

# Weekly Calendar and News Notes

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February 21, 2010 – The First Sunday in Lent

*Redeemer Lutheran Church • Hinsdale, Illinois*

**Mission Statement:** Called by Christ and led by the Spirit, we strive to grow in faith, proclaim the Gospel, and share God's blessings.

## **This Week at Redeemer**

Today	<b>*8:30 &amp; 9:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Services, sanctuary</b> 9:45 am FQJr/FQ/MS/Adult Education, Dr. Kurt Hendel, Parish Room <b>*11:00 am Contemporary / Believe Worship Service, sanctuary</b> 7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Parish Room
Tue	6:30 am Prayer Group, sanctuary 10:00 am Bible Study, Library 12:00 pm Women's Bible Study, Parish Room 6:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Fellowship Room 6:30 pm Al Anon, Room 106 7:00 pm Alleluia Ringers, balcony
Wed	9:30 am Quilters for Lutheran World Relief, Fellowship Room <b>10:00 am Lenten Worship, Parish Room</b> 4:00 pm Angel Choir, Parish Room 5:00 p.m. Rejoice Singers, Choir Room 5:30 pm Soup Supper, Fellowship Room <b>7:00 pm Lenten Worship, sanctuary</b> 7:30 pm Festival Choir, Choir Room
Sun	<b>*8:30 &amp; *9:45 Traditional Worship Services</b> 9:45 am FQJr/FQ/MS/Adult Education, Dr. Kurt Hendel, Parish Room <b>*11:00 am Contemporary/Believe Worship Service</b> 7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Parish Room
* Communion Service	

**Adult Education for February** -- at 9:45 in the Parish Room. Dr. Kurt Hendel joins us for the month of February:

February 21: The Radical Reformation  
February 28: Fireside Chat

**Coming in March:** International Students from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago seminary sharing their Lenten traditions.

## Jesus: The Father's Portrait

*He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan...* Mark 1:13

Jesus' three temptations in the desert were about choosing "upward mobility." Be relevant: do something the world will praise you for like making bread out of stones. Be spectacular: jump from the tower so that everybody can see you as someone so influential, so important. Be powerful: kneel before me and I will give you dominion over everyone and everything. But Jesus said, "No." Because Jesus knew that God's way is not to be relevant, or spectacular, or powerful. God's way is downward. "Blessed are the humble. Blessed are the poor of heart. Blessed are the meek. Blessed are the peacemakers."

Here we have a self-portrait of the Jesus who is also a reflection of the Father: "Who sees me sees the Father." When we read the Beatitudes, we are given an image of the face of Jesus, a face that reflects the love of the Father. Humble. Poor. Meek. Peacemaker. Thirsting for justice and peace. Full of mercy. Jesus invites you and I to become more and more like he was: the image of God appearing in flesh among us. To follow him is our way: The way to glory.

*Jesus, let me abandon my fear, embrace your love, and be transformed by your grace.*

From *From Fear to Love* by Henri J. M. Nouwen

### Update from Church Council:

Once again, we thank everyone that took the time to complete the TAG survey and/or participate in a focus group. We have received from TAG Consulting an assessment report. The summary of the assessment report can be found on Redeemer's website and on a bulletin board in the hallway. We realize that not everyone was able to participate in a focus group and that your opinions and concerns need to be heard. Please share your thoughts and/or ask any questions you may have after reading the assessment report by contacting Council President Caryl M. or drop a note in her mailbox in the church office by Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Only your thoughts will be shared with the Church Council.

The Church Council is actively assessing the overall leadership and direction of the congregation. We are reviewing all programs for alignment with our core values and mission.

The following actions have been taken: Creation of a Personnel Committee - The purpose of the Personnel Committee is to oversee the staff, including reviews and problem solving, and will make recommendations to Council regarding hiring and termination.

Beginning this summer we will, on a trial basis, move to two worship services on Sunday –one traditional and one contemporary. Times to be announced.

We will continue to communicate with the congregation our action plans. Thank you.

The Church Council

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***Soup Suppers*** are offered each Wednesday during Lent, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Soup Supper time could also be a perfect time for small groups to meet and eat! May your Lenten Journey with *The Jesus Creed* be an adventure that leads you to Easter and beyond in the grace of God.

## Health Kits for Haiti

Redeemer is collecting items for Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. You can bring individual items or assemble kits on your own. Please follow the guidelines exactly and return them to church. This is an ongoing effort here at Redeemer, but this particular collection will be sent at the end of February.

The kits include the following items:

- One hand towel, dark color recommended;
- One wash cloth, dark color recommended;
- One bath-size bar (4-5 ounces) of soap, any brand, in its original wrapping;
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging;
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging.

