Redeemer by the Sea Lutheran Church LCMS

REFLECTIONS

DECEMBER 2010

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PASTOR PETER ALEXANDER

In the Interim.....

On Becoming Missional Extreme - The Evangelism of the Present and Future Day

I have noticed to some degree that many of our leaders in the congregation as well as the LCMS at large "get it" as they acknowledge that we are now living in a post-Christian era. This is no longer a "churched culture" but one that resembles something more like a pre-Christian culture like you might find in a "foreign" mission field never before "Christianized." The only difference is that those who are still living in the past as the "insiders" are the last ones to recognize that the world and culture have moved to seeing themselves as "insiders" and the church people as the somewhat suspect "outsiders" trying to get in touch with "the real world!" Quite a switch wouldn't you say? The fact is that, according to a recent Barna poll, 60% of Americans see the church as irrelevant.

What church leaders have not yet accepted or understood, however, is the limitation of the "attractional" model of the church. It is not only that "build it and they will come" no longer works (and hasn't for some time) but the whole idea of attracting people TO a church campus through programs and activities is of diminishing influence and interest. No matter how many resources are applied to facilities, programs and even staff, people may "see" the church and wonder about it but the activity and the program and the hype or the convenient and friendly web site won't cut it when it comes to getting them to the point of connection with Christ and the people of God. The theory that if you can get them to hear a great preacher they will become "members" or "believers" is much more unlikely than we would hope. Maybe 15 years ago. Not now. We are, as a people, resistant to change and even "change-averse" except when we experience either a crisis or see a great opportunity.

The attractional model of church development has depended on events and programs and worship styles to which people are invited to attend. What people really want however when they walk in the door for the first time is an answer to the question, "Is there someone or some group here that I can get connected to in a meaningful and lasting way?" "Is there something or someone here that will fill the empty spots in my life journey right now?" The strong implication is that we do that once a week on Sunday and that most of the really meaningful relationships are already "taken" like "legos" that have all their "pegs" filled with other legos--existing relationships—unable to make any more connections. People don't want just a friendly church; they want a church where they sense they can make friends—real friends. And in a church like ours most of the opportunities for new friends are all taken up in existing, very friendly relationships

What is needed and vital for church today is both simple and radical. It is simple because it is easy on resources, easy

Continued on Page 11

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Jim Brunner, Council President

It is difficult to believe that here we are coming up on a year and a half after the congregation approved the calling, first, a second Pastor for the purpose of leading our Contemporary Worship Service who would relate to the younger generation families in our community and whose children attend our preschool.

Through this initial process we as a congregation have now experienced and learned that 'that's the way we've always done it' will not be the pattern of the future. We have been ably led in that by Pastor Pete (the name and title being a change unto itself) along with the services of several months of guest preachers. The need for change became more and more evident following the heart problems and retirement of Pastor McDonald when our Call Committee needed to shift emphasis to call a sole or lead Pastor.

The Committee has put in endless hours of diligent work in reviewing the qualification of close to 25 candidates leading to interviews and evaluations of 10 to 12 of them. We have gone through the anxieties of issuing a call and after a long and deliberate time having that call returned. The challenge to the Call Committee was willingly and again diligently accepted to evaluate additional candidates as well as reevaluate the first candidate list. By the time you read this, we will again have selected a second candidate to Call. The Call Committee has provided us with a list three Pastors who we were able to meet in person and learn more about them through their presentations and our questioning.

I personally believe that our Congregation has grown in strength and determination through these processes. The level of interest participation has grown with each candidate that visited us in the open forums, both with the number of people who attended and the energy of participation of our members. We do care and we recognize that we may each have personal preferences, this call process is likened unto a marriage that is to be made in Heaven and, as such, will be a blessing to our congregation as well as a fulfillment of the calling for that Pastor who we are extending a call to…in more simple words as the Lord has taught us to pray, 'thy will (the will of our Lord) be done on earth as it is in Heaven'. Yes we are ready now…or so we believe…but the Lord only knows. I urge you all to Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us and lead us to that Spiritual Leader and to open our hearts and minds to work together to move forward in fulfillment of our Great Commission.

