

# Good News!

February 2012

## Our Redeemer Lutheran Church



### **The Ash Wednesday service is on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Asbury at 7pm.**

The service will be preceded by a Soup Supper dinner. This will also begin our Lenten worship discipline as we will then gather each Wednesday thereafter (February 29<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>) at 5:30 for a simple soup supper, hopefully a study at 6:00 and then worship at 6:45. Please plan on making this a part of your Lenten discipline this year. And since all of our Advent activities took place at Our Redeemer we will be using Asbury's facilities for all of the evening Lenten activities. We hope to see you there.

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## A Word From Our Pastor

Pastor Andy

Grace and Peace to you in name of Jesus Christ!

Wow, January has been a month hasn't it. And yet the work of God goes on!

This month rather than writing my own article I'm choosing to highlight this one (page 2) from the **Joint Ministry Leadership Team** (JMLT). It speaks wonderfully about the work we've been about for the past several months or so as well as looking forward to the next few months. I'm thankful to the JMLT for their hard work on this and on their work throughout the first part of this joint ministry. The members of the JMLT are: *Barbara Beardsley, Shelley Oates, Jim and Gigi Siekkinen, Dottie Gilbertson, Rose Miller, Vicki Wartalski and Jim Anderson.*

Blessings to you as we finish out this season of Epiphany and I look forward to being in touch with all of you more soon.

In Peace,  
Pastor Andy

Greetings from the Joint Ministry Leadership Team,

Wow, what a wonderful journey the past six months have been!

Beginning in July of 2011 our two congregations entered into this new thing, The Joint Ministry Covenant, and has God ever been at work. We have shared at least 10 different worship services, many different fellowship opportunities, energy, enthusiasm and in the wondrous grace of God. Which part has been your favorite?

One aspect of this new joint relationship between our congregations has been the faithful and regular meeting of the Joint Ministry Leadership Team (JMLT). This group is required to review the covenant and our partnership each January. The JMLT completed its review January 11, 2012. The details of that review will appear in each congregation's respective newsletters but suffice it to say we found that this new venture has been exciting and worthwhile.

One challenge this group discovered or reviewed however is the issue of worship. The feedback from our shared worship services has been overwhelmingly positive. People have commented on the difference it makes in our music and in the general energy level when we worship together. There are undoubtedly stylistic differences, but what we have in common far outweighs our differences.

Our review of worship highlighted the fact that the 9:00 a.m. worship time has been challenging for ORLC's worship attendance. Concern about the impact of a 9:00 worship time was raised when we initially established the worship times, but ORLC was willing to try it in order to help our churches take the initial step of sharing a pastor. The worship times were established as a trial with the expectation that we would make adjustments if needed, which does appear to be the case.

In a related matter, our current worship schedule of 9:00 at ORLC and 11:00 at Asbury has not been conducive to offering Christian Education classes on Sunday mornings. We now have a larger pool of both children and adults who are interested in education opportunities, but we currently face significant scheduling obstacles.

Therefore, in light of these factors: **the JMLT is recommending that our congregations worship together in a single service each Sunday from the beginning of Lent until Pentecost.** Now whether this is able to be done on this time frame given some weather related delays we're experiencing is not yet certain and the details of time, location, and style are also yet to be determined. However, the main idea is to build on our energy and momentum while allowing for greater worship and educational opportunities to be realized.

Please also recognize that while this recommendation from the JMLT coincides with the letter of invitation to explore becoming a joint congregation, it grew out of a separate process. The letter of invitation was a result of a shared discernment process by the leadership of both congregations. The process and timeline that will result from the letter of invitation to explore becoming a joint congregation is yet to be determined. Meanwhile, the JMLT has identified the issue of worship as a matter that requires our immediate attention and action.

The JMLT's recommendation to worship together will be taken to Asbury's administrative team and to ORLC's council. If the recommendation is approved by both bodies, then it will go into effect starting February 26, 2012 or at a date that is determined to be more effective to accomplish our shared goals.

Journeying together in this way is never easy. There have already been a great amount of changes and challenges that have come our way but there has also been great opportunity. Do you remember the joint choir singing at the covenant celebration in July? Or do you remember the cacophony of voices belting out A Mighty Fortress is Our God on Reformation Day? Or the beauty and simplicity of Silent Night on Christmas Eve? Together great things are being done. Let's keep it going!



**Happy Super Bowl  
Sunday !**  
( Go Patriot's!!)

*Have a  
Happy Valentine's Day !*



## Joint Ministry Leadership Team (JMLT)

January 11, 2012

### MEETING SUMMARY

**Members Present:** Gigi Siekkinen, Barbara Beardsley, Rose Miller, Dottie Gilbertson, Jim Anderson, Jim Siekkinen, Pastor Andy Wendle and Vicki Wartalski. **Members Absent:** Shelley Oates

Meeting was called to order by co-chair Gigi at 4:30 PM

Opening prayer by co-chair Gigi

At this meeting we did the annual review of the covenant as outlined in our Joint Ministry Covenant Agreement. We followed the outline of questions that are in the agreement on page 2.

