

Pesah: Hebrew, meaning
Passover

Pascha: Greek/Aramaic,
meaning Feast of Passover

Paschal: Old French,
meaning relating to Easter;
relating to the Jewish
Passover

In the Proper Preface of the Great Thanksgiving in the Holy Communion during Lent we hear, "You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace."

What is the "paschal feast"?

Pesah designates for Jewish believers both a spring festival and the animal (lamb or goat) that is eaten during the Passover meal, as described in the Biblical account of the Passover in Exodus 12:1-28.

Jesus was betrayed by Judas following the Last Supper he ate with his disciples in the upper room, which was a traditional Jewish Passover Meal, as described in Matthew 17:1-30; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:1-23; and John 13:1-20. Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection all happened at the time of the Passover, making these events known among Christians as the *paschal mystery*.

Those celebrating the Passover will speak of the *paschal lamb*, referring to the lamb sacrificed for the meal. Jesus, when he reinterpreted the bread and wine of the Passover Meal as his own body and blood; and when he sacrificed his life on the cross so that the angel of death would pass over us, has become for Christians the Paschal Lamb. Indeed, John the Baptist, following Jesus' baptism, saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

Traditionally a new *paschal candle* is lit for the first time at the Easter Vigil. Redeemer maintains the same paschal candle, pictured on the right, from year to year. You may have noticed, however, that it is removed from the sanctuary during Lent. It will reappear, and be lit, on Easter Sunday and every Sunday during the Easter Season. Other times when the paschal candle is lit are during the Season of Christmas, at baptisms, and at funerals/memorial services.



We light the *paschal candle* in these seasons and at these sacred events to remind us and assure us of the presence of Jesus and of the significance his suffering, death, and resurrection have on and for our lives, now and eternally.

May a deeper understanding of this ancient word help us to "cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast."

Paschal Blessings,
Pastor Amy

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
March 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Weisensel

Members present:

President: Dan Weisensel Vice-President: Arla Block

Secretary: Deb Rieck

Education: Mary Peterson, Ann Hawley, Tracy Dombeck

Parish Life: Karon Weisensel, Lois Anderson

Trustee: Paul Pehlke, Brad Zeinert, Ryan Buntrock

Worship, Music, & Arts: Faith Kristoff, Maribeth Netzler

Pastor Amy Peron

A quorum was present.

Motion made by Mary Peterson, seconded by Maribeth Netzler to approve the agenda. Carried.

Council visitors: None

Motion made by Karon Weisensel, seconded by Faith Kristoff to approve the February 2019 Meeting Minutes. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report shows an account balance of \$67,013.96 as of February 28, 2019. Of that amount, \$61,371.05 is non-budget, and the budget has a balance of \$5,642.91.

Motion by Paul Pehlke, seconded by Mary Peterson to approve the bills as presented to be paid. Carried.

Pastor directed the council members' attention to pg. 2 of the Fiscal Year Treasurer Report. As of January there was a \$4,000 deficit and in February a \$5,000 deficit leaving us to date a deficit of \$9,000. In the past the Easter Season has always been a financial boost for the parish, however, Ash Wednesday service was not well attended. Could this be an indicator of what is to come this Easter season? A discussion was had on what the council could do to make the congregation aware of the seriousness of the situation.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Conducted worship services at Redeemer and Homme Home.

Along with Lois Anderson participated in Forensics Judging for the Wittenberg School District.

Synod Activities:

- Along with Karon W. attended the Shawano Conference Meeting in Tilleda
- Attended Intern Meeting
- Along with Ann H. attended the EPIC event on March 9.
- Attended a Clergy Text Study

Pastoral Care:

- Pre-marriage meetings with Grodin/Clark and Zeinert/Cismoski
- Made calls to Homme Residents
- House Visits to those in need
- Journeying Through Grief booklets sent to families in need.

Exploration Task Force met on March 3 following worship where they went over hand-outs from the Jan. 27 meeting in Antigo. Digital copies were sent to task force members not at the meeting.

