

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS**

SHARE



**MAY 2020 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 13 ISSUE 5**

Redeemer **Reflection** Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

THANKS, MOM!

by Craig Britton

Perhaps just a few thoughts this afternoon on something my mom used to say: “Sharing is more

fun than keeping to yourself.” Like so many quotations that we each have from years growing up, that was one I heard again and again. Because the source was one of two people I treasured more than any other, of course it was true.

But mom, while sitting on the steps at the exit of our screen porch on Biddle Street, was trumpeting usually over the sounds of gleeful children in our backyard hoarding a frisbee, a football or perhaps, a fun summer treat. What mom wouldn’t teach their little ones that sharing should always be valued over greed?

Marilyn Adams Britton was a great teacher. And how do the best teachers teach? Why, by example, of course. And she did. Her love, her time, her motherly expertise, and even the marvelous laugh I loved to hear, were all things that marked a woman who loved to share.

“Sharing is more fun than keeping to yourself.”

I think of her and dad putting on a record of some big band jazz and



dancing around the living room. Now they weren’t pros, but where dad would sit me down with a recording of Bill Evans or Errol Garner and say, “Now just listen to these chords,” mom would take that same music

and show the fun in it, grabbing dad’s hands, spinning about and getting him to drop the more serious considerations of the music for just a few minutes. That was mom sharing her love of music with me.

We sat together at the kitchen table when I walked home from T.A. Wilson School for lunch and we would listen to WJR on the radio, Mike Wharf, J.P. McCarthy or “Adventures in Good Music.” Times shared that I still think of often. Sometimes Babba and Gammie (her folks) would join us for lunch, and that way mom shared the extended love of family history and great memories with me. She shared pretty much by nature, and it lasted all her life.

Mom shared her love for the house where we were raised, often saying “This is the best place we could have chosen to raise you.” She looked beyond the house to the neighbors surrounding us, mostly elderly folks, and shared with me early lessons of caring and sharing

the treasure of time with those that many people tended to forget.

The harder things were shared too. When our neighbors across the street lost their daughter in a horrific car accident, and she was a frequent babysitter, mom shared some of the earliest memories I have of thinking about death and sorrow and missing those we loved. She shared tears standing at the kitchen sink while enduring a bout with some emotional issues that today would be “tagged” and medicated, but somehow she trusted me with sharing the burden. I wasn’t even a teenager yet. But I learned from it.

Mom shared stories of her grandma, who I will meet for the first time in the New Jerusalem, telling her of Jesus and the Bible “greats.” And mom said she would pray with her at night saying, “Lord, if Marilyn should ever have little ones, you make sure they hear about You, won’t You?” Yes, Mom taught me to share. Mostly she shared her life, and I treasure the lessons and the example, the giggles and the tears, too. “Thanks, Mom, for sharing your life with me and so many others. I’m looking forward to sharing many more moments together. I can hardly wait.”

TOPIC FOR JUNE

The topic for June is *Contentment*. The *Reflection* is meant to help reflect and share our Lord in the daily life and actions of His people, particularly through our activities and worship services here at Redeemer. What can you share that will show God working in your life or reflect Him in those around you?

Please consider sharing personal stories of how you have seen or felt God

working in your life, especially during these unusual circumstances associated with our time of “sheltering in place” during the pandemic.

Articles on the topics of Family, Prayer, and Outreach are always welcome, as are other aspects of the Christian life. Please also share situations around us that can or have influenced our faith and how we worship Him with and through our lives in this time and place.

Send articles or information to bennitt49@yahoo.com, by the 15th of each month, to be included in the following month’s newsletter. This is the most easily accessed means of getting your information to me, especially now. I appreciate and consider all submissions.



ANNUAL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE! POSTPONED!

The annual Redeemer Church Rummage Sale originally scheduled for May 7-9 will be postponed indefinitely. We still hope to have the sale later in the summer, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, national and community health considerations will dictate future plans.



