

ACTIVITY REPORT			
Attendance numbers are from the Usher head count.			
DATE	1 ST SERVICE	2 ND SERVICE	\$'S GIVEN
04/26/15	104	70	\$3,336.01
05/03/15	no count	67	\$5,296.25
05/10/15	150	108	\$4,105.00
05/17/15	185	90	\$3,911.00
05/24/15	58	No count	\$3,346.00
05/31/15	1 st Summer Service		

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Sunday May 17th Church Council (*and Call Committee*) held a special congregational meeting in the URLC Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting was to call Rev. Dr. Margaret Pleiss-Sippola (*Pastor Marggi*) by at least a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of Calling her as our Lead Pastor (*186 members voted with a total of 184 'Yes' votes & 2 'No' votes*). Pastor Marggi (*sounds like Mar-Gee*) has verbally (& enthusiastically) accepted the call. Her tentative start date is July 29th (*official paperwork still in process*).

WELCA NEWS!

WELCA's "SPRING HIGH TEA"



On May 9th, the first WELCA "High Tea" was held. 12 tables were set with beautiful china (*mostly antique*), tea pots and silver. Fresh flowers on each table. 88 ladies enjoyed themselves for the afternoon. The "afternoon luncheon" of yummy food was all hand made by a staff of wonderful cooks.

Ladies who decorated the tables were: Mary Ayen & Helen Sorby, Janice Olson, Leah Hinz, Evie Benrud & Julie Luhman, Evie Korsten, Cheryl Steege & Judy Kruse, Janet Ofstie, Judy Rockne, Pam Langley, Dee Knutson, and Pat Redfield. Each and every table was specially inviting and beautiful. Thanks to each and everyone for sharing their precious things.

A fun style show of Prom Dresses, current and vintage was enjoyed by all. Ann Wilson, Emily Haugen, Erin Idler, Jill and Karina Hovelsrud (*daughter and grand daughter of Dee Knutson*) modeled with Roxanne Bartsch as MC.

If you missed the event, you missed a fun afternoon.

SOCIAL MINISTRY PROJECT: Sadly, the Social Ministry Team has not had any families come forward to take part in the community garden project. However, our church gardens will continue as years before, thanks to Jaycee Nilson, Mary Rohe, and Judy Blakstad.

WELCA's YEARLY BOOKLET

Each year a booklet of WELCA committees is put together. The booklet contains names of members who have indicated, on time and talents sheets, which committees they will serve on the coming year. This year we would like each of you review the booklet from last year. If changes (*additions or subtractions*) to any committee you have signed up for—please let JoAnn (732-5989) or Leah (732-7297) know ASAP, so the booklet can be changed before printed.

Leah Wichmann Hinz [WELCA President]

WELCA CIRCLE'S

Ruth Circle meets at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday June 3rd, July 1st & Aug 5th at Bridget's Café.

Naomi Circle: 9 am Thursday, June 11th at Mary Rohe's home, 175 Quail Ridge Drive

Rebekah Circle: 1:30 pm Thursday, May 11th at Janet Ofstie's House

WELCA Circles Brunch: 9 am Thursday, Aug 13th at Linda Pahl's House.

WELCA BOARD MEETING

The WELCA Board members will meet 6pm Wednesday June 3rd

Youth & Family Director's Page - June/July 2015

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Thanks for a great season of Confirmation! We had an awesome picnic on the church lawn May 13th with Volleyball & Taco in a Bag!

Heads up: We plan on seeing the youth & parents on **Wed. Sept. 16th** to kick off another year of Confirmation. On **Sunday, October 25th** at the 10:30am service our 10th graders will be confirmed!

THANKS for another great year! We look forward to seeing you again in September for more!



“CBC” CHRISTIAN BREAKFAST CLUB

We treated ourselves to a last breakfast of the season at “Bridget’s Café” on May 20th! We will resume our Breakfast Club on Wednesday

HOP ON DOWN TO THE “CAR HOP”



The United Redeemer Lutheran Church parking lot will be the place to be **Friday, June 19th from 4:30-7:30pm** for our annual “Car Hop” and kick-

off to the Zumbrota Covered Bridge Festival!

We’ll have plenty of popcorn, root beer floats & sundaes, hamburgers (*with all the toppings available*), hot dogs, chips, & good ol’ 1950’s tunes! Besides being a great meal and good time the profit adds to the Youth Gathering fund!



