

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

HOME

As for **me**
and **my house,**
we will **serve the Lord.** Joshua 24:15



JUNE 2022 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 15 ISSUE 6

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

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

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

WE'RE NOT HOME YET!

by Pastor Zach Holdorf

While in Colorado camping with my father, a storm popped up overnight. Our tent failed us. It didn't just leak. It allowed a "river" to run through it. My dad was blessed because he slept on the air mattress. At least he had a raft if the tent gave way and the "river" carried him down stream. I, on the other hand, slept on the ground with a sleeping bag. The sleeping bag did not do an adequate job defending me from the torrential flow of water that rushed through the tent.

That night, I had never longed for home so much. I wasn't even close to home, though, and needed to press on with the trip, dry out, and try to have fun with the time I had left. Home would come, but it wasn't quite yet.

The Apostle Paul talks about living in tents and longing for home in 2 Corinthians 5:1-10. He writes, "*For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in*



this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a

guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

In this Scripture passage, Paul equates our bodies to tents. Sometimes our bodies even act like tents. Sometimes our bodies creak and groan. They hurt and parts fail. They

experience many things often, the difficulties of this world that would leave us longing for home. Yet, Paul reminds us that while we are here on earth, we are not home.

Even though we are not yet home, we do have One that awaits us. We have eternity prepared for us because of Jesus' death and resurrection! When Jesus comes again, He will make all things new. We will experience the resurrection and will be fully restored. No more pain, suffering, sickness, or death. We will be with Jesus in the new heaven and the new earth. All this is recorded by the Apostle John in Revelation 21 and 22.

Since we are not home yet, what are we to do? Well, Paul helps with this! We are to be of good courage, walk by faith, and live according to God's Word. Even though we are not home yet, we have the Lord leading and guiding us all the way. When we finally arrive at home, it will truly be glorious! John writes in Revelation 21:1-3, *"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God.'"*

Amen!



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Dave and Betty Lathrop 06/20/1964

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Glen Speed	06/01
Daniel Herrick	06/02
Connor Mogle	06/02
Kris Nowak	06/02
Heidi Gannon	06/07
Chris Walsh	06/07
Jack Holdorf	06/09
Elmer Mueller	06/10
Robert Kellogg	06/11
Josh Kuntz	06/11
Adriel Macomber	06/11
Liam Heffner	06/12
Donna Smith	06/13
Peggy Bennitt	06/15
Roberta Kellogg	06/20
Maria Boyle	06/21
Danielle Speed	06/21
Brianna Fall	06/22
Mardi Bartlett	06/25
Tony Mogle	06/25
Wanda Williams	06/25
Cynthia Ott	06/28
Levi Bahr	06/30
Phyllis Tschabrun	06/30

UPCOMING EVENTS

😊 **Sunday, June 12: Fellowship Potluck and a Service Event:** Bring a dish to share so we can enjoy some good food, spend time together as one church body and participate in a fun service event.

😊 **Sunday, June 19: Father's Day!**

😊 **Saturday, June 25: 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.**

😊 **June 20-23: Vacation Bible School!**
VBS: Evening Vacation Bible School from 5:15—7:45 p.m.

😊 **June 23, Thursday: Vacation Bible School Family Picnic!** Last day of VBS wrap-up and picnic from 5:15—7:45 p.m.

😊 **July 14-16: Annual Redeemer Rummage Sale.** Hours for the sale are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and 9:00 until 12 noon on Saturday. **NO ELECTRONICS, PLEASE.** Only clean, gently used items will be accepted for the sale. Books, clothes, furniture, houseware items, jewelry, toys, etc.



Vacation Bible School 2022 will be offered on June 20-23 in the evenings from 5:15 to 7:45 p.m. Children ages 4-10 are welcome to come and participate in the “Monumental” programming, and all others are invited to volunteer.



Join us for crafts, games, and a family picnic on the last day. Children will learn that God loves them no matter what, and is with them at all times and in all places. Find out some of God's big surprises, and His mighty power and love for us. Four fun days of learning and a Family Picnic on Thursday, June 23.

Details and registration are available on our website at redeemerjackson.org.

