

Chronicles

Together in Mission...Synod Assembly Thoughts

Again, as last year, I had the opportunity to represent Christ Our Redeemer at our annual Synod Assembly with Tim Williams and Pastor Meyer (many others from COR attended as well). And, as then, I was struck by how we are part of a bigger community of God. There were over 500 people in that convention center who deal with the exact same issues and more as we do everyday. For that matter, there are 13 congregations in the Tampa area who do so also and that I think brings some comfort to us that we are not alone (not that we ever are with God) but that there are people who will pray and work with us just like we should pray and work with them for the same common purpose. And the theme of this Assembly was just that – reach out, in Temple Terrace, in the Tampa conference, in Tampa, in Florida, in Haiti – wherever there is the need, we should be there. That is refreshing, as in tough times, it is so easy to turn in and focus only on what we need to get through the next week, month or year. But if we look outward, we'll be more likely to find answers we haven't even thought of and people who care for us as we do for them.

I also was struck by how the messages we heard there are so relevant to the work we are doing in our strategic planning sessions. Specifically, the thoughts below I think parallel the renewal of focus that our planning efforts are intended to ignite here at COR:

1. Strengthen local relationships;
2. Ensure our church's faith practices are grounded in prayer and scripture;
3. Create strategies for the future built on real achievable victories;
4. Build on our lay members.

It was a great experience – I encourage everyone to get involved in any ministry for which you have a passion to enable the *Together in Mission* vision to become real!

Linda Tolley, Council President

A Message from Pastor Meyer

I am writing this in Oberammergau, Germany during my time of service in the Lutheran Church near the Passionplay Theater. A few days ago we saw the play. One of the most impressive and touching scenes was the opening one as Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Eight hundred actors filled the stage at one time, many carrying palm branches. As in the biblical account, Jesus rode on a donkey. As the crowd continued to sing powerfully, Jesus dismounted and walked among the people, stooping to smile at each of the smallest children, touch them on the head, and speak a few words to each. The children responded with their own smiles, obviously glad to be recognized and welcomed by such an important person, even though most of them knew he was only an actor and not the actual Savior.

On my first Sunday back at Christ Our Redeemer we will be celebrating our largest ministry to children, our school. We will install our teachers at the 10:30 service on August 15 and pray God's blessing on the ministry of our school as classes begin soon after.

Our newly adopted strategic plan has much to say about children's ministries. One objective that has already gathered some impetus at initial meetings is the "Walk Thru Christmas", a presentation of the story of Christ's birth by our school and church children where people may walk through the story in a series of scenes presented by different groups of children. The centerpiece of our ministry to children at COR happens on Sunday morning with Sunday School and worship which includes a children's sermon and children's church. I personally intend to apply my efforts further this year in cooperation with all our volunteers in this area to encourage attendance by our children and to make every Sunday a time of spiritual growth for them.

Sunday morning children's ministries have undoubtedly become more difficult in a time when soccer and other activities for children have expanded into Sunday morning. But the same Jesus who was so aptly portrayed by the actor at the Passionplay in Germany still stoops to recognize and express his love to every child. It is our responsibility to bring the little ones to Jesus.

Pastor Meyer

Enrich Your Worship Experience —an invitation to serve.

If you are looking for a way to serve your fellow Christians at COR, and would like to enrich your worship experience, I highly recommend participating in one of the Sunday morning service positions:

If you can smile, you are a natural born **Greeter**.

If you like to help people, you would make a great **Usher**.

If you like the glow of candles, serving as **Acolyte** is in your future.

If you can read, become a **Lector**.

If you can pour wine, you can **Serve Communion**.

If you like to pray, become a **Pastor's Assistant**.

If you like things clean, neat and tidy, serve on the **Altar Guild**.

If you love to sing (and others like to listen to you), join the **Choir**.

If you are blessed with audio equipment experience, join the **Tech Support Team**.

If you love children, join the **Children's Church Team**.

All positions contribute and are important in our worship service, and your participation will enrich your personal experience.

