

Connecting people to Jesus

# The Good News

**JUNE 2021**

Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawaii  
1404 University Avenue, Honolulu HI 96822  
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## NEWSLETTER DEVOTION

*Have We Made Christianity Too Easy?*

One of the hardest things for us to do is to keep things simple. For humans, easy comes hard.



Take relationships. Some people complicate every relationship they're in, as if drama is their drug. An easy, uncomplicated bond with a beloved bores them, so they stir up mistrust or jealousy where it need not exist, as if they need a mess to control or manipulate in order to be happy. Or take jobs. People with very easy, straightforward jobs often complain about how challenging their duties are, or make their responsibilities more difficult than they need to be, because the harder they perceive their work to be, the more important they feel about themselves. Instead of

accepting simplicity and ease as gifts, we complicate matters, make them harder than they need to be, for it makes us feel more in control.

A while back a friend of mine told me that Christianity seems "too easy." And I couldn't agree more. It does seem too simple, too easy. In fact, it has seemed that way from the beginning, so from the beginning believers have found ways to make it harder.

It cannot be that God looked down upon an evil, ugly, hate-filled world, reeking with iniquity, rotten to the core, and loved every single person on it. Love doesn't work that way. Love sees someone worthy of love, and then loves. Evidently, there were at least some specimens of humanity worth divine love, and for their sake His love fanned out to the entire world. *But, no, it really is that simple: God loved a world at enmity with Him.*

It cannot be that Jesus lived, died, and rose again to atone for the sins of the world which He loved. That would mean this Jewish man died even for Adolf Hitler. That would mean He was conceived for abortionists. That would mean He lived for murderers. That cannot be; it's not that simple. Everyone cannot mean everyone. It must mean He died for the elect, or people with at least a spark of goodness in them. *But, no, it really is that simple: God died for every human who's ever existed.*

It cannot be that God does all the work to bring people into His family, that He makes the unwilling willing, replaces unbelief with faith. The Lord does His part, and people must do theirs. They must make a conscious decision to become a Christian. They must exercise their will to choose Him. God may begin the process of conversion, but a sinner needs to complete it. Otherwise, becoming a Christian is too easy, as if God does all the work. *But, no, it really is that simple: everyone who is a believer, is a believer solely because the Holy Spirit called, gathered, and enlightened that person, for no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.*

It cannot be that God does all the work to keep a person in the faith, to keep them faithful in their Christian walk, and to fulfill their life of sanctification. The Lord may do all the work of saving us, but surely, it's up to us to see it through. We begin with grace, to be sure, but there are now commandments to fulfill, vocations to pursue, temptations to avoid, good works in which to engage. It's too easy if we

give God all the credit, even for our good works, as if we have died and it's no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us, loves in us, labors in us. *But, no, it really is that simple: all our good works are the works of Christ in us, as He lives out His life in our lives, even as our lives are full of life because of Him.*

Have we made Christianity too easy? No, God has made Christianity "too easy" because He has made it pure gift. That gift is Jesus Christ, God's gift of God Himself for the life of the world. He loved us when we were seemingly unlovable. He saved us when we were unworthy of being saved. He made us believers when we were captive to unbelief. He keeps us believers though we still struggle with a sinful nature. He does our good works in us, for "it is God who is at work in [us], both to will and to work for His good pleasure," (Philippians 2:13), for "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me," (Galatians 2:20).

Yes, for us, easy comes hard. Simple seems too simple. Such good seems too good to be true. But that's the beauty of the work of God in Jesus Christ. It's easy. It's simple. It's true. And it is all for you.

*"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

*I wanted to share with you this devotion from Chad Bird from July 2 2014, I always think his devotions are so interesting.*

*God Bless Pastor Christian*

We will continue to gather on Sunday mornings at 9 am and 10:30 am. We will be offering Zoom live at the 9 am service. We need to keep a balance between the services as we have limited capacity at each service to follow the guidelines for Hawaii.

**We are asking everyone to let us know which service you plan to attend.**

***This helps us as we prepare the worship space and also helps the Worship Care Committee prepare for communion. We truly appreciate your cooperation!***

**You will be sent a link by email. Please see the Administrative Assistant if you have not received the link.**

**Click on the link; select a time; click on button "Submit and sign up"; Enter your name; Quantity (number of persons); Click on button "Sign up now"**

**If you need assistance, please phone the office 946-4223 or send an email: [office@ourredeemerlutheran.us](mailto:office@ourredeemerlutheran.us)**

We are so pleased to see more people returning to "in-person" worship. Thank you for helping us follow the guidelines set for us.



