

Redeemer Happenings

April 2024



Jesus is not here, He is Risen!

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.” (Luke 24:5). As we look around the world today, we see so much of pain, suffering, and death. It seems that we are surrounded by death as we think about the thousands of people dying in the wars, millions dying of starvation and hunger, hundreds of refugees drowning in seas, and many more dying on a daily basis in the experience of ethnic, racial, and gender-based violence. We are becoming accustomed to violence and death as if these are normal experiences in life.

In this time of Lent we are reminded of the brutal and sacrificial suffering death of Jesus Christ. Some of the disciples and many of his followers, including family and friends, thought it would all end there – with a dead Jesus. When they went to the tomb on that resurrection day that’s precisely what they were expecting. They forgot about the promise of Jesus that, on the third day, he will rise again. So you can imagine the profoundly deep question of the angels, “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” The question is not intended to say that Jesus is not among the dead; it is an affirmation that Christ is risen and death is conquered.

The empty tomb is a sign of LIFE in the midst of suffering and death. The message is clear that with the resurrection of Jesus death is conquered. While we face the anguish of senseless and unnecessary deaths in the world today, we are reminded that the suffering servant who died on our behalf not only suffers with us but also brings life to all who believe. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die” (John 11:25).

The empty tomb is a sign of HOPE. The gift of eternal life is not a spiritualization and romanticization of death but a promise and hope that the Risen Lord will bring justice and righteousness. Hope is an eschatological gift that tells us that, in spite of our present struggles and sufferings, we are not alone; the Risen Christ is with us restoring hope and joy. Yet, hope is not a passive acceptance of death but the inspiration to honor, respect, and appreciate life, God’s gift to us. Hope calls us to resist and oppose unjust systems and authorities that are life-denying and life-depriving because the God of life stands for justice and peace in the world.

The empty tomb is a sign of LOVE. It tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. The Apostle Paul makes this clear when he says this in Romans 8:38-39: “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers. Nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Indeed, we are surrounded by death in this world today. In this situation let us be reminded of the Easter message: “Jesus is not here, but has risen.” In every situation of suffering and death today let us be reminded that the Risen Lord brings us life, hope, and love. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay
General Secretary



Seven Statements of Jesus Christ on the cross



On Good Friday and during Easter we are reminded of the events around Jesus Christ's unimaginable suffering and death by torture and eventual crucifixion. As "modern humans" it is hard for us to understand this utter cruelty and unimaginable physical and mental pain that our Lord had to endure.

Jesus was tortured, ridiculed and betrayed by the Jews. He was forced to take up his cross and after much humiliation and physical torture, was crucified in public (a criminal's death). He hung between two criminals, stripped of his garments. He suffered publicly after the Jewish people betrayed him and traded his life for that of a murderer, despite never committing any crime. The Gospels record the last statements of Christ whilst hanging on the cross and these show that Jesus was consistent in his message and mission up until his very last breath. These statements also confirm who Jesus was and how his life and death fulfilled the Scriptures.

The seven Statements:

"Father forgive them for they know not what they do" (Forgiveness)—(Luke 23:34). Jesus is looking past the atrocities that are being committed against Him and is seeing His torturers as people. Jesus, who came to earth and continues to exist in Heaven, is fully man and fully God, He is able to see past the sin and sees our need for healing and forgiveness.

"Today You will be with me in paradise" (Salvation)—(Luke 23:43). Jesus addresses one of the criminals crucified alongside Him. Jesus assures the repentant criminal that "today", meaning immediately after death, they will BOTH enter Paradise together (the dwelling place of the righteous in the afterlife).

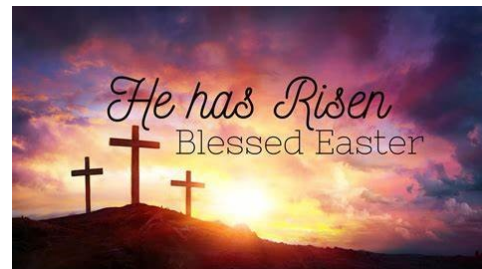
"My God, My God, Why have You forsaken me?" (Abandonment)—(Matthew 27:45-46). Of all the horrific torture that Jesus had to endure, at this moment, God's Perfect Son, was separated from Him (for the first and only time), so He could accept God's wrath for humanity's sin. It was also a fulfilment of the prophetic words of Psalm 22:1. This is also the only time that Jesus called His Father "GOD". God was punishing Jesus as though He had personally committed every wicked deed committed by every wicked sinner. In doing so, God could treat and forgive those redeemed ones as if they had lived Christ's perfect life of righteousness.

"Woman here is your son" and "Here is your mother" (Care)—(John 19:26-27). Jesus fulfills His duty as a devoted son, ensuring that Mary will be looked after in His absence by John, His beloved disciple. Jesus also symbolically establishes a familial bond between His followers, emphasizing the importance of community and care for one another.

“I am thirsty”(Humanity)-(John 19:28). Here, Jesus was answering the Messianic prophecy from Psalm 69:21: “They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst”. Jesus is physically exhausted, he spent hours in the sun, hanging on a cross and were most probably severely dehydrated. Jesus may speak of his own thirst out of a natural human need for sustenance and relief. In Matthew 5:6 Christ calls to “hunger and thirst after righteousness”, and in Revelation 22:17 Christ invites all who are thirsty to drink from the waters of life.

“It is finished”(Accomplishment)-(John 19:30). Jesus indicates that His work, His fulfillment of the scriptures and His life are the ultimate payment for our sins. Hebrews 9:12, 26 says: “He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves, but He entered the Most Holy Place once and for all by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption...But now He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages, to do away with sin, by the sacrifice of Himself.” Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice, so now the Jewish practice of sacrificing goats and calves was no longer necessary.

