



# Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

1501 Broeking Road ~ Marion IL 62959

[www.ourmarionil.org](http://www.ourmarionil.org)

Pastor Marlin Otte

Ministers: Everybody at Our Redeemer Lutheran



*"God's Work. Our Hands."*

*36 Years of "Caring & Sharing the Gospel"*

February 2012

Church: 618-993-5919 ~ Pastor Otte's Cell: 967-4450

Pastor's Mid-Year Report, January 2012:

## **The Calling to Which You Have Been Called**

*"I (Paul) therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called... But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ... The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Ephesians 4: 1, 7, 11, 12*

**We all have a calling** (*first underlined portion*). **We all, by God's grace, have been gifted by the Holy Spirit** (*second underlined portion*). **We all have been equipped for the work of ministry and building up the Body of Christ** (*third underlined portion*). The past 6 months we have some wonderful examples of ORL people answering God's call to mission.

A son of ORL, Kelly Thompson, has answered the call to the ordained ministry by enrolling at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque IA. ORL has supported his call by giving him \$1,000 for his schooling and lifting him up with our prayers. ORL has also given me the opportunity to supervise the pastoral internship of Matthew Hacker as he serves Prince of Peace, Mt. Vernon. ORL touching the lives of 2 young men called to the ordained ministry! *"The gifts he gave were that some would be ... pastors"*

Hugh & Paulette Stempfley answered the mission call to serve God's people in Africa through **Marion Medical Mission** (MMM). They were on MMM's 2011 First Team in Sept. & Oct. They continue to serve by giving presentations that tell of MMM & encourage support. Despite a multitude of obstacles, *in 2011 MMM put in more than 2,664 Shallow Wells in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia, Africa. That means about 400,000 more people now have clean, safe water!* ORL supports MMM through many *"Shallow Well Patrons"* (*people who donate the full \$400 for a well*), many other donations and in prayer. *"I was thirsty and you gave me drink...when you did it for the least of these, you did it for me."*

On Sept. 7, ORL answered a Global Mission call to host Bishop Modeste of The Malagasy Lutheran Church. He leads over 3M Lutherans in Madagascar, Africa. An offering of \$600 was received to support this fast growing church. We also had a wonderful Global Missions Sunday on Jan. 15, lifting up our companion

synods in Madagascar and Lutheran churches in Nicaragua & Zambia. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."*

Curtis & Mabel Hayes and others have answered the call to minister to the people at the **River to River Assisted Living** facility across the road. From 9:15 am – 10:15 am on Sunday mornings, they lead worship, sing songs and lift up in prayer the senior residents living there. *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship... and prayers"*

Syl Vanek has answered the call to minister to those in prison. He visits and leads Bible Study at the IL Youth Center in Harrisburg, Marion Federal Prison, Hardin County Work Camp and Tamms Super Max Prison. ORL supported him with \$500 last year for travel and supplies. Our goal is to do at least that much again this year. A free will offering will be received for his work on **Prison Ministry Sunday, February 12**. *"I was sick and in prison and you visited me...when you did it for the least of these, you did it for me."*

All of ORL answered the call to be *"Caring the Gospel"* by generously and graciously responding to the Jill Childers fundraiser (\$10,000+) and to support the family at her death. *"Caring the Gospel"* was also evident in supporting **Lutheran World Relief**. The ORL Quilters completed 47 quilts and our people completed 64+ School Kits, 16 Personal Care Kits and 7 Sewing Kits. We also served as the LWR sub-station, collecting & transporting donations from area Lutheran churches to St. Louis *"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it"*

And now ORL members are answering the call to provide children of all backgrounds in our community the opportunity to use their God given gifts in worship and witness. Beth Butler and other ORL members have offered to teach young people to develop their musical gifts in praise of God. Our operating name is *"Ps. 150: Children Worshipping Through the Arts"*. Everyone is invited to contribute in whatever way they can to support this ministry & ORL's community outreach. (*see Connie Ashe's article for more info*). Psalm 150 is the ultimate "Praise Psalm", it ends: *"Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!"* I couldn't end this any better!

*Take Care & Share,  
Pastor Otte*



We pray that your day will be special & your celebration joyous.

