

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

RECOGNIZE



OCTOBER 2020 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 13 ISSUE 10

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

*From the Intentional
Interim Pastor's
Desk...*

RECOGNIZE

by Reverend Carl Bassett,
Intentional Interim Pastor

*"...Peter walked on the
water to go to Jesus.*

*But when he saw that the wind was
boisterous, he was afraid..."*

Matthew 14:29-30

Apparently, the wind *really* was *really* blowing and the waves *really* were high, but Peter didn't experience them at first! He didn't consider them at all; he simply **recognized** his Lord, stepped out in **recognition** of Him, and "walked on the water." Then he began to take those things around him into account, and instantly, down he went. Why couldn't our Lord have enabled him to walk at the bottom of the waves, as well as on top of them? He could have, yet neither could be done without Peter's continuing **recognition** of the Lord Jesus.

It's that way with us too! We step right out with **recognition** of God in some things, but often self-awareness enters our lives and down we go! Dear Family, if you are truly **recognizing** your Lord, you have no business being



concerned about how and where He deals with your circumstances. The things surrounding you *are* real, but often when you look at them, you are immediately overwhelmed, and even unable to **recognize** Jesus.

Then comes His rebuke, "...why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31). Let your actual circumstances be what they may, but keep **recognizing** Jesus, maintaining complete reliance upon Him.

If you debate for even one second when God has spoken, it is all over for you. Never start to say, "Well, I wonder if He really did speak to me?" Be reckless immediately—totally unrestrained and willing to risk everything—by casting your all upon Him. You do not know when His voice will come to you, but whenever the realization of God comes, even in the faintest way imaginable, be determined to recklessly abandon yourself, surrendering everything to Him. It is only through abandonment of yourself and your circumstances that you will **recognize** Him. You will only **recognize** His voice more clearly through recklessness—in other words, being

willing to risk everything, being totally dependent on Him.

Folks, I know that sometimes it's really hard to understand what God is doing in your life, but over time I've learned that with His guidance, we can identify His fingerprints—His handiwork—in several ways. To help detect those “fingerprints,” please read Psalm 33:3-11 as a part of your monthly devotions. Through these inspired, encouraging words you'll discover that God's work is creative and powerful:

- **First:** He made heaven, earth, and all living creatures, and He knitted each of us in our mother's womb. Then, through



His Son Jesus, He powerfully accomplished salvation for all who trust in the Savior. What's more, He adopted all believers into His family.

- **Second:** We can see God's work through Christ-centered prayers, which narrow our focus on the Lord. When we pray actively and persistently, we can more readily identify His actions and see how to join Him.
- **Third:** The work of God becomes clear to a yielded heart, which prepares us to listen and obey. Regularly concentrating on God's

Word will clear our mind and help us understand and **recognize** what the Lord is up to.

Question is, have you—have I—been too busy or distracted to see what God is doing around me and wants to do in me and through me? Folks, if you want to **recognize** His work, those words can give you a fresh perspective on life! May God challenge each of us to refocus our hearts and minds on the Lord, and **recognize** His Mighty presence, love, power, and guidance as we live our lives for Him, first of all and foremost!

Have a Great Month for the Lord,
with Many Blessings!

Pastor Bassett

RECOGNIZE YOURSELF

by Kimber Walsh, Family Life Educator

There is no argument about how to recognize a Christ follower—you see the fruit of the Holy Spirit in his/her life. That is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). With that fruit in mind, let's dive into Scripture a little bit more to recognize areas in ourselves and our relationships in which the Holy Spirit is already at work and areas that we need Him to renew.



How do I recognize if I am being a godly spouse?

