

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LCMS

# EVERLASTING



JANUARY 2023 PUBLICATION  
VOLUME 16 ISSUE 1

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

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

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January 2023



### 2023 THEME VERSE FOR REDEEMER

by Pastor Zach Holdorf

*"So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming."*

Ephesians 4:11-14

The staff chose these verses as our theme for 2023 for a few reasons:

- 1) **Equipping the Saints**—We, as a staff, believe Christ has given us to you for the purpose of equipping you. We take that responsibility seriously and want to ensure that we are offering solid Biblical trainings and tools to you no matter your

stage of life or what circumstance you're facing. [We will be offering a new equipping ministry called "Grow & Go" in January. See that article following.]

- 2) **Unity**—There are so many ways that we may be divided—in our world and by our own sinful natures. It is imperative that we remain united in Christ. We have *one* Lord and *one* faith. We are each a part of God's family and need always walk together as such.

- 3) **Withstanding Deceit**—Finally, the deceit of the world is rampant, and we want each person to recognize it so that it can be withstood. Being grounded in the faith and in the knowledge of God will enable each of us to remain faithful no matter what is thrown at us.

So, in this New Year, join us as there will be ample opportunities to be equipped in the faith so that we, the Family of God at Redeemer, can carry out the mission Christ has given His Church.

Blessings,

*Redeemer Staff*

## EVERLASTING RENOWN

by Kimber Walsh, CFLE

*“Who is He who set His Holy Spirit among them, who sent His glorious arm of power to be at Moses’ right hand, Who divided the waters before them, to gain for Himself everlasting renown?”*  
Isaiah 63:11b-12

The parting of the Red Sea—the mighty act of God to deliver His people out of bondage—was an act that gained God “everlasting renown.” And so, I would think, would be the sending of His own Son; the mighty act of God in the incarnation to deliver His people out of the bondage of sin, death, and eternal damnation. Everlasting renown—to have God’s name be known forevermore because of His mighty act. As the renown of the Exodus has worn away, so has the renown of sending the Messiah, it seems.

I was struck this year by the number of Christmas cards I got from Christian families that had absolutely no message of Christ at all. The primary real estate of the card is dedicated to perfectly posed pictures, family updates, and the generic Christmas tree, snowman, or holly berries. All perfectly nice greetings, updates, and images, but Christmas greetings that don’t mention Christ? This is a wearing away of the renown of God’s name that *should* be everlasting. Especially among Christ followers. I’m left scratching my head and feeling convicted.

Too often, I also fail to maintain the renown of God. He is everlasting. His works are mighty and wonderful. May

we not just *know* it full well, but may we *make it known* to all we meet and in all we do!



### \*GROW & GO

We will be offering a new “whole Redeemer family” opportunity to **Grow** in your Biblical skills and knowledge & **Go** out into your daily life equipped to live as a Christian.

The first session’s theme is Faith Stories: Look What God Has Done. Hear faith stories from congregational members AND get tools for your faith walk.

Wednesdays, January 18, 25 and February 1 and 8 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Redeemer Activity Center (RAC—Gym)

\*Grow & Go more in the future with other themes and areas of focus still to come!

# **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

😊 **Thursday, January 5—Chancel Meeting** in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

😊 **Ongoing Thursday *Coffee with Pastor Bible Study*** at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. The book of **Revelation** is the focus for this study for the next several months. For those of you who can't make the Thursday class, it will also be offered on Sunday mornings and online.

😊 **Ongoing: Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.—Adult Bible Studies and Children and Youth Sunday School** Two adult classes offered: *Revelation* in the lower level Connection Room, and *Praying the Psalms* in the upper level library.

😊 **Wednesdays, *Grow & Go*—Beginning January 18:** January 18 and 25, and February 1 and 8 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Redeemer Activity Center (RAC—Gym). Faith tools for families.

😊 **Saturday, January 14—*It's a Lifestyle—Witnessing Conference***, from 9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m. in the lower level Connection Room. Registration forms are available in the narthex. \$15.00 includes lunch.

😊 **Thursday, January 19—LWML/Women's Ministry Meeting** at 10:00 a.m. in the lower level Connection Room.

😊 **Town Hall Meetings—Two options:** Sunday, January 22 at 11:30

a.m. **OR** Tuesday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. Come hear ideas and see some proposed plans for possible renovations to Redeemer's sanctuary. Bring your questions and come ready share your thoughts.

