

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

PEACE



MAY 2022 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 15 ISSUE 5

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

PEACE

by Pastor Zach Holdorf

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. John writes in his Gospel, "On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'"

Did you notice a phrase that was repeated twice? Two times in this text Jesus tells His disciples, "Peace be with you." As you recall, this moment took place two days after Jesus' crucifixion. The disciples were afraid. They did not know what was going to happen to them. Were they going to be crucified like Jesus?

Well, Jesus' peace subdues fear. Jesus is risen. Scars to prove it. When He says, "Peace," peace is given. Just look how the disciples respond



afterward. They go forth and testify to the truth of Jesus Christ, witnessing to the world.

Our world is full of trials and tribulations. Fear is very much a reality. Many live with fear every day. Maybe it's due to all that is happening overseas or with the economy. Maybe it's the fact that we are still in a pandemic. Or fear for your children and

grandchildren living in this crazy world. The list goes on and on. The reality is that all of us experience fear from one thing or another at various times in our lives. Jesus would say to us, "Peace be with you."

In John 14:27, Jesus says, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."* Jesus, because of His death and resurrection, gives to us a peace that surpasses all understanding. This peace soothes the soul, drives out fear, and calms anxious hearts. Christ truly changes everything when He suffered, died, and rose on the third day. We now have His peace forevermore! Peace be with you!

COFFEE WITH PASTOR



Come join Pastor Zach for a cup of coffee, conversation, and a study of God's Word. This informal gathering will allow for the opportunity to pick Pastor's brain pertaining to questions you may have about life or the Scriptures, to

have fellowship with others, and to grow in God's Word.

We meet in the library at 10:00 a.m. every week on Thursday mornings, through the summer. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Zach at pastor@redeemerjackson.org.

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

by Jennifer Kennedy Dean, *Power Praying*

Father, I trust You. I know that Your plans for me are for good and not for harm. I know that You know the whole picture and are acting in accordance with it. I know that You only tear down in order to build up. I know that You only empty in order to fill. Let Your will be done. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Don and Donna Zastrow 05/20/1961

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Jerimiah Bigelow	05/01
Kelly Schnebelt	05/03
Jim Hood	05/04
Tiffany Kane	05/04
Art Drake	05/07
Dave Althouse	05/09
Jim Weatherwax	05/09
Brittney Gales	05/14
Derrick Gales	05/17
Karen Dewey	05/18
Trenton Schnebelt	05/20
Jerry Rockwell	05/21
Crystal Challendar	05/21
Barb Hock	05/22
Deanna Brandt	05/23
Kim Britton	05/25
Caeley Schnebelt	05/25
Nancy Bryant	05/27
Dan Wilcox	05/28
Pam Brown	05/29
Averi Thomas	05/30
Megan Bahr	05/31

UPCOMING EVENTS

☺ **Sunday Bible Study Classes:**
Ongoing Sunday School, Youth, and Adult Classes: Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Lower Level. **Sunday, May 15: *Last Sunday morning Bible Classes before summer hiatus.***

☺ **Thursdays: *Coffee with Pastor Zach* at 10:00 a.m.** This class meets in the library on the upper level at 10:00 a.m. every Thursday morning through summer. Come with your questions about faith, the Bible, or life as we know it. Let's dig into the Word and take this faith walk together. Come walk with us.

☺ **Thursday, May 5: National Day of Prayer.** Anyone who wishes to pray for our nation and world is invited to meet at 12:00 noon at Austin Blair Park where Greenwood/W. Wilkins and Jackson Street meet in downtown Jackson. This is a great opportunity to gather as a community to pray.

☺ **Thursday, May 5: Chancel of Redeemer will meet at 9:00 a.m.** and anyone is welcome! Learning to care for vestments and the altar itself are just a few of the duties of the Chancel. If you are interested in caring for this specific area of the church and all that entails, come join us to learn and to serve.

☺ **Thursday, May 19: LWML/ Women of Redeemer will meet at 10:00 a.m.** and all women are welcome! Learn more about our involvement in

missions, both local and in other areas of Michigan, as well as worldwide.

☺ **Monday, May 23: *VBS Planning Meeting.*** In the Connection Room on the Lower Level at 6:30 p.m.

☺ **Saturday, May 28: *Mobile Food Pantry at Trinity.*** From 10:00-11:30 a.m. This is an ongoing event on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Redeemer partners with Trinity in this outreach to serve the community. We need and ask volunteers to be available from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

☺ **June 20-23: SAVE THE DATES!**
VBS: Evening Vacation Bible School. Be on the lookout for more information and planning meetings to come.