We have an exciting and wonderful Christmas time to celebrate this December, our Advent services, a presentation of an outstanding Cantata by our choirs, a something very new and special 'Blue Christmas' service to reach out to those in need and hurting in our Community, and ending with the greatest gift ever given to all the world, the birth of the Christ child, Jesus,

May all the Joys and Blessing of this Christmas fill your hearts and minds in worship for our newborn King. And may His Peace Abide within you. Merry Christmas.

LCEF
Jo Voertman

The annual congregational summaries have been distributed to the representatives. Of the seven churches in our circuit, Redeemer by the Sea has the highest amount in investments by more than ONE MILLION DOLLARS over the second place congregation. At 13% of our members investing, we have the highest percentage in our circuit. These figures tend to be the reason I am usually awarded at least one bottle of wine at the annual representatives dinner.

We also have the highest outstanding loans in our circuit with four loans totaling more than nine and a half million dollars. There don't seem to be any awards for that.

Only thirteen percent of our members invest in Lutheran Church Extension Fund……

If interested in investing in LCEF, contact your congregation representative, who is Jo Voertman, 760-721-6674, email, jvbythesea@cox.net, or contact Lutheran Church Extension Fund, 1-800-843-5233

EVANGELISM-MISSIONS

Bob Doering, Evangelism Chair

In Philippians 2:4, Paul writes, "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." We are trying to do this at RBTS - Some members of our congregation joined the Sunday School children and provided the Samaritan Christmas Shoe Box gifts; Some have committed to the Angel Tree Christmas gifts for children of Camp Pendleton military overseas; and with our recent Thanksgiving collection of a "barrel" of food items for Interface, our local Oceanside food bank, we have accomplished a considerable reach out to others.

We are now entering the joyous season of the church year, which begins with the upcoming 7:00 pm Wednesday evening Advent Services.

Christ has commanded evangelism, with the Holy Spirit moving though believers to accomplish His Work – Sharing the Gospel –Calling people to faith in Christ - Pointing them to heaven. The Reverend Billy Graham, renowned Evangelistic Preacher, during his years of ministry, understood the need for the Proclamation of the Gospel -- "It's when we share the Gospel with others that individual lives … are transformed by the power of Christ and His Word."

Now, with Christmas rapidly approaching, we will, again this year, reach out to our local community with RBTS's Christmas worship service schedule. A doorknob hanger distribution will take place on Saturday, December 11 from 9-11:00 am.

We need Spirit-driven volunteers to help us to share the joy of this remarkable season. There is a sign-up sheet on the Evangelism table in the church lobby.

There is probably someone that you know – perhaps a loved one or close friend, who has not experienced the Christian life. Please continue to pray for that person and to ask God for fresh opportunities to talk about Christianity with them.

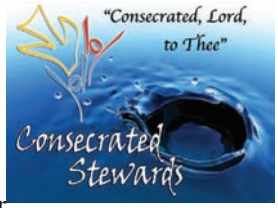
We are to provide a Christian witness and the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ to the unchurched. Let's begin NOW!

STEWARDSHIP

B. J. Campbell Lahr, Stewardship Chair

WHAT CAN STEWARDSHIP DO FOR RBTS???

There is much in the Gospels that helps us understand the concept of Christian Stewardship. Stewardship offers a way to invite all people to become more aware of Jesus Christ, His example and how through Stewardship we can become Disciples of Christ. Through commitments of Talent, Treasure, and Time, we grow spiritually and our faith is deepened.



Our church - RBTS is an active center of ministry supported with resources from the congregation, who are educated in the Faith and giving not out of obligation but of appreciation for God's grace in their lives. RBTS is the place where we experience our faith- not just a building. Yes, it is a community of faith and action where we can see the face of Jesus in the face of a neighbor or friend. In addition, we can experience this faith as we gather in our Small Groups, too.

