

# RBTS Sunday School Newsletter

## Our Mission & Vision:

Redeemer by the Sea Lutheran church's Sunday School and Youth Program is committed to helping the youth develop a lifelong relationship with God.

**Our Mission** is to provide a safe and caring place; where we teach youth to pray and study scripture, where youth can build caring relationships with other youth and adults, and where youth build a strong faith foundation and are involved in our congregation.

**Our Vision** is for our youth to apply faith to their daily decisions throughout their lives.

**Our Newsletter:** Our goal is to provide helpful information and related resources that may be useful to further our commitment to you. Expect fun and interesting features, children's articles, program schedules and updates, upcoming Sunday School activities and acknowledgments. We encourage both the children and parents input and feed-back. Be free to email the Newsletter Editor.

## Miss Rhonda's Commentary: *A New Year's Beginning!*

As you may recall, the teachers and Sunday School children spent the past several months building a diorama of "The Story" (see full details on page 3). How do you follow such a successful event? Well, we found it and are off and running in a new direction! We have launched a new curriculum called "Faith Weaver Now". This is a wonderful interactive curriculum weaving faith into today's families. The children don't just hear the Word, they experience it and see God in their everyday world.

On another note, for the past few years, RBTS has taken a group of 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders to 'The Summit'. This year's amazing program was held on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Crean Lutheran High School in Irvine. The Summit was filled with active learning with dynamic speakers, fun, meaningful games and activities, as well as service opportunities for each student. Additionally, there was a service project that all participants help with. Look for a follow-up article and pictures in the church bulletin.

As our Sunday School continues to grow, so does the need for more teachers and classroom volunteers. If you are interested in joining our team, please see me for the details. Until next time, keep serving the Lord!



## Meet the Board

### Sunday School Director:

Rhonda Sutherlin  
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### Family Life Ministry Director:

Jeff Moeller  
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### Children's Choir Director:

Gary Wilson  
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### Newsletter Editor:

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## Treasure Chest of Events:



**March 20: Palm Sunday**

**March 27: Easter Sunday**

**April 16: The Summit**

**June 20–July 15: Camp Voyage**

**June 27–July 1: VBS Cave Quest**

**August 28: Annual Picnic**

# Introducing Our 2016 Teachers & Volunteers:



Suzan Colgan – Large Group, Clare Donovan – Prek-K,  
Nikki Meyer – Prek-K, Gretchen Bolton – Prek-K;  
Tanya Finnerty – Prek-K; Bonnie Shanahan – Grades 1-3,  
Rachel Moeller – Grades 1-3, Kim Glassman – Grades 4-5,  
Shelley Lynaugh – Grades 4-5

Liz Ford – 8:30 Combined Classes, Melanie & Rocky Collins – 8:30 Combined  
Classes, Lisa Richey – Registration, and Jo Brandt – Registration.

## Jeff Moeller DCE, Family Ministry Director says...

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is- His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2*

I grew up in a neighborhood that had few fences between properties. There was one house in a cul-de-sac that had a fenced in backyard, where 2 dogs, Boxers roamed and barked. They looked ferocious and we kids were afraid of them. Whenever they were loose in the neighborhood there was great panic. The reality is that these dogs were very friendly and playful. The dogs were no threat, yet we lived and played as if they were. This is a pattern of behavior that is generally true today. We live consistently with what we believe to be true, even when we're wrong or inaccurate. The more our understanding of the world conforms to what is real, the better choices we will make. The more we operate under false assumptions, the more difficult it is to navigate through life. We parents, too often, ask our children to try and navigate through life with a faulty worldview. The consequences can be far worse than frustration and disillusionment. We need to give them a better life map that replaces false directions with the truth. Our children need the corrective lenses of truth found in the Word of God. The transformation spoken about in Romans is a lifelong process of daily being in God's Word. For it is God's Word that changes the misconceptions of our children and replaces them with true understandings, beliefs and perceptions.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 27 – JULY 1: CAVE QUEST!

Gear up for an adventure! This summer's VBS will ground kids in the rock-solid foundation of Jesus love. Children entering age 3 preschool through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited.

**CAVE QUEST NEEDS A CO-DIRECTOR; someone who has a passion for children, and wants to help create an awesome VBS experience! CONTACT Jeff asap!**

## JOIN THE ADVENTURE AT CAMP VOYAGE: June 20-July 15:

Redeemer is hosting a 4-week summer day camp beginning June 20-July 15. Children ages 7 to 11 will enjoy summer fun, academic enrichment, awesome friendships and encounters with Jesus. Camp Voyage will provide a safe, Christ-centered, fun environment that help your child gain valuable social and academic skills. Campers will grow in their faith, develop self-confidence and learn about God's creation. This is an active camp that will keep children engaged all day while learning independent skills, and discovering how to use renewable resources to generate energy to care for God's creation. All activities are age appropriate, and include: swimming, hiking, service, free play, music, science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics, and more! Special guests and field trips are scheduled each week. The camp day is 9 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday with Before and After Care available as well. More information is available on Redeemer's website. JOIN THE ADVENTURE AT CAMP VOYAGE Jeff Moeller

## 'Parent's Corner'

### Many Blessings Received 2015!

As one looks back over the past Sunday School (SS) year, there is so much to be thankful for. In November's Church Newsletter, Miss Rhonda, our SS Director, writes that the best blessing received at the end of last year, is the growth increase of our Sunday School numbers which topped her list in rewards. I believe that this growth is attributed to the parents' participation; their awareness of the importance and quality of religious instruction found in Redeemer's SS, and the Fellowship they shared along with the church family as a whole at SS functions. A unified body within a church, not only gives 'light' to what it means to be Christian, but shows the world what it means to live in harmony following Christ's teachings within a congregation of children, parents, families and church members; one with Christ in faith & grace.

