



THE VOICE

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Healing • Growing • Serving • Going

Our Mission

Jesus said
“All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me.
Therefore go and make disciples
of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
Matthew 28:18 –19

Reflections from Pastor John

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

One of my all-time favorite Bible passages, and one I memorized when I was a young man, is 1 Peter 1:13-16. Here it is in the translation I used to memorize it, the NRSV.

Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. ¹⁴Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. ¹⁵Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; ¹⁶for it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Peter says that we are not to be like our old sinful selves but like our Brother and King, Jesus, in all our conduct. We are holy because He is holy. But we have to prepare and practice for that by preparing our minds, disciplining ourselves and setting our HOPE on the grace that Jesus will bring.

On Easter Sunday I spoke of hope; how hope is alive because of Jesus' victory over sin, death and the devil. Hope is the anchor for our souls (read Hebrews 6:13-20. This is a passage that makes it clear that a Biblical hope is founded in the absolute confidence we have in God's promises). The acronym I shared was Hold-On-Pain-Ends. So back to the passage from Peter. When he writes, “prepare your minds for action,” he is telling us that in any and every situation, we can be assured that God is in control, He has a plan and He wants us participating in His plan. We have our annual congregational meeting coming up at the beginning of June. One of the main items of business is always the approval of our congregational budget. This is such an important part of how we collectively commit to participate in and support the work to which God calls us as a community of faith. To prepare our minds for action on this budget I'd like to offer a few thoughts of perspective.

What is it about Redeemer that you appreciate, that keeps you coming back, that you would want to invite others to experience? And what is it about the way we have been structured and led that has made Redeemer this way?

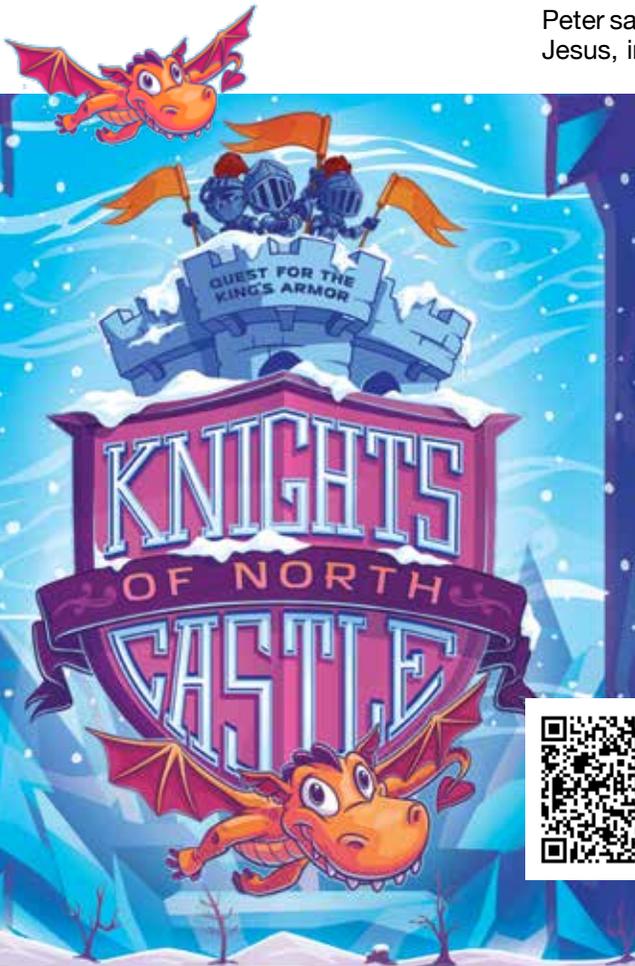
God has worked out our situation such that there has been an overall stability of our financial reserves, even through the challenges of COVID. Prayerfully consider why you think God has been so faithful in this regard.

We live in a world in crisis. World events and national events have every organization, including churches, needing to account for this changing world to be strong and effective.

