

Redeemer Happenings

May 2023



A Different Easter Story

This is for those of you who celebrated Redeemer's Easter Sunday service and heard Pastor Trent's message referencing an unfortunate incident that recently took place at our church. You may be wondering "is there more to this story and did it end well?" Yes and yes!



A purse disappeared from the social hall while the owner was happily enjoying lunch with her fellow quilters in another room. The 'disappearance' was not noticed until several hours later, and despite a thorough search of the church it remained 'lost'. The only possible explanation was that it had indeed been stolen. But from the church? It didn't seem possible.

I was that quilter and that purse belonged to me. And it is a story about several things. Yes, there was a crime. There was a theft. There was a victim. And there was loss – car and house keys, money, credit cards, car registration and driver license, eye glasses, potential ID. theft. And the phone. If you've ever misplaced your CELL, you know what that is like. All those contacts and all that information stored in something smaller than your hand. There was also loss of sleep.

But it is a story about much more. Mostly it is a story about human goodness. My fellow quilters rushing to look for the lost item and sharing concern when it was not to be found in the building. A fellow quilter who immediately offered to drive me home to get the extra set of keys so I could retrieve my car. The next door neighbor who generously lent me her phone to contact credit card companies, banks and other institutions and notify police. And then, even though that neighbor was extremely busy wrapping up her work week, checking flights for a next day family holiday departure, and driving her son to and from soccer practice, she took time to help with the search. Using the application 'apple find my device', we found the general area of the phone near a Mall where we rooted through dumpsters and garbage cans with no success. My neighbor shared my grief and displayed heartfelt concern and caring.

Then the next day my daughter and I returned to the Mall and received unbelievable help from two young Security Officers. This time we searched inside - more dumpster diving but still no phone. Again, using 'apple find my device' the two young security officers thought to check a locked back room where trash from the previous day had been left for pick up. You

can only imagine the look on my face when they came out carrying my purse, looking only a little scruffy from its time in the trash. Amazingly the only thing missing was a pair of sunglasses. More amazing was the realization that because this was Good Friday, that big bag of trash had not yet been picked up.

Human goodness, yes. But this is also a story about how it feels to be a victim. How often do we, myself included, 'blame the victim'? How could she/he be so stupid? What were they thinking to put themselves in that situation? If I'm being honest, I admit to sometimes being less than empathetic. It was stupid of me to leave my purse so close to the back door, but no one pointed that out. All I got from friends was concern and offers to help. Yes, empathy! For that I shall be forever grateful, and I will remember to be less judgmental about other's misfortune.

It's also a story of 'assumptions' and jumping to conclusions. The thief, I assumed would be a man and that he would quickly throw away the purse after taking its contents. What man wants to be seen with a purse? Better to just take the valuables and run. Get busy maxing out the credit cards. Pocket all the ID to use later. Toss the phone once discovering it is locked and of no use.

As it turned out I was wrong about most of these assumptions. The 'thief' was probably not a man. Although we are not certain, the thief was quite likely a middle aged woman. A woman the Mall security was familiar with, known to them, probably someone with a mental health problem. When she heard the phone ring she probably panicked and threw it in the nearest garbage.

This theft was a crime of opportunity and not very sophisticated. A stranger entered the unlocked church and took the first visible thing of value. Yes, stealing is wrong but life is a bit more complicated, especially for our vulnerable population, the type of person we see every day on our streets, possibly homeless, needing more of our empathy than condemnation. I felt differently about this theft. And it made me think more about other people who are victims, mostly just because life has dealt them a different hand. What can we do to help?

It was not fun to feel vulnerable. No phone, no credit cards, no money. There would be financial cost – I'd have to buy a new phone. Replacing the car fob would be expensive. But I knew it wouldn't be a huge cost. I could go to the bank in a couple of days and new credit cards would soon arrive. At most this was a big inconvenience. There was some loss but I still had so much to be thankful for. For some people, this is not so.

