

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS**

CALM



**FEBRUARY 2020 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2**

Redeemer ***Reflection*** Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

ONE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST PROFESSIONS

by Pastor Michael Geml

One of the world's oldest professions involved walking the streets. Yes, you guessed it: it's the Town Crier. That was your guess, right? Some may have the impression that the Town Crier walked the streets, keeping track of time and hourly announcing, "10 o'clock, and all's well!" However, according to one reliable web site, WWW.HistoricUK.com,

Proclaiming the news was not, however, their only role: indeed, their original role was to patrol the streets after dark, acting as peace keepers, arresting miscreants, and taking them to the stocks for punishment and posting their crimes to show why they were there. It was also

his job to make sure fires were damped down for the night after the curfew bell. It was also the role of the town crier, at public hangings, to read out why the person was being hanged, and then to help cut him or her down.



Apparently, the Town Crier was similar to our police/firefighter. With the Town Crier on the job, people could rest and be calmed by their presence. Who doesn't need that calming presence in their lives, especially in the dark of night when the worries and cares of the day can be amplified?

"Peace, be still," are the words of Jesus spoken to the howling winds and the crashing waves that threatened the disciples as they were on the Sea of Galilee. These are also His words to us that we may know His calming, peace-filled presence. Nowhere do we experience that presence more than when we are together for worship and we receive Holy Absolution for our sins; we receive the true calming presence of Jesus as we take into ourselves His true body and blood of the blessed Sacrament. The Lord, who never sleeps nor slumbers (Ps. 121), is ever vigilant in His watchfulness over our lives. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1). I feel calm; how about you?

The Lord's calming, peaceful presence be with you all. In the love of Jesus,

Pastor Geml



FEBRUARY

James Taylor	02/04
David Lathrop	02/06
Katherine McFarland	02/06
Cheryl Mack	02/08
Mikayla Richardson	02/08
Lilia Bahr	02/10
Karen Balcom	02/13
Amanda (Simonsen) Kapp	02/17
Bethany Richardson	02/18
Ben Burmeister	02/20
Brian Fall	02/20
Linda Tschabrun	02/20
Emily Byrd	02/26
Barb Knueppel	02/29



☺ **Thursdays, Ongoing: Bethel Bible Study.** This series will meet every Thursday evening from **6:30-9:00 p.m.**, throughout the normal school year.

☺ **CANCELLED!** January 19 & 26 Youth Sub Sandwich Sales *have*

been cancelled, but will be rescheduled for Sunday, March 15, with ordering on Sundays, March 1 and 8. Sub sandwich-making on March 14.

☺ **Sunday, February 2: Builders,** from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Builders is our monthly family life education time. We are all a part of a family, and living in our families is not without challenges. Come join us for food and fellowship, and learn ways to build up your family in faith and everyday life. Dinner and childcare are available for those who sign up in advance.

☺ **Thursday, February 6: Chancel Guild.** Chancel meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. We welcome new members at any time!

☺ **Thursday, February 13: LWML Women of Redeemer.** From 10:00 a.m.—Noon.

☺ **March: First VBS planning Meeting.** TBA.

2020 Youth Fundraiser

Rummage Sale: May 7, 8, and 9
Coffee Sunday: May 10

TAKING THE GALES

by Craig Britton

“What manner of man is this! For he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him (Luke 8:25b, KJV).

I'm not sure there is any account in the life of Jesus that I have "visited" in my mind more than that of Jesus stilling the Galilee. And I don't enter the



narrative to say, "Oh Jesus, still the winds of my life." No. I attempt to join Jesus and his crew where they were, and when they were there.

We do a disservice to the Bible when we only read it to extract the aid of God or even the presence of God for the stuff of our lives. We need to soak more in what author Alfred Edersheim termed, "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah." In other words, we need to read the Scriptures for the sake of what they reveal, and not see the Bible as an Owner's Manual. It wasn't intended to be one. Remember, no IKEA, no Black and Decker in those days.

Picking up the gospels and reading the accounts of Jesus' miracles, none stands out for raw power more than the Galilee crossing. Moses had the Red Sea. The disciples have their Galilee "ship" as the King James translators render it. Wherever God is, there is for His people safety. Now one must be quick to admit that safety may indeed

imply worldly dangers of all sorts as the prelude to the safety mentioned. But God is ever near to his people as that Very Present Help In Trouble.