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Robert Engram
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Caldwell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Caroline Price
- 4<sup>th</sup> Betty Dunbar
- 7<sup>th</sup> Nancy Cecchi
- 8<sup>th</sup> Nick Frey
- 9<sup>th</sup> Mitchell Hayes
- 9<sup>th</sup> Dean Snider
- 11<sup>th</sup> Evelyn Kohler
- 12<sup>th</sup> Kyle Howerton
- 13<sup>th</sup> Rev. Marlin Otte
- 14<sup>th</sup> Yvonne Richert  
Dee Ellen White
- 15<sup>th</sup> Tom Herstedt
- 16<sup>th</sup> Luke O'Neill  
Roger Shimono, Sr.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Janet Boblett
- 20<sup>th</sup> Chris Finke
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Zachary Meyer
- 27<sup>th</sup> Darren Ferrell
- 28<sup>th</sup> Mel Schoessow



- 11<sup>th</sup> Timothy & Sharon  
VanByssum
- 19<sup>th</sup> Richard & Debbie Aumiller

(Have we missed anyone? If so, we are sorry---please notify the church office so we can update our records.)

**Email Addresses:**  
 Pastor Otte:  
[pastor@orlmarionil.org](mailto:pastor@orlmarionil.org)  
 Church Secretary:  
[secretary@orlmarionil.org](mailto:secretary@orlmarionil.org)  
 Prayer Requests:  
[prayer.request@orlmarionil.org](mailto:prayer.request@orlmarionil.org)  
 Web site: [www.orlmarionil.org](http://www.orlmarionil.org)

**SERVING IN FEBRUARY**

**LAY ASSISTANTS**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>8:00 AM</b>                           | <b>10:30 AM</b> |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Valerie T.               | Curtis H.       |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Valerie T.              | Curtis H.       |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Cheryl E.               | Hugh S.         |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Ash Wednesday-Volunteer |                 |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Cheryl E.               | Hugh S.         |

**ACOLYTES**

- |                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>8:00 am</b>              | <b>10:30 am</b> |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Jared S.    | Allison R.      |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Zachary M. | Katelynn W.     |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Allison R. | Esther S.       |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> Zachary M. | Sydney S.       |
- If you are unable to serve, please contact another acolyte to substitute for you.*

**USHERS**

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>8:00 AM</b> | <b>10:30 AM</b> |
| Jeff Meyer     | Dale Childers   |
| Mel Schoessow  | Roger Shimono   |

**GREETERS**

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>8:00 AM</b> | <b>10:30 AM</b> |
| Rosemary S.    | TBA             |

**OFFERING COUNTER**

TBA

**COMMUNION PREPARATION**

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>8:00 AM</b>    | <b>10:30 AM</b> |
| Dan/Carol Bunting | Donna Crees     |

**MUSICIANS**

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>8:00 AM</b> | <b>10:30 AM</b> |
|----------------|-----------------|

TBA

**BIBLE STUDIES**

**“CONNECTIONS”**

**February 5 & 19**  
(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)

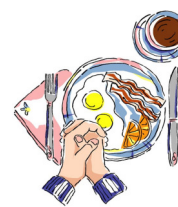
Feeling disconnected or in need of prayer and spiritual support? Join this group and connect with one another through the Word, discussion and prayer. *Contact is Caroline Price 922-6064.*



**Women's Study**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday**  
**9:30 am**  
**February 2**

This group meets at 9:30 am the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at ORL. All women are welcome! *Contact is Margaret Corse 997-4067.*

**Men's Study**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday**  
**February 11 & 25**



Lutheran Men in Mission meet for breakfast & study at Ryan's Family Steak House. *Contact is Pastor Otte 967-4450.*

**ORL QUILTERS**

**Thurs., February 26**  
*(Weather permitting)*  
**9:30 am-2:30 pm**  
**Bring a Sack Lunch!**

All women are welcome. You don't need knowledge/skill of quilting to do this. These are simple "tie quilts". Join us!



