

Redeemer REVIEW



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

CHICO, CALIFORNIA FEBRUARY 2019

VOL. 33 No. 2

from the Pastor...

Rev. Donald Jordan

I'M RUNNING TO CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

I can't wait until this Sunday, when the Divine Service of God is offered. I can't wait to hear my pastor's voice of absolution, the preached gospel, as he proclaims the Word of God. I can't wait to open my mouth to receive the body and blood of Jesus in Holy Communion.

The invitation of Jesus to come unto him is clear in Scripture. He calls all to himself through the power of the Holy Spirit in the Gospel. Jesus only calls sinners to repentance. The church bell beckons all to come and receive the gifts that Christ so freely gives in abundance.

Going to church is not a drag and is something we anticipate with great eagerness, knowing that we need what Jesus gives to us. He did it all for us in his life, death, and resurrection. Forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation were accomplished by him and now these are distributed in the means of grace, the preaching of the Gospel and the sacraments.

Jesus says, "Take eat, this is my body..." The invitation and urging of our Lord is for you. It is the Lord's Supper and he invites you to come and partake. Your pastor is called to administer the sacrament, but if you don't show up and open your mouth, he can't feed you the bread of life. Those who won't come to the table can't partake.

You will run to church this Sunday because you need comfort and strength that is only given in the forgiveness of sins. Let's face it, each day and constantly you struggle to live a life in Christ. The enemies of the devil and sinful flesh nip and chew at your desire to do that which is God-pleasing.

In Holy Communion you have a unity with Christ in the intimacy of his body and blood taken into your



body. Your fellow believers and confessors gather with you at the rail, kneeling in humility and reverence. You are not alone in Holy Communion.

You are weak, but He is strong. Christians cannot stand and live in their own strength and power. The might and vigor of the Lord is so needed and this is given in the sacrament. God desires that we love our neighbor and serve him each day in our daily vocations. The motivation and power to do this does not come from within,

but from without. It comes from Jesus who gave us the new commandment to love one another as he has loved us.

Don't stay away from Holy Communion. Come each Lord's Day. Show up for the Divine Service. This is good medicine and so needed. The Lord has instituted this sacrament for your benefit and wills that you partake.

And don't be afraid of the sacrament. Yes, there should be confession and absolution, true spiritual preparation, self-examination as you prepare to receive it.

After that, view it like this. "A pure, wholesome, comforting remedy that grants salvation and comfort. It will cure you and give you life both in soul and body. For where the soul has recovered, the body is also relieved." (Large Catechism V 68)

I'm running to church this Sunday for divine service. My body and soul need it. God loves me and offers up a rich banquet table for me. I can hardly wait.

Soli Deo Gloria!
Pastor Jordan

REDEEMER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CHURCH STAFF

REDEEMER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

CHURCH INCOME/EXPENSE – ACTUAL:

ORDINARY INCOME:	\$175,089.15
EXPENSES:	
Administration	145,602.36
Christian Education	915.75
Evangelism	1,523.89
Fellowship	597.38
Stewardship	370.86
Trustees	<u>33,065.78</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	<u>\$182,076.02</u>
NET ORDINARY INCOME	-6,986.87
CHURCH FACILITY RENT INCOME	1,300.00
TOTAL CHURCH INCOME	-5,686.87
CHURCH RETAINED EARNINGS	<u>30,399.92</u>
CHURCH BALANCE (Total Equity)	\$24,713.05

CHURCH ASSETS/LIABILITIES:

Directed Funds (TCB)	289,114.42
Certificates of Deposit	50,000.00
Operating Funds (TCB)	24,713.05
Mission Trust Fund (Thornburg)	268,829.82
Scholarship Fund (Stifel Nicolaus)	<u>326,628.73</u>
TOTAL CHURCH ASSETS/LIABILITIES:	\$959,286.02

SCHOOL INCOME/EXPENSE - ACTUAL:

