

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LCMS**

**PERSEVERANCE**



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*Redeemer Reflection Newsletter*

*Loving People To Christ*

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# REDEEMER REFLECTION

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## PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

by Pastor Michael Geml

Perseverance is an admirable quality. One who possesses such a quality trait is usually viewed as one upon whom others may depend. He or she has proven themselves to be one who can remain steadfast in their

convictions even and especially under difficult circumstances. In theological circles, there is talk/debate/argument over something called, "The Perseverance of the Saints," aka, "Can one's salvation be lost?" We, in the Lutheran understanding of salvation, believe from Holy Scripture that one's salvation, while totally a work of God, may be forfeited. Renouncing of one's faith is tragic but it does happen. Jesus said, "The one who endures to the end will be saved" (Matt 10:22).

Now that we have successfully ended that theological debate, what about perseverance that is needed, not by an individual, but by an entire church? As I write this article, I am reminded of our brothers and sisters who call Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, their home. Tuesday afternoon, May 15, fire broke out and destroyed one of the oldest, most beautiful churches in Milwaukee.



Trinity Church has been a fixture in Milwaukee since 1878. Estimated cost of the blaze stands at 17 million dollars. The fire has been devastating in so many ways to the people of Trinity. Thanks be to God that this devastation has been met with godly perseverance.

Trinity church officials said on Facebook: "We are heartbroken, but know that a church is more than a structure. It is the people that make up the church. It is the people that will carry on in God's grace and mercy."

Reverend John Wille, President of the South Wisconsin District, issued a statement saying the synod is "deeply saddened" by the blaze. "The steeples at Trinity have been a part of the Milwaukee skyline for over 150 years," he said. "Our district mourns the loss of the building, but we give thanks for the gospel message that has been proclaimed there for generations."

Perseverance in the face of devastation, opposition, threat, violence, and indifference, has been, and must continue to be, the marching orders of the Church. Jesus endured suffering and shame and death for His beloved bride [the Church]. He also rose from the dead

for her. The Gospel message of God's love for the world will continue to be proclaimed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and in Jackson, Michigan, and to the ends of the earth.

May the Lord grant us His grace and His strength to persevere continually and to proclaim boldly that Jesus is the Savior of the world!

## **FAMILY FAITH LIFE**

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

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### **You're Going to Want Some Hope to Go with That**

*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff is arguably one of the most recognizable and well-loved children's books. It helps kids process cause and effect and the often cyclical nature of how we operate. "If you give a mouse a cookie, he's going to ask for a glass of milk...and [eventually he'll get thirsty again] he'll ask for a glass of milk. And chances are if he asks for a glass of milk, he's going to want a cookie to go with it." This book resonates with me. While it's not about suffering, it reminds me of this:

Romans 5:3-5 says, *"Not only [do we boast in the hope of the glory of God], but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."*

Our sufferings—the challenges, struggles, illnesses, trauma, grief, brokenness, and hurt we face—produce perseverance in us. We need the perseverance to keep going. And as we keep going through the suffering, our character grows, and we become more of who God would have us be. And as we become more of who God would have us be, we have hope from God that He will keep His promises to us—to never leave us or forsake us; to love us; to save us through the work of His Son, Jesus—and when we're walking through suffering we need hope. Without hope in our sufferings, we'd give up, not persevere. Without hope in our sufferings, we'd become less of who God would have us be. God, as always, knows exactly what we need. He knows that when we face sufferings of this world, we're going to need some hope to go with it. And He provides the only sure and certain hope we could ever have. He doesn't cause our suffering, but He does help us persevere and gives us hope in Him to go with our suffering.

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When the sunshine FINALLY arrives after a long Michigan winter, families are inclined to get outside and enjoy the nice weather. And as we go, we can seize the opportunities to have meaningful conversations that point our

kids to Jesus just as we are tasked with 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.”

