

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LCMS

FEAR



OCTOBER 2021 PUBLICATION  
VOLUME 14 ISSUE 10

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

*Loving People To Christ*

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# REDEEMER REFLECTION

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## A NEW PAGE

by Reverend Wm. Gatz,  
photos by Claudina Kestner

Pastor Bassett has been Redeemer's Interim Pastor for over a year, and on September 12, he and his wife, Lisa, said goodbye to Redeemer's

congregation. They were a real blessing for Redeemer and gave us real guidance, keeping us uplifted through preaching the Word of God and through powerful messages throughout the challenges of a pandemic.

On September 19, Pastor Zachary Holdorf was installed as pastor of Redeemer, and on September 26 he will preach his first message here. Many significant events, including an amazingly quick answer to prayer during the Call process, have brought our congregation this far, with abundant blessings still being bestowed on us.

It is really neat how the Lord worked it out that Pastor Holdorf would preach his first sermon at Redeemer on the 60-year anniversary of our congregation starting a new page in Redeemer's history.



As the Lord continued to bless Redeemer during our search for a new pastor, the chairman of the Call Committee urged the congregation to Pray, Pray, Pray. Our focus today, now that Pastor Holdorf has arrived, should be that we

continue to Pray, Pray, Pray.

God's blessings on us all!





Father in heaven,

You call us to love and care for our neighbors. But the first call growing out of true gospel worship is that we care for one another. Grant that we do not look beyond our own brothers and sisters who are in true need. For when the world looks at us taking care of one another, they will exclaim like one of the Roman government officials did when the church was young, "Behold how they love one another." Grant this to us as Jesus shows us the way.

In Your resurrected Son's name, Amen!

Prayer by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries



😊 **Tuesdays, Ongoing: Women's Bible Study.** Women's Bible Study, *Jesus & Women*, will continue **through October 19**, from **6:30—8:30 p.m.** in the Connection Room in the Lower Level.

😊 **Bible Study Classes: Ongoing**  
Sunday School, Youth, and Adult Classes: Sundays at 9:15 a.m. Following is a list of ways you and your family can grow in God's Word each week at Redeemer.

Group	Location
Toddler & Parent Bible Story	Nursery, Main Level
Preschoolers	Outside Connection Room, Lower Level
Kindergarten-First Graders	Middle Room, Lower Level
Second-Fifth Graders	Across from Teen Room, Lower Level
Sixth-Twelfth Graders	Teen Room, Lower Level
Adult Class—Armored: Ephesians 6 & The Fight of Our Lives, with Craig Britton	Connection Room, Lower Level

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

😊 **Thursday, October 7: 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!

😊 **Thursday, October 21: 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.

😊 **Saturday, October 23: *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 volunteers to **be available from 9:00 a.m. until Noon.** Hope to see you there!

**Community Giveaway Collection in October: Gloves and mittens!**

😊 **Sunday, October 31: *5th Sunday Potluck/Brunch between services.*** Food fellowship will replace the Bible class hour from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on this our Reformation Sunday celebration.

## 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. We are collecting **gloves and mittens in October.** 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/](http://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.

## QUILTERS' NEWS

Can you help? The Redeemer quilters still could use more cotton fabric and queen-size flat sheets for backings so we can continue making quilts for LWML and Lutheran World Relief. You can drop off fabric at the church office or in the quilting room (former music room in lower level).

If you have any questions, please call Donna Zastrow at 517-315-4284.





## PRAYER FOR THE MOMENT

It's time, LORD, for a change. Time to move forward and leave the ruts behind. Pull me, push me, and lift me—whatever it takes! Just don't let me stay here and become a fixture in the halls of an unchallenging existence. I need to be stretched and bent and moved so I can continue to grow. There are physical therapists who help people increase their range of physical motion and ability. God, be my spiritual therapist! Take my spirit to new levels of strength and movement. I am ready to follow your instructions.