SCHOOL LEASE INCOME	84,480.00
EXPENSES:	
Property Management Fees	<u>4,224.00</u>
NET LEASE FOR DISBURSEMENT	\$80,256.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

35% to Mission Trust (Thornburg)	28,089.60
30% to Scholarship (Stifel Nicolaus)	24,076.80
20% to Facilities Reserve (Thrivent)	16,051.20
10% to School Reserve	8,025.60
5% to Musician & Concert (TCB)	4,012.80

SCHOOL ASSETS:

School Savings Account	<u>\$23,164.74</u>
TOTAL ASSETS/LIABILITIES:	\$982,450.76

PARSONAGE INCOME	\$18,000.00
Minus Renting Expenses	00.00
Parsonage Deposit	1,500.00
Disbursed to Pastor Jordan	<u>16,500.00</u>
Net Parsonage Income	\$1,500.00

REV. DONALD JORDAN, PASTOR
 JACKIE VIEIRA, OFFICE MANAGER
 REV. DAVID BUNTING, ORGANIST
 JERRY BRANDT,
 HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

OFFICERS

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 JERRY BRANDT, VICE PRESIDENT
 TERRY BRINSON,
 FINANCIAL SECRETARY
 CYNDIE HOLDERBEIN, SECRETARY

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 & BOARD OF YOUNG PEOPLES WORK
 *DIANE SCOTT
 *BOARD CHAIR

For more details or an explanation,
 see the office manager.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
 MARCH REDEEMER REVIEW
 Thursday, February 14, 12:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible study is Saturday, February 2, 8:00. Topic: *Augsburg Confession, Article 2 & 19.*

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS

Sunday Bible Study is at 8:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Topic: *Book of Romans.*

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS

Bible study is each Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Topic: *Epistle to the Ephesians.*

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULTS

College/Young Adult monthly dinner and study is Sunday, February 10, 5:00.

PASTOR ON THE RADIO

Pastor Jordan is a regular Friday guest on "Live Talk with Jerry Olenyn" on KKXX radio. 8:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. AM 930, FM 104.5. www.tunein.com

ALTAR GUILD...

is in need of servers to prepare holy communion, preparation for baptism, change paraments, maintain candles, and general care of the chancel appointments. Service typically covers one or two months annually. We will train and provide orientation with a current server. Contact Pastor Jordan, 513-1284 or Lori Jordan, 520-8187.



To ride the van to church on Sundays, contact Jerry Brandt at 636-4392 weekly.

HOMEBOUND

Irene Bevers 345-4498
Sycamore Glen
1199 Diablo Ave Apt 263
Chico, CA 95973-7893

Lester & Patricia Bodi 897-0155
650 Manzanita Ave Apt 115
Chico, CA 95926

Ann Carney 894-7010
Windchime Assisted Living
855 Bruce Road, Rm 125
Chico, CA 95928

Jackie Eichelberger 343-5260
2695 Fairfield Commons
Chico, CA 95928-8410

Ursula Fratallone 342-5428
1369 E Lindo Ave Apt 42
Chico, CA 95926-7396

Evelyn Graham 798-1405
Golden Empire Nursing Ctr.
121 Dorsey Dr, Rm 605
Grass Valley, CA 95945

LaVera Hansen 570-6654
31741 Rancho Viejo Rd. #106
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Lucile Hecht
Valley West Care Center
1224 E Street Rm 219A
Williams, CA 95987

Esther Henry 342-2288
14 Discovery Way
Chico, CA 95926

Marjean Huwe 343-9763
Windsor Chico Care
188 Cohasset Lane
Chico, CA 95926

Betty Libert
Windchime Assisted Living
855 Bruce Road, Rm 228
Chico, CA 95928

Joann Martin 809-3576
Prestige Assisted Living
1351 E Lassen Ave, Rm 139
Chico, CA 95973

Donald Miller 588-6319
The Inn 345-2979
2590 Sierra Sunrise Ter. Rm 106
Chico, CA 95928

