

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

WAIT



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VOLUME 15 ISSUE 2

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

WHILE WE WAIT

by Pastor Zach Holdorf

Waiting is not fun. To wait in a line at Meijer is annoying, especially when you are waiting for twenty minutes.

A couple weeks ago, I had to stop and get a few grocery items. I only had a few and had to determine if it would be faster to do self-checkout or go to a checkout with a cashier. The line for self-checkout looked extremely long, while the other option looked very doable. Boy, was I wrong. It took forever.

I could smell the dirty diaper of the baby in front of me. The lady behind me with the motorized cart accidentally hit the gas and ran into my cart. And then...well, let's just say, it was a difficult wait.

Waiting can be difficult. Maybe you're waiting for that next big event to take place so that you can have some fun and the anticipation is starting to bubble up. Maybe you want something to take place that is outside your control and frustration is boiling. We all are waiting for the pandemic to end. Here at Redeemer, we are even praying



for it to end. Many are waiting for grief to pass. Some are waiting for a deep emotional struggle, like depression, to subside. Whether it is a hurt, heartache, struggle, or difficult situation, you, or someone you know, is waiting for life to improve.

Where is our hope while we wait? Is it in our own strength and understanding? Will it be in another, who may or may not do what they say? Or is it in the One who can actually do something no matter the situation? The Psalmist writes in Psalm 39:7: *“And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.”* While we wait, no matter what we are waiting for, our hope is in the Lord! This changes how we wait.

Thinking back to my experience at the grocery store, I could have used the opportunity to pray for the people around me. I could have started a conversation with someone that could have led to witnessing the faith. Who knows what the Lord could have done if I was focused on Him instead of being frustrated?

We have hope because our God is not One to leave us while we are waiting. In Psalm 46:1, we see that our God *“is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”* He is there with us no matter what we are going through. He truly loves us, cares for every need, sees the struggle, and helps through it all. Our Hope while we wait.

Blessings, *Pastor Zach*

Here's what's happening!

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

😊 **Sunday, January 23: Town Hall Meeting after the Late Service.** If you were unable to attend the Town Hall discussion opportunity on Wednesday, January 19, please join us at 11:30 a.m. today to discuss upcoming plans and ideas from the Sanctuary Renovation Committee and Leadership Board for remodel possibilities and concept design options. Your input is important to help make these plans a practical and comfortable improvement to our facility.

😊 **Sunday, January 30: 5th Sunday Single Service with Potluck.** We will

have one **Combined Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.**, with a Congregational Potluck to follow. Please bring a favorite family food dish to share, or bring something new that sounds good to you. Bring enough to share. It will be great to fellowship together once again!

😊 **Thursday, February 3: Chancel meets at 4:30 p.m.** We hope this new time will make it possible for anyone interested in caring for the altar area 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!

😊 **Saturday, February 5: The 2022 Theological Conference, *Beyond the Walls With Jesus*.** Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. at **Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing, Michigan.** All are welcome! Cost is \$20/person, \$15/student, and livestream is free (but you must register to receive the livestream link). Lunch is included for those attending in person.

😊 **Thursday, February 17: 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, February 26: *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.**

😊 **Wednesday, March 2: *Ash Wednesday Service*** at 6:30 p.m.

Lenten services will center on The Witnesses to Christ: People from His Passion.

Michigan District, LCMS presents
2022 Theological Conference
February 5, 2022 | Our Savior, Lansing, Mich.

Beyond
the **WALLS**
with *Jesus*
1 Peter 2:12

Speakers:
Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer
Rev. Dr. Joel D. Lehenbauer
Mr. Greg S. Baylor, JD
Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Hopkins

General \$20
Student \$15

michigandistrict.org/theological22

**BEYOND THE WALLS WITH
JESUS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022
LANSING, MICHIGAN**

“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation” (1 Peter 2:12).

It is difficult to live honorably as a child of God when the church is increasingly marginalized and ridiculed. To be sure, this is a consequence of evil in the world, but it is also because God’s

people don’t know the Scriptures and/or because they compromise what they believe or how they live in the world.

God’s Word is clear. We are “in the world” (John 17:11; Philippians 2:15) as “elect exiles” (1 Peter 1:1), and the nations (“the Gentiles”) will observe our good deeds through our speech and actions. Because of this witness, Peter writes, even they will “*glorify God on the day of visitation*” (1 Peter 2:12), and Paul says that one day “... *every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (Philippians 2:10-11).

