

VOLUME 21

ISSUE 4

April 2020



CROSSROADS

Transforming lives through God's grace for authentic Christian living



“Grace and peace to you . . . ”

Pastor Nate Toso

The Apostle Paul includes these words in the salutation of all of his epistles. I would imagine he often prayed for grace and peace among the churches who were the recipients of those letters.

“Grace and peace” are words that I find myself constantly lifting up in prayer as I pray for you, as I pray for my loved ones, and as I pray for the people of our world as we find ourselves in uncertain, unprecedented, and often very unsettling times. I pray that we are all able to see God’s grace at work in our lives and in our world, even as things seem chaotic right now. I also pray that we are all able to find some peace even when life can feel out of control as it seems the circumstances surrounding our lives change regularly.

Even as I pray that each of you experience grace and peace in your lives, even as I continue to lift up prayers for you and the people of the world, I also admit that sometimes I find it hard not to pray together. Many days I find it hard not to gather in person to unite our voices in prayer. (I would imagine the Apostle Paul had the same experience—a longing to gather with the people of the churches to whom he wrote his letters.) Many days I find it hard not to come together for prayer whether that be lifting up prayer petitions in the sanctuary as a congregation and joining to say the familiar words after each petition, “Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer” or holding hands around a table as we lift up our supplications to God. Yes, I appreciate the gifts that technology brings allowing us to connect from a distance and pray together from our homes, but it just isn’t the same as being together.

So along with letting you know that I am praying that you experience grace and peace, I also want to let you know that I miss you. I miss gathering for worship with you. I miss seeing you each week in meetings, prayer groups, Bible studies, and other events. I miss our regular face to face check-ins. And I miss hearing about all of the things that are going on in your lives. For me, the most fulfilling part of being a pastor has always been gathering with the people, so not being able to meet with you regularly during these times of social distancing have really impacted me. I pray longfully for the days when we will all be able to congregate again.

AT REDEEMER

In the meantime, the staff and I have continued to be at church during the week trying to keep things moving forward as best we can. (Although, as I write this letter, I have just been informed that this Friday, March 27 we are being ordered to shelter in place so we will need to find other ways to keep things moving forward—we will make sure to keep you informed.) As we all figure out how to be church during these times when we are not able to gather, here are some things we are doing to help us stay connected as a faith community:

- We continue to have worship at 8:30 and 10:30 on Sunday morning. You can access these worship services on Redeemer's Facebook page as we continue to live stream these worship services. Each week, several people have been working to improve the quality of these services and we hope to have other ways for you to access these services such as on YouTube or directly from our church's website. We will keep you up to date regarding these changes.
- We also continue to have our Wednesday evening Lenten services at 6:00 pm. For the next couple of weeks, we will use the Holden Evening Prayer Service—a favorite of many people—for our Wednesday evening services.
- I have been having time for prayer at 8:30 am and 8:30 pm each day. Those prayer times stream live on Redeemer's Facebook page. I would love to have you join me in prayer for the people of our congregation, for our families, and for our world. Please continue to send prayer requests. Even if I don't pray for your request during the morning or evening prayer time, I do pray those requests during the day.
- Pastor Candee and the rest of the Redeemer care team have been making phone calls to all of the people listed in our directory to check to see how people are holding up and if they need anything during this time. Please continue to let us know if you know of anyone who might be in need of a phone call.

We have also tried to lift up to everyone (not just Redeemer members) that we are here if anyone needs things like groceries, medical supplies, or other necessities. Several people from our congregation have said that they are willing to help deliver things as people need them. The staff is available even if you just need to have a conversation. Many people have expressed that they are feeling lonely. Here is the contact info for the church staff:

Pastor Nate—cell 651-246-4437, ntoso@rlc-wbl.org
Pastor Candee—cell 651-247-9282, cmoser@rlc-wbl.org
Dona Will—cell 651-324-7299, dwill@rlc-wbl.org

Thanks to all of you who have called, emailed, or sent cards to let us know that you appreciate the work we are doing to keep things moving forward! We can hardly express how much it means to us to hear from you. Thanks also to all of you who have been so faithful in continuing to give financially to Redeemer. It is my hope that we will continue to be able to pay our essential bills and our staff during these uncertain times.