- † **Love:** When it comes to my spouse, am I patient? When it comes to my spouse, am I kind in my words and actions? When it comes to my spouse, am I being envious? When it comes to my spouse, am I being boastful? When it comes to my spouse, am I being prideful or arrogant? When it comes to my spouse, am I rude? When it comes to my spouse, am I being dishonoring in how I treat them or talk to others about them? When it comes to my spouse, am I self-seeking? When it comes to my spouse, am I easily angered? When it comes to my spouse, am I keeping a record of wrongs? When it comes to my spouse, am I delighting in evil or rejoicing with the truth? When it comes to my spouse, am I always protecting? When it comes to my spouse, am I always trusting? When it comes to my spouse, am I always hoping? When it comes to my spouse, am I always persevering through hardship? (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

How do I recognize if I am being a godly son/daughter?

- † **Goodness:** Am I turning away from evil to do good to my parents? Am I seeking and pursuing peace? (Psalm 34:14)
- † **Patience:** Do you have a compassionate heart toward your parents? Are you humble with

them? Are you patient with them? (Colossians 3:12)

How do I recognize if I am being a godly sibling?

- † **Peace:** When it comes to my siblings, am I making every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification? (Romans 14:19)
- † **Self-Control:** With my siblings, am I quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry? (James 1:19)

How do I recognize if I am being a godly parent?

- † **Joy:** When it comes to my children, am I joyous? (Ecclesiastes 3:12)
- † **Faithfulness:** Have I made known to my children the faithfulness of God? (Isaiah 38:19) Have I modeled to my children what faithfulness to God looks like? (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)

How do I recognize if I'm being a godly friend?

- † **Kindness:** Am I withholding kindness from my friends and neighbors? (Job 6:14)
- † **Gentleness:** Do I speak evil to others? Do I avoid quarreling? Am I gentle? Do I show perfect courtesy? (Titus 3:2)

As we reflect on these items, one thing we'll likely get really good at recognizing is our own sin and all the ways we fall short. My prayer is that I'll become really good at recognizing my sin, repenting of that sin, and asking

God to intervene and help me grow. I want to be able to recognize godliness in my relationships, and that can only happen through repentance and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mobile Food Pantry & Giveaway

The former Community Care Day in partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church over the past few years has shifted into a monthly event. It will now be a Mobile Food Pantry, ***and*** each month we'll have an additional giveaway item such as ***SOCKS*** in **October**. If you'd like to volunteer to get involved with these fourth-Saturday-of-the-month opportunities to serve our community, please contact the office at 517-750-3100.

Items needed for giveaways will be communicated each month, and right now **we are beginning to collect winter items for our upcoming giveaways—gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves in all sizes can be put in the bin in the narthex.**

OCTOBER'S EXTRA GIVE-AWAY ITEM:

SOCKS



OCTOBER

Daniel Farley	10/01
Beth Richardson Dewey	10/04
Wendy Lake	10/04
A.J. Hunter	10/08
Benjamin Walsh	10/08
Dennis Lanphear	10/08
Bill Huhn	10/10
Julie Boland	10/12
Gay Alcenius	10/13
Ron Hock	10/13
Penelope Wingle	10/13
Robin Melton	10/14
Betty Lathrop	10/20
Mary Haas	10/21
Linda Hunter	10/21
Brian Boyle	10/25
Lydia Heffner	10/27
Connie Grafe	10/30
Loretta Rice	10/30
Mike Hoffer	10/31



God never said it would be easy...He just said He would go with me.

J. G. Holland



SERVICE SCHEDULE

2 SERVICES AGAIN BEGINNING OCTOBER 11

Due to COVID-19, anyone planning to attend in-person worship services on Sundays at Redeemer **must sign up** online or through the church office.

As of October 11, we will resume our normal two services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with one weekly pre-recorded service available through our website at redeemerjackson.org.

- Redeemer Lutheran Church is working diligently to provide each person attending services with a safe and healthy environment to worship. Please continue to sign up the week before you plan to attend a worship service. **If the service is full (65 people), please sign up for the next service with available seating.** Sign up online. You can also reserve seating by calling the church office at 517-750-3100.
- There will be a limit of 65 people at each service (based on full occupancy of 200 people).
- Pews will be roped off to allow for 6 feet of distancing per family grouping. To encourage safe practices within our worship services and facility and to limit the spread of COVID-19, Redeemer Lutheran Church encourages:
- The wearing of a face mask is required to protect all in attendance. Please bring your own face mask.
- If you have come in contact with an individual with COVID-19, please refrain from attending services for 12 days.
- If you are ill or have a temperature above 99.5 degrees, please refrain from attending services.