Redeemer's Rummage Sale, held in August, raised over \$2800 for St. Luke's Clinic, located in Jackson at 132 Seymour Avenue. Jackson-area health care providers generously donate their time to St. Luke's Clinic.

The Clinic is non-denominational and receives no government assistance. Its financial support comes from grants and donations. Its mission is to provide counseling and comprehensive medical and educational services for the medically under-served. (St. Luke's Clinic is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 2003.) Services are free and hours are Monday and Wednesday: 7:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday: 5:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Redeemer is proud to be able to help support this valuable service to our

community through our annual Rummage Sale. If you donated your time, your unneeded items, your labor in any form, and/or your love and prayers: **THANK YOU!** What a gift you have given to your community!

*From the Rummage Sale Team*



### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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
Linda Hunter	10/21
Brian Boyle	10/25
Lydia Heffner	10/27
Connie Grafe	10/30
Loretta Rice	10/30
Mike Hoffer	10/31



### OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

George & Christine Richmond 10/23/1976

# CAN'T WE JUST CALL "IT" GOD?

by Peggy Bennitt

Have you ever had someone say to you, "I don't believe in GOD; but I do believe in a more powerful force in nature" or "I believe there is a strong energy force that pushes us"?

I recently had a conversation where this concept was stated and it popped into my brain and fell out of my mouth: "Why can't that 'powerful force of nature' or 'strong energy force' just be GOD? Why not just call 'IT' GOD?" This opportunity to talk about and listen to the concerns and doubts of another, was an unexpected gift from GOD, and I pray that my unintended outburst was also a part of His intentional plan. I thank GOD that He turned that "crack" into a chance to talk frankly and listen carefully to the concerns of someone who may be searching for GOD, and maybe met Him because of what popped out of my mouth unplanned. GOD uses broken vessels (or in my case, more like a cracked pot) to carry His Word, and does indeed work in mysterious ways. Not mysterious to Him, but often puzzling to us.



Why is it so difficult to put the name, or label, of GOD on the belief in a higher power? Where does this *fear* come from?

Is it as simple as a *fear* of being labeled ourselves? Or do we think if we don't

label *IT* as GOD, that we still have some control over the life we have? I wonder if people realize how much tension and anxiety they cling to when they refuse to believe that that higher power, that powerful force, that GOD-like energy is, in fact, GOD Almighty? Lord, I cannot imagine how stressed I would be if I truly believed I had to handle everything that came up in my life! I cannot imagine the anxiety of dealing with life on my own—without GOD to talk to and trust with it all.

I will never forget the peace and freedom I felt when I was prepped for rotator cuff surgery and my anesthesiologist, my pastor, and my husband all prayed over me before I went into that surgery. Even as I recuperated and went through extensive physical therapy (PT) afterwards, even after it was deemed unsuccessful and another surgery scheduled, that comfort and peace held. Those three men, praying for guidance for the medical staff and healing, set the tone for my recovery and ultimate return to having a functional shoulder. It did not happen as I anticipated. It was not as fast a recovery as I had envisioned. But the prayers and faith of those men, coupled with my own belief in GOD's promise to "never leave me or forsake me," gave me hope and security in the promise that my Lord was in control. I trusted myself—and my very life and future—to the medical staff that GOD had provided, and relaxed in the hands of the Lord. What better hands could have held me?



Years later, I still remember the peace of that pre-surgery prayer. I thank the Lord for putting those praying men, that medical team, and His Word in my heart, in my life. The label of “GOD” is a powerful and mighty label that instills reverence as well as peace. Strong energy force and powerful force DO NOT instill the peace, trust, or personal relationship that occurs when we change the “label” to a person *and* a personal relationship with that GOD. So, can’t we just call “IT” GOD? “MY GOD He was. My GOD He is. My GOD HE’s always going to be!” just like the song says.