And finally, as I have been reminded so often by so many people, we are in this together. Even though it doesn't always seem like it when we are being forced to be apart, we still rely on each other. And, as we have been so acutely reminded during the COVID-19 outbreak, we are still connected in ways we can't always see or in ways that we aren't always aware. As I continue to pray for you, as our staff continues to find ways to help us stay connected, I ask that you continue to pray for us and for the people of our world. We could all use more grace and peace during this time and I believe prayer is one of the best ways for us to experience those gifts from God. To close, I leave you again with words of the Apostle Paul:

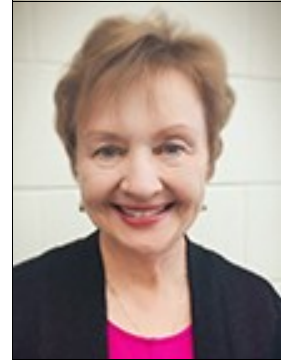
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 4-7)

In Christ,

Pastor Nate

Dear Friends,

As I thought about writing this article for the Crossroads, I could not help but think of the Apostle Paul. You see, Paul wrote 4 of his epistles or letters while under house arrest in Rome. Three were written to the churches of Ephesus, Colosse and Phillipi while the fourth was a personal letter to his dear friend, Philemon.



House arrest. Many of us may feel like we are on house arrest these days. Though we've not been "arrested" for anything, life as we've previously known it has come to a stop. We've now been told to "shelter in place" meaning that we are to leave our homes only for the very basic essentials of life and only when absolutely necessary. And that, my friends, is so hard to accept and do when we are used to having complete freedom to come and go as we like. It is equally difficult, if not more so, because we are social beings, created by God to be in relationship and in community with others. Social distancing, quarantine and isolation have not been a part of our everyday lives until now and we don't like it! Yet we know the absolute necessity of abiding by these practices and rules is for the health and good of all people if we are to stop the deadly Covid19 virus.

As the Pastor of Congregational Care at Redeemer, I've given much thought as to how we can continue to feel connected during this challenging time. At our weekly staff meeting, we brainstormed and discussed possibilities. To date, this is what I'm offering but I also want to hear from you. What would be most helpful, life giving and uplifting?

- I will continue to call those whom I know live alone, have ongoing medical issues and may be in need of groceries or prescriptions. Know that you can place an order at Festival Foods, pay with a credit card and have it delivered to your car or Redeemer has volunteers who will pick up your order and bring it your home.
- I will continue to send cards and other forms of written communication.
- I am going to offer a weekly Bible study based on the upcoming gospel reading. I can make the lesson available by email or even snail mail, but I'm hoping many of you will attend virtually by linking to Zoom. **If you're interested and would like me to send you an invitation to join the class, please send me an email (cmoser@rlc-wbl.org).** It's very easy to join once you receive the invitation. Classes will be held on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11:30, the first one beginning April 1. Questions? Please call me on my cell at 651-247-9282.
- On Mondays, I will send via email, a devotion, creative idea, a recommendation for a book, a link to something fun.....it will be a surprise! It's just my way of staying in touch with you and perhaps lifting your spirit!
- As always, please don't hesitate to call me or email me for anything or any reason. Remember, we're all in this together and for all of us, it is a new way to do and be church! We do not know what the future holds, but we do know Who holds us!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Pastor Candee Moser

AT REDEEMER

THANKS, REDEEMER MEMBERS!

A huge thanks to everyone who submitted their 2020 Giving Commitment Cards these past three weeks. Your generosity makes a big difference in helping Redeemer's ministries carry out their mission to spread God's love through meaningful worship, outreach, congregational care, children, youth and family programs and spiritual growth. We can't do it without your support.

If you haven't had a chance to make a pledge to the General Fund, there's still time. Commitment cards are available, call the church office at (651) 429-5411 to have one sent to you.

