REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS





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Redeemer <u>*Reflection*</u> Newsletter

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

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

AGE OF DASH by Pastor Zach Holdorf

When was the last time you looked at a headstone in a cemetery? Two significant dates are given on a headstone. The first, the date of birth, which typically is a joyous occasion celebrated throughout one's life. The second, the date of death. With this date, joyous emotions are exchanged for sorrow and sadness. A lot can be understood when looking at these

dates. For instance, you can learn what era the person lived in and may recall historical moments that were experienced.

As an example, at my previous congregation I had a lady who was born in 1918 and died in 2021. She was born in a pandemic and died in a pandemic. With those dates, you can gather a general understanding of all the historical events that took place in her life. It's quite interesting to think about.

There is something else on a headstone that often gets overlooked. It's the "dash" in between the date of birth and the date of death. That dash



captures a person's whole life. All the moments, experiences, joys and struggles, encounters, relationships, are wrapped up in one horizontal line. The dash. for a stranger. is not easy to figure out unless you meet a family or friend of the deceased. However. the dash is not insignificant. Next time you look at a headstone of someone you don't know, I'm sure vou will now wonder

what their "dash" is all about. Well, if you are reading this article, you are currently in your "dash." We do not know when our dash will end.



Regardless, we are not dead yet, and our date of death has not been etched on our headstone. This means that we have the blessed opportunity to enjoy the remainder of our days, seeking to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:30-31).

As we seek to live out the remainder of our days loving the Lord and others, may we ever be reminded of the hope to come. After that date of death, there is an eternity with the Lord for all who believe. As the author of Hebrews writes, "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" (Hebrews 6:19). We can take heart and enjoy time in the dash, knowing and trusting that we will be with the Lord in the age to come.

In Christ, Pastor Zach

GOD OF MY LIFE,



How often I have turned to You through the years. How faithful a Friend You have proven to be. I could never hope to find a more kind and true companion. I see now that life passes quickly and that the old age I

never imagined would come to me is coming. But it does not frighten me, Lord, because You are here. I look forward to the coming years, I look forward to growing older and wiser still. For the wiser I become, the more I understand Your ways and the more I grow to love You. Remain with me always, dear God, and I will delight in each day You give me. Amen.

A WORD OF HOPE from President Maier

"A Word of Hope" by Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier first appeared on the Michigan District, LCMS blog (michigandistrict.org/blog) on May 31, 2022. Used with permission.

https://michigandistrict.org/compassion/aword-of-hope/

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is a struggle to write another statement upon yesterday's [May 25, 2022] news of 19 elementary schoolaged children and teachers who were killed in a mass shooting in Texas. Some of my COP (Council of Presidents) brothers have done so more eloquently than I, and soon I will also have you read Texas District President Michael Newman's letter to all of us letting us know how we can help. Most everything seems meaningless to write or say because these acts of violence are so outrageously evil.

Just last week, President Chris Wicher of the Eastern District informed us of the racially motivated shooting that took the lives of ten individuals at the Buffalo grocery store. Now that headline is pushed aside, and Texas is in view. I sincerely pray that we don't ever—God forbid—callously look at evil and violence and horror ... and in any way get used to this.

President John Denninger of the Southeastern District is absolutely

correct when he writes that, the "only words that speak into the deepest darkness are God's words. The Spirit prompted Jeremiah to write words that describe the reality of what we feel. Take a moment and read his words of broken-hearted lament in *Lamentations 3*. As you read them ...



siblings who sit at kitchen tables staring at a now-empty chair.

- Allow your heart to break for little lives that are scarred for life
- Let your laments rise up with all of those who are adjusting to a Lamentations 3:1-20 reality for their life's story."

Friends, even God's Word gives permission to acknowledge that hope died: "So I say, 'my endurance has perished; so has my hope from the Lord"" (Lamentations 3:18).

After twenty verses of hopeless complaint, one word stands out like no other: "yet." "Yet...this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail."

