

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

GATHER



NOVEMBER 2021 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 14 ISSUE 11

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

GATHER

by Pastor Zach Holdorf

I can almost taste the turkey, the cranberry sauce, and the pumpkin pie. If I think about it too much longer, I am going to start to drool! With Thanksgiving right around the corner, I start to get excited for the big meal, spending time with family, and pausing for a moment to recount and give thanks for the blessings God has given. In fact, one of our family traditions is sharing those blessings around the dinner table on Thanksgiving.

Looking back over the past several months, life for me and my family has changed drastically. We moved from Wisconsin to Michigan, left our home, moved to a rental, and finally moved into our new home. We left our friends, the kids started a new school, and I started working in a new environment. Yet, during all that has taken place, I can't help but echo what the Psalmist writes in Psalm 9:1, *"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds."*



I thank God for His provision: help from many people to move my family across states, a place to protect my family as we waited to move into our home, and our new home where we can establish deep roots in Jackson. I also thank God for all the people He has placed in my life: a wonderful staff that is such a joy to work with, and a great cloud of

witnesses (the members of Redeemer) who have welcomed me and my family with open arms.

I am in awe of what the Lord has done in our midst up to this point. I look forward to what He has for us in the weeks, months, and years to come as we *"run with endurance the race that is set before us."* (Hebrews 12:1)

In Christ, Pastor Zach Holdorf





😊 **Bible Study Classes: Ongoing**
Sunday School, Youth, and Adult
Classes: Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

😊 **Thursday, November 4: Chancel
meets at 4:30 p.m.** We hope this new
time will make it possible for anyone
interested in caring for the altar area to
join us in serving as Chancel members.
Come to the meeting to find out more
about this rewarding service
opportunity. All are welcome!

😊 **Pastor Zach** will begin teaching an
adult class on **Sunday, November 7**.
More details to come.

😊 **Thursday, November 18: LWML/
Women of Redeemer meets at 10:00
a.m.** All women are welcome! Come to
the meeting to find out more about
how we serve Redeemer and the
Community.

😊 **Wednesday, November 24:**
Thanksgiving Eve Service at 6:30 p.m.

😊 **Saturday, November 27: Mobile
Food Pantry at Trinity.** From 10:00—
11:30 a.m. Ongoing event, 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.** Hope to see you there!



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY AND GIVEAWAY

The Mobile Food Pantry is a monthly event that takes place in front of the doors of Trinity Church in downtown Jackson. Each month Redeemer partners with Trinity to provide essential food items for those in need in our community. Non-food specialty items are also offered to help fill additional personal needs, as we become aware of them. This is one way we can help provide necessities to our community. **Please put your donated items in the provided bin in the narthex.**

The food items that we distribute are provided through *Compassionate Ministries of Jackson County*. This is a wonderful organization in the Jackson area, and more information can be found online at www.cmjackson.org/

If you'd like to volunteer and get involved with these **fourth-Saturday-of-the-month** opportunities to serve our community, please contact the church office at 517-750-3100.

Thank you all for being so generous with your donations.





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Lori Zeidan | 11/01 |
| Kirsten Mogle | 11/06 |
| Dean Potter | 11/06 |
| Leah Anderson | 11/07 |
| Richard Kline | 11/07 |
| Tony Farley | 11/09 |
| Kristofer Herrick | 11/12 |
| Tracy Delbridge | 11/14 |
| Brad Wendt | 11/15 |
| Bill Poland | 11/15 |
| Claudina Kestner | 11/18 |
| Jacob Kane | 11/20 |
| Duane Coon | 11/21 |
| Don Curl | 11/21 |
| Mary Biegner | 11/24 |



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

David & Monica VanDerWeide
November 15, 1997

Pastor Zachary & Katrina Holdorf
November 22, 2008

CHRISTIAN CARE MINISTRY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
(from *Portals of Prayer*)

“Heavenly Father,
You are the Great Giver.
You have given us family and friends,
food to eat, and shelter.
You provide for all our needs, both
temporal and eternal.
You feed us with Your body and blood,
washing away our sins,
And granting us to stand righteous
before You.
Out of our thanksgiving for all You
have given us,
Let us serve one another with joy
until that day
When we feast together eternally
with the Lamb.”