If you just want to obtain additional information about these positions, or have decided to participate in the service, plan to attend a training session, in church, between services, on the 2nd or the 4th Sunday in August (August 8th or August 22nd at 9:15am). Those currently serving during worship services should attend also.

Contributed by Greg Sunday

Pastor Meyer Returns in August

Most of you know that Pastor Meyer and Geneva are in Germany where he is preaching at the Lutheran church in Oberammergau. He returns August 13. Meanwhile please take time to thank Pastor Gary Logan for his words and leadership during our Sunday morning worship services.

Strategic Plan

The congregation approved the strategic plan at the June congregation meeting. If you are asked to help out with one of the points of the plan, please say yes. If all of us do a little, we'll get a lot accomplished. We all need to help our congregation grow in faith!

Volunteering—A Rewarding Experience

There are many areas in our church body where we can volunteer our time. It does not have to be in an area that requires a lot of physical work, done outdoors in the heat or at a specific time or date. Just calling someone or visiting someone once a month is not only rewarding for you but also for the person you are visiting. Many times you can take the flowers that were left over from Sunday's service. With just a simple gesture you are proclaiming God's love.

It is also rewarding to serve on the committee that prepares luncheons or just coffee and cookies for the family who has just lost a loved one so that they can visit with friends or relatives who have come to attend the funeral. Many times they have not seen these people for a long time and this is the only time they can socialize with them. If you are interested in helping out, call Diana Lyles at 988-1880 or Bev Bauder at 988-7876.

The Chronicles

Vol. 18, No. 8

August 2010

Published monthly except in July for members of
Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School

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Pastor: Rev. Waldemar Meyer

Pastor: Rev. Richard Hafer

Principal: Beth Gray

Director of Christian Education: Julie Doyle

Choir Director: Nancy Schild

Organist: Betty Chester

Parish Administrator: Vickie Sufka

Bookkeeper: Dan Bowdish

Sunday Worship Services

8:00 A.M.

10:30 A.M.

Sunday School and Bible Study

9:15 A.M.

Newsletter editor: Dianne Koenig

Next Deadline: August 20, 2010

The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

From the Eagles Nest

Eagles Pot-Luck

Our next senior pot-luck will be Sunday, September 12th, at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Our speaker will talk about stress management. Mark your calendars. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to share and join us.

Eagles Bible Study

The Eagles Bible Study will resume on Sunday, September 12th, 2010, from 9:20 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. in the conference room of the administration building. We will continue our study of the biblical and theological implications of the novel, *The Shack*. Previous attendees may expect a contact regarding our study.

Kelly and Diana Lyles

Social Ministry News

Together we are sharing our core value (see the long-range strategic plan) of “community and worldwide service”, as we collected and disbursed funds this last fiscal year to those in need. In addition to volunteer hours, household items, food and clothing donated, and individual gifts directly to charity, here is what COR gave: ELCA World Hunger: \$2801; ELCA Disaster Relief: \$1025; Judeo-Christian Health Clinic: \$1915; Lazarus Project Haiti: \$1406, plus direct sponsorship money; Food for the Poor (sponsorship money for the Village of Hope School): \$2915; Lutheran Services Florida: \$542; Lutheran World Relief/Fair Trade: \$650; Metropolitan Ministries: \$1550; Messiah Migrant Ministry: \$948. Several of these contributions benefitted from Thrivent matching funds.

The Social Ministry team will always consider other service organizations as we try to reach out to our local community and to worldwide needs as well. Any suggestions are welcome: [fwdunne@tampabay.rr.com](mailto: fwdunne@tampabay.rr.com).

Haiti Mission Trips: Remember that there are openings for two trips: November 23 through 29, with the youth, and December 13 to 18. Contact Julie Doyle or Faith Dunne for information and/or to sign up. Future plans include a trip to Central America or Mexico. Don't forget to read the updates from Director Debbie Berquist on www.lazarusprojecthaiti.org. It gives an idea of the type of projects that the teams do. And...we will be there during cooler months!

Metropolitan Ministries is planning its summer drive to fill 5,000 backpacks for children in the community. We will collect some of the most needed items: 3-ring binders (1-2”), boxes of colored pencils, composition books, and highlighters. Bring to the church until August 9 and they will be delivered. *Food* needs continue, especially rice, pastas and other starches. “Compassion + Action.”