Before and after each service, high volume/touch areas are cleaned and

disinfected: especially door handles, countertops, elevator buttons, pew backs, bathrooms, and other public spaces.

Communion is celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

Please note: as in any publicly accessible facility outside of Redeemer Lutheran Church, a 100% COVID-19 free environment cannot be guaranteed.

EYES OF JESUS

by Peggy Bennitt

We need the eyes of Jesus so that we too can recognize where the love of Jesus is needed in this fallen world. Not the eyes of the Pharisees that were judgmental. Nor the eyes of the government officials that were power hungry. Not the eyes of the common man that react with worry and fear and anger. We need to look through the eyes of Jesus.



Jesus knew that all the sorrows and woes He saw around Him were the direct result of sin. He DID

NOT excuse that sin, but rather

stepped into our world to see what He could do about it.

Are we “stepping into our world to see what we can do about it”? Or are we standing on the sidelines pointing our fingers at the wrong-doers? Are we looking through the eyes of Jesus and, through those eyes of compassion, do we see new ways that we can serve and save those we see in dire need of love and kindness all around us?

Many of us are fearful, or feel we are too young or too old to help in any given situation. Let’s remember Whose we are and Whom we’re dealing with here! Who used a 14-year-old girl to bring a Savior into this world? Who used a 90-year-old woman to birth a great leader to bring a new nation of His people into existence? Who used a donkey to reprimand a wayward prophet? And we use the excuse “I’m homebound” or “I can’t teach” or “I can’t because I work”? When will we learn that “With God, all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26)? He can and will use us in any or all circumstances if we just open ourselves to His will, and allow Him to show us in what ways He has provided for us to help. He knows your limitations. But He also knows what He has planned for you to do, and provides what’s needed and the passion to do it.

Prayer is needed right now. It’s always needed, but now it is essential. You know those “essential workers” we keep hearing about? Those are our “Pray-ers.” Not just our medical people or our food workers or our sanitation personnel. While all these people are paramount to our health and well-being at this time, our Pray-ers are at the top of the “essential workers” list. And anyone can do it, from anyplace at any

time. God has made Himself sooo available to us! Who else do we have who will listen and hear all our concerns, our happiness, and our fears? No one else is available to us 24/7 like our Lord. And He can make things happen!

If you are homebound or have physical limitations, prayer is a perfect way to help during this pandemic...or any other time.

One lady I know, who is a very busy working grandma, keeps an explicit and detailed prayer journal that she updates on a regular basis and prays through daily. She would love to be part of Mr. Craig’s Tuesday Hour of Prayer, but with her work schedule and distance from church, this is not an option. But her devotion to prayer is beyond question and her willingness to serve others through her gift of intercession is beyond doubt.

Another gal works on quilts in her home and prays throughout the process with each quilt that passes



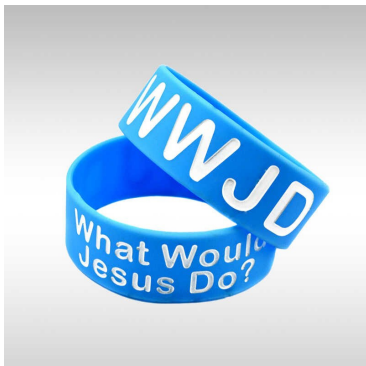
through her hands. What an awesome way to serve her Lord and those in need around her. An 11-year-old young lady makes tie-dyed masks, with the help of her mom. A senior gentleman is faithful



in prayer every week with Mr. Craig, as well as praying over our church facility as he cleans or does repairs.