Pastor Amy will be on vacation March 28-30 and April 1. Pastor Lois Graper will be on-call.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parish Life

- At their last meeting they discussed advertising our Easter Season schedule as was done during Christmas. Pastor will explore the possibility with Trinity and St. Johns in Birnamwood regarding sharing this advertisement space among all 3 churches. This could cut down on the advertisement cost.
- Game night was enjoyed by those that attended. Attendance could have been low due to the weather. Another night will be planned after the Easter season maybe in May. Perhaps a taco night this time?
- The WOW Space is looking for groups to run fundraiser food booths for summer months during the 2nd Tuesday concerts. The council decided to sign up for the month of July. Proceeds from this fundraiser could go towards missions, youth activities, and/or other parish bills.

Parish Education

Mary Peterson is not retiring from teaching Sunday School as was reported at the last council meeting. She has decided to continue to teach Sunday School again next year.

- Around 10 youth participated in the February Sledding
- Sunday School students will be singing during the March 17th service as well as helping out with activities during the Crossway Ministries campaign.
- VBS dates set for August 6-8th
- Quarterly Meeting April 24th
- **Please Note**-More help will be needed this year for the Easter Breakfast due to the limited number of youth members.

Trustees

- Ice dams at the parsonage are causing leakage. This will have to be a spring project assessed by the trustees.
- Still waiting to hear back from Rick Froom regarding where things stand with the window plaque.

Worship/Music/Arts

Met February 28

- Lenten Services are in order
- Decorated for Lent
- Discussed the Bishop's visit
- Discussed summer worship which will again be at 6:30pm the last Sunday during the summer months.
- Discussed the possibility of changing worship times during Memorial and Labor Day weekends.
- Decorating for Easter will be done at 9:00am on April 20th.
- Easter Season Services:
Maundy Thursday 6:30pm
Good Friday 1:00pm and 6:30pm
Easter Sunday 8:00am and 10:00am with breakfast between services at 9:00am
- Next meeting May 7th

OLD BUSINESS

Arise campaign-Christian Education Fund Gift-No funds available at this time.

Short Term CD Options for non-budget monies were presented by Arla Block. She explored rates at various institutions and found a 2.3 % short term 3 month renewable CD.

Motion by Karon Weisensel, seconded by Brad Zeinert to invest some of Redeemer's non-budget monies into a short term 3 month renewable CD. Carried.

Monies will be transferred from the following accounts:

- \$10,000 Building Fund
- 25,000 Cemetery Fund
- 5,000 Memorial Fund
- 2,500 Confirmation Camp Fund
- 500 His Kids Mission Trips

Arla also explored Redeemer's current investments in the Christian Education Fund.

Motion by Karon Weisensel, seconded by Paul Pehlke to move funds currently in the New World Fund to the Growth Fund of America and move funds from the Capital World Growth and Income Fund to Fundamental Investors Fund due to the fact that both of these accounts have traditionally been seeing better returns on their investments. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Reminder that during upcoming Lent Wednesday and March 17th Sunday Service someone needs to open the doors and be there to greet the Bishop. Due to the Round Robin Preaching schedule Pastor will not be at Redeemer's Wednesday evening Lent service for the next two weeks.

Next Council meeting, Sunday, April 7.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion by Paul Pehlke, seconded by Mary Peterson to adjourn. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Rieck
Council Secretary