*Note from Editor*

**STORY' Through Our Children's Eyes!** RBTS embarked on a unique journey through scripture. A new Sunday sermon series that lasted from Feb. 22 to Nov. 22, 2015, used a new format from the NIV Bible, called 'The Story' which provides one continuing story of God and His People. It is written as a novel, that makes the pages of scripture, easy to understand and a way to encourage one to find his or her own story in God's story.



In conjunction with this sermon series, RBTS's Sunday School followed along with an age appropriate version for the children. It provided a unique means and opportunity for parents and children to discuss "The Story", together. To enhance their study, the Sunday School challenged the children to embark on a wonderful project; to walk through the pages of scripture by constructing a diorama of 'the story' interpreted through their eyes. They began construction on June 14<sup>th</sup>, starting with the 'Garden of Eden', and as their journey continues through the summer, created and built their versions of Noah's Ark, the parting of the Red Sea, and the destruction of the Wall of Jericho and so on.

Watching the enthusiasm and imagination of these children each week as they interpreted the bible was heartwarming, and knowingly, most pleasing to God. Halfway through the journey on August 23, parents and members were given a preview of the children's progress of their studies by viewing the project which provided understanding and encouragement to continue on their way towards completion of their bible study. What a wonderfully spiritual adventure for the children to have a 'hands on', creative experience, 'walking the journey' with Christ thru the pages of the bible's story. It created a 'fun' way for them to explain and to 'make real' the lessons and promises found in the Old Testament and the fulfillment of scripture found through the life and teachings of Christ towards one's faith, salvation, and what lies ahead as believers.



The children's version of 'The Story' was completed just in time to be displayed for all to see on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday School Christmas Program and Birthday Celebration for Jesus.



The children's diorama remained on display throughout the Christmas season, and received much praise. It was inspirational to all who desires to see Christ through the eyes of a child.

As quoted by Jesus, *"...the kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."* (Mark 10:13-15).

# 'CATCH THE WAVE' ON THE NEWS'

## Greetings from the 'Choir Loft': Gary Wilson, Choir Director

The Chancel Choir and Praise Band are working hard on Easter music as we prepare for combined numbers on Easter Sunday morning. We will be singing "We Believe," a powerful contemporary piece featuring both groups, with our soloist, Agnes Lee. You will enjoy the Chancel Choir and Praise Band accompanied by Heeya Hwang, organist, Nick Clauber on piano, Dave Fennell on Trumpet, along with our singers, and our usual fantastic instrumentalists.

Palm Sunday, we will also be doing a new piece featuring our Handbell Choir, piano, and trumpet. The piece is called "My Song Doth Bless the Lord".

Our Sunday School kids have been learning new curriculum on Sunday mornings and we have taken a short break from Children's Choir rehearsals. Our Children's Choir will sing again soon after Easter.

A COMMUNITY OUTREACH CONCERT sponsored by Redeemer by the Sea's Music Concert Committee was held on Sunday March 6 which featured the wonderful voices of the 'North Coast Children's Choir' under the director of Sally Dean. They performed many favorites from many styles of music. Over 100 singers performed in four unique choirs, with some combined numbers at the end of the concert. A free-will offering was taken, and all the proceeds were given to the North Coast Singers Children's Choirs to help support and promote their program. It was a special opportunity to hear outstanding children's choral music from all over San Diego County.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US AND SING IN THE CHOIR! We, especially encourage you to, ALSO, have your children join the children's choir as well. Give me a call for more details. 858 864-3491

## What Do the Little Fishes Say? (Words seen through the eyes of children.)

### Question One: What is Lent?

### Question Two: Why is it a special time?

#### PreK-K

Faith: "Don't know." ..... "Coz, Jesus died on the Cross."  
Sofia: "Don't know." ..... "Coz, Easter is coming."  
Logan: "Don't know."  
Sophie: "Don't know."  
Cassie: "Don't know."  
Terry: "Lent is something nice to do." ..... "Because, God is nice."

#### Grades 1-3

John: "Jesus's death and the reflection of our sins." ..... "Jesus saved us."  
Katie: "When Jesus saved our sins." ..... Katie drew a picture of the cross.  
Aine: "When we reflect on our sins. Also, when Jesus died." ..... "Because Jesus saved us from sin."  
Keira: "When, I think, He (Jesus) is the nicest person on Earth." ..... "Because Jesus saved us."

#### Grades 4 & 5

Lindsey: "The Wednesdays that count up to Easter."  
Ariel: "A time that leads up to Easter."  
Ryder: "It has something to do with Jesus' death, yeah." ..... "Cause without Jesus' death, we wouldn't go to Heaven. We'd have to be pretty much perfect."  
Jonah: "I think, it's a time-phase where you are ..... "Because it's when Jesus was being tempted, supposed to give something up." and he didn't give in. We respect that cause if he gave in, then we wouldn't be here."  
Victor: "When Jesus was being tempted, we should respect that, and give something up for 40 days and 40 nights,"