

Our Father's News

Living with elementary school-aged kids is both wonderful and frustrating. Watching the ups and downs of a sibling relationship provides a wonderful lens to see my own interactions with others. Perhaps you've noticed the simple offense taken to something done or perceived followed by the feeling of being victimized, anger, then self-righteousness. It hardly seems to matter the issue or perceived wrongdoing, both end up offended and feeling wronged by the other. Why do we get so offended at each other?

What if we stopped being so offended by each other? An article online caught my imagination and provides the basis (and much of the content) for this month's letter. The article is entitled, "Stop Getting So Offended!" from Renue Magazine (Feb. 25, 2014).

It seems we live in a world where people are continually being offended by another. No doubt there are many situations in need of calm and attentive conversations and apologies to rectify serious wrongs. But often we'd benefit by simply asking, "Is this really worth taking offense?"

Rather than carrying an attitude of "You offended me; now, please apologize," what if we instead embraced an attitude of mercy and forgiveness? What if we took such joy in what we believe that no public statement or attack against it could destroy it or cause the need for defensive tactics (Ever heard of turning the other cheek? See Matthew 5:39)?

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Demanding apologies and complete tolerance when someone says something against your actions, way of life, belief systems, or convictions suggests that you are the standard for

what all people think or hold as truth. But no matter how much we hope or desire for everyone to hold our same beliefs and convictions, we can't force anyone to do such a thing. Ultimately, they must choose for themselves.

So, in the meantime, what if we stopped being so offended? What if we took the advice from Proverbs and overlooked offenses and bonded friendships instead? Friends don't have to see eye to eye all the time. But they can love each other and live in peace.

Verse 10 of the same Proverbs 17 passage goes on to say, "A quiet rebuke to a person of good sense does more than a whack on the head of a fool." We can disagree and debate with opposing opinions in peaceful ways that might actually lead someone to see or understand our points of view in

the long run. But when we react in offense, demanding others to instantly convert to our ways of thinking, we do more harm than good.

So my challenge is this: Let's stop getting easily offended. Let's be quick to forgive, quick to converse in peace, and quick to build bonds with those who do not share

our views. We can tolerate opposing beliefs without surrendering our convictions. In fact, lending a loving ear and some nonthreatening wisdom might actually cause others to be more open to learning about our personal beliefs.

As you ponder offendedness, here are a few thoughtful quotes regarding the subject:

"Forgive all who have offended you, not for them, but for yourself." (Harriett Nelson)

"An offended heart is the breeding ground for deception." (John Bevere)

"Whenever anyone has offended me, I try to raise my soul so high that the offense cannot reach it." (Rene Descartes).

Love and peace,

Pastor Jon



**Council
Corner**

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

***“Building Christ's Community through Hospitality,
Relationships, Teaching and Service” with Gail Swanson***

Have you heard God call you? Yeah, me neither. I mean, who could ignore a lightning bolt; a large “intrusion” into your consciousness telling you to change your life; do something different; make a 180° turn. But what about that idea that just comes to you and you can’t quite forget? What about that thought that keeps making itself known and you keep pushing it down? Could it be that God is just sort of a nag?

And so began the sewing/quilting “ministry.” Is this a ministry? I certainly didn’t think of it that way. There was a nagging feeling that I should take the “Living Your Strengths” study. And then all of a sudden I was talking to Karen Sangren about a sewing group. Where did that come from? The thought that there are many of us out there who enjoy sewing/knitting/quilting/crafting. Would we enjoy it together? Could we take some projects that individuals have taken on, work on them together, and feel energized by them instead of burdened? And month after month as I’d go through my quilting magazine I’d tear out the “Pillowcase Challenge” advertisement. I didn’t do anything with it – just felt compelled to tear it out.

