



Editor: Kay Boyajian

1254 North Frankwood Avenue

Reedley, CA 93654

Phone: 559 638-2112 Fax: 559 638-9382

Pastor: The Rev. Doris Nolan

Pastor Doris' Number: 717-903-7070

[pastordoris@gmail.com](mailto:pastordoris@gmail.com)

[www.clcreedley.org](http://www.clcreedley.org)

## Pastor's Perspective by *Pr. Doris*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have to admit that Sunday morning between 10 and about 11:15 is my absolute favorite time of the week. Even if I have had a stressful, difficult week, once I introduce myself and say, "It is my joy to welcome you to worship..." my words and how I feel connect and I feel, well...joyful.

There are even some Sundays when the words of a hymn I particularly like grabs my heart, and the sense of God's presence and love overshadows everything else and I find tears clouding my eyes and I struggle a bit to keep my emotion in check.

I love worship and I think that God calling us to church to **worship together** is absolute grace.

The liturgy, the words of confession and forgiveness, the hymns, the Scripture readings, the prayers, the exchange of peace, the **continued on page 2**

## Pastor's Perspective continued from page 1



opportunity to be generous in the giving of an offering, the sermon, and finally the blessed invitation to be fed at the Lord's table – all of these elements combine together in a holy amalgam that blesses and lifts the community of the faithful, reminding us that we are God's children and that God loves us, in spite of our inadequacies and failings, not because we necessarily deserve it but because God is good...all the time.

Now, let me be clear, I am not saying that every element of our worship service every Sunday is flawless or that there aren't awkward and perhaps even boring elements in each worship service. Sometimes sections of the Scripture are impenetrable, or our singing falls flat, or the sermon doesn't quite come together in the way I had hoped. However, in spite of whatever inadequacies, there is always something in the service that points us to Christ and that touches us with grace. Even if it is just one moment of grace, one thing that touches our heart...that is enough to lift us.

What saddens me about Sunday worship is when I consider who is not there and who is missing out.

- \* The folks who are on our members list, yet who skip church more than they attend. They are missing out.
- \* The spiritual seekers in our community who are looking for something, but are afraid to come to church because they are afraid they are not really welcomed in church or that they will be judged or criticized. They are missing out.
- \* The people who have just never been involved or invited to church, who don't know the rhythms of worship, or who think church is for their parents or grandparents, or for people other than themselves. They are missing out.

It is God who calls us together to worship, who speaks to us through the Word and who feeds us at the table of grace. The Holy  
**continued on top of next page**

## Pastor's Perspective continued from page 2

Spirit forms into a community of the faithful, where there is room for everyone.

Please talk about our worship services with people you know who might fit into any of these categories. Tell them why you worship frequently. Invite them to worship with us.

If you are reading this and you fit into any of these categories, come experience what God is up to in our little church family.

The worship and music team will be having its quarterly meeting this month (Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am) to plan and to talk about liturgy and music and how to make our services more inspirational and holy. If you have something to add to the conversation, please join us. You can also email me with your comments...especially if there is something you really like, let us know, or if there is something you wish would be changed or added to our services, let us know that also.

See you in church!

Abundant blessings,

*Pastor Doris Nolan*

## Characteristics of Vital Congregations

- ◇ Spirituality and an ability to help people grow in faith,
- ◇ Clear sense of mission and excitement about the future,
- ◇ Inspirational worship,
- ◇ Practice of hospitality,
- ◇ Sense of community and belonging among members,
- ◇ Ability to share faith in word and deed beyond the congregation.

## A Word From Your Council President



I thank and praise God for the cooler days we've had this past month and for the occasional rain shower, or in some places, a downpour. We can use all the rain we can get and I hope it's a prelude to a wet winter.

I don't have a lot of news from the council. Summer seems to be a slow time for all. We did welcome a new member to council. Ron Adolph resigned and Cindy Smith has agreed to serve the remainder of his term.

Thank you, Cindy.

We will be having a start up meeting for MOPS after church on August 2. If you are interested in working with young moms, let us know and plan on attending this meeting.

Other things happening in the next few months are 'God's Work Our Hands' Sunday, the Pet Blessing and the Neighborhood Market. Look for more information on these events in the Herald or Sunday bulletins.

