



The Joyful Noise

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Every year when the choir begins practicing for a new cantata our prevailing thought is, “we’ll never get this ready in time to sing at Easter/Christmas!” The music is unfamiliar, time commitments or the stresses of life prevent many of us from being at the weekly practices, and often times the message and the music just don’t seem to speak to us.

However, as the weeks progress **under the direction of a gifted director and** the music becomes more familiar, a transformation occurs. Uncertainty and fear of failure are replaced with inspiration and the joy of human voices coming together in harmony to express emotions that only the vehicle of music can convey.

Notes and words start to ‘gel’ to where the inspiration of the music stirs something in our souls and our inadequacies are replaced with an eagerness to share the music and the message with the congregation.

Such is the case with this year’s Easter cantata, **Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb**, by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith. By the time you are reading this April newsletter, the cantata will have been presented on Palm Sunday. As the message of the cantata progresses through each song, from the exuberant “Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him our blessed redeemer” where the congregation joins in singing as the choir comes forward, the reality of God’s love for His fallen creation – especially for His errant but beloved children – becomes more forceful, and the specter of the cross being transformed as an emblem of love and redemption becomes ever more powerful.

One of the songs, “Come to the Healer” speaks of the various ways our failures make us feel alienated from God. Perhaps, as the song says, it’s our *prodigal heart* that causes our faith to alternate between belief and disbelief. I trust each of us has been there as have I. The grim picture presented in Revelations 3:16, *because you are lukewarm and neither hot or cold, I will spit you out of my mouth*, surely should cause us to place our faith in God’s redemption love instead of in our own paltry efforts. This was the essential message John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, preached and practiced after despairing of how his own strivings continued to disappoint and brought him no peace. Our denomination today continues to espouse and practice, *that by grace we are saved, not by our own efforts*. Grace, that activity of Christ’s redemptive spirit at work in us, enables us to experience the deep peace that comes from knowing God loves us and continues His presence with us on

our daily walk. It also enables us to partner with Christ in the high calling of bringing forth the goodness of God's will, *on Earth as it is in Heaven*.

On first hearing we are redeemed, that God loves us as His precious child, most of us find the truth of this hard to believe. However, in God's good timing, just as a choir ceases struggling with a new piece of music, a slow but certain transformation occurs. As a gift of Grace, a conviction comes over us that we **are** His redeemed and, in the words of another song from the cantata, *we stop fighting the fight that's already been won*.

When that happens, how can we keep from singing?!

Jackie Austin - March 27, 2021



If you would like to be included in the **Weekly Prayer Partner EMAIL** which includes scripture readings, prayer requests, birthdays, and weekly reminders, please email or call the church; especially if you have not received these lately. If you have email, but do not receive information from the church this way, please give your email address to the office. We may not have it, and it's important that we do going forward so you can stay updated. Thank you.



HOSPITALIZED

Please contact the church office or Travis Remme if you know a member has been admitted to the hospital. With the new privacy laws being strictly enforced there are many times we are unaware of hospitalizations. We would rather get ten calls than none at all. Thank you. **Prayer concerns** can be called into the office (472-2324) or emailed to the office at rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net or to Travis Remme at tremme2@gmail.com and they will be sent out.



Joys & Concerns



Praise God~

- ☺ Lou Braun's 90th Birthday
- ☺ Signs of Spring
- ☺ Ed Brown back in church
- ☺ Choir Cantata
- ☺ Phyllis TeSlaa is at home!



Prayers~

- ✚ Judi Sieperda
- ✚ Dana Lutmer
- ✚ Daxton DeGroot
- ✚ Katie Geerdes
- ✚ Faith Kruse
- ✚ Ed Brown
- ✚ Chad Harms family
- ✚ West Lyon Staff, family and friends



Everyone is invited to attend Phyllis Rydell's 95th Birthday Open House from 2-4 pm on Saturday, April 3rd at the VFW Rock Rapids. No gifts necessary as your attendance will be your gift!