After some discussion with Cathy, the group began meeting in the fall. And the email list has grown over the months. Not all of those interested have been able to attend, but many are regulars. And shortly after we began meeting there was an article in the local paper about Vinland’s need for quilts. Vinland is a local (Loretto) residential treatment center that uses a handmade quilt on each client’s bed. Clients may take their quilts home at the end of their stay as a reminder of the care and healing they’ve received. Suddenly our stashes of leftover fabric began coming together and being formed into quilts! It’s one meeting a month I look forward to! We do what we enjoy. There’s a feeling of accomplishment, whether personally or as part of the group project. And we share relaxed conversation.

The fun part is that this is a group that may not have gotten together over other activities. But it works! Conversation flows because we have a common interest. Sewing/crafting is the something we connect over. Interested but not experienced? There’s someone there to teach and guide. So you can come and learn a new skill too.

(continued on Page 3)

Council Corner (continued from Page 2)

What's your passion? Gardening? Wood carving? Wood working? Walking? Camping? Reading? Photo books? Candy making? Could you share it with others? If you're doing it alone, could it somehow be used to connect with others and strengthen relationships?

My biggest take-away from Living Your Strengths was just that. Is there something in the church that excites your passion? No? Think you're just not talented in ways that could be useful and shared? That was sort of my thinking. But "Living Your Strengths" made me realize that belittling the gifts I've been given is belittling what GOD gave me. He put the combination together. And if I think it's not much, I'm criticizing HIS wisdom.

When our passions – our gifts – are shared with our church family, our church family is strengthened. Is God calling (nagging) you? Submitted By Gail Swanson



I love this picture our janitor, David, handed to me when he was cleaning the sanctuary. It made me ponder how I am the same way sometimes; I just want one thing to be over so I can get to the next thing on my schedule. This is obviously good when having a tooth pulled or taking an exam, but not when we encountering God. I would do well to be sitting alongside whoever was coaching this artist. Being reminded to live in the present, being aware of what is happening now. This requires stopping and listening, something we need to learn. We live in a culture that rewards busy not rest.

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

In thankfulness, Pastor Cathy

Our Father's Foundation News

The Foundation received income in three important ways: baptisms, memorials, and memberships. These three ways make up 30% of the yearly income. The first way is when Pastor Jon performs a baptism, a Foundation board member donates in the name of the baptized. As you know, OFLC had many baptisms with only a small amount of crying. The second way is the Foundation receives memorials which is a good way to honor and remember someone special and help their legacy continue. Third is our annual membership drive. This is another way to support the Foundation. Single membership is \$10, family membership is \$20. All donated money received by the Foundation is to stay in the Foundation with the purpose of growing the principle. Only money received from investments may be used to fund projects that would be of benefit to OFLC members, or the special needs of the church, or the greater Rockford community area. Our Foundation is relatively young, being in existence for almost 15 years. But with your support, it will become a more important tool for our church. All gifts to the Foundation such as baptisms, memorials, memberships, stocks, estates and other donations are tax deductible. The Foundation starts its annual membership in May. Please consider renewing or joining with a membership to the Foundation. If there are any questions, contact a Foundation board member: Krista Fisher, Denise Wold, Mark Nelson or Tom Lemmage.



Widows and Widowers Group will be meeting on Thursday, April 10th at 9:00 am at Lee's Kitchen in Rockford.

PHONE NUMBER CHANGED? EMAIL ADDRESS?

Have you cancelled your landline or changed your email? Please help us keep our records up-to-date by notifying the church office at office@ourfatherschurch.org.

Women's Ministry News

Lenten Soup Suppers -- The Women's Ministry committee is serving a soup and sandwich supper prior to the worship service each Wednesday night during Lent (April 2nd & April 9th). Serving time will be from 5:30-6:45 pm. Proceeds after expenses will go to Feed My Starving Children.

Garage Sale – OFLC's Spring Rummage Sale – May 22, 23 & 24

Beginning on Monday, May 19th, you may drop off your rummage sale donations at the church. The sale will be set up in the large education room so please bring your donations to that area. We welcome clothing of all sizes, especially infant and children sizes. All clothing should be clean and wearable, toys should be in working condition, games and puzzles in complete sets. We still need workers...if you are able to help, please sign up on the bulletin board for a specific time. On Saturday, the sale ends at 1:00pm and if we have lots of helpers, cleanup is fast and easy. Many hands make light work! Watch for the exact dates.



