

Pastor's Report

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:36-38

Pray!

Pray! That sounds pretty simplistic and obvious. Certainly, believers pray. Prayer is a fruit of faith. The hymnist wrote: "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire." Why am I requesting your prayers in the annual report of Redeemer Lutheran?

I am requesting your prayers for the same reason that Jesus commanded us to pray if these words from Matthew 9: "The workers are few." While I don't know the exact statistics, the WELS is dealing with a shortage of called workers, both teachers and pastors. The number of pastoral vacancies will climb as pastors retire and the current graduating seminary classes are small.

At Redeemer this past year we have seen the power of prayer in providing workers. In 2017 we needed a preschool director. Carol Green accepted the call to serve as preschool director and has faithfully served in the capacity as director of Shining Light Preschool. We were in need of another preschool teacher as the fall school year approached. I will never forget walking into the church office and retrieving a message from Julie Tjernagel inquiring about our need for a preschool teacher. This past year Julie has been a blessing to Shining Light Preschool. Does God answer prayers for workers? We have his invitation: "Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers." We have his answer in our preschool teachers.

So pray. Pray that God will bless our synod as we train new pastors and teachers. Pray that the hearts of young Christians will be moved to serve publicly in the ministry. Pray that God in his time will provide a permanent, fulltime pastor at Redeemer.

Yes, the vacancy at Redeemer has lasted longer than we expected. But the Lord has answered our prayers in different ways. God has motivated the hearts of his people to step forward and step up in assuming various responsibilities at Redeemer. When you see Sunday school teachers, Church Council members, committee members, ushers, organists, musicians, those who maintain the property and so many people serving in so many different capacities, you are seeing God's answers to our prayer: "Lord, send out workers." When you see Pastor Schultz serving in different ways at Redeemer, you are seeing God's answer to our prayer: "Lord, send out workers."