Faith Dunne, Social Ministry Chairperson

Treasurer's Report Through April, 2010

	Year To Date		Prior Year
	Actual	Budget	
Church			
Income	\$515,952	\$445,000	\$447,105
Expenses	\$455,323	\$444,985	\$414,240
School			
Income	\$626,697	\$605,412	\$743,738
Expenses	\$634,072	\$605,703	\$725,309

The church concluded a successful year entirely due to the bequest we recorded in March of this year. Without this we would have shown a deficit for the twelve months just ended. We are barely able to meet all of our obligations on a monthly basis. We ask each of you to try to add a small increase to your already generous giving.

Net Deficit Position:

June 30, 2008	(\$239,096)
December 31, 2008	(\$208,585)
December 31, 2009	(\$110,091)
January 31, 2010	(\$96,267)
February 28, 2010	(\$106,931)
March 31, 2010	(\$65,278)
April 30, 2010	(\$73,770)
June 30, 2010	(\$60,635)

We continue to reduce our deficit position and make progress toward achieving a “break-even” position. We still need an additional \$25,000 to retire the remaining Debt of Love loans.

John Bauder, Treasurer

Fall Bible Study

Do you have a specific topic you wish to discuss or study? Do you have a particular day or time you would like to attend a Bible study? What kind of Bible study or discussion group would you like to have available? Would you like to lead a study group? Small group leaders—are you continuing your groups? What topics, where and when?

Contact Dianne Koenig with your ideas and information so that we can publicize it.

Remember that the EAGLES group resumes their Sunday morning meetings in September.

Erma's Challenge

Thank you COR for meeting my food challenge for Metropolitan Ministries again. Last year we took 383 pounds of food to Metro Min; this year we had 525 pounds! My car was crammed full and we had to use George Zimmerman's van for the remainder. Thank you, George for making that trip. Next year we'll hope for even more food and use Mel Anderson's truck.

Why do I do this? Hunger is 24/7 and not too much food is brought into Metropolitan Ministries during the summer months. But here is my personal reason for challenging you to bring food for the Ministries—I remember as a five-year old during the depression that a box of food was delivered to our house on December 24th. That was our Christmas dinner. My motto is: I don't go hungry, why should anyone else.

Thanks again, COR.

Erma Hinze

ESL Classes to Start

Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will start a new program (ESL) for parents/students who need help learning the English language. The kick-off for this program will be on Wednesday, September 1st from 6:00-9:00 p.m. We need volunteers to help with tutoring the children while their parents are in class. Training is provided for volunteers. If you or someone you know is interested in this program, please contact the church office and ask for Vickie Sufka at 813-988-4025.

Giving to God

(from "Giving to God" by Mark Allan Powell)

The Gauls were an ancient, warlike people who occupied the area that is now France and Belgium. They spoke a Celtic language and were Druidic by religion. They were conquered by the Romans, but being a warlike people, they did not take well to being controlled and were involved in many uprisings. As Christian missionaries came into the area, many of the Gauls were converted to Christianity. It seems when a converted warrior was baptized in a river or stream, he would hold one arm high in the air as he was dunked under the water. This seemed a peculiar custom to the missionaries but they soon learned, when the next skirmish or battle broke out, the warrior would proclaim "This arm was not baptized" as he picked up his sword, club or ax and rode off to battle.

This story probably has no historic truth and is certainly not meant to disrespect the Gauls or their descendants, but the image of the arm and someone attempting to keep one part of their body or identity free from baptism is interesting.

Stewardship is about getting *completely* wet. Looking at ourselves, recognizing what we would like to keep dry, and then immersing whatever that is in the waters of our baptism. This is the first of what I hope will be an ongoing series about stewardship. I hope all of you will join me in attempting to discover what God wants of us, in being responsible stewards of his kingdom.

God Bless.

Tim Williams

Kitchen Cleanup Crew Needed

We've scheduled August 13 at 9:00 a.m. for cleaning the kitchen. Any hands make short work so let's see lots of people there.