S.O.A.R. FUNDRAISING EVENT "HEALING HANDBAGS"



You are invited to attend an evening fundraising event to benefit SOAR Café and Farms. A dinner and handbag auction will be held Friday, May 6, 2022, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Cascades Manor House, located at 1970 Kibby Road, Jackson, Michigan 49203. The cost is \$35.00 per person.

SOAR Cafe & Farms is hosting "Healing Handbags," a FUNdraising event. Bring your mom, your sisters,

your girlfriends, aunts, cousins, and besties for an evening full of good food, spirit-lifting stories, and light-hearted competition, as we auction designer handbags to raise funding and support for women survivors in our community.

Your \$35.00 ticket price includes your meal and the program. You can order tickets or host a table online at www.soarcafeandfarms.com. Tickets to win handbags will be for sale when doors open at 5:30 p.m. the day of the event. The more tickets you buy, the better your chances of winning your favorite bag(s)! Hope to see you there!

The SOAR Team



Vacation Bible School 2022 will be offered on June 20-23 in the evenings. Children ages 4-10 are welcome to come out and participate in the “monumental” programming, and all others are invited to volunteer. Details and registration will be available on our website at redeemerjackson.org

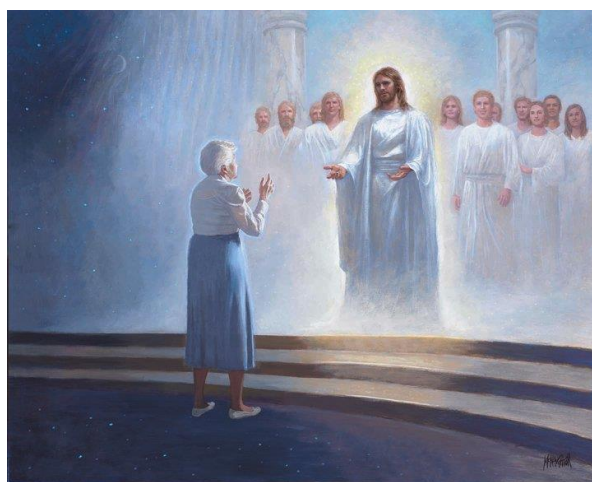
PEACE

by Peggy Bennitt

*Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way.
The Lord be with all of you.*

2 Thessalonians 3:16

I think I finally have peace. My mom died on the 18th of March, and went home to be with Jesus. She knew Him well, and left this “vale of tears” for a mansion in heaven. I envy her that, and wouldn’t will her back for all the money in the world. She too, is at peace, and that’s a blessing to all her children.



Mom had severe dementia for the past five years or so. For perhaps the last four of those years, she rarely recognized me. She knew she had a daughter named Peggy, but *I was not* that daughter. This phenomenon has been one of the hardest for me to deal with through Mom’s illness. It was as if I’d lost my identity, my image of myself, and my place in the family. I lost my Mom long before she went to heaven. So, “how do I move on” is the real question.

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:6

We had a Life Celebration for Mom on March 26. Over 50 people came to celebrate with us, including all of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, several nieces, and many friends, some coming from as far away as Ohio, Indiana, and Georgia. My Mom was 97 years old and would have loved the happy sendoff as we celebrated a life well-lived and a woman well-loved. She wasn't perfect, but she is now. Mom is happy and at peace with her Savior, and because she is—so am I. I know I'll see her and Dad again someday, and I have peace.

Spending an afternoon remembering



each stage and age of her life through photos and shared memories was the perfect tribute to a life well lived and duly celebrated. It gave us closure without slamming the door shut. We all had a chance to connect and love on each other, even if only for a short time. Family coming together to mourn briefly and celebrate greatly was a true gift that will keep us glued together as a family—still sticky—but not easily pulled apart. I thank God for the peace and love that is a part of our family heritage. Peace like a river.



THE BIBLE: COVER-TO-COVER

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

This fall, the Bethel Series returns to Redeemer. The Bethel Series is a serious and enjoyable walk through the whole Bible spaced basically over two school years. Year one takes the student through the Old Testament. Year two begins with a brief survey of *The Apocrypha* and then on through the entire New Testament. The study should be taken in order. No apologies. It's rigorous; it takes some real commitment. But it's fun, there are some great twists and turns along the way, and it opens the whole Bible to each participant in a powerful way.

Ten students completed the Bethel Series in the spring of 2021. They took up the challenge, came to the study with a wide range of previous experience with the Bible, and found there truly was a great deal of satisfaction for everyone involved.

The Bethel Series incorporates varied learning strategies including reading/lecture, memorization, visual resources, and various projects throughout the two-year study.