Christian Care Ministry will be organizing food boxes for Redeemer members to express thankfulness to our Lord for all He provides in His merciful goodness. Announcements will be forthcoming for opportunities to share food goods for Thanksgiving dinners.

We are thankful to Claudina Kestner and Pat Eichenberg who are coordinating this effort of “random acts of kindness” for our Christian brothers and sisters and their families.





The Priceless Gift Toy Store
is a community service of
Together We
Can Make A
Difference
House



Jesus said, By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

We have an opportunity to demonstrate God’s love to families who are hurting. For fifteen years, the Jackson community has come together to serve an average of 4,000 children each year by providing Christmas gifts through *The Priceless Gift Toy Store*. We are good stewards of what God has provided when we share used toys our own children have outgrown and/or make handmade gifts to donate.

Serving several thousand Jackson children each Christmas



with recycled, home-made, and new toys—plus hundreds of gift bags of personal care items, is one

of our most effective annual outreaches to our city. Each year the need is here—and Jesus is in every detail, large or small. This service to the community is

made possible because of our volunteers and partnerships with St. Vincent de Paul and more than 100 other business, schools, and churches.

Donations of gently used toys or handmade gifts will be accepted Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. through November 24. *The Priceless Gift Toy Store* preparations are handled at the Dream Center, located in the old Tomlinson school building, 730 Tomlinson Street, Jackson. We will work there **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** until Thanksgiving Eve. After Thanksgiving, *The Priceless Gift Toy Store* will be open to actual “shoppers.”

Please call *David or **Wendy to ask questions and/or volunteer in any way to help in this important ministry. Thank you for all your prayers and hard work to make a difference in the lives of the children in our community.

*David Kemler, General Manager, St. Vincent de Paul Stores (517-784-8377 for David)

**Wendy Wight, Director, Together We Can Make A Difference (517-740-8444 for Wendy).

GATHER

by Peggy Bennitt

November is a time for thanksgiving, a time of the harvest, and the gathering in of the bounty of the farmlands and the orchards, the woodlands and streams. God’s provision is placed before us in the fields and forests, and hunters and gatherers alike take nourishment from the land.

Come and see what God has done, how awesome His works in man's behalf!
Psalm 66:5 (NIV)

As you read this passage, can't you just see King David all but dancing in the saddle as he views God's providence in



his kingdom? Do you feel that same energy as he beckons us also in Psalm 34:8 to “*taste and see that the Lord is good?*”

In spite of wars and pandemics, losses and changes, life abounds



around us and God's bounty is never-failing. It was so in David's time, and is in our own. Yet we are so blessed! We have a need—God provides. He gathers us to Him each week to feed us His Word and remind us of our salvation with His constant presence among us. He stretches out His scarred hands and

wraps us in His amazing love. What more could we want?

The Lord is my Shepherd; I have everything I need.

Psalm 23:1 (GNB)

Anytime we gather together, be it holidays, anniversaries or birthdays, weddings or funerals, picnics or just everyday mealtimes—let's remember to invite Him to “come, Lord Jesus” and join us as we celebrate the blessings all around us, all gifts from His mighty hands. It's the least we can do—and, the most.

TOPIC FOR DECEMBER

The *Reflection* newsletter is meant to reflect Jesus through our lives, into our community, and out into the world in which we live. The writing prompt for December is **Foretold**.

Our print media, and all other communication from and through Redeemer Lutheran Church, is designed to *reflect* His light to a searching world. Send 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.

