

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

WEALTH

Wealth isn't how much
money you have

Wealth is what
you're left with if you
lose all your money

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Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

*To Know Christ, Grow In Christ, and Go As
Christ Himself Does*

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

WEALTH

by Pastor Zach Holdorf

What comes to mind when you hear the word wealth? For most people, thoughts revolve around monetary riches. The more you have the richer you are. When talking about wealth, you can't help but think of people like Elon Musk, Bill Gates, and the Oracle of Omaha, Warren Buffet. Boy, do they have a lot of money! One could do a lot with a fraction of what these men have.

Monetary wealth is but one type of wealth. One can have a wealth of knowledge, wisdom, access, connections, time, or experience. Like monetary wealth, these too can vary from person to person. Whatever earthly wealth we may possess, whether with just enough or in excess, these too have been given by God as good gifts, and we are to render thanks unto Him.

When it comes to wealth, I can't help but think of the blessings God has given us. Physical wealth may vary from person to person, but we all are rich when it comes to the blessings God pours out on us. He sent His One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise



for you! He has poured out—for you—His mercy and grace. We now are rich in these things. Our sin is forgiven. We have all God's promises! We have forgiveness, life, and salvation! We have mercy and grace! The Apostle Paul writes in

Ephesians 2:4-7: *"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—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."*

As we think about wealth, riches, and blessings, especially earthly ones, let us live a life of gratitude toward God for those good things. Let us also keep our eyes fixed on Jesus where true riches are found, who so freely bestows those immeasurable riches on us out of pure love.

In Christ,

Pastor Zach



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE was July 14-16

The annual Redeemer Rummage Sale was held July 14-16 and was a huge success! The proceeds supported the St. Luke Clinic of Jackson, which provides medical services for those who are under-insured or without medical insurance.



On the first day, volunteers arrived to find lines of people waiting for the sale to begin, and the wait did not disappoint them. From furniture and books to cowboy boots and toys, there was something for everyone.



A huge thank you to Debbie Rockwell and Stephanie Herrick who helped to organize the sale again this year. We had a tremendous crew who kept things neat and tidy throughout the sale. "Many hands make light the work," and the hands came in all sizes and ages—no generational gap when it came to our workers. From organizational skills and muscles to food prep and cleanup, we had a great group of volunteers! Thanks to all who donated time and energy, food and sale items.

We couldn't do this without the support of our volunteers and the charitable giving of our members. Thank you to all who helped us offer the community this opportunity to save money and to check out our church facility in a friendly, relaxed, family environment!

***Something to consider for the future:** There is no one, so far, interested in taking over the planning and implementation of the Rummage Sale beginning next year. The planning often begins after the last tables and

racks are put away on the day the sale ends. Any Bible study group or other interested groups can contact Debbie Rockwell or the church office for more information on this ministry opportunity.

CAPITAL CITY BRASS BAND *and* ICE CREAM SOCIAL



by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

Make sure to save the date of **Sunday, August 14, 2022**, when Redeemer will offer the congregations of our circuit, as well as the entire Jackson community, the opportunity to gather on our lovely campus for an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social. It will feature, in our pavilion, the artistry of the award-winning Capital City Brass Band as well.



the band has garnered high praise and

The Capital City Brass Band recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, and over those years

two national championships in the competitions of the North American Brass Band Association. The social and concert are free, with donations being accepted for the CCBB.

As part of our monthly social offerings, August's event promises to be extra special. The Ice Cream Social begins at 2:30 p.m., with the concert beginning at 3:00.

Music director Jim Otto will lead the ensemble as families and friends enjoy our beautiful grounds and great ice cream. The audience will be treated to a program of classics transcribed for the brass band including Mozart's *Overture to the Marriage of Figaro*, Kabalevsky's *Comedian's Galop*, and selections from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*.

Grab a friend or neighbor. Then grab those blankets and folding chairs, grab a piece of real estate, and enjoy a great afternoon with family, friends, and the Capital City Brass Band.