I was just reading an article about the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit. There were 30,000 youth there and it reminded me of when we used to have youth attending these gatherings. I pray that sometime in the near future we can once again send our youth to one of these events. My children found it very inspiring. We need to keep searching for ways to reach out to families with young children.

Blessings,  
Martina

### Church Directory

We would like to get the church directory updated. Please give us any changes to your address, phone number, cell phone number, or email by August 17th. Also, if you would like to update your family pictures, or add one, now is the time. Please send to Amanda at: [clcreedley@verizon.net](mailto:clcreedley@verizon.net)

## Our Finances by Tom Riffel

Treasurer's Report for June, 2015

	June	Year-to-Date
Income	\$10,689.03	\$ 80,349.53
Expenses	- 14,000.57	- 80,203.09
<b>Net income</b>	<b>\$ -3,311.54</b>	<b>\$ 146.44</b>



As one can see, our offering missed meeting expenses. We need to try to keep our offerings up during this slow time of year. I thank you in advance for your efforts.

## Rebecca Circle by Mary Riffel



Just a reminder that **Rebecca Circle** will not meet in August. We will resume our monthly Bible study on **Thursday, Sept. 10** at 12:30 in the Fireside Room. Betty Pedersen will lead the Bible study. Hostesses are Pastor Doris and LaVerne Youngberg. See you then!!!

## MOPS—Mothers of Preschoolers

We are excited to have our first planning meeting on Sunday, August 2 at 11:30 in the Fireside Room. There are many details to

be worked out, as well as the creative work of how we will approach the curriculum the organization provides. Please talk to Marty Johnson if you are interested in helping with this important ministry.



## Stewardship Corner by Janet Adams



The mission statement from Lutheran World Relief's website states: "Lutheran World Relief is a non-profit organization that works with local partners to provide lasting solutions to poverty, injustice and human suffering". While I am sure most Lutherans are well-versed in LWR's global role, I am always heartened and often amazed at the scope of the outreach. I learned much about the nature of LWR's services when my mother-in-law and father-in-law worked with families in Kauai after the 1992 onslaught of

Hurricane Iniki. They lived in Kauai for several years helping reconstruct demolished residences and assisting families struggling to rebuild their lives. Hence, I often think of LWR as crisis or disaster oriented, which is an incomplete picture of the outreach services provided.

According to LWR's website, 1,763,599 lives and thirty-five countries were reached through 153 projects in 2014. One such project is the distribution of school kits throughout the world.

According to LWR:

"Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, **these supplies mean the** difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet **the** education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development."

Which brings us to the reality that God's stewards answer the call locally, in a small way, to make a difference globally in a big way through "...lasting solutions..." We are not sending supplies or

**continued on page 9**

## Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study begins again on August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

We will be reading and discussing Anne Lamott's book on prayer titled, **Help, Thanks, Wow**. All are invited to join us. We meet in the Fireside Room.

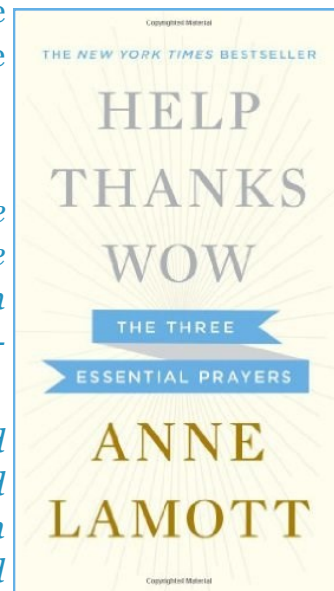
This is how Amazon describes this book:

*New York Times*-bestselling author Anne Lamott writes about the three simple prayers essential to coming through tough times, difficult days and the hardships of daily life.

