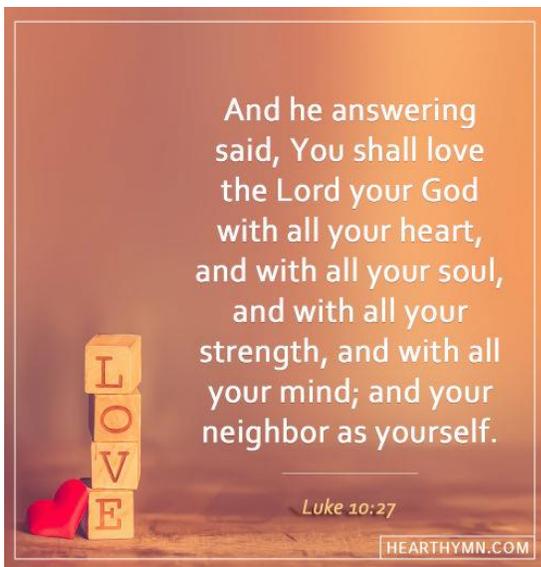

REDEEMER REFLECTION

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

by Kimber Walsh, CFLE

Who is my neighbor? We hear this question asked of Jesus in Luke 10:29. And Jesus responds by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan where Jesus leads us to an understanding that we should do what the Samaritan did. But today, I want to consider the question from a slightly different perspective. Who is my neighbor? A neighbor is someone who is situated very near to us. And those situated the nearest to us are those in our own home.



Of course, I'm not suggesting that we don't have neighbors that need our



attention and Gospel witness outside of our home, but the family life lady is going to make you consider your family for a minute (again!).

In the same account Jesus reminds us of the two greatest commandments, the second of which being, “love your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27) So we are commanded to not just exist alongside of our family members, but to love them as our closest neighbors, as much and as well as we love ourselves. (Which you have to admit, is generally the person we are best at loving!)

One of the most insightful and Biblical marriage and family authors and speakers, Dr. Rob Rienow, once described that he has 36 sinful relationships in his household (because he has 7 children). And though my household only has 10 sinful relationships, the point is still the same—that our sinful natures come out the strongest when we are at home around the people who love us most and with whom we are safest to be our real selves. We let down our proverbial hair, turn off the filters, and let the sin fly freely. And our closest neighbors—our spouses, our children, our parents,

our siblings—are often on the receiving end. They get to experience the stress, the snark, the unfiltered, the misbehaving, the selfish; the worst versions of us that we try to hide from those outside of our homes.



Sometimes, we cannot even muster loving attitudes or actions toward our spouse—the one to whom we have committed to loving as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her. We too often, we let seeds of bitterness



make our hearts hard toward our children, whom God has entrusted to our care for the sake of their bodily lives and to share the faith for their very souls, for acting completely appropriately for their ages. Our siblings, the ones whom God has gifted to us as our only lifelong friends, are often on the receiving end of our anger and outbursts. And our parents, the ones we are commanded to honor, we resent, disrespect, and disregard.

Yet, somehow, we can serve the neighbor across the street. We can

honor our boss and the teacher at school. We can encourage the coworker and teammate. We manage to treat other neighbors far better than our closest neighbors, our families.

So, the only thing for us to do is repent—turn back to God in contrition for our sins against the neighbors in our house, confess and seek forgiveness from them for the ways we’ve sinned against them, allow the Holy Spirit to sanctify us to walk in God’s ways, and to rest in the sure and certain hope that Christ’s atonement covers these sins against our family-neighbors too.

*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.
Do not say to your neighbor, “Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you”—when you already have it with you.*

Proverbs 3:27-28



CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 11

by Marilyn Rockwell

The church picnic on September 11 was a wonderful time for everyone. Due to

the weather, we made adjustments and held it inside. Organized games were not the usual, but the kids still had fun adapting football and basketball to the circumstances. And fellowship and conversation can be done anywhere, right?

We counted 98 in the food line to start, not counting the kids who grabbed food on the run...literally!



Thanks to Brian Boyle for cooking the hot dogs and hamburgers and to all who brought food to share. “Many hands make light the work” was the catchphrase as many pitched in to clean up, while others played baseball (organized by Jack and his dad) when a slight break in the weather occurred. Eighteen kids and adults played, thumbing their noses at the elements.



A good time was had by all who attended—a great turnout! Not sure



who won the ball game, but I personally think we were all winners as the Redeemer Family racked up another fun get-together. For food, fun, and fellowship, the church picnic can't be beat! I'm already looking forward to next year's picnic.

If you missed the picnic, we'll be having a Reformation Celebration on October 30. Please join us for another fun family festival for the fall season.

LORD, WE NEED YOU!

Lord Jesus, when the man came to You asking You to define “neighbor” for him, You told him the story of the good Samaritan. By that parable, You've made it clear that our neighbor is anyone who is in need, anyone we happen to meet who requires our help.

Open my eyes to the neighbors around me today, Lord, and show me how You would have me reach out in love to encourage them. Amen.



We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor.

Romans 15:1-2 (ESV)



☺ **Sunday, October 2—Life Chain** from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Christians form the shape of a cross of humanity along West Avenue and W. Michigan Avenue, praying for an end to abortion.

☺ **Thursday, October 6—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, October 20—LWML/Women's Ministry Meeting at 10:00 a.m.** in the Lower Level Connection Room.

☺ **Saturday, October 22: 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.**

☺ **Sunday, October 30: Reformation Celebration at both services. Reformation Event** after the late service. If you would like to be a part of planning this "Happening," contact the Church Office. More details weekly on this coming event, so watch the bulletin and check our website often at redeemerjackson.org/events.

TOPIC FOR NOVEMBER

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 the world around us.

The writing prompt for November is **HELP**. 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.

LIFE CHAIN 2022

The Life Chain will be from 2:30-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 2. Christians of all denominations will form the shape of a cross of humanity along West Avenue and W. Michigan Avenue, praying for an end to abortion globally and encouraging respect for all human life. Since 1987, believers have gathered nationwide on the first Sunday of every October to prayerfully stand for Life.

Redeemer participants will meet and stand together on West Avenue, between Norfolk and Michigan Avenue, on the west side. For more details and information, call the Church Office at 517-750-3100 or see more materials at the table by the office.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Thomas & Heidi Gannon
10/16/2004

George & Christine Richmond
10/23/1976

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Farley	10/01
Riley Gannon	10/02
Beth Dewey	10/04
Wendy Lake	10/04
Pastor Zachary Holdorf	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

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Galatians 5:14

THE “NEIGHBOR” TRIO OF COMMANDMENTS

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

I don't know about you, but I am good at starting: starting books, