

April 2022 Newsletter Sponsored by

Dianne Long-In Loving Memory of Her Son, Michael Long

Dearly Beloved, Grace and Peace to you.

"Cut this tree down! Why should it be wasting the soil?"

"Let it alone until I dig around it and put manure on it."

—from Luke 13.7, 8

Why do bad things happen to good people? Because things happen.

God is not an algorithm.

Did the eighteen people crushed by the wall deserve their death? No.

Does the struggling tree deserve to be cut down? No.

Jesus dispenses with the idea—
the demonic lie—of deserving.
There is no such thing.
God is not bound to the past
and our performance in it;
God is in the present moment.
God is not a cashier,
dispensing what we've earned.
God is life, and the giving of life, and nothing

No compromise. No conditions.

else.

There is no "deserving."

It is the lie of Satan, luring you into the past, into fear, into bondage. It does not give life. God's will is not what you deserve, but what you need.

Regardless of the accidents that befall you, regardless of evil you do or the evil you suffer,

God's will is to offer what you need to live fruitfully,

which is always mercy.

A tree that is not fruitful needs nourishing. A person who is not righteous needs healing. A son who has distanced himself needs family.

People who crucify need forgiveness.
A Beloved who has died needs resurrecting.
Dare to abandon your calculations
and its illusion of control.
From Life there is only the giving of life.
Receive, and you will have fruits to give.

Deep Blessings, Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes www.unfoldinglight.net

What do Lent and Easter have in common?

Of course, the answer is Jesus! And I might add – You! I am so pleased with our practice of Lent this year: mealtime together with friendly fellowship and good eats and quiet worship. We are taking time to listen and meditate on God's word, to sing and to pray. So good to see many of you making prayer and worship a priority. So proud of our 8 confirmands who attend and will soon say "yes" to their baptism!

One Lenten theme was "When we are too busy". Everyone wrote down examples. Here are the collective youth remarks about their lives: "Easy to get distracted when others are goofing around; then I can't focus." "I am not good enough at sports and feel exhausted trying to get better." "I have so many activities, I feel I need to drop something." "I do not sleep well." "It's hard when others don't understand my hearing problems." "My weeks and my weekends are too full." Here's what they want: "More time with family and friends"; "More 'me' time'; "time to sleep". I was amazed at their honesty and vulnerability!

Here's how they answered the question about how worship made them feel: "I feel good at worship. I know that I can tell God anything when I am stressed." "Prayer makes me feel relieved." "I don't know if God listens, but when I get done praying, I feel refreshed." "I feel good to share my problems, even if He can't fix them.

How does Lent fit with Easter? Jesus comes so that we can bring our worries, guilt, apathy, resentments, any troubles to our heavenly Father! That's God's promise in Jesus who gives his life for us on the cross. Jesus prayed a lot during Lent: in the wilderness, at the supper, in the garden, and on the cross! What a time of torment as well as full trust in God! On the cross, as He is dying, Jesus says to each one of us surprisingly human and loving words:

In John 19 "Women, behold your son....Son, behold your mother." "I thirst." "It is finished."In Mark 15 and Matt 27 "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

In Luke 23 "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." "Today, you will be with me in Paradise." "Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit."

Such honesty and vulnerability! Always giving to the one in need, so that now, we can live an Easter life. Here is God's answer to our prayers: "Rest in these promises, my beloved: You are forgiven; you are set free to use your talents for good; I will be with you; my Spirit will guide you and protect you. No evil, not even death, can end our relationship!" Thus, we put our trust in Jesus and count on the church, our families, and our friends to help us spread Easter joy.

Alleluia! Christ has risen; He has risen indeed, Alleluia!

Pastor Sharon



THE POWER OF PRAYER WORKS!!

Please remember in your prayers our homebound members...

Ann Block Grace Hartleben Verna Tellock Gordon & Agnes Schlender Lorna Alberg Kay & Reuben Carlson Arletta Crowell Vian Kersten Donna Kubiaczyk Eugene & Joanne Pruess Maggie Guestchow June Norrbom Marcia Tellock

We are thankful for continued healing of Evie Low, Joanne Pruess, Reuben Carlson, Nancy Pehlke, and Saul Hanke!