Be prepared to scrub, wash, organize, mop, scrape, and anything else needed to get our kitchen spotless and ready for another year.

New Sanctuary Items

Have you noticed the shiny flower vases on the altar? The flower vases were refinished in memory of Ruth Boyd. The small banners hanging on the back wall by each door have been given in memory of Rosetta St. Martin. The carpet in the narthex was purchased with remaining memorial funds plus a donation from the EAGLES group. Thank you to everyone who helped make these new projects possible.

Shirl Ketterer for the Memorials Committee

COR Church and School Pool Party



Let's kick-off the new
school year and party!
Friday, August 20th,
5:00 p.m. at Temple
Terrace Country Club

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers,
2 sides and drinks
\$8 per person, call church office
to RSVP!

This page for August 2010 calendar

Sunday Worship Helpers May 2 – June 6, 2010

Date	Time	Pastor's Assistant	Lector	Servers		Acolyte	Usher Team	Greeters
8/1	8:00 a.m.	Greg Koenig	T. Williams	T. Williams D. Ballesteros	E. Durham S. Huttig	C. McCullough	E	Barb & David Marquette
8/1	10:30 a.m.	Greg Koenig	K. Lyles	K. Lyles T. Giombetti	F. Dunne G. Sunday	J. Fernandez	B	Shirl Ketterer Marion Allen
8/8	8:00 a.m.	Dianne Koenig	E. Pope	E. Pope D. Olsen	M. Constantine M. Lay	H. Lay	C	Daye Aspray
8/8	10:30 a.m.	Dianne Koenig	T. Anderson	T. Anderson R. Aspray	T. Clark K. Koslow	T. Anderson	H	Joyce Carroll Grace Stewart
8/15	8:00 a.m.	Sara McMurry	T. Moenning	T. Moenning G. Moenning	V. Sufka D. Bowdish	G. Weesner	G	Dian Olsen
8/15	10:30 a.m.	Sara McMurry	M. Ross	M. Ross D. Koenig	B. Reid G. Sunday	A Fernandez	D	Melissa Williams Faith Dunne
8/22	8:00 a.m.	Melissa Williams	E. Durham	E. Durham D. Ballesteros	G. Carrell S. Huttig	C. McCullough	E	Jeanne & Richard Dixon
8/22	10:30 a.m.	Melissa Williams	K. Koslow	K. Koslow K. Lyles	T. Giombetti M. Siedem	E. Goltermann	K	Helen Brown Judy Owens
8/29	8:00 a.m.	Greg Koenig	M. Lay	M. Lay M. Constantine	E. Pope T. Williams	M. Lay	G	Bekki Reid
8/29	10:30 a.m.	Greg Koenig	F. Dunne	F. Dunne R. Aspray	T. Clark B. Reid	C. Aspray	D	Jean Burriss Corinne Bowdish
9/5	8:00 a.m.	Dianne Koenig	G. Moenning	G. Moenning T. Moenning	V. Sufka Pr. Hafer	G. Weesner	C	Barb & David Marquette
9/5	10:30 a.m.	Dianne Koenig	D. Bowdish	D. Bowdish S. Hafer	T. Anderson Pr. Hafer	L. Anderson	B	Geneva Meyer Barbara Thiele

If you are unable to serve at the time scheduled, please trade with another person. Worship servers call Greg Sunday or greeters call Corinne Bowdish. You may also call the office. It is important that someone is present for each job. Thank you all for volunteering!

Children's Church Schedule for August

Date	Children's Church Team Leaders	Middle School Assistants	
		Children's Church	Nursery
Check with Beth McCullough for current schedule.			

Please find a substitute or call Beth McCullough (899-1760) if you have a conflict with the date.

Education news for all ages

From: Beth McCullough, Chairperson for the Christian Education Committee and Julie Doyle, Director of Christian Education

Children's Church: Every Sunday after the children's sermon during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Children 2nd grade and under have the opportunity for their own worship during the 10:30 a.m. service. Two adults teach lessons with the help of middle-school youth. It is important that only children in 2nd grade and under attend in order for leaders to plan appropriate age level activities.