MAY

Jerimiah Bigelow	05/01
Kelly Schnebelt	05/03
Tiffany Kane	05/04
Art Drake	05/07
Rick Scouten	05/08
Dave Althouse	05/09
Jim Weatherwax	05/09
Logan McFarland	05/20
Trenton Schnebelt	05/20
Jerry Rockwell	05/21
Barb Hock	05/22
Deanna Brandt	05/23
Kim Britton	05/25
Nancy Bryant	05/27
Megan Bahr	05/31

THE GOOD KIND OF SHARING

by Monica VanDerWeide

As I initially began to ponder this month’s topic of sharing back in late March, I thought, “There doesn’t seem to be much sharing going on in the world right now. At least not the good kind of sharing.” No, the only thing that seemed to be shared was a horrific virus, spreading from nation to nation, person to person, invoking a shared sense of fear, panic, and finger-pointing. Since then, social distancing and shelter-in-place orders have forced most of us into

our homes with as little person-to-person interaction outside of our immediate families as possible. Kids can’t share time with friends in class, in sports, or in social activities because schools are closed. Co-workers can’t gather for an office lunch or after-work drinks because most offices, restaurants, and bars are closed. We can’t share the peace or the common cup because churches are closed. It all seems quite antithetical to what we, as Christians, are called to do—to live in community with each other.

And yet, the more I ponder the topic of sharing, the more I realize that there still are plenty of opportunities to share in a good way, even as COVID-19 brings life as we know it to a screeching



halt. Social media allows us to share a welcome dose of levity as we collectively lament and lampoon the ongoing lack of toilet paper. But all laughter aside,

I see numerous stories of heartfelt sharing and caring. I see encouragement shared with those who are saddened and scared. People and businesses are donating food, supplies, and their services, helping first responders, medical personnel, and those whose workloads have increased dramatically.

Our dear Redeemer staff has done an excellent job of sharing God’s Word with us through devotions, daily prayers, and online resources that we can use for our spiritual nourishment while we can’t gather together at church. I’ll even venture to say that isolation has

motivated more people to pick up the phone and actually CALL family members and friends, and maybe even WRITE A LETTER (gasp!). Perhaps this pandemic has brought out a concern for our fellow man that often gets relegated to the back burner in our normal, busy lives.

As we share in the temporary uncertainty and chaos of this pandemic, let us also share in the joy we know will come as we keep in mind the words of Romans 12:12-13: *“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”*

Let us find comfort in helping as we are able and sharing the joy of what we as Christians know—a hope that does not disappoint, and a faith in a God who will bring us to share in the glory of heaven when he calls us home.

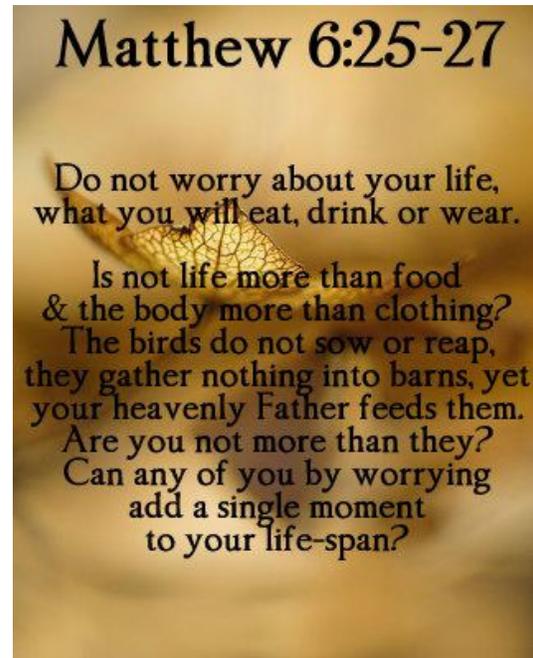


GOD’S GOT THIS!

Excerpt from https://michigandistrict.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Pres-Maiers-Letter-04_01_20.pdf Letter sent via email to our members on April 7, 2020.
by Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier
President, The Michigan District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

God is surely telling us **how** we can weather this crisis. These words of our Lord Jesus Christ in His first recorded

sermon (Matthew 5–7) found in Matthew 6:25–34, are also powerful, assuring, encouraging, and directive:



“...O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Matthew 6:25–34

Friends, God’s got this! Since He promises to work all things together for good for His children, let us find the good during this pandemic ... reading the living Word of God, humbly worshiping and praying before the Lord, listening to and following (obeying) the voice of our Good Shepherd.

“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:31–32).

Amen!

