

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

MERCY



APRIL 2022 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 15 ISSUE 4

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

Redeemer Lutheran Church 3637 Spring Arbor Road, Jackson, MI 49201
Phone: 517-750-3100 Fax: 517-750-4590
Email: office@redeemerjackson.org
Visit our website at: www.redeemerjackson.org

REDEEMER REFLECTION

MERCY

by Pastor Zach Holdorf

Mercy has often been defined as “God not giving us that which we deserve.”

Thinking of it as a court room setting. You are the defendant. God is the judge. Your crime: breaking God’s law, sinning. The evidence is quite overwhelming. The prosecutor has done a fine job of showing the court all your sins of thought, word, and deed. There were things on that list you didn’t even know you did but



thinking back, it was true. There is nothing you can do to plead your case.

APRIL
2022

You stand condemned. The sentence is eternal death.

Yet, Jesus enters and advocates for your life. “This one is mine,” He says. “I have taken the punishment. I took their place. Look at my hands and my side. I died and rose so that this one will not die eternally, but have life

everlasting.” The judge has mercy. You no longer get what you deserve. The court rests its case. You are free.

Paul writes, “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in **mercy**, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:1-5



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Angela Martin	04/01
Charles Lewis	04/02
Judy Speed	04/03
Greg Wait	04/03
Rev. Carl Bassett	04/07
Ron Jones	04/10
Jacob Lockwood	04/11
Ron Spangler	04/14
Carolyn Vandriessche	04/14
Rowen Hendricks	04/16
Isaac Kestner	04/20
Don Moyer	04/22
Linda Kline	04/23
Jerry Kestner	04/25
Rob Albertson	04/26
Christine Richmond	04/26
Bill Pohanka	04/27
Donna Zastrow	04/28
Sharon Harshe	04/29

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Larry & Sara Finton	04/04/2003
Greg & Donna Wait	04/13/1985
David & Kathy Voss	04/16/1994

TOPIC FOR MAY

Through the *Redeemer Reflection* newsletter, our goal is to share what God is leading us to do, now and in the future, and what we have done recently with His guidance. We want to reflect Jesus in our personal lives, as well as in our community, and the world around us. The writing prompt for May is ***Peace.***

Send comments, articles, information and/or photos by the 15th of each month, to bennitt49@yahoo.com, to be included in the following month's newsletter. All submissions are appreciated and prayerfully considered.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR

Come join Pastor Zach for a cup of coffee, conversation, and a study of God's Word. This informal gathering will allow for the opportunity to pick Pastor's brain pertaining to questions you may have about life or the Scriptures, to have fellowship with others, and to grow in God's Word.

We will meet in the library at 10:00 a.m. every week on Thursday mornings through May. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Zach at pastor@redeemerjackson.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

😊 **Sunday Bible Study Classes:**
Ongoing Sunday School, Youth, and Adult Classes: Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the lower level.

😊 **Thursdays: Coffee with Pastor Zach at 10:00 a.m.** This class meets in the library on the upper level at 10:00 a.m. every Thursday morning through May 26. Come with your questions about faith, the Bible, or life as we know it. Let's dig into the Word and take this faith walk together. Come walk with us.

😊 **Wednesday, April 6: Final Wednesday Lenten Service** at 6:30 p.m. With the final Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m., preceding the service.

😊 **Thursday, April 7: Chancel will meet at 4:30 p.m.** Anyone interested in caring for the altar area is welcome to join us in serving as Chancel members. Come to the meeting to find out more about this rewarding service ministry opportunity. All are welcome!

😊 **Holy Week April 10-17:** Begins on April 10 with Palm Sunday.

😊 **Thursday, April 21: LWML/ Women of Redeemer will meet at 10:00 a.m.** and all women are welcome! Learn more about our involvement in missions, both local and in other areas of Michigan, as well as worldwide.

😊 **Saturday, April 23: Mobile Food Pantry at Trinity.** From 10:00-11:30 a.m. This is an ongoing event on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Redeemer partners with Trinity in this outreach to serve the community. We need and ask volunteers to **be available from 9:00 a.m. until noon.**

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

† April 10 Palm Sunday

Worship Services: 8:00 a.m.
and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Bible Studies:
9:15-10:15 a.m.

† April 14 Maundy Thursday

Worship Service: 6:30 p.m.

† April 15 Good Friday

Worship Services: Noon
and 6:30 p.m.