Sharon Mudd 809-3576
Prestige Assisted Living
1351 E Lassen Ave, Rm 203
Chico, CA 95973

Larry Pohlrad 680-8421
1200 Park Ave Apt 126
Chico, CA 95928-6154

Rosemary Smith 894-5308
Twin Oaks Rehab
1200 Springfield Dr. #222
Chico, CA 95928

Claire Trockel 809-3585
1351 E Lassen Ave Apt 137
Chico, CA 95973-7703

Kathleen Weaver 566-9466
1675 Manzanita Apt 27
Chico, CA 95926

Alice Wescoatt 342-3226
Twin Oaks Rehab
1200 Springfield Dr. Rm. 305
Chico, CA 95928



Place CRV plastic and aluminum beverage containers in the bins located in the Parish Hall. Proceeds support the Youth Group. \$85.01 was redeemed.

Recycle ink cartridges by placing them in the designated box which is in the Office Storage Room (next to Pastor's office).

PASTOR JORDAN'S SERMONS

KKXX.net - Tunein.com KKXX 930 AM, 104.5 FM
Saturday & Sunday 1:00 & 5:00 PM

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

KKXX.net - Tunein.com KKXX 930 AM, 104.5 FM
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 PM

FEBRUARY ASSIGNMENTS

ACOLYTES:

- 03 P. J. Maestas
- 10 Datyell Close
- 17 John Schad
- 24 Yuhuan Wenslaff

ALTAR GUILD:

Louise Urness

ELDER OF THE MONTH:

Will Schlesener

USHERS:

BOB REAN, HAROLD URNESS

GREETER:

LINDA REAN, LOUISE URNESS



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Eva Lamont
- 02 Steve Hall
- 05 Aurora Ponci
- 06 Theresa Burch
- 11 Amanda Siemens
- 14 Dustin Siemens
- 15 Michelle Sweet
- 16 Carol Hall
- 21 Shirley Wilson
- 27 Ealine Miramontes
- 28 Cora Hall
- 28 Julane McCann



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- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

ELDER ASSIGNMENTS

STEVE HALL	Sweet - Zimmer
TIMOTHY WENSLAFF	Nelson - Smith
WILLARD SCHLESENER	Hecht - Moreno
FRED SHERMAN, III	Allen - Hall

WOMEN'S KAFFEEKLATSCH

Monday, February 18 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON

Ladies, come and join us.

We'd like to get to know you better.

Sharon Schaffert's 343-1596 627 Larch St



From the church parking lot, turn right on Hawthorne Ave to Madrone, turn right and then an immediate left onto Filbert. Continue on Filbert to Larch Street which turns right. Sharon's is on the right with the white arbor and cottage garden in front.



FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL DATES

- 01 Kathy Sweet
- 02 Michelle Sweet
- 04 Eva Lamont
- 10 Rev. Donald Jordan
- 11 Aurora Ponci
- 13 Alice Durfee
- 19 Glen Bergendahl
- 23 Lindsey Allen
- 24 Carol Varley
- 27 Michael Thompson

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2019 MISSION SUPPORT

- 1Q CAMPUS MINISTRY, YOUTH MINISTRY
- 2Q PASTOR RABE, ETHIOPIA - PASTOR CONRAD, MEXICO - PASTOR MEEKER, KENYA
- 3Q DEAF MINISTRY OF TEXAS
- 4Q KKXX SERMONS - THE LUTHERAN HOUR - ISSUES, ETC.



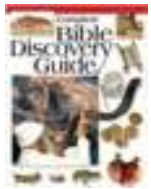
TECHNOLOGY

Technology Aids...



And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deut 6: 6-7 ESV)

One of the words that children learn early on after “no” and “me” is “why.” Rather than try to squelch the ever present “why” because you really don’t know the answer or are just plain tired of the questions, finding resources that can direct the path of the questions can be helpful and interesting.