God bless you all! With sincere gratitude to be in ministry with you at this time,

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier

P.S. Fear is contagious. So is Faith, Hope, and Love!



Heartfelt Thanks

Thank you for all the wonderful phone calls from the members of the Leadership Board, Ministry Council, and Elders! This congregation is so blessed to have such wonderful people in leadership roles especially during this period of enforced social isolation. It's been great to get phone calls of encouragement and support, and questions about any concerns or needs that may be

happening, during these unusual times.

Our leadership people, including staff, are still meeting together monthly via the internet and ZOOM, to assess any needs that are critical to the health and safety of our people and property. Such dedication and care is refreshing and models the love of Jesus inferred in our Mission Statement.

Thank you to all those in leadership who continue to care for us all even in our pastoral vacancy. We are truly blessed here at Redeemer!

REDEEMER OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

by Blair Bennitt

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

Redeemer has entered a new chapter in her history of ministry as we plan for the new pastor that God will provide for us. This will mean a revisit and affirmation of our mission to, and outreach in our community as we allow God to lead us into the future.

Many of us do not know what our church is involved in or how we can help and be a part of these ministries. The following are outreach and ministry opportunities that Redeemer actively supports with the time, treasures, and talents of her people.

Budget Supported:

- † Reverend David Erber:
Missionary to Ghana
- † Reverend Schempf: Uganda
- † *POBLO*: People of the Book
Lutheran Outreach
- † SOAR: She Overcomes And
Rises—Human trafficking
recovery outreach

Also Supported by Redeemer:

- † Backpack Program—Providing
weekend food for children in
need from Frost Elementary
School during the school year
- † Community Care Day—Making
free personal care items available
for families in need
- † Food Pantry of Jackson—
Providing volunteers and
financial support to the pantry

If you would like to become involved in any of these caring opportunities, or would like to learn more about them, please contact Craig Britton or Kimber Walsh through the church office at 517-750-3100.

SHARE

by Peggy Bennitt

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has renewed our focus on some of the most basic and effective survival tactics of the centuries. The number one most poorly performed health care step (until this coronavirus pandemic came along) is hand washing. Such an essential and

easy health care necessity is one so often done poorly. Why have we become so lazy about this critical health care step?

The following are a couple of easy and fun ways to encourage little ones (and adults alike) to wash their hands long enough to kill germs. Singing these words to the tune of “Frère Jacques” (English title ‘Are you sleeping, brother John?’) will establish the safe 20 seconds minimum for a thorough germ-killing hand washing.

Hands and fingers, Hands and fingers,
In-between, In-between
Scrub your hands together
Scrub your hands together
Rinse them clean, Rinse them clean.

Or: Have them sing Happy Birthday through...twice. Good for adults to do too, even if just in your head.



Remember, if your hand washing didn't make suds, you probably didn't wash them long enough to kill germs. **The suds are actually the part that kills the coronavirus, as well as other germs and viruses.**

Sharing health and childrearing tips is just one of the many ways we can

continue to share with and encourage one another during our self-isolating time for the coronavirus. Some states are already implementing e-schooling using computers and linking for discussions or using Skype, Facetime, and Zoom to have virtual connections for interaction. How marvelous that our technology allows us to still be able to connect socially, but also to have extensive intellectual opportunities available for us and our children at our fingertips.

Is this the trend of the future? I hope not exclusively, but it is a definite plus during this time of protective isolation.

But since not everyone has this technology available to them, let's use some tried-and-true methods to continue to connect with those who may be otherwise left out during this time. We



can always use a phone call to connect with friends and loved ones. Letters and greeting cards are still appreciated...even by technology buffs. And a friendly, upbeat text message is always a nice surprise.

Be generous with your time. Be lavish with phone calls and letters in the days and months ahead. Physical isolation does not have to mean social isolation. Share yourself with others using the many alternate options to physical contact. We may not be able to share a hug right now, but sharing our words of encouragement can be priceless. When you give of yourself, you share

Happy 
Mother's Day

something very special with others. Share often.