April Worship Assistants

Date	Children's Time Reader	Usher	Reader	Communion Assistant	Acolyte
Sunday April 7	Ann Hawley	Dick & Ruthie Olsen	Kari Zeinert	Kari Zeinert	Saul Hanke
Palm Sunday April 14	Ann Hawley	Sunday School Youth	Sunday School Youth	_____	Sunday School Youth
Maundy Thursday April 18	_____	Dan & Karon Weisensel	Lois Anderson	Karon Weisensel	Joseph Meyer
Good Friday 1:00 pm April 19	_____	Peggy Emmel	Lois Anderson	_____	_____
Good Friday 6:30 pm April 19	_____	NEEDED	Ann Hawley	_____	_____
Easter Sunday 8:00 am April 21	_____	Linda Evje	Joy Hartleben	Kim Norbom	Makenna Dombeck
Easter Sunday 10:00 am April 21	_____	Dan & Karon Weisensel	Leslie Hill	Leslie Hill	Joseph Meyer
Sunday April 28	Fay Rosenow	Jeff Hartleben	Dan Weisensel	_____	Laylah Horne

ALTAR GUILD:

January & February: Gail Koehler & Ruthie Olsen

March & April: Dianne Long & Leslie Hill

May & June: Dave & Shirley Schmidt & Linda Evje

July: Lois Anderson & Nancy Pehlke August: Miriam Nelson

September: Peggy Hartleben & Peggy Emmel October: Deb Rieck

November & December: Lori Hartleben & Fay Rosenow

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

Our Monetary Discipleship for March 2019

Worship Date	Worship Attend	General Fund (Budget)	Building Fund (Non-Budget)	Sunday School Offering (Budget)	Other Income NB = Non-Budget Funds B = Budget Funds
3/3	42	\$ 4890.00			\$ 50 Missions (NB)
3/6 Ash Wed	45	\$ 466.00			\$ 80 Lenten Meal (NB) \$ 15 Missions (NB)
3/10	38	\$ 770.00		\$ 97.10	\$ 13 Building fund (NB) \$ 20 Easter Flowers(NB)
3/13 Wednesday	17	\$ 900.00	\$ 10.00		\$ 291 Easter Flowers(NB) \$ 57 Lenten Meal(NB)
3/17	59	\$ 1272.00	\$ 7.00		\$ 50 Missions(NB)
3/20 Wednesday	33	\$ 142.00			\$ 90 Lenten Meal \$ 10 Missions(NB)
3/24	47	\$ 5481.00	\$ 11.00		\$ 50 Cemetery(NB) \$ 363.95 WELCA(NB) \$ 40 Memorial Fund(NB)
3/27 Wednesday	*	*	*	*	*
3/31	*	*	*	*	*
Total	281	\$ 13,921.00	\$ 28.00	\$ 97.10	\$ 1064.95

* Information not available when newsletter was printed

Monthly expenses, to date, for March were \$ 8,845.71.

Our general budget income, to date, for March was \$ 14,018.10

For the month of March, we brought in \$ 5,172.39 more than we spent.

However, for the year, we are still short \$ 3,920.78.

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** if you include cash. Using the envelopes insures you get credit for monies given to the church.

**SENSING THE
GOSPEL**



Sight



Hearing



Smell



Taste



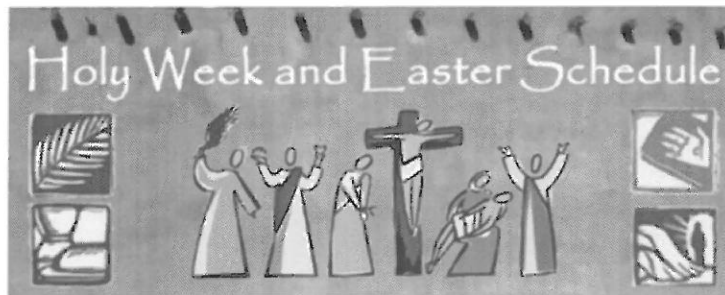
Touch

Sensing the Gospel: Mid-Week Lenten Series

In Jesus Christ, the salvation God provides cannot be reduced to an abstract idea. Salvation happens, instead, in human flesh. Indeed, God arrives to us as human flesh. Moreover, people encountered Jesus in and with their bodies. There were real people in real contact with a real man from Galilee. Even today, we encounter God and God's salvation in and with our bodies. Lent provides opportunities to acknowledge this.

