

# Good News!

April 2011

## Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

### Our Redeemer's Holy Week Offerings, April 17-24

#### *Palm Sunday (4/17)*

This powerful worship service begins with a procession and acknowledgement of our King and concludes by sending us powerfully into the passion that is his final days. Come hear this story anew, literally feel the movement of this week begin as we worship the one we call our Savior.

#### *Maundy Thursday (4/21)*

Water, Word and Meal. Ritual Washing, Active Reflection and Willful Obedience. Come to this always powerful service where we will follow Jesus' command to wash feet, hear his comforting and challenging address for our lives and dine with him and his disciples at his last meal. The Spirit is always present at this service in new ways in part because this day will find us beginning to walk in the footsteps of our savior's final hours. Come and worship at 7:00pm ... come.

#### *Good Friday (4/22)*

*Unless Christians are willing to walk with Jesus through the crucifixion story, we may find ourselves missing some of the joy that comes with Easter morning.* This year, the 7 pm Good Friday event on April 22 will be experienced through the eyes and heart of the centurion. A dramatic recall of Jesus' suffering and death will be encircled with prayers and favorite Lenten hymns.

#### *Easter Sunday (4/24)*

This isn't just the culmination of our Holy Week journey but is the ultimate celebration of God's ultimate promise to not abandon the creation God lovingly desires to save. Join us this Sunday as we make a joyful noise to the God who has raised Jesus from the dead and hear about how that definitive act changes our very lives even today. We will again worship at 8:00am and 10:00am as we celebrate the risen Christ! Brunch will be served at 9am.

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### Choir rehearsals for Holy Week and Easter:

Mark your calendars now!

All children who wish to participate in a liturgical dance choir on Palm Sunday (4/17) are asked to rehearse on Thursday, 4/14, at 4 p.m.

Our Adult Choir (older youth are welcome too) will rehearse Sunday, 4/10, following the service, from 11:15 – 12 noon, and again 4/17 from 11:15 – 12 noon. We will be singing on Easter.

Audrey Bentz



# A Word From Our Pastor

Pastor Andy

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

As I'm sitting here holding our precious new Anna Elouise (She's in a front pack while I'm working at home due to the flu bug in our house), I'm thinking about the fact that while there is so much that is hard in our world today there is also so much that is also good. Anna is beautiful. She is a pure gift from God. The sun, shining brightly outside today, is a gift as it warms my skin and soul. The rain that fell yesterday is nourishing our earth, helping fruit and livelihoods to blossom in our valley. God is good and we are, through the resurrection, God's Easter people! There is so much to be thankful for.

This isn't a new reflection for me of course. I've known this all along. I bet we all do. But we also all know how hard it can be to remember "goodness" when so much of life is so bleak and troubled. It is why we need Easter. Why we need not just a day but a season, a movement, a life that remembers that we are loved, we are cared for, that we will not be abandoned. Sometimes, as St. Paul writes, what we need in those difficult moments is perseverance, the courage to see things through. Sometimes, as the parable of the Good Samaritan illustrates, we need a surprising lift of grace to see us through. And sometimes it is the simple yet profound reminder that God will not leave us alone in our darkest hour; this is a reality the resurrection of Jesus literally brings to life.

I think we've walked all those roads in the past year. We have walked a Lenten journey of reflection, renewal and preparation and somewhere, maybe it was at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations last August or at the vote in December on the partnership with Asbury UMC or somewhere else, God came in and said enough is enough and we now have new life through God's Son! This is Easter! God has entered our human story and said yes to who we are and who we can become. We have a new moment in time from which to spring!

So let us spring! You have elected leaders currently working on a celebration of the new Joint Ministry Covenant between ourselves and Asbury that will occur July 10<sup>th</sup>. You have elected leaders who are dreaming about how we might do more, engage more, boldly step forward in faithful ways meeting God in the process. (See Rick Denis' article about the ministry opportunities council initiative) You have leaders who are helping what we know to be true, that God loves the whole world no exceptions, to be reflected in our actions in greater and greater ways – Service and Cinnamon Roll events, Project Green Light, ORLC/Asbury FISH food bank garden, explorations around co-locating FISH on ORLC's property, renewed vigor in our VBS program, Confirmation youth excited to serve and learn this summer in San Francisco, and much more. There is so much life and energy being sent out in the world through your faithfulness that it is just has to be a God thing. So let's build on that!