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Sunglasses—Shades are not just a way to look stylish, they also help you see better in the sun. Next time you’re putting your shades on, talk about how we can see needs around us better. Who or what might God be trying to get us to pay attention to? When we see needs around us what can, or should we do?
- Water Fun—Martin Luther always charged people to remember their baptism anytime they got wet in the shower or bath. Sprinklers, water balloons, and squirt guns are all fun activities in the hot summer sun, and as you dry off and clean up, talk about baptism and what God did for you in baptism.
- Sandcastles—When you go to the beach or even play in the sandbox at home, talk about the wise and foolish builders from Luke 6—the wise man built his house on the rock and the foolish man built his house on the sand; when the rains came, the wise man’s house stood, but the foolish man’s house fell. Ask your kids what happens when water hits their sand castle. Ask what it means to build our lives

on a solid foundation and what would be examples of solid or shifting foundations.

- Sunscreen—We all need some sort of protection from the harsh sun. As you slather up the kids, talk about how the sunscreen protects our bodies, but we also need protection for our souls. Ask how God protects our souls. Talk about the armor of God and how it helps protect us from the devil’s schemes.
- Cool Treats—Who doesn’t like to cool down from the heat with some lemonade, ice cream, or popsicles? As you take a break to cool down, talk about how we all need breaks from the harshness of this world. In one of His parables, Jesus talks about how offering someone who is thirsty a drink, is like we’re doing it for Him (Matthew 25). How can we help offer breaks and relief to other people who need them?

What other ways can you point your kids to Jesus as you go about your days in the sunshine?



Have you ever wanted to make something and had the idea in your mind of what it would be like, but you lacked the skills to execute some or all the steps to make it the way you imagined? Or

thought something like “I want to have faithful kids that know how to make good decisions” or “I want to have a marriage that can withstand the storms of life that will inevitably come”?

Families today need a lot of tools to go about life implementing Biblical principles in all they do. It’s no easy feat! *Builders* is a new gathering time we’re launching to give families tools, so they can be built up and together build up the Body of Christ. It will be a monthly offering where family related topics will be shared, or activities will be done together with the purpose of building up families and the body of Christ. We will meet the first Sunday of every month from 3:30-6:00 pm. Dinner will be provided, and childcare will be arranged, when fitting, after families have signed up so we know how many we need to accommodate. This exciting opportunity will give us all the chance to add biblical tools to our toolboxes! We’ll cover various topics for families, beginning with parenting on June 3.

On June 3, we’ll begin “Visionary Parenting” by Rob & Amy Rienow which will help you capture a God-sized vision for your family. Through studying the Bible, families will be equipped, inspired, and changed for the glory of God. Do you know why God brought your family together? You’ll discover why God created families, why He gave you your children, and God’s grand vision for the family. This topic is relevant to any family with kids at home.

Please look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex and contact Kimber Walsh, Family Life Educator, with questions. A full schedule will be released soon so you can mark your calendar for the coming months’ topics.



“Luther’s Small Catechism” is a book in question and answer format that explains what we believe based on the Bible. Questions range from things about God to things about ordinary life. This book is a useful tool for myriad things in everyday life. The whole 1986 version of the catechism is available online for free at [catechism.cph.org](http://catechism.cph.org). Check it out!

\*Each month “Relevant Resources” will feature a different resource that may be relevant to you. If you have a topic request, please email [kimberwalsh@comcast.net](mailto:kimberwalsh@comcast.net).

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### Grandparenting

Mondays, July 9-August 27, at 2-3:30 pm in Redeemer’s Library, grandparents are invited to gather and look at what the Bible has to say about grandparenting and practical tips for grandparenting in a variety of circumstances including: divorce of your children, grandchildren living with you, step-grandchildren, spoiling in a positive way, navigating the fine line between interfering and intervening, challenges with your children, grandparenting from a distance, changes as your grandchildren grow up, praying for your grandchildren, and leaving a legacy. We’ll learn from experts in the field and from each other as we share our hearts for our grandchildren. Questions? Please contact Kimber Walsh, Family Life Educator, at [kimberwalsh@comcast.net](mailto:kimberwalsh@comcast.net) or 517-750-3100.