The Evangelism Committee Many thanks to the folks who either helped out or stopped by to chat at the Rockford/Greenfield Community Expo that was held in March. It was an opportunity for us to invite people to "check us out", whether it was to find a church home, gather information about MOPS, or to fulfill their curiosity about Cheetah Development. Getting God's good word out to others is both a challenge and a joy, and we were able to do that fairly easily since the guests came to us!

The Evangelism committee is welcoming new members. It's exciting to hear how someone's positive past experiences can be "recycled" to energize a committee or an event. We are discussing ways to improve New Member Orientations/Sundays, how we can become more welcoming to visitors (and members!), continuing with the Palm Cross ministry, reaching out to our military members and non-members and..... (your ideas here!). The commitment is small, the rewards are BIG. Please talk with Jim Strehlow, Becky Miller, or Dawn Rund if you see yourself serving God by joining us.

LIFE & GROWTH

ALL COMMITTEE NIGHT *Tuesday, April 8th at 6:30 pm*

OUR FATHER'S WISH LIST

March 2014



New Item: **Clever Climber & Tikes of Steel Overhead Climber Playground System** - \$16,165 (\$1,700 has been donated)

New Item: **Digital Camera** for General Church Use - ***RECEIVED DONATION***

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Red Hymnals - \$24.50 each

Optional : Hymnals can be dedicated In honor of or In memory of someone special.

Telescopic Banner Storage System - \$500

Banners – Baptismal - \$500/each

SCHOLARSHIP NEEDS

Camperships & Retreats (range from \$20 - \$200)

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

Any amount may be given, Pastor will use as he sees a need.

Gas cards - Grocery cards



“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”
John 3:16

Our General Fund at a Glance

	<i>2014 Actual Year to Date January 1 - February 28</i>	<i>2013 Actual Year to Date January 1 - February 28</i>
<i>Contributions</i>	\$29,699	\$33,408
<i>Expenses</i>	\$41,171	\$44,698
<i>Net of Contributions & Expenses</i>	-\$11,472	-\$11,290

Memorial & Special Gifts (these gifts are not included in General Fund)

- Gifts of \$1,550 to the Cheetah Combine Project
- Gifts totaling \$420 to Foodshelf Support
- Gifts totaling \$742 to MN Adult & Teen Challenge
- A gift of \$10 to MOPS

Nancy Varner, Congregation Treasurer

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SERVICE
SERVICE COORD:

April 2 (Wed 7:15 pm)
Barb Strehlow

SERVICE
SERVICE COORD:

April 5 (Sat 5:00 pm)
Suzanne Otten

SERVICE
SERVICE COORD:
USHERS/GREETERS:

April 6 (Sun 9:30 am)
Missy Rhodes
Don & Jennifer Flategraff
Dan & Lindsey Bervig
Lindsey Bervig

April 9 (Wed 7:15 pm)
Becky Miller

READER:
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:
COMM ASST:
NURSERY HELP:

Don & Jennifer Flategraff
Missy Rhodes, Norie Siers
Jan Janos, Trystin Gruber

April 12 (Sat 5:00 pm)
Paulette Podratz

SERVICE
SERVICE COORD:
USHERS/GREETERS:

April 13 (Palm Sun 9:30 am)
Jen Boulton
Bobby & Amy Johnson
Sean & Glenda Banken
Jen Boulton

April 17 (Maundy Thurs 7:15 pm)
Suzanne Otten

READER:
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:
COMM ASST:
NURSERY HELP:

Bobby & Amy Johnson
Jen Boulton, Ruth Johnson
Shirley Bolstad, Rachel Reed

April 18 (Good Friday 9:30 am)
Becky Miller

April 18 (Good Friday 7:15 pm)
Paulette Podratz

April 19 (Easter Vigil Sat 5:00 pm)
Sarah Sanderson

SERVICE
SERVICE COORD:
USHERS/GREETERS:
READER:
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:
COMM ASST:
NURSERY HELP:

April 20 (Easter Sun 8:00 am)
Becky Miller
Will be sign-up for
Will be sign-up for
Will be sign-up for
Will be sign-up for
Will be sign-up for

April 20 (Easter Sun 9:30 am)
Jen Boulton
Will be sign-up for
Will be sign-up for
Will be sign-up for
Will be sign-up for
Will be sign-up for

SERVICE
SERVICE COORD:
USHERS/GREETERS:

April 20 (Easter Sun 11:00 am)
Will be sign-up for

April 27 (Sun 9:30 am)
Barb Strehlow
Michelle Andrew & Family
Jeremy & Leanna Paatela & Family
Barb Strehlow
Michelle Andrew & Family
Barb Strehlow, Michelle Andrew
Anna Burger & Nicole Steenstra

READER:
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:
COMM ASST:
NURSERY HELP:

Will be sign-up for
Will be sign-up for
Will be sign-up for
Will be sign-up for

April 2014

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	4	5
Mtg	No school 5:30 pm Soup Supper 5:45 pm Ringers of Light 7:00 pm Rejoice Singers 7:15 pm Lenten Worship	No school 7:00 pm Cub Scouts, Den 2	No school 7:30 pm AA Meeting	8:00 am Man Meeting (Lee's Kitchen) 9:30 am Baptism Class 5:00 pm Worship
	9	10	11	12
troop 490	1:00 pm Rebekah Circle 5:30 pm Soup Supper 5:45 pm Ringers of Light 7:00 pm Rejoice Singers 7:15 pm Lenten Worship	6:30 pm Brownie Girl Scouts, Troop 15016	WHE NEWSLETTER 9:30 am MOPS Member Meeting 7:30 pm AA Meeting	WHE NEWSLETTER 5:00 pm Worship
	16	17	18	19
	9:00 am Sewing/Knitting Group 5:45 pm Ringers of Light 7:00 pm Rejoice Singers	Maundy Thursday 11:00 am 394 Corridor Conference Pastors 5:30 pm Daisy Girl Scouts 7:15 pm Maundy Thursday Worship	Good Friday Newsletter Articles Due 9:30 am Good Friday Worship 7:15 pm Good Friday Worship 7:30 pm AA Meeting	Easter Vigil 5:00 pm Worship Baugus Baptisms Ertman Baptism
	23	24	25	26
troop s	5:45 pm Ringers of Light 6:30 pm Cub Scouts, Den 3 Pk 490 7:00 pm Rejoice Singers		9:30 am MOPS Member Meeting 7:30 pm AA Meeting	5:00 pm Worship
	30	1	2	3
	5:45 pm Ringers of Light 7:00 pm Rejoice Singers			5:00 pm Worship

MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SERVICE
SERVICE COORD:

May 3 (Sat 5:00 pm)

Betsy Pennuto

SERVICE
SERVICE COORD:
USHERS/GREETERS:

May 4 (Sun 9:30 am)

Barb Gerard & Family
Mike & Kelly Kinnan
Kelly Kinnan

READER:
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:
COMM ASST:

Barb Gerard & Family
Barb Gerard, Kelly Kinnan

May 10 (Sat 5:00 pm)

Jen Boulton

SERVICE
SERVICE COORD:
USHERS/GREETERS:

May 11 (Sun 9:30 am)

Barb Strehlow
James & Janet Stein
Dave & Gail Swanson
Barn Strehlow

READER:
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:
COMM ASST:

Dave & Gail Swanson
Gail Swanson, Barb Strehlow

May 17 (Sat 5:00 pm)

Sarah Sanderson

SERVICE
SERVICE COORD:
USHERS/GREETERS:

May 18 (Sun 9:30 am)