When we have no words to say, God speaks into our shattered silence. With that little word, the Holy Spirit brings a glimmer of hope to Jeremiah, to me, to you. In the middle of hopeless ruin, God plants this powerful Word of light.

"Yet" is the women seeing the stone rolled away from the tomb! "Yet" is Jesus speaking to the disciples: "Peace be with you." "Yet" is the hug you give to all those who are broken-hearted today. "Yet" is the turnaround word. We are the "yet" people. We are people who call to mind God's great love and many compassions that never fail. We are *People of Hope*.



The LORD is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD

(Lamentations 3:24–26).

The Lord is sending you and me to bring hope again. On the basis of this little "yet," this familiar [hymn] verse was written:

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee, Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not As Thou has been Thou forever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

My friends, this is the moment to hear God's "yet." This is the time to sing the songs of Zion! (Psalm 137) This is the time to speak our credo: "I believe in God the Father Almighty!" "I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son!" "I believe in the Holy Spirit!"

"I believe in the resurrection and the life everlasting!"

This is the time to remember Jesus' words: "As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you" (John 20:21)

Please read President Mike Newman's letter carefully (following) to better understand how we can pray and help. May God have mercy.

Sincerely,

Pastor David P. E. Maier, President Michigan District, LCMS

PRESIDENT MIKE NEWMAN'S LETTER:

And He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true" (Revelation 21:5).

Dear fellow servants of Jesus,

On this eve of the Ascension of our Lord, we hold to the promise of our returning Savior who will make all things new. We groan in the wake of the devastating loss in Uvalde, Texas, and we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Your prayers have been, and continue to be, of the utmost importance as we draw near to the throne of grace with confidence, finding mercy and grace to help in times of need (Hebrews 4:16).



The people of Uvalde are being blessed and sustained by your prayers.

How else can you help?

Financial donations are key.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Uvalde has indicated that this is the best way to help at this time. 100% of every gift will go to help with the many needs

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families and victims are experiencing. Trinity Lutheran Church in Uvalde is partnering with the Texas District to receive and distribute these donations. You can find a donation link and information at txlcms.org/help-foruvalde/.

What about other needs?

A member of Trinity in Uvalde is a lead school counselor. She is actively coordinating family care and indicates that an abundance of <u>mental health</u> <u>professionals</u> are on site. No additional counselors are needed at this time. If a change takes place, we will send an update.

As of today, 2,500 people were standing in line to <u>donate blood</u> in Uvalde. The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center is booked with a full appointment schedule through Saturday. The generosity and thoughtfulness are blessings.



Lutheran Church Charities has dispatched a team of comfort dogs and their handlers to Uvalde. These gentle servants are bringing consolation to the grieving and traumatized. We praise God for our Texas churches and churches around the nation that stand

ready with this wonderful ministry to help in times of need.

Concordia Publishing House *Gospel Outreach* is providing free grief support resources to Trinity Lutheran Church in Uvalde to be distributed to community and congregation members in need.

Texas District Emergency Management Director Julie Tucker has been working with agencies to provide needs for first responders and community residents. Trinity Lutheran in Uvalde has already housed four Salvation Army workers as they provide food for first responders.

As you can see, the people of Trinity Lutheran Church in Uvalde, Pastor Mark Tews, the Texas District family, and ministries of the LCMS are joining together to shine Jesus' light during this dark and difficult time. Your



donations and ongoing prayers will bring great blessings. I will be sure to share updates on emerging needs via our social media platforms and through other district communication streams.

Thank you for your compassionate hearts and kind action to bless the hurting in Jesus' name.

Walking in faith and prayer with you, Rev. Michael W. Newman, President Texas District, LCMS



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE July 14 through 16 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.

Last year, many people helped to do set-up/tear-down, organizing and sorting donated items, pricing items, pick-up and delivery of articles, and so on. Please consider lending your helping hands this year to support this fundraising event again.