## JUNE

Glen Speed	06/01
Connor Mogle	06/02
Kris Nowak	06/02
Adam Zeidan	06/05
Jacob Hankerd	06/07
Heidi Gannon	06/07
Elmer Mueller	06/10
Rev. Bill Roper	06/10
Robert Kellogg	06/11
Jeff Baird	06/13
Donna Smith	06/13
Peggy Bennitt	06/15
Ruth Geml	06/16
Jim Moore	06/17
Brandon Ellison	06/19
Roberta Kellogg	06/20
Maria Boyle	06/21
Brianna Fall	06/22
Debbie Mumford	06/24
Mardi Bartlett	06/25
Tony Mogle	06/25
Dan Sonnenberg	06/25
Wanda Williams	06/25
Cynthia Ott	06/28
Levi Bahr	06/30
Carol Roper	06/30
Phyllis Tschabrun	06/30

*To give life meaning, one must have a purpose larger than one's self.*

Will Durant



## **BABYLON**

Redeemer's VBS for 2018 will center on the Babylonian captivity and Daniel's unswerving faith in every situation. VBS 2018 will be in evenings, June 18—22, 5:15 p.m.—8:15 p.m., with a meal served each evening before the story portion of VBS begins. Registration starts each day at 5:00 p.m., the meal is from 5:15—6:00 p.m., and children can be pre-registered by calling 750-3100, the church office, and signing up with either Heidi or Craig.

Children can work on a *Kids—4—Kids* service project after each meal. There will be games or crafts that support the Bible story each day as well. Come and let the Bible captivate your imagination!

## **FROM THE GARDEN**



by Judith Speed

In gardening there are three fundamental values one must cultivate: patience, persistence, and perseverance.

Perseverance in gardening means you will fail...no matter what. You may have to change your plans drastically, but you should never give up.

My personal nemesis over the years has been DEER, seen as beautiful to many. But with the exception of a good piece of venison, God could have skipped this creature all together. You have to possess perseverance if you love to garden and have to deal with deer.

Since we live in the world, according to Jesus, we will surely have trouble (John 16:33). *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Some trials and tribulations simply come from living in this fallen world and those which are common to man. Some trouble is the unique variety that affects a child of God living in an unbelieving world. Some of our trials are internal—the "Romans 7" type—as we yearn to grow in grace, but find sin still firmly rooted within us.

Whatever the brand of struggles we face, we need a secure hope in order to "hang in there" over a lifetime of growing in grace.

## KEEP AT IT!

by Craig Britton

Patience and Perseverance. What do they have in common? I know. They both begin with "p." But is that all? Can you have one without the other? From whence do they come? Are they one and the same? Lots of questions and I do not guarantee answers, but let's just see where this goes.

Now, I do not claim any Biblical warrant for the distinction I hold. When I think of patience (Galatians 5:22), I do

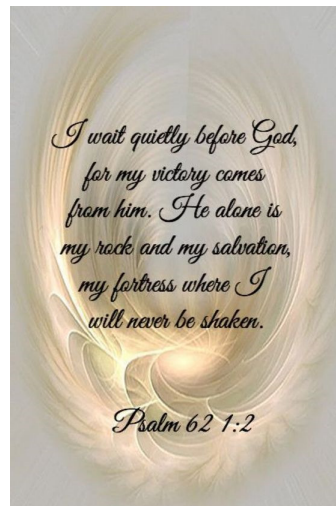
recognize its source in the third Person of the Holy Trinity, and if pressed, I would say that perseverance has the same "home base." In my view, patience is a "sculpted" willingness to wait regarding either myself or another person.

Perseverance is that same skill applied to circumstances. Again, I don't claim any Bible address for this. It's just my observation.

One of the characteristics Kim and I wanted to implant in our sons was this skill of waiting. Why? Because we know, and knew then, that not everything comes to us when we want it. Life is most definitely not about our own timetable or calendar. Hence, we need to learn the lesson of waiting. Both

patience and perseverance can be exercised while the issue at hand is either positive or negative. We can be patient in putting up with a grumpy relative, and we can be

patient to receive the warm embrace of a spouse. "Just wait." That's the phrase I used when teaching our boys about patience.



But the other phrase I remember using with them was this: “Keep at it.” And that phrase usually meant that they



were being called to employ the skill of waiting regarding the completion of a task, like homework or a chore Kim and I were asking them to take on.

