

# The Herald

March 2019

## *Dates to remember....*

1st	World Day of Prayer
2nd	Confirmation Class
3rd	Transfiguration Sunday Confirmation Class Foor for the Poor Sunday
6th	Ash Wednesday God's Golden Gems
7th	Bell Choir Practice Vocal Choir Practice
9th	Mission w/ Jesus Workshops
10th	SPRING FORWARD! First Sunday in Lent
11th	Mission w/ Jesus Gathering
12th	Rachel Circle @ Redeemer
13th	God's Golden Gems Community Lent Service @ Trinity UM
14th	Bell Choir Practice Vocal Choir Practice
16th	Council Retreat Euchre Night
17th	2nd Sunday in Lent Confirmation Class
19th	Church Council Meeting
20th	It's Spring! Herald Deadline God's Golden Gems Community Lent Service @ St. Johns UCC
21st	Bell Choir Practice Vocal Choir Practice
24th	3rd Sunday in Lent
26th	Men's Club
27th	God's Golden Gems Community Lent Service @First Baptist
28th	Bell Choir Practice Vocal Choir Practice
31st	4th Sunday in Lent

## **Update on Our 2019 Mission Plan... Reaching Out With Jesus!**



In the months ahead our Worship and Christian Education Committees will be discussing how to take worship and Christian education out into our Owosso community. Both committees are discovering exciting possibilities of going out to be with non-members and non-believers with basic, yet meaningful, dynamics of worship and education that entail a Christian flare. In connection with these efforts, our Evangelism and Property Committees will be deliberating how to make our church more hospitable to visitors who have chosen to enter the Church through our church doors. On top of all this, our church council will be discerning how our congregation can understand and seek more fruitfulness and excellence in our mission and ministry efforts.

Jesus did not, and does not, and will not, sit passively waiting for people to come to him. Rather, Jesus pursues all people all the time. As his followers, so should we. And with your prayers and participation, so we will!

Jesus stepped into the lives of people of all types: Jews and Gentiles, women and men, neighbors and strangers, the up-and-coming and the down-and-out, even though his disciples often tried to restrain him from doing so. Jesus' ministry was on the road, an itinerant conveyer of the grace of God. Serving God and his grace, Jesus "crossed" over many different borders. As his follower, so should we. And with your prayers and participation, so we will!

May God and his Word, may God and his Spirit, guide us and inspire us, so that we at Redeemer Lutheran Church may be a living part of his Body of Faith, Hope, and Love. Come Lord Jesus!

## **Lenten living**

ASH WEDNESDAY  
*worship*

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th this year. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth — a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.

Please plan to attend the Ash Wednesday Service on March 6th @ 7:00 p.m.

## Pastor's Message... Reading the Bible

### *Why & How to Read the Bible—Part III... “Meditational” Reading of the Word of God for You*

Why...

The Holy Scriptures (II)

Stars are poor books, and oftentimes do miss:  
This book of stars lights to eternal bliss.

(George Herbert, 17th Century Anglican Priest)

Psalm 19:14

May the meditation of my  
heart be pleasing in your sight,  
O Lord, my Rock and my Re-  
deemer.

How...

Meditation runs counter to our sense of pressure under the dynamics of our busy culture. When it comes to reading we tend toward emphasis upon speed reading, first impressions and skimming—avoiding to go any deeper than we need to. Yet, when it comes to reading Scripture we are called to go deeper, to seek the treasure and truth of God's Word. When we read the Bible slowly, mediating upon what it is saying to us, we can find God shining His truth and light into our hearts.

When we enter into our time of mediation, it is important for us to let go of our preoccupations so that we can open our minds more fully to God's presence and His Word for us. Our minds naturally seek to make associations and connections, and following tangents and lines of thought. In meditation we strive to train our mind to keep from such wanderings. In order to read the Bible with such a focus we seek to have a relaxed sense of attention to what we are reading. Therefore, we do a number of steps that aid us toward this goal.

We stretch our muscles before we begin. We sit in a comfortable position. We take a number of deep breaths. All this helps us to pay attention to what we are reading in the Bible. We choose a verse, a story or a teaching, or a chapter to read. We listen to what we are reading; and as we read we simply and calmly dismiss all the distractions that strive to take our attention away from what God is trying to say to us. We keep returning to the text re-reading it as much as we desire—we may even memorize a particular verse or phrase.

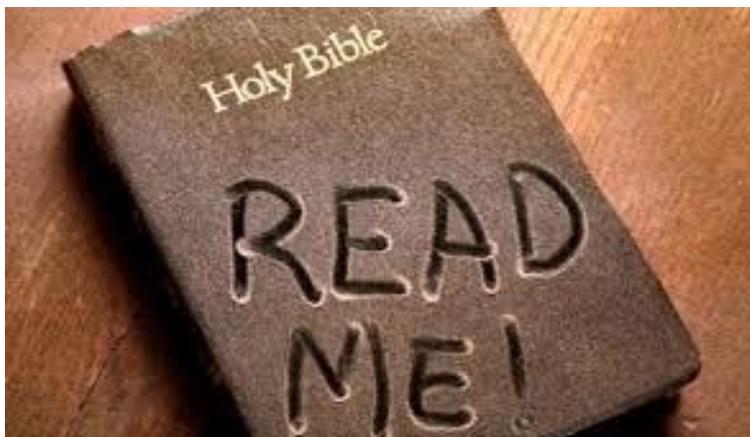
The effect of this style of meditative reading can reveal itself later in our interactions with others, our self, worship, our times of prayer, and the like. So, we need to ponder over our ability to focus on our deeper reading of Scripture and over our ability to pay attention to what God is trying to

say to us. And we need to practice the following steps for practice is required for a greater effect.