† April 17 Easter Sunday

Worship Services: 8:00 a.m.
Easter Breakfast between services!
and 10:30 a.m.

A WEST-LEANING MERCY

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

I am so proud of my Michigan heritage. Family roots are deep here. It is a beautiful state, and in many ways, it is the state from which the rest of our country has found life, sustenance, and productivity. The creative genius of the American auto industry, the great institutions of higher learning, and its stunning array of natural resources mark Michigan as unique and greatly loved by those who visit and especially by those who call it home.

But in wonderful God-granted providence, I lived for a season in the Great American West. Transplanted with my family, the verdant Willamette (pronounced wi-LAM-et) Valley of Oregon became my first “new” home. Over the space of a decade, we moved north to the greater Portland area where I became a “city dweller” for the first time in my life. A lovelier city I had never seen.



In yet another Oregon city, the Lord found me and shed His great mercy and love upon me, born again in Eugene-Springfield as a twenty-year-old university student. God be praised.

The immense natural beauty of my adopted home state was and is beyond real description. The Cascade Mountains splitting the state north to south, the rugged and rocky coastline, the Columbia River Gorge and the Painted Desert and hills of the eastern expanse join to make Oregon one of the treasures of the American lower forty-eight.



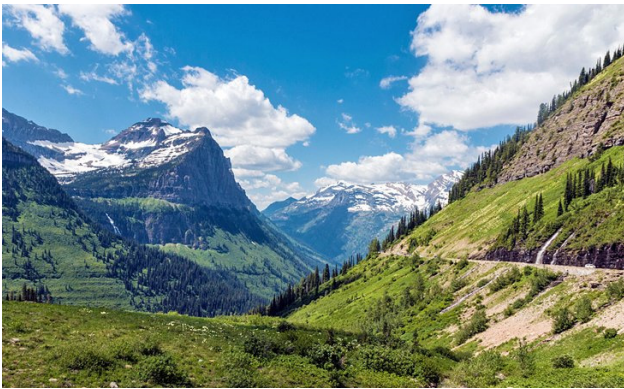
I learned to love the grandeur of northern California with its redwood forests and wine country a bit further south. The glorious natural landscapes and God-sized rock bridges of Utah, the glorious mountains and lakes of northern Idaho all beckon me westward even to this day. And I mean THIS day. I love the American West.

One of the great traits of the western part of our nation is found in its expanse. Land, sky, and water are all marked by their “bigness,” and it is the largeness of the skies over Montana that point me to the boundless mercy of the Great King.

“For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

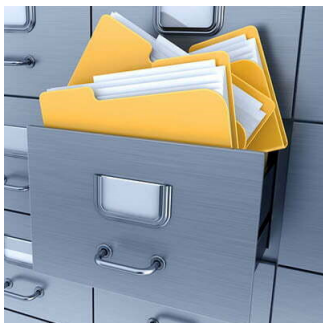
Psalm 103:11-12

I have driven the highways east to west and back again several times in my life, and when I get to the high plains of Montana, I always find a place to let the wheels catch a breath, so my breath can be taken away. The heavens above Montana always seem to accomplish that. "Big Sky Country" is



what those from Montana call their home. And while I love the breadth of blue and clouds for their own sake, I hear in the Word of the Lord and behold in His marvelous canvas above, the greatness of His mercy and love.

While I know He is everywhere present, and present with me, I often let my mind and heart drift until I lean just a bit to the West. His love and mercy found me there.



CHURCH RECORDS UPDATE

by Heidi Gannon,
Church Office
Manager

HELP! We are updating our records and we need your help!

Due to newer and more user-friendly software, and the fact that our basic congregational membership information has **NOT** been updated in several decades, we are asking each family to fill out a short questionnaire of basic current information that will help the office and staff better serve you and your families.

Things get overlooked when life gets hectic, and the church is not always the first notification you make in an emergency. We get that! But we want to be available to serve you in all situations, and we cannot do this if we don't have basic contact information, as well as family names, and dates of important life events.



We will hand out (and mail) an envelope with an enclosed one-page questionnaire to each family. Please accurately fill out your current information and return it as soon as possible.

Our Elders use this information to make caring calls or emergency response when needed, and the office uses it to send important church communications, such as event cancellations or service changes. This information also helps us provide necessary required statistics to the Michigan District, and can be used when planning activities as well. Redeemer cares, and Pastor and our staff need your family's information so that we can serve you better, and

improve our ability to stay in touch with you and your needs without being intrusive.