HOME

by Peggy Bennett

Home, to me, is sanctuary: a place of peace and safety from the world and all its pressures. I've always tried to keep our home stress-free and as comfortable and welcoming as possible: an escape from burdens of unfulfilled expectations and unrealistic demands and dreams common in our world. I've always felt that home should be a place where you are accepted as you are and loved for that same reason. Home really is where the heart is, and unconditional love is the foundation for that acceptance and love.

That's how I imagine heaven to be, as well. Loved without qualifications. Accepted as I am. Recognized as a special and necessary part of that integral home and family of faith. To me, home and family are one and the same: inseparable.

When I step from this home into my heavenly home, the only thing that will change will be the imperfection of this earthly world into the perfection of our heavenly home. Isn't that amazing! God promises a new heaven and a new earth. I'm thinking by that He infers the new earth will be as He originally planned: without sin—perfect. Doesn't that give you a thrill of excitement? I can hardly wait! All the wonders of this world, only perfect. Our relationship with our Father—perfect. Perfect knowledge of what we should do and the wonder of praising and serving with Jesus, unlimited by aging or doubt of whether we are worthy or not, capable or not. A perfect home: accepted and loved.

Home is where the heart is, and if

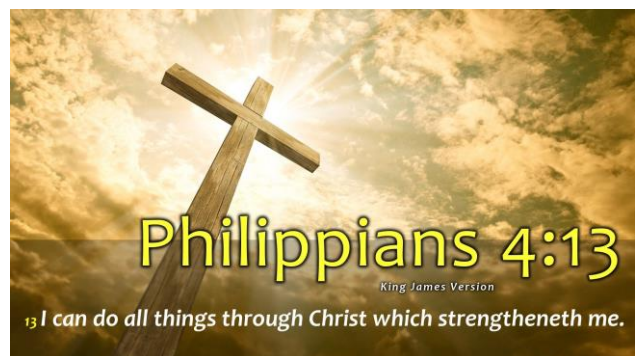
our hearts are with Jesus, we will be too.



TOPIC FOR JULY

Through the *Redeemer Reflection* newsletter, our goal is to share what God is leading us as a Faith Family 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 July is **AGE**.

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.



DEAR GOD!

Sometimes it's easier to find fault with the people around me than it is to find reasons to praise them. But when I stop and think of all the ways in which You encourage me (even during those times



when I'm making mistakes left and right), I realize how much we all need to be uplifted and carried along from time to time.

Remind me of the power of a positive word, and grant me the kindness and

sensitivity to give sincere encouragement whenever and wherever it's needed. Lord, hear my prayer.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

The "world" is a place of swirling winds and gales that seek pointedly to arrest the walk of the Christian. Quotations around the word "world" above signal the system of the world, or that which is set against the life, the mission, and goals of God for His people. There is a place of safety. It is the place that calls us to the most security, our home. But in this brief meditation, I am not referring to our physical homes where we spend the greatest portion of time. Neither am I alluding to the safety of our home, the church, although there is great safety there.

Today, rather, I am referring to the safe "home" of right belief. And the necessary precursor, which is right doctrine or teaching. There is safety behind the closed doors of minds and hearts that have received the Living Truth of the Word of God. Notice: the doors are closed, the minds and hearts are still open, functioning well, and pulsing with the growth and wisdom that God's truth, and only God's truth, affords.

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps. 119:105).

"Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word" (Ps. 119:107b). "I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts" (Ps. 119: 100). The Word of our God, and its correct interpretation and proclamation, are what keep us safe. And it is not a safety in retreat, but for the grand purposes of God, amid a lost and ever-darkening world. Yes, that very world referred to before that seeks to put out the Lord's lamp and light. But the truth of the Word of God, as expressed by the prophet Jeremiah, is no playground of sweet platitudes. Jeremiah cries out with the voice of God saying, *"Is not my word like a fire?" says the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?" (Jer. 23:29)*

The days in which we live call for not just hearing the word of the LORD, but a huge dose of discerning the state of the world by rigorous filtering through the Scriptures. Paul writes to young pastor Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15: *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* This exhortation is indeed written to a pastor. But that very lesson would be passed on by a faithful teacher to those under his care. In right

teaching and right understanding, there is that safe place. It is the place to which we may and must return as our days close and then begin anew. It is the warm, blazing hearth of the truth that Christ Jesus died to give us, and which grants us light and renewal as we rest near its glowing.