For our mid-week worship, we continue to partner with Pastor Lois Graper and Pastor Paul Johnson to explore the ways we experience and receive Jesus through our senses.

	Lutheran Church of the Wilderness, Bowler 5:30 pm Meal 6:30 pm Worship	Peace, Tilleda 5:30 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship	Redeemer, Wittenberg 5:30 pm Meal 6:30 pm Worship
April 3	Pastor Amy – Smell	Pastor Paul – Taste	Pastor Lois – Taste
April 10	Pastor Lois – Taste	Pastor Amy – Smell	Pastor Paul – Smell



Palm Sunday – 10:00 am Worship

Maundy Thursday – 6:30 pm Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday – 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm Worship

Easter Sunday – 8:00 am & 10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

Easter Breakfast – 9:00 am

Lenten Sunday Morning Worship Focus: Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Here are a few suggestions for focusing on The Lord's Prayer at home:

* If you don't do so already, during Lent, challenge yourself and those in your household to pray The Lord's Prayer every day.

* Parents, spend these 40 days of Lent teaching your children The Lord's Prayer, if they do not know it already and/or other prayers.

* Look up Luke 11:1-13 and Matthew 6:5-15. Compare and contrast these verses. Sunday's sermons will focus on the petitions of The Lord's Prayers.



April 7 – Hallowed be thy name ...

Palm Sunday, April 14 – Thine in the kingdom, power, glory forever

Maundy Thursday, April 18 – Give us this day our daily bread...

Lenten Wednesday Schedule

Meal – 5:30 – 6:15 pm

A Free Will Offering will be collected for Mission & Benevolence which includes LSS/Homme Youth & Family, Crossways Camping Ministries, Homme Aging Resident Fund, & The Wittenberg Food Pantry.

Clean-up – 6:15 – 6:30 pm

Worship – 6:30 pm

Wednesday Evening Menu

April 3: Soup/Chili, Bread, Crackers, Cheese, Pickles, Desserts

April 10: Hotdish, Bread, Fruit/Veggies & Desserts



A full menu/ sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space.

We typically serve 50 folks on Ash Wednesday;
35 folks in following weeks.

Please sign-up as you are able to provide items for our meals.

*** PLEASE NOTE – IF THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH FOOD DONATIONS ON A PARTICULAR WEEK THE EVENING MEAL WILL BE CANCELLED. THANK YOU IN

WORKING TOGETHER

Parish Model Ministry

There are seven ELCA congregations in the general area along Hwy 45 in Arbutus, Antigo (2), Aniwa (1), Birnamwood (2), and Redeemer in conversation regarding collaborative ministry and/or shared leadership. Each congregation is affected by declining worship attendance, congregational participation, and decreasing funds which is impacting how we currently provide ministry for our members and in our communities, and threatens our ability to provide ministry in the future.

Members of an Exploration Task Force, who include Arla Block, Ryan Buntrock, Makenna Dombeck, Tracy Dombeck, Rick Froom, Shondel Hansen, Ann Hawley, Gail Koehler, Miriam Nelson, and Dan Weisensel, have been charged with the responsibility of assessing Redeemer's gifts and future needs for ministry. A few members have been able to attend meetings with the larger church groups to continue the conversation. Updates on all these meetings have been provided in previous newsletters.

Now is the time for YOU to get involved.

On April 28 at 1:00pm, there will be a meeting at Calvary Lutheran in Antigo for all churches in this conversation. Every church is encouraged to bring as many members as they want. We will be meeting with a pastor from Illinois who serves on staff in a parish. He will be available to tell us the ins and outs of parish ministry and to answer any questions we have.

This meeting is important for all of us! It will help the Exploration Task Force and all members of Redeemer to better understand what Parish Model Ministry is and what entering into this style of ministry could mean for Redeemer, in the near and distant future.

Let's make attending the meeting on April 28 a priority and have at least twenty-five (25) people of Redeemer commit to going! A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space. Please sign up.