Together, we at RBTS, will endeavor to continue the Mission of Jesus Christ and to grow closer to the example He provided. Together, through stewardship, everyone is challenged to embark on a rewarding effort to bring renewed vitality to RBTS. Yes, there still is time to submit a 2011 response pledge card.

The Old Testament tells us about the Feast of Tabernacles-a time to show appreciation to God (which can be compared to our Thanksgiving Day, which we just celebrated). An integral part of this festival or feast was an "offering". So, we see that in God's Plan-

Giving is a part of Worship

Giving is Faith in action

Giving involves EVERYONE!

"No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed: Each of you must bring a gift. . ."

Deuteronomy 16:16-17

This month, we celebrate the GIFT that GOD gave US – the Birth of Our Savior-Jesus Christ. As you and your family celebrate, through prayer, thank God for this wonderful Gift of Hope.

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

2 Corinthians 9:15

EDUCATION ~ SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dan Bitner, Education Chair

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas Q & A

(excerpts from the LCMS 'Connections')

What does the word "Christmas" mean?
The modern English word "Christmas" comes from Christes maesse, "Christ's mass," the Old English name for the worship service that commemorates Christ's birth. Familiar names for Christmas from other languages, such as the Spanish Navidad and the French Noel, are derived from the Latin, dies natalis, "Day of the Birth,"

What are the origins of Santa Claus and the Christmas tree? Santa Claus is based on a Christian bishop of the fourth century, Nicholas of Myra, whose feast day occurs on December 6. Christmas trees seem to have originated in medieval Germany. These two are possibly the most popular and recognizable symbols of our society's non-religious celebrations during Christmas.

Why does Christmas fall on December 25?
Scripture does not record the exact date of Christ's birth. However, ancient documents show that the Christian community in Rome began celebrating the Lord's Nativity on December 25 starting around the year A.D. 336. No one knows for sure why the early Roman Christians chose December 25, but the most likely explanation is that they appropriated the already existing winter solstice festival honoring the pagan sun god, Mithras. This popular festival was known as natalis solis invicti or "Birth of the unconquered Sun." According to this theory, Christian leaders in Rome chose December 25 to turn people away from the pagan unconquered sun and toward Jesus Christ, the Son of Righteousness. (See Malachi 4:2.)

What are the 12 days of Christmas? Christmas is not a celebration that lasts only a single day. Christmas is a season that begins on Christmas Eve and continues for 12 days.

What is the true meaning of Christmas?
Christmas trees, Santa Claus, decorations, exchanging gifts and the many other seasonal traditions most of us observe are all great ways for family and friends to mark this time of year. What we must all take care to remember is that these customs, enjoyable as they are, ultimately have nothing to do with the true meaning of Christmas. The true meaning of Christmas is found only in the message of the Gospel. Here it is, so beautifully encapsulated:

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Who were the Magi? The Magi were members of the religious hierarchy of ancient Persia and Media. According to ancient documents, these men were scholars of astrology, mathematics and the interpretation of dreams. Their expertise in these esoteric subjects is the reason they were often referred to as "wise men." The Magi of Babylonia were undoubtedly acquainted with Old Testament prophecies about the coming of Christ, including the "messianic star." (See Numbers 24:17.)

Other Sunday School Business

Due to several challenges, our annual children's Christmas play will be replaced this year by the younger children singing at the Cantata and the older, Confirmation age, doing some of the narration. When the children play an active role in the operation of the church it helps the development of our church family. I think this year's program accomplishes that although we will miss seeing the play. The children are an important part of His birthday celebration and we want them to know that; tell them 'thank you'.

Redeemer by the Sea MOPS Mothers of Preschoolers

MOPS will be meeting every 2nd and 4th Wednesday STARTING Jan. 12, 2011 through May 2011. We will be meeting every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at RBTS fellowship hall. More info on MOPS can also be found at www.mops.org.

KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL

by Cindy Brown, Director

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

We will have five Christmas performances this year. Our three year olds will perform on Thursday, December 16th at 10:00 am for AM classes and 1:30 pm for PM classes. Our four year olds and Bonus will perform Friday, December 17th at 10:00 am for AM classes and 1:30 for PM classes and Bonus. Our Kindergarten classes will perform on Friday, December 17th at 11:00 am.

All performances will be held in the church sanctuary. Be sure to get here early!

We wish you all a very blessed Christmas!.

"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

Mark Your Calendars

- Chapel Tuesday November 30th and Wednesday December 1st at 9:30 and 1:00. Parents are always welcome!
- Monday December 6th, Drama Performances at 1:30 and 4:00pm
- Thursday and Friday, December 16th and 17th, Christmas Programs at 10:00am for AM classes and 1:30pm for PM classes and Bonus. Kindergarten performance is at 11:00am on Friday, December 17th.
- Monday-Friday December 20th-December 31st, Christmas Vacation, SCHOOL CLOSED
- Tuesday January 25th and Wednesday January 26th Chapel at 9:30 and 1:00

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES REDEEMER BY THE SEA, CARLSBAd

Wednesdays	Dec 1/Dec. 8/ Dec. 15	7:00 PM	Advent Worship:"Yet in Thy Dark Street Shineth"
Sunday	Dec 05	8:30 AM	Advent II Traditional Sunday Worship
		10:30 AM	Advent II Contemporary Praise Holy Communion
Sunday	Dec 12	10:00 AM	Special Worship – Cantata – "Noel: Night of Everlasting Love"
Wednesday	Dec 15	7:00 PM	Advent Worship: "Yet in Thy Dark Street Shineth"-Bethlehem
Sunday	Dec 19	8:30 AM	Advent IV Traditional Sunday Worship
		10:30 AM	Advent IV Contemporary Praise Holy Communion
Tuesday	Dec 21	4:00 PM	"Blue Christmas" – The Longest Night Service
Friday	Dec 24	5:00 PM	Christmas Family Worship in Contemporary / Praise Style
		7:30 PM	Traditional Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
Saturday	Dec 25	10:00 AM	Christmas Festival Worship
Sunday	Dec 26	8:30 AM	Traditional Holy Communion – First Sunday after Christmas
		10:30 AM	Contemporary Praise Worship – First Sunday after Christmas

CALL COMMITTEE

Dan Bitner & Ken Voertman. Co-Chairs

(Ephesians 4: 11-12) "And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ"

We are nearing the end of the search for our next Spiritual Shepherd, at least for this phase of the process. While we are all looking forward to what lies ahead for Redeemer by the Sea, we must always keep in mind that while we have faith that He will guide us to the right person, there is nothing that says how long that may take. In an Email discussion about the process we are following, our Circuit Counselor Pastor Kolkman, who has provided sound wisdom and gentle guidance through out the search, reminded us of the way we should look at what God is doing for us; here is an excerpt:

> *"...God has your number. He* really *does. He KNOWS the situation at RBTS. His schedule is the right one. He knows who your next pastor is - and we pray that He guides YOU to know that. He will. It isn't always done on our time schedule and God doesn't always do things as we wish He would (doesn't keep us from desiring that, however!)…"*

Looking forward we will again go into a wait situation, after we have elected one of the candidates at our December the 5th Call Service. As the elected Pastor takes the necessary time to discern his next step we may see the family again as they inquire about Carlsbad and explore more deeply the future of Redeemer by the Sea. If, as we all hope, the call is accepted, we will plan a Service of Installation. The timing of all this will be determined as soon as we are able.

As this Call process continues to unfold pray that the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit will touch all who are involved in helping to discern the right next step. Pray for Rev Augie Iadiccico, Rev Dave Weber, that Rev Matthew Schultz's decision to decline was the right one; also pray for the Congregation at Redeemer by the Sea.