Your calls and visits are greatly appreciated. Pastor Sharon tries to visit monthly. She would welcome a volunteer to help. If you'd like to add a prayer request to this list please call the prayer chain below or the church at 715-253-2590 and leave a message. Redeemer Prayer Chain....Please call anyone on this list with the name(s) of the person for whom you would like prayers. That person will call the next one on the list, etc. etc.

1) Lorna Albei	rg 715-253-2721	4) Faith Kristof	715-253-2637
2) Ida Brekke	715-253-2734	5) Lee Innerebner	715-253-2200
3) Gail Koehle	er 715-253-6275	6) Mary Netzler	715-253-6290

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please sign up today!

Our list is located on the table in the gathering space. Be an usher, greeter, reader, communion assistant, or videographer. For those trained in counting collections after church, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the secretary's office. We still have some openings on council (Vice President and 2 Trustees), so please contact a council member if interested or if you have any questions on what the job entails.

Thank you for helping!

2022 ALTAR GUILD:

The duties include set up and clean-up of communion, changing the altar cloths (when needed) and watering the plants.

There is a sign-up for next year's Altar Guild in the Gathering Space. Please volunteer!

Needed for months of May, June and August

Our Monetary Discipleship for January 2022

Worship Date	Worship Attend	General Fund	Missions	Building Fund	Sunday School Offering	Other Income	Total
3-2	39	\$172.00				\$139 Lent supper	\$311.00
3-6	22	\$1800.00			\$13.00		\$1813.00
3-9	44	\$420.00				\$112 Lent supper	\$532.00
3-13	26	\$1520.00			\$8.00		\$1528.00
3-16	45	\$481.00				\$227 Lent supper	\$708.00
3-20	31	\$920.00			Noisy Coin: \$54.71		\$974.71
3-27	27	\$1390.00					\$1390.00
Total		\$\$6703.00			\$75.71	\$478.00	\$7256.71

Offering envelopes are available in the wall rack near the main entrance door in the Gathering Space.

Please use an envelope with your offering and write your name and amount on the envelope.

Using the envelopes insures you get credit for monies given to the church and helps with the accounting. Thank you!



April Birthdays!





April Anniversaries!

DICK & RUTHIE OLSEN	4-11
BRUCE & JOY HARTLEBEN	4-18
JESSE & CARLA HANKE	4-20
JOEL & PEGGY HARTLEBEN	4-30



There will be a
Fellowship/Devotional time in the
Gathering Space on Thursday
April 7th at 1:00 p.m. ALL ARE
WELCOME!

There is an Adult Bible Study Breakfast 9 am at Schultz Restaurant in Tigerton (bring your Bible) the first and third Wednesdays of each month.



Community Events:



Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre 2022 Sam Club Private Eye in the Case of The Malted Falcon

Friday and Saturday, April 1st & 2nd (Final Weekend!) at the WOWSPACE Meal catered by 2510 Restaurant.

Dinner choices are glazed pork tenderloin or baked cod. Tickets are \$45, available at Hanke's Sentry, from cast members, or by calling 715-253-3525.

Doors open at 5:30, dinner at 6:00 pm.

Join us at the WOWSPACE for a marvelous meal, mayhem, mystery, and of course a murder! This event has become an annual favorite for many area sleuths. Tickets may be purchased in March from Hanke's Sentry Foods, or by calling 715-253-3525. (You will see several familiar faces from our congregation!)

Spring Gala

Friday, April $22 \sim 7-10$ pm at the WOWSPACE

Fabulous music, food, winning wines, and brewery-fresh beers will abound at this 12th annual event. It is the perfect way to welcome spring as you enjoy an evening with friends and neighbors. Get a preview of the Spring Art Show! Tax deductible tickets are available for \$25 in advance by calling 715-253-3525 or see a WOW member. (Paul & Nancy Pehlke, Ann Hawley, Lois Anderson, Miriam Nelson)

Spring Art Show-Free

Saturdays and Sundays, April 23^{rd} – May 8^{th} , $2022 \sim 11$ AM - 3 PM at the WOWSPACE "Artists' Freeplay IX" This favorite show features a wide, eclectic collection of artwork by a variety of area artists. The show opens during the Wine, Beer and Cheese Gala then is open to the public weekends through May 8^{th} .