This year's sale will be held July 14 through 16. Hours for the sale are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on both Thursday and Friday, and 9:00 until 12 noon on Saturday. Proceeds will go to St Luke's Clinic of Jackson. As in the past, all donated items should be gently used items, clean, and in good working order.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome and needed.

The Schedule for the week of the Rummage Sale, July 11—July 16, is as follows:

Set up for Sale, and drop off items to be donated—Monday through Wednesday, July 11—July 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.

Rummage Sale—Thursday, July 14 and Friday, July 15—from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 16—from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Questions? Please contact Debbie Rockwell or Stephanie Herrick.



Sunday, July 10: Fellowship Potluck. 11 a.m., after the second Worship Service. Bring a passing dish to share, if you're able. Everyone is welcome.

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

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Saturday. *NO ELECTRONICS, PLEASE.* Only clean, gently used items will be accepted for the sale. Books, clothes, furniture, houseware items, jewelry, toys, etc.

Saturday, July 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**.

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.

Sunday, September 11: Church Picnic. After the second worship service in the Pavilion. Hamburgers and hot dogs provided and grilled by expert volunteers. Bring a passing dish to share. Games will commence after the meal. Everyone is welcome!

THROUGH THE AGES

by Kimber Walsh, CFLE

Does your family have any stories that get passed down through the ages? We don't tell stories about the mundane daily things, but stories about something special or memorable that happens. Maybe they are stories of immigration, stories of love and marriage, or maybe they are stories of caution and hardship. But there are other stories that we are charged to include in our arsenal, stories of God's deeds and stories about God in our lives.

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the wonders that He has done. Psalm 78:4

6 Reasons to Tell Stories about God's Deeds Through the Ages

- 1. Stories draw out emotions They make you laugh. They make you cry. They pull you into the full experience and allow you to feel what those in the story were feeling.
- 2. Stories help us relate We relate with those who experienced the story firsthand in a deeper way. We also connect and relate to each other in a more meaningful way around stories that we share.



3. Stories help us answer questions Life gives us a lot of questions, and stories can help us answer some of them—questions about God and us and the state of the world.

- Stories help explain why a person is the way s/he is
 Life experiences tell us a lot about why a person is the way s/he is and how that relates to the way God is.
- People love stories
 Everyone enjoys a good story.
 (See the list above). They are thrilling and compelling and we love to hear them again and again.
- 6. God's deeds are stories that really happened! The stories of God's deeds are not fictional. These stories really happened to real people in the real world in real history. That makes them even more meaningful.

God is, of course, in the ordinary moments of our days. But we also need to consider how He has been at work in special, stand-out, and memorable ways in our lives and tell those stories to our children and grandchildren so that



Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come. (Psalms 71:18 NIV)

every age will know of His praiseworthy deeds in our families. This lifelong journey with a personal and almighty Savior is a story that's important. It's a story that is ongoing. It's a story that never ends. How will you tell it? Perhaps as you sit at home and walk along the way; when you lie down and when you get up? How will your story of God's deeds last through the ages?

- Why do you think God puts emphasis on His followers passing down the stories about His "praiseworthy deeds" to the next generation?
- What kind of spiritual legacy were you given by your parents and grandparents? What impact does this have on your ability to pass on a godly legacy to your children and grandchildren?

IN THE GOOD OL' SUMMERTIME

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

Make sure you save the date of **Sunday**, **August 14, 2022**. Of course, for us, who are a part of the Redeemer family, we will gather that morning for worship. But 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. Perhaps

Perhaps growing up you had the summer experience of an Ice Cream Social



or at least a trip to the neighborhood parlor for a double-dip cone. What about those lazy afternoons or evenings at a local park or beachfront and perhaps a bandstand nearby? Music, family and friends, and warm breezes all made those days a joy and a joy to remember.

Well, on August 14, 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 oldfashioned Ice Cream Social. It will feature, in our pavilion, the artistry of the award-winning Capital City Brass Band.