SHARE YOUR WONDER **This 2-Word Phrase Will Make Your** **Child a Better Learner**

Excerpts from article by Abby Watts:

<http://www.imom.com/this-2-word-phrase-will-make-your-child-a-better-learner/>

...Do you ever find yourself comparing your kids' childhood to your own? I do it all the time. One of the main differences I've noticed is that life for them moves much more quickly. When we were kids, we had to sit through commercial breaks...we sat patiently by the radio waiting for our favorite song to come on, poised to hit record on a tape deck...We waited to declare a major and then changed it in our third year of college...

Kids today don't have as much downtime. Stimuli are everywhere. And there is less time for our kids to just breathe. It's easy to see how this would lead to stress, but one of the hidden dangers of their over-stimulation is that it negatively affects children learning. But you can fight back with a simple 2-word phrase.

...Just including the words "I wonder" in a conversation can counter this and have a profound effect on your child's brain.

There's a theory about learning called *The Wonder Approach*. Basically, it suggests that wonder is at the center of all motivation and action, and therefore, in essence, at the center of all children's learning. When a child wonders, he or she sees beauty, is sensitive to the world around us and through security, has the freedom to explore thoughts and ideas. Sounds a little earthy, huh?



Let's think about it the opposite way. A childhood with no wonder, no beauty, no sensitivity, and no security would still have development, but it's not learning. It's training. Horrible images of child labor and Nazi Germany come to mind...

Here's how I used "I wonder" and how it connected to my children learning. We were sitting on the patio one day and my kids, incredibly bored, asked every mom's favorite question: "What is there to do?" If they had opted for TV or the iPad, they would've been plenty stimulated and out of my hair. Instead, I looked at the huge oak tree in our back yard and said, "I wonder what is in the knot of that tree." For the next hour, I watched my sons take turns standing on a chair, poking sticks into the knot, shrieking at the idea of a monster jumping out.

Just saying "I wonder" opened the door. They saw the world and its beauty and connected to it. Because they felt the security of a nearby parent, they had the freedom to explore. They learned that there was just a bunch of dirt, acorns, and moss in that knot, but their wheels were turning.

This simple two-word phrase isn't a cure-all. But in a world that allows little space or time for imagining, "I wonder" could be a reminder that their minds are

built to discover and explore. I wonder when I can use it next...

In peace I will both lie down, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 4:8



FAMILY FAITH LIFE

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

Share

Sharing is easily one of the most difficult things for children to learn. We all know we *should* share, but when it comes down to it, we don't really want to *do* it. We want to keep things to ourselves. We don't want others to enjoy things even things that we don't need or want or aren't using. The recent events in our country surrounding the Coronavirus, show us that some of us never outgrow issues around sharing—we still know we *should* share, but we still don't really want to *do* it; we'd rather hoard or just worry about ourselves.

We're like that about many things though, aren't we? We know what we *should* do, but we don't really want to *do* that. We *should* protect others' reputations, but we don't really want to,

so we speak ill of them or spread that juicy piece of gossip. We *should* be content with what we have, but we don't really want to, so we complain and grumble under the guise of "just venting." We *should* be kind and loving to others, but we don't really want to, so we let anger and hatred lead our actions. We *should* love God with all our hearts, souls, strength and minds, but we don't really want to so we love ourselves most and best.

It's rebellion. Plain and simple. We don't like to call it rebellion because rebellion sounds like a sin and like we're doing something wrong. Which we hate to admit. We'd rather put a positive spin on things. We'd rather pretend like we're not so bad. We'd rather act like we didn't know better. Here's the thing about sin: it seems sexy to sin, until it comes time to own the sin. We don't want to claim that we are sinners because that means we fall short. And if we fall short, then we cannot be righteous. And if we cannot be righteous, we are doomed to die. Rebellion is sin and sin is death. And if we admit that we are sinners, it not only makes us look bad, but it's also bleak.

"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:24-25).

We poor sinners (even when we don't care to admit that's what we really are), need a rescuer (even when we don't care to admit that's what we need). God has provided that to us in Christ. [Read Romans 7:7-25 if you have the chance because it speaks directly to this dilemma.] This Easter season and everyday, we can thank God for calling our bluff, recognizing who we really are,

what we need, and providing a Savior for us. Thanks be to God!

Builders,
our
monthly
family
life time,
is
cancelled
until
further



notice. We are hoping to resume in June. If you'd like some family worship resources during this time, log onto redeemerjackson.org and subscribe.