Let’s not be afraid to say “GOD” instead of “It,” and know that *He* is the powerful energy that made us, guides us, and loves us. Call It like you see It and “It” will never be the same! Open the Bible and meet Him and,—let’s call Him by name—call Him GOD!



powerful energy that made us, guides us, and loves us. Call It like you see It and “It” will never be



Book review by Peggy Bennitt

## TOUCHING THE WILD U.P.

“In the expanse of the North Woods you can hear your own thoughts. Past, present, and future meet in your mind’s eye as you ponder mysteries of the universe and contemplate the whole creation, or just simply listen. Amidst

the hush, the whisper of God is unmistakable.” Quote from *Touching the Wild U. P.* by John Highlen

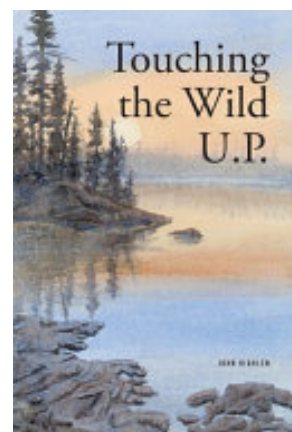
Many of us are nature-lovers, intrigued by the splendor of the Upper Peninsula of our great state of Michigan. But have you ever been able to actually explore nature up-close-and-personal?

John Highlen’s new book, *Touching the Wild U.P.*, is a recently published adventure through the beauty and challenges of just such an exploration of a part of Michigan that still is in part “wild” by many standards.

“Maybe moving back to the U.P. after a major job loss had me yearning for youthful days of raw adventure when things were not so complicated.”

Being a life-long lover of the outdoors, John has a tendency to mingle with nature in a variety of ways, and in his book, he shares many uniquely U.P. experiences—from funny to breathtaking, from heart-warming to silly, and back again.

The reader is drawn into the everyday excitement and anticipation of new adventures around each corner. Be it a moose-on-the-loose or snakes-alive, the ebb and flow of each story draws you into the primal atmosphere that is indeed part of the very heart of Michigan’s U.P. From the author’s personal vantage point of 30+ years of wilderness-type outdoor experiences that include building an authentic log cabin, vertical ice climbing, kayaking



Superior, and other close encounters with nature, this book is a delightful trek through the U.P. through the eyes (and physical exertions) of a modern-day Thoreau.

"I now push my granddaughter on those same trails to [Lake] Superior in that same stroller that I used to push our kids in. I don't know if the stroller or I will last long enough to bring great-grandchildren to Crisp Point, but I guess things like that aren't for me to worry about anyway. My job is to try to enjoy the moments I have, especially the family moments, and leave the bigger picture up to God."

Join John in his adventures and enjoy a glimpse of Michigan you may have not seen before. Highlen is a knowledgeable guide, and his homey philosophies and godly insights make the visit to the U.P. a trip to remember.

*John Highlen is a dear friend and former Redeemer member. For years, he wrote articles for this newsletter, both from a member's and a leadership position. He is a degreed mechanical engineer and a veteran outdoorsman. His book is available through Amazon and various bookstores.*

## FEAR NOT!

by Craig Britton

There are certain truths in the Bible that are always appropriate to raise. And to remind ourselves of. One is what one of my seminary professors used to teach: "The earthly life of a believer is indestructible until Christ calls him/her home." Well duh. Who doesn't know that? And it certainly doesn't take the degrees required from seminary instruction to figure that out. Ah, but

here is where the rub ALWAYS comes. And that's exactly what my professor pointed out: It's not the knowledge, but the correct application of it that makes truth the powerful weapon it is.

Paul writes... "*Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day,*" and "*For we know*



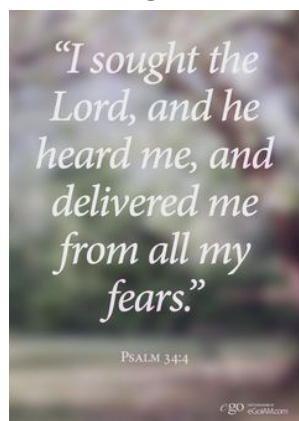
*that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens*" (2 Corinthians 4:16; 5:1). Again, pretty basic. But I'm writing this [deep] into a pandemic that has taken millions of lives worldwide. And I want to read the Scripture and apply it to where I sit today.