Having the purse returned intact was indeed more than I ever expected. I felt like the woman in the Parable of the Lost Coin who searches for her lost coin, and when finding it, rejoices and quickly goes to tell her friends so that they can rejoice with her. For me this parable of loss means Redemption, and God continuing to search and to work with and through people to bring that about. It's a different Easter story, but it's a wonderful Easter lesson. Thanks be to God.





Looking for new renters for the yellow house next to the church starting in June.

Get the word around!

\$1800/mo plus utilities, 3 bdrm, more details coming soon



Men's Prayer Breakfast will be **Saturday, May 20, 8:00am @ Smitty's in Market Mall.** ALL men are welcome to attend!



Rebekah Circle May Bible study will be held on **Tuesday, May 16 @ 7:00 pm. in the Fireside Lounge.** Mary Lou Grahn will be our study leader. All ladies are welcome to attend.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Redeemer Lutheran Church, in Saskatoon, is seeking to fill the position of Administrative Assistant starting June 1, 2023 or earlier.

This is a Monday to Friday half time position, between 15 and 20 hours per week, with some schedule flexibility. Duties are varied, and include answering telephone, word processing, assisting other staff with communications, other general office duties.

Resumes can be submitted in confidence to:

Redeemer Lutheran Church

812 Preston Avenue

Saskatoon, S7H 2V2

Ph: 374-7585

Email: rlc.admin@sasktel.net

If interested please contact Lisa Moellenbeck by phone or text at (306) 260-0636 or Rob Goodman (306) 250-5094 for details on the position.



**Redeemer's Vacation
Bible School is
Back on Track with
Rocky Railway VBS!**

**Mon July 10 – Thurs July 13 9-12am
plus Thurs 5:30-8pm**

Registration will begin in May with a capped enrollment for ages 4 (by Jan 31, 2024) to entering grade 7 in the fall.

Registration forms available at www.redeemersaskatoon.ca

or the church office.

Cost: \$25.00/child

Email redemervbs@sasktel.net for more info

Get on board with the crew this year as we learn how *Jesus' power pulls us through* on the Rocky Railway VBS!

*We certainly will need **Jesus' power to pull us through** another Redeemer VBS as well as **several good-hearted VOLUNTEERS** to make this influential ministry a success!!*

Please consider helping in any number of ways such as:

- Preparation work
- Activity leader for a specific activity – ie) games, stories, snacks, crafts
- Crew Leader - lead “crews” through the activities
- Assistant to crew or activity leaders
- Registration/welcome person
- Sound or powerpoint person
- Thursday evening BBQ/meal helper
- 1 day, a few days or all days of VBS

If you or someone you know can help, contact the conductors at redemervbs@sasktel.net

Marlo Wilson (306-291-8212)

Charlene Neumeyer (306-260-1267)

Go N'Piece

A huge thank-you to our congregation for supporting our quilting group! Together we were able to donate over \$1000 for the Canadian Food Grains Bank through our quilt raffle. What a joy!

Our quilting group had another wonderful year of sewing, sharing, encouraging, and you were a part of our journey. Thank you to those who purchased quilts, made donations of gently used duvets and sheets, fabric, and even quilt tops! We were able to donate \$500 to Teen Challenge thanks to your generosity.

Each spring we like to empty our stash of quilts that we've made over the winter. This spring we have distributed 48 quilts to these facilities: Sanctum 1.5, Adele House, Nutana Collegiate, and The Bridge. We have more quilts in progress and look forward to more sewing!

We have a wonderful group and we're always looking for new members! Some of our members prefer to sew at home, but pick up supplies from our "stash". We are all able to find a way to contribute when we get together. All skill levels are welcome! If you have questions, please call Audrey Miller (PH 306-270-7884).



*Join us on Saturday, **May 6** from **9 am to 12 noon** for the **Big Shred!** This is your chance to quickly shred old bank and utility statements, tax returns (2016 and earlier), bills, files, and outdated documents which may contain personal information. Help **prevent personal identity theft**. The team includes our partner, Shred-It, who fully sponsor their trucks and drivers. They will promptly shred your documents in the **parking lot at McClure United Church at 4025 Taylor St.** (at Heritage Way). You can watch as volunteers help place your old private, personal or confidential papers into the Shred-It company truck shredder! The service is a fundraiser (suggested \$10 per box, or \$5 per shopping bag). Proceeds assist the McClure Place Foundation in enhancing seniors' living at Amy McClure House – a personal care home for 23 residents. Declutter your space and help a good cause at the same time!*

a Heartfelt 



TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

National Volunteer Week April 16-20, 2023

The RLC Leadership executive recognizes how important our volunteers are to the welfare of our church community. We know who you are and are so grateful for your commitment of assisting in a variety of ways. We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have such enthusiastic, dedicated volunteers and believe we are truly blessed to have each one of you!

THANK-YOU, volunteers of Redeemer!

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." – Sherry Anderson



Monday, May 8, 6:00 p.m

Bring along your favourite yard tools and join with us as we spring clean the church yard!

BIG GARAGE SALE



Spring is on the calendar and in the air- so it may be time to start spring cleaning! What shall we do with those unwanted (but still working and viable) things? Bring them to the church!! It takes a village to help raise funds while assisting underprivileged people in our community. The date for the garage

sale is **Saturday, May 13th** with prepping on Friday, May 12th (free pizza supper included!). Any questions, concerns, comments, please contact coordinator Charlene Neumeyer 306 373-9003 Thanks!

FINANCIAL UPDATE



For the month of March 2023, we had a deficit of \$5,987.46 before the fund account revenues and expenses. For the year to date, there is a deficit of \$6,389.79. Envelope giving is approximately \$9,000 less than budgeted to March 31 and expenses are approximately \$9,000 less than budgeted for the same period.

An offering plate is located at the top of the stairs in the sanctuary for you to drop off your donation as you enter or exit the church service. In addition, the following options are available for you to make a donation:

1. Mail to or drop off a cheque at the church

You can mail a cheque directly to the church office. Mailing address: 812 Preston Avenue, Saskatoon, Sask. S7H 2V2. You can also drop off a cheque in the mailbox at the front of the church or in the church office.

2. Interac E-Transfer using online banking

We are set up for automatic deposit. If you use online banking, you may make a payment to Redeemer Lutheran Church by:

- i. Logging into your personal banking account, add Redeemer Lutheran Church as a recipient using the email address redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net
- ii. Enter the desired amount and click send. Instructions on how to send and receive an e-transfer are found on Interac's website: <https://www.interac.ca/en/consumers/products/interac-e-transfer/>
- iii. You should follow up with an email to Becky at redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net advising her of your donation.

3. Monthly PAD donation

You may request to sign up for a monthly Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) donation. This option allows you to automatically make your donation monthly by allowing the church to debit your account for your donation. Please contact the church office if you would like to take advantage of this giving option.

Please note that you may also donate marketable securities to the church. This will allow you to eliminate any capital gains taxes and allow you a tax donation credit at the same time. Further details may be found at the following link: [Gifts of publicly traded shares and stock options - Canada.ca](#)

Please contact the church office for details on making a donation of marketable securities.

Ron Litzenberger

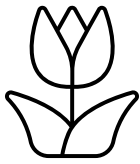
The following is taken from an interview **Kate Bowler**, a Canadian academic and associate professor of the history of Christianity in North America at Duke Divinity School had with **John Swinton**, a professor of practical theology and pastoral care at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, and the founding director of Aberdeen's Centre for Spirituality, Health, and Disability. He worked as a nurse for sixteen years within the fields of mental health and learning disabilities and later as a community mental health chaplain. To listen to the complete interview click [HERE](#). It is titled "*The Art of Presence*".