Your Call Committee: Dan Bitner, Ken Voertman, Elizabeth Denton, Jenny Swick, Paul Lahr, Russ Hanthorn, Tracey Kiernan

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Lois Ziegler O'Donnell

"On Tuesday, December 21, at 4:00 p.m., our church will be holding its first BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE. While there are other churches that conduct this kind of service, we believe ours will be the only one in the greater community. Therefore, the Worship Committee views it as an excellent way to reach out to those who are hurting this season, both within our congregation as well as the "neighborhood" at large.

Some times this service is referred to as the "Longest Night Service". Typically, our spirits sink as days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us, and we need encouragement to get through the days ahead of us.

There are beautiful brochures explaining and serving as an invitation to join us that early evening. Please help us to make this a successful event by offering one of the brochures to anyone you feel might be inclined to come...and better yet, ask the person's to attend with you. Also, it would be helpful if you would post the brochure anywhere it might get the attention of a fellow human being that is struggling this season. (Beauty shops, fitness centers, kiosks, markets, doctor's. offices, etc.) It is usually appropriate to get permission to post or leave brochures on a table in a facility, of course.

Please plan to join us, whether the season is darker for you this year or not. We need to have support for those who come; and it will be especially important for the fellowship time following the service.

IN THE WORDS OF MARTIN LUTHER

Anyone who is to find Christ must first find the church. How could anyone know where Christ is and what faith is in him unless he knew where his believers are?

Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ~ LWML
Norma Russell, President

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Ladies...Get in the Christmas mood. Join us on Monday, December 13th at 6 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Yes, it is the Christmas Party Potluck Dinner and it is for all women not just those who have been able to attend the meetings during the year. Secret Sisters will be revealed. If you do not have a Secret Sister and wish to bring a gift to exchange you may do so. New Secret Sisters for 2011 will be drawn. See details on the poster and please sign up for your attendance and your food item. Last day to sign up is December 12th. We look forward to seeing you for a special evening!

CHRISTMAS CARD PACKETS
Mavis Ward, Chair

The women's Ministry has just finished assembling the 200th Christmas Card packet for this year! Our special thanks to all that participated in this effort at our November meeting.

These packets will be distributed to residents of convalescent homes and service organizations (abused women) in North county the first week of December.

What exactly are the Christmas Card packets? Each packet consists of a 9x12 green presentation folder. On the font of the folder is attached a lovely Christmas Card. Inside the packet is "The Christmas Story" from Luke 2:1-20. Also attached is a business card from RBTS church and a little sticker that tells each person how important they are to all of us. Enclosed are three Christmas cards with stamps already placed on the envelopes and a ballpoint pen for their use in sending Christmas greetings to their loved one.The final touch is a gold ribbon that is attached so each resident knows this was a special gift just for them.

Please save your Christmas card covers for this project next year. New Christmas cards and envelopes are also welcome (No Santa's please).

DATE NIGHT
Tracey Kiernan

Date Night is here! Grab your spouse and get some much needed adult time! Our nursery staff will watch your child while you attend a 20-30 adult reception with a marriage topic and then you can head off for a date with your spouse.

Cost: $10 for one child,
$20 for more than one child
Mark your calendars reservations accepted for the first 20 children.
Questions & RSVP:
Traceykiernan@yahoo.com

Dec 11 Shop Til You Drop 10 am-2 pm,
Children bring a sack lunch.
- No parent topic.