*It will be just like old times.
See you there.*





☺ **Coffee With Pastor: *Thursday morning Bible Study*— WILL NOT MEET** for the month of **August**, to give Pastor a slight break from teaching.

☺ **Sunday, August 14 in the Pavilion: *Ice Cream Social*** beginning at 2:30 p.m., with a concert by the *Capital City Brass Band* at 3:00 p.m.

☺ **Saturday, August 27: *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.**

☺ **Sunday, September 11: Church Picnic.** In the Pavilion following the second worship service. Games will commence right afterwards. Hamburgers and hot dogs provided and grilled by expert volunteers. Bring a passing dish to share. Everyone is welcome!

☺ **Thursday, September 15—Coffee With Pastor Bible Study resumes.** Class will resume September 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. The book of Revelation will be the focus of the

study. For those of you who can't make the Thursday class, it will also be offered on Sunday mornings beginning September 21.

☺ **Sunday, September 21**—For those of you who can't make Pastor's Thursday Bible study class on **Revelation**, it will also be offered on Sunday mornings beginning September 21.



CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC SEPTEMBER 11

by Marilyn Rockwell

I have been told “say something 3 times and people won't forget it.” So...
September 11. September 11.
September 11.

The Church Picnic will start right after the 10:30 a.m. service with



games for everyone. Tentative schedule for games: Duck, Duck, Goose (and a few other games, maybe)

with Lilia and Andrew Bahr; Corn Hole with Cole Gannon; Kick Ball with Chris Walsh; Water Balloon Toss, Ladder Ball—any volunteers? Could be YOU.



Who's hungry? Ron and Deb Rockwell will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers. Drinks will also be provided. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share.



Then, after we eat, join a roaring baseball game with Jack and Pastor as our coaches. Bring your ball mitts and baseball equipment for a rip-roaring ball game to round off a happy fun-filled day. All games are geared for all ages. No winners. No losers. Just fun-ers allowed.

Hope to see you all at the revival of the annual Redeemer church picnic.

Still looking for a few volunteers and more ideas or suggestions for this family event. See Marilyn Rockwell for information or to offer your help to make our picnic memorable and fun for everyone.

WEALTH AND RICHES

by Peggy Bennitt

I snapped the fortune cookie in half and a scrap of paper fluttered into my lap. I snatched at it to keep it from hitting the floor, and read it with a smile on my



face. It said, "There are riches headed your way." My smile broadened as I thought, *indeed they are*. Our eldest son and his family were coming from Atlanta to visit, and would use our home as their home base for a few weeks. They planned to stay with us and take side-trips so that our granddaughters could experience some of the marvels of Michigan. Surely, a few of our greatest riches were indeed headed our way.

Command those who are rich... not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

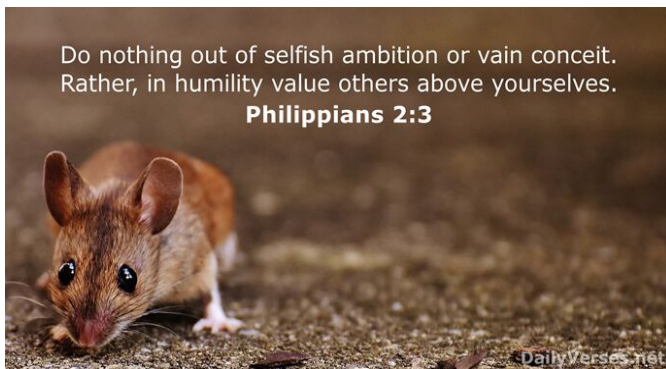
1 Timothy 6:17

My family is my richest blessing. They **are** my wealth. Money is a necessity in this world, but family is the security that adds the richness to life here, and anticipation of the life hereafter. I cannot imagine life without my siblings, my children, or my grandchildren. My church family and friends are extended family to me. God, in His infinite wisdom, knew exactly what I would need to grow my faith, and who would help with that. He provided loving parents to be godly examples, and gave me His love through them.

I am rich beyond imagining, and wealthy beyond compare. Only God would give so much to someone so undeserving.

Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:19



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Blair & Peggy Bennitt	08/23/1968
Craig & Kim Britton	08/07/1982
Fred & Bernice Wait	08/15/1953

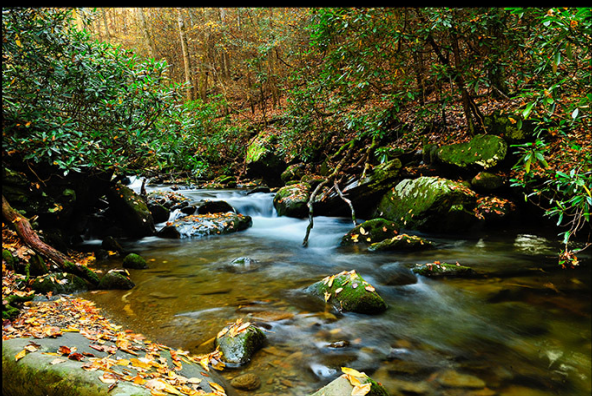
AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Samantha Anderson	08/02
Blair Bennitt	08/02
Abigail Bahr	08/03
Kevin Herrick	08/03
Janet Gamet	08/04
Bob Rice	08/07
Andy Biegner	08/08
Darlene Wilkinson	08/08
Ron Rockwell	08/09
Kay Burger	08/11
Brock Potter	08/11
Craig Britton	08/12
Bruce Leib	08/14
Elsie Lyn Walsh	08/14
Dana Farley	08/15
Fran Althouse	08/19
Michelle Potter	08/19
Ron Ellison	08/21
Adelaide Heffner	08/23
Brett Gatz	08/24
Nelda Hoffer	08/24
Madison Brandt	08/25
Trudy Gatz	08/25
Allan Arvy	08/28
Stephanie Herrick	08/30
Sophia Kane	08/31

“I’M GOOD”

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

“Blessed are the poor in spirit.” Could you finish that famous statement with which Jesus begins His “Sermon on the Mount”? The close of the statement describes the state, or ground, of the blessing about which Jesus speaks: “...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”



“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3 (KJV)

King James Bible Online .org

I’m drawing our attention to this sermon because Jesus highlights for us a condition which has its beginning, middle, and end in Him. But which has implications far and wide in the lives we live each day.

I chose the title above because that is a very common response when someone, usually off the cuff, asks, “How are you?” “I’m good,” we often reply. And the reply comes without much thought and really is a way to move on to the meat of the conversation, if there is one following. When we say we are good, the range of description would be as wide as the

people who say it. But Jesus has a thoroughly different idea in mind.

In His role as a prophet, Jesus would come with characteristically two proclamations: Weal or Woe. We hear them both in the gospels. That’s what the prophets have always done. When Jesus announces, “Blessed are ...” He is announcing the condition of weal. It’s easily seen that that is the foundation of our English word “wealth.” And it is a condition that all of us would want to live in. All the time. Someday, we will.

But Jesus is pointing to something in this sermon that we often miss. Or, at least, I have until recently. In my studies I have come upon the idea that while Jesus is supplying us with the ideals of those who inhabit His kingdom, what He really is doing is giving us a description of Himself. Read those familiar words again from Matthew 5:1-12 and apply them to the person preaching and, I think you may see in Jesus the perfect embodiment of all His statements.

Why is that important to see? Jesus is always prompting His people to come His way, to find their rest in Him. My most used verse in Christian counsel is also from Matthew’s gospel: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (5:28). Jesus goes on to describe a place where we should all want to find ourselves, namely, with Him.

That state of blessedness comes precisely because you and I will find it in a person. A person who loves us supremely and who proves it daily. And isn’t it just like our Savior to be calling us to a place that He knows will bless us most? Not imitating Him. But resting in Him. And in that rest and renewal,

we will take on and exhibit those traits by which He draws us to Himself in His hillside message. Walking with Jesus. Trusting Jesus. But mostly, loving and being loved by Jesus. It's a condition that all of us would want to live in. All the time. Someday we will.

"Blessed are ..."

GOD OF MY LIFE,



If I am to be successful in this life here in this world, first I need to succeed in being a person rich in integrity and love. Only then will all other successes have any significance.