This is an event you will not want to miss! Renowned speakers—Reverend Dr. Joel D. Lehenbauer, Reverend Dr. Dale A. Meyer, Reverend Dr. Theodore J. Hopkins, Mr. Greg S. Baylor, Reverend Dr. David P. E. Maier—with the help of the Holy Spirit, will guide participants to pray and determine when to defend the “walls” of the Church and when to continue to shine and speak the truth in love, even though our witness may go against many of the current cultural topics.

The 2022 Theological Conference will take place on Saturday, February 5, 2022, at Our Savior Lutheran Church; 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy; Lansing, Michigan. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. with final comments at 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$20/person, \$15/student, and livestream is free (but you must register to receive the livestream link). Lunch is included for those attending in person.

Register today at
michigandistrict.org/theological22.

TOPIC FOR MARCH

The purpose of the *Redeemer Reflection* newsletter is to share what we have done, or are doing, to reflect Jesus in our personal lives, both in our community, and in the world around us. The writing prompt for March is **Silence**.

Silence is often appropriate. Aren't there times when silence can speak louder than words? But is silence always



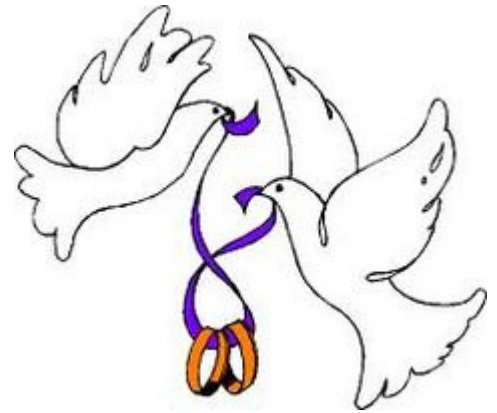
the right action? What do you think when you hear the word silence? Feel free to share your thoughts in an article for this newsletter.

Our Faith Family wants to know how we can help you and your family, because as our community, you are an important part of our family. Join us any or every Sunday for worship, either online at redeemerjackson.org/worship or in person at 3637 Spring Arbor Road in Jackson, Michigan.

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.

MARRIED COUPLES!

Please take the time, if you haven't already done so, to send your anniversary information to the church office at office@redeemerjackson.org and to bennitt49@yahoo.com for the *Reflection* newsletter. We only have the anniversary information for 17 couples in our church family. (I'm thinking we have quite a few more married couples than that!) Please



contact the church office or send your anniversary information (names and date of marriage) to the emails above, or call the church office at 517-750-3100 so that we have that information available for our records. Have a blessed month, and the year to come!

WAIT

by Peggy Bennitt

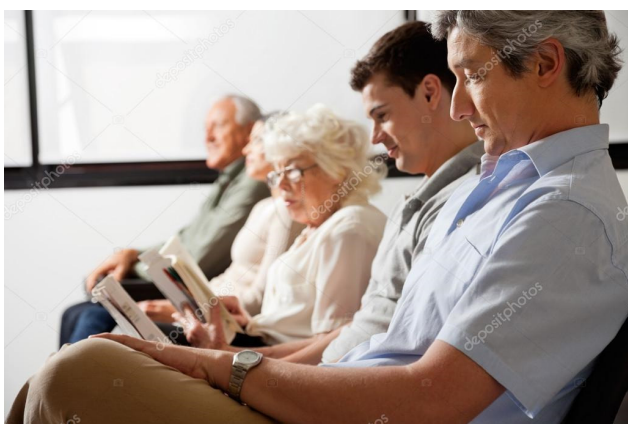
Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Psalm 27:14

I am sick and tired of waiting! We wait for a vaccine. Then we wait for the vaccine to be available for us to actually use. We wait for the vaccine to be available to vaccinate our children. We



wait for boosters, for testing, for new guidelines, for updated information, and now we wait for COVID to be gone. Anyone else tired of the wait?



We humans are sooo impatient, aren't we? Do we think God doesn't see what's going on here? Do we think He can't handle this or that He doesn't have control of all things—including this pandemic? Have we forgotten that His timing is perfect and it isn't at all like our plans or timing? We are so used to instant gratification of all our wants and needs that we forget that it's NOT all about us!

WHAT?