First though, as good Bible readers, we need to know what it meant to the first hearers. In short, their context is this: it's costly to be a Christian, to the point of perhaps, of losing one's life. This life is temporary and so are our earthly bodies. But God be praised, Paul reassures them, there is a real and true body awaiting the disciple of Jesus that is thoroughly unable to be bested through all the coming ages.

And what the ravages of persecution can do to the saint, so can the fallen world's ravages today through disease and yes, through the current virus in



our midst. But I have been somewhat grieved of late that so few followers of Jesus I have met have called to mind the great apostle's words here in 2 Corinthians. When a culture has no hope for the future and no grounding to believe in a triumphant resurrection, then temporal safety becomes the primary goal. That, however, should



never be the thought process of the baptized believer in Jesus. In fact, one point of strength in our witness during this time is just this: **we fear not death.** That's not some slogan for a bumper sticker.

That is a sober and yet joyful truth. The believer in Jesus lives, neither from nor for this age. The world is passing away. And the Christian holds citizenship in a Kingdom whose future full manifestation has no end.

We have lost many. We may well lose more. And to grieve is to love. But Christians, whether it be the result of a pandemic, a long-term illness, or a tragic accident; live without fear. We know Whom we have believed. And His truth is always appropriate.

## Meet Our Missionaries



From David & Joyce Erber, LCMS International Mission, Ghana, West Africa

Dear Partners in Mission,  
October Newsletter

July 25 was a special day in Ghana! St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Gbawe (a suburb of Accra) and their pastor were received back into the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG).



Twenty-five years ago, something (or a series of things) happened in the church here in Ghana. We weren't here at that time and so don't know the details. A group of people left the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana and started their own church. About three years ago, new discussions between the two groups began [which resulted in this reconciliation].

On Sunday, August 1, five men graduated from our Lutheran seminary in Ghana. The graduation service took



place at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Madina. In thanksgiving to the seminary, the five graduating students presented a gift (two industrial fans) to the seminary.

Joyce remains busy and involved with LCMS Africa and Asia accounting and management responsibilities. Yet, every once in a while, she takes a break—her mango, banana, citrus, yogurt smoothies are



wonderful!

Thank you for your prayers for us! The Lord be with you!

David and  
Joyce  
Erber

## TOPIC FOR NOVEMBER

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 November is **Gather**. As we gather together to worship each Sunday, let's remember that Jesus told us to "*gather the harvest*" home. We are not here to work for ourselves. We are here on earth to work for our Savior as His "hands and feet" in this time and place.

Our print media, and all other media and 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](mailto:bennitt49@yahoo.com), to be included in the following month's newsletter. All submissions are appreciated and prayerfully considered.

## PHONE ETIQUETTE FOR KIDS

When I first got to use a phone, we only had landlines, and they were "party lines." Doesn't that sound fun? NOT! A party line meant that anyone could get on the line at any time, and if you wanted privacy, you had to use the operator to connect you. Rarely were kids allowed to use a phone back then.



Nowadays, most kids have their own phones and have lots of chances to use them. So, maybe this is a good time to mention some basic phone etiquette for kids. (Adults might take a few notes as well.)

When I see text messages from kids to friends, or hear them talk—*or not talking, not paying attention, just a phone to their ears, as they wander*—it's clear that most kids need some guidance, some rules, most of which are just common sense good manners.



Let your kids know that they should text before they call their friends to make sure it's a good time for a call, especially if it's near mealtime or late enough to be bedtime for some in the family. This is simply a courteous thing to do and it keeps your child from becoming a pest with too frequent calls or calls at inappropriate times.



On that note: encourage your kids to use emojis when texting friends to let them know the *tone* of your message. A smile or a wink by emojis can lighten an

otherwise seemingly curt response or sarcastic question or comment.