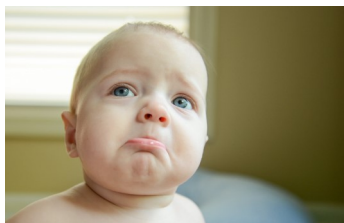
Thanks to all of you members who have continued to mail in or your drop off your offerings! Your kindness is overwhelming!

UPDATE ON BUTTER BRAID ORDERS

Kittleson Marketing has informed us that all Butter Braid deliveries are on hold until further notice.

Deliveries will resume once it is deemed safe (either by local, state or federal government) to do so; at that point we will be contacted for a new delivery date.

So sad we won't have their flaky goodness to give us comfort during these difficult times.



Dear Redeemer Family -

Thank you so much for your kind thoughts and prayers when I had my knee surgery and now as I'm recovering. I sincerely appreciate your caring. May God be with us all in this time of turmoil.

Love,

Esther Hansen

Simply Giving to the Rescue! Give Electronically



The Simply Giving Program has been a blessing in helping Redeemer receive its donations, even though our worship services have been suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Thanks to the many members who give electronically, Redeemer continues to be able to meet some of our everyday operating expenses. If mailing in your offering is getting to be a hassle, please consider giving electronically.

Redeemer now has three options to give electronically:

- GivePlus Mobile –Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for “GivePlus Church” to download for free. Enter Redeemer's zip code “55110,” select “Redeemer Lutheran Church, White Bear lake, MN.” Tap **Give Now**. (Should you need assistance accessing wi-fi, Redeemer's wi-fi password is “aaaaaaaaa.”)
- Redeemer's website at rlc-wbl.org. Just click on the giving tab at the top of the Home Page, then click the on-line giving button.
- Simply Giving Program—stop in the church office and complete a Simply Giving Authorization Form to set up recurring payments from your bank accounts or credit cards to donate on a regular basis.

Call the church office at 651-429-5411 if you need assistance with any of the above options for making a difference at Redeemer.

To my Redeemer family,

I can't tell you how much your prayers and support have meant to our family, as our granddaughter, Ashlyn, recovers from her bone marrow transplant. She is now at Hope House, a transplant house in Rochester with her mother for 3 months. Her counts have just started to improve, ever so slowly, but she has a long journey towards recovery.



God's blessings on you all!

Sincerely, Bev Gillespie

Ashlyn

A Day in the Life of Redeemer!

AT REDEEMER



Potter/Preacher Keith Williams from Concordia demonstrated his skills as a Potter at the March 4 Lenten Worship.

Redeemer Youth packed meal for those in need at Feed My Starving Children.



The Metro Brass Quintet performed at Lent Worship March 11



Quilters taught Redeemer members how to make a quilt at the Wednesday Night Adult Ed Program.



Quilts were blessed at worship on February 23.



A Center for Enriching Lives after 50

Locations

2nd Half with Lyngblomsten | White Bear Lake

Located at Redeemer Lutheran Church
at 3770 Bellaire Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

2nd Half with Lyngblomsten | Como Park

Located on the Lyngblomsten campus
at 1415 Almond Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

Important update regarding 2nd Half with Lyngblomsten Programs and COVID-19

All activities offered through 2nd Half with Lyngblomsten are suspended until further notice. This includes activities offered at our host sites in St. Paul (Lyngblomsten campus) and White Bear Lake (Redeemer Lutheran Church), The Gathering, caregiver support groups, and our in-home caregiver respite program.

We are continuing to offer services that can take place over the phone, including our Caregiver Resource & Referral Service and REACH (Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver Health). If you are a caregiver who would like to speak with one of our staff over the phone about available resources and services, contact us at (651) 632-5320.

If you have a program questions you can contact our registration phone line at (651) 632-5330. If you leave a message, we will follow up as soon as possible. Messages are picked up Monday through Friday. We know that you enjoy the many activities offered through 2nd Half with Lyngblomsten.

It is our goal to reinstate all activities as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding as we seek to protect those we serve.

For information about Lyngblomsten's response to the spread of COVID-19, visit www.lyngblomsten.org/COVID19 for the most up-to-date information.

FRIENDS IN FAITH THANK YOU!

I want to thank everyone who volunteered at the White Bear Emergency Food Shelf February 14th. What better way to celebrate Valentines Day! We were a large group of 19 so we completed the sorting and set up in record time. Thanks again for all your hard work!

Myrna Carlson

Connect with Us

Discover more opportunities available through 2nd Half with Lyngblomsten and register online at www.lyngblomsten.org/2ndHalf. Questions about registration? Call (651) 632-5330.

Note: The best way to contact Redeemer Site Coordinator Lynn Amon is her cellphone: (651) 301-9445.



NEW RESOURCE KIOSK

Thanks to the Lyngblomsten Auxiliary, there is a new place to access Lyngblomsten, Redeemer, and White Bear area supportive services information. The kiosk is located by the West entry doors (just across from the church office) for your easy access any time Redeemer is open. Program and services pamphlets, guides, catalogs, and flyers will now be available to you, your family, and the community even when the church office is closed. Please check it out and help yourself!

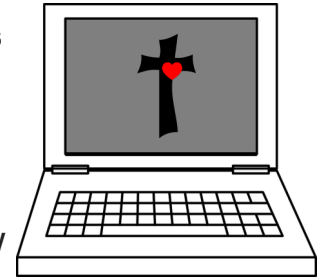
UPDATES ON REDEEMER ON-LINE WORSHIP

We want everyone to know about the Daily Prayer and Weekly Worship Opportunities Pastor Nate and the Redeemer Team are providing during this time of uncertainty and home-isolation.

1. If you have a Facebook Account, make sure to visit, like/follow and receive notifications of new Videos and Livestreams being posted daily! Share posts and host watch parties to reach out to community members looking for ways to stay connected and fellowship together.

<https://www.facebook.com/rlcwbl/>

- Facebook Live Daily Prayer and Devotions with Pastor Nate at 8:30 AM and 8:30 PM Daily
- Facebook Live Sunday Worship 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM Weekly
- Facebook Live Lent Services on Wed, 6:00 PM (Marty Haugen Vespers planned for the next several weeks!)

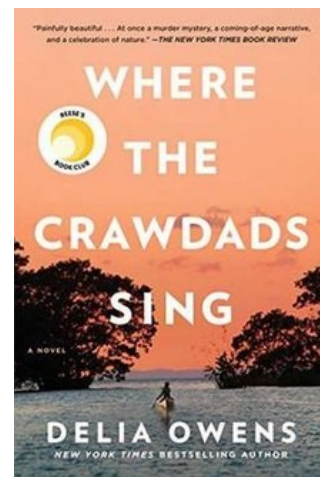


2. We know not everyone has access to Facebook... We are working to develop a Redeemer Youtube Channel that will give us the option to share video links and post videos on the Redeemer Website Page. Watch for more information to come soon!

LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK TO READ WHILE IN LOCK-DOWN?

HERE'S THE REDEEMER BOOK CLUB RECOMMENDATION FOR APRIL.

Where the Crawdads Sing is a 2018 novel by Delia Owens. It has topped the The New York Times Fiction Best Sellers of 2019 and the New York Times Fiction Best Sellers of 2020 for a combined 30 non-consecutive weeks. The story follows two timelines that slowly intertwine. The first timeline describes the life and adventures of a young girl named Kya as she grows up isolated in the marsh of North Carolina from 1952–1969. The second timeline follows a murder investigation of Chase Andrews, a local celebrity of Barkley Cove, a fictional coastal town of North Carolina.



Book: *Where the
Crawdads Sing*
Author: Delia Owens

Stewardship Musings

Our stewardship committee is reading and discussing a book about the **spirituality of stewardship** entitled “What do I own and What owns me?” by Daniel Conway. We believe that this book proclaims the basic values of stewardship that we have been pursuing at Redeemer in recent years. This book approaches stewardship as being far more radical than fundraising; it is in fact a chief characteristic of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, a call to faith.