The *Bible Discovery Guide* (available from both Concordia Publishing and Smile.Amazon) is such a resource. It is written for ages 8-12 on an informational level, but filled with pictures that even younger children can enjoy and learn from as you direct the discussion. It is a great way to initiate questions that can lead to further digging into scripture as a family. This can help channel some of the “whys” and also let you say something like, “Let’s see what we can find in our Bible discovery book to help answer that question.”

For example: How big was Noah’s ark? Learn fascinating facts about Noah’s ark from Genesis 6-9. Find out what a cubit is and that could evolve into learning to measure things. What is the difference between dad’s forearm from fingertip to elbow compared to mom’s? Talk about ways that knowing that could be helpful. If you regularly mark on a growth chart, or mark against the wall, the height of your child, what would it be in cubits (could become a math lesson)?

You might even ask grandma and grandpa if they ever used their arm or hand to measure and what kinds of things they measured that way. Did they use it for exact measurements or as a guide? Did you ever see your grandmother extend her arm and measure fabric from her nose to the end of her hand? Or did your grandfather ever “pace” off a distance? Might be good table discussion at your next family dinner.

You might think of lots of additional questions that are not addressed in the book and start a list of those questions to research and ponder. Teaching your children to “ponder” at an early age is a good way to put questioning to constructive use and to not automatically ask somebody else to answer their questions but to encourage curiosity on their own.

Have fun discovering!

Last month a link was given to a Disaster Response site from the LCMS. Hopefully you have had a chance to browse what is there. One site not on the LCMS page but that is particularly helpful if you don’t already have it is: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1802-25045-7615/famemeplan_all.pdf

This site (from FEMA) has a family information sheet and a foldable wallet form for both adults and children. Because there is sensitive information on these forms you will want to think carefully about where you will store them, even the wallet ones, though there could be helpful information for first responders in the event of an accident and the wallet version does not have some of the other confidential information but more identification data.

Possibilities for keeping the family information sheet safe would be to print out and put into your “grab and go” bag; give a copy to a trusted friend or family member outside of the area; scan the form after completed and put it into a cloud-based storage app with a secure password on the file that you can access from your phone/tablet/laptop and you might also think about giving this electronic file to a trusted family member or friend. Sensitive information could also be compiled and put into a file that is stored on a cloud programs with a secure password, or place it, password protected, on a couple of memory sticks that are placed in locations away from your home. You would also want to password protect this file on your computer or tablet.

Another thing to think about is how to contact one another during an emergency. Having one contact person outside of your area is helpful. Make sure everybody in the family knows who that is and has their cellphone number. Texting is better than calling or emailing. It uses less data and in many instances is routed at a different level so there is a better chance of text messages getting through. Keep texts simple, short and free of pictures and emoji’s. Let your extended family know that in case of emergency you will let (...) know the status of your family. Not having to answer multiple calls/emails/texts is helpful when you are in crisis situation. Make sure the person you ask to do this is comfortable with technology and will be able to do so with confidence.

While we will continue to mention disaster relief topics and resources over the next few issues there are other uses for technology that are helpful/encouraging/and educational. One such can be found at:

https://communication.cph.org/lutheran-life-winter-2019?utm_campaign=Lutheran%20Life%20-%20Winter%20-%20%5BContent%5D%20CPH%20-%20Nov%202018&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=68889228&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-96PXyIpk767dGBQIRkMtLF7YnhAeEPmOp5g5-hX4TFMfve2wivlwbwpyt-BefSsgso56zOAcGpgLzjLqzuro9uM1A2UuAsTK5gdEahm9-XMmqcco&_hsmi=68889228

Epiphany

From January 6th until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday

The Theme

The Feast of the Epiphany closes the celebration of Jesus' Nativity. The remainder of the season is concerned with the adult Christ. The Greek word, "Epiphany," means to show forth. Jesus is shown forth as the Son of God, first, by the coming of the wise men, who were gentiles, to worship Him; then at His baptism (January 13th or the Sunday after the Epiphany), when the Holy Spirit descended upon Him and the voice of the Father declared Him to be His beloved Son; and on the following Sunday, by His miracles and teaching. The last Sunday is the Feast of the Transfiguration, the greatest of His epiphanies until the Resurrection.