You have told me this in Your Word, which we know is true. Please continue to be my Help in becoming the person You plan for me to be. Thank you for the spiritual wealth You have given me in abundance, and also for the worldly riches necessary for life in this world and service to others.

Keep me in Your care and remind me that I am Yours, and You have planned the course for me. Amen, Jesus hear my prayer.

HUGS!

by Peggy Bennitt, FLE

I've just had an incredible two-and-a-half weeks of lovely hugs and snuggles.

What a wonderful gift! Do we appreciate the wealth that comes to us each time a grandchild hugs us or an adult child pulls us close for a bear hug or a gentle cuddle? How about the arm drape with a nice back rub or shoulder squeeze? What a lift each of those embraces adds to the day! Right?



Family therapist Virginia Satir has said, "We need four hugs a day for survival. We need 8 hugs a day for maintenance. We need 12 hugs a day for growth." While that may sound like a lot of hugs, it seems like the more hugs, the better, to me.

All the medical and psychological data point to the huge importance of positive physical contact often... every day... for us to maintain our overall physical and mental wellbeing.

When we hug or when two humans embrace, they release a hormone called 'Oxytocin' which is also called the 'love hormone' or 'bonding hormone' which makes us feel warm, loved, good and fuzzy inside.

Oxytocin is a neurotransmitter that acts on the brain's emotional center, promoting feelings of contentment, reducing anxiety and stress. When you hug often, your level of Oxytocin increases,



which strengthens your social bonds.

It can reduce anxiety and make you feel like you belong to someone and you are special to someone. It can release stress and allows you to feel better. Hugging also stimulates dopamine and serotonin production in the body. Dopamine is a pleasure hormone which is a part of the brain's reward mechanism. Serotonin is responsible for maintaining mood balance. Hugging is known to boost serotonin levels.

All that just to say this: **hugs make you feel good and let others know that you care.** It's not rocket science.

We really don't need the scientific

reasoning, or permission, to show others that we love and care about them. COVID made us wary of touching, and we may be rebounding from that dark spot in the past few years, but we are also more appreciative



of each and every nuance of affection that we experience now. So, just maybe, the pandemic has made us emotionally stronger in some ways, as well as exposing our vulnerabilities as human beings and our need for each other.

Maybe we can learn from all this that we all need each other, and that another person's failures may allow us to step forward and be strong where they are still weak. The bottom line is we were/are designed for community by God Almighty. He endowed us with

the riches of His love and the capacity and need to love others. Share the wealth. Hug someone today!

Make a



You will need:

- 30 unlined index cards
- markers
- stickers



How to make:

Write each of the words from the list below on its own card. Make a second set. Decorate with stickers or markers.



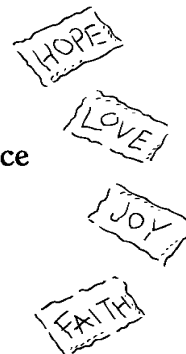
Play:

The object of the game is to find cards that match. Shuffle all the cards. Lay them face down in 5 rows of 6 cards. Choose 2 cards. Keep them if they match. If they don't, return them to their places face down. Continue until all cards have been matched.



Words to write:

Faith	Love
Healing	Help
Jesus	Patience
Kindness	Mercy
Gentleness	Peace
Generosity	Hope
Prayer	Joy
Grace	



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
C —Denotes Communion Services	1 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	2 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	3	4 Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	5	6
	7 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Contemporary Service 9:30 a.m.	8 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	9 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	10 Quilters 9:00 a.m.—Noon	11 Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	12
	14 Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. Contemporary Service— C 9:30 a.m. Ice Cream Social & CCBB Concert 2:30 p.m.	15 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. REFLECTION DEADLINE	16 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	17 Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	18	19
	21 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Contemporary Service 9:30 a.m.	22 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	23	24 Quilters 9:00 a.m.—Noon	25 Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	26 Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m. Need Volunteers from 9 'til Noon
28 Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. Contemporary Service— C 9:30 a.m.	29 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	30 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	31			