REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

HELP



NOVEMBER 2022 PUBLICATION VOLUME 16 ISSUE 11

Redeemer Reflection Newsletter

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

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REDEEMER REFLECTION





that our Lord helps us in our struggles. We see in the Psalms:

In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

Psalm 18:6

HELP

When you look at our world today—our culture in the United States of America, and even in our daily lives—it is a difficult reality we face. The world is going further and further away from God. It seems that people just do what's right in their own eyes with total disregard of others. The celebration of sin assaults our senses daily.

It's November, and you know what that means—elections, which bring a whole host of thoughts and feelings as well. As a result, the struggle of living in a world we are not used to abounds. Deep emotions like anger, fear, distrust, and distain are evoked. Finding hope seems like chasing after the wind. I know I have struggled with where we are in our world, and I am sure you have too.

As Christians, in these gray and latter days, what are we to do? We cry out for help and trust our Lord hears our prayers. We take comfort in the fact

Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

Psalm 33:20

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

Psalm 46:5

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:2

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God.

Psalm 146:5

This is just a smattering of the promises God has for His people. These are just a few verses in the Psalms, not

to mention all the promises in the rest of Holy Scripture. He knows the situation. He is present for His people. He hears their cries. He *helps*. He sent His very Son, Jesus, to die for your sins, who was raised for your salvation. Eternal life is yours in Christ. Until that day, Jesus helps His children every step of the way. Thanks be to God. Amen! In Christ,

Pastor Zach Holdorf

WONDERING WHERE TO LOOK

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

Do you ask yourself questions during your waking hours? It is a silly question. I firmly believe the reason we move forward in our days with any consistency is that we ask ourselves questions and answer them. "What should I wear?" "What should I make for dinner?" "What's my next book to tackle?" Then come the more substantive queries like, "What do I do next?" Or, "What is God asking of me?"



Or perhaps even, "How am I going to get through today?" The common theme in all these questions is the issue of *needing* answers.

Then comes the issue of discerning the answers to which I should lend my

ear. Which answers best serve me and those I care about? Which answers have a valid history? Or even, "Must I have an answer immediately?"

God gives to every one of us an amazing tool called the brain which can "combobulate" many more factors and bits of information than you and I will ever be able to handle. And when we use our brains to ask and seek, there are many "tentacles" that twist and cross to generate solutions. It is an unspeakably glorious gift. But our brains entertain and receive so much information that it is sometimes difficult to fend off the unhelpful answers and find those that will not only work, but truly give aid.

So that's where the next gift comes in. While the Scriptures do not give answers for every single issue in life, the way the Bible teaches us to use our minds really gives great counsel. "Think on these things," says Paul in Philippians 4:8. Isaiah (Isaiah 26:3) reminds us that peace is available when our minds are stayed on the Lord. And how amazing, in 1 Corinthians 2:16 that Paul encourages Christians, reminding them they have "the mind of Christ." All these point to God's Word as the source, not of every individual answer, but as the way to get there. I especially love the psalmist proclaiming, *I have more* understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation (Psalm 119:99).

Questions invariably come to us. And they will come today, tonight, and every day God gives us. While we can't find the color of the shirt we should pull from the closet in Holy Writ, we can and do find answers to give help for the

- 2 -

questions that matter most. And the counsel of *how* we *should* use our Godgiven faculties is to be found nearly everywhere we turn in our Bibles. Open, read, meditate, and digest. Help is near.

HELP, LORD!



"So we can say with confidence, "The LORD is my Helper; I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"

(Hebrews 13:6).

What else can we say, Lord? We need You more than life itself. What is life if You aren't in it? You are the Source of everything we need. You are the Originator, the Creator of all. We depend on You for our hope, our faith, our very breath. We thank You for every provision under all circumstances. You see to our every need: past, present, and future.

Thank you for this my life, flawed person that I am, yet a part of Your creation. Thank You for my flawed family, our flawed faith family, this flawed building, and all the flaws that make us uniquely us. Thank You for my flawed, but God-fearing man. Our flaws lead us to You! We recognize that we need Your help as our flaws mount up and start to strangle us. We are forced to look to You for guidance, and acknowledge that You are our only HELP in the grand scheme of things.

Keep our faith strong and our eyes focused on You Who are the Help we

need every second of every day. As Your people in this place seek Your help to make Your Church a more welcoming place for worshipping You, help us to discern what is for Your glory and for the worship of You here. Guard this Church from Satan and his sly evil; protect us all from his wickedness. Silence all agendas that are not Yours. We are Your people and we thank You in the name of Jesus. Amen, Lord, hear us!

THE PRIVILEGE TO HELP

by Kimber Walsh, CFLE

We start life needing help with basically everything. My husband and I have three children five and under. They each require help in various ways. Our youngest, still being an infant, requires a lot of help with eating, moving, and hygiene. She even needs help sleeping! When we help her, our help is mostly welcomed. Our three-year-old still needs help toileting and finding



language to communicate his big emotions. He often resists our help and is frustrated or annoyed that we offered it. And our five-year-old requires less and less help every day with tasks, and more help with processing the world around her. As parents, we are quick to give the help our children require. We see helping our children as our Godgiven privilege.

That is, we see it as a privilege most of the time. At 3 o'clock in the morning when I'm awakened for the fifth time that night, I'm not always seeing it as a privilege to help. When I'm met with attitudes, whining, and disobedience, it's easy to let my tenor match the kids' instead of continuing to joyfully provide the help God has tasked me to give.

We all need help. We seem to think we outgrow needing help somewhere around middle school. We live in a culture that promotes individualism, doing things for yourself, and never relying on anyone for anything no matter what. We have forgotten the privilege it is to help. We have forgotten the blessing that it is to be helped.



As we age, the things that we need help with change. There are seasons where help looks like watching each

others' kids so we can go on a date. There are seasons where help looks like taking a meal. There are seasons where help looks like checking in with a phone call or a card. All those are often welcomed forms of help. But there also comes with aging, seasons where help with tasks also comes with grief. We lose our independence. We receive help from others with frustration. annovance, and resistance because we are grieved to need to be helped. Now, I personally haven't experienced the challenges that aging brings. But I have experienced needing help I wish I didn't need. I have had health needs that have left me full of grief and dumbfounded to be in need of something days prior I could accomplish on my own.

We would all do well to remember that God has created us for relationships. If we never needed anyone, why would He set us in families? He has given us a biological family and a faith family. When we don't want help, we need to remember that God gave us each of those people as a resource. They see helping us as a privilege. Perhaps, through the Holy Spirit, we can begin to see their help as a blessing.

Some ways to view help:

- 1. Help is Annoying—Someone offering or trying to help you or care for you is annoying. This is often met with eye rolls and heavy sighs. You can easily recover from this feeling and move on with your day.
- 2. Help is Frustrating—The annoyance has grown into frustration. Offers or acts of help often cause gritted teeth or

- clenched fists. This is when the heart starts to harden toward others who genuinely want to help.
- 3. Help Should Be Avoided—Help is seen as something for "other people" and never for you. Your annoyance, which grew into frustration and hard-heartedness, is now causing you to dig your heels in and refuse any and all help being offered. Caution: This is where your ego can begin to rule your emotions.
- 4. Help is Okay in Small
 Amounts—Acceptance of the help needed is reached, but you are self-conscious about how much help you are accepting. You try to keep a secret scorecard of any and all help given so that you can repay it in equal proportion or turn down help outside your ability to return.
- **5. Help is a Blessing**—Help is received like a blessing from God—undeserved and unrepayable.

Prop 3 information

Proposal 3 on the November ballot in Michigan has vast and confusing implications. We have compiled a list of resources to help you get as much information as possible from a Christian perspective prior to voting. These resources are available on our website as well as on the table in the narthex. Please take the time to educate yourself. This issue is of the utmost importance.

YouTube

Did you know that you can listen ahead to the following Sunday's songs to familiarize yourself? Did you know Pastor Zach's Revelation Bible study is available in case you missed it? These, plus our worship services, and more are available at:

youtube.com/RedeemerLutheranChurch JacksonMI

Advent Dinners

We are hoping to expand our fellowship time and prior to Advent Midweek worship services in December. Please look for a sign-up board to



see how you can be a part of that opportunity.