If we look a few verses prior, we will see what brings about the question cited above. During what seemed, and may well have been, life-threatening to the disciples, Jesus brought "calm" (v. 24b). Interestingly enough, the calm came as the result of the Lord's rebuke. So, instead of reading this account and then calling on the Savior to "calm the waves of my life experience," let's take the time to dwell on the person giving command to the wind and waves. Let's take a breath in and be amazed at the Person whose command brought calm ... and safety ... and in the end, worship.

I ask us to guard ourselves, once again, from reading this account as a type of #metoo event. Rather, we should look away from ourselves as we read this account and those like them. Why? Because the Person, the Master, the Kyrios involved is present today, at this moment. No matter your situation or mine. His power and care depend *NOT* on our situation, but on His very nature as the God revealed in Scripture as the One who made and mixes, wind and water, sun and moon, power and peace.

2020 has begun. The "Commander of Calm" is here. He's never left you. He never ceases interceding for you. His interest is not nearly so much your circumstance or mine. His concern is our seeing Him, desiring His fellowship (as He desires ours), and coming to Him again and again.

Dear Prince of Peace,

In this year, as You continue to show us Your glory day after day, help us to honestly and humbly seek You with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. It won't always be pretty. It won't always

be easy. It may very well be costly, and that more than once. But coming to You is always good. Would You cause us to marvel at Your greatness overflowing? For all my Redeemer family in 2020, I ask this of You. In Jesus' Mighty and Holy name. Amen!



RUMMAGE SALE

by Kim McFarland

Mark your calendars for May 8, 9, and 10. The Youth Group is also going to be taking on the Rummage Sale this year, with all proceeds going to funding the Youth Gathering on Mackinac Island. Sale setup will be the week of May 4.

Our goal is to earn enough from the proceeds to cover the cost of the Gathering for all youth who want to attend. To make that happen, I need help, especially from the youth and parents. The average age of volunteers in past years is around 75. While I understand that kids won't be able to help during school hours on Thursday and Friday of the sale, I hope that those who plan on going on the trip will participate in setup when possible as well as after school on Thursday and Friday and on Saturday (a plea will be out there as the time gets closer). Parents and grandparents, please plan to help us out as you can. This is a new endeavor for us! More information will be available as we continue to plan.

TRAIN OF LIFE

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel by our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant: i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our lives. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats.

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship



with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is that we do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way: love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are.

It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots

of love. More importantly, thank God for the journey. Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on *my train.

*By the way, I am not planning to get off the train anytime soon. But if I do, just remember I am glad you were part of my journey.

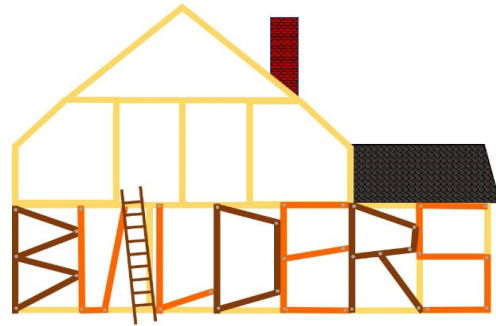
FAMILY FAITH LIFE

by Kimber Walsh, Director of Family Life Education, CFLE, Redeemer Lutheran Church

Relief

Many of you have had the experience of attempting to calm a crying baby. You wonder, “what is the matter?” while you begin down the line of holding, bouncing, pacifying, feeding, and changing the baby. Sometimes the process is short—we know just what they want (or we guess quickly)—but other times, they are crying for a long while as we try one thing after another, looking to alleviate their distress. Either way, when a calm comes for the baby, a calm washes over us too. It’s a relief to know that we have met whatever need they were trying to communicate to us.

When we experience calm, in particular calm that follows distress, it is always accompanied by relief. We sinners are invited to cry out to God in our distress and He brings the much anticipated relief that we are craving. He knows just what is distressing us. He doesn’t even have to guess. He knows our deepest need (Psalm 44:21). He hears us when we cry out to Him (Psalm 34:17). He answers our prayers (Psalm 17:6). And He brings us the relief and calm that we need (Psalm 50:15). Praise be to God for this relieving and calming gift!