SUNDAY SCHOOL



We will begin Sunday school again on September 13th “Rally Day”!

We are always looking for volunteer help, please contact Jess Hoepfer-Youth Ed Chairperson or Cindy-Youth Director: youth@urlchurch.org



2015 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

MONDAY AUGUST 3RD - 6TH FROM 6 TO 8PM

NEW THIS YEAR VBS IS FREE AND IN THE EVENING!

We begin with supper for the kids & family, then bust out the fun Camp Songs, Arts & Crafts, Outside Activities, Bible Stories, & more!

Registration forms at usher stands & office



7TH GRADE CONFIRMATION CAMP

Five of our 7th graders ship off to GEV’s Confirmation Camp on Sunday, June 7th thru Friday the 12th. Please keep these youth in your prayers as they venture off to a memorable week of camp: Calen Scholl, Anthony Cylkowski, Abby Rosenquist, Anja Thorson, & Jenna Stene.

2015 ELCA Youth GATHERING DETROIT

The ELCA Youth gathering is almost here! We have 17 youth + 3 Chaperones going to Detroit July 15-19th.



Wednesday June 24th at 6pm meet at the Covered Bridge Park for a get-together picnic to meet our bus-mates from Red Wing & Faribault. Plan for a lite supper, Volleyball, games, & fun!

CONGRATULATIONS URLC SENIORS

We celebrated our 14 High School graduates at the PACE reception/short program on Sunday, May 17th. Congratulations to you all!

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| ROSE BRIDLEY | JOSHUA NELSON |
| PAUL DAHLEN | NOAH PRODZINSKI |
| DALLAS GRUHLKE | ALYSSA QUAM |
| CAITLYN HEITMAN | CODY TABOR |
| EMILY KROHN | CONNOR TEIGEN |
| SOPHIE LEONARD | SETH TUPPER |
| BLAKE LERUM | TORGER JYSTAD |

Summer 2015 Pastor's Page: Light (and Laughter) in the Darkness

I am blessed to be a part of a family of love and laughter. My two sisters are married to Lutheran pastors. (Our brother is a home-builder, but since our Lord Jesus was a carpenter, we remind Bob that he's the holiest one of us all.) At a recent family gathering, my sister was blithely handing out copies of a document to my other sister and to my wife, Caryl. We guys, wondering what all the giggling was about, were told that the paper Barb was distributing was, "Preparing for Widowhood." Of course we joined in supportive good cheer (although our laughter was a little more nervous than our wives').

Kidding aside, it's a good piece, with a helpful checklist and some wise advice. I was going to include a link in this article so the reader could find it, but I think it's easier if you just Google "preparing for widowhood." You will, alas, find many such articles. One piece has the sub-title: "What To Know Before He Goes." (Ouch!) It reminds me of a widow in my first parish: A wonderful woman who always had a smile and an encouraging word. She once said, "I loved my husband, but, boy, when he died, I really began to live!" I guess that attitude is preferable to wrapping oneself in black for the rest of one's life, but, gee!, I hope Caryl won't be all that happy about it!

To turn to a tenderer note on the subject: Two poems, appropriately by women. The first is by Linda Pastan: "Fifty Years."

Though we know
how it will end:
in grief and silence,
we go about our ordinary days
as if the acts of boiling an egg
or smoothing down a bed
were so small
they must be overlooked
by death. And perhaps

the few years left, sun drenched
but without grand purpose,
will somehow endure,
the way a portrait of lovers endures
radiant and true on the wall
of some obscure Dutch museum,
long after the names
of the artist and models
have disappeared.

I applaud Pastan for facing it, but I still want to deny it. I prefer the doughty spirit of Phylis McGinley's "Midcentury Love Letter:"

Stay near me. Speak my name. Oh, do not wander
By a thought's span, heart's impulse, from the light
We kindle here. You are my sole defender
(As I am yours) in this precipitous night,
Which over earth, till common landmarks alter,
Is falling, without stars, and bitter cold.
We two have but our burning selves for shelter.
Huddle against me. Give me your hand to hold.

So might two climbers lost in mountain weather
On a high slope and taken by the storm,
Desperate in the darkness, cling together
Under one cloak and breathe each other warm.
Stay near me. Spirit, perishable as bone,
In no such winter can survive alone.