Over the coming months, in my newsletter articles and in other ways as well, we'll begin preparing for the change that is going to occur on July 1<sup>st</sup> when our Joint Covenant with Asbury begins. You have able and wonderful leaders helping direct and lead us forth in this process – Dottie Gilbertson, Jim Anderson, Vicki Wartalski and Rose Miller – not to mention your dedicated church council. If you have questions about what's going on or when something is going to occur or an idea for something that would be really neat then let someone in this group know about it! For my part I have begun and will continue to work at helping this transition go as smoothly as possible while also celebrating that it is here because I believe that this will be a good thing for all involved. I've been blessed with a few opportunities already to get to know some of the good people of Asbury and they are excited to work with us and I'm excited to work with them. There will be hiccups and difficult things to accept along the way but if we go forward trusting that God is not just faithful to promises of old but intimately involved in this process now than all that life and energy we see now will only continue to grow.

I'm excited for this Easter season of our lives together. I am ready for the Lenten season to be behind us. I'm thankful we attended to it and the challenges it threw our way but I'm done with it. Let's celebrate the resurrection in our life going forward. Let's seize this new day and see how God is going to meet us next. I'm ready for it. Let's go!

In Peace,

*Pastor Andy*

**ORLC Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 15, 2011**

**Members Present:** Rick Denis, Linnea Denis, Rose Miller, Cheri Anderson, Vickie Wartalski, Jim Matthias and Kathy Terry. Also present Pastor Andy Wendle. Members Absent: Randy Church  
The meeting was called to order by President Rick Denis at 7:03 P.M.  
Devotions and prayer were lead by Cheri Anderson. The devotions were based on John 13:1-7.

**Members Concerns:** Jim Anderson is still dealing with an ankle injury. Inez Reynolds has been hospitalized with a heart attack. Milt Schliebe had a brief hospitalization. Marlene Lahti continues in our prayers.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the February 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Rose to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Jim. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was reviewed. It was noted that the insurance premium will increase due to the addition of our sexual abuse policy. Cheri moved to approve the Treasurer's report as reviewed; seconded by Rose. Motion passed.

**Correspondence:** A letter from the Oregon Synod inviting grant applications has been received. Debby Chenoweth will apply for a grant for the Green Light Project..

**Pastor's Report:** See attached.  
Pastor Andy reported that we are beginning the background checks of those who work with our children and youth.

The Baptism of Anna Elouise Wendle will be June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**Committee Reports:** JMLT: Vickie Wartalski is co-chair of this team. Preliminary plans are being made for July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 celebration of the Joint Ministry Covenant.

FISH: We reviewed an informational letter from Larry Denis. Linnea moved that Our Redeemer give up to \$2000 to the ORLC/FISH exploratory group to begin a preliminary feasibility study; seconded by Cheri. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

- A. Time lines, bids for 2011 projects..
  1. Hot water heater: Following discussion, Cheri moved that we authorize the purchase of a new hot water heater for the church from Lundell's, The Dalles; seconded by Rose. Motion passed.
  2. Painting of the church building: Jim has talked with George Bentz about assistance with this project.
  3. Roof & parking lot: Rick is awaiting a bid from Brown's Roofing, The Dalles. We discussed a bid from Seal Coat, The Dalles and will hold on a decision for now.
- B. Check Signers: Linnea will check with the bank about the process of adding signers.

**New Business:**

- A. Confirmation Trip: Jill Rowland will be using her van for transportation to California. A motion was made by Kathy to cover the deductible, if needed, for Jill's van. Seconded by Jim. Motion passed.
- B. Budget process/council retreat: Will discuss at next month's meeting.
- C. Copier buyout: Rose moved that we purchase our copier, spending up to \$1000. Seconded by Vicki. Motion passed.
- D. GEM potluck: A special gathering with Hispanic brothers and sisters will be held April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Pastor will find Our Redeemer representatives to attend.
- E. Outreach House: We will ask Dottie to provide quarterly and as needed reports covering the number of residents and needed maintenance issues.
- F. Ministry opportunities: A list to be discussed depending upon financial status.
  1. Outdoor banners.
  2. Advertising.
  3. Business cell phone.
  4. Intern.
  5. Playground upkeep.
  6. Funds toward renewal of our facilities.
  7. Build endowment fund.

Next council meeting will be Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM church. Closing prayer led by Pastor Andy.

Meeting adjourned..

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Terry  
Council Secretary

### Financial Report March 2011

	Income at end of February	\$10253.00
less	Expense at end of February	<u>6819.83</u>
	Net	\$ 3433.17
	Income Year to Date	\$21986.34
less	Expense Year to Date	<u>16050.74</u>
	Net	5935.60

Submitted by *Linnea Denis*  
Treasurer



## Council letter to the Congregation

March 21, 2011

Dear ORLC family,

The Church Council spends time reviewing the needs of the congregation through our member's needs and the physical needs of the church. We are currently praying for our members along with exploring bids to maintain our building. Hopefully in the next few months we will see a new roof on the fellowship hall, a new coat of paint on the exterior of the building and a refreshed parking lot to greet our members and visitors.