Builders is our monthly family life time—covering various topics and doing various activities that will build up your family and build up the body of Christ. Families are couples with children, single parents, parents with teens, couples without kids or with grown kids, single individuals, grandparents with grandkids. When we say family, we’re talking about you and your situation!

We will meet Sunday, February 2, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. This month’s topic: Missional Family. We’ll dig deeper into what it means to be a missional family and challenge each other with beginning that process. Please sign up in the narthex and join us!

Questions? Contact Kimber Walsh at kimberwalsh@comcast.net or 517-750-3100.



Some people set a goal of serving others more in the New Year. There are countless ways that we can serve others, but as we do any one of them, we can also frame it through the lens of faith.

I'd go even further to submit that you and I serve others *because* of our faith. As we serve, let us then not forget to talk about our faith and the God in whom we trust as we are charged to do in Deuteronomy 6:6-7:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the way, when you lie down and when you get up.”

Some of you may be wondering, but how do I serve? I don't have any skills that seem to be needed. I have physical limitations. My schedule is too full. My kids are too young. I have some ideas for you, too!

How to create a service opportunity:

- 1) **Observe** Pay attention to who is around you and circumstances that you regularly see where help might be needed. List them if it's helpful.
- 2) **Think** Think about what help might be needed by the people and circumstances you regularly encounter. Think about some things that you/your family are skilled to do that match up with what you observed. Think about limitations you might have with abilities, schedule, or age and factor those in. Also consider if the ways you think will help will be helpful or might hinder the persons receiving the service in some way. Just because we think it's helping

doesn't mean it always is.

(Sometimes we simply need to ask!)

Plan Make a plan for how you might help. Include your whole family in brainstorming; you might be surprised what you can come up

- 3) with when your heads are all working together. Schedule it. Make arrangements with recipients if necessary. Buy supplies. [If you're looking for a way to fund a project, check out local resources, or if you're a Thrivent member, consider using an Action Team grant.]
- 4) **Serve** Go and serve!

Here are some ideas for how we can talk about faith and point our families to God as we serve others:

† **Why serve?**—Acts of service are acts of love. We are to “love because God first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) Our service is a demonstration of the love that we are showing to others from the outpouring of love God has given to us. Any time you serve, whether it be those in your household or those in your community of great need or anyone else, be sure to talk about your why.

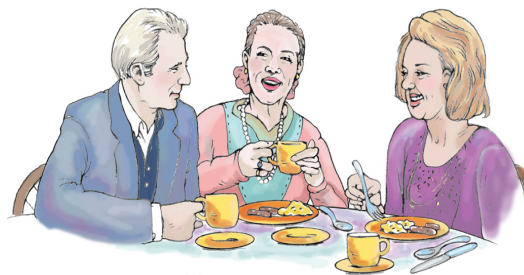
† **Serve whom?**—We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. The Bible does prescribe some people we are specifically to serve (widows, orphans, believers in financial need, etc.) but when we love our neighbors as ourselves, we are reminded that we can show love through our actions to anyone that we encounter. Challenge yourselves to come up with different people you can serve individually or together as a family.

† **How to serve well**—Serving well has a small amount to do with using our skills to meet needs and a large amount to do with how we execute our service. Intentionality is imperative. Each time we serve, we should remember who we are as God's children, who the recipients of our service are as God's children also, and why we serve them with God's love in whatever way we do. God always looks

at the heart, so our attitudes as we serve are also critical. Serving isn't just about making ourselves feel better, it's about making sure our neighbor's needs are met and our neighbors get to see the love of Christ through our actions. Talk about these things as a family before you serve and after you complete any service activities.

(Keep in mind: our family in our house are our closest neighbors, so sometimes acts of service are happening daily to them. Those likely need less planning but the same amount of intentionality and love.)

Consider how you and your family can serve together. Talk about giving of yourselves to bring Christ to the situation and the people you are serving, then go! Godspeed.