Questions? Contact Kimber Walsh at kimber@redeemerjackson.org or 517-750-3100.



faith along the way
during stay home, stay safe

Have you ever uttered "if we just had more time at home, we could _____." This is not the way any of us imagined that we'd spend more time at home. And for many of us the demands are high, or at least very different than usual. And some of us don't get to be home any more than we ever do. No matter how this stay home, stay safe thing hits your family, we do all share this experience and the opportunity to talk about our faith in the midst of it as we are charged to do in Deuteronomy 6:6-7:

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

Here are a few ideas for how we can talk about faith and the ways God is at work in the midst of this stay home, stay safe order:

† **Grief**—It may seem like a funny thing to think about right now, especially if your family is healthy and well and no one you know is sick with the virus, but grief is a very real part of this time at home. We are grieving missed events, missed milestones, even missed everyday life experiences. So acknowledge the grief—we are sad, in denial, angry and filled with uncertainty. Talk about the promises of God which we know to be true and unchanging no matter our circumstances. Talk about what comfort God’s unchanging nature provides in the midst of grief.

† **New Roles**—Time at home brings with it new roles and new things to figure out. None of us has ever navigated a pandemic before. Talk about new things that each of you has had to figure out (big or small) during this time. How have these new things made you feel? Consider and talk about how God might be at work in the midst of the newness. What might He be teaching you? How might He be growing you? What opportunities is He giving you? How can you learn to rely on Him more?

† **Cabin Fever**—Being “stuck” at home can feel stressful. Talk about creative ways to use the things in your home that you’ve long forgotten about and creative ways to get outside while staying safe. Make a stay at home bucket list of all the things you want to do together before the stay home order is up. Talk about all the things in your home that you are thankful for especially during this time. Talk about the blessings God has given you inside and outside to enjoy.

† **Time Together**—Is there such a thing as too much time with our families? That might be debatable depending on your circumstance, but one thing is certain, much time is being spent together. So that requires intentionality about how the time is spent. Be intentional to have family devotions or family worship that otherwise you can’t seem to find time for. End each day with the Faith5, sharing highs/lows, reading Scripture, talking, praying and giving a blessing to each other. Have meals together at the table. Talk about your days or your bigger hopes and dreams. Talk about what God is doing in your heart.

God is at work. Indeed, He never stops working! May we rely on Him more and more each day. And when we feel like we don’t know how to process what’s going on around us, may we always look to Him and His Word and talk about what He’s doing. He is our only sure and certain hope—in pandemic and in health!

FYI

COVID-19 Closure—Redeemer Lutheran Church has suspended all services and activities through April 30, 2020, due to the CDC and governmental recommendations surrounding the coronavirus. At that time additional decisions will be made according to the status of services moving into May. Email and phone communication will continue to notify you of ongoing plans. Weekly services are available on our website as well as many other resources for you to utilize during this time. Our website, redeemerjackson.org, has the most up-to-date information as well as all of the resources available.

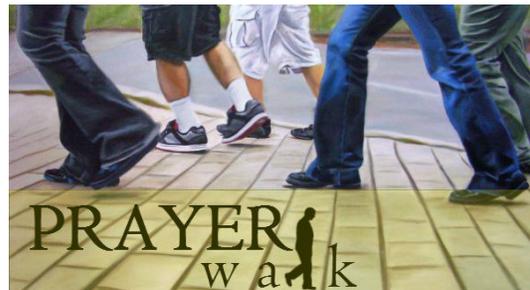
Vacancy Updates

During this time of vacancy, it is imperative that we as a congregation band together to work through the necessary steps required by the Michigan District to receive a Call list for a new pastor. The Leadership Board, elders and staff are working closely to ensure that there is coverage for the short-term. Longer-term plans will be brought to the congregation. In an effort to keep you all in the loop, we will be communicating a lot of information through as many channels as we have available to us.

- 1) **Special Congregational Voter's Meeting**—A special congregational voters' meeting was slated to take place on Sunday, March 22 to consider the Call of an Intentional Interim Pastor. Due to the closure in conjunction with the COVID-19 virus, the special voters' meeting has been postponed. The rescheduled meeting is still to be determined. Please watch the

bulletin and other communication channels for more information forthcoming.