**Compatibility:** AUM and ORLC have formed a good relationship

Both churches have gained new incites

Most people feel that this is exciting

This is a good fit

Both churches have learned that we have similarities

**Evaluation of the covenant:** The agreement will be for 3 (three) years, if this is something we desire to go forward with a new covenant will need to be drafted. Our group, JMLT, has planning power not decision making power. Our group needs to go to the ORLC Council and the AUM Admin Team present our requests and get approval before moving forward with anything. Budget funds are missing, any money budgeted should be administered by the JMLT. Each church must approve money into their budgets for future activities. JMLT shall have control of any money that the 2 (two) congregational bodies approve. We have moved quickly, and it is good to see this. It is also good to see what we both have and realize that we should look at coming together more often.

Future amendments: We need one group to have authority How often should we meet bi-monthly or one a quarter We don't need to be as strict with the covenant Creation of a 3<sup>rd</sup> (third) body – our leadership teams need to come together as one for us to move forward.

**Shared Ministries:** Shared worships – what we've done together is good, yet it isn't good enough per some people. Some shared planning ideas are a joint newsletter, combine the secretary position, unified schedule, delegate. With joint worships, we get to see how the worship service flows at both churches. With this we can combine the best of both services into a combined service. We can adapt a new structure based on what we hear from other members, this can help us bring in people from the communities around us. We need a vision that will hold on to the identity of AUMC and ORLC. A possible limitation is that the covenant was not carried far enough in the planning process. With one worship time at one church we would be able to resume adult and children's christian education programs. A topic that has been raised by both congregational bodies.

**Worship related issues:** Both churches have seen adjustments to the number of people showing up for worship based on our new times of 9:00 and 11:00 AM The topic of 1 (one) worship service and 1 (one) church for 3 (three) months at a time was raised again. The idea is that we meet together at 10:00 AM at either AUMC or ORLC for a set time period this way we get to know each other a lot better and we can see what works and doesn't work. We can resume our adult and children education programs also. There is a feeling by members from both churches that we should come together sooner vs later. To become 1 (one) is easy to talk about, what we really need to do is find a way that will really work for us and move forward with that. There are not any preconceived ideas, we all are connected to both churches. We need to worship together more often, this way we can establish a comfort level for everyone, we can gather feed back from everyone also. We need a place for key leaders to say that it is ok to experiment and to live into a broader vision of hope.

Dottie moves that we take a look at how we can worship more as one and how to do it more creativity. Look at times and worships to strengthen our bonds, Jim A adds that we also set a specific date to start this worship at 1(one) time and at 1 (one) place. Jim S. seconded. An amended motion was made by Gigi that we begin joint worship on February 26, 2012 at 10:00 AM running thru May 27, 2012 so that everyone can adjust to being together. Barbara seconded. Motion passed.

**Next meeting:** March 21 at 6:30 PM ORLC / back up date March 19 at 6:30 PM ORLC

**March devotion:** Dottie

Respectfully submitted,  
Victoria Wartalski

## **ORLC Council Meeting Minutes**

January 10, 2011

**Members Present:** Rick Denis, Linnea Denis, Randy Church, Rose Miller, Jim Matthias and Vicki Wartalski. Also present were Pastor Andy Wendle and Bob Havig, budget committee member.

**Members Absent:** Cheri Anderson and Kathy Terry.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Rick Denis, Council President. Devotions were lead by Pastor Andy – a reading from the Gospel of John.

**Member Concerns:** Cheri Anderson, Kathy and Craig Terry, Guy Terry, Ryan Denis, Evi Kujala's family and Inez Reynolds' family. All are in need of our prayers for health and healing.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December 13<sup>th</sup> council meeting were reviewed. Rose moved to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Randy. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Linnea reviewed the report dated December 13<sup>th</sup> 2011. She pointed out that we met our expenses for the month and year. Rose asked about the Thrivent Choice balance of \$88.50 that appears on the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2011. Linnea said she would check on that and get back to us. She said the Thrivent Choice balance should be \$2,450 plus the \$88.50 equaling \$2,538.50. \$2,000 for Thrivent is in the general fund and \$450 is in the old account. Pastor had a few questions about his salary and Linnea said she would need check Wendy Willow to verify what was going on with that. Rose moved to accept the Treasurer's report as corrected; seconded by Jim. Motion passed.

**Pastor's Report:** See attached. Pastor did tell us that between our Christmas Eve/Day services we raised \$41,500 toward the FISH capital campaign.

### **Committee Reports:**

**JMLT:** Will be meeting January 11<sup>th</sup> to do the review per the covenant. This review will then be shared with both congregations after our joint worship service on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**FISH:** Kathy was absent. Pastor told us that a grant writer has been contacted to help with fundraising for the capital campaign.

**Old Business:**

**Finalize 2012 budget:** With Bob Havig's lead, we reviewed the final 2012 budget. Jim Matthias will present the 2012 budget to the congregation at our annual meeting. Bob Havig told us that he is stepping down from the budget and audit committee for 2012. Jim moved to accept the final 2012 budget to be presented to the congregation; Rose seconded. Motion passed.