May God bless your loves, your relationships, your griefs, and your memories.
Pastor Dick Jorgensen

A letter was sent here in April that should be shared with everyone:

On behalf of our family and in honor of our mother, Galene Berg, please accept this check in the amount of \$200, to be used as needed for the United Redeemer Lutheran Church. These funds were given by friends and family as memorials to Mom, who passed away on January 22nd.

Even though she was not a member of United Redeemer, she was invited to attend the services that were offered at her apartment building, the Towers, here in town. She really enjoyed the services and appreciated having communion on a regular basis. She was also very touched by the meals, gift bags and cards she regularly received from your congregation.

How a congregation cares for those who are not members, is the mark of a congregation that understands Jesus' instruction to "love your neighbor". Thank you to United Redeemer for its care and concern for Mom and her family. It made this difficult journey easier for all of us.

God's blessings to all of you.

Karen Brooks, Pat Veiseth, Mike & Stephanie Veiseth, Adam, Skelar & Gage Veiseth



RAISE THE ROOF!

BUILD A HOUSE ON JUNE 27TH

Volunteers are needed to assist with the 2015 Habitat House Build project in Red Wing. We partner with Lands & St. Paul's in Pine Island for the day. Contact Janet Ofsite for details.

FROM THE BLAKSTAD FAMILY



Thank you, United Redeemer family, for abundantly blessing us after the family farmhouse burned to the ground on March 3rd. Our good Lord made sure no lives were lost and our church family overwhelmed us by their prayers, comforting words, and wonderful support.

After the quilts were blessed during the April 26th church service, Eric and Jenna were excited to each receive their own special quilt! (*Of course, Jenna's had some pink squares in hers!!*)



Right after the fire, Jenna was totally amazed with the many thoughtful items that Anna and Melanie Cykowski & Barb Madison had collected for her on behalf of the Sunday School and WELCA! (*especially her very own pillow*)

Plans to rebuild a new home are in the works and we feel truly blessed to be part of such caring congregation!



God bless you all!

Eric, Jenna, Spot, & Judy Blakstad

DON'T WORRY -

FLOWERS DON'T BITE!

A special thank you to Don Lochner and Sandy Larson for planting the flowers near the front entrance! The plants get thirsty... training, water and can all provided. Sign up by the office.



A FREE PARENT AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. is now accepting applications for the 2015-16 Head Start Program.

For an application or more info 1-800-277-8418

GARDENING WITH A PURPOSE

VEG OUT, CATCH SOME RAYS. It's easy and rewarding work, like watering, weeding, or harvesting. See Jaycee, Judy B, or Mary Rohe.



THANK YOU JUBALEE BELLS

Thanks, to all the handbell ringers & their director, for the beautiful music you have shared with us this year!! You have truly played "To the Glory of God"!

THANK YOU TO THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Thank you to our Sanctuary Choir & their director, for the beautiful music last Sunday! On behalf of the congregation, we want to express our appreciation for your ministry in music all year and your ability to lift up the Lord, and grace others with your God-given talent.



THANK YOU FOR P.A.C.E.

URLC'S PROGRAM FOR ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



As our weekly adult education comes to an end for the summer, the congregation would like to thank those of you who organize and coordinate all of the topics and presenters! We would also

like to thank those of you who attend PACE, without your interest and support this program wouldn't be possible. And last but not least, thank you to all who volunteer to supply/serve cookies & coffee and clean up each week.



MAY 14TH COUNCIL SUMMARY

The summary was not available at the time of printing.

Next Council Meeting: June 11th

No Council Meeting in July

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH WINNERS!

Thank you everyone for the awesome \$3,422 profit from the fundraiser! We deeply appreciate your support for URLC's youth. For anyone curious about who won the top three prizes...

- **The Duluth Pack Bag goes to Julie Redfield**
- **Linda Pahl won the Ceramic Tiled Bowl**
- **Genna LaFrance now has a new Smart TV**

Because so many people have asked: The amazing log furniture dog bed (*or toddler bed- if you saw how many kids wanted to lie on it*) was donated by Calvin Strauss (*see more at www.calbuilds.com*).



FLOWER & ALTAR CARE

June: Jessica Ottem | **July:** Janet Ofsite