The Capital City Brass Band recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, and over those years the band has garnered high praise and 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.

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*, selections from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*, a solo performance or two and a favorite of our Pastor Zach, selections from *Band of Brothers* by film composer Michael Kamen. Music of Strauss, Wagner, Bach, and Elgar will also be performed.

It's a great program and promises to be a wonderful afternoon that will take us back to those great summers of the past. The Ice Cream Social begins at 2:30 p.m., with the concert beginning at 3:00. 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.

AGE AND AGING

by Peggy Bennitt

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 4:16

We hear it all the time: "Age is just a number." Or, "My age does not define

me or who I am." Well, I beg to differ with those who say that. I guess they've never been the age *I am*, because age **is not** just a number. It's a reality. And, my age **does** define me, or maybe a better statement would be "age is redefining or maybe *refining* me."

Redefining: changing the meaning of something or making people think about something in a new or different way.

Refining: making something pure or improving it, especially by removing unwanted material; a process toward perfection.

Age affects each of us in different ways. Some of us embrace each new stage as we age, accepting the process and the improvements that come through the wisdom and knowledge gained through those refining distinctions. Others let age redefine us, which can be either good or bad, depending on our outlooks and what or



if we learned from the past. Do you have dreams and plans for yourself and your life *after* retirement? C.S. Lewis said, "You are never too old to set a new goal or dream a new dream."

Or are you one who imagines

that life after work will just evolve as you age? Dwight L. Moody once said, "Preparation for old age should begin *not later than* one's teens. A life which is empty of purpose until 65 will not suddenly become filled on retirement."

Do you envision your life as God's plan for you, or do you fuss and fight against every twist and turn along the way that might mean change? No matter what age you are now, God willing, you will get older. We all age, and with that aging will come changes...constantly. C. S. Lewis gave this clever illustration of aging with God in charge:

"Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense.

"What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought

of throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra



floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself."

God builds with eternity in mind. He always thinks big; plans toward excellence.



It helps if we realize and accept the value of age. With age, we acquire more knowledge and wisdom. We become more open to the magic of the miraculous, more accepting of the wonder of each new day, the glory of a



sunset, or the breath-taking miracle of a budding rose. A raging river or a meandering stream rippling with fish, adorned with scales of sparkling silver, gleaming brilliant bluegreen as with rare jewels,

should fill us with awe and reverence. As children we appreciated these wonders. As we age, I hope and pray we recall the surprise and joy of these amazing revelations of God's artistry and creativity.

Age should never be something we just "push through or endure" to get to the endgame of eternity. Life, with each age and stage, should be anticipated and embraced as the next step in God's *Big Picture* plan for this life. Actor William Holden once said, "Aging is an inevitable process. I surely wouldn't want to grow younger. The older you become, the more you know—your bank account of knowledge is much richer." In Job 12:12, the same idea comes through: *"With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding."* God's Word still speaks to us today, often with different voices. Our knowledge and wisdom are only enhanced as we grow older.

Think how many things you know of that improve with age—besides your parents and grandparents, of course? Maybe make a list, just to put things in perspective for yourself.

What Improves with Age:

- 1. Works of Art
- 2. Wine
- 3. Architecture
- 4. Friendships
- 5. Love
- 6. Knowledge
- 7. Jewelry
- 8. Collections of China
- 9. Furniture Styles

Can you think of others? Add to the list things that, in your estimation, improve with age—and then add why you think they do.

In what age or stage are you? What kind of house is God building you into? Will you limit Him to a small cottage? Or will you give Him free-range to build a mansion for Him to live in forever? He has the plans already drawn up. Will you let Him add on to the old structure?