- 2) **Prayer**—The most crucial thing that any of us can do throughout this time is be in prayer. Pray for our congregation, pray for our leaders and staff, pray for the pastors who aid us in the transition, and pray for the pastor that God will bring to us in the future.



PRAYER WALK 2020 *MAY 3, 2020*

Jackson City Wide Annual Prayer Walk will be held on May 3, 2020. Redeemer will meet at the McDonald's on Prospect at noon to begin our walk, rain or shine.

Walk at your pace and ability. Elderly and handicapped individuals may ride in a car throughout Redeemer's section. If you are walking, please stay at least six feet apart at all times.

All denominations! All Christians! All Together as One in Christ! Please join us as we walk, ride, and pray throughout our communities. Sponsored by TogetherDifference.org

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 7, 2020

Excerpts from:

<https://www.fggam.org/2019/11/national-day-of-prayer-2020-theme-pray>

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14

The motto for The National Day of Prayer this year is: *Pray God's Glory Across the Earth...* It is this knowledge, the knowledge of Jesus, the knowledge of the gospel, we pray will spread across the earth. It is through every follower of Jesus living a prayer-care-share lifestyle that His glory will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

On Thursday, May 7, at 12:00 noon we will gather at Nixon Water Park and Skate Park, 400 E. North Street in Jackson, Michigan. As a group, we will read the Bible within a 15-minute time frame. Please email Janie at Boyle.Bunch@comcast.net. Or call her at 517-750-9165 for specific Scripture readings.

[With] the National Day of Prayer on May 7, 2020, we will continue sharing...the glory of God... when we worship instead of worry, when we bring unity instead of division, and when we show and share the love and message of Jesus with others. We exist to give God glory; we are commanded to spread His glory in all we think, say, and do. (1 Peter 4:11) We get to experience His glory in every breath...

We pray that you will join us this year to pray and proclaim the knowledge of God's glory across the earth.



CORONAVIRUS DIARY: Thoughts From Confinement

by Kristin Rathje, one of our guest writers, shares selections and/or excerpts from her Blog, *Next Chapter*; used with permission.

I don't even remember when all of this started, do you? The information has been coming in waves and the impacts on our lives seem to change in the moment.

I first heard about the coronavirus sometime in January. At that point it seemed so removed. I understood it was in China and that a whole city was on lockdown, but that information seemed very intangible at the time. What did I know about a city of 11 million on the other side of the world? How could I conceptualize what a shutdown of that magnitude might look like?

On February 11...I heard the news that the coronavirus had been given the name Covid 19, and still...I couldn't picture it impacting my life at all.

One month later...President Trump was preparing to address the nation and announce a halt on all travel from Europe. This began a series of quickly escalating restrictions. That was March 11...

By Friday, March 13, many schools had closed and many businesses began to send their workers home. By

Thursday, March 19, I, too, was working from home.

On March 24, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, declared that all in the state should shelter in place. And here we are.

How quickly we have all shifted into this new reality! ...Some have lost their jobs, gotten sick, and even lost their lives...

And many *are*—suffering alone. Countless elderly spend their days in locked down facilities, confined to their rooms, restricted from visits. Many others live alone and are doing their best to care for themselves, get the supplies they need, and bide their time.

But the two populations that keep popping up in my imagination—the two groups that seem most vulnerable to me are the homeless and the incarcerated... Where can they *shelter in place*? How are our shelters providing food, supplies, and space for those who are in such desperate need while still protecting their staff and volunteers?

What must the inside of a jail or prison look like right now? I have to imagine that inmates are confined to their cells. Are they able to get outside at all?

...Some jurisdictions are releasing non-violent, aged, and chronically ill prisoners. Some cities are providing additional emergency housing for the homeless. However, I'm certain such undertakings are monumental and will result in further complications...

How will we care for the most vulnerable?

...I'm sitting here in my house next to my dog, comfortable, well-fed, employed, and well. I have everything I need, and *still* I find myself struggling a bit—feeling crabby, wondering how

long this will last, and disappointed that some of my plans have changed.

This pandemic has challenged us all—we've never lived this way before. We've never been so restricted, so isolated, so aware of one another and our struggling.