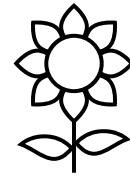
John: So then to be a disciple is to become a friend of Jesus. The church becomes a community of friends. But then you look at the friendships of Jesus and they're really different. Like, so my Facebook friends, of whom I have many (I can prove it with screenshots). The problem with Facebook friends is you can get rid of them very easily. And most of your Facebook friends are very similar to yourself. So you've got this lovely cluster of people that just look like you. It's like looking in the mirror and we can do that in real life as well. The thing that's startling about the friendships of Jesus is that they are not marked by the principle "like attracts like," but by the principles of grace that like attracts those people unlike you. So tax collectors, sinners, prostitutes. Not reformed, tax collectors, sinners, and prostitutes who are just doing the thing. And it's through that friendship that they begin to encounter who Jesus is. And I think that's the heart of belong. Recognizing that we are as a church, a community of the friends of Jesus and that Christ-like friendship doesn't look like the kind of friendships we're used to. And that's the radical edge, I think, in principle that we have to offer to the world in terms of belonging, because people really can find a space through that kind of relationship

Kate: When that when you describe that kind of unlikeness and the way that it forces us to belong to each other. I'm thinking of my friend Roger, who passed away last month. He was the librarian here at the divinity school, and Roger and I didn't have that much in common. He was a librarian and liked being a librarian. I liked running around talking about American religion, and we had very little to chat about, except that Roger showed up for every small act of picking me up from the airport when I needed to go to the hospital, making sure the sign-up sheet for food that I didn't say that I needed, but definitely needed, was filled in. And the unlikeness that became the most stable part of a very unstable time is I couldn't have gotten that if I hadn't been part of a church that was committed to me in a way that like a guy at the grocery store was never going to be committed to me. He like, made some kind of weird covenantal promise at the beginning of time to actually care about my stupid problems. Like when we belong to each other. It's a lot of work. It's sort of horrible.

John: But there is great power in small things, isn't there? Like, I think that transformation and change isn't necessarily a huge thing. We're not called to transform the world. That's God's job. But we are called to transform ourselves. And often times transformation comes through these small gestures of hope that enable us to find belonging. I think that's a great example.



GoForth Hub Club



Come for a fun, relaxing afternoon – enjoy the activities
and make new friends!

Monday, May 1, 2023 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
at Calvin-Goforth Presbyterian Church
1602 Sommerfeld Ave. (Holliston neighbourhood)

In partnership with the Saskatoon Council on Aging, the GoForth Hub
Club will take place on the first Monday of each month.

Each afternoon will include

- Time to socialize
- A brief talk from a pharmacist on a wellness-related issue
- An opportunity to have your blood pressure checked
- A brief exercise time with age-appropriate activities
- Entertainment
- Refreshments

May 1 – *Canadian Mental Health Association*. “Care for the Caregiver”
Self-care, not only for the caregiver, but for everyone’s mental health. Important
information for all!

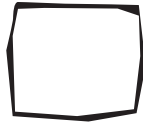
Fully accessible – Free parking

Please note: **Masks are required.** (COVID protocols observed)

For more information contact Sheila Cameron-Hopkins (306-955-9119)

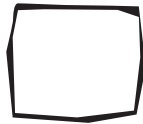
The Gospel lesson for today tells us that Jesus is like a **gate** or a door. He is the **way** in to God.

How many doors are there in your church?



Draw a door that you use.

How many doors are there in your home?



Draw a door that you use.