TOPIC FOR DECEMBER

The goal of our newsletter, the *Redeemer Reflection*, is to share where God is leading us and what He expects us to do, now and in the future. The *Reflection* also highlights what we have done recently in the community and within the church itself. We want to reflect Jesus in our personal lives, as well as to and in the world around us.

The writing prompt for December is SING. Send comments, information/photos, and articles 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.



Sunday, October 30: Reformation Celebration at both services.

Reformation Event after the late service.

Sunday, November 1—Special All Saints' Day Service at 6:30 p.m.—
Trinity and Redeemer Lutheran
Churches will offer a combined service at Trinity Church downtown.

Thursday, November 3—Chancel Meeting in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

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

Ongoing: Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.—Adult Bible studies and Children and Youth Sunday School Two adult classes offered: Revelation in the Lower Level Connection Room, and Praying the Psalms in the Upper Level Library.

Thursday, November 17—
LWML/Women's Ministry Meeting at
10:00 a.m. in the Lower Level
Connection Room.

Saturday, November 26: 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 there and available from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

TOPICS FOR 2023

January: EVERLASTING February: TRESPASSES

March: PAIN

April: CONTRITE

May: WASH
June: PATH
July: LIBERTY

August: LAUGHTER

September: TEARS

October: THEE, THOU, THY

November: **PLEA**December: **RANSOM**

HELP

by Peggy Bennitt

I lift up my eyes to the mountains where does my help come from? ² My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. ³ He will not let my foot slip— He who watches over me will not slumber; (NIV).

Psalm 121:1-3

Sometimes I forget who is in charge of my life. I go along for days, sometimes weeks, thinking I've got this and my life is all nicely planned and plotted out. I get pretty smug, especially when everything is going well, thinking I have it all under control. Pretty proud of myself... and then, the proverbial "other shoe" drops.

This year, 2022, has held many glimpses of hell for me and my family. All of my sisters have had back surgeries this year. One had an extensive surgery that had complications that are still being dealt with today. Another is scheduled for additional back surgery in late December. Our mother died in March, and my younger brother, Kevin, died unexpectedly in late September. I am overwhelmed and in shock; more dependent of my Lord than I can ever remember; grateful that I have the family I do to give me love and support unconditionally, and it's a mutual giving within the whole family. Thank God for family!

We stand like a stout circle of trees, branches intertwined for support and strength, leaning against one another when the wind blows, holding each other up even when one falls. Our family is grounded in faith, with roots that go deep and are generations thick, extended into the dirt of life to interweave and hold tight in the rich soil of love and belief.

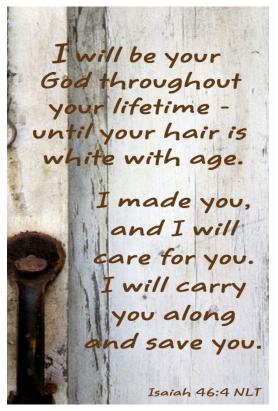
You [mankind/life] pushed me violently so that I was falling, but the Lord helped me.

Psalm 118:13

I look back and see God's hand guiding us through all the fears, tension, and loneliness we felt during these stressful events and times of sorrow. He guided our hearts and tongues to respond with love-centered

care for one another. Did I see it then? Yes, and no. Sometimes black is just black; it engulfs everything.

But hope is in the Lord and He provided, through family and friends, glimmers of pleasure and evidence of His love and His continued presence. He guided us through some tricky, family-stressing situations, by keeping us all aware of the love of family for each other, which begins with His Family united, both in heaven and on earth.



When life gets messy, our help comes from Jesus. No matter how we like to think we have control, it's God who has the ultimate blueprint. If we're not following His plan, He allows us the free will to choose other paths. But He'll also allow opportunities for better choices that may force us through

some painful briars before we get back to the original plan and path that is His.

God willing, my family is done with the cluttered paths and the foibles of earthly life for a while. My prayer is that we will all check in with Him each day, and remember where our Help comes from, before we stride out into our "planned" day. Give it to God first, and let Him be in charge.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

Years ago a pastor up North made the following remark in a sermon, and it's stuck with me to this day. He said, "I kept telling God, 'You're not the boss of me' and doing as I pleased. Then one day I realized I wasn't doing too good as the boss, and I gave my life over to Him. Life's been better since I figured out, He *IS* the Boss of me!"