“Father, into your Hands I commit my spirit”(Surrender)-(Luke 23:46). Jesus desired to do His Father’s will. Praying fervently in the Garden of Gethsemane, He asked the Father to take the cup of suffering away from Him but then adds “not my will but your will be done”(Matthew 26:36-56). He was obedient to the will of God and accepted the suffering of the cross as he knew this was His Father’s will. Jesus entirely surrenders His body and soul to His Father—as we as Christians are called to do: GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD. These last phrases give insight into Jesus’ heart, mission, experience and love for us. Each phrase teaches us about His ability to empathize with our humanity. They demonstrate His unwavering commitment to His Father’s will and His complete fulfillment of the prophecies found in the scriptures. As you prepare your heart to celebrate Easter, think about and meditate on these seven phrases and let their message deepen your love for the amazing God we serve and for God’s creation.



Men’s Prayer Breakfast will be **Saturday, April 13**
at 8am @ Smittys.

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME

Where did Stephen Ministry come from?

In the book of Acts, Chapter 6, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need. Since the days of the Apostles, caring ministry has been a hallmark of the Christian faith community. As the Apostles worked to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ as his elders, some of the Greek-speaking widows were being neglected in their daily distribution. The Twelve decided to ordain seven deacons to oversee their care. In doing so, the deacons extended the pastoral care of the Apostles, the first Bishops of the early Church.

So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom, to whom we can hand over this duty. We ourselves will continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit,....*Acts: Chapter 6, 2 – 5*

That is what [Stephen Ministry](#) helps the church do today.



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



YOU ARE INVITED to CAMP
at our APRIL INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT

Sunday, APRIL 7th at 11:00 am

in the Fellowship Hall

SPRING is HERE ... time to dream of summer
Campfire songs & stories, camp-famous food,
fun & friends!

Come and experience a taste of camp with Darin Felstrom—director at Kinasio—a *place set apart in God's creation, inviting all to experience God's love.* Kinasio is a camp for ALL ages! Seniors, families, young adults, youth, children... All of God's family!!

A decorative border for a "SAVE THE DATE" card. It features a blue and white checkered background with red polka dots. On the left, there are purple grapes and a yellow container labeled "FLOUR" and "SUGAR". On the right, there are several red strawberries. At the bottom, there is a bowl of pasta salad and a fork. The text is centered on a white background.

SAVE THE DATE ☺

SPRING IS HERE! LET'S EAT!

ALL WOMEN are INVITED to

A POTLUCK SPRING SALAD SUPPER

an evening of food, fellowship and more!

"SHOWING LOVE, SHARING FOOD"

at REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 30 at 5:30pm

Pasta salad



LCBI Choir Tour 2024

- April 18 7:00pm The Langham Hall, Langham
April 19 7:00pm Zion Lutheran, North Battleford
April 20 7:00pm Zion Lutheran, Saskatoon
April 21 10:30am Good Shepherd, Saskatoon (Chamber Choir)



*Featuring Concert Choir, Chamber Choir,
Jazz Band, Handbell Choir*

Silver Collection Admission

For more information please contact Kari at dean@lcbi.sk.ca



Kinasao Annual General Meeting

When: April 21

Time: 3pm

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church, Rosthern
(potluck meal to follow).



*O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who
take refuge in him. Psalm 34:8*

FINANCIAL UPDATE



There was a surplus of \$1,716.54 for February 2024 before the fund account revenues and expenses. There is a small deficit for the year so far to the end of February 2024 of \$31.02.

The envelope giving for February 2024 was \$22,217.26 and \$40,058.26 for the year to the end of February 2024. Thank you to everyone who has so generously contributed to Redeemer's operations. The budget numbers will be included in the March 2024 financial statements.

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/>

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.

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

Ron Litzenberger



Good Shepherd Lutheran Fundraiser Concert

Friday, April 19, 2024

1215 McKercher Drive

Doors Open at 6:30, Concert at 7:00

Featuring the local classic rock band



With special guest Ruth Eliason

\$30 each

**Tickets available at Good Shepherd
Sunday and Tuesday mornings in April**

Or call Karen (306) 260-8884

Kara (306) 381-3842

Coffee & Dainties available at intermission

**Proceeds to replacing shingles for
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**





HEALTH FAIR

PRESENTED BY
AUGUSTANA HEALTH
CABINET

APRIL 18, 2024

2-4 PM

AUGUSTANA CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL
1201 Broadway Ave.
Saskatoon

Informational brochures will be available from the Alzheimer's Society, Forever in Motion, and Community Health Center at Market Mall

Everyone is welcome!

Refreshments and snacks will be available

RSVP to
augustanahealthcabinet@gmail.com

SPEAKERS

Bill Brooks from the

Saskatoon Council on Aging

"WHAT IS AGING IN PLACE"

Leanne Mathieson from

Luther Care Communities

**"THINKING ON TRANSITIONING TO
SUPPORTED LIVING?"**

Heather Ward and Linda Catton

**"DO YOU MEASURE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE
AT HOME?"**

Redeemer Lutheran Church

812 Preston Avenue
Saskatoon SK
S7H 2V2

Phone: 306-374-7585

E-mail: redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net

Office hours

Monday to Thursday 9am-12pm & 1-4
(Friday afternoon office is closed)

A Community of Life & Love, Hope & Healing



We're on the web!
redeemersaskatoon.ca



Join Us On



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.