“There’s no place like home,” so goes the wise old saying. And spiritually speaking, according to the focus of this meditation, there is safety in the truth. That is our home. There is no place like it. Come in and find safety behind closed doors.



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

by Debbie Rockwell

It's that time of year again, so clean out your closets and attics. Empty the garage and basement of any unused items that are clean and in good repair. Redeemer's Rummage Sale is coming up.

This year's sale will be held on July 14 through 16. Hours for the sale are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and 9:00 until 12 noon on Saturday. Proceeds will go to St Luke's Clinic of Jackson.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome and needed.

Questions? Please contact Debbie Rockwell or Stephanie Herrick.



CHURCH PICNIC September 11th

by Marilyn Rockwell

Mark your calendars—September 11 for the return of the CHURCH PICNIC. We're setting pandemics, diseases, and distractions aside to celebrate Unity as people of God doing life together in this time and place.

I am looking for help and ideas to make our picnic memorable and fun for all ages! Since the theme is Unity,

games that require working together as a team like Corn Hole, Ladder Ball, and softball come to mind. Other fun participation games could be Kickball, Duck-Duck-Goose, Water Balloon Toss, just to name a few. Or stretch your minds to remember other games you enjoyed as a kid. Kids of all ages: Give suggestions or get your parents and grandparents involved and add other games to this list...and volunteer to help with one or several games that you like to play. Bring your ball mitts and baseball equipment, and a passing dish to share for the food table.

Yup! And there will be hot dogs and hamburgers grilling, too. Watch the *Reflection* newsletter and the weekly *News 'N Notes* for more information. Hope you'll all plan on being a part of this revival of the Annual Redeemer Church Picnic.

Contact Marilyn Rockwell to volunteer and/or get more information on how you can be involved.

LEAD IN AT HOME

by Kimber Walsh

Lead in. We've heard it before. We've been asked to do it before. We want to seize the opportunities we have before us and go for it.

God has called each of us to lead our families in discipleship at home—to preach and teach the Bible to our family (Ephesians 6:4); to be a discipleship center (Genesis 18:19); to impress the hearts of the next generation with a love for God (Deuteronomy 6:5-7); to pass on faith (Psalm 78:1-8; Deuteronomy 32:44-47; Ephesians 6:4); and to teach spiritual lessons to our children (Proverbs 1:8, Proverbs 7:1, Proverbs 23:23-26).

We began looking at family worship more intentionally after hosting

Dr. P.C. Mathew from *Urban India Ministries* in 2019. He taught us about becoming missional families, and one element of that is becoming worshipping



families. We identified six areas that we can be utilizing to worship at home (these are put forward by Dr. Rob Rienow of *Visionary Family Ministries*)—Bible reading, singing, activities, catechism, discussion, and prayer.

Individuals and families can “Lead In” to the calling God has for us to learn and teach the faith and His Word in our homes. The goal is to follow God’s design for discipleship happening at home first, then reinforce it at church. Imagine families who previously didn’t know what to do together in the area of discipleship, jumping in together and worshipping regularly at home. Imagine families bonded as they could only be through the Word of God. Imagine kids



during Sunday morning worship excitedly exclaiming, “My dad taught me about this!” “We did this in family worship!” “We

talked about that this week!” Imagine adults already digging into the texts for Sunday and being all the more encouraged by what the pastor is preaching and teaching on those texts instead of entering “cold.”

Each week, resources to worship at home incorporating all six areas around the lectionary texts and allowing for faith conversations prior to each Sunday’s corporate worship service are available in the entrance to the

sanctuary (near the weekly News & Notes) or by signing up on our website to have resources come directly to your inbox.

5 THINGS TO TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT GAMING SAFELY

Excerpts from: www.imom.com/5-things-to-teach-your-kids-about-gaming/ by Anna Brink

I watched my second grader chatting with someone on a teacher-approved online game—one we paid money for. “Who are you talking to?” I asked her, thinking it was a classmate. “I don’t know,” she said. “Just some person playing.”

Eek! Just some person? This was a wake-up call for me; I had let down my guard on games I thought were “safe.” But let’s get real. If they’re online, no games are truly safe. The thing is, we can’t look over our kids’ shoulders all the time. These games aren’t going [away] and a lot of kids use them to socialize. So let’s keep them as safe as possible with these 5 things to teach your kids about gaming safely.