Students meet weekly (this fall on Thursday evenings) from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the Connection Room. The atmosphere is casual and there is ample opportunity for questions and discussion each week. It's a great opportunity for couples, singles, retired people—anyone from high school age and above. The Bethel Series graduated one of our high school seniors in our last class, and she was an amazing contributor to our gatherings.

The Bethel Series serves well the larger Strategic Plan of Redeemer where we are all called to “Worship, Grow, and Serve” in the church family and in the community that surrounds us. That requires us to continually open God’s



Word together, no matter what our experience, no matter how much or how little we have studied the Bible in the past. And many Christians have never taken on the task of going through the entire Bible, cover to cover. This is just such an opportunity.

The Bethel Series begins on Thursday, October 6 at 6:30 p.m. Each student will purchase a binder of materials for each of the two years. Cost for the materials is \$80/year and those materials will provide a wealth of learning and reference for the participant for years to come. Materials need to be ordered ahead of time, so those interested in beginning the Old Testament Study should contact Craig Britton by August 28. Checks may be made payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church. And because we want everyone to have access to this marvelous study, there are scholarships available.

The Bethel Series is a great opportunity for growth in God’s Word, building relationships around His Word, and it will serve the purposes of God’s Kingdom here at Redeemer and beyond. Please prayerfully consider being a part of our class this fall. See Craig Britton, email him at craig@redeemerjackson.org or call the church office.

SHUT DOWN AND RESTART

by Peggy Bennitt

I know it’s late in the school year to address homework and learning issues, but summer break is followed each year by—fall and back-to-school. Now might be a good time to shut down and restart your brain’s computer—a kind of *refresh* in technical terms—and do some quick



rethinking **now** to prepare you and your child for a more productive and positive start for the 2022-2023 school year.

1. Change Tactics on the Importance of Grades. No, I'm **NOT** saying that grades aren't important. I **AM** saying that the work and process that goes into learning is more important than that A. Let's try a different approach and impress on our kids that there's more to success than the final grade.



Let's celebrate the process of learning. Why not try ignoring the report card as the gauge for

success. Pay or give a reward to your child for each assignment completed and turned in, clearer, more organized work, or encouragement from a teacher for class participation or good conduct instead of rewarding an "A." Taking the focus (and payoff) away from grades can add emphasis to the actual thought process of learning for life.

2. Encourage "Your Best." Expecting your kids to do their best is a great approach to build self-confidence and pride in accomplishments and in their work. When an assignment is complete, always ask: "Did you do your best? Are you proud of your work on this?" Let them know that you expect nothing less than the best from them. Even if you get an eye roll, they'll start to anticipate your questions and plant a seed for the standard your children should set for their own work.

3. Homework and Chores Come First. Before soccer, before baseball, before, hockey, before toys or games, come homework and family chores. **What?**

Our kids are an integral part of our families, and their chores and schoolwork are their "jobs" as family members, just like



mom and dad have jobs. Their "paychecks" are their sports, music programs, instruments, sports equipment, allowances, etc. (Mom comes home from her job and then does chores: makes supper, cleans the house, does laundry, etc. Dad comes home from his job and does chores: mows the lawn, does house repairs, works on the car, etc. Many parents share these chores, but they do their chores **BEFORE** they relax, read, watch T.V., or play games.)

We can't expect our children to care about school if we allow them to have schedules where homework can't fit in smoothly. That's on us as parents. But if they know they won't get to go to practice or a game today (part of their paycheck) without finishing homework and chores, **kids who don't want to do**



homework will find a way to do it. Parents need to enforce this with follow-up though. Without having *consequences that really happen*, there

will not be progress for the child nor the parents.

4. No Labels. Not all kids who avoid doing homework are lazy. They just have a learning difference that needs to be managed. If a child begins to expect to fail, or thinks we expect him/her to fail, that child will stop trying and quit. Often a good tutor can resolve the issue, and many school systems provide this service free of charge or for a small fee. Motivating a child to learn and to accept (maybe even embrace) the learning process, can be a challenge, but the skill to focus on each assignment, do the best job possible, and complete each step of the process to the finish—is a skill for life. Knowing that their schoolwork is part of their *job* and is a requirement for their *paycheck*, can help children and teens alike to



appreciate their extra-curricular activities, not as something they're entitled to, but as a reward for a job well done.

5. Shut Down and Restart. As the school year winds down and we begin to plan for the summer break, remember to allow some time for your children to just veg for a week or two. This lets them relax and just be kids. Do not let them slack on chores though. Daily family life requires the whole family to be involved in caring for the home and each other, and can be a learning experience in itself.