Adult Ministry & Educational Opportunities

Church Choir rehearses after worship on Sunday mornings.

Men's Morning Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 8:00 am in the quilting room at Homme Aging.

Monthly Bible Study meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:30 am in the quilting room at Homme Aging.



* Pastor Amy leads worship on the third Sunday of the month at Homme Home for the Aging at 10:00 am. If you live at Homme Home, Rainbow or Carbonero Apartments, you are encouraged to attend this mid-week service. Pastor Amy spends time following worship visiting with Redeemer members.

* Pastor Amy makes home Communion calls on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the month. If you, or a family member, is having difficulty attending worship due to geriatric or health issues, please contact Pastor Amy to get on her visitation schedule.

* If you, or a family member, is in the hospital and would appreciate a pastoral visit, please contact Pastor Amy. Even though you may be asked upon admission if you belong to a church, hospitals, due to federal law, do not contact churches to alert them a member is hospitalized.



Flowering Easter Cross

The Flowering Easter Cross has become something of a tradition at Redeemer. It will adorn our sanctuary again this Easter Season, Sunday, April 21 – Sunday, June 2. With Easter later this year, there is a greater possibility of having blossoms in our yards. Flowers will be available at church each week. You are also invited to bring flowering branches and blooms from home to help adorn the cross.

On Pentecost Sunday, June 9, we will adorn the cross with red flowers.

Parochial Report:

Deaths – Rev. Richard Gildseth, who entered the Church Triumphant on March 15, 2019

Evelyn Jacobson, who received everlasting life on March 18, 2019

Summer Worship Schedule

* **June 2** worship switches to **9 a.m.** Parish Life will host a brunch following worship.

* **June 30, July 28, and August 25** worship will be at **6:30 pm.** These will be **OUTDOOR** services unless the weather is poor. Please bring a chair. Following worship in July is a Pie in July Social. Following worship in August is a Sundaes on Sunday Social.

Youth Page

***** Christian Education *****



* We support our *Compassion International* friend, Ana Luis, with Sunday School Offering.

No Sunday School Easter Sunday, April 21

Last Day of Sunday School, May 5

Students will present their Easter Program on May 5.
This month they will work on their songs for the program.



NO Class during Lent. Class will resume on April 24.

***** Worship *****



Palm Sunday, April 14 is Youth Sunday.

May 5 is Youth Sunday.

* All children will provide *Special Music* for worship.

* Younger children, in Mrs. Dombeck & Mrs. Peterson's classes, and their families will serve as *Greeters* and *Ushers*.

* Older children in Mrs. Hill's class will *read* the Scripture lessons and serve as *acolyte*.

Acolyte Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
April 7	Saul Hanke
Palm Sunday, April 14	Owen Hanke or Laylah Horne
Maundy Thursday, April 18	Joseph Meyer
Easter Sunday, April 21 8:00 am	Makenna Dombeck
Easter Sunday, April 21 10:00 am	Joseph Meyer
April 28	Laylah Horne

EPIC 2019 (Equipping People in Congregations)

March 19, 2019 in Shawano

Attended by Pastor Amy Perron and Ann Hawley

EPIC 2018 began with a welcome by Bishop Mansholt. Rev. Michael Binder from Minneapolis was the keynote speaker. Then for the rest of the day, we could pick 3 out of 10 workshops to attend. All of them were excellent!

***The keynote speech was entitled "Riding Backwards Bicycles-Learning to be the Church in the 21st Century." He showed a YouTube video of a man learning to ride a bicycle that was engineered backwards-when you turned the handlebars to the right, you went left.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFzDaBzBIL0>

It took him months to learn how to ride this crazy bike since it was the opposite of what he was used to. This parallels with what Rev. Michael Binder stated was his learning curve when establishing a church in N.E. Minneapolis. He was used to being in an established church building, but his church meets in a school. This enabled them to make connections with the community and eventually help set up a "meals in a backpack" program to combat hunger. "The Sheridan Project" provides weekly bags of food for children to take home on the weekends. It has now expanded to a number of other churches and their area schools with an annual budget of over \$2.5 million.