Okay. Back up! If it's not about us, why are we here and why should we have to suffer through this hateful plague? What's the purpose? Why does God let bad things happen? And, what does He expect us to do?

Maybe the key here is that last question: what does He expect us to do?

Aren't we here to do His work of caring for others and showing those around us His love and His promise of eternal life "for all people"? In Titus 2:11, God's Word says: *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all [people]..."* Salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is promised to all, and it's free. It's free to us because He already paid the price of death for crimes (sins) committed. By the grace of our Lord and Savior, we are saved. We just need to believe Him and trust His Word to us.

How we act and react during this pandemic is our testimony of faith. God



was there before COVID. He was there before OMICRON. He has been there for us since time began. And He'll be there

for us as we step into the future, and into eternity. He's there, and **He waits for us** with great expectations. He has great plans and special work for us as we plant the seeds of faith for future generations to tend and harvest.

*"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world **you will have trouble**. But take heart! I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). No sugar-coating on that promise. He **never** promised us an easy path or a stress-free life. As His faithful, He warned us of the struggles and challenges that are the lot of a Christ-follower—a Christian.

But He has always promised to be with us, to be faithful, and to love us no matter what. Through it all, He expects us to wait for Him. That **does not** mean we are to be inactive. It **does** mean we are not to jump ahead of His plans with our own plans. It **does** mean we are not to become impatient as we wait.

"In the morning, Lord, You hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait, expectantly."

Psalm 5:3

A PRAYER IN WINTER

God, sometimes it's easy to think that winter is a season merely to endure until spring ushers in the days of summer. But then, when I step outside on a calm, winter's day, I find tiny

wonders everywhere, tucked away like



special treasures for the one who cares to seek them out. You have made winter a special season of rest and reflection, a time of discovering beauty



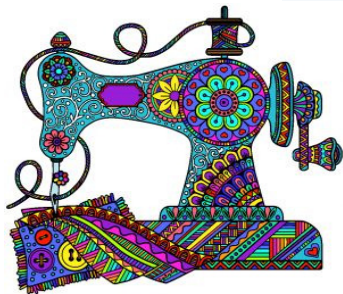
against the backdrop of bleakness. Thank You for the exquisite blessings of winter.

QUILTERS 2021 RECAP

by Donna Zastrow

The Redeemer Quilting Group had a terrifically productive year in 2021. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. noon, in the Music Room in the lower

level of our church. We are a small group of six people right now and can always use more helpers. If you like to sew, even if you haven't quilted before, we would love to have you join us.



We completed 50 quilts last year, donating 25 to Lutheran World Relief, with the rest going to local charities in Jackson; some to Soar, Interfaith Shelter, and My Place. Come be a part of this fun and purposeful outreach ministry here at Redeemer.



LEADERSHIP BOARD 2022

Chairman	Andy Biegner
Vice Chairman	Josh Brandt
Secretary	Amanda Kapp

These people were elected by unanimous decision by the voting members of Redeemer Lutheran Church on December 5, 2021, to serve our congregation as the church's Leadership Board in 2022. We also thank Linda Kline, who continues to serve faithfully as Redeemer's treasurer.

We give thanks and praise to our God for the gift of these godly and faithful members who volunteer their time and energy for the good of the Lord's work in this place.

WAIT

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

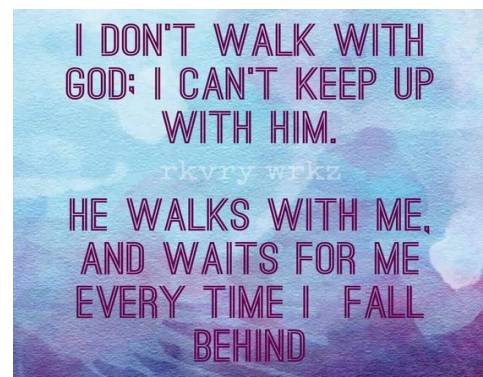
I see new golf balls here online,
So much upon my plate.
I really want to golf lots more,
I guess I'd better wait.

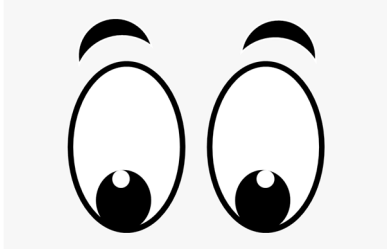
The yard needs so much tending,
The gardens don't look great.
The game I want to watch is on,
I guess I'll have to wait.