TOGETHER

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

I'm dating myself a bit here, but my mind goes this morning to early hours perched before the television watching Bob Keeshan, better known to millions

as *Captain Kangaroo*. A decorated war hero who loved children and who was committed to quality early education, the Captain's program was an early attempt to establish good habits, good morals, and love of country in the



children of America. Pre-dating the massively popular *Sesame Street*, this pioneering effort also included a great variety of music. In fact, I remember that I first heard Frank Sinatra's "The House I Live In," and the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony with "Bunny Rabbit" conducting, for the first time on *Captain Kangaroo*. It helped to foster a life of pursuing great music and song.

But one song stands out more than any other from that program; who knew nearly 60 years later I would find it in the hymnal that sits on my desk in my little office? Well, at least a hymn with the familiar tune I heard and loved. In the Lutheran Service Book, #785 is titled, "We Praise You, O God." It is a lovely hymn of thanksgiving to God with lyrics penned by Julia B. Cory.

The tune is a lovely and lilting Dutch melody that is also used to undergird these words in another setting: "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing." This hymn is recorded as "anonymous" in many hymnals, but it is its opening line that I remembered as a

child. I think because when it was presented on his program each year, the "Captain's Treasure House" was

adorned with all manner of fall delights: pumpkins, gourds, and myriad colorful



leaves. The opening line with "We gather" stuck in the mind and heart of a little boy who loved the Thanksgiving family gathering of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, usually in our home. A turkey in the oven, Lions football on the television after the Macy's Parade—I'd dearly love a "replay." All treasures, still in my mind.

Many, many years have passed. All but the siblings and cousins have gone. But that song. I love the words expressed in our LSB, but it is the



rendering from a children's TV show that captured my heart and leads me to love the gathering of family, friends, and new acquaintances at any time and place. May our hearts always remember that indeed our God calls us as family, that we may sing: "We gather together, to ask the Lord's blessing." There is nothing quite like it.

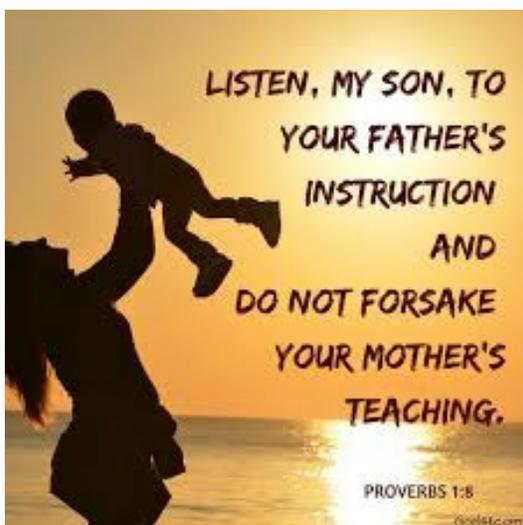
GATHER

by Kimber Walsh, CFLE

As God's people, we are welcomed to gather together in order to worship God in two groups:

1) With those we share a household with (most often our family)

God has designed our homes to be a gathering spot for faith formation. God has called each of us to lead our families in discipleship at home—to preach and teach the Bible to our family (Ephesians 6:4); to be a discipleship center (Genesis 18:19); to impress the hearts of the next generation with a love for God (Deuteronomy 6:5-7); to pass on faith (Psalm 78:1-8; Deuteronomy 32:44-47; Ephesians 6:4); and to teach spiritual lessons to our children



and grandchildren if we have them (Proverbs 1:8, Proverbs 7:1, Proverbs 23:23-26). Each of us is accountable for this gathering and it serves as

preparation of our hearts for the gathering of the church.