**THANK YOU!!** The Board of Property Management thanks Alan, Pastor, Peggy, Mike and Ruth for their helping hands on Saturday, May 15. They accomplished all that they had planned. Our next work day is scheduled for June 19. Please sign up at the back the of the church if you are able to lend a helping hand.

### **ROOF REPAIR**

The Board of Directors approved the proposal to repair of the church's roof (including the Pastor's office, the Sacristy and lanai, only). Repairs were started on Tuesday, May 25, and will take 2 to 3 weeks to complete (depending on the number of repairs needed)!! This is all possible because of your generous donations to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thank Offering. **Thank you!!**

This is the link for the recorded audio only and worship bulletins: [Recorded Services - Google Drive](#)  
 If you want to view the video recording, click on the link above and click the folder "Videos", or this is  
 the link for the video recordings: [Videos - Google Drive](#)



**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE**

Val Heath  
 Ava Kuhn Mendez  
 Maxwell Hardoby

Wendy Pung  
 Stephanie Spangler  
 Donald Morgan

**ANNIVERSARIES FOR JUNE**

Roger and Kimberly Koopman  
 Lester and Lorine Pelletier  
 David Rockemann and Dr. Margaret Perkinson  
 Carl and Luella Seyfer  
 Stuart and Martha Peace



**READINGS FOR JUNE 2021**

Date	June 6	June 13	June 20	June 27
<b>First Reading</b>	Gen. 3:8 - 15	Ezek. 17:22 - 24	Job 38:1 - 11	Lam. 3:22 - 33
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 130	Psalm 1	Psalm 124	Psalm 30
<b>Epistle</b>	2 Cor. 4:13 - 5:1	2 Cor. 5:1 - 10	2 Cor. 6:1 - 13	2 Cor. 8:1 - 9,13 - 15
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 3:20-35	Mark 4:26-34	Mark 4:35-41	Mark 5:21-43

In mid-June, Faith Dubke will be added to the staff at Our Redeemer. She will be the new Administrative Assistant, taking over for Jerry Groth as he returns to Minnesota for the summer. Faith is the daughter of Pastor and Martha Dubke. Faith is also an organist, so you may see her in the balcony sitting in Karl's spot on an occasion. Welcome Faith!!

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thank Offering**



“Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins...”) (Luke 21:1-2). It wasn't the size of the gift that mattered to Jesus, but He highlights what God values. God knows our giving will reflect what we value. Please look at the green thermometer in the glass door at the church entrance to keep abreast of what has been thankfully and generously donated. To date, \$41,801.00 has been donated.

***Thank you!***

## DONATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2021

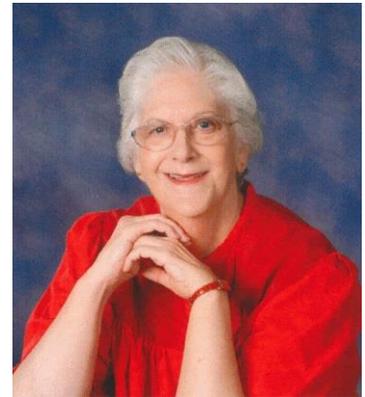
	General Fund	75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Thrivent Choice	Total
5/3/2021	\$2,341.00	\$150.00	\$750.00	\$3,241.00
5/10/2021	\$3,427.03			\$3,427.03
5/16/2021	\$2,220.02			\$2,220.02
5/23/2021	\$2,697.06	\$1,440.00		\$4,137.06
5/30/2021	\$2,389.02	\$500.00		\$2,889.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,074.13</b>	<b>\$2,090.00</b>	<b>\$750.00</b>	<b>\$15,914.13</b>

### *"Open Your Hearts Wide"*

The World Premiere of *"Open Your Hearts Wide,"* written by Marion Lyman-Mersereau. Produced by PlayBuilders in Partnership with Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives and the PA'I Foundation. Streamed on-line June 3-21 (Watch any time on any day, as many times as you wish.) For link and to purchase tickets go to [playbuilders.org/OYHW](http://playbuilders.org/OYHW). Family friendly. Ticket price: \$20

The movie features 27 local actors and 19 real life missionary descendants. Originator and Producer Terri Madden shares, "We really hoped that we would be able to create a live production, but Covid-19 had different plans, and so for the first time in PlayBuilders history, we made a movie!"