RRUMC is in charge of delivering Meals on Wheels Monday, April 19th through Friday, April 30th. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

April & May Sound Volunteers

April 4 th	Hayden Heimensen
April 11 th	Max Broesder
April 18 th	Grace Heimensen
April 25 th	Quintin Sprock
May 2 nd	Whitney Waagmeester
May 9 th	Chase Thedens
May 16 th	Ashlynn Yeakel
May 23 rd	Tate Vande Weerd

April Birthdays And Anniversaries



01~ Kim DeJongh	16~ Jim & Char DeGooyer
04~ Barb Grimes Mark & Sonya Peterson	17~ David Krahling Kathy Van Berkum Tate Vande Weerd
05~ Lainn Menning	18~ Sam Sides
06~ Char DeGooyer	21~ Connor Maxwell
07~ Mary Holland	22~ Jessica Remme
08~ Amylie Hamilton	25~ Kelli Hamilton
09~ Jackie Austin	26~ Erica Rice
12~ Kaylee McIntire	29~ Sydney Wells
13~ Travis Remme	
14~ Veronica Waagmeester	

*We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information. Please contact the office with the correct/missing information. Thank you!



Camp Sunday is coming up on April 18th! We will have a speaker from Lake Okoboji United Methodist Camp coming to share more information followed by our free will donation burrito breakfast. The proceeds from the breakfast will go 100% towards helping the kids with tuition to the camps. Two years ago, we sent 19 campers and were able to assist with over 25% of their tuition! Please plan to join us on the 18th! (There will be to-go boxes available if you are not comfortable eating in the fellowship hall)



The Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP) offered through **Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc.** may be able to help you pay your winter heating bill. This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights and has been established to help qualified low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs. Your local Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications through April 30, 2021. Each applicant will need to

furnish a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill, original Social Security or I-94 card for each household member, and proof of the household's income for the past month (30 days), the past twelve (12) months, or the most recent calendar year (tax return). Eligibility for participation is established according to the federal income guidelines listed below. Applicants eligible for an award will be paid on a first come, first served basis, and all payments are subject to availability of funds.

Due to COVID-19 we will only be taking applications by phone, mail, or online. Please call 712-472-3746 or 712-722-3611 on Wednesdays 9:00-4:00 to schedule an appointment.

MAXIMUM GROSS INCOME

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$22,330
2	\$30,170
3	\$38,010
4	\$45,850
5	\$53,690

For families with more than five members, add \$7,840 for each additional member.



If you carry JOY in your HEART, you can HEAL any Moment!

April 2021

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 p.m.- Holy Thursday service	2 6:30 p.m.- Good Friday service	3
4 Easter Sunday! 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Head Usher: Jerry Birkey Acolyte: Brendin Sprock Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Hayden Heimensen	5	6 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	7 6:00 p.m.- Evangelism meeting 7:00 p.m.- 3 rd Ave. Youth- 7:00 p.m.- 3 rd Ave. Squared	8	9	10
11 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School 10:30 a.m.- UMW 10:30 a.m.- Prayer Ministry Organist: Holly Moeller Head Usher: Jerry Birkey Acolyte: Ellie Docker Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Max Broesder	12	13 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	14	15	16	17
18 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School Organist: Marilee Schleusner Head Usher: Jerry Birkey Acolyte: Chase Puterbaugh Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Grace Heimensen	19 Meals on Wheels	20 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters 7:00 p.m.- Ad Council Meals on Wheels	21 Meals on Wheels	22 2:00 p.m.- Ms Fits Meals on Wheels	23 Meals on Wheels	24
25 9:00 a.m.- Morning Coffee 9:30 a.m.- Worship-Camp Sunday 10:30 a.m.- Burrito Breakfast 10:30 a.m.- Sunday School 10:30 a.m.- Prayer Ministry Organist: Holly Moeller Head Usher: Jerry Birkey Acolyte: Brody De Groot Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson Sound: Quintin Sprock	26 Meals on Wheels	27 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters Meals on Wheels	28 Meals on Wheels	29 Meals on Wheels	30 Meals on Wheels	