**Our Deacon Ministry through  
Marion Ministerial Alliance**

**December Totals:**

Soup Kitchen: Meals 1,704  
(children): 60  
Food Pantry: Families: 289  
(new) 33  
Utility Assistance: Families: 18  
Rent Assistance: Families: 6  
Temporary Shelter: Families: 2  
Transients: Individuals: 0  
Miscellaneous: Families: 0  
Hygiene kits: 0 YTD: 1175

**Donations may be mailed to:  
Marion Ministerial Alliance  
103 E. Calvert, Marion, IL**

**“Kindly Gifts in Kind”**

**Food Items Needed: Canned  
vegetables, cereal, box dinners,  
boxed potatoes (instant), canned  
meat Health Items Needed:  
shampoo, deodorant, bar soap,  
toothpaste, toothbrushes.  
Furniture and household items.**

Continue to pray for all those in  
our community who are struggling.  
JR Russell, MMA Director

**Project: MANNA  
Soup Kitchen  
ORL Next Serves:**

**February 27-March 2**

Call Margaret Corse (997-4067)  
and join in this great cause to feed  
the hungry. *You will be blessed!*

*Thanks to those who served at  
the Soup Kitchen during the week  
of December 12-16: Cheryl  
Trench, Dawn Schuetz, Julie  
Strauss, Evvie Walker, Janet  
Boblett, Sheryn Strauss, Syl  
Vanek, Pat Hudgens, Ann Smith,  
Rosemary Schoessow, Lee Larson,  
Gary Caldwell, Aleda Doelitzsch,  
Margaret Corse and Dorothy  
Bagdonas.*

**Red Cross Blood Drive  
Sunday, February 19**

The American Red Cross and the  
ORL Health Cabinet will once  
again sponsor a **Blood Drive on  
Sunday, February 19 from 9:00  
am to 1:00 pm** on the parking lot.  
Red Cross will bring their mobile  
unit. Most importantly, they need  
people to sign up to be donors.  
**Sign up for your appointment on  
the bulletin board in the narthex.  
Our goal is 20 units.** Remember--  
you can be a life saver.

⇒ *There must be two months  
between your donation times; so in  
order to give at ORL you cannot  
have given after December 19.*

**Give the Gift of Life!**

**Kroger Card  
Fundraiser Continues**

For the period of 12/25 through  
1/21 reloads totaled \$1,087  
combined with previous month's  
\$2,578.52 for a total of \$3,665.52.  
No rebate for this period. Your  
continuing support is appreciated!  
All proceeds will go to ORL Youth  
Ministries. If you need a Gift  
Card, see Pastor Otte.

*Join us for*  
**ADULT FELLOWSHIP  
Saturday, February 18  
5:30 pm at ORL  
Potluck & Dominos  
Hosts: Margaret Corse and  
Rosemary Schoessow**

Bring a dish to share and after the  
potluck join in a game of dominos.

Mark Your Calendars: Adult  
Fellowship -- March 17<sup>th</sup> LMM's  
St. Pat's Corned Beef/Cabbage at  
ORL

**January 22, 2012  
Mid-Year Congregational  
Meeting Notes**

- voted to designate 2011  
Bratwurst monies to: \$1,000 for the  
New Piano Fund and \$1,090.29 to  
be paid on the loan debt
- reported that as of 12/21/11 the  
loan balance was \$16,881.16
- President Connie Ashe reported  
that a new ministry is being explored  
“PS 150: Children Worshipping  
Through the Arts” (see article  
elsewhere)
- Pastor Otte celebrated the people  
of ORL who are answering God's  
call to use their gifts in ministry



Dear Sisters in Christ,

The ladies of your congregation  
are cordially invited to our annual  
Lutheran Women Missionaries  
League Prayer Service &  
Luncheon on Friday, March 2 at  
noon. This year's program is  
entitled “P.R.A.Y.E.R.” based on 1  
Thessalonians 5:16-18 (“Be joyful  
always; pray continually’ give  
thanks in all circumstances, for this  
is God's will for you in Christ  
Jesus.”) A salad luncheon will be  
provided.

Nursery service will be provided,  
if needed. Please contact the  
church office at 270-442-8343 by  
Friday, February 24 at 3:00 pm, if  
you are in need of this service.

Please join us for an afternoon of  
Christian fellowship. We hope to  
see you there!

In His Service,

Louis Musgrave  
Missions Chairman  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
211 S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Paducah, KY 42003



## Common Eye Myths by Karolyn Graff, Parish Nurse

It's important to separate fact from fiction, especially when the topic is eyesight. Knowing how to take good care of your eyes is the first step in protecting your sight. Don't be blind to the facts--below are 10 common myths about vision, along with true facts.