2) With the corporate assembly of our local congregation

God has designed the church to be a gathering place where His Word is preached to all ages among other things. The church by way of the pastor is to administer the Sacraments and proclaim the Word of God to all:



Matthew 28:19-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”



Joel 2:15-16 *“Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber.”*

Each of these gatherings which God designed for us have the purpose of bringing God's people together (i.e., we need more than *just* personal study) and for the purpose of God's Holy Spirit working in us through His Word (at both gatherings) and the Sacraments (at the corporate gathering). God designed them to be a blessing to us. He gives us these opportunities to gather together not simply for food, fellowship, or fun, but also for the strengthening of our faith, to share our struggles and what God has done for us, to point each other to hope when life seems hopeless, and to remember that God is always with us.

IS YOUR KID SADFISHING? (ARE YOU?)



Excerpts from article by Abby Watts,
<https://www.imom.com/what-to-do-if-kid-is-sadfishing/>

Sad-fishing—you've probably seen it online and maybe you've even taken the bait. *Or maybe you've done it yourself.* I just saw someone sad-fishing in my feed in a status update that said, "I can't do this anymore." Any decent friend would quickly respond with concern—and that's what the "fisherman" is going for.

Sad-fishing is, well, sad. I would never want my friends in real life to

think they need to bait me into caring about them... But what about our kids? What if they are sad-fishing? Here's what parents need to know...

Why are teens sad-fishing?

Celebrities have posted exaggerated claims to boost followers with much success. Teens see the reaction it generates and follow suit...sad-fishing does typically get a response, like



comments, hearts, sympathy—at least until it doesn't— which is one of the dangers. 🙄

Teens are apt to seek attention through sad-fishing because they've grown up with social media as their community...the Gen Z version...is to post something online and the more mysterious or dramatic it is, the more interest it will gain. Add to this the fact that **studies show** that the younger generations who have spent more time online are **more lonely**, and you'll quickly understand why they resort to sad-fishing.

What are the dangers of sad-fishing?

Think of sad-fishing like the boy who cried wolf, but "the boy" is *everyone* on social media. A teenager's teary-eyed selfie might seem overdramatic, or it might actually be a cry for help, but because so many people do it, it's easy to scroll by or think they are just seeking attention or jumping on the "sad-fishing bandwagon."

But some kids genuinely are looking for help. Young people with actual mental health issues who legitimately seek support online are facing unfair criticism...

What can parents do to help? The first step is to *monitor your child's social media accounts*.

...Keep tabs on how much time your kids spend staring at phones and what kind of moods they're in when they put their phones down. Just like any relationship, if our kids always walk away from time on their phones feeling worse about themselves, then it might be time for a breakup [with the phone/online media].

If your child's online persona matches what you see in person, and that child is crying for help, *then* talk to a professional. But if your daughter posts a photo of herself curled up in bed, crying with the caption



“sometimes getting out of bed is just too hard” then you see her outside washing her car [or playing with the dog out in the yard]...talk to her about why she feels the need to present something online that is different from reality. **And then listen well.**

Even if your child doesn't have a mental health issue, the fact that (s)he feels the need to attention-seek through sad-fishing does suggest that there is some emotional need not being met. As much as teens want approval from their peers, they want it from **you** even more.

EDITOR'S NOTE: iMom, Mark Merrill, Family First.net, and All Pro Dad are excellent Christian-based resources when you are struggling with family matters, be it parenting, marriage, or other relational issues. These sites are easy to search by topic online. See Kimber Walsh, Director of Family Life, or Craig Britton, Director of Ministries also for more resources and information online, and “hands-on” resources in our church library and our community as well.



The Reverend Carl and Lisa Bassett

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Redeemer,

God's grace and love be with you this day and every day!

Words can't adequately express our feelings and emotions on our last day together on September 12. Thanks be to God we were abundantly fed by our awesome God at a combined worship service with communion, with outstanding readings and reflections from God's Word, as well as beautiful songs, vocals, and instrumentals. We will never forget that day.

What can we possibly say about our "GOOD PIE" fellowship in the RAC... I know we have never seen (and eaten!) so many delicious pies in one place—

thank goodness we didn't worry about "calorie counting" that day! And the fellowship together—how we loved all the hugs and words recalling our past fourteen months together!