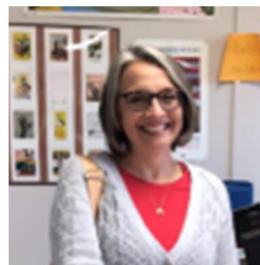
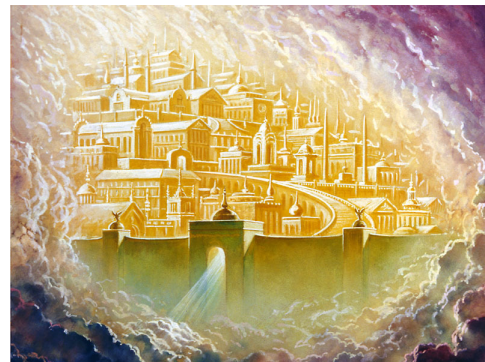
Perseverance can also have as its end a positive or negative result, but learning perseverance often costs some bumps and bruises. I see patience as passive and perseverance as an active type of pushing forward. Two figures in history stand out to me here. One is the inimitable Prime Minister of England during World War II, Sir Winston Churchill. His dogged determination to save Europe from the clutches of the Nazi madman, Adolf Hitler, is well-known and applauded the world over. His perseverance may well have saved the entire continent. Some even credit Churchill for salvaging the entire world.

The second subject that comes to mind? Our Lord Jesus Christ. And it is meet, right, and salutary that our minds link Him and His cross as the focus of His persevering through trial. And He is our example as well. But remember. Remember His absolute willingness to set aside all heavenly glory and earthly acclaim to press on toward Jerusalem (Mark 10:33). And His perseverance (and patience) were employed in not the salvation of the temporal world, but in His redeeming death for all, making possible the entrance into heaven of all who would embrace Him by faith alone. Perseverance from the Savior’s perspective did not begin during Holy Week, but was exercised again and again as those who opposed Him attempted to move Jesus along their own time lines. It

was not to be. And oh, the personal cost of the Savior’s unflinching perseverance.

So “teach your children well” as goes the title of Graham Nash’s 1970 hit sung by Crosby, Stills, and Young. Teach them to rely on God’s gifts of patience and its fraternal twin, perseverance. No, they’re not identical. But we need them for both people and circumstance. We need them both to find our way through this fallen world. We need them both to press onward for the goal of eternal life given to us by the Son of God who has no lack when it comes to our “p” words under consideration. Remember too that you have our permission, Kim and mine, to use our phrases with your children and whoever else might listen ... “Just wait” ... “Keep at it.”

No, life isn’t about our time table. It’s about His. And that for which we wait is worth it. It will be great sharing it with you.



## NARRATIVE THREADS

by Kristin Rathje, guest writer, with selections and/or excerpts from her Blog, *Next Chapter*; used with permission.

In Michigan this year, winter had stamina. It seemed to begin way back in



October and continue halfway through April. The temperatures were low, the snow banks were high, the skies were gray, and all felt bleak.

My daughter once informed me, after I had been an English teacher for well over a decade, that when nature imitates the mood of the story, literary critics refer to the phenomenon as *pathetic fallacy*.

We see it all the time in literature and movies: rain falls during funerals, the sun shines on parades, lightning flashes and thunder claps as the evil villain hatches his plan. Writers use the setting of a story to create mood and to signal for readers how they might feel about the action of the narrative.

Sometimes it seems to happen in real life, too.

As the winter wore on this year in all its bleakness, and as circumstances in the narrative of my life unfolded, I took my signal from nature and wrapped myself in gray. I didn't see any buds on trees, any new growth in my garden, or any other signals from nature that I should hope. I saw the earth hunkering down under the weighty blanket of snow, and I hunkered, too. I wrapped myself in crocheted Afghans, drank cup after cup of tea, and waited for the earth's axis to tilt once again toward the sun.

Some moments, I didn't believe it would. I felt we were stuck in winter forever. Storm after storm raged. Winds blew. Temperatures dropped. The world outside was harsh and unforgiving. I had no reason to believe that we would ever again see tulips sprout from the earth.

I didn't, of course, spend the whole winter under covers. I did what everyone who lives in the north does in the winter. I slathered my body in moisturizers, layered on clothing, pulled on boots, hat,

gloves, and coat, and trudged into the elements. Day after day after long, cold, dismal day, I drove over slushy roads, stepped in salty puddles, and scraped icy windshields. The cold gray weather was both real and symbolic.