Then there are the homeschooling moms and dads who teach their children how to plant a garden, make a meal, visit historical spots in the area and learn local history, learn to read using the Bible, and serve others with church outreach projects, as just a part of their educational process. Not just to survive in this world, but to live with and love others to and for Jesus.

The Creator graced us each with imagination and resourcefulness. What awesome gifts! We can use whatever He has provided to serve Him through



service to those around us. Look around you! If you see a need, ask yourself what you can do to help. But as you look, look through the

eyes of Jesus and ask yourself, "What Would Jesus Do?"

TOPIC FOR NOVEMBER

The writing prompt for November is *Value*. The *Reflection* newsletter is meant to help us reflect and share our Lord through the daily life and actions of His people, particularly with our activities and worship services here at Redeemer. Do you value what God is doing in your life? Do your actions or the way you handle circumstances reflect Him to those around you? Will neighbors and friends recognize us as Christians by the way we live our lives?

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 this pandemic.

Articles on the topics of Family, Prayer, and Outreach are always welcome too, as are other aspects of the Christian life. Please also share situations that can or have influenced your faith and how we can 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. All submissions are appreciated and prayerfully considered.

I SEE THAT IN YOU



by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

Yesterday your head turned just right,
shadow and light.
Light of eyes and shape of the chin, not
sure in whose presence I'm in.
No question you carry momma through
and through.
I see that in you.

The voice, the giggle, even the steps
that give wiggle.
How you stop and start, what pops out
is from the heart.
Gram B's "near," that's true.
I see that in you.

There's a heart that beats for people,
every skin, near and far.
You don't like people mistreated; your
temp gets heated.
Like Grandpa B, the focus is "who."
I see that in you.

Thinking, rethinking, always with an
inkling.
Want to get to the top; don't ever say
stop.
Dad's "champs" are in view.
I see that in you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

Redeemer is moving forward carefully with a return to a regular two-service Sunday worship schedule on **October 11** and, with great caution and heartfelt prayer, resuming **Adult Bible Studies and Children's Sunday School** Classes as well. The classes will be from **9:30-10:15 a.m. between the two Sunday morning services**, the same schedule as was followed before the pandemic interrupted life as we knew it.

Signs will be posted on the classrooms to guide parents and children alike to the correct classroom for the proper age/grade level taught in each room.

Pastor Bassett will lead a class titled *God's Grace/Our Response* in the large Fellowship Room on the lower level. Using references from various books of the Bible, Pastor will guide participants to a fresh understanding and appreciation of God's grace to us and what our response should be to this undeserved gift.

Mr. Craig Britton will facilitate a study of 1 John, called *Love Has a Witness*, which will meet in the Library. All materials will be provide for both classes, but please bring your own Bibles for environmental safety.

Added to this weekly schedule will be the Thursday evening *Bethel Series* Class, which will move forward with the second year of the study which will include 1st and 2nd Maccabees (from the Apocrypha) and the New Testament.

Please plan to attend the Bible study of your choice, beginning on Sunday, October 11, 2020.

IS THIS ME?

How to Recognize Yourself

Excerpts from: *3 Big "Shoulds" of a Micromanaging Spouse*

by Anna Brink, <http://www.imom.com/3-shoulds-of-micromanaging-spouse>

It dawned on me that I'm a micromanaging spouse early one Saturday morning. It was a fresh morning with nothing on the calendar. My husband kissed me in the kitchen, and I swiftly started firing questions: "Are you going to fix the closet shelves today? Oh, you probably want to exercise first." He looked at me with weariness in his eyes.

Why did he look at me that way? I was just making good suggestions, right? I thought I was helping him. But helping means we come alongside a person to offer support; a *micromanaging spouse attempts to control* or lead her husband down a certain, pre-approved path. Sometimes, when you think you're suggesting what your husband should do, you are actually micromanaging...

Area #1: Health

"I'm going to do this diet. Do you want to do it too? It would be easier if we did it together." True statement, but it's also my backward way of changing his health habits. I also ask him if he wants to start a certain exercise plan, or I'll only buy healthy snacks and not the ones he put on my grocery list...