Feb 19,2011 Date Night 5-9pm
Dinner provided for children
- Parent Topic: Understanding What Every Wife Needs

April 16, 2011 Date Night 5-9pm
Dinner provided for children
- Parent Topic: Understanding What Every Husband Needs

June 18, 2011 Date Night 5-9pm
Dinner provided for children, outside playtime
- Parent Topic: Building the Right Fences

August 20, 2011 Date Night 5-9pm
Dinner provided for children, outside playtime
- Parent Topic: Sex: God's Good Gift

CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS
Gary Wilson, Director

Greetings from the Choir Loft of Redeemer by the Sea. Our Chancel Choir is busy finishing the final touches on our Christmas Cantata, " Noel, Night of Everlasting Love," which will be presented for the congregation on Sunday, December 12, at our 10:00 am combined service. This Cantata is performed at Disney World each year, and our congregation will love the beautiful arrangements of familiar carols. We will feature soloists, our narrators, (Mr. Carl Ghering, and Mr. John Palmer), pianist, Katie Klaerich, along with members of our Praise Singers, Chancel Choir, and members of the Korean Choir.

Our Sunday School Children, along with our Redeemer Pre-School will also be featured for this musical event. Mark your calendar for "Noel, Night of Everlasting Love," Sunday, December 12, in the sanctuary.

As Music Director, I want to begin a new offering to our readers every month. We will feature choir members as a spot light on our musicians who give of their time, and talents singing and playing here at Redeemer. This month we are featuring Lois Taron as our choir member of the month for November.

CHOIR MEMBER OF THE MONTH
Lois Taron

Lois Taron has sung in church choirs since she was old enough to carry a tune! Her late husband Bob and Lois joined the choir at Redeemer when they transferred their membership from their previous congregation in the 1990's. The choir and bell choirs were under the expert direction of Joyce McDonald at that time. Lois says she has many warm and happy memories of "Choirs Past" over the years and the wonderful singers who became life long friends - in fact one of them became her husband! They both sang in the choir at St. Paul's in North Hollywood, Ca, where she also was assistant organist. Lois was fortunate that Her piano teacher was the organist there and she persuaded Lois to learn to play organ so the teacher could be relieved of the early Sunday service. As a teenager Lois found herself doing just that! When asked Why sing in the choir at Redeemer? Her response was, "guess I just can't help myself and it is a rare privilege to offer worship and praise to the Lord in song especially under Gary Wilson's talented direction where I enjoy singing the alto part with all of our devoted and gifted members."

About the Revolve Tour

Since 1996, more than 4 million women have packed themselves and their friends into sold-out arenas across North America for 2-day events that are inspiring, encouraging, and fun. Every year, they come back for another weekend with Women of Faith—and for many of those years, they said (in pretty much these exact words), "This is awesome! But what about something for my daughter?"

In 2005, Women of Faith created The Revolve Tour as a response to those requests. The result is a one-of-a-kind inspirational weekend for 6th– to 12th–grade girls that combines award-winning bands and speakers with real, relevant messages in a high-energy event.

There's way more to The Revolve Tour than just a fun time with the girls. Since it began, more than 35,000 girls have indicated they made first-time decisions for Christ at a Revolve Tour event. In addition, more than 16,000 children have been sponsored through World Vision as a result of The Revolve Tour.

That's our story so far . . . but there's a lot more in store!

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDIES NOVEMBER

Men's Bible Study

Every Monday morning for breakfast
7:00 am at Coco's Restaurant
605 W. Vista Way, Vista (at Melrose)
Teacher: Don Howard.

Monday Bible Study

A new Bible study series **"Beloved Disciple", The Life and Ministry of John.** Begins Monday, Jan. 31, 2011 at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall with child care available.

Tuesday Bible Study

1st and 3rd Tuedays in December at 1:00 pm.
A new Bible study on the book of Revelation
Buck & Alice's Lehman's home.
2725 Thunder Drive, Oceanside, CA 92057
Teacher: Alice Lehmann.