**Accounting changes:** Wendy Willow is willing to take over much of the financial accounting issues. Pending approval of the 2012 budget Linnea and Pastor Andy will transition into working with Wendy Willow on some of our accounting practices. Rose moved pending 2012 budget approval to let Linnea and Pastor Andy transition into working with Wendy Willow on our financial accounting issues; Randy seconded. Motion passed.

**New council members:** Kris White – 3 (three) year term  
Randy Church – 3 (three) year term  
Rick Denis – 2 (two) year term  
Kathy Terry – 1 (one) year term

**New Business:**

**Next steps with Asbury** – Letter from Jim Siekkinen – see attached. For ORLC and AUMC to move forward we need to partner. This should be added to our annual meeting packet and presented to the congregation and have them vote on it. Linnea moved to take this letter to the congregation and present it to them for discussion; Rose seconded. Motion carries.

**Annual meeting** – our agenda will follow the outline of the 2011 meeting. Cheri and Vicki will verify that we have a quorum – which is 1/3 of our voting members, Pastor Andy will let us know what that number is.

**Elections** - nominated new council officers and council persons for 2012

Chairperson - Victoria Wartalski  
Vice - Chairperson - Rose Miller  
Secretary - Jim Matthias  
Treasurer - Kathy Rice (will not be on council)  
Kris White - 3(three) year term  
Randy Church - 3(three) year term  
Rick Denis - 2(two) year term  
Kathy Terry - 1(one) year term

Randy moves to nominate the above named, pending congregational approval; Linnea seconded. Motion passed.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Devotions will be lead by Rose Miller.

Closing prayer led by Pastor Andy. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Victoria Wartalski



**Grant A.** won the school-wide Geography Bee competition for Henkle Middle School earlier this month. The Geography Bee is sponsored by National Geographic and he was competing against other fifth through eighth graders for this honor. As the school winner, he took a written exam (with 70 questions!) that was sent in for advancement to the state level. Mom, dad and sister are so proud of him for this accomplishment! Way to go Grant!!



Dear family and friends,

Hard to believe that tomorrow will be our last day at SHCH; what a marvelous experience, especially because of the wonderful people who welcomed us openly, felt more and more comfortable, and want us to return. A wonderful compliment!

Today we visited a mobile clinic, actually a building built by Habitat for Humanity for a clinic near the housing compound for people. There are several of them in the area near Phnom Penh, serviced by the hospital on specific days. People walk distances to be seen by an MD and a nurse, given medication and advice. A lot of compassionate care is given, teaching done. Our observation of the village was that improved sanitation to their living area would certainly improve their health in general. Small steps to better results. George's lectures are all well received with enthusiastic questions, interaction and desire to learn what they can. Saturday morning we will board a bus to Siem Reap where we will visit ancient temples of Angkor. The trip will take 5 hours, and we will return Wed so we can fly back to Oregon via Korea/LA.

Hopefully our sleep will resume a normal time zone quickly when we return. We understand that we have missed out on an unusual snow/ice storm in the Hood River Valley. We hope that everyone is recovering.

See you soon—*Sharon and George*

# Worship Assignments

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

2011	Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26
Asst Minister				
Lector		YOUR	NAME	
Acolyte				
Greeter/Usher		COULD BE	HERE !!!	
Coffee Hour				
Flowers			Rose Miller	
Altar Care	Debby	Chenoweth	and Linnea	Denis

## Committees, Councils, and Meetings of ORLC

### Church Council 2011 Members :

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7pm.  
Rick Denis (President),  
Cheri Anderson (V.P.),  
Kathy Terry (Sec.),  
Randy Church, Rose Miller, Jim  
Matthias, Vicki Wartalski

### 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

### Financial Officers:

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

### WELCA

Kathy Rice & Kathy Terry  
(co-presidents) Kathy Rice (Treas.)  
Kristen White (Sec.)

### Women's (WELCA) Bible Study

Meets 4th Tuesday of each month.  
Check calendar for location.

### JMLT

Vicki Wartalski (co-chair)

### Quilting

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 9:00am  
in ORLC Fellowship Hall.

# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Quilters 9am  FISH Construction Comm. Meets 7pm	2	3	4
5 ANNUAL Meeting 9am Worship 10 Fellowship	6 FISH Finance Committee 4:30pm	7 Council Meeting 7pm	8	9	10	11 WELCA Meeting 10-Noon Soup & Salad
12 9am Worship 10 Fellowship 2-4 Children's Sun. Schl	13 FISH/ORLC Leadership Meeting 4:30pm	14 FISH/ORLC Reception 6:30-7:30pm  Happy Valentine's !	15 Quilters 9am	16	17	18
19 9am Worship 10 Fellowship  Congregational Leadership Class 2-7pm	20	21 FISH/ORLC Reception 6:30-7:30pm	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25
26 9am Worship 10 Fellowship 1:15 Card Class	27	28 Women's Evening Bible Study 7pm				

- Cleaning on first and third Saturdays.
- Quilting on first and third Wednesdays

### Office Hours

Church Secretary—Jennifer Fowler  
**Mon** 9am to 1pm **Wed** 9am to 1pm  
**Thurs** 9am to 11am

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

Annual Meeting  
is Sunday February 5th  
following worship

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