We're communally groaning. And yet, we are not without hope. Not even close.

You don't have to look far to be inspired. Leaders and agencies are trying to meet the needs of the homeless, the imprisoned, and those who are in dangerous situations. (If you are able, financially support these efforts.)

Countless medical professionals are showing up to work every day, donning personal protective equipment, and caring for the sick and dying with dedication, skill, and compassion.



(Let's all pray for their health, stamina, and encouragement.)

Teachers around the world are finding ways to connect with their students and provide learning opportunities in creative ways with whatever resources they have. (If you've got an awesome teacher in your life, send them an encouraging note or an e-gift card to Starbucks or Target.)

Grocery store employees are staying in the trenches—restocking shelves, disinfecting carts, adapting in the moment, and making sure we have everything we need. (Be sure to smile at them, thank them, and recognize their sacrifice.)

And what about those Shipt and Instacart drivers! It's amazing that

they're willing to go to the stores for us, risking their health, so that we can stay put. (Make sure you tip them well!) Companies are stepping up. The company I work for gave all employees 40 extra paid vacation hours and 80 extra paid sick hours...Other companies are stepping up to provide hand sanitizer, medical masks, ventilators, and the like. (Let's shout out these companies and continue to patronize them!)

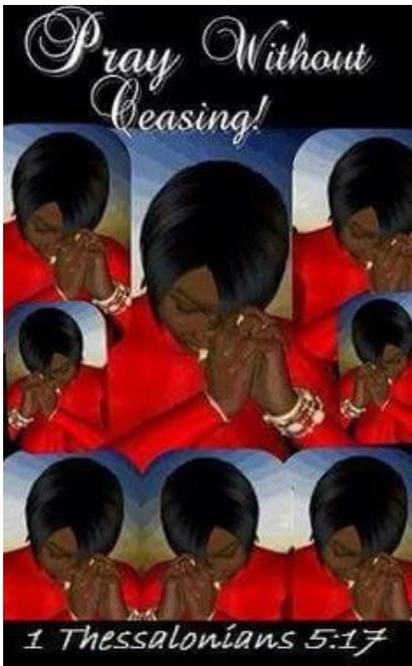
The United States government approved a relief package that...will provide extended unemployment benefits to displaced workers, and will support small and large businesses who have been impacted by virus-related restrictions and shut downs...

As we shelter in place, we are limited in how we can care—but we can support those who on the front lines.

And we can pray...Our pastor challenged our mid-sized congregation to a bold task—could we maintain a 24 hour [a day] prayer vigil for the duration of this crisis? He asked if individuals would sign up for 30-minute blocks of time around the clock to lift up our

world, our nation, our state, our community, and each other in prayer.

Since Sunday, March 22, every slot has been filled. Dozens are committed to calling on God to sustain us,

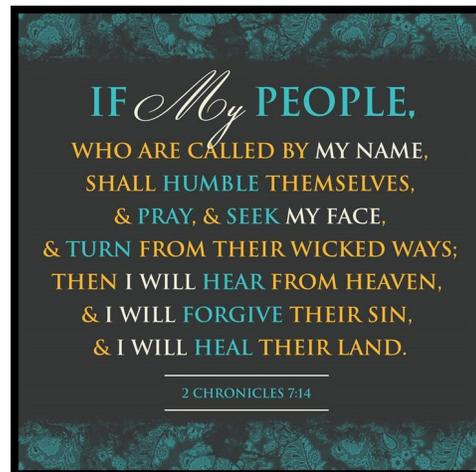


protect us, heal us, and support us during this time.

And that's just in our small church community. Undoubtedly, thousands are praying around the world—calling on God to have mercy, to provide for our needs, to heal the sick, to comfort the mourning, and to show us how to care for one another during this unprecedented crisis.

I wonder what that sounds like—thousands and thousands of voices calling out to God.

When I imagine us all praying together, I don't feel alone or isolated or anxious—I feel connected, heard, and calm. I know He sees it all—me, the homeless, the imprisoned, the sick, the dying, the helpers—and that He holds us all in the palm of His hand.



Due to constantly changing health notifications and guidelines, there is no printed calendar this month. Please see our website at redeemerjackson.org for online services and resources, and updates on upcoming activities and services as they become available. *May God bless us all!*