At the beginning of each chapter of the book, there is a quote of some thoughts about the subject from the late Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy, former chair of the United States Catholic Bishop’s Committee on Stewardship. We intend to share with you quotes from some of his writings throughout this year and briefly share some of our thoughts from this book.

From Thomas Murphy,

“Many of us are caught up with numerous committee meetings – and far be it from me to say that committee meetings can’t be a source of grace or a source of deepening spirituality! But I do have to let you know immediately that over the last four or five years working with this committee and meeting many of the people involved with stewardship has perhaps been one of the most exciting, tremendous experiences of my life. In fact, I can tell you honestly it has made a difference in my life. It has made me reflect on basic values, basic beliefs, and basic convictions, which are not only something I have to believe with my head, but something that makes a difference in my heart.”

Used by permission of author, Daniel Conway

Your Redeemer stewardship committee has discussed similar personal experiences. Stewardship is a source of deepening spirituality because it challenges us to let go of the thoughts that we are somehow in control of our lives. We are not the owners of our material and spiritual gifts; we are stewards or caretakers. God has given us the gift of life. Stewardship helps us recognize that the every-day experiences of living are gifts from God to be cherished and shared.

Stewardship Committee

We thought our members of all ages would appreciate some Easter activities to lift your spirits during this time of being homebound. We miss all of you and can't wait to see you again soon!

Easter Word Search

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ANGELS

APOSTLES

BETRAYAL

BLOOD

CALVARY

CROSS

CROWN OF THORNS

CRUCIFIXION

DARKNESS

DEATH

EARTHQUAKE

EASTER

GOLGOTHA

HIGH PRIEST

JESUS CHRIST

JOSEPH

JUDAS ISCARIOT

KING

LAMB

MARY

NAILS

PASSOVER

PIECES OF SILVER

PIERCED

PILATE

RESURRECTION

ROBE

ROMANS

SACRIFICE

SIMON OF CYRENE

SOLDIERS

SON OF GOD

SPEAR

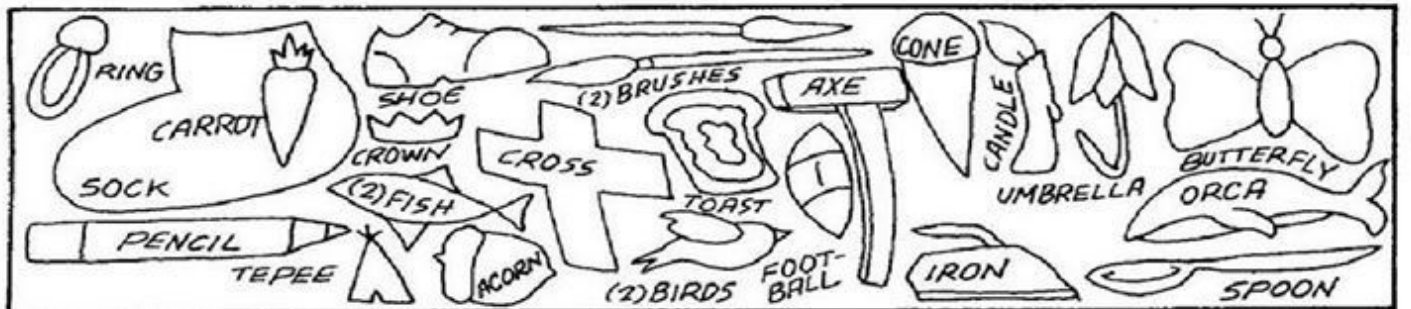
STONE

TEMPLE

THIEVES

THREE DAYS

TOMB







REDEEMER
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

CROSSROADS OF REDEEMER

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Time-dated material

Crossroads of Redeemer is published monthly.

Crossroads is published and available online and in print the 4th Tuesday of the month. Submitted articles are due the 15th of the month and should be 500 words or less.

Articles may be edited for clarity and space.

Welcome to
REDEEMER

We are glad you are here!

REMINDER... Join us for
Sunday Worship
FACEBOOK LIVE 8:30 & 10:30 AM