A guy at work was out of line,
Our boss became irate.
To speak to him about a raise,
I think that I should wait.

My life is showing disarray,
I know it isn't fate.
My Bible needs attention,
I know I dare not wait.

The world around us crumbles,
The Lord is at the gate.
"Come back, return O Savior,"
"Oh Jesus, do not wait."





KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!

Something special and different is coming in March. Some of you may have guessed that it's Lent. And, you'd be partially right. But there's more. During the Lenten season, all our senses and feelings are awakened and called into action in various ways and degrees, culminating in Holy Week with all of its sorrows and ultimate joy.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told His disciples to "...keep watch with me..."

Keep your eyes open, as clues and activities appear around Redeemer. There will be something for everyone. Here's a clue to consider: Stations of the Cross.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

James Taylor	02/04
David Lathrop	02/06
Katherine McFarland	02/06
Arynn Holmes	02/07
Cheryl Mack	02/08
Mikayla Richardson	02/08
Lilia Bahr	02/10
Karen Balcom	02/13
Amanda Kapp	02/17
Bethany Richardson	02/18
Brian Fall	02/20
Avery Holdorf	02/20
Linda Tschabrun	02/20
Emily Byrd	02/26
Barb Kneueppel	02/29

WHY WAIT?

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in His Word I put my hope.

Psalm 130:5

I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him."

Lamentations 3:24

But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.

Micah 7:7

Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore He will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him!

Isaiah 30:18

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways; when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Psalms 37:7

Yes, Lord, walking in the way of Your laws, we wait for You; Your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.

Isaiah 26:8

So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who wait for him.

Hebrews 9:28

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Jude 1:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:20

But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Romans 8:25

I CANNOT...

I cannot end war. But I can avoid wounding with words.

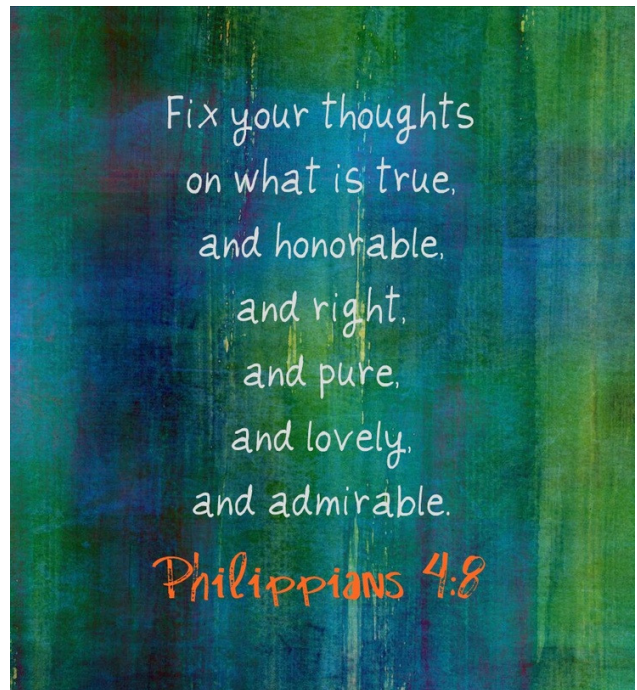
I cannot dance or run a marathon. But my actions can show my joy.

I cannot build a bridge like the Mackinaw, but I can build a bridge of hope with encouragement.

I cannot make someone believe in Jesus. But I can share Him when He provides the time and place.

I cannot stop poverty. But I can share what God has given me.

I cannot do everything. But I can do little things whenever possible.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	2 Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	3 Chancel 4:30 p.m.	4	5 The 2022 Theological Conference 8:30 a.m. @ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing, Michigan
6 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Adult & Children's Bible Classes 9:15—10:15 a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m.	7 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	8 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	9 Quilters 9:30 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	10	11	12
13 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.	14 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	15 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. REFLECTION DEADLINE	16 Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	17 LWML—Women of Redeemer 10:00 a.m.	18	19
20 Divine Service— 8:00 a.m. Adult & Children's Bible Classes 9:15—10:15 a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m.	21 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	22 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	23 Quilters 9:30 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	24	25	26 Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m. Need Volunteers from 9 'til Noon
27 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.	28 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.					