Before reading, stretch your muscles.

Sit in a comfortable position—preferably in a quiet setting where you will not be disturbed.

Select a verse, story, teaching or chapter of the Bible to read.



Take a number of deep breaths, praying that God will bless your reading of His Word.

Read the text slowly. When something or someone distracts you deal with such distractions calmly and return to your meditative reading.

Re-read the text slowly as many times as you desire.

Finally, take a particular verse, phrase or image from the reading into the rest of your day by recalling it to mind prayerfully

throughout your day and in the midst of your day's various activities.

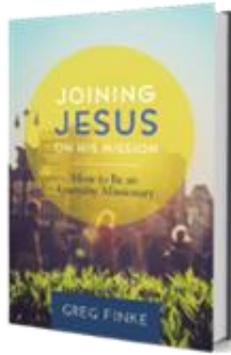
In this way we seek to move beyond first glance and first impression opinions when reading the Bible. For we strive to reach the deeper insights that God intends for us. Such meditative reading helps us to see God's presence and His purposes in our life. This way of reading Scripture promises to be very spiritually and personally rewarding.

So, once again, it is up to you to make use of this information. More ideas for you to try out will be forthcoming in future newsletters. Meanwhile, this prayer from the Apostle Paul...“I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” Amen!  
(Ephesians 3:17-19)

Reading with You for the Full Experience of God's Blessings  
in Our Lives,  
Pastor George

***Being on Mission with Jesus  
Gathering...  
Offered Again!***

**The Mission Learning Experience that Members are saying:  
“I like this.  
I can see myself doing this!”**



**Two Workshop Offerings...  
“Being in Mission with Jesus”**

**Workshop**

Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-12:00  
Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00

The workshops are for first timers, and for those who want/need to renew/review themselves in it!  
You only need to attend one of the two offerings.

**And One Group Gathering...  
“Being in Mission with Jesus”  
Group Gathering**

Monday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-8:00

The Group Gathering is for all who have attended any of the previous “Being in Mission with Jesus” workshops!  
And it is for those who did not attend the February Group Gathering.



**Updates**

Nine congregations joined the NALC last year. That brings our number of NALC congregations to just over 425.  
We have NALC missionaries serving the Lord in Belarus, Congo, Tanzania, and (soon) South Sudan. Most of the more than 40 future pastors of the NALC are studying at Our North American Lutheran Seminary in Pennsylvania.  
Last year NALC Disaster Response teams mounted sustained and extensive aid efforts in Florida, North & South Carolina, and other places.

**NALC Michigan Mission District Updates**

As of this date our District Dean, Pastor Philip Nordstrand, has announced his need to resign from this position due to on-going health concerns related to aging. Our Dean and Assistant to the Bishop, David Wendel, along with the pastors of the district, are striving to determine how to replace our Dean with a mid-year process. One possibility is to elect a new Dean at our April meeting, if that can be arranged and approved. Redeemer might be hosting that meeting. Another process might be to appoint either a temporary Dean until an appropriate election process, or a Dean who will complete the remaining time of Pastor Nordstrand’s term. Please keep this matter in your prayers that God grants us another faithful and good Dean.

At this time, we have two congregations involved in the process of calling a new pastor. So please keep Cross Lutheran in Pigeon and Good Shepherd Lutheran in Manistee in your prayers. Pray that their call-discernment process goes according to God’s plan for all involved. May the Spirit of God, and God’s holy Word, continue to guide our NALC and our District. Amen.

- 1 Haley Sawyer
- 3 Bill Rann
- 4 Justin Stromer
- 7 Nathan Rodgers
- 8 Jeff Sawyer
- 9 Jean Schmiege  
Ed Kippe
- 10 Barbara Zizka  
Cy Bauer
- 12 Steve Hankins
- 17 Carol Lehman
- 18 Mary Ziegler  
Matthew MacFadden
- 21 Julie Sorenson
- 22 Pat Pescor
- 26 Mary Jozwiak
- 30 Brian Beaupre
- 31 Neil MacFadden



**Attention ALL Thrivent members:** If you have not directed your Choice Dollars for 2018, you have until March 31, 2019. You can do so by calling 800-847-4836 or by going on your account at [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com).



## The Herald

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### Sunday Worship Schedule:

8:00 a.m. Traditional Liturgy

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Liturgy

### Sunday School:

For all ages at 9:30 a.m.

### Deadline for copy:

*The third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in  
electronic form only.*



Redeemer Lutheran Church-NALC



## It's Rummage Sale Time!

The annual RLCW Rummage Sale will be held . on Friday and Saturday April 5th and 6th. Please keep us in mind when you do your Spring cleaning.

You can bring any unwanted, **clean, in good repair** items to church beginning March 17th on Sundays or anytime during office hours week-days. Please place bags against the east wall of the Fellowship Hall in a single stacked line. Larger items not in bags should be placed immediately against the south wall in single file. To make other arrangements or for questions concerning the sale, please call Ardelle Rodgers at (989) 723-6473.

## Help the needy!

We will again this year be providing food boxes to needy families this Easter. The sign up sheet of needed items will be available March 10th.



The boxes will be packed on Monday, April 15th, at 6:00pm.



**The Social Concerns Committee will be collecting NALC Disaster Response Flood Buckets again this Spring.** Please watch for a list of needed items and a sample at the table in the narthex.

The buckets are delivered to the warehouse in Caldwell, Ohio and from there are distributed around the United States to areas where disasters have happened.