🔗 **Please fill out your Information Update Request Form as soon as you receive it.** Fill out as much information as possible on this form, even if you think the church already has current information.

🔗 When the Information Update Request Form is complete and ready to be turned in, please also submit a current family photo to be used in our church directory.



It would be very helpful if you could submit your family photo via email to: office@redeemerjackson.org, but if that isn't possible, you're welcome to turn in a physical photo with your completed form.

🔗 If you **do not** have a current family photo, we will have some photo opportunities available, to be determined at a later date. We **are not** hiring a company to take photos; this will be done in house, strictly for use in our photo directory. Dates will be determined and announced after we are able to assess the number of families that will need photos taken.

🔗 Please return the Information Update Request Form and your current family photo to: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Office Manager, Heidi Gannon, when complete. Please

return before **April 10, 2022.**

The sooner we have everyone's information, the sooner it will be possible to incorporate it all into a much needed directory format to be printed and made available to our church family. We're counting on you to help us get this done as soon as possible.

MY MERCY

by Kimber Walsh, Family Life Educator

Have you ever had a day so crummy that you just can't wait for a new day to come? Everything you tried to do, didn't go to plan. You let people down by your own negligence, poor time management, or simply by your words. You hurt people's feelings. You gave in to your desires instead of holding fast to your plans for improvement.

When I hear the sweet message that God's mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22-23), I'm so relieved of the weight of my sinfulness. God has not only extended us His mercy, He's given us the opportunity to be conduits of His mercy *to* the people around us, as well as on the receiving end of mercy *from* the people around us too. How can one ensure that our mercies to our families are new every morning too?

- 1) Repent of our own sin and embrace God's mercy new to us each day.
- 2) Forgive the sins of yesterday.
- 3) Love because God first loved us. (1 John 4:19)
- 4) Choose not to attend every argument we're invited to.

- 5) Remain patient with whining, complaining, and immaturity. Remind, guide, and shepherd with calm.
- 6) Give “do-overs” when they aren’t deserved. Talk about how God gives us do-overs every day and that we don’t deserve those either.
- 7) Speak in honoring ways to our spouses even if we’re frustrated, hurt, or don’t really feel like it.
- 8) Leave the harsh tones and biting words out of our communication.
- 9) Give the benefit of the doubt.
- 10) Serve, not expecting thanks or help, and not keeping score.

What would you add to this list? As you taste the sweetness of God’s mercy this morning, consider how you might share mercy with others.



SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School 2022 will be June 20-23 in the evenings. Children ages 4-10 are welcome to come out and participate in the “monumental” programming, and all others are invited to volunteer. Details and registration will be available on our website at redeemerjackson.org

REDEEMER FAMILY INVITATION

All are invited to participate in our Palm Sunday cross-generational event to experience the Easter story with our brothers and sisters at Redeemer. Meet in the RAC at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 10 to join the fun!



Redeemer on Facebook
If you’re a Facebook user, check out Redeemer’s new page and connect with us there!

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Redeemer and Trinity’s high school youth are preparing for this summer’s

National LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, where 25,000+ people from all over the world come together to worship God, learn, serve, and have fun! So many have already supported their fundraising efforts for which they are so appreciative. If you’d like to support them, there are additional opportunities coming soon. Sneak Peek: Their next fundraiser will be selling homemade noodles. YUM!



SUNDAY SCHOOL PLANNING

Plans have already begun for Sunday School for the 2022-23 school year. As our congregation grows, our needs for volunteers are changing and growing as well. If you or someone you know are interested in serving with our children, please contact Kimber Walsh at 517-750-3100 or kimber@redeemerjackson.org

LIBRARY MEDIA MUDDLE

Something has disappeared from our church library and we may have missed it because of the jumble and confusion in there. Since our youth leader/librarian relocated, no one has taken on the rewarding responsibility of restocking books and keeping the card files organized in our library. It is not a difficult job, nor does it take a lot of time when it is done in a timely manner. But it's been over a year since books and videos have been carded and reshelfed, and the result is a hodge-podge of books and other media stacked helter-skelter wherever there is an empty spot.



If you enjoy books and movies, this ministry area might be a good fit for you. If you enjoy making order out of chaos, this may be

a challenge you'd like to take on. Before the pandemic, Redeemer's library was often used by book lovers and movie buffs alike. As we move toward

normalizing our church environment once again, making our media area/resource center/library more user-friendly would be a step toward getting resources available to those who will use and enjoy them.