😊 **Saturday, January 28: Mobile Food Pantry** at Trinity from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Redeemer partners with Trinity downtown in this outreach to serve the community. We need and ask volunteers to **be there and available from 9:00 a.m. until noon.**

😊 **WORSHIP ARTS DAY, Friday, February 3** at 4:30 p.m. until Saturday, February 4 at 4:30 p.m. at CUAA campus. More information in article of the same name in this issue of the *Reflection*.

😊 **Theological Conference—Saturday, February 4, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lansing, Michigan.** Registration is \$25.00 general admission, and \$15.00 for students. Livestream is available. See article *THE WORD WORKS: BUILDING AN ETHIC OF BIBLE READING* in this issue for more information.

## **ON AND ON AND ON AND...**

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

I think that one of the great challenges of believing in the reality of heaven is that heaven is a place of the indescribably good. It's even difficult to write the last sentence because the words "indescribably good" aren't within our daily, common definitions. I recognize that this is a church newsletter and not a receptacle for

philosophy. But one of the things we, as Bible reading and believing people, must do is think hard. And think hard about challenging issues that the Scripture opens to us.

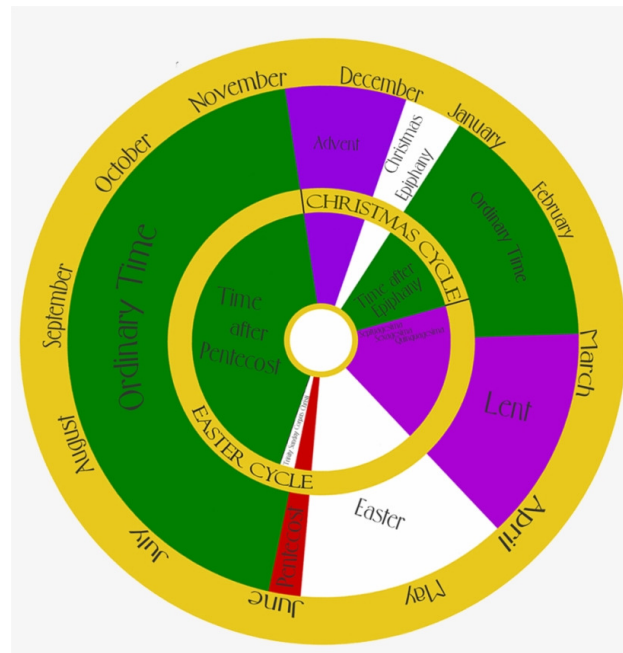
Listen to Moses: *“LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God”* (Psalm 90:1-2).

Psalms are often written in parallelism: one statement following another that expands, or contrasts, or defines the first statement. Here we can pair the idea of “all generations” with “everlasting.” Then there are passages like, *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”* (Genesis 1:1). Now there we have no statement regarding duration, but we do have the assumption that God is, and has always been.

Then there’s the difficulty believing in ineffable and unstoppable good because all we know is a world that is spoiled and increasingly dark. And our experience of it going on and on and on. Certainly, there could be nothing of the same duration that only houses and distributes blessing. And that with no blemishes. This is indeed one of those challenges we must think hard about. And think well about. We have come through the Advent season, then Christmas, Epiphany and on it goes. Oh, did I just hit on something? And perhaps something helpful?

Do you keep yourself abreast of where we are on the church calendar in any given season? While the beginning of the church year and the world’s marking of passing years don’t begin on the same date, the church calendar

affords us the ability to practice for heaven. Think of it this way: Everything



on the church calendar is good. And what do those good things do? They go on and on and on. It’s our “great rotation.” We’re not in heaven yet. Not everything we know is good. But we can practice the good that goes on forever because we have a “holy year” to walk through until Jesus takes us home.

Words in the Bible like “eternal” or “everlasting” reach beyond that which we regularly entertain in our limited thinking. But if we will apply that thinking to the One who is good, who has taken up human life for us, and who calls us on and on and on to His life; if we will let Him lead us through all the days and weeks and months of the church year, through the great rotation, we will have a taste of the incomparable good that awaits us all.

Practice makes perfect. No, in our lives, Jesus makes perfect. As the place He has made for us is perfect. Never-ending goodness is tough to grasp. Find where we are in the church year,

and walk it with Jesus. On and on and on. Put in some practice.

## UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Come hear ideas and see some plan proposals for possible renovation to Redeemer's sanctuary. Bring your questions and share your thoughts and concerns. Changes/modifications or new ideas and suggestions are encouraged at this time.

Two meeting options will be offered: Sunday, January 22 at 11:30 a.m. **OR** Tuesday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. Please come to one of the meetings and have a say in what comes next at Redeemer.