*Readers of all ages have followed and cherished Anne Lamott's funny and perceptive writing about her own faith through decades of trial and error. And in her new book, **Help, Thanks, Wow**, she has coalesced everything she knows about prayer to these fundamentals.*

*It is these three prayers – asking for assistance from a higher power, appreciating what we have that is good, and feeling awe at the world around us – that can get us through the day and can show us the way forward. In **Help, Thanks, Wow**, Lamott recounts how she came to these insights, explains what they mean to her and how they have helped, and explores how others have embraced these same ideas.*

*Insightful and honest as only Anne Lamott can be, **Help, Thanks, Wow** is the everyday faith book that new Lamott readers will love and longtime Lamott fans will treasure.*



## Four Work Days — Help cleanout Former LINC

From 9 to noon on: Thursday, August 6  
 Saturday, August 8  
 Wednesday, August 12  
 Friday, August 14

We have done great clean-up work this summer but there is more to do. We plan to have the city deliver a dumpster which we will have for the first 2 weeks of August. We are designating these 4 days as work days to prepare the space next to the office to become a nursery/child care room. We will need this space for the MOPS ministry we hope to start in October.

### Important Dates in August to Remember

<b>Sunday, August 2</b>	11:30	MOPS Planning Meeting (Fireside Room)
<b>Tuesday, August 4</b>	9:30	Property Team Meeting (Fireside Room)
<b>Wednesday, August 5</b>	10am	Worship & Music Meeting (Fireside Room)
	6pm	Women’s Wednesday Night Bible Study (Fireside Room)
<b>Thursday, August 6</b>	9-12	Work Day
<b>Saturday, August 8</b>	9-12	Work Day
<b>Wednesday, August 12</b>	9-12	Work Day
<b>Saturday, August 14</b>	9-12	Work Day
<b>Tuesday, August 18</b>		<b>Herald Deadline</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 25</b>	6pm	Church Council Meeting (Fireside Room)

## Stewardship Corner continued from page 6



funds to despotic governments or corrupt bureaucracies. We are placing tools in the hands of individuals who need them most. Over 6,000 kits have been distributed and thousands more are desperately needed.

So, with vacations and summer festivities still enhancing our lives, with our schools (where a universal education is the norm)

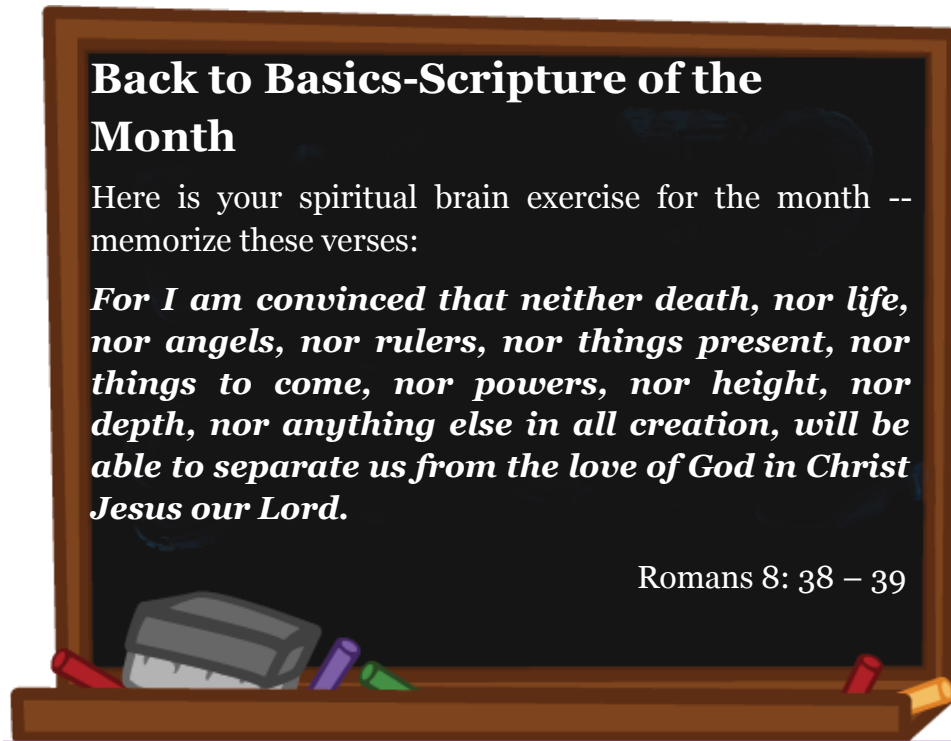
beginning to gear up for the fall semester, take the time to consider your stewardship focus, by donating funds to enable those with limited access to pursue “permanent solutions” to poverty. How fantastic that you can make such a big difference in such a seemingly small way!