The Church Council has also undertaken a look toward the future. In our monthly meetings we have and will continue to set aside time to brainstorm and discuss future ministry opportunities of Our Redeemer.

New possibilities will arise as we venture into a new beginning this summer. If you would like to share an idea or two with us, we will gladly add it to our list of future opportunities. Contact any council member or attend our monthly council meeting to share.

Yours in Christ's love,

Rick Denis, ORLC Council President

## FISHing

We have been busy. Church council has approved \$2000 to begin the initial feasibility study to house the FISH food bank. The Oregon Food Bank (OFB) staff have visited our church site and expressed the opinion that building a food bank here is feasible from their perspective. Eleven members of ORLC and FISH have also been on their first joint 'field trip', visiting both St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Beaverton and the OFB eastside headquarters in Portland.

St. Matthews has operated a church pantry/food bank for over thirty years and are currently expanding their facilities. We met with several members of their team who shared with us their involvement in the operation of the food bank, as well as recent grant application, permitting and construction experiences. We learned a lot, and made some new friends in the process. It was touching to see how gracious these people were to share their time and experience with us; to help us help our community in a meaningful way.

At the OFB we met with the director of operations and staff and toured the food bank (imagine a 98,000sq.ft. warehouse with an 8,800sq.ft. freezer inside!). We discussed various possibilities and realities of housing FISH on our church site, including funding and professional help, and possible interim improvements at their current site.

FISH will meet next month and consider allocating funds toward the initial feasibility study and we can then begin our search for the perfect feasibility study team. We also hope to make another 'field trip' next month as well, to continue our learning.

We will keep you posted.  
*Larry Denis*

### Asbury Methodist Men's Group Retreat

**Where:** Morning Song Acres  
**When:** Thursday **May 19<sup>th</sup>** – Saturday **May 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Contact:** Marvin Turner: (541) 386-1587 **as soon as possible** if interested.

Marvin Turner of Asbury Methodist contacted me recently regarding the above captioned 'Retreat' and to invite the men of ORLC to attend. The cost is \$95.00 per person. I assume that includes meals and lodging for two nights. The retreat is to focus on the Book of James.

*Bob White*





## Faith in Action ORLC

Our committee keeps very busy, especially at this time of the year. We have taken the leadership role for the **Cinnamon Rolls and Service** projects for our Lenten commitment to our community. Our first event was cleaning Next Door after contractor's had finished remodeling and installation. A combined group from ORLC and Asbury totaled 22 adults and children vacuuming, cleaning windows, washing walls, dusting until the large building was nearly move in ready! By saving NDI at least \$1500 in cleaning service costs, we were appreciated as well as tired and satisfied.

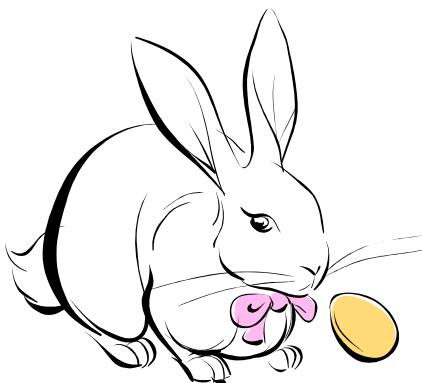
**On March 26th**, during intermittent rain, a group of 14 helped a woman from Underwood make energy saving improvements to her home- a storm door, new faucet and back door repair, as she struggles with recovering from a debilitating accident. Aesthetic improvements to the yard made her home more inviting. She was gifted with a **Green Light** bag to help her continue saving energy, living green.

Our last event will be giving back to the **History Museum of Hood River** by helping improve the courtyard garden area **April 9th**. Please join the work and camaraderie that ensues while enjoying the cinnamon rolls!

Designated giving **Sunday February 13 yielded \$1300 for Lutheran World Relief**. Thank you to all who contributed to help our church's long standing organization that is a first responder in many situations around the world, and present where there is need. Our next **Designated Sunday** opportunity will be **June 12th**.

Plans are underway for the upcoming plant sale that supports these efforts: the service projects for Lent have no budget, and we raise all of our money for the Green Light Bag contents for distribution in the fall. Please tell your friends and plan to support this event, by attending, bringing plants from your yard as any donations are welcome. The tentative dates are **May 1 and 8**, though this may change due to cool weather and delayed planting times. Notices will be sent to membership, and it will be in the HR news.