The three keys to "learning backwards" were listening, experimenting, and reflecting. In order to listen to his community, he thought he would start with his neighbors, but it was much harder to meet them than he thought. Finally his "backwards" idea was setting up two chairs in the small front yard instead of watching his kids and reading in the backyard. He didn't know any of his neighbors until he moved to the front, but soon he was greeting them by name and having conversations with them. Rev. Binder encouraged members of his congregation to go on prayer walks in the community to find out area needs and concerns. On one of these prayer walks, one team learned that an apartment building housed people with AIDS. His church was able to make connections and offer services to those residents.

Not all of the projects worked well the first time, and it was definitely a learning curve for many people to start conversations with strangers, but it was also rewarding. Actions don't produce learning, only reflection on actions produces learning. He said to ask these three questions:

1. Where is there new energy?
2. What failed and what did we learn from it?
3. How might God be inviting you into partnership with God's work in the neighborhood?

***Rev. Binder also was one of the workshop presenters. His workshop was entitled "Learning by Doing-finding ways to behave our way into new thinking." People like to help. If you put yourself in a vulnerable position, others will help. By asking a neighbor if he could borrow a tool, he made a new friend. Churches need to learn this too. It is better to ask someone for help than to just give all the time. People like to feel needed-not just beholding.

It's important to get out in the community. Try moving a previously scheduled meeting to a public space. People are more apt to join a church that is thinking outward and getting involved with their neighbors than a church that is focusing inward. A prayer experiment might be going to a summer neighborhood event, like a county fair or farmer's market, and setting up a table with your church's name displayed and a bunch of strips of cloth on the table. Invite people to write down prayers they have on the strips of cloth and hang them on a display.

***Rev. Richard Wehrs was the presenter for "Stewardship's Flip-side: Recognizing & Removing Obstacles to Generosity." He said we could learn a lot by seeing how non-profits raise money for charity. They use lots of pictures, ask often, celebrate their successes, tell stories, and always say "thank you." Churches need to tell their members how much it actually costs per person to meet their budget. The average is \$37 to \$53 per week per household. If we divide our 2019 budget of \$124,860 by the 74 members who donate over \$200 annually, and then divide by 52 weeks in a year, it comes out to **\$32.45 a week per member**. Of course this is an average. Some people will give more, and others wouldn't be able to afford that much due to being on a fixed income. We also need to recognize our members' valuable contributions of time and talent of course-not just their monetary contributions.

***The "You and Youth" workshop was presented by Jen Kooistra-a youth and family director at her church. She had a number of ideas to increase the youth involvement including having an intergenerational Sunday School once a month. A time/talent/treasures survey matched up youth with those who could share their skills (such as cooking or how to change a tire.) By matching up these groups, connections were made. Mentors would encourage the youth to attend regularly (or they would call and find out why they weren't in church.) Confirmation students were required to have 5 youth, 5 adults, and 5 people in the older generation in their "faith web"-(people they made connections with)-by the time they were confirmed.

Their church has worship toolboxes for the young kids so they can participate in the service. The toolboxes include battery-operated candles, a cross to hold during prayers, a Spark story Bible, a wooden dowel with ribbons for the kids to wave in the aisles during songs, and paper and crayons to draw a picture of how to do God's work. Those drawings are put in the collection plate with their parent's offerings, and are later displayed. The toolboxes also include wafers and empty chalices to hold up during communion. Bubbles are used during baptisms.

Baptismal classes are held where godparents are given a set of 18 cards to send to their godchild on their baptismal birthdays. A sheep with the child's name and baptism date is posted on a board, and one is sent home. Baptismal birthdays are celebrated in Sunday School.

***Doug Bisbee and Hannah Keesler presented "Engaging in Mental Health Ministry." This workshop gave general information about common mental health issues a wide variety of people face. The presenters described signs and symptoms and gave some suggestions on how congregations might get involved by hosting classes on topics like suicide prevention.