Words to live by: He Is The Boss of Me!

He is our LORD. He is our only Hope and Salvation. He is our Help, and Master of all!

My **help** comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:2





NOVEMBER

Jim & Diane Siedzik November 4, 1978

Craig and Sally Wingle November 26, 1983

David & Monica VanDerWeide November 15, 1997 (25 years in 2022!)

Tony & Kirsten MogleNovember 15, 1997 (25 years in 2022!)

Kevin & Juli Smith November 7,1998

Pastor Zachary & Katrina Holdorf November 22, 2008

NOT [always] YOUR FAULT in PARENTING

https://www.imom.com/whats-not-your-faultin-parenting, provided online by *familyfirst.net/

A friend of mine has five incredible children. Two were their class valedictorians, one got a full baseball scholarship, and the other two, who are in middle and high school, seem to be shaping up to be amazing in their own rights. When I asked her what she does to produce these superior humans, she said, "Well, I try to be an involved mom, but I can't take full credit. There comes

a point when all parents have to give their children room to use or not use the lessons they've taught and fortunately, my kids have made a lot of good choices. But I'm prepared for a time when they won't."

That last thought stayed with me. Just like there are some wins in parenting that you can't take credit for, there are also some losses that aren't your fault. When our kids make bad choices or don't live up to the potential we know they have, we often feel guilty. But sometimes, the responsibility isn't ours to carry. There are times it belongs on the shoulders of our kids. Here are three things that are not your fault in parenting.

1. Your Child's Level of Initiative or Ambition

As a teenager, I knew a family with two sons. One was a very hard worker—always doing something, and with great attention to detail. The other did only as much as was required to keep him out of trouble with his parents and nothing more. Both boys were exposed to the same work ethic in their parents and given the same level of responsibility, but had very different levels of personal ambition. You can do a lot to help your child acquire values like a strong work ethic, but their natural inclinations will play a major role, too.

2. Your Child's God-Given Talents and Abilities

Most parents of exceptional students, if they're being honest, will tell you they had very little to do with their child's high GPA and test scores—the kid just had it. So why do parents of kids who struggle academically often feel responsible or guilty? Sure, you want to help your child acquire a good education. But it's okay that this is not



your kid's greatest strength.

God has uniquely equipped your kids for what they will do in life, whether it's working with their hands, in a creative field, or as a doctor or lawyer. Don't think of your child's gifting as "less than" but rather as "different from" and work with it.

3. What Your Child Does After "The Transfer"

What's "the transfer," you ask? It's that moment when a person's faith and values change from "what Mom and Dad expect me to believe and live out, to what I personally believe and live out because I want to." It's when a child takes ownership over his or her faith and core beliefs.

Many parents have grieved, after years of intentional parenting that their young adult children have set aside much of what the parents hold dear and have gone their own ways. If your child lacks a sense of values because you ignored your responsibility to teach, that's one thing. But if you held up your end of the bargain during those formative years, your child's

choices are just that—choices. And they are choices made by another adult that you can't control.

Yes, you'll be sad about it and may worry about the fruit those choices will bear in your child's life, but guilt should not be a burden you carry in these cases.



*Family First is a non-profit organization on a mission to provide parenting, marriage, and relational truth that helps people love their family well and gives them greater hope for the future. Check out the website for more helpful articles and printables for families.





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lori Zeidan	11/01
Knox Elbert	11/04
Kirsten Mogle	11/06
Dean Potter	11/06
Leah Anderson	11/07
Richard Kline	11/07
Tony Farley	11/09
Kristofer Herrick	11/12
Brad Wendt	11/15
Bill Poland	11/15
Erin Kuntz	11/17
Claudina Kestner	11/18
Jacob Kane	11/20
Don Curl	11/21
Phoebe Walsh	11/23
George Richmond	11/24
Mary Biegner	11/25
Sherry Hood	11/25
Jon Bahr	11/27
Duane Coon	11/27
Jackson Royal	11/22
Stefanie Bohm	11/28

God loves me even when I'm unwise, ungrateful, and uncaring.