Above all else...Pray, Pray, Pray...for God's guidance for the best plans for Redeemer and what *He* has in store for us next. This is NOT about us, but all about *HIM*. Not what we will, but *His* will be done in this place.

Please be a part of this planning, with prayer being the key.

## WORSHIP ARTS DAY



**WHEN:** Friday, February 3 at 4:30 p.m. until Saturday, February 4 at 4:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Concordia University Ann Arbor  
4090 Geddes Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
United States

One of the greatest ways to impact our church is promoting the engagement of youth in worship. As we all know, music is a special means of connecting people with Jesus. Please consider helping by seeking out those in your community that might be interested in attending. The registration link is below.

[WORSHIP ARTS DAY Registration Link](#)

Dr. John Boonenberg will lead an immersive experience giving interested high school students the opportunity to learn and apply skills in contemporary



worship on their instrument and/or as vocalists. Breakout sessions will include specific instruction on voice, guitar, keyboard, and percussion, as well as songwriting and creative use of hymns. Devotional time will include a "worship-in-the-round" experience for the participants, and a final worship service for friends and family, where the students will showcase what they have learned alongside CUA Worship Arts students.

High school seniors attending Worship Arts Day in February who are also interested in auditioning for CUAA music scholarships will have the opportunity to audition while on campus for this event.

Space is LIMITED for this event, and registrations will be taken first-come, first-served. Meals, overnight lodging, and a t-shirt are provided.

Check-in will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 3 in the Kreft Center on the campus of CUAA. The final worship service will conclude by 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 4 in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity.

## TOPIC FOR FEBRUARY

The writing prompt for February is **TRESSPASSES**. The *Redeemer Reflection* newsletter is produced in order to encourage and rejoice with each other in personal victories and faith milestones in our lives. But it's also to share where God is leading us as the church, and what He expects of us, now and in the future. The *Reflection* also highlights how we are interacting with our local community and within the church itself. We want to reflect Jesus in our personal lives, as well as to and in the world around us.

February's writing prompt is **TRESSPASSES**. What does that bring to your mind? Any Bible passages, Small Catechism information, or prayers tickle your memory? What do you think of when you hear the word trespasses? Send comments, information/photos, and articles by the 15th of each month, to [bennitt49@yahoo.com](mailto:bennitt49@yahoo.com), to be

included in the following month's newsletter. All submissions are appreciated and prayerfully considered.

## WITNESSING CONFERENCE *It's a Lifestyle*

Sign up today to spend a Saturday morning with other local Lutherans looking to reach out to the "not-yets" and "no-longer" Christians in our spheres of influence. Trinity and Redeemer churches are partnering for the benefit of reaching our neighbors throughout Jackson County.



**DATE:** Saturday, January 14, 2023

**TIME:** 9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Redeemer Lutheran's Connection Room in the lower level

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$15.00, includes lunch, beverages, and snacks.

**REGISTRATION FORMS:** Available in the narthex.

**FORMS DUE:** Before Monday, January 9.

**SEND OR RETURN FORMS:** Mail or return completed forms to either Trinity or Redeemer Church, along with your check for the registration fee. Checks should be made payable to Trinity Lutheran Church. Please note "registration" on mailings.

Forms can be turned in to the office manager at either church office; at

Redeemer, our office manager is Heidi, and Ann is the office manager at Trinity.

## EVERLASTING

by Peggy Bennitt

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

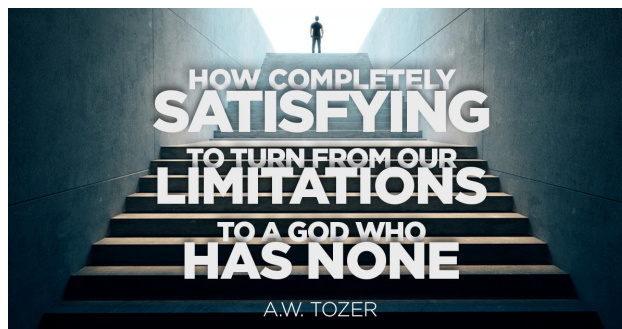
John 3:16

Do you have friends and/or family members who don't believe Jesus is their Savior? Maybe they think He was just another do-gooder, or a prophet. Or maybe they think He was a whack-o, and so are you and me, for buying into "that stuff." Maybe they just don't think about spirituality or God at all. How can we make them see the truth?

WE CAN'T! Not our job!