Wittenberg Lions Club-Scholarship Pancake Brunch

Sunday April 10 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm at the Witt-Birn HS Cafeteria Adults: \$8, Ages 6-12: \$5, and 5 & under free All tickets sold at the door.

Spring Breakfast @ Zion Lutheran 7630 Pine St. **Eland (NOT Tigerton)** Sunday April 3rd

from 10:15 am to Noon; Free will offering (Pancakes, French Toast, Crepes, Ham, Eggs, ...)



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES March 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Norrbom

Members present:

President: Paul Norrbom Treasurer: Peggy Emmel Secretary: Deb Rieck Pastor Sharon Fox Bogen

Parish Life: Gail Koehler, Lois Anderson, Arla Block WMA: Linda Evje, Kimberly Timm, Carla Hanke

Education: Tracy Dombeck, Ann Hawley, Mary Peterson

A quorum was present.

Opening Devotions: Ann Hawley

Motion made by Mary Peterson, seconded by Lois Anderson, to approve the agenda. Carried.

Council Visitors: None

Motion made by Ann Hawley, seconded by Linda Evje, to approve the February 10, 2022 minutes.

Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report shows an account balance of \$73,348.93 as of February 28, 2022. Of that amount, \$37,902.53 is non-budget, and the budget has a balance of \$35,446.40. Motion made by Linda Evje, seconded by Mary Peterson, to approve the Treasurer's Report and the bills as presented to be paid. Carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Preparing and leading 5 Lenten worships and 3 Holy Week and Easter services. Thanked Ann for her help and others for helping with providing for the Soup Suppers.
- Confirmation Sundays April 24 at Zion and May 15 at Redeemer.
- Reminder to get Newsletter info in by the 20th of each month.
- Made homebound visits and phone calls.
- Attended Shawano conference with the Clarks in February, hosted a Shawano Pastors meeting at Redeemer, and attended a short pastors retreat at Imago Dei Camp.
- Spring Vacation is March 24-April 5. The 2 Sundays will be covered by Ann Hawley and Arla Block and 1 Lent Service covered by Linda Krueger. Pastor Lois Graper will be on call.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustees

- Downstairs bathroom faucet in the lady's room was fixed as well as the upstairs door jamb.
- Furnace in Heritage Room was fixed. Filters need to be purchased.
- Gutter update from Linda. Still waiting on estimates after the weather warms up a bit.

Parish Life

- Met with WMA to plan the soup and sandwich meals for Lent and talked about possible upcoming summer events that could be planned
- Discussed sending cards to shut-ins again.

Parish Education

- There has been sparse Sunday School attendance since the Christmas break.
- 3rd Sundays of the month students are helping with the services and have a noisy coin offering.
- Easter breakfast plans are underway. Help will be needed.

Worship/Music/Arts

- Easter Flowers/Decorations-Ann will purchase flowers for the church that will be available for purchase.
- There will be 2 communion tables for the Easter service and breakfast will be after the 8:30 service.
- Palms will be ordered for Palm Sunday.
- WMA and Parish life will meet again to look at summer ideas.

OLD BUSINESS

• Reviewed and revised the marriage policy. Motion made by Linda Evje, seconded by Pastor Sharon, to approve the Marriage Policy and Facility Use Policy. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Business mixer for the sound system needs to be purchased so our wireless headphones can
 work properly. This will be around \$200. Motion made by Lois Anderson, seconded by Arla
 Block, to purchase the business mixer. Carried.
- Erin Hawley expressed interest in some of the custodian duties. Motion made by Mary Peterson, seconded by Lois Anderson, to hire Erin Hawley to do the cleaning and light maintenance at an hourly rate starting at \$10.00 per hour. Carried.
- Discussion on who will do the snow shoveling-Peggy will check on pricing from Jim Onesti for next winter.
- Miriam is unable to attend the Crossways Camp annual meeting this Saturday. Erin Hawley will be attending with Ann Hawley.
- There have been video issues on Sundays due to internet connection. New router and WIFI extender as well as a new modem were tried but it still isn't working correctly. Telephone company needs to be contacted again.
- Insurance renewal notice was received. Paul will call them.