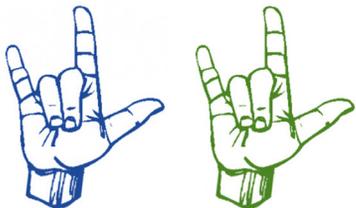
We were blown away and moved by your cards, thoughtful and loving words, and gifts—how blessed we have been to have had the privilege of being a part of God's Forever Family in Jackson.

I will always cherish our partnership in mission as your Intentional Interim Pastor. You have been such a blessing to Lisa and me.

Know that you are always in our prayers as we excitedly wait to see where our Awesome God will lead you and Pastor Zach as you **grow** in God's word, **gather** around His teachings, and then **go** into the world with His saving words of mercy and compassion.

We look forward to seeing you all again, whether it be worshipping together at Redeemer in the future, or on that glorious day when we gather in Paradise with our Mighty God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

We love you!



Peace and Power in Christ our Risen Lord,

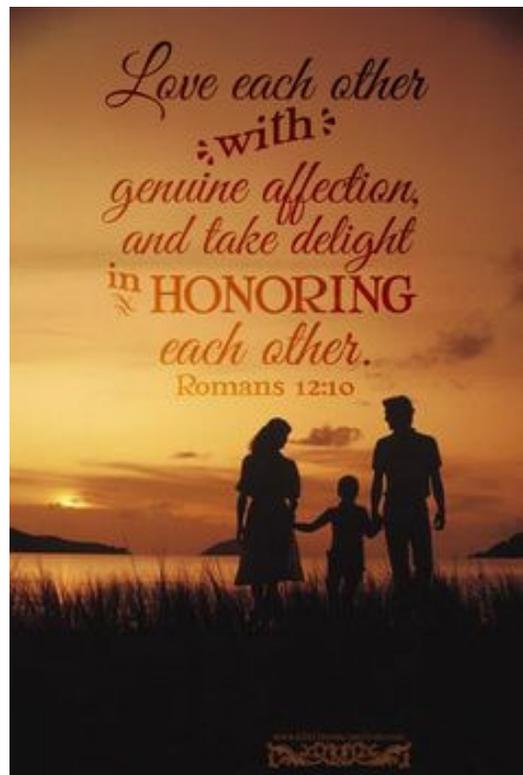
Pastor and Lisa

PRAYER FOR THE MOMENT

God, How do I know what I really need? I was counting on showing up at Your doorstep and then You would provide me with all my needs. This seems so reminiscent of my childhood when I was told to go do what I could do for myself. Am I fighting growing up in my faith? Am I reluctant to be a mature person of faith? Well, of course!

Help me, God, as I grow into a spiritual adult. Help me seek and find the strengths that are mine and dedicate those gifts to Your service as they were intended since the beginning of time. I will be renewed in serving You. Amen.

*God said, "Ask what I should give you."
1 Kings 3:5*



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|--------|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| C —Denotes Communion Services | Praise Team 7:00 p.m. | Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. | | Chancel 4:30 p.m. | | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Divine Service C 8:00 a.m. Adults' & Children's Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m. | Praise Team 7:00 p.m. | Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. | Quilters 9:30 a.m. | | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Adults' & Children's Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m. | Praise Team 7:00 p.m. REFLECTION DEADLINE | Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. | | LWML-Women of Redeemer 10:00 a.m. | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Adults' & Children's Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m. | Praise Team 7:00 p.m. | Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. | Quilters 9:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30 p.m. |  Thanksgiving | | Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m. Need Volunteers from 9 'til Noon |
| 28 | 29 | 30 |  | | | |
| Divine Service C 8:00 a.m. NO CLASSES between Services Contemporary Service C 10:30 a.m. | Praise Team 7:00 p.m. | Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. | | | | |
| | | | | | | 2021 |