John 3:16-18 in "The Message" reads like this: <sup>16-18</sup> *"This is how much God loved the world: He gave His Son, His one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in Him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in Him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust Him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to*

*believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to Him."*



But what if our job is to "introduce them" to the Jesus we know? After all, isn't that what God expects of us? We can't "make" them believe, but we can introduce them to Jesus through our words and our actions. It's the Holy Spirit's job then, to "activate" the Word in them. NOT OUR JOB!

Our job is to "tell" as we "go" along our life-path, just as we are told to do in Matthew 28. We *do* get to help with His work. In fact, we are commissioned to do it. But it's NOT our responsibility to make faith happen. Only our God can do that. But we get to help. How awesome is that? Our God trusts us with the sharing of our faith and His Word. We Get To Do This!



We have a part in bringing others to everlasting life. How amazing! As I read and searched through His Word for this article, I was astonished just thinking about what "everlasting" really means. It's impossible to get the human mind around the thought of what everlasting

entails, but when you search the Bible for where and how it is used, a whole new world of incredible options and vistas open in your mind. Intriguing, what God has offered us, and all we have to do is believe...and take it. And then, share it.

*But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children...*

Psalm 103:17

Isn't it amazing that God trusts us with sharing the information we have, the knowledge of everlasting, and all that involves? Have you ever seen a truly fantastic movie or read a really great book and then can't wait to tell your friends about it? That's how the Bible makes us feel when we discover, or rediscover, one of God's remarkable promises.

While reading the Bible with one of my granddaughters, she was amazed to find both unicorns and dragons mentioned in the Bible. I too find that fascinating, and wonder exactly what these creatures looked like back then. Once we are in "everlasting life," when we're done with the plans God has for us here on earth, He'll show us all these amazing things that have been and will be forever. We have so much to look forward



to in the *everlasting*, the life after this one. I can hardly wait to see what is there for us, and I want to take everyone I know with me. How about you? I hope and pray I'll see you and yours there "from everlasting to everlasting."

## LEGO EVENT 2023

5TH ANNUAL  
**LEGO EVENT**  
Saturday, January 28  
9am-12pm  
\$10/person  
Food | Take-Home Set | Hands-On Builds  
Trinity Lutheran School  
4900 McCain Rd. Jackson  
Register Here:  
  
Lego does not sponsor, authorize or endorse this event.



### Trinity Lutheran School, Jackson

- Can your Lego car go the distance?
- How much weight can your bridge hold?
- How fast can you build a set?
- What masterpiece can you create?

Come use our bricks and discover the answers to these questions and more at Trinity Lutheran School's annual Lego Event on January 28, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The cost is \$10.00 per registered child and includes a Lego kit to take home and prizes.

Registered participants can be ages 4-16 (families welcome). Sign up by January 24, 2023, to secure your spot. If registering more than 5 children,

please fill out an additional form. Paid concessions will be available. Register online at

<https://docs.google.com/.../1IjoK2kdLNYfZ96.../viewform...>

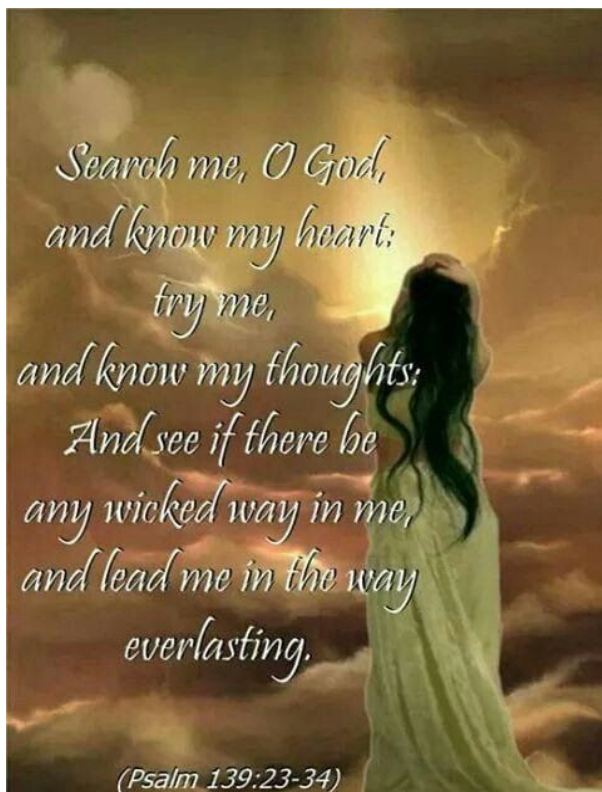
For additional information, contact  
walsh.christopherb@gmail.com



## **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Jim and Diane Siedzik	1/4/1978
Al and Pat Eichenberg	1/8/1966
Ron and Debbie Rockwell	1/12/2002