Next Council meeting, Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 5:30pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion made by Mary Peterson, seconded by Kimberly Timm, to adjourn. Carried.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Rieck, Council Secretary

This year's Synod Assembly Service Project will be partnering with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a non-profit committed to making sure that no child has to sleep on the floor by building twin-sized bunk beds. The East Central Synod of WI will be partnering with SHP in hosting a build day on May 7^{th} from 9 am - 2 pm for at least twenty beds to be given to local children (St.

Andrew's Lutheran Church, 1100 E Murdock Ave, Oshkosh). Let them know by March 28th if you can help build or if you would like to donate the money to buy a bed (\$250) by emailing ecsw@ecsw.org. They are also looking for NEW twin-sized sheets (not white) and comforters, pillows, mattress pads and mattress protectors. Quilts can be twin or full size. Bring these items to church by May 8th so our reps can take them to the Synod Assembly on May 13-14. Donations may be made out to the East Central Synod of Wisconsin marked "SHP" and made on the synod website, www.ecsw.org



Pastor Sharon will be on vacation from March 24-April 5th. In case of pastoral need, please contact Pastor Lois Graper at 715-853-2549.

Guidelines for a Safe Sanctuary:

- In an effort to keep everyone healthy and safe, we ask that you consider the wellbeing of those around you.
- Masks, while not required, are considered a way to reduce the spread of airborne illness and the use of them is encouraged.
- Upon entering the church, during the service and after church, please allow ample distance to those outside of your family that are around you. The personal space and comfort zone around each and every one of us has increased over the last year. Please be aware.
- If you are not feeling well, please stay home. If you are a part of the service, we will find someone to fill in for you. You will be missed and we will most certainly pray for you.

Easter Flower Garden

- If you would like to share a plant or flowers for the April 17th Easter Sunday worship, please call the office to arrange a drop off time or bring them to church during office hours (2-4 pm on Thursdays) or worship times.
- Ann Hawley will have flowers for purchase available in April in the Gathering Space.



WB Weekend Backpack Program



The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District along with the Wittenberg Food Pantry has implemented a backpack program which provides nutritional, easy-to-prepare food for students in families that are struggling to have food needs met over the weekends during the school year. Pantry volunteers fill backpacks that students take home Friday and return on Monday.

There are over 40 students enrolled in this program and the cost of feeding each one is about \$100 per year. If you are interested in sponsoring a child for a year for the WB Weekend Backpack Program, please send \$100 to Wittenberg Food Pantry, PO Box 212, Wittenberg WI 54499. Include a note denoting that it is for the WB Weekend Backpack Program, and also list "In honor of" or "In memory of" if you wish. If it better fits your budget, you could also sponsor a child for a semester for \$50. All donations will be listed on our website at wittenbergfoodpantry.weebly.com

Thank you for helping feed the hungry in our community!

<u>Upcoming Events in Shawano County</u>

Memory Café (Oconto County): The Oconto County Memory Café meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. Contact Mary Jo for more information by calling 715-526-4712.

Memory Café (Shawano County): The Shawano County Memory Café meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm. Contact Mary Jo for more information at 715-526-4712.

<u>Caregivers Stronger Together</u>: This caregiver support group takes place at The Caring Tree Adult Day Center in Oconto Falls the 4th Thursday of each month from 10:00 am – 11:00 am. Contact Mary Jo at 715-526-4712 or Bonnie at 920-591-0796.

<u>Caregiver Support Group – Shawano</u>: This caregiver support group takes place at the Shawano Library the 4th Wednesday of each month from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm. Contact Mary Jo at 715-526-4712 or Kristin Waukau at 715-799-5270 for more information.

Brain Check-Ups

A brain check-up is a wellness tool that helps identify possible changes in memory and cognition. Brain check-ups will be held at local libraries from 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm on the following dates:

April 11 – Oconto Falls Library
May 9 – Shawano Library
June 1 – Lena Library
July 7 – Gillett Library

August 8 – Suring Library September 7 – Lakewood Library October 4 – Menominee Library in Keshena

Contact Mary Jo to schedule an appointment by calling 715-526-4712.