***"Telling Your Congregation's Story: How to use technology and social media to communicate in our new world" was presented by Ben Stepanek. Ben gave suggestions to make Facebook and website content relevant and attractive you readers.

Crossways Camping Ministries Annual Meeting – March 2, 2019

By Ann Hawley and Miriam Nelson

Crossways Camping Ministries consists of three camps: Pine Lake by Waupaca, Imago Dei Village by Clintonville, and Waypost south of Hatley on Mission Lake. There have been a number of changes in the administrative staff. Laurie Wilkinson is still the interim Executive Director, but the search is on to fill that position of leadership. Jess Throlson is still the Camp Director at Imago Dei Village, but the other two camp directors felt called to other positions. The new co-site directors at Pine Lake are Robyn and Ben Koehler. Crossways is currently advertising to fill the camp director position at Waypost since Adam Brandt left to pursue a new job as a park ranger at Mosquito Hill Nature Center in New London. About half of the camp counselors have been hired. If you know of any young adults who are interested in being a camp counselor, have them contact Crossways. There will be an open house/volunteer day at Waypost on May 11th.

Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer has been busy as the Capital Campaign Director. Since Crossways Camping Ministries has paid off their long-term debt due to several large contributions a couple years ago, they thought it would be a good time to raise money for a capital campaign to upgrade the camps. The last capital campaign was 27 years ago. They hope to raise a minimum of \$1.8 million. Almost \$682,450 has been raised so far by 125 individual donors. Crossways will start building either by the end of this year or next year-whenver they reach 75% of cash in hand or 90% with pledges.

Improvements at Waypost by Mission Lake (which is the oldest facility and most in need of improvements) will be a dining hall addition, kitchen equipment upgrades, a director's office addition, and remodeling of the bathhouse for a total of \$631,750. If the campaign raises more than the base amount, additional projects could include construction of a new maintenance/storage building, a new staff duplex, and a covered pavilion for a total of \$400,000. (Our youth attend confirmation camp at Waypost.) Improvements would also be made at Imago Dei Village by Clintonville (\$558,350 base/ +\$115,045 challenge) and at Pine Lake Camp by Waupaca (\$333,431 base/ +\$272,012 challenge). For more information, check out their website at crosswayscamps.org.

Annually about 4000 children and adults participate in Crossways programs, camps, and retreats. Youth who attend Christian camps realize that religion is relevant and faith matters. They continue after camp with increased devotional practices, improved self-confidence, and greater engagement in church. 62% of seminarians said that camp helped them decide to become pastors.

The main speaker at the annual meeting was Rev. Dave Daubert, a Lutheran minister and author from Elgin, IL. Rev. Daubert stated that membership in the ELCA has dropped about 40% over the last 30 years from 5.3 million to 3.4 million. Less than 900,000 people worship each week with the median congregations having 63 people in attendance weekly. One out of 5 Americans have no religious affiliation which drops to 1 in 3 Americans if they are under the age of 30. Almost all segments of American Christianity are in numerical decline. Conversely most people feel that spirituality matters-just that maybe church isn't the only avenue to get there.

Children who attend church camp usually end their camp experience excited with a stronger faith in God. Rev. Daubert stated that if we could make Sunday worship more like camp, membership would increase and personal faith would improve. Camp always includes fun songs, personal interactions, and lots of stories. These could be incorporated into Sunday worship services too.

One way that Rev. Daubert incorporates stories into his worship service is to pose a question, such as "What is your faith story?" or "How did you see God at work in your life this past week?" Then the congregation breaks into small groups for a short share session. Rev. Daubert also uses the interview process sometimes where he invites someone up to answer questions in front of the congregation, such as "In your job, how are you accomplishing God's work?" When Rev. Daubert posed that question to an elementary physical education teacher at the annual meeting, she said, "I show love to my students, some of whom do not receive enough love at home." By sharing these stories, people realize that we are the instruments that God is using to show his love.