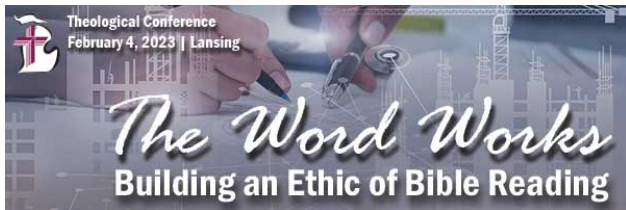
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## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Marilyn Rockwell	01/01
Dale Luksan	01/03
Don Zastrow	01/03
Sharon Weatherwax	01/05
James Beck	01/06
Fred Wait	01/07
Diane Siedzik	01/08
Jill Kielhorn	01/09
David Voss	01/09
Andy Schnebelt	01/10
Donna Wait	01/10
Bruce Harshe	01/13
Josetta Kuntz	01/18
Jamie Brandt	01/21
Hadley Elbert	01/21
Karlee Gamet	01/21
Meredith VanDerWeide	01/21
Thomas Gannon	01/22
Tracy Jones	01/23
Vivianna Richardson	01/23
William Walter	01/23
Joshua Martin	01/24
Mai Ly Nguyen	01/24
Susan Belt	01/25
Janet Jean	01/29
Amber Doxtader	01/29
Ethan Anderson	01/30
Katrina Holdorf	01/30
Lucas Kane	01/30
Tom Simonsen	01/30
George Williams	01/31

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## THE WORD WORKS: BUILDING AN ETHIC OF BIBLE READING

Mark your calendars for this year's Theological Conference on **Saturday, February 4, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lansing, Michigan.**

Jesus rebuked the Sadducees saying, *"You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God"* (Matthew 22:29). The power of God is in His Word: The Word Works.

Come join us for a day of instruction, conversation, and reflection that will enable both you and your congregation to build an ethic of Bible reading.

- What does it take to develop a habit of daily Bible reading?
- How long would it take to read the whole Bible in a year? Is that a good idea?
- What is the point of reading the Old Testament when there is a New Testament?
- What tools and options are there?
- What difference does thorough Bible reading make in our lives and our witness?

Friends, God works through His Word—Jesus, the Word made flesh, and the Word, the Bible, given for us to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest. Can I capture your imagination? What kind of People of Hope would we be if together we gave ourselves over to reading through the entire Bible in 2023?

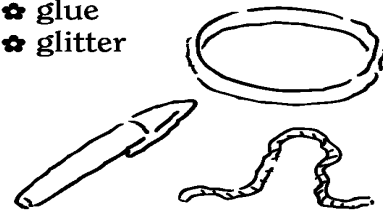
"Let's spend a day together and think about it!" – President Dave Davis

Registration is \$25.00 general admission, and \$15.00 for students. Livestream is available, but you must register to receive the link. For more information, visit [michigandistrict.org/theological23](http://michigandistrict.org/theological23).

### Make a "Son" Catcher

#### *You will need:*

- ✿ round, clear plastic, food container lid
- ✿ hole punch
- ✿ yarn
- ✿ permanent markers in a variety of colors
- ✿ glue
- ✿ glitter



#### *How to make it:*

- ✿ Using the markers and glitter, decorate the lid with the name of Jesus and some bright colors and shapes.
- ✿ Punch a hole in the top.
- ✿ Put a piece of yarn through the hole and tie it to make a hanger.
- ✿ Hang in a window to catch the sun.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>1</div> <div>Divine Service 9:30 a.m.</div>	<div>2</div> <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div> <div>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Chancel 9:00 a.m. Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>
<div>8</div> <div>Divine Service-C 8:00 a.m. Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service-C 10:30 a.m.</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Quilters 9:30 a.m.</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Witnessing Conference 9:30 a.m. RLC Connection Room</div>
<div>15</div> <div>Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m.</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. REFLECTION DEADLINE</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Grow &amp; Go 5:30 p.m.</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. LWML-Women of Redeemer 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A.</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>
<div>22</div> <div>Divine Service-C 8:00 a.m. Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service-C 10:30 a.m. TOWN HALL MTG.—11:30</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. TOWN HALL MTG. 6:30 p.m.</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Quilters 9:30 a.m. Grow &amp; Go 5:30 p.m.</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m. Need Volunteers from 9 'til Noon</div>
<div>29</div> <div>Divine Service-C 8:00 a.m. Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service-C 10:30 a.m.</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.</div>	<div>C—Denotes Communion Services</div> <div>January</div> <div>2023</div>			