...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. ~ Ephesians 2:19-22



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Art & Barb Knueppel	07/16/19 <mark>??</mark>
Sean & Leah Anderson	07/08/2000
Chris & Kimber Walsh	07/03/2015

JULY BIRTHDAYS

A. J. HUNTER SEE YA LATER!

by Peggy Bennitt

As we age, we say farewell with more frequency to friends who leave us to go Home to the Heavenly Father. "The



death of a beloved is an amputation," says C. S. Lewis. Just recently another dear friend, A. J. Hunter, left us, and I have no doubt that

he's with Jesus even as I write this. I've known A. J. for over 40 years and have many fond memories of him and our shared connection through Redeemer Church. He was an extremely generous man, but very private when it came to his donations of time, talents, and treasure. He was a great model for

humility in giving. He was in his element if he could be physically active in church work, and even in the fun things, he liked the more



energetic activities: church picnics, hayrides, canoe trips, and more. Working and upkeep around church was his forte, and we (Blair and I) got to know him well through years of working and playing together. I just talked to him a month or so ago, and we laughed together as we parted.

We'll laugh together again one day. I can hardly wait!



CHURCH PICNIC SEPTEMBER 11th

by Marilyn Rockwell

What happens in 2 ½ months? You're right! In about ten weeks, it will be September 11, the date of the church picnic. The theme is Unity. We're setting pandemics and distractions aside to celebrate Unity as people of God doing life together in this time and place.

Food will be plentiful and everyone should bring their favorite picnic food to share. And there will be hot dogs and hamburgers grilling, too. We'll have games for all ages and abilities. Bring your ball mitts and baseball equipment for a roaring ball game to round off a happy fun-filled day. 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.



Photos by: Blair Bennitt, Linda Tschabrun , and Kimber Walsh

Vacation Bible School 2022 was held June 20-23 in the evenings from 5:15 to 7:45 p.m. at Redeemer. Children ages 4-10 participated in "Monumental" learning and fun.



"Well off we went into the desert world of Monument Valley, Arizona. Our trail-trekkers learned first-hand that 'God loves you no matter what!' To which they all responded, 'Awesome God.'"

God's love for us is one of the most important ways that He shows us His



great power. Our young travelers learned that they never want to just keep God's love to themselves, but put



that love on display as they share it with others.

We served over 50 children just on the first night! Excellent volunteers helped with crafts, games, and a family



picnic to close out our adventure together. Children learned that God loves them no matter what, and is with them at all times and in all places. What a joy and comfort that is for us all!



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Only when we listen to God can we be free of the pull of the world.

Competition can also wear us down IF WE ALLOW IT. It's not God who would like us to drive the fanciest car, live in the swankiest house, have all the new electronic devices on the market, be full of self, or be in debt. If the world dictates and we choose to follow, we've followed OUR plan, not His invitation to just sit and bask. We miss out on so many blessings when we don't choose time to sit in the warmth of the *Son*shine.

WARMTH AND SONSHINE

by Nancy Bryant

Sometimes the demands of the world can become overwhelming. God calls us to come and sit with Him, but do we obey? Not always.

When summer is near, the most fulfilling part of the day can be to bask



in the warmth and enjoy the Son of God shining on us in the quiet. Put aside worries, cares, fears, and distractions.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
C—Denotes Communion Services	2 0 2 2	JU		Philipmartin.into	1	2
3 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Praise Service 9:30 a.m.	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	5 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	6	7 Coffee With Pastor 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	8	9
10 Divine Service—C 8:00 a.m. Praise Service—C 9:30 a.m. Potluck 11:00 a.m.		12 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. FOR RUMMAC ms for Sale in the		14 Coffee With Pastor 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m. RUN July 14-July		-6:00 p.m.
17 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Praise Service 9:30 a.m.	18 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m	19 <mark>Hour of Prayer</mark> 7:15 a.m.	20	21 Coffee With Pastor 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	22	23 Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m.
24 Divine Service—C 8:00 a.m. Praise Service 9:30 a.m. 31 Divine Service—C 8:00 a.m. Praise Service 9:30 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.	27 Quilters 9:00 a.m.—Noon	28 Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	29	30