The Mood

The season is one of joy, a following up on the Christmas season. We contemplate the meaning of His coming. Originally, the Epiphany celebrated three mysteries together: the coming of the wise men; Christ's baptism; and His first miracle, turning water into wine at Cana. These events came to be spread out in our Western calendar, but are still kept together by the Eastern churches. The day of the feast itself concerns the coming of the wise men, showing Jesus forth as the Savior King of the whole world.

In the nativity scene set up in church and home, the shepherds are removed from the stable, and put at a distance, to show them going to spread the good news, and the three wise men replace them at the manger. A crown may be placed on the head of the Christ child. For the procession, the choir or a group of children may process around the aisles of the church, while all sing "We Three Kings." Three "gifts" may be placed by three of the children (or adults) at the manger. Incense is appropriately used for the mass, since one of the gifts of the wise men was frankincense.

Some parishes hold a Christmas party after mass, with a big white cake in which a metal ring has been baked, as well as ice cream and other refreshments. Whoever gets the metal ring in his piece of cake receives a prize. The ring represents the crown of Christ the King. (Care should be exercised if there are small children, so that they do not swallow the ring.) The Christmas decorations are taken down and put away for another year. This can also be done in the home.

The Colors

The color for the Epiphany is white. Some may want to use this color for the entire season to stress its unity, but the traditional practice is to use green from the day after the celebration of the Baptism of our Lord until the Saturday before the Feast of the Transfiguration. This color represents the newness of life which Christ bestows through our Baptism. White is the color for the transfiguration. This represents Christ's purity and holiness.

The descent from the Mount of Transfiguration into the swirling mass of sick humanity on the plain below is indicative of the sudden plunge from the heights of the Christmas-Epiphany celebration into the depth of repentance on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Christ came down from the heights of glory into the valley of the shadow of death.

HYMNS THAT SING OF CHRIST: LSB 402

“THE ONLY SON FROM HEAVEN”

The only Son from heaven,
Foretold by ancient seers,
By God the Father given,
In human form appears.
No sphere His light confining,
No star so brightly shining
As He, our Morning Star.

O time of God appointed,
O bright and holy morn!
He comes, the king anointed,
The Christ, the virgin-born,
Grim death to vanquish for us,
To open heav'n before us
And bring us life again.

O Lord, our hearts awaken
To know and love You more,
In faith to stand unshaken,
In spirit to adore,
That we, through this world moving,
Each glimpse of heaven proving,
May reap its fullness there.

▲ O Father, here before You
With God the Holy Ghost
And Jesus, we adore You,
O pride of angel host:
Before You mortals lowly
Cry, "Holy, holy, holy,
O blessed Trinity!"

Among the various individuals who contributed to early evangelical hymnody was also a woman, namely Elisabeth Cruciger (1500 - 1535) the author of this touching Epiphany hymn. This hymn enjoys the distinction of being the first *Jesus Hymn* of the Evangelical Church. Its poetically tender lines, with a touch of late medieval mystical piety, stands in contrast to the more contesting and combative verses of the early male writers.

Elisabeth was born of a noble Polish family with the surname Meseritz. Religious persecution prompted the family to move to Wittenberg where Elisabeth met Caspar Cruciges (Kreutziger) a student at the University of Wittenberg, whom she married in 1524.

Elisabeth was a devoted wife and mother and a friend of Martin and Katharine Luther. After eleven years of marriage, Elisabeth died in 1535. Although she undoubtedly wrote other hymns she is remembered for only this one. Luther encouraged her in her hymn writing.

The tune *Herr Christ Der Einig Gotts Sohn* is a folk tune coupled to a secular love song. Author unknown. Elisabeth evidently chose this tune herself to go with her text.