"People of Hope ... Vigorously Making Known the Love of Christ"

HOW WE CAN HELP

Contributed by Debby Fall, Assistant to the President in Communications, Michigan District, LCMS

Michigan District LCMS members may have read about the violent protests and mounting fatalities throughout Iran following the recent death of a 22-year-old woman who died while in police custody. These tragedies have sparked outcry across the country from angry women, girls, and a growing number of men who are demanding change so that their basic human rights will be honored.

Over the past several years, Lutheran Hour Ministries has partnered with SAT-7, the first and largest Middle East and North African satellite TV network, to co-produce programming that shines the light of Christ into not only Iran,



but dozens of other countries throughout the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia. Many viewers watching these broadcasts are hearing about Christ for the first time. LHM is thankful for our ongoing media ministry partnership with SAT-7 that allows us to continue broadcasting messages of hope amid so much uncertainty and fear. In light of these recent circumstances, you may be wondering what you can do to help.

First, we ask you to pray for Iran and its people. We know that only God can change hearts, so we continue to pray.



Pray against violence and oppression. Pray for all the people who have been impacted by these tragic events. Pray that the rights of Iran's women, children, and men will not be ignored and will be upheld. Pray for the Christians living in this region and for individuals who have not yet heard the Gospel.

Second, as a ministry focused on sharing the love of Christ with those who need to hear it, LHM is inspired by the Gospel to reach out to hurting people not only in this region, but throughout the world. By collaborating with partners like SAT-7 and identifying and equipping local laypeople who have a passion for the Gospel to build their presence and impact using specific

strategies and tactics contextual to the culture and language in which they serve. LHM is uniquely poised to reach beyond those areas where Christ is already known. You can serve as a lifeline for the billions of people worldwide who have not yet experienced the transformative love of our Savior.

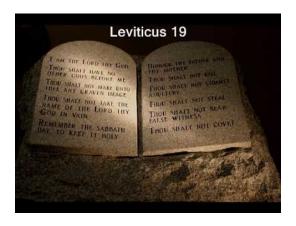
For more information, contact lhm.org.

FATHER GOD, HELP!

Dear Father God.

My biggest fear is that in loving people who vigorously oppose You, I will fail to stand against the injustices they perpetrate against the innocent and defenseless ones they harm. How do I stand firmly and clearly for justice and yet still love Your enemies. Does my love cloak their iniquities? I know in my soul that I must love those people. but still, God, I wonder and fear that love is much too easy. Strengthen me to be able to love, and give me wisdom to know how to extend Your love without compromising Your justice.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

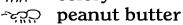


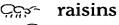


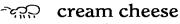
You will need:



GG5- celerv







GGS paprika

How to make it:

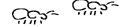
- Clean celery.
- Cut into 3" long pieces.
- Fill celery with peanut butter.
- Arrange raisins in a row on the peanut butter.

You now have "bugs on a log!"



- Fill celery with cream cheese.
- Sprinkle with paprika.

You have "red ants on a log!"







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 NNE	22 VDFD	Hour of Prayer— Chapel 7:15 a.m. Combined All Saints' Day Service @ Trinity 6:30 p.m.	2	Chancel 9:00 p.m. Coffee With Pastor, Revelation Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.		REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK!
Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Adult & Children- Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m.	Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	Hour of Prayer— Chapel 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	9 Quilters 9:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	Coffee With Pastor, Revelation Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	11	12
Divine Service-C 8:00 a.m. Adult & Children- Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service-C 10:30 a.m.	Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	Hour of Prayer— Chapel 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	16	Coffee With Pastor, Revelation Study 10:00 a.m. LWML-Women of Redeemer 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	18	19
Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Adult & Children- Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m.	Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	Hour of Prayer—Chapel 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	Quilters 9:00 a.m12:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service-C 6:30 p.m.	THANKSGIVING DAY	25	26 Mobile Food Pantry ① Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m. Need Volunteers from 9 'til Noon
Divine Service-C 8:00 a.m. Adult & Children- Bible Classes 9:15-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service-C 10:30 a.m.	28 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	Hour of Prayer—Chapel 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	30 Advent Supper 5:30 p.m. Advent Service-C 6:30 p.m.			