One of the 19 real life missionary descendants is Nancy Beadle. Her connection to The Hawaiian Mission Houses Site and Archives is through her mother. Her great, great grandfather Levi Chamberlain came to Hawaii in the second company of American Protestant Missions arriving in Hawaii in 1823 from Vermont. He was the secular secretary for the mission. Back then it was a six-month ship voyage around Cape Horn. Maria (Mariah) Patten arrived in the third company in 1826. Maria and Levi were married in Hawaii and had nine children. Nancy is a fifth generation descendant of Levi and Maria's eldest son Warren. Levi was very well thought of.



The Chamberlain's have always been connected with the Mission Society in Hawaii. Nancy's Mother worked as the secretary and did all the tours in the early 1960s. Nancy has been in and around the mission houses all of her life. After retiring from work, she did volunteer work there for several years. The large Coral house is known as the Chamberlain House and was their home. Her Grandfather, William Warren Chamberlain, was born in that house. Nancy says, "It has always felt like home to my family. Actually, it is our Ancestral home. Some of you may remember my Mother, Allethea Chamberlain Beadle. 2020 was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first company to Hawaii. I was asked to take part in what was to be a play now a movie."

## RENOVATION PROPOSAL

The following renovation proposal was recently presented to the Board of Directors who will include it as an agenda item for consideration at the upcoming annual meeting.

While the complete renewal of our facilities can be a long-term project, this proposal is limited to the church interior. Our goal was not to change to appearance of the sanctuary in a dramatic way but rather to give our worship space a clean fresh look.

The worn carpet will be replaced with a rich warm wood tone vinyl tile compatible with the existing pews and chancel (altar area) furnishings.

The interior of the church including the arches but not the ceiling will be painted in a light off-white paint with a very light barely noticeable beige tone.

The wall directly behind the altar will be painted in a light accent beige color. The colored panels within the decorated altar screen will be repainted in the same color as the wall directly behind the altar screen.

We are requesting a simple YES or NO vote from the congregation. With a YES vote, we will proceed with the renovation proposal with an anticipated completion date in time for the seventy-fifth anniversary celebration in November. With a NO vote, the renovation committee will return to the drawing board, without complaint, to consider other options.

The Board of Directors has determined that we have the funds required for the completion of this project. The picture of the proposal, from which this picture was taken, will be on display on the lanai painted in the exact colors proposed.



The Renovation Committee

## ANNUAL MEETING IN JUNE

The Annual Meeting has been set for June 20, 2021. The Board of Directors will report on the past year. Also, the following offices are open for election:

Vice President	Stephanie Spangler
Treasurer	Roger Koopman
Board of Community Life	Stephen Okumura
Board of Property Management	Michael Riess
Board of Finance	(1 year term)
Member, Board of Spiritual Life	Tom Windsor
Member, Board of Spiritual Life	Francine Kuhn

Please speak to Pastor Christian if you are interested in running for the office or if you would like to nominate someone (please ask for his/her permission before submitting)

### TOWN HALL MEETING:

Roger Koopman, Treasurer, will hold a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, June 6, following the second service at 11:45 in the Auditorium. Roger is also planning a Town Hall meeting on ZOOM on Tuesday, evening, at 7:00 pm. A link will be sent out next week for this ZOOM meeting.

	Proposed 2021-2022	Budget 2020-2021
Income	4000	
Offerings	4010	
Offerings - Envelope	4011 135,000.00	130,000.00
Offerings - Plate	4012 4,000.00	3,000.00
Subtotal Offerings	4010 139,000.00	133,000.00
RENTAL INCOME	4025	

### *“Ladies Who Lunch”*

Previously known as *The Women's Luncheon*, our name has changed, but our purpose is the same - getting together to know one another better. In May we had a delightful exercise of making May baskets. Marcy brought the baskets and we all brought flowers and greenery to decorate the baskets. Marcy also led an interesting discussion of the flowers and colors and greenery from all of the islands and gave us a handout which was very helpful in understanding some of the pageantry and history of Hawaii's Plants and their role in the pageantry of Hawaii, past and present. The Hawaiian phrase "Mayday is Lei Day" was represented by her display of beautiful and intricate ribbon and shell Lei. A very special time for all of us.



## OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Worship Care for & May – Nelda Peterson and Tom Windsor

<b>June 6</b>	9:00	10:30
<b>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</b>		
<b>Assistant</b>	Max Hardoby	Joe Krakowiak
<b>Lectors</b>	Tom Windsor/ Max Hardoby	Sam Krakowiak/Joe Krakowiak
<b>Ushers</b>	Lester Pelletier	Anne & Sam Krakowiak
<b>June 13</b>	9:00	10:30
<b>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</b>		
<b>Assistant</b>	Henry Kuhn II	Joe Krakowiak
<b>Lectors</b>	Nellie Miller/Henry Kuhn II	Sam Krakowiak/Joe Krakowiak
<b>Ushers</b>	Matthew Schlechte	Anne & Sam Krakowiak
<b>June 20</b>	9:00	10:30
<b>4th Sunday after Pentecost</b>		
<b>Assistant</b>	Phillip Rappe	Joe Krakowiak
<b>Lectors</b>	Sherry Spangler/Phillip Rappe	BonnieJo Alle/Joe Krakowiak
<b>Ushers</b>	Matthew Schlechte	Lester Pelletier
<b>June 27</b>	9:00	10:30
<b>5th Sunday after Pentecost</b>		
<b>Assistant</b>	Phillip Rappe	Joe Krakowiak
<b>Lectors</b>	Andrew Casey/Phillip Rappe	Sam Krakowiak/Joe Krakowiak
<b>Ushers</b>	Matthew Schlechte	Anne & Sam Krakowiak



## **THE LUTHERAN HOUR BROADCAST**

SUNDAY 6:30 a.m.  
SUNDAY 6:30 a.m.  
SUNDAY 4:00 a.m.

KSSK 590 AM Honolulu  
KSSK 92.3 FM Honolulu  
KAWZ 90.9 FM Kailua

# June

# 2021

## Subtitle

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10:00 am Bible Study	3	4	5 8:00 am Breakfast Fellowship at Zippy's Kahala
6 9:00 am Divine Service 9:00 am Zoom 10:30 am Divine Service 11:45 am: Auditorium-- Town Hall Meeting with Roger	7	8 7:00 pm: ZOOM Town Hall Meeting with Roger	9 10:00 am Bible Study	10 10:00 am Board of Property Management	11	12 8:00 am Breakfast Fellowship at Zippy's Kahala 10:30 am Visitation for R. Thompson 11:00 am: Memorial Service for R. Thompson
13 9:00 am Divine Service 9:00 am Zoom 10:30 am Divine Service 11:45 am Board of Directors	14 6:30 pm Board of Spiritual Life	15	16 10:00 am Bible Study	17 11:00 am: Ladies who Lunch, Pizza in the Aloha Room	18	19 8:00 am Breakfast Fellowship at Zippy's Kahala 9:00 Work Day
20 9:00 am Divine Service 9:00 am Zoom 10:30 am Divine Service 11:45 am ORLC Annual Meeting	21	22	23 10:00 am Bible Study	24	25	26 8:00 am Breakfast Fellowship at Zippy's Kahala
27 9:00 am Divine Service 9:00 am Zoom 10:30 am Divine Service	28	29	30 10:00 am Bible Study			



## **PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH**

**\*We continue to pray for those affected by the Coronavirus pandemic: for the unemployed, first responders, doctors and nurses; we pray for protection of the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.**



### **We pray for the sick, hospitalized, injured and those undergoing and recovery from surgery:**

We pray for: Marcy Reginelli, Donald Morgan, and Eddie Bruhnke's nephew, Larry.

### **We pray for those facing long term illnesses:**

Monica Landers, Dotty Denney, Vivian Wright, Linda Weinsteger, Gertraud "Trudy" Lau, Carl Weinsteger, Randy Spangler, Leo Franz, Coralee Jaskleski, Bill Ohmann, Scarlett Adams, Laurie Arie, Audrey Fink, Dan Maerten, Linda Roth, Heather Marler, Troy Wolfe, Peter Pranschke, Parker Kindred, Annie Olsen and Joyce Tirbak.

### **We pray for God's protection for all military personnel throughout the world:**

Bryan Gramenz, Timothy Raddatz, Ricardo Perez, Malcolm Gish, Anthony Dorazio, Phillip Rappe, Roger Koopman, Andrew Casey, Dylan Kinsella, Antonio Phillips (great grandson of Jerry Bruhnke), Scott Bloom.

Picture from the past:





*Our Redeemer Lutheran Church*

**Pastor** **The Rev. Christian J. Rasmussen**  
**Pastor to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church** **The Rev. William Pierce**

**Administrative Assistant:** Jerry Groth  
**Director of Music:** Karl Bachman  
**Trumpet:** Roger Koopman

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**President:** Stuart Peace  
**Vice-President:** Stephanie Spangler  
**Secretary:** Bonnie Jo Alle  
**Treasurer:** Roger Koopman  
**Board of Spiritual Life Director:** Joseph Krakowiak  
**Board of Community Life Director:** Stephen Okumura  
**Board of Finance Management Director:**  
**Board of Property Management Director:** Michael Riess

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm; Friday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

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9:00 am – 1:00 pm