Area #2: Free Time

When my husband isn't working, I suddenly think of all the things he could be doing and I start making suggestions: house chores, errands, or even getting outside versus staying inside to take a nap on a beautiful day. Let's face it—deep down, I think I know

better as to how he *should* spend his time.

Area #3: Relationship with Our Kids

Quite often, I try to step in when I feel tension or misunderstanding building between my husband and one of our kids. I try to "fix" things or even distract everyone...

The biggest problem with micromanaging your husband is the unspoken message that he isn't capable of making his own choices. Even though you don't mean it to be, *it feels condescending*.

Free [Spouse], Free Yourself

We have enough to manage as moms, wives, [husbands], employees, and friends. Being a micromanaging spouse is one thing you don't have to do anymore. This frees up your time and energy to focus on your own choices and growth. It also frees you from unnecessary frustration when your spouse doesn't do what you want... And it actually frees your relationship from the restraints of *unmet expectations*, which can strangle a relationship over time.

At the heart, it boils down to trust and letting go. I can make the shift to trusting that my [spouse] is a [grown up] and...I can trust that he can make his own choices. Whether I think they are good or bad, or just different from mine, those choices are his.

I can let go of the person I want him to be, and let him be who he really is. I can let go of the "image"...of "us" and "our family" and let it be what it is. And most importantly, I can pray and surrender it to God's control. And I believe God is guiding him in ways I never could...

Editor's Note: Although this article is written from a woman's point of view, micro-managing can often be a spousal issue for both genders. After all, **WE** do things the right way! Right? Micro-managing can creep into every marriage, every relationship.

Respecting our spouses' viewpoints and wishes, as well as the knowledge and experiences that are theirs, goes a long way toward building trust and confidence in one another. If we recognize ourselves in any of this, step back. Let our spouses be our partners again, not more children to be managed and directed.

RECOGNIZE

All that generation were gathered to their fathers; and another generation arose after them who did not recognize the Lord, nor even the work which He had done for Israel.

Judges 2:10

Are we "*another generation...who did not recognize the Lord*"? Is this us? Will the next generation have even less knowledge of the Lord than we? All we have to do is look around us and we can see that lack of recognition of Him in our own country.

Seen or heard any news lately? Recognize what this verse from Judges is talking about? Anyone who says that the Bible is outdated and doesn't relate to the modern world of today hasn't read through God's Word recently.

Here are just a few verses that will help refresh memories of what exactly should trigger recognition of Whom we

should resemble and what our response should look like.



Food for Thought:

The wicked are those who rebel against the light. They do not *recognize* its ways or stay on its paths.

Job 24:13

For we are writing to you nothing different from what we have written before, or from what indeed you already *recognize* as truth and will, I trust, *recognize* as such to the very end.

2 Corinthians 1:13

He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor *recognizes* Him. But you *recognize* Him, because He lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:17

When He has brought all His own outside, He goes ahead of them. The sheep follow Him because they *recognize* His voice.

John 10:4

He was in the world, and the world was created through Him, yet the world did not *recognize* Him.

John 1:10


...you'll *recognize* them by their fruit.

Matthew 7:20

They began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was *recognized* by them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 24:35



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			C—Denotes Communion Services	1 Chancel 10:00 a.m.	2	3
4 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Contemporary Service 9:30 a.m. Divine Service 11:00 a.m.	5	6 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	7	8 Women of Redeemer—LWML 10:00 a.m. Bethel Series 6:30 p.m.	9	10
11 Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies— 9:30-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service— C 10:30 a.m.	12	13 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	14 Quilters 9:00 a.m.—Noon	15 Bethel Series 6:30 p.m.	16	17
18 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies— 9:30-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m.	19	20 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	21	22 Bethel Series 6:30 p.m.	23	24
25 Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies— 9:30-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service— C 10:30 a.m.	26	27 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	28 Quilters 9:00 a.m.—Noon	29 Bethel Series 6:30 p.m.	30	31 