Wednesday Neighborhood Bible Study

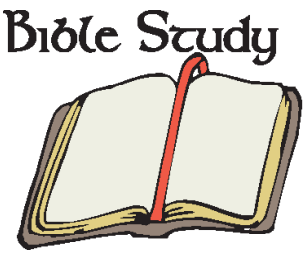
A new Bible study series **"Beloved Disciple", The Life and Ministry of John.**. Wednesdays - 9:00 am At Evelyn Meyer's home.
7328 Melodia Terrace, Carlsbad, CA
Child care is NOT available.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASSES

Bible Study

Church Fellowship Hall
Taught by Don Howard

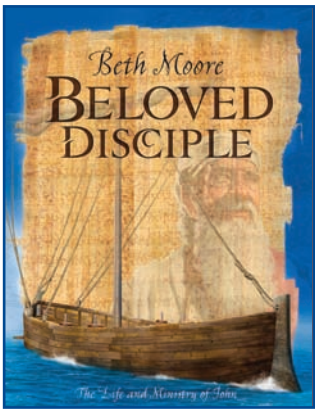
For more details on the above Bible Studies, or if you need information on starting one, call the Church Office 431-8990.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
Evelyn Meyer

Since the time of Moses, it has been customary to seal almost every pact and celebrate every occasion with a communal meal. Our "Biblical Feast" was a way for us to celebrate the conclusion of our Bible Study Session, "Jesus, The One and Only".

The dishes from Palestine were delicious using lentils, cucumber, olives, almonds, dates, honey, yogurt, melons, pomegranates, persimmons, coconuts, humus, breads from Israel, tabbouleh, goat cheese, wine (non alcoholic), and many salads.



Please join us in our next Bible Study session which will begin on Monday, Jan. 31st. We will be studying **"Beloved Disciple", The Life and Ministry of John.** It will last for 11 weeks and ,who knows, we just may have another"Biblical Feast".

The sign up sheet is in the narthex...Everyone is invited. Please invite your friends too. The homework is difficult but the Lord has told us to leave the milk of the Word and go to the solid meat of the Word. God will bless our obedience. He is Faithful.

Reflections Newsletter

This is YOUR newsletter and your input is valued. Send me your ideas by e-mail (mygigi@att.net) or give me a call (760-929-8756) as to what you like or don't like and I will make every effort to provide a newsletter that best fits the needs of the congregation.

The reports for January *Reflections* will be due Wednesday, December 22, 2010.

Bonnie Brunner, Editor

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We celebrated the November birthdays of Bill Barnes, Tom O'Donnell and Mavis and Dale Ward on FRIDAY, November 12 at The Landings at Carlsbad, and contributed one hundred seventeen ($117) dollars to the Women's Ministries Christmas Card Kit project. Kits of five Christmas cards, complete with stamped envelopes are distributed to several of the nursing home facilities in our area.

The October contribution of one hundred twenty-seven dollars went to Bethesda Lutheran Home.

We will be celebrating the December birthdays of Marv Suhr, Cordelia Degner, Norma Russell and Jo Voertman in January.

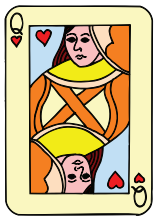
Everyone is welcome to join us but reservations are needed. To make yours, or to find out more about our group, call Jo Voertman, 1-760-721-6674, jvbythesea@cox.net.

It's a wonder those 3 'WISE' men ever found baby Jesus without a GPS device.

December

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
12/01	Marvin Suhr	12/10/76	Russ & Eileen Erickson
12/02	Paola Kunkel	12/16/00	Justin & Heather Finke
12/03	Samuel Russell	12/21/68	Robert & Kathy Seeman
12/04	Suzanne Hughes	12/22/71	Greg & Jan Bishop
12/05	Tom Shanahan	12/31/55	Buck & Alice Lehmann
12/09	Ralph Krogfoss		
12/14	Rachel McFeaters		
12/15	Chuck Denton		
12/17	Cathy Esqueda		
12/17	Carole Gomez		
12/18	Eileen Erickson		
12/19	Matthew Burger		
12/19	Robert McDonald		
12/22	Kellie Granito		
12/22	Jo Voertman		
12/24	Monique Russell		
12/30	Norma Russell		
12/31	Frank Wallner		
12/31	Kelly Sundstrom		

BRIDGE CLUB



Bridge players wanted!!!