ASLEEP IN CHRIST



CHARLOTTE ANN ROBERTS

OCTOBER 17, 1926 - JANUARY 14, 2019



PEGGY JO FRERICHS

MARCH 8, 1951 - JANUARY 25, 2019

THANK YOU FROM CAMP FIRE RELIEF

*Dear Pastor Donald Jordan
& congregation of
Redeemer Church,
Thankyou for your generous
gift and prayers for us.
I pray God continues to bless
all of you. The Donald Lord family*

LCMS DISASTER RESPONSE MEETING

On location at the ruins of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Paradise where the parsonage, church, parish hall, offices, and pre-school was destroyed by the Camp Fire on November 8, 2018.



L-R : Pastor Brandon Merrick, Pastor Donald Jordan, CNH District President Michael Lange, Circuit Visitor Pastor Brian Cummins, CNH Disaster Coordinator Pastor Philip Zabel, LCMS Disaster Manager Pastor Michael Meyer, LCMS Disaster Director Pastor Ross Johnson.

CAMP FIRE RELIEF REPORT

Contributions to the Camp Fire Relief Fund have continued to come in for a total, to date, of \$159,308. A second phase distributed \$54,000 to survivors in addition to the first phase distribution of \$17,500, leaving a balance of \$73,759 (not counting purchases of Visa gift cards, supplies, etc. for survivors).

Some of those who have contributed in-kind donations such as diapers, food, sundries, clothing, etc. are: Down Range, Orphan Grain Train, Denise Lo, Richard Hardin, North State Grocery - David Parrish, Jean Lopez, St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Sonora, California, Town & Country Lutheran Church of Sacramento, California, Chico Target Store, LCMS Disaster Response, CNH Disaster Response, WA Shipment, Marion Prine, Elisa Hogue & Elaine Fowler, Our Savior Lutheran Church of Eagle River, Wisconsin, Carla Teigen, Rebekah Steffens, Walter Hays School of Palo Alto, California, Manteca - Stockton Police K-9 Associations, Stockton Police, Magoon Signs, Zion Lutheran Church & School of Fallbrook, California, Zion Lutheran Church & School of Lincoln, California, Sandy Sampson, St. Philip Lutheran Church of Dublin, California, and so many more who remain nameless.

A huge thank you goes out to each and everyone!

CAMP FIRE RELIEF - HAY FOR HORSES

The Redeemer Lutheran Church relief fund was privileged to be able to provide some much needed hay for 20 very hungry horses that were rescued from the Camp Fire. Their barn and hay were burned, and their owner died. Stacy Braumoeller, the daughter of Lucinda Braumoeller, and the granddaughter of Jack and Mary Williams, was instrumental in the rescue and the subsequent care of the rescued animals. They were moved to a property north of Chico where they were combined with a few cattle, but the existing feed was quickly used up and resources to acquire more were sought.

In a chance meeting at Chico Municipal Airport, RJ and Stacy met and the issue was discussed. Pastor Jordan was soon brought into the conversation and with his recent and ongoing experience with the overall relief efforts, several options for short and longer term solutions were suggested. The Church relief fund provided immediate hay which was provided by Northern Star Mills at a discount, and longer term solutions are still underway.

We thank God for people like Stacy who step up when needed, and for those who provided the relief funds to enable the preservation of this herd.



LCMS PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT REGARDING GUBERNATORIAL ACTIONS EXPANDING ABORTION IN NEW YORK, ILLINOIS

A statement from the Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in response to recent gubernatorial actions expanding abortion in New York and Illinois.

“In him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4).

On Jan. 22, 2019, the 46th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand, the governors of both New York and Illinois signed laws to extend and promote abortion.

As he signed the Reproductive Health Act into law, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo described it as the “evolution” of humankind in America. In Illinois, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed an executive order to ensure taxpayer funding of abortions, saying that it would make his state “the most progressive ... in terms of women’s reproductive rights.”