The problem with pathetic fallacy — with letting the setting signal the mood — is that you can lose your frame of reference. All winter I was shrouded in gray, so all of the action in my narrative seemed to take on that hue. Now, to be honest, my life narrative is cluttered at the moment with conflict and unresolved tension. Villains too numerous to list are executing evil plans and threatening to harm those that I love. However, in the midst of the gray of winter, I failed to see that simultaneously, a parallel plot is unfolding — one in which battles are fought and won, victory parades are held, and loved ones are reunited. All is not gray.

It's been hard to see that — what with winter lasting so long. It's been easy to fall for the fallacy — the mistaken belief — that all of life is cold, dark, dormant. In fact, I have over the last several months been pathetic—filled with all kinds of emotion. I have leaned in and felt things that I have not allowed myself to feel for a very long time. I have cried and yelled and moaned because I have looked fully at one strand

of the narrative. I'm not sorry; I needed to see it. But guys, winter is gone. I have a rhubarb plant outside my back door that peeked through the soil on my birthday at the end of March. Since then, it's been slammed with winter weather — snow, sleet, wind, and rain — and



still it is thriving. My garden is a bed of weeds, my yard is a mole metropolis that is sorely in need of raking and mowing, but the sun is shining, and all I can look at is that rhubarb.

The villains haven't dropped their weapons, the conflicts have not all been resolved, but one stubborn plant that pushed its way through frozen ground way before winter had subsided reminds



me that there is more than one thread in my narrative. I have reason to

bake pies, to plant seeds, and to fold up my Afghans. Earlier this week when I arrived home from work, my husband said, "Before you sit down, go look at the patio." I knew before I looked what I would find — the Adirondack chairs that my father-in-law made for us years ago had been put out after their long winter inside. He had seen it, too: the sunshine, the rhubarb, the reason to hope. So hope we will, as we sit on our patio, faces tilted toward the sun, and let this season have

a chance to direct our feelings about our narrative.

Psalm 27:13

*I am confident in this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.*

## PERSEVERANCE

by Peggy Bennitt

*And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

Romans 5:2b-4

I cannot say that I'm a big fan of suffering. In fact, I *hate* suffering and I *don't* rejoice in it. Isn't it contra-intuitive to "rejoice in suffering"? I've been through a lot of suffering in my time, physical and emotional, especially the past few years. But I know so many people who have been through so much more than I have and it makes me cringe to see how poorly I handle suffering and troubles compared to them. There are some people who handle earthly woes and suffering by prayer and take it all in stride, or so it seems. How do they do that? But even as I persevere in prayer and in reading His Word, I still can't rejoice in my suffering.

I totally get the "hope-thing" though. Hope springs eternal and separates man from all other creatures. We have that hope and the yearning for something better, something to fill a space within us that can only be filled by our Lord and God, Christ Jesus. Because of Him and

his promises, we persevere through suffering to build character, and on to our hope in the future that God has planned for us. *“And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”*

This is the only way we can get to the place where we can *“rejoice in our sufferings”* and the future hope for a better life both here and in eternity. Suffering is a part of life on planet earth. It wasn't God's plan, but our choice. But He gave us hope through His Son, which comes through our perseverance through the storms and sufferings that plague us in this life.

*By perseverance,  
the snail reached the ark.*

Charles Spurgeon

Much of my life lately seems like one step forward—three steps back, but through it all, I can spot blessings amidst the suffering, and His hope amidst the darkest times. He perseveres alongside me, as I persevere through the trials and suffering along the often tedious terrain of my life. My reward for this perseverance is the hope that springs continually within me for the life to come, and the joys that await me in eternity. And my loving Lord places the blessings of family and friends to walk through the travails and joys of life with me, and makes the perseverance in the journey worthwhile, and a gifting of love and hope.