If a phone message or text does not get a quick reply, teach your child to relax and move on to something else for now. Make sure they know **NOT TO** leave cranky or nasty texts or voice messages—ever! Let your children know that a simple “call me when you can” is respectful and much more likely to get a response. Everyone’s family schedule is not the same as theirs, so let your kids know that “waiting” is what friends do.



Let your kids know that an adult might answer their friend’s phone at times, so they need to be respectful in the way they reply in that situation. Giving your child a few standard replies to use can help them become more comfortable with talking with adults, both on the phone and in person. “Hi Mr. Z, can you have --- call me back when s(he) can?” or “Hey, Ms. R, would you tell --- that I called?” These are easy to remember and courteous responses that can be followed by a “thank you” and “goodbye” to end the call.



Be pro-active and tell your kids to get off the phone when they or their friends are busy doing other things. Playing video games while a friend miles away is watching a movie is not a conversation. It’s not even really a connection. Have the kids hang up and call each other back when they want to talk and can focus on each other.

***That’s*** a caring and friendly connection.



And please, please teach your kids to say goodbye at the end of their conversations. It shows respect for the

person you are talking with. To just hang up after you have your say is like slamming the door in someone’s face. It’s rude! Saying goodbye is just good etiquette. It’s simply the caring thing to do.

Phone usage is a privilege, and nowadays with friends NOT always living in the neighborhood, being able to chat and even play games over the phone is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others. Let’s teach our children to be courteous and kind as they enjoy their friends and family via the phone.

## 5TH SUNDAY BREAKFAST POTLUCK

On October 31, a 5th Sunday, we’ll have a Breakfast Potluck between services (classes are off that day) from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the RAC. Foods will not be assigned or signed up for in advance, but we’ve included some ideas here of what might be great additions to a breakfast potluck for you to consider: egg casserole, French toast casserole, quiche, breakfast meats, yogurt, pastries, bagels, fruit, or oatmeal.



Do you have a unique dish your family enjoys for

breakfast? Surprise us and help us learn a tasty new favorite. It's up to you! We



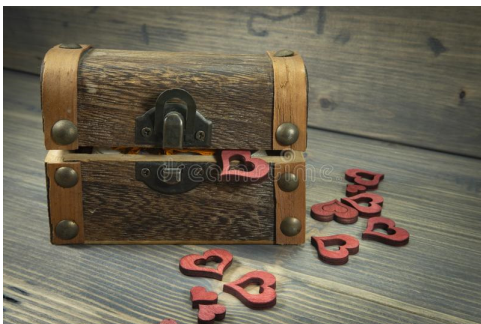
look forward to this fellowship time where our whole congregation can come together!

## HE'S GOT THIS!

The symptoms did not signal what we had all feared. God, we were so scared. Yet, we knew by the way she entered the room that the doctor was bringing good news, and her opening smile confirmed that the waiting was over and had not been in vain.



Use our fears, God, that it may become energy to live more fully, with more appreciation, from this day on.



Close calls to body, mind, and soul remind us to live

each new day as a newfound treasure.

## CHRISTIAN CARE MINISTRY

by Nyla Arvy

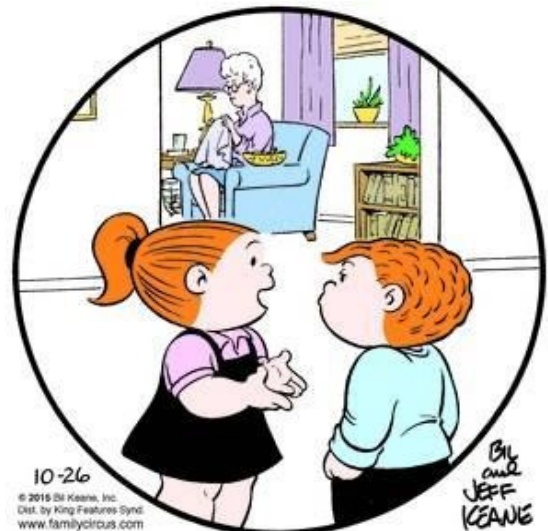
The Christian Care Ministry continues to serve our Redeemer family in many ways. To achieve *purpose* in our Christian journey of serving in the church, we have opportunities for such serving experiences in the following areas:

- ♥ Overseeing and organizing funeral lunches
- ♥ Overseeing and organizing fifth Sunday potlucks
- ♥ Coordinating general use of the kitchen and surface cleaning
- ♥ Holiday food box collections and deliveries (Thanksgiving and Easter)
- ♥ Organizing meals for those convalescing at home

Ideally, one or two people for each of these areas should prove successful in sharing our work at Redeemer. Please contact the church office with your interest and for more details in each area of responsibility.


