very special Valentines!

Jennifer Fowler

Down Manor Bible Study

Bible study resumes on
Wednesday February 9th at 10:00am.

FISH

ORLC's volunteer days at FISH food bank are

Feb 7th 3:30 to 5pm

Feb 9th 3:30 to 5:30

Feb 11th 3:30 to 5pm

WELCA General Meeting

The next WELCA meeting will be
Saturday, February 5th at 11am.

Please join us as we plan activities for the coming months. A soup and bread lunch will be provided following the meeting .
If you need childcare please contact Kathy Terry.
We hope to see you there!



Operation Christmas Child Update

You have brought hope again for so many children with your support for Operation Christmas Child. Because of the generous help of the participants in the Columbia Gorge, a record-setting 2,700 children will be reached with a shoebox gift! These gifts from Washington and Oregon were sent out to Pacific area countries. Those who used bar code labels to "follow the box" have learned that most of our shoeboxes were delivered in Panama and Nepal.

In 2010, Operation Christmas Child began offering a follow-up discipleship program with ministry partners in Panama. The voluntary Bible lessons are made available to over 14,000 children who receive a shoebox gift. To help these children continue to grow in faith, Samaritan's Purse is also providing each child with their own New Testament. Almost one third of Panama's 3.4 million people are 14-year-old or younger. These are children who are eager and open to hear with understanding the Good News of Christmas.

In response to the desperation Haiti continues to experience, 250,000 shoebox gifts are on their way to lift up the spirits of the people. With your faithful involvement through the years, you have helped to "declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples" (Psalms 96:3). In Panama they'd say to you, Gracias, Gracias!

Karen Goebel

Family News

From Cindy Morus:

Over the Winter holiday break, **Toby Morus** visited his grandmother in Florida and then went standby to Cairo. On his way home, he got stuck at the San Francisco airport. He called and I sent him on BART to the station nearest his grandparents who picked him up and took him to their house. I drove to their house and was able to see Toby overnight. We took him to the Oakland Airport and he made his way back to Portland. He's now in his 2nd quarter at UofO.



Rebecca Morus is working at Cost Plus/World Imports as the wine steward – not many wine stewards can say they grew up on a vineyard! She's also preparing to go to Prague over the Summer where her costume designs will be judged with others from around the world. While she's out of the country, she'll be producing a Hamlet adaption in Edinburgh, Scotland at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Cindy Morus is settling in to Elk Grove, CA (even though she misses the kids and all her Hood River friends). She loved spending Christmas with her family and then the January birthday celebrations. She's learning all the "Hank family Tribal Customs!" She has joined several networking organizations and recently became part of the Elk Grove eWomenNetwork leadership team as the Social Media and Technology Leader (no surprise there, eh?). She's been attending St. Peter's Lutheran Church but it's soooo big she's not sure it's the right one for her. Cindy's got a great guest room and would love to have visitors if you're in the Sacramento/Stockton/Lodi area!



Grant Anderson

will be playing Community Youth basketball this winter. He has been practicing hard the past two weeks and he starts the season off with an all youth jamboree Saturday, January 22. He will continue to have regular games against other White Salmon teams in addition to playing against Carson/Stevenson Elementary schools. Grant has also embarked on a new adventure with North Wind Martial Arts. He begins Kung Fu classes this week! He is very excited about this new activity in White Salmon with other kids from his class.

Worship Assignments

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

2011	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27
Asst Minister	Dave Hindahl		Debby Chenoweth	Jill Rowland
Lector	Debby Chenoweth	Jennifer Fowler	Myrin Bentz	Della Henderson
Acolyte		Alden Gendreau		Emelia Gendreau
Greeter/Usher		Skip & Jennifer Fowler		Phil Scott Alden Gendreau
Coffee Hour	The Richards family & Rose Miller	Debby Chenoweth	Audrey Bentz	Della Henderson Rose Miller
Flowers	Dottie Gilbertson			
Altar Care	Debby	Chenoweth	And Linnea	Denis

Nursery will be staffed weekly

Committees, Councils, and Meetings of ORLC

<u>Church Council</u>	2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7pm
2010 Members :	Dottie Gilbertson (President), Rick Denis (V.P.), Kathy Terry (Sec.), Cheri Anderson, Randy Church, Rose Miller, Frank Moore
Financial Officers:	Linnea Denis (Treasurer), Jennifer Fowler (Fin. Sec.)
<u>WELCA</u>	Kathy Rice & Kathy Terry (Co-Presidents), Roberta Schweller (Treas.) Blanche Donahue (Sec.)
<u>Worship Committee</u>	Contact Audrey Bentz for meeting times
<u>Evangelism Comm.</u>	Contact Don Shalhope for meeting times
<u>Faith in Action</u>	Contact Sharon Pantely for times
<u>Mutual Ministry</u>	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

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5 11:00am WELCA Meeting
6 10am Worship 11 Fellowship	7 FISH 3:30-5pm	8 7:00pm Council Meeting	9 10am Down Manor Bible Study FISH 3:30-5:30	10	11 FISH 3:30-5pm	12
13 10am Worship Sun. School 11 Fellowship Special Giving For LWR	14 10:30am Faith In Action Meeting	15	16 10am Down Manor Bible Study	17	18	19
20 10am Worship 11 Fellowship 1:00 Card Making Class	21 President's Day	22	23 10am Down Manor Bible Study	24	25	26
27 10am Worship Sun. School 11 Fellowship	28					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's Quilting is the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 9am in the Fellowship Hall. • 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.