<u>Mental Health First Aide Training:</u> UW-Extension is offering a free mental health first aide training that is virtual. Upcoming class dates include March 4 & May 11. Go to https://bit.ly/AMHFA2022 to register. Contact Megan with any questions at msuehring@wisc.edu.

Thank you to Dick and Ruthie Olson for their donation of a new wine dispenser for our communion supplies!



Crossways Camping Ministries Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 12, 2022 at Imago Dei Village, Clintonville

Sharon Cook, Crossways Executive Director, gave a positive report on camp for 2021. CoVid restrictions limited the number of campers to 62% of the number of campers in 2019. Masks were worn much of the time and negative CoVid tests were required of campers. As many activities as possible were held outside. Campers stayed in their groups of about 20 throughout the day. She was happy to report that they had zero cases of CoVid at camp this past summer. Hopefully in 2022, many of the pandemic restrictions will be lifted, but they will continue to follow any CDC guidelines. All three Crossways sites (Waypost by Bevent, Imago Dei Village by Clintonville, and Pine Lake by Waupaca) received the highest level of accreditation through the American Camp Association after an onsite review.

There were fewer campers and retreats in 2021, so the income was less from camp fees. Due to the support of churches, individuals, and grants, Crossways ended in the black with a balance of \$51,000. They were short-staffed in some areas for the summer, but staff worked extra hard and stepped up to make things work, even with lower salaries. Crossways plans to have an annual Homecoming Day every fall as a fundraiser. In 2021, they raised \$17,000. Crossways Homecoming in 2022 will be at Waypost Camp on Oct. 8th.

Several staff members attended a total inclusion workshop to better inspire, educate and include those who have been marginalized in the past (students of color, those with disabilities, and of a different sexual orientation.)

The Episcopal Church of Fond du Lac sent youth to Waypost for two weeks this past summer, and members were so impressed that they plan to continue sending their youth to camp there. They also decided to contribute towards the new archery program at Waypost-buying the necessary equipment so it can be used in 2022.

Capital Campaign Update:

- 305 people made pledges over three years, with 147 already paid in full.
- The chapel at Imago Dei has been renovated, with a much improved heating system.
- The showers at Waypost will be redone this fall, with a steel roof, better drainage, and 6 individual bathrooms-each with their own showers and sinks. Two will be fully ADA accessible.
- For the Pine Lake Camp chapel project, \$78,000 out of the needed \$80,000 has been raised so far to replace rotting timbers with new and better materials.

The 2022 budget was approved (with a projected \$31,000 surplus.) Revenue: \$1,223,300 Expenses: \$1,191,855 The cost of food increased, and base pay for summer employees needs to go up to be competitive. Any contributions are appreciated. Noisy Coin Offerings for Crossways are one way that congregations can send extra contributions in addition to encouraging their youth to attend camp. Cindy Halverson from the ELCA Foundation said that she is available to work with congregations or with individuals to set up estate planning to include Crossways-a truly worthwhile cause. (cynthia.halverson@elca.org)

All three nominees were elected to the Board of Directors, bringing the total to fifteen. Bylaws revisions were approved which included the following:

- Allow virtual annual meetings when needed.
- Board of Directors-made it uniform how they were elected.
- Will meet 4 times a year, but not necessarily guarterly.
- Executive and Personnel Committees were separated and duties allocated.
 The staff at Crossways Camping Ministries were thanked for their dedication and hard work this past year.

Submitted by Redeemer Delegates: Ann and Erin Hawley



Children are like balloons with a message inside. They start out small and we inflate them with something of ourselves. As we pour our lives into them...they spread sunshine, give joy, brighten the days of grandmas and grandpas and cheer up the sick. They remind us of being young and that life is fragile. They celebrate living!! When discouraged, they are like a balloon that deflates. A simple openness allows us to refill them., with hope for the future, a feeling that they are special and the knowledge that God loves them. Their enthusiasm is like a balloon carried on the wind with never ending energy. They sway and drift. It's then that they need our prayers and loving guidance, without too much pressure that would cause them to burst. The time comes, sprinkled with tears and joy, when others are able to read the message we have written on their hearts. So we let go and let God have His way with our precious balloons***not the end***but truly the beginning.