*"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord you labor not in vain."*

I Corinthians 15:58



**"The two places we know we're always welcome are church and Grandma's house."**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <div> <div>2</div> <div>0</div> <div>2</div> <div>1</div> </div> <div>Holy Communion —C</div>					1	2
<div>3</div> <div> <div>Divine Service</div> <div>8:00 a.m.</div> <div>All Bible Classes</div> <div>9:15-10:15 a.m.</div> <div>Contemporary Service</div> <div>10:30 a.m.</div> </div>	<div>4</div> <div> <div>Praise Team</div> <div>7:00 p.m.</div> </div>	<div>5</div> <div> <div>Hour of Prayer</div> <div>7:15 a.m.</div> <div>Women's Bible Study</div> <div>6:30 p.m.</div> <div>Adult Choir</div> <div>6:30 p.m.</div> <div>Handbells</div> <div>7:30 p.m.</div> </div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div> <div>Chancel</div> <div>4:30 p.m.</div> </div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div>
<div>10</div> <div> <div>Divine Service C</div> <div>8:00 a.m.</div> <div>All Bible Classes</div> <div>9:15-10:15 a.m.</div> <div>Contemporary Service C</div> <div>10:30 a.m.</div> </div>	<div>11</div> <div> <div>Praise Team</div> <div>7:00 p.m.</div> </div>	<div>12</div> <div> <div>Hour of Prayer</div> <div>7:15 a.m.</div> <div>Women's Bible Study</div> <div>6:30 p.m.</div> <div>Adult Choir</div> <div>6:30 p.m.</div> <div>Handbells</div> <div>7:30 p.m.</div> </div>	<div>13</div> <div> <div>Quilters</div> <div>9:00 a.m.</div> </div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>REFLECTION DEADLINE</div>	<div>16</div>
<div>17</div> <div> <div>Divine Service</div> <div>8:00 a.m.</div> <div>All Bible Classes</div> <div>9:15-10:15 a.m.</div> <div>Contemporary Service</div> <div>10:30 a.m.</div> </div>	<div>18</div> <div> <div>Praise Team</div> <div>7:00 p.m.</div> </div>	<div>19</div> <div> <div>Hour of Prayer</div> <div>7:15 a.m.</div> <div>Women's Bible Study</div> <div>6:30 p.m.</div> <div>Adult Choir</div> <div>6:30 p.m.</div> <div>Handbells</div> <div>7:30 p.m.</div> </div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div> <div>LWML—Women of Redeemer</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> </div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div> <div> <div>Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity</div> <div>10:00-11:30 a.m.</div> <div>Need Volunteers from 9 'til Noon</div> </div>
<div>24</div> <div> <div>Divine Service C</div> <div>8:00 a.m.</div> <div>*Bible Classes</div> <div>9:15-10:15 a.m.</div> <div>Contemporary Service C</div> <div>10:30 a.m.</div> </div>	<div>25</div> <div> <div>Praise Team</div> <div>7:00 p.m.</div> </div>	<div>26</div> <div> <div>Hour of Prayer</div> <div>7:15 a.m.</div> <div>Adult Choir</div> <div>6:30 p.m.</div> <div>Handbells</div> <div>7:30 p.m.</div> </div>	<div>27</div> <div> <div>Quilters</div> <div>9:00 a.m.</div> </div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>
<div>31</div> <div> <div>*Potluck/Brunch instead of Bible Classes on 31st</div> </div>						