This project could be taken on by a family, a Bible study group, one person, or a group of friends taking turns to organize and reshel items. A little loving care can go a long way to bring order to chaos. Check it out and see if this is a ministry that would be fun and rewarding for you.

PORTIA'S MERCY SPEECH

from *THE MERCHANT OF VENICE*

by William Shakespeare - 1564-1616



The quality of mercy is not strained;
It droppeth as the gentle rain from
heaven upon the place beneath.

It is twice blest; it blesseth him that
gives and him that takes:

T'is mightiest in the mightiest; it
becomes the throned monarch better
than his crown:

His scepter shows the force of temporal power, the attribute to awe and majesty, wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;

But mercy is above this sceptered sway;
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,
It is an attribute to God Himself;
And earthly power doth then show
likest God's when mercy seasons
justice.

Therefore, though justice be thy plea,
consider this, that, in the course of
justice, none of us should see salvation:

We do pray for mercy;
And that same prayer doth teach us all
to render the deeds of mercy...

MERCY

by Peggy Bennitt

Portia's *Mercy Speech* from the play, *The Merchant of Venice*, is my favorite Shakespearian quote. We had to memorize the speech for 9th grade English Literature class. Ms. Schrieber was a stickler for teaching the culture and customs that made each era of literature unique, the grammar and nuances of speech being necessary for making each period of time distinctive.

Appreciating the psychology and humanity depicted in each piece of literature we studied, though, was probably the most impressive thing she taught us. Her mantra of, "One cannot write what one has never experienced or seen, but if one can read, one can experience all," helped us recognize how we can and do affect who and what surrounds us.

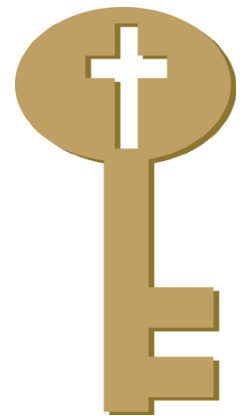
"And earthly power doth then show
likest God's when mercy seasons
justice." from *The Merchant of Venice*

The fact that God is almost always included in great literature is an interesting side note, as well. Can you see the similarity between the playwright and Scripture?

*For judgment is without mercy to one
who has shown no mercy. Mercy
triumphs over judgment.*

James 2:13 (ESV)

Mercy is the key to our salvation—in fact—to our very existence. If our Lord and God had not had mercy on Adam and Eve after they sinned, where would we be now? Salvation became ours when the Father sent His Son, Jesus, to die for the sins of the world. Death was the price for sin, and if Adam and Eve had had to pay the price required, there would be no "us." *The wages of sin is death...* no second chance. Not until God in His mercy sent Jesus to pay that price, those *wages*, did we have hope—a second chance.



"God's mercy and grace give me hope—
for myself, and for our world."
~ Billy Graham ~

"Justice is for those who deserve it;
mercy is for those who don't."
~ Woodrow Kroll ~

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
C—Denotes Communion Services	<div>  <div>2022</div> </div>				1	2
3 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Adult & Children's Bible Classes 9:15—10:15 a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m.	4 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	5 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	6 Quilters 9:30 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m. Soup Supper 5:15 p.m. Lenten Service 6:30 p.m.	7 Coffee With Pastor Questions on Life & Scripture 10:00 a.m. Chancel 4:30 p.m.	8	9
 10 Divine Service—C 8:00 a.m. Adult & Children's Bible Classes 9:15—10:15 a.m. Praise Service—C 10:30 a.m. 	11 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	12 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	13 Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	14 Coffee With Pastor Questions on Life & Scripture 10:00 a.m.  Maundy Thursday SERVICE 6:30 p.m.	 15 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE NOON & 6:30 p.m. REFLECTION DEADLINE	16
 17 He IS Risen! Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast Potluck 9:15—10:15 a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m.	18 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	19 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	20 Quilters 9:30 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	21 Coffee With Pastor Questions on Life & Scripture 10:00 a.m. LWML—Women of Redeemer 10:00 a.m.	22	23 Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m. Need Volunteers from 9 'til Noon
24 Divine Service—C 8:00 a.m. Adult & Children's Bible Classes 9:15—10:15 a.m. Praise Service—C 10:30 a.m.	25 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	26 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	27 Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	28 Coffee With Pastor Questions on Life & Scripture 10:00 a.m.	29	30