*God knows our situation; He will not judge us as if we had no difficulties to overcome. What matters is the sincerity and perseverance of our will to overcome them.*

C.S. Lewis



## REDEEMER LIBRARY

### Book Review

by Peggy Bennitt

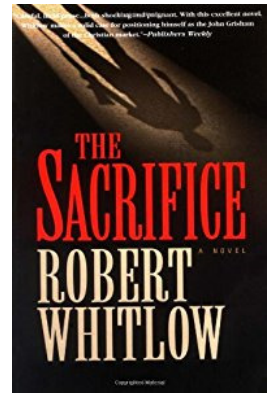
***THE SACRIFICE*** by Robert Whitlow

*Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn  
the wisdom of your words.*

Proverbs 23:9

A teenage racist, Lester Garrison, is arrested when a shooting occurs at Hall's Chapel in the outskirts of Catawba, North Carolina. A young defense attorney, Scott Ellis, agrees to take the case even though he has never handled a jury trial before. This could be a landmark case, and if he wins, his reputation as a lawyer will be established. At the same time, Ellis' law firm assigns him to “volunteer” as an advisor for a mock trial team at the local high school, and the staff advisor is a former girlfriend whom he walked away from years ago. As Ellis struggles to get information that will win Lester his freedom, he finds himself attracted again to his “old flame” and caught up in working with the high schoolers in the mock trial arena.

As Scott Ellis becomes more involved with the students, he begins to notice the potentials, the intelligence, the spirituality, and also some concerning signs that all is not right with even the smartest of teens.





With the recent and frequent school shootings in our country in recent years, this novel shows how important caring and connections can be to life as we live it each day. Do angels protect us? Does God have a plan for each of us? Can God use the humblest of people to be faith heroes?

*“Jesus Christ is Conqueror of death and Lord of Life.”*

Robert Whitlow, author

*The Sacrifice* is a great read about a small town, and about relationships that can and do save lives and may well build towns into communities that care. Check it out at the Redeemer Library!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☺ **BUILDERS: Sunday, June 3**  
Family building time begins; reserve the dates for the future. The first Sunday of each month, **3:30-6:00 p.m.**, with a meal included. This is for all who desire more “tools” for “doing family” the way God intends.
- ☺ **Vacation Bible School: June 18-22, 5:15-8:00 p.m.** Evening VBS, with a meal provided.
- ☺ **Redeemer Canoe Trip: July 20-22**  
More information to come. Ron and Debbie Rockwell are the contact persons for this annual family event.

☺ **Church Picnic: Sunday, July 29,**  
10:00 a.m.—One service with the picnic following in the church pavilion. Tentative theme: *Christmas in July.*

☺ **Relay for Life: August 3-4.**

## **GARDEN BOUNTY**

by Marilyn Rockwell

*So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.*  
1 Corinthians 3:7



It’s that time again for planting gardens, whether they be large ones or small; vegetable gardens, flower gardens, or combinations of both. When the harvest comes in and you can’t use all those goodies and produce, please bring the extras to church on Sunday mornings and let others enjoy the bounty.

It’s also been suggested that any leftover produce can be taken to the Interfaith Shelter or other similar places that would love to have fresh veggies and even flowers for use in the community.



Let’s share what we have and make sure nothing God has given us will go to waste. There are many who would love to have those wonderful fresh leftovers.



*Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

Galatians 6:10

## PERSEVERANCE

by Lynne Gatz

Life is an ongoing practice in perseverance. As believers we know that we have God on our side. The Google dictionary definition of perseverance is “steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.” The secret is staying strong in the Lord as he commands us, “Remain in me as I have remained in you” (John 15:4).

There are many great quotes on “perseverance” from Vince Lombardi, Martin Luther King Jr., and Albert Einstein; three very successful gentlemen who achieved notoriety in their life’s achievements. One of the greatest quotes regarding perseverance comes from Romans 5:3-5. I love this version from my *Kid’s Quest Study Bible* from Zonderkidz:

*“We are full of joy even when we suffer. We know that our suffering gives us the strength to go on. The strength to go on produces character. Character produces hope. And hope will never let us down. God has poured his love into our hearts. He did it through the Holy Spirit, who He has given us.”*

While I can’t say I always rejoice in my sufferings, over the years I have learned to praise God in times of suffering. This takes the focus off the problem and releases spiritual power that allows me to see the situation in a different light. As I continue to move

past the problem, I develop a renewed sense of hope.