There are miracles all around us-we just have to be looking for them. Stories are important to everyone, but especially to new members who may be new to Christianity. They need to see that Jesus (and God) is present in our lives. God is in our midst. He is present in our world and active in our lives.

Rev. Daubert said his congregation agreed to make some changes in order to be all-inclusive—even though change is hard. They raised money to build an addition with an elevator so their church would be handicap accessible. They replaced some of the pews with chairs so those in wheelchairs wouldn't have to sit in the aisles. During communion instead of saying this is the body and blood of Jesus- which can confuse new members, he simply says, "Jesus is Here." Instead of the Apostles' Creed, he often uses the first article from Luther's small catechism which is in the present tense and explains the creed. (...God provides me with all that I need... He defends me....) Over the 16 years that Rev. Daubert served at his church, attendance has about doubled. For more information and his blog, check out DDaubert@Day8Strategies.com.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

TOM SCHRANK	4-1
JEAN BENZ	4-3
JULIE OLSON	4-4
JOSH LANG	4-5
KODY EVJE	4-6
RUTHIE OLSEN	4-6
PEGGY EMMEL	4-6
BETTY ZEINERT	4-9
ANN HAWLEY	4-12
ERIN HAWLEY	4-15
CHARLIE SPARR	4-16
KURT EVJE	4-19
JENNIFER SCHRANK	4-20
ANN BLOCK	4-22
GARETH CLARK	4-23
LINDA CLOUGH	4-24
MARY PETERSON	4-24
CHAD PETERSON	4-27



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

DICK & RUTHIE OLSEN	4-11
BRUCE & JOY HARTLEBEN	4-18
JESSE & CARLA HANKE	4-20
DAVE & KRISTI FRIGEN	4-28
JOEL & PEGGY HARTLEBEN	4-30

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Thank you to all the newsletter sponsors:

- March 2019 – **June Norrbom** – In memory of her husband, Carl and son, Loren
April 2019 – **Deb Rieck** – In memory of her parents, Richard & Patricia Semrow
May 2019 – **Lee & JoAnn Innerebner** – In memory of their daughter, Jodi Behreandt
June 2019 – **Maribeth & James Netzler** – In honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary
July 2019 – **Vian Kersten** – In memory of her husband, Milan
August 2019 – **Carol Klinner** – In memory of her husband, Hilbert

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter for 2019, please make a check payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church for \$60.00 and write a note with your name and the month you would like to sponsor. Please include on the note in honor of or in memory of (if you wish).

This can be put in with the weekly offering or mailed to the church office.

The monthly sponsorship covers the cost of those newsletters being mailed, along with the monthly fee for our website. Thank you to all who sponsor the monthly newsletter!

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:00 – 7:00 pm 1 st Communion Instruction @ St John Birnamwood	3 5:30 pm Meal 6:30 pm Worship	4 Pastor out of office – meeting 8:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Homme Sewing Room	5	6
7 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion Choir practice & Church Council follow	8	9 Pastor out of office – meeting 6:00 – 7:00 pm 1 st Communion Instruction @ Trinity, Birnamwood	10 5:30 pm Meal 6:30 pm Worship	11 8:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Homme Sewing Room 9:30 am Monthly Bible Study @ Homme Sewing Room	12	13
14 Palm Sunday 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Youth Sunday	15	16	17	18 Maundy Thursday 8:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Homme Sewing Room 6:30 pm Worship	19 Good Friday 1:00 pm & 6:30 pm Worship	20 9:00 am Set up for Easter Breakfast
21 Easter Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 am Easter Breakfast	22	23	24 6:00 – 7:00 pm Confirmation	25 8:00 am Men's Bible Study @ Homme Sewing Room	26	27
28 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Choir practice follows 1:00 pm Parish Model Ministry Mtg @ Calvary Lutheran in Antigo	29	30				