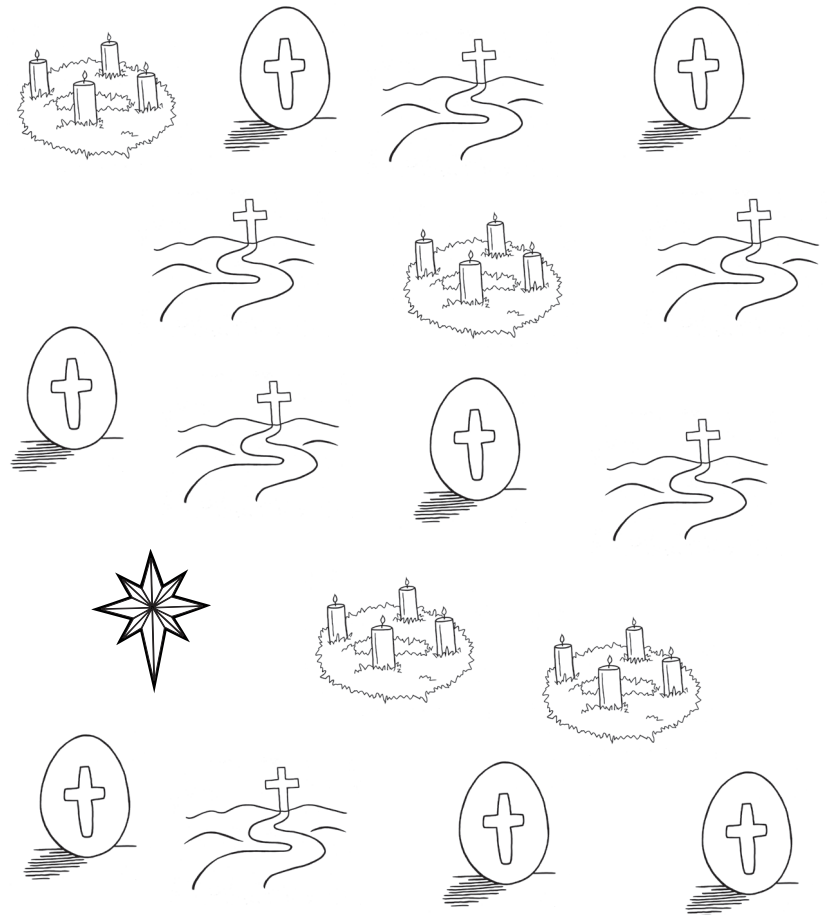


PRE-READER

Easter 4

- Today is the **4th Sunday** in **Easter**.
- There are **7 Sundays** in the Easter season.

Count how many of each symbol you see.
Which symbol has seven?





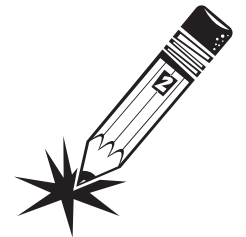
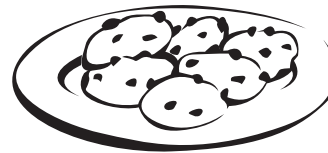
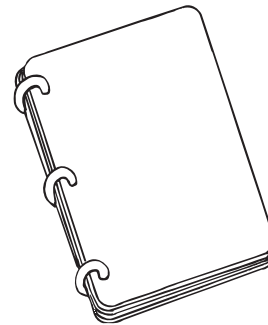
They became one big Christian family.

The book of Acts tells us that the first members of the Christian church **shared everything**.
Sharing is a great way to **show God's love**.



Draw lines to match the things you could share with a friend.

If a friend had this... I could share this...



Redeemer Lutheran Church

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E-mail:

redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net

A Community of Life & Love, Hope & Healing



We're on the web!
redeemersaskatoon.ca

Join Us On
You Tube

If you are unable to worship with us in person, join us each week at 9:50 am on YouTube by clicking this link:

[Redeemer Lutheran Saskatoon - YouTube](#)

This link is also available on the homepage of our website redeemersaskatoon.ca at any time.

You can also go to this same link at any time afterwards to view the service if you are unable to join at 10am. We encourage you to hit 'subscribe' on our YouTube page, so that all future worship services will be highlighted for you. If you have any questions or need assistance in connecting to our YouTube site, just give us a call and we will be glad to help you out.