**Myth:** Failure to use proper glasses will hurt your eyes.

**Fact:** This statement does have some truth in it for a small number of people. Some children have eye problems that can be corrected and it is important that they wear their glasses. But vision problems caused by heredity or physical injury do not go away, even with glasses. While corrective glasses or contacts are needed to improve eyesight, using your eyes with or without glasses will not damage your vision further.

**Myth:** Reading in dim light can damage your eyes.

**Fact:** Reading in dim light can cause eye strain, but it will not hurt your eyes permanently.

**Myth:** Watching television for too long or sitting too close can damage your eyes.

**Fact:** There is no evidence to suggest that watching television for too long or sitting too close can damage your eyes. Young children often sit close to the television screen because they have a greater ability to focus on objects closer to their eyes than adults do. Due to this, children hold their reading material close as well. However, as they grow older, these habits usually change. If not, this may be a sign of myopia (nearsightedness). To detect possible eye problems, children should have regular eye exams.

**Myth:** Eating carrots will improve your vision.

**Fact:** While it is true that carrots, as well as many other vegetables are rich in vitamin A, which is an essential vitamin for sight, only a small amount is necessary for good vision. A well-balanced diet, with or without carrots, provide all the nutrients the body needs. In fact, too much vitamin A, D or E may actually be harmful.

**Myth:** Reading fine print for too long will wear out or damage your eyes.

**Fact:** This is one of the most widely held myths about vision.



Some people are concerned that they should not read too much because it will wear out their eyes. Although extensive or prolonged reading of fine print can cause eye strain, there is no evidence to suggest that it will damage or wear out your eyes.

**Myth:** Wearing contacts prevents nearsightedness from getting worse.

**Fact:** Wearing contact lenses will not permanently correct nearsightedness. Myopia or nearsightedness is usually an inherited condition, and contact lenses can only be expected to improve vision. Contact lenses cannot prevent nearsightedness from getting worse.

**Myth:** Cataracts can be removed with a laser.

**Fact:** A cataract is a clouded lens of the eye--this procedure cannot be performed by a laser, only by surgery. However, after the surgery, the wrapping around the lens (called the casing) is left behind. This casing can become cloudy and cause blurry vision. The casing can then be opened with a laser, but the procedure should not be confused with the surgical removal of the clouded lens.

**Myth:** An eye examination is necessary only if you're having problems.

**Fact:** Everyone should follow proper eye healthcare, which includes regular eye exams, whether or not you having any noticeable signs of problems. Children should be tested at birth, at 6 months of age, before entering school and periodically throughout the school years. For adults, the frequency depends on your doctor's advice and may be every two years or more often. If you have diabetes or an eye disease, you should go every year for a comprehensive eye exam.

**Myth:** There's nothing you can do to prevent vision loss.

**Fact:** More than 90% of eye injuries can be prevented, when simple and relatively inexpensive safety precautions are followed. That means choosing the correct eye safety glasses for the job and wearing them 100% of the time. Regular eye exams can help save your sight. Early detection of vision problems is crucial to preventing vision loss from many eye diseases--especially diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma.

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*Sign Up for*  
**CPR & AED Training**  
**Thursday, Feb. 16**  
**6:00 - 9:00 pm**

ORL now has an AED (automated external defibrillator) present in the building. It is located in the extra room outside the Nursery on the bookshelf for easy availability. The Health Cabinet feels it is important for members to know the location but also to challenge members to become familiar with the procedure to safely use the AED in an emergency. The combination of safe, timely and effective CPR along with the use of the AED is important for effective resuscitation in a health emergency. A sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board. Please consider this opportunity to learn CPR and the use of the AED.

## Life “inside” the Choir *by Jane Otte*

January 12: the morning after a choir practice.

J. S. Bach said that when you sing, you pray twice. I told the choir that is not true---you pray multiple times when you sing, especially when you sing in the choir.

Many of you may think that the congregation is the beneficiary of the choir’s practice. Of course, you are. Our goal is to add to the praises of God, to give more words and sounds to the focus of the Sunday so that everyone can come to know Jesus better. But, there are hidden blessings in our weekly practices.

As you all know, we practice pieces (anthems) many times so that we can get the music right, and then we practice them again to prepare for that special Sunday. When we sing the anthems that much, the words become our own. As sung in the Advent liturgy, “Your words are sweet to taste. Sweeter than honey to the mouth.” We have a lot of honey.