The Bridge Group, currently composed of ladies, meets on the fourth Friday afternoon of each month, excluding December. We play from one until four. Usually there are two tables. Bridge players seem inflicted with wanderlust and there is frequently a need for additional players.

Men are welcome although perhaps several men should join to keep a reasonable balance in the conversation.

Members take turns hostessing bridge games and we will resume our schedule the first of the year. In the meantime, our leader, Alice Lehmann, buckalicelehmann@sbcglobal.com, 1-760-941-1197 will be glad to talk to anyone who would be interested in joining our group.

on strategic ingenuity and easy to understand. It is radical in the sense that it cuts back to the root basis of our Christian identity and purpose and strips away the programmatic gimmickry. It calls for authentic and integrated loving relationships that are infectious and non-duplicitous. It strives to be real to be able to witness to the hope that lies within us through a genuine caring and sharing.

It can be in a small group that has pledged to be intentionally outreach-oriented to those who are NOT like them or it can be in a preschool or kindergarten classroom when parents see what is needed in the home is about love, commitment and honesty—just like in the classroom "family." They will want to know what is on the inside of people of faith and hope and love when you deliberately choose to be with them. You bring them the church that is YOU without all the trappings of "insider" music, space and symbol.

Thus our small group movement at RBTS has potential for becoming a methodology and place where members can intentionally choose to become missional rather than self-feeding or attractional. Better yet is for a passionate nucleus of people start new missional groups that deliberately seek to find way to relate to the unchurched, the de-churched or those with different values. Rather than talk or testify we need to listen…. listen for a long time to fellow sojourners - not as if we have the answers (even though we do in the person of Jesus Christ) but as fellow travelers in life with the gift of faith and hope and love to share.

This is indeed a time of great spiritual opportunity and receptivity. Diana and I have noticed, for example, that when we had a dog we were able to relate to our neighborhood so much better. We knew the names of the dogs more memorably than the names of their owners but we became bonded in the experience. People need and want to be connected to God through Christ but it will come in this present age as we live in an incarnational way—listening, sharing life on life's terms and being ready, when asked, to share the hope that lies within us.

For a 2 minute video explanation that says it better and more simply than I can, go to this link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arxfLK_sd68 or search YouTube for "missional church simple"

You will be glad you did. If you listen closely you will be challenged to think differently and yet it may be too hard. But the fact is that it is simple. Be ready to accept this as the key ingredient to long-term kingdom expansion by the people of God known as RBTS. Let me know what you think and what God is laying on your heart in mind on this topic, won't you? I will be waiting to hear from you!

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without loved family members who have recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. The constant refrain on radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation—all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. Our spirits sink, as days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

For those reasons Redeemer by the Sea Lutheran Church is offering a special "Longest Night" service on Tuesday, December 21 at 4:00 PM.

Come out and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers, scripture and music that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle—and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome. The short service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

Redeemer by the Sea Lutheran Church LCMS

REFLECTIONS DECEMBER 2010

Redeemer by the Sea Lutheran Church Kindergarten & Preschool LCMS 6600 Black Rail Road, Carlsbad, CA 92011

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Peter Alexander		
Preschool Director:	Cindy Brown	(760) 431-8293	director.redeemerpreschool@yahoo.com
Choir Director (Traditional)	Gary Wilson	(858) 484-8323	
Worship Singers & Band Coordinator:	Kathy Exqueda	760 434-7820	ksmesqueda@roadrunner.com

Sunday Worship Services 8:30 am Traditional (communion on 2nd & 4th Sundays)
10:30 am Contemporary (Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays)

Sunday Classes 10:00 am Adult & Youth Bible Studies, Sunday School & ACT Bible Devotion

www.redeemerbythesea.org