Becky Miller
Iris Ripley, Audrey Harman
Glen & Jan Janos

READER:
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:
COMM ASST:

Becky Miller
Glen & Jan Janos
Jan Janos, Becky Miller

May 24 (Sat 5:00 pm)

Paulette Podratz

SERVICE
SERVICE COORD:
USHERS/GREETERS:

May 25 (Sun 9:30 am)

Suzanne Otten
Brian & Marie Walton
Jon & Jennifer Weeding & Family

READER:
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:
COMM ASST:

Suzanne Otten
Brian & Marie Walton
Brian Walton, Jennifer Weeding

May 31 (Sat 5:00 pm)

Jen Boulton

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Love INC Heartland - Current needs:

- King size - sheets, comforter or blanket
- Pillows (new please)



 **RiverWorks Food Shelf**
April Focus –
Instant Mashed Potatoes 



RiverWorks Store - Your community thrift store. Proceeds used to enhance current and future programs to strengthen our community. **Store Hours:** Monday through Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Accepting donations during regular business hours. The RiverWorks Store is located in the Rockford Mall.



Our Father's Sewing/Knitting/Quilting Group –

April sessions will be Wednesday, April 16th from 9 am - 12 pm and Monday, April 21st, 6:00 - 9:00 pm. You're welcome to bring your own project or work on one of ours. Join us in the conference room (Room 102) for a relaxing "Knit and Stitch" whenever you're able.



Harvesters of Hope, Update

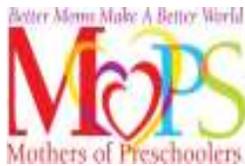
Many of you have now seen the combine that our TEAM Cheetah has purchased and parked in our church parking lot! This is progress...since the last newsletter we actually raised slightly more than the \$4,000 we needed for the combine, and thanks to Steve Strehlow, it was transported from Balsam Lake, Wisconsin on a very cold -4F Saturday to Rockford.

Our TEAM technical sub-committee will soon be working on the combine to get it ready to ship to Tanzania for the corn harvest that begins in July. We want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Cheetah Fund at Our Father's so far, enabling us to get the combine. We now need to raise the money to get the spare parts and pay for the container to ship it overseas.

So...we need a little help from a lot of people...please consider joining hands with us to get this done for the farmer cooperatives that Cheetah Development is helping...and which will enable farm families to earn the money to pay for kids' school fees and health care (almost always the first and second priorities). These farmers are hard-working and can feed their families, but they need a little help to rise up above simple survival. Let's extend them a warm Minnesota "hand up" as our mission outreach to help make this happen!

This combine, which will be modified to work as a mobile corn sheller, will ensure that they can get the maximum price for their crops because it will do a 10 times faster and better job of processing their corn yields, which they are now able to double, triple and even quadruple because of the loans they get through Cheetah for improved seeds and fertilizers. Look for the special envelopes that will be available every Sunday or do it the easy way...go online to our church website: www.ourfatherschurch.org and donate to the Cheetah Fund.

Our Father's Lutheran Church Mothers of Preschoolers

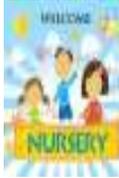


www.MOPS.org
www.ourfatherschurch.org/MOPS

OFLC MOPS serves and provides a nurturing space for all mothers. If you have children between the ages of birth to kindergarten and you are available on Friday mornings, joins us for a from 9:30 - 11:30 am. Your first MOPS meeting on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month meeting is **FREE!**

For more information visit our website at: <http://www.ourfatherschurch.org/MOPS> or contact Kelly Kinnan at 612-483-4379.

 <p><i>We look forward to seeing you at breakfast on <u>Sunday, May 4.</u></i></p>	 <p>Thank you to everyone who made MOPS EGGstravaganza and Basket Silent Auction a success!</p>
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	<p><i>Looking for Nursery Assistants</i> – Looking for a way to serve? Do you love kids? Interested in providing a little space and support for families with little ones? We need two caregivers each Sunday morning in the nursery during the 9:30 am worship service. Sign up on board posted on nursery door.</p>
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KIDS & YOUTH NEWS

Looking for something to do this summer? We are looking for a individual (or a group of individuals) to help us plan our **2014 Vacation Bible School** program. If interested or have questions, contact Pastor Cathy.