This is the most recent example to me. The choir loves “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”. It has become such a favorite for everyone that we sing it every Epiphany. Last night, we sang (and prayed twice), and “I want to see the brightness of Christ. I want to look at Jesus”. We sing and we plead



to look at Jesus in whom there is no darkness. On those dark Wednesday nights, we sing that fact to each other. Then, there is the most compelling verse that brings tears to many eyes---I know, as the director, because I see the choir members singing through their tears----“I want to be with

Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus”.

We know the joy of Jesus now in this proclamation and in the sharing of that joy with each other in the choir. We end the practice singing evening songs to or in prayers of thankfulness.

Many of you have commented lately on how great the choir sounds. We have been blessed with new and strong voices. We also have been experiencing a strong spiritual bond with each other and with the congregation. The choir is ORL and ORL is the choir. You can see it as we move from pew to the choir “section” and back again. Truly, ORL (and the choir) is blessed with the joy and strength and comfort and the holy presence of God.



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### New! Book Study & Discussion During Lent Starting Wednesday February 29 5:30 - 6:30 pm led by Pastor Otte

**Book: *Good News for Anxious Christians - 10 Practical Things You Don't Have to Do* by Phillip Cary**

**Chapter 1: Why You Don't Have to Hear God's Voice in Your Heart** (or, *How God Really Speaks Today*)

**Chapter 2: Why You Don't Have to Believe Your Intuitions Are the Holy Spirit** (or, *How the Spirit Shapes Our Hearts*)

**Chapter 3: Why You Don't Have to “Let God Take Control”** (or *How Obedience Is for Responsible Adults*)

**Chapter 4: Why You Don't Have to “Find God's Will for Your Life”** (or, *How Faith Seeks Wisdom*)

**Chapter 5: Why You Don't Have to Be Sure You Have the Right Motivations** (or, *How Love Seeks the Good*)

**Chapter 6: Why You Don't Have to Worry about Splitting Head from Heart** (or, *How Thinking Welcomes Feeling*)

**Chapter 7: Why You Don't Have to Keep Getting Transformed All the Time** (or, *How Virtues Make a Lasting Change in Us*)

**Chapter 8: Why You Don't Always Have to Experience Joy** (or, *How God Vindicates the Afflicted*)

**Chapter 9: Why Applying It to Your Life Is Boring** (or, *How the Gospel Is Beautiful*)

**Chapter 10: Why Basing Faith on Experience Leads to a Post-Christian Future** (or, *How Christian Faith Needs Christian Teaching*)

During Lent we will study this very interesting book on Christian discipleship. It looks at 10 commonly promoted ideas on discipleship and how a Gospel centered life turns those things from anxiety to freedom and service.

Amazon has the book for around \$10. Sign up on the bulletin board to join the group and if you want the church to order you a book.



**Learn  
&  
Grow**

## Ash Wednesday

February 22 - 6:30 pm  
(No Soup & Sandwich Meal)

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent and includes a special confession of sins, the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. On this penitential day, everyone is encouraged to fast as a way to focus attention on our human sinfulness and mortality in relation to Jesus' sacrificial gift of salvation purchased with his death & resurrection.



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**Our Redeemer Lutheran  
Midweek Lenten Services**  
February 29 and  
March 7, 14, 21, 28  
Worship 6:30 pm  
5:30 pm: Soup & Sandwich

**Wednesday Lenten Worship  
Theme: "You shall love the  
Lord your God".** A look at Lenten discipleship based on the "Shema"- "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

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### Sign Up for Wednesday Soup & Sandwich Meals

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex to bring Soup & Sandwiches for the 5 Wednesday Lenten Meals (*No meal on Ash Wednesday*). Our goal is simplified meals. Posted on the board is also a list of international soup recipes from previous years' "world mission soups". You are welcome to use one of them if you wish or bring a family favorite. Two people can also work together so one brings the soup & the other person the sandwiches.



### On Table in Narthex

Various Lenten devotional materials will be available on the table in the narthex. You will find new materials and some from previous years displayed. Be sure to pick up your Lenten keychain tag to remind you of your particular Lenten disciplines.

There are also some wonderful suggestions for Lenten disciplines in the February issue of *The Lutheran*.