Hope can be elusive for some people. Regardless of hardships and struggles with the world around us, we must persevere. *“But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak”* (Isaiah 40:31). As baptized Christians, we know we have the power of the risen Lord within us, and the Spirit provides us with an everlasting hope.

I am a firm believer that we should work as if everything depended on us, and pray as if everything depended on God. In the words of the late Reverend Robert Schuller, “Tough times never last, but tough people do.” We need to keep on believing and keep our faith focused on God.



## TOPIC FOR JULY

The topic for July is *Inheritance*. The *Reflection* newsletter is meant to help reflect our Lord in the daily life and actions of His people, including our struggles, our service to those around us, our community activities, and our worship services here at Redeemer. Please consider sharing God-sightings in the community or within our church with others through this newsletter. You, our people at Redeemer, are invited to be part of revealing our Lord actively at

work in and around us in our world today.

Send articles or information to [bennitt49@yahoo.com](mailto: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 and accepted for publication each month.

**MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL  
SPEEDWAY RACE WILL BENEFIT  
HERE WE STAND CAMPAIGN  
A day of fun and worship!**

*From Michigan District, LCMS  
michiganintouch.com May 10, 2018*



It is not often that the phrases Michigan District and NASCAR are used together in the same sentence. This first moment of its kind will occur on Sunday, June 10, 2018, when Michigan International Speedway hosts its annual 400 mile NASCAR race.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the Michigan District has been extended the opportunity to lead the opening worship service at 10:00 a.m. on the day of the big race. What a wonderful opportunity this is for the LCMS in the Michigan District to share the Gospel and the love of Christ to all who will be attending worship that morning. We pray that followers of Christ who are in attendance will have their faith strengthened; and any

unbelievers who may come will hear the Word of God in a way that will encourage them to further seek Him in the days that follow.

Pastor Joel Hess from Emmanuel, Cadillac will lead the worship service in the Driver Q & A Tent in the Fan Plaza area on the grounds of the Speedway, just a few hundred feet from the race track. We thank Pastor Hess, and his team from Emmanuel, for their willingness to be worship leaders that day. This is a huge undertaking for them. In addition to Sunday worship, the Michigan District will have representatives at a booth in Fan Plaza on Friday and Saturday to distribute information and encourage participation in Sunday's worship.

**Here We Stand (HWS)** also benefits financially from this worship service in a couple of ways. First, when a person attending the race on June 10 buys ticket(s) at [mispowder.com/sunriseservice](http://mispowder.com/sunriseservice) and enters the code LCMS, HWS receives \$5.00 for every ticket purchased in this manner. The second way HWS will benefit financially is from an offering that will be taken during the worship service. These funds will support urban ministry initiatives through the Acts2Enterprise Urban Outreach programs.

Michigan International Speedway has also graciously reduced the ticket price from \$79.00 to \$55.00 for those who purchase through the website mentioned above. The cost of the ticket gives attendees access to Sunday's race, the worship service, and a concert on Saturday night. All in all, this is a very good value if you are a NASCAR fan or if you are curious and would like to go and experience this unique event for the first time.

Please consider being part of this innovative way to support HWS, experience the thrill of a NASCAR race,



and attend worship in a special setting. We would appreciate your participation and any assistance you can give to encourage others to attend with you. If you have any questions, please contact Ray Zavada or Linda Ekong in the Michigan District office. at [ray.zavada@michigandistrict.org](mailto:ray.zavada@michigandistrict.org) or [linda.ekong@michigandistrict.org](mailto:linda.ekong@michigandistrict.org).



## PRAYER THOUGHTS

by Reverend William Gatz

I missed writing an article for the May *Reflection* newsletter because we were away. I had a Prayer Thought article ready before we left, but realized that I had left out something that to me was very important. So, I will include those omissions in this month's article. After attending services during Holy Week, I

realized that I hadn't thanked Pastor Geml for granting me the privilege of sharing these prayer thoughts with all of you.

A couple of years ago, Pastor Geml had asked me to lead his Sunday morning Bible study on prayer, to help Redeemer get back-on-track with being a praying congregation. So, first, I want to thank Pastor Geml for being the Pastor that he is, and for what he and Ruth do for the Lord, and for all of us. Redeemer is very blessed to have him, and them.