Confirmation Retreat 2014

The Apostles Creed

This year we traveled to Camp Onomia retreating into the Creed. We learned about what we believe as Christians, and how the Trinity defines God. Thank you to our leaders Sarah Sanderson and Stacey Wacholz for helping lead a great and meaningful retreat.

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Mornings at 8:15 am

Join us to walk with Christ to crucifixion and resurrection.



Every Tuesday Morning at 10:00 am

Together, we discuss our lives and God's promises. All are welcome. Contact Pastor Cathy or Pastor Jon for info.

Wednesday Afternoon (April 9th) at 1:00 pm

Women's Study (Rebekah Circle) – **Rizpah, a vigilant mourner**

Theme Verses: *"The Rizpah, the daughter of Alah, took sackcloth and spread it on a rock for herself, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell on them from the heavens, she did not allow the birds of the air to come on the bodies by day, or wild animals by night."*

Judge 11:30-31

Saturday Morning (April 5th) at 8:00 am

MAN Meeting - All men welcome! Join us Saturday, April 5th beginning at 8:00 am. This month we'll meet at Lee's Kitchen for breakfast! Questions? Contact Tom Dery at 477-6787.

CHURCH WEBSITE - Worship service announcements, readings, gospel, and sermon are available in mp3 format for easy downloading at ourfatherschurch.org. We are also looking for other ideas for improving the website. You can give ideas to Pam Reed at (webmaster@ourfatherschurch.org).

<i>COUNCIL</i>	
<i>President</i>	
Jim Strehlow	498-7652
<i>Past President</i>	
Jeff Miller	477-4096
<i>Vice President</i>	
Open	
<i>Secretary</i>	
Open	
<i>Treasurer</i>	
Nancy Varner	498-7883
<i>Communications</i>	
Amy Field	(612) 237-3884
<i>Building & Grounds</i>	
Paul Mutterer	477-6924
<i>Education</i>	
Dan Reed	479-4007
<i>Evangelism</i>	
Open	
<i>Personnel</i>	
Jen Boulton	(612) 636-0466
<i>Social Concerns</i>	
Lynne Greseth	682-5486
<i>Stewardship</i>	
Karen Sangren	477-6510
<i>Women's Ministry</i>	
Tari Brase	477-5322
<i>Worship & Music</i>	
Norie Siers	477-5218
<i>Youth</i>	
Brian Walton	477-5770
<i>Foundation</i>	
Krista Fisher	(612) 916-0139

OUR FATHER'S INFORMATION

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

5:00 pm	Saturday Worship
8:15 am	Sunday School / Adult Education
9:30 am	Sunday Worship

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	12 Noon - 4:00 pm
Tuesday	12 Noon - 6:00 pm
Wednesday	12 Noon - 6:00 pm
Thursday	9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Friday	9:30 am - 12:30 pm

STATISTICS

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

February 2013—190 (2 services)
 February 2014—207 (3 services)

Baptism Class
 Making plans for a baptism? Contact Pastor Jon with questions.

ourfatherschurch.org

Our Father's Lutheran Church
3903 Gilbert Ave SE

Rockford, MN 55373
Office: 763-477-6300

Fax: 763-477-7092

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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ROCKFORD, MN
PERMIT NO. 5

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*Join our Lenten Worship
Journey to Easter:*

*Every Wednesday (April 2 & 9)
Soup Supper 5:30 - 6:45 pm
Worship 7:15 pm*

*Maundy Thursday (April 17) 7:15 pm
Good Friday (April 18) 9:30 am & 7:15 pm
Saturday Easter Vigil (April 19) 5:00 pm
Easter Sunday (April 20) 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am
Easter Breakfast served 7:30 - 10:30 am*