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### Pancake Supper February 21- - 6:00 pm

Come & celebrate with us "Shrove Tuesday" or "Fat Tuesday". This is the last day before Lent when the sweets and "fats" are put away before the simple foods of Lent. Confirmants and their Mentors will serve a meal of pancakes, sausage, milk & juice. There will be pancake races and a Mardi Gras King & Queen will be selected from "King Cakes". The students will also prepare the ashes for Ash Wednesday by burning last year's Palm branches. **A free will offering will be taken to cover expenses. Any gifts over cost will go to ELCA World Hunger.**



**TIP Hospice is in need of caring volunteers** to visit patients and their families. No previous experience is necessary.

Comprehensive training is provided as well as ongoing support and education.



Hospice Care  
Volunteers

Volunteers may choose assignments that suit their time and interests. Some examples of the many services our volunteers currently provide are a) provide companionship to patients in their homes and nursing homes b) provide a break for the caregivers to attend church, medical appointments, run errands or have a couple of hours to themselves c) helping families with practical matters like shopping d) reading to patients e) light housekeeping f) assist office staff with clerical tasks g) make lap blankets and other comfort items for clients.

Come join our team of exceptional staff and caring volunteers to make a difference in lives today. Contact Jeannie Beckemeyer at 1-800-371-3884 or email [jeanette.beckemeyer@vnatip.com](mailto:jeanette.beckemeyer@vnatip.com).

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### Book Signing Sunday February 5 "Butch My Dog" by George Clark

George has written this new children's book to help children deal with loss. At the book signing, this book that retails at \$14.95 will be available for \$10. George will be making a donation to ORL from a portion of his proceeds. Congratulations to George & we hope it is a huge success.





Thanks for  
"Caring & Sharing" to:

- ✚ to those who gave to the Hat/Glove Christmas tree. 26 prs. of gloves, 11 hat & glove sets, 11 hats, 3 scarves and 1 hat, glove & scarf set were collected.
- ✚ those who worked at the Soup Kitchen: Cheryl Trench, Dawn Schuetz, Julie Strauss, Evvie Walker, Janet Boblett, Sheryn Strauss, Syl Vanek, Pat Hudgens, Ann Smith, Rosemary Schoessow, Lee Larson, Gary Caldwell, Aleda Doelitzsch, Margaret Corse and Dorothy Bagdonas.
- ✚ Sunday School Superintendent Jean, S. S. teachers and students who used their Sunday School Mission offering to buy food for the Soup Kitchen
- ✚ Christmas carolers, decorators, and Epiphany celebrators
- ✚ those who brought food for the Global Missions
- ✚ Rev. Ray & Janice Heilener for organizing the Adult Fellowship "White Elephant Auction" to benefit the ORL Deacon's Fund---\$530 was raised!

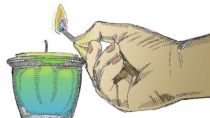
## Rend Lake Youth Event February 17-19

This event is for Jr. High and High School students. Cost will be \$15 plus \$13 if you want a t-shirt. It is a great weekend of fun, music, study and fellowship with young people from southern Illinois. Karolyn Graff will be our adult leader. Contact Pastor Otte. Registration deadline January 29.

## "Presentation of Our Lord" or "Candlemas" Sunday, February 5

### Distribution of Devotional Candles and recognition of acolytes

The actual day of "Candlemas" is February 2. This day 40 days after Jesus' birth, commemorates when he was presented for consecration in the temple. Upon seeing the baby Jesus, Simeon proclaimed him "a light to enlighten the nations". We celebrate it by distributing and blessing Devotional Candles for use in home devotions.



May God bless your home devotions and Bible reading. We also recognize our acolytes. This year's newest acolytes ("bearer of light") are Jared Schmook, Zachary Meyer and Allison Rogers.

*Another Epiphany celebration of Christ as the Light of the World!*

## ACOLYTES



## New Community Children's Choir "PS150 Children Worshipping Through the Arts"

Several months ago, Beth Butler came to several members of the congregation with an idea for a Christian-based community youth musical outreach program. This would serve as an opportunity to reach out to young families, regardless of their church affiliation, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.

Targeted children would be 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Marion area who have vocal, instrumental, or other performing arts talent. Hopefully, plans will be finalized by the end of May



Children's Choir

with auditions occurring during the summer. There would be no expenditure for our church. The only commitment would be the supervised use of the church building, and from church members who have volunteered their time to help organize and lead the group.