Contact any committee member for information on these events. New members are always welcome!  
*Sharon Pantely, Blanche Donahue, Debby Chenoweth and Judith Ann Richards*

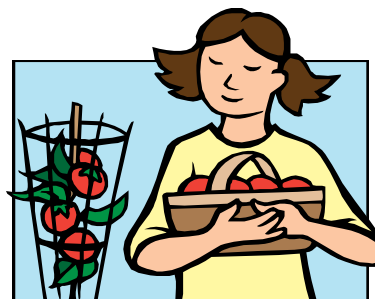


**Attention ORLC members!**

If you haven't been receiving emails from Pastor Andy or the church office recently please check your online **spam** folders. These are automatic filters that your internet provider generates and given the amount of emails Pastor Andy and the church send out we are starting to get caught on these spam folders. Please let the church office or Pastor Andy know if this is happening to you.

**Save the date!**

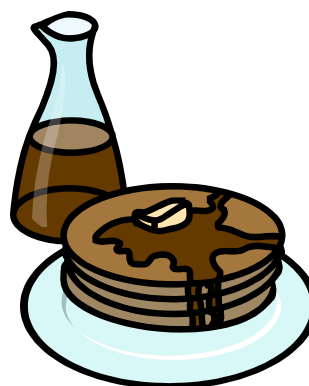
**July 10, 2011** there will be a joint celebration of the **Joint Ministry Covenant** between ORLC and Asbury UMC! We have Dave Brauer-Rieke, Bishop of the OR Synod, and Steve Ross, Assistant to the Bishop of the OR/ID Methodist Conference, coming that day. We will have special musical offerings, wonderful worship and great moments all occurring that day! Help us celebrate this new day in ORLC's life together. Look for more information to come about that day and *mark that date!*



**Needed: recycled plant containers for the Plant Sale in May.** Please bring any you might have (especially gallons for tomatoes) to the church. There will be a box at the back of the church waiting to be filled.

**Dear friends and members of ORLC,**

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us through our Fat Tuesday Pancake Feed! Wow, what a fun time. We really appreciated your presence and donations. With your contributions we will be able to reach out to others in need in the San Francisco area while learning about God, ourselves and our world. We invite you to pray for our journey June 19-26. Thank you and God bless! *Emelia G., Claire A., Sidra M. and Danielle M.*



**Confirmation Class in April**

Due to spring break schedule, Easter and various other things there will only be one Confirmation class in April on the 17<sup>th</sup> at our normal place and time. Please also note that there will only be two confirmation classes in May – the 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> – due to scheduling conflicts. Please try to make these classes as best you can and also keep working on worship notes as everyone has some ground to make up on those. See you all then!

# Worship Assignments

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

2011	April 3	April 10	April 17 Palm Sun.	April 24 Easter
Asst Minister		Dave Hindahl	Jim Anderson	Debby Chenoweth
Lector				Jill Rowland
Acolyte			Claire Anderson	Emelia Gendreau
Greeter/Usher			Bob & Kris White	
Coffee Hour	George Bentz Ingrid Flanders			Men's Group fixes Brunch
Flowers	LENT	LENT	Palm Sunday	
Altar Care	Rose	Miller	and Katie	Koch

Nursery will be staffed weekly

## Committees, Councils, and Meetings of ORLC

### Church Council

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7pm

### **2010 Members :**

Rick Denis (President), Cheri Anderson (V.P.),  
Kathy Terry (Sec.), Randy Church,  
Rose Miller, Jim Matthias, Vicki Wartalski

### **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 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 9am Adult Study 10 Worship 11 Fellowship	4	5	6	7	8	9 Service & Cinnamon Rolls 9:00am
10 9am Adult Study 10 Worship 11 Fellowship 11:15 Choir Practice	11	12 Council Meeting 7:00pm	13 Library Group At Noon	14 Children's Dance Choir Rehearsal 4:00pm	15	16
17 Palm Sunday 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11 Fellowship 11:15 Choir Practice Confirmation Class	18 FISH	19	20 FISH	21 Maundy Thurs Service 7:00pm	22 Good Friday Service 7:00pm FISH	23
24 Easter 8am Worship 9 Brunch 10 Worship	25	26 Ladies WELCA Bible Study	27	28	29	30 Garden With God Event

- 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.*

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:                   **May Newsletter submissions**                   :  
:                   Due: April 21, 2011 Send to:                   :  
:                   [orlc@gorge.net](mailto:orlc@gorge.net)                   :  
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