ALONE BUT, NOT ALONE:

A group designed to enjoy life while single and/or widowed.

by Gail Kleimola

At the last meeting of the Alone Group, Kay Burger and Julie Wyatt agreed to take over the leadership of the group. They seemed very excited and ready to dig in and plan activities. I am very happy to turn it over to them.

In the future, the Group hopes to have their schedule of activities and opportunities information both in the bulletin and the *Reflection* newsletter.

CALM

by Peggy Bennitt

Calm can be very elusive in this busy and chaotic world. My own life has been tilted off-center for many months with our home improvement project, and an elder-care crisis with my mother. I find myself craving time alone in His Word, and the desire to dump all my burdens at His feet is a desperate urge. But... that's the easy part. The hard part is leaving the problems there for Him to deal with once I drop them off.

Even when I try to dive back into His Word for a shot of calm or just escape with a good book, the stresses and worries tend to creep in the back door of my brain, buzzing with the need to be resolved.



Sunday,
April 5,
2020, 9:20-
10:20 a.m.
Redeemer
Activity
Center
(Gym)

Come
experience

Easter in a new way! This event is designed for all generations to come together to journey through the Easter account, have fun, and be reminded of the awesome gift of Easter. We will need volunteers and donations to make this event a success. Please mark your calendar and keep reading the newsletter and bulletin for more information to come.

The old Beatles song, “Let It Be” pops into mind, and I wonder why I can’t just let it be and let Him? These “whispered words of wisdom, let it be,” should be a mantra that automatically begins to play when stress or problems of any kind beset us. So why doesn’t it? Why do we keep taking them back over and over again?

“Instead of letting difficulties draw you into worrying, try to view them as setting the scene for My glorious intervention,” (*Jesus Is Calling*, by Sarah Young). Good advice! So why don’t we follow it? We would experience so much more calm in our lives if we could learn to do this.



C. S. Lewis said, “All this trying leads up to the vital moment at which you turn to God and say, ‘You must do this. I

can’t.’” And our precious Lord answers, “...in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world,” John 16:33.

If we let Him, God will be our “calm in the storm.” If we just “let it be” and let God be God, He will be our calm and safe port in the storms of life. Let’s try to leave our problems at the feet of Jesus and enter the calm peacefulness that only He can give.



TOPIC FOR MARCH

The topic for March is *Tempest*. The *Reflection* newsletter is meant to help reflect our Lord in the daily life and actions of His people, particularly through our activities and worship services here at Redeemer. Being able to leave the *tempest* of daily life, even for just an hour or two each week at Sunday worship, is a blessing denied many in our world today.

Please consider sharing ways that we can encourage others and share God’s gifts through articles for this newsletter. Invite other people to be part of an experience that reveals our Lord actively at work in our world today.

Send articles or information to bennitt49@yahoo.com, by the 15th of each month, to be included in the following month’s newsletter. Articles on the topics of Family, Prayer, and Outreach are always welcome. Your suggestions and insights help to make this publication a helpful informational resource for our members.

Faith Step: *Sometimes Jesus heals by removing the pain; sometimes He stays by us as we wait it out. Always, He gives us strength to endure.*



Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat****2020**

1

2 Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. All Bible Studies 9:30—10:20 a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m. Builders 4:00—6:00 p.m.	3 Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	4 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	5 Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Ministry Council 7:00 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	6 Community Prayer 7:00—8:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Class 2:00 p.m. Craig's Bible Class 2:30 p.m. in S. A. Bethel Bible Class 6:30—9:00 p.m.	7	8
9 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. All Bible Studies 9:30—10:20 a.m. Praise Service— C 10:30 a.m.	10 Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	11 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	12 Quilters 9:00 a.m.-12:00p.m. Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	13 Community Prayer 7:00—8:00 a.m. Redeemer Women 10:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Class 2:00 p.m. Craig's Bible Class 2:30 p.m. in S. A. Bethel Bible Class 6:30—9:00 p.m.	14	15
16 Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. All Bible Studies 9:30—10:20 a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m.	17 Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	18 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	19 Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	20 Community Prayer 7:00—8:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Class 2:00 p.m. Craig's Bible Class 2:30 p.m. in S. A. Bethel Bible Class 6:30—9:00 p.m.	21	22
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