Plans are in their infancy, but we wanted the congregation to have knowledge of this program, as the church council has already given its verbal support.

Congregational members on the committee include: Beth Butler, Sally Mondino, Jane Otte, JoAnn Neisz, Rachel Butler and Connie Ashe. In our brief first meeting, Pastor Otte suggested the name of the group be PS150 (Psalm 150): Children Worshipping Through the Arts.

Connie Ashe, Council President



### Sunday, February 5

Bring a financial donation and cans of food for the Marion Ministerial Alliance Soup Kitchen. Make checks out to ORL and put "Souper Bowl of Caring" in the memo. Let's make this the best year ever!

### Sunday February 12 Fundraiser Between Services for Syl Vanek's prison ministry

Syl travels to 4 different prisons to visit and lead a Bible Study. A free-will offering will be received to help cover his travel expenses and material costs.



Please be generous in supporting this important ministry by our brother in Christ.

### Farewell & Godspeed to Jeff & Meredith Jones, Hunter Bartelt, Oliver and Piper

They are moving to Monett, MO to be near family. God's richest blessings on this transition and their new church home. New Address: 508 Central Ave., Monett, MO 65708



Dear Partners in Ministry,

We had a wonderful season for Storybooks at the jails and prisons

We had volunteers from 7 churches with 7 volunteers from your congregation.

- Jackson Co. Jail: 34 parents, 69 children
- Marion Federal: 29 fathers, 79 children
- Williamson Co. Jail: 18 parents, 45 children

Totals: 81 parents, 193 children

One of our AmeriCorps volunteers said after her first Storybook experience: "I really feel like I did what God wanted me to do today-- I helped those parents." These Christmas Storybooks were an opportunity to share Christ in a personal way. Prayer was a part of the Storybook time for many parents. We thank God for this ministry opportunity.

And the blessings continue for the children.

Have a joyous celebration of Jesus' birthday!

Jane Otte, Executive Director  
Prisoner and Family Ministry



## LOVE IS AN ACTION!

Love is about doing for others. For this Valentine's Day (or any other time of the year), create a coupon book that helps you serve others with love.

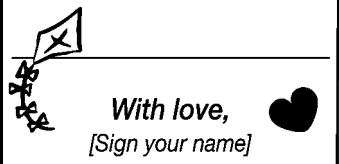
Here is what you need:

- index cards or colored paper (as many as you need)
- stickers (optional)
- colored markers or crayons

Here is what you do:

1. Think of the different people you can show love to. For example, parents, brothers, sisters, friends, neighbors, teachers, grandparents, etc.
2. Make a list of different things (acts of love) you can do for these people to show them you love them.
3. On each index card or colored paper, write these words:

This coupon is good for:



4. Write one "act of love" on each coupon's blank line.
5. Decorate each coupon with drawings, designs or stickers.
6. You can give people one coupon each or staple a few together into a coupon book to give to each person.

## Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

### February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm "Pause & Praise" 7:00 pm Adult Choir	2 9:30 am Esther Bible Study	3 8:00 am T.O.P.S.	4
5 Souper Bowl of Caring Geo. Clark-Book Signing Presentation of Our Lord-Candlemas 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Connections	6	7	8 4:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm "Pause & Praise" 7:00 pm Adult Choir	9	10 8:00 am T.O.P.S.	11 8:00 am Lutheran Men in Mission
12 Fundraiser between services for Syl's prison ministry Prison Ministry Sunday 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	13	14	15 4:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm "Pause & Praise" 7:00 pm Adult Choir	16 9:30 am Quilters 6:00-9:00 pm CPR & AED Training	17 8:00 am T.O.P.S.	18 5:30 pm Adult Fellowship @ ORL-Potluck and Dominos
19 Red Cross Blood Drive 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Connections	20	21 Shrove Tuesday - 6:00 pm-Pancake Supper	22 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday 7:30 pm Adult Choir	23	24 8:00 am T.O.P.S.	25 8:00 am Lutheran Men in Mission
26 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	27 ORL Serves at Soup Kitchen	28 ORL Serves at Soup Kitchen 6:30 pm - Council	29 ORL Serves at Soup Kitchen 4:00 pm Confirmation 5:30 pm Book Study & Discussion 6:30 pm Midweek Lenten Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir	1 ORL serves at Soup Kitchen	2 ORL serves at Soup Kitchen	