Youth pancake breakfast fundraiser! Sunday, August 29th from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Come enjoy delicious pancakes made just for you by our youth during Sunday School Rally Day! We are raising money to attend camps and Christian concerts this year.

Sunday School Rally Day: Sunday, August 29th at 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall

Parents and Sunday School children, please plan on attending the COR Sunday School Rally Day. This is the day we celebrate our return to Sunday School! We will have Sunday School registration starting at 9:15 a.m. **Please note we have Sunday School classes available for those as young as two on up through adults.** Families can enjoy the pancake breakfast sponsored by the youth during registration and the children will have the opportunity to meet their teachers and participate in fun activities!

Come find out about the exciting year we have planned for Sunday School and youth! There will be a group Sunday School on Sunday, September 5th and regular Sunday School with classes will start on Sunday, September 12th.

We are looking for Sunday School teachers and substitutes. If you would like to serve in this vital role, please contact Julie Doyle at corleducation@gmail.com. Sunday School teachers, Children's Church teams and assistants will be installed at the 10:30 a.m. service this day!

COR Confirmation Classes

If you are in seventh or eighth grades please mark your calendars for Confirmation class. Confirmation class will be meeting during the Sunday School hour from 9:15-10:15 a.m. starting September 19th. We kick off the year at "Rock the Universe" at Universal Studios on September 11th (see below for details). Please contact Julie Doyle at corleducation@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Calling All Middle School Thrill Seekers and Faith Seekers

Please plan on attending the following Middle School events this month:

8/29 August 29: Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser 8:30-11:00 a.m.

September 8: Thrill Seekers: Meet at or carpool to BOING 6:30-7:30 p.m.

- 11,000 square feet of wall and floor trampolines;
- \$12 for one hour;
- Waiver must be signed by parent; go to <http://www.boingjumpcenter.com/> for form;
- Located at 622-624 Ware Blvd, Tampa 33619, next to Brandon Crossroads Bowl.

September 11: Rock the Universe (see below for details).

September 18: COR Rock Concert with other youth groups.

September 22: Faith Seekers: Meet in the COR youth room in the administration building.

This is a time for youth to explore how the *Book of Faith* can be used to guide them on their faith journey.

Please contact Julie Doyle at corleducation@gmail.com if you can chaperone or help out with any of the above events. We have a great year of fun and faith events planned. Come find out about our new SPARK Recognition Program.

Calling All 7th, 8th Graders and High School Students—Are You Ready To "Rock The Universe"?

The older youth are planning a [trip to Universal Studios](#) on Saturday, September 11th to "Rock the Universe". Join thousands of other believers for a pulse-pounding night of soul-stirring music right next to the action-packed thrills of the world's premier movie and TV based theme park. Grab your friends and get ready for an unforgettable weekend of faith, love and rock 'n' roll. From two stages throughout the park, including the brand new Music Plaza, your favorite bands play into the night. Between sets, you get to enjoy the action-packed thrills of the park, including the new Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit[®] roller coaster, Revenge of the Mummy[®], MEN IN BLACK[™] Alien Attack[™], and more!

The cost is \$44.95 for admission from 4:00pm-1:00am for youth and adults. To offset the cost of admission, we will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday School Rally Day. Parent chaperones and drivers are needed to make this event happen. Chaperones get VIP status! As a little "thank you" for all the time you dedicate to your children, youth leaders and chaperones can relax at two chaperone-only lounges while enjoying complimentary drinks and snacks. You even get an exclusive view of the Hollywood Stage from the Pantages lounge! Please contact Julie Doyle at corleducation@gmail.com to RSVP or if you have any questions.

**Christ Our Redeemer
Lutheran Church and School**

304 Druid Hills Road
Temple Terrace, FL 33617
(813) 988-4025

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Coming up, Mark your calendars!

August 8 & 22	Worship server training 9:15 a.m.
August 13	Kitchen cleanup
August 15	Day school teacher installation
August 20	Pool party, 5:00 p.m. Chronicles deadline
August 29	Pancake breakfast Rally Day
September 1	ESL classes start