Life, not death, is the goal of humanity. History testifies that death is never the means through which justice and human rights prevail. We do not advance on the graves of our children. Germany, which sought eugenics as the solution to problems, now has strict abortion laws. To defend and support life is the goal of every just government, and the right to life is the hallmark of a good society.

Yet abortion laws have allowed the abortion of more than 61,000,000 children since Roe v. Wade. That’s nearly 50 times the number of American soldiers killed in all wars. The abortion industry and its proponents take great lengths to avoid facing the fact that abortion dismembers a living child in a horrid pool of its own blood. This is barbaric.

Abortion is a lie. Science is on the side of life. We shall stand against the barbarism of abortion until our dying breath. Abortion is illogical, as we slaughter babies in the womb while developing ever-better care for other unborn children. Abortion contradicts the natural law written on human hearts that teaches us it is wrong to kill.

Lawmakers and bureaucrats in our country have become emboldened to force citizens to go against their conscience. People publicly celebrate laws that lead to the deaths of children.

How long, O Lord, how long?

Our Christian faith teaches us to value life and to love each and every person as our neighbor. Love is life, and life is the great gift of love. Death is our natural enemy. This can be seen in our lives and in our world each day. Even the birds that seek food in winter testify that life is the goal of their movements and their work. The flowers that grow toward the sun seek the light that enlivens them. We all live under God, who grants life to His whole creation.

And in the giving of His Son to be the Savior, God shows that He is the Lord of life. Jesus came to love. He taught us to love all people, including those whom we

consider our enemies. He taught us to unconditionally love every person, even those whom this world considers unworthy of love.

Jesus not only taught us to love. He brought healing and wholeness to the broken. He proclaimed peace to those who were troubled. He sat with those who were excluded. He lifted up those who were beaten down. But most of all, He loved through the sacrifice of His own life on the cross. He died to forgive the sins of all humanity. His forgiveness is a free gift for all who trust in Him, including those who suffer from guilt for aborting their child. He rose on the third day.

The resurrection of Jesus is God’s grand statement that life is the goal of this creation. The resurrection of Jesus proclaims that all creatures find the goal of their existence in life. Just as God raised Jesus from the dead, so we learn that God treasures life over death.

We live as citizens in this world, and we seek to be obedient to our nation’s laws. We thank God for our leaders and for this great land He has given to us and for its precious freedoms and opportunities. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod advocates strong citizenship and active participation in government. We obey the laws of our land and encourage those around us to do so.

We are, however, bound by our conscience to speak against those laws that are unjust and, especially, those laws that violate God’s law and the natural law that binds all mankind. Abortion and other means through which humans kill humans violate these natural and moral laws that form the foundation of society.

Therefore, we stand against these actions and against all laws that sanction abortion or the taking of innocent life. We cannot stand silent when people elected to positions in which they are to protect citizens continue to pass laws and advocate for legislation that undermines the sanctity of human life. Our conscience is bound by both the Word of God and reason to speak for life as a precious gift of God and to speak against any and all who promote the killing of unborn children. We cannot hide the evil of these laws under the banner of “rights” or “privilege.” Children’s lives are at stake. They cannot speak for themselves. We will speak for them, and we will work to protect their lives.

And we will continue to work to love and support the women who face difficult choices or suffer from the consequences of abortion. We support young mothers who have chosen life for their children. We work to provide adoption and other opportunities to care for children in need. And we continue to show God’s mercy to all, just as He, in Jesus, has mercy on all.

We will work, love and pray that all might know the love of Jesus and trust in Him for salvation. “In him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4).

*Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

OFFICE MANAGER'S HOURS	TUE - THU	9:00AM - 4:00PM*
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	<i>*Lunch 1/2 - 1 hour</i>	

If you would like to "Go Green" you can read the newsletter online at the NEWSLETTER page of www.redeemerchico.org. To be removed from our mailing list, send the front panel to: Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, 750 Moss Ave, Chico, CA 95926 with the word "remove" written in the lower left corner or email redeemerchicooffice@gmail.com.

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Missouri Synod
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