Youth News:

Thank you to the parents of our Sunday School and confirmation students for bringing your children! March 20th (the 3rd Sunday of the month), the youth served as ushers, readers, greeters, and singers. Thank you, Laura Clark, our music leader! It was also Noisy Coin Sunday! Thank you for contributing to support Ana Luis, our Compassion International child from Mexico (now 18 years old and training to be a nurse!) How wonderful that we are privileged to help Ana in her needs and goals to become a nurse!!! The children will be participating again on April 17th (Easter). Older children can help set up on Saturday April 16 at 9:00 and also serve on Easter. Easter breakfast offering will go towards our youth programs. The last day of Sunday School will be May 8th (Mother's Day)-and the kids will sing a song in church in honor of mothers. Laylah Horne will be confirmed on May 15th.

Tigerton High School presents "The Lion King"

April 21 & 22 (6:30 pm), April 23 (3:00 & 6:30 pm)

tickets: \$6 preorder or \$10 at the door (with 3 Zion confirmation students!)

			April 2022			
Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					WOW Murder Mystery Dinner Show open at 5:30 pm	2 WOW Murder Mystery Dinner Show open at 5:30 pm
3 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School	4	5	Adult Bible Study Breakfast 9 am at Schultz Restaurant in Tigerton (Bring Bible) Confirmation: 3:30-5 at Zion Lent Service-Zion 5:30 pm	Fellowship & Devotions 1:00 in Gathering Space. Church office hrs: 2-4 pm Church Council 5:30 pm	8	9
8:30 Worship-Palm Sunday w/Holy Communion-Palm Sunday 9:30 Sunday School -Donkey Walk at Zion at 9:30, Lions Brunch	11	12	13	Church office hrs: 2-4 pm Maundy Thurs. Service w/Holy Communion: 6:30 pm~ Redeemer (5:00 at Zion)	15 Good Friday Service: 6:30 pm at Redeemer	9:00 Set up for Easter breakfast- older youth/ parents/ SS teachers
8:30 Worship w/Holy Communion – Easter *Children participate *Noisy Coin Sunday (No Sunday School) Easter Breakfast: 9:30	18	19	Adult Bible Study Breakfast 9 am at Schultz Restaurant in Tigerton (Bring Bible) Confirmation: 3:30-5 Zion Newsletter deadline for May	21 Church office hrs: 2-4 pm	22	23
24 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School	25	26	27	28 Church office hrs: 2-4 pm	29	30

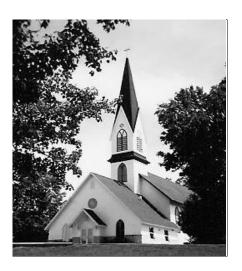
Next month, we'll switch times with Zion. So May-August we will have Sunday worship at 10:30 am and Zion will meet at 8:30 am.

Communion: Communion will be given on the 2^{nd} & 3^{rd} Sundays of April & Maundy Thursday.

***In case of inclement weather, be sure to check your email, Facebook, or our website (or call the church. We'll try to leave a message on our voicemail if church is canceled).

2022 Lenten	Worship Schedule	
Wednesday, April 6	•	5:30pm Zion
Maundy Thursday, April 14	6:30pm Redeemer	5:00pm Zion
Good Friday, April 15	6:30pm Redeemer	
Easter Sunday, April 17 <u>Easter Breakfast 9:30 am</u>	8:30am Redeemer	10:30am Zion

Redeemer Lutheran Church W18205 College Avenue P.O. Box 220 Wittenberg, WI 54499 (715) 253-2590 redeemerwitt@gmail.com



The mission of Redeemer Lutheran Church is to care for all people through the proclamation of the Gospel, celebration of the sacraments, and service to our neighbor.

We strive to accomplish this by our witness at church, home, school, work and play, all to the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Bringing people to Christ ~ Bringing Christ to people