## Haiti Disaster Response

The Redeemer First Quarter Mission Project will be ELCA Disaster Response financial help for Haiti. Anticipating a strong response from our congregation, Council authorized an immediate \$2,500 advance to the ELCA's Haiti efforts. **To date contributions from our congregation have totaled \$5,654.**

Please make your contribution today by using the blue pew envelopes marked "Haiti."

The *Tuesday Women's Bible Study Group* will be studying "Breaking Free" which is set in New Orleans and Louisiana plantations. This study should hit your heart and help open any closed doors to a better understanding of Him. The study runs eleven weeks. Workbooks will be at church for \$22. Feel free to invite your friends.

## Opportunities at LSTC

***Covenant Cluster seminaries invite you to journey through Lent with "A Song of Grateful Hearts" online daily devotion.*** The three Covenant Cluster seminaries – LSTC, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and Wartburg Theological Seminary – have collected readings and prayers written by members of their communities for the online daily devotional, "A Song of Grateful Hearts." Each day's devotion will be posted on each seminary's web site – visit <http://www.lstc.edu/chapel/lent/>. The entire devotional may be downloaded for use offline. The admissions directors of the three seminaries collaborated on the project.

***"Preaching the Stewardship of Money" presented by the Rev. Gerald Hoffman, March 13***  
"All life is a gift of God. Stewardship is our grateful response," is Pastor Jerry Hoffman's approach to stewardship. On Saturday, March 13, starting at 9:00 a.m., Pastor Jerry Hoffman will lead the workshop "Preaching the Stewardship of Money" at LSTC, 11:00 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, for the Tithing and Stewardship Foundation. Cost is \$10 per person or \$25 per congregation. Workshop materials and lunch are included in the fee. The event is free to all current seminary students. Pastor Hoffman is director of the Center for Stewardship Leadership at Luther Seminary. He has over 35 years of experience serving congregations and is on the board of directors for the Stewardship Life Institute and the work team for Stewardship Education in the seminaries of the ELCA. Register at <http://tithing.lstc.edu/php>.

***"Shared Earth: Interfaith Conference on the Environment" to find common goals for healing the earth.***

Scholars, interfaith workers, and environmental activists of all faiths will gather on March 18 and 19 at LSTC for "Shared Earth: An Interfaith Conference on the Environment." Learn about interfaith partnerships, faith perspectives on care of creation, and how faith-based organizations are taking action. Speakers and workshop leaders include Philip Clayton, Ellen Bernstein, Saleem Ali, Sevan Ross, Claire Butterfield, and Kifah Mustapha. There is no charge for the conference, but pre-registration is requested. Visit <http://centers.lstc.edu/ccme/conference/index.php> or phone 773-256-0708 for more information.

## More Opportunities at LSTC

### ***Religion and Science Seminars Explore the Future of Creation and the Inner Self***

The Zygon Center for Religion and Science at LSTC is sponsoring two courses from February 1 through May 4. "The Future of Creation: Foundations for a Just and Sustainable World" addresses ways scientists and people of faith can work together to develop effective, equitable, and sustainable responses to environmental degradation. Each class session features guest lecturers who are scientists, leaders in environmental organizations, theologians, or biblical scholars. The course meets Tuesday evenings in Room 350 at LSTC from 6:30-9:30 p.m., from February 2 through May 4. For more information visit [http://www.zygoncenter.org/future\\_creation\\_background.html](http://www.zygoncenter.org/future_creation_background.html). "Science Explores the Inner Self" is an advanced seminar led by the Rev. Dr. Philip Hefner and Dr. Lea F. Schweitz. Designed for faculty, students, and professionals, the course examines the partnership between spirituality, cognitive science, neuroscience, and theology. The course meets Monday evenings, February 1 through May 3, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the LSTC Common Room (350). For more information visit [http://www.zygoncenter.org/adv\\_seminar\\_schedule10.html](http://www.zygoncenter.org/adv_seminar_schedule10.html).

### ***"Music for Trumpets and Organ" will be March 21 Chapel Music Series Concert***

At 4pm on Sunday, March 21, hear three of Chicago's musical treasures, Thomas Wikman, Barbara Butler, and Charles Geyer, perform an internationally-acclaimed program of exciting music. The free concert is in the Augustana Chapel at LSTC. For more information, visit [www.lstc.edu/music/index.html](http://www.lstc.edu/music/index.html).

### ***Come to LSTC's Annual Gospel Choir Concert on April 11***

This not-to-be-missed annual benefit concert will be led by the choir's new director, George Cooper, and includes performances by choirs from the Chicago area. Come and be drawn into music that is irresistibly magnetic with the opportunity to support the Grover Wright and Rev. Carole Burns Scholarship Funds. The concert begins at 4:00 p.m. To contribute to the scholarship funds, contact LSTC Advancement Office at 773-256-0712, or designate the gift online at [http://www.lstc.edu/alums\\_friends/giving/index.html](http://www.lstc.edu/alums_friends/giving/index.html).



First Sunday In Lent