### Back to Basics-Scripture of the Month

Here is your spiritual brain exercise for the month -- memorize these verses:

*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.*

Romans 8: 38 – 39



**Suggested Prayers – praying in your own words beautiful, authentic and encouraged. Should you prefer some guidance, these prayers are offered as suggestions, to be edited or prayed in their entirety.**

Living God, Source of all life, through your abundant love you have given us the gift of life and a mind to think, a heart to love and a soul to dream. Give \_\_\_\_\_ a sign of your presence and grace in his/her life so that they can love you more deeply and love her/his neighbor as an expression of his/her love for you. Grant \_\_\_\_\_ him/her opportunities, questions and choices that cause her/him to reflect on your purpose for her/him and how you encourage her/him to be in this world. Help him/her to realize the blessings of his/her uniqueness and to recognize the power of the gifts you have given her/him, so that he/she may truly live for your purpose and glory. Amen.

**Lord God of our salvation, it is your will that all people might come to know you through your Son Jesus Christ. Inspire our witness to the blessing of his love and grace in our lives. Inspire our creativity and empower us to action to reach out in love to those who need to hear a word of grace in our community, so that many may come to know Christ and the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

## Lutheran World Relief School Kits

During August we will continue to collect money to purchase school supplies for these school kits. Please put your contributions in the envelopes that are labeled **God's Work, Our Hands, LWR School Kit Fund.**

## Stitch-in-Time by *Margaret Johnson*



The Stitch-in-Time group attached labels to the 12 dozen baby caps knit or crocheted by congregation members, and Pastor Doris will deliver them to the hospital. The labels were designed by Pastor Doris and Amanda Cherry.

## Blessing of the Backpacks/Back to School Blessing

In worship on August 16th, there will be a blessing for all those returning to school. Bring your book bag or backpack and we will bless those, too.

## Women of Faith

Just a reminder that Women of Faith is meeting every Thursday in August at Starbucks. They have fellowship and take prayer requests. If you can't be there but have a prayer request, just call the church office. Amanda will let the group know to add it to the prayer concerns list.

# August Saints in Service

**Altar Care**

**08/02**  
Lorraine Anderson

**08/09**  
Lorraine Anderson

**Communion Care**

Kathy Miller

Kathy Miller

**Deacon**

Jean Clemons

Nilene Lee

**Greeters**

**Lock up**

Tom Riffel

Tom Riffel

**PowerPoint**

**Readers**

**Refreshments**

## Remember When? submitted by *Grace Hill*



## Congratulations Jon and Kenuyo



Congratulations and all our best wishes to Jon and Kenuyo Enns on the birth of their son:

### Tobias James Enns

Tobias was born on June 16, 2015 weighing 8 lbs. 5 oz., 22 inches long. He is the first grandson of Dale and Dora Ishida. His uncle is Geoffrey Ishida.



## August Birthdays



- 6 Bony Hertzog
- 9 Tom Llewellyn
- 12 Nilene Lee
- 15 Dianne Huerta  
Ingrid Fessler-Wellnitz
- 19 Fred Ketscher
- 20 Jared Taft
- 23 Steve Lewis
- 24 Daniel Miller
- 28 Cory Amador  
Matilyn Hanson

## August Wedding Anniversaries

- 4 Dean & Mary Thonesen
- 15 Jim & Wanda Johnson



## Prayer Requests

Albert Boos, Lorraine Hansen, Helen Panttaja, Veldonna Wyatt, Evelyn & Mick Brunswick, LaVerne & Ellard Youngberg, Betty Llewellyn, Fred & Kathy Loeffler, Sue Sorensen, Vicky Andersen, Grace Hill, Mary Ishida, Matt Holly, Alex Negrete, Norma Johnson, Deanna Koobation, Fayth Stewart, Michael Richardson, Josh Buskirk, Ramos Family, Talatsko Family, Michael Milosevic



We pray for peace and consolation for the family and friends of Don Fillmore, Matthew Sapps, and Delilah Chamberlin.

## August Baptismal Birthdays

- 14 Betty Llewellyn  
Joyce Thonesen
- 16 Jarrod Borton
- 25 Geoff Ishida
- 26 Samantha Alanis  
Ryan Huerta
- 27 Dianne Huerta  
Michael Huerta
- 28 Jennifer Hill