1. Players who chat are not always kids your age.

One of the most important things to teach your kids about gaming is that “CutiePie999” might not actually be a cutie pie. That young-sounding screen name might be connected to an adult or even be computer-generated. Quick chats pop up in order to share information, gain resources, or just be social. However, chats can take a turn for the worse really quickly. In-game

bullying, bad language, and even **predators can pop up at any moment.** Check the settings on your child’s devices, as well as within each game. Set it up so your kids can chat **only** with people they know in real life. And get them off the headset so you can hear what others are saying.



2. It’s easy to become a screen zombie.

...[Have your kids] take breaks so they don’t become screen zombies! Too much screen time with no breaks changes their demeanor. They become irritable and hyped-up, crying or yelling at the game, or simply stop paying attention to the world around them...

Force your child to take breaks every 30 to 60 minutes, eliminate snacks when gaming, and when you can, choose games that require movement.

3. The world is fake, but the money is real.

Have you heard of “freemium” games? These are games like *Fortnite* that are free to download **but** loaded with invitations for in-game purchases that promise to enhance the experience. With a tap or two, you’ve got a charge on your credit card. And while that stinks, the real problem may be a disconnect in the child’s perception of money... The virtual gaming world is unreal in every way but this one—**the money is real.** Again, the settings on the device or within the game will allow you to control these purchases, but don’t forget to **educate your child in the money matters of the real world.**

4. Watch for sneaky ads.

Let's say you approve a game your child wants, even play with him or her for a while to make sure it's age-appropriate, and then a few minutes later, an ad pops up. Aside from being annoying, some of these ads are not age-appropriate. For example, the **fine print in the app store** for a game that is for ages 9+ says "may contain cartoon, fantasy, or realistic violence, and infrequent or mildly mature suggestive, or horror-themed content which may not be suitable for children under the age of 9."

Oh, so it's OK for my child to watch some cartoon gushing blood [or with inappropriate adult images, male or female] as long as it's "infrequent?" I don't think so. The only way to avoid this is to read the details under the ratings. Go the extra mile to check out the ads your child is being exposed to, and when possible, choose games that have no pop-up ads.

5. Be on the lookout for signs of addiction.

Even if you had no screen time boundaries in place, there are kids who wouldn't become addicted. But ***some kids are more prone to gaming addictions than others***. Be on the lookout for precursors [signs of addiction], like extreme emotional shifts that center around gaming, withdrawal symptoms when not playing, a preoccupation with a game (when your child talks about nothing else), poor personal hygiene, physical problems like neck pain and headaches, isolation, or declining interest in school or sports. Be proactive about game addiction by setting up boundaries for your child.

Questions To Start Conversations with Your Kids:

- ♥ Is there a responsibility around the house you think you're ready for?
- ♥ What is a good habit that you have?
- ♥ What are three things you would like to learn how to do?
- ♥ What is something that makes our family unique?
- ♥ How do you feel when you're losing at your favorite video game?
- ♥ What's your favorite way to play? Games, crafts, sports, building...?
- ♥ How do you see people act when they've been on screens/games for a long time?
- ♥ Do you think it's important that people are different from each other? Why?
- ♥ Why do you think adults make rules for kids?
- ♥ Who is someone you know who gives good advice?
- ♥ Who is the happiest older person you know? Who's the funniest? The nicest?
- ♥ What is one of your favorite family memories?

NOTE: These types of questions will help you connect and get a better idea of how s(he) is feeling, or any concerns that might be worrying your child.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Praise Service 9:30 a.m.	Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	Quilters 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Coffee With Pastor 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Divine Service-C 8:00 a.m. Praise Service-C 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Potluck 11:00 a.m.	Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	Reflection NL Deadline Today	Coffee With Pastor 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Praise Service 9:30 a.m. 	Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	Quilters 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Coffee With Pastor 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m. VBS Family Picnic 5:15 p.m.		Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m.
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 20—23 5:15—7:45 p.m.						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Divine Service-C 8:00 a.m. Praise Service-C 9:30 a.m.	Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.		Coffee With Pastor 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.		C—Denotes Communion Services