

Hebrews 10: 39 *"But we are not among those who shrink back and so are lost, but among those who have faith and so are saved."*

Dear Members of Our Redeemers,

The church council expresses our thanks for your generous out pouring of gifts in support of our ministry programs during the months of March and April of 2009. As we started the month of March, our deficit between Generosity and Gratitude gifts and our actual expenses exceeding \$20,000. Your generous gifts during the months of March and April have allowed us to make up some of that deficit so that our ministry program expenses exceed our Generosity and Gratitude gifts by slightly less than \$13,000. The council is grateful for the response from our members in helping to close this gap and we wish to celebrate the Holy Spirit working within us as members of ORLC to help with this support.

As you know, the council took action to adjust the ministry program budget to address our developing budget shortfall. Although your gifts have allowed us to make significant strides in reducing our shortfall, we still need your continued support in the coming months so that we can continue to make up ground on our deficit. We are very much aware the summer months are close at hand and we will all be busy with our plans for our home projects and summer vacations. During these months, it is easy to let our Generosity and Gratitude gifts to ORLC slip. Your council is asking that you continue your strong support of our ministry and that your gifts continue through these summer months.

We also want to let you know that your council has been active in reaching out to the community to support our local community service. During the month of April, the council supported a drive for food share donations. During the months of April and May, the council is sponsoring donations of "gently worn" clothes, towels, socks, underwear and toiletries for God's Love. Council member Carol Will has arranged a ministry program to serve meals at God's Love. She has arranged two groups to participate, one from her small group and another of members of the council. Everyone and anyone is invited to establish a group of 3-5 friends to serve in this ministry program. Future service programs the council is planning includes,

- "Stuff the Bus" to help provide school age kids with backpacks and school supplies.
- Care packages for college students as part of a support program for Lutheran Campus Ministry
- Support programs for the Freindship Center, Florence Crittendon Home and Good Samaritan

As part of our service to ORLC, the council has been studying a book by Dave Daubert titled, *"Living Lutheran, Renewing your Congregation."* A recent chapter we reviewed from this book taught us that God prefers not to work alone and that we are "free" to choose to participate in God's mission for the world. Your church council asks for your

continued support of the ORLC role in God's vision and invite you to participate with us. As we close this request for your support we provide the following passage from this book.

*A primary point of being the church together is to refocus us when we gather so that we can be effective when we are apart. We don't gather to escape the world. We gather to be sure we are doing a good job of engaging in it!*

Sincerely,

Mark C Barry  
Council President