The Finance Team and Council have considered these circumstances in depth in preparing the budget that will be presented. Please take time to consider explanations and listen closely to how we are seeking to follow the Lord in these challenges.

We see as a congregation the natural progression of every organization towards aging. We have a history of multi generational ways of doing and experiencing ministry. We need to commit to keeping that mindset for the sake of next generation leadership.

Continue on next page



Vacation Bible Camp

June 20 - 24, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

For ages 3 years with parent through 5th Grade

[Details at www.Redeemer.us](http://www.Redeemer.us)

May 2022

Please see Pastor Ray's brief letter about the mission God has him and Joan on in Baltimore.

Our mission has not changed. We as a congregation are called by God to "Go and make disciples of all nations." This should always be a primary motivator of our commitments, our "preparing our minds for action."

Thank you for each and every way you encourage and support the ministries of Redeemer for the sake of God's Kingdom. We have been, and will continue to be, a lighthouse congregation in our community and this four-county region as well as to the world. Please plan to continue to support the work of Redeemer by prayerfully preparing for our budget review meeting during the Sunday School hour on May 22nd and our Annual Congregational meeting immediately after worship on June 5th. Annual reports will soon be distributed for your perusal. Let us collectively prepare our minds for action, discipline ourselves, and set all our hope on the grace that Jesus will bring when He is revealed.

Peace,
Pastor John



We are excited to announce a visit from Andrew and Stephanie Onguka on May 22. Their family will be worshiping with us and then immediately following the worship service there will be an informal time of sharing about their One Life Africa ministry in Kenya.

Come join us to learn about the work they do, about how you might sponsor a student, and for anyone interested in traveling to Kenya, we will have information about the next January trip. Room 129 (outside the Chapel) 11:30 am -2:00 pm. A lite lunch will be provided.

Letter from Pastor Ray

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

First of all, Joan and I always thank Jesus for you, God's people of Redeemer. We always remember you with joy in our hearts. And yes we miss you and your fervent love of our Lord Jesus. Now briefly, Joan and I are pretty full time at St. Matthew's in Middle River. This is a congregation that has been getting older and smaller. And they must choose to be a maintenance church or seek to be a mission church. They are wonderful older people who must decide to ask Jesus to help them become "missionaries" in their community. Joan and I are "older" and so we understand the challenge personally.

Well, we will not be with them in the coming year until they call a new pastor. Only the good Lord knows when that will happen. Well, if you ever are up in this part of Baltimore, do come and visit us. There are probably a dozen seafood restaurants around our area, at blue collar prices. Yes, this area is much like my home town of Arbutus, except on the water! And so when you pray for Joan and me, pray for us as missionaries in a missionary church. And always, we pray with much love for each one of you.

Joan - P Ray



www.facebook.com/redeemer.us
and redeemer.lutheran

Easter Flowers Donated by

Chris Sale

*In memory of Christopher Sale
John & Ruth Barnes
Martha Barnes Whitaker
John & Juanita Emerson*

The Bromhal Family

*To the Glory of God
In memory of Lorraine Bromhal
In honor of Don & Marian McMahon*

Jenny Hillegas

In memory of Gene & Kelly Hillegas

Nancy Quigley

*In memory of Frank & Dorothy Stewart
Donald & Joan Loeffler*

The Want Family

To the Glory of God

REDEEMER RAMBLERS

Chainsaw Carver - Jason Stoner in Fairfield, PA

Thursday, May 5

Depart Redeemer at 9:30 am

Lunch at Mountain Gate Restaurant

Then on to the Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg for a 45 minute walking tour of 2 historic homes.

Requested donation of \$5.

For details contact Bonnie Stoner at 301-956-6928

Quilting Group

2nd Thursday this month only

Thursday, May 12, 2022 Great Room from 9:30 to 12:00 PM

All are welcome to Rambler events!

The Voice

Published monthly by:
Redeemer Lutheran Church
27015 Ridge Road
Damascus, MD 20872
301-253-3000
www.Redeemer.us