We are also blessed to have Craig Britton on staff, and for having had Diane in the office for many years, and now having Heidi there. We are blessed as well to have Deb and Kimber serving our Lord and us here at Redeemer.

Redeemer has been blessed to have a newsletter for these many years. As a former pastor here, I have had the privilege to work with Peggy Bennett. She has been so faithful all these years of serving the Lord in the congregation especially in this area. Thank you, Peggy, for your service.

For many years Redeemer has been a praying congregation. My prayer thoughts for this month are meant to encourage you to pray for our Pastor and Ruth. Pray also for Craig, Heidi, Deb, and Kimber, and all those in leadership at Redeemer. They all need our prayers daily. Mention them by name. When you see them especially at church, let them know you are praying for them. In all the years I served as a pastor, the most comforting words ever spoken to me were, "Pastor, I'm praying for you."

May the words, "I'm praying for you," become common with our people of Redeemer Lutheran Church. While we're praying for our leadership at Redeemer, let's expand our prayers from



leadership to include all people in our congregation who need our prayers.

Next month in these Prayer Thoughts, we'll look at how to ask the Lord for specific

blessings.

God's blessings to each one of you as you live out your life with Jesus.

## PERSEVERANCE QUOTES

"Through perseverance many people win success out of what seemed destined to be certain failure."

– Benjamin Disraeli

"Everything that I've ever been able to accomplish in skating and in life has come out of adversity and perseverance."

– Scott Hamilton

"Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after another."

– Walter Elliott

"In the realm of ideas everything depends on enthusiasm... in the real world all rests on perseverance." – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"Men fail much oftener from want of perseverance than from want of talent."

– William Cobbett

"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish."

– John Quincy Adams

"Perseverance is a virtue that cannot be understated."

– Bob Riley

"The three ordinary things that we often don't pay enough attention to, but which I believe are the drivers of all success, are hard work, perseverance, and basic honesty."

– Azim Premji

"If your determination is fixed, I do not counsel you to despair. Few things are impossible to diligence and skill. Great works are performed not by strength, but perseverance."

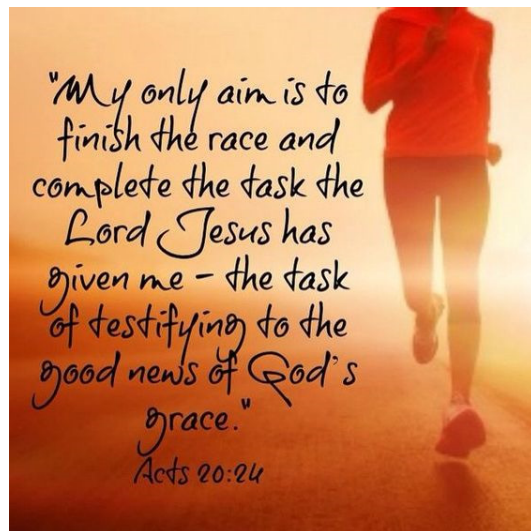
– Samuel Johnson

"Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did."

– Newt Gingrich

"If you wish to succeed in life, make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your wise counselor, caution your elder brother, and hope your guardian genius."

– Joseph Addison





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Class 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	<b>7</b> Community Prayer 8:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study— 2:30 p.m. in S. A.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m. VBS Meeting 10:00 a.m.
<b>10</b> Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Class 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Praise Service— C 10:30 a.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Women of Redeemer Meeting Service Project 10:00 a.m.	<b>13</b> Quilters 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	<b>14</b> Community Prayer 8:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study— 2:30 p.m. in S. A.	<b>15</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>16</b> Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.
<b>17</b> Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Class 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m. 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	<b>21</b> Community Prayer 8:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study— 2:00 p.m. in S. A.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.
Vacation Bible School 5:00 p.m.—8:15 p.m.						
<b>24</b> Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Class 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Praise Service— C 10:30 a.m.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Quilters 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Combined Leadership Board/Ministry Council 7:00 p.m.	<b>28</b> Community Prayer 8:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study— 2:00 p.m. in S. A.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m. Community Event Meeting 10:00 a.m.