With free time on their hands, kids, especially teens, should be assigned a few extra household chores if they want to continue to have their sports, play dates, and other fun activities during the summer. Nothing overwhelming, but enough not to *ever* hear the “I’m bored” mantra. By allowing more recreational time during the summer, more respect for the fact that parents are usually still “going to work” everyday needs to be reinforced. This way, the “job” idea stays in their heads and they appreciate that after this summer break/shut down, comes the restart of their jobs in the fall.

TOPIC FOR JUNE

Through the *Redeemer Reflection* newsletter, our goal is to share what God is leading us to do, now and in the future, and, what we have done recently with His guidance. We want to reflect Jesus in our personal lives, as well as in our community, and the world around us. The writing prompt for June is ***Home.***

Send comments, articles, information and/or photos by the 15th of each month, to bennitt49@yahoo.com, to be included in the following month's newsletter. All submissions are appreciated and prayerfully considered.



FIVE WAYS TO PEACE

P—PRAY. I'm not sure how anyone can navigate this world without prayer. If I didn't have someone to talk to, anytime day or night, I would think I was crazy because I'd be talking to myself all the time. Or, I'd go crazy because there was no one there for me in times of despair or desperate need. With God always available to listen and care, I feel safe and secure. God is available to me (and everyone who believes in Him) 24/7. What an amazing sense of peace that gives me!

E—ESCAPE. With confidence, I can leave my worries and concerns in my Lord's capable hands and trust Him to do what's best for me. I can escape from the pressures of everyday life, knowing that God cares for me and will guide me to do what's best for me, both body and soul. Peace comes with the assurance of His love.

A—ACCEPTANCE. When I accept that God loves me—no matter what—and only wants what's best for me in this world and the next, then I can relax into His care and truly experience peace.

C—COURAGE. It takes courage to trust someone else with your life choices and decisions. Generally, we only trust those who have proven that they are worthy of our trust and faith in them. Trusting our invisible God is an act of faith, and a courageous step in our belief in a God who has promised "...never to leave us or forsake us." As we step forward in faith, our courage becomes a living part of faith in our Lord. With that courage comes the peace that passes all understanding on a mortal level. Courage brings a lasting peace.

E—EASE. Knowing God, and believing Him completely, brings peace with an ease that will surprise and restore each one of us. May His peace ease and soothe our souls as we each move into His open arms, letting our troubles and concerns be taken from us and placed in His competent hands. Let our Lord ease your troubled spirit and bring you His peace.



by Craig Britton

Our Community Prayer Walk happens annually in Jackson, on the first Sunday in May. Anyone interested in “prayer walking” in our assigned neighborhood (see posted routes in our church narthex), will meet at the McDonald’s on Prospect Street, Sunday, May 1 at 2:00 p.m. The slated time is 2:00-3:00 p.m., but any part of that hour would be wonderful. It actually takes about an hour to “walk” our assigned route as we walk and pray as we go. If you cannot attend at that time but would like to walk our area anytime in the next couple of weeks, feel free to do so. I would encourage walking with at least two together. I think that is wise.



A second opportunity takes place on the National Day of Prayer, Thursday,

May 5 at noon. The larger Christian community will gather at Austin Blair Park where Greenwood/W. Wilkins and Jackson Street meet in downtown Jackson. This is an annual gathering with Christians from many churches who will join together to pray for our city, state, nation and world. The gathering goes to 1:00 p.m.

Please plan for and take part in either or both activities. And if you cannot make the scheduled events, I encourage you to set aside some special time for prayer with these events in mind.

Thank you all for your faithful prayer and intercession all year long. God's peace to you all.

God is faithful. Thank you all for praying.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>1</div> <div> Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m. Prayer Walk 2:00 p.m. </div>	<div>2</div> <div> 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 10:00 a.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. MOTHERS' DAY  </div>	<div>9</div> <div> 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 10:00 a.m. </div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div>
<div>15</div> <div> Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Last Bible Classes before Summer Hiatus 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m. </div>	<div>16</div> <div> 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>19</div> <div> LWML-Women of Redeemer 10:00 a.m. Coffee with Pastor 10:00 a.m. </div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div> Redeemer Work Day 9:00 a.m. </div>
<div>22</div> <div> Divine Service-C 8:00 a.m. Contemporary Service-C 10:30 a.m. </div>	<div>23</div> <div> Praise Team 7:00 p.m. VBS Meeting 6:30 p.m. </div>	<div>24</div> <div> Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. </div>	<div>25</div> <div> Quilters 9:30 a.m. </div>	<div>26</div> <div> Coffee with Pastor 10:00 a.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. Contemporary Service-C 9:30 a.m. </div>	<div>30</div> <div> Praise Team 7:00 p.m. </div>	<div>31</div> <div> Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. </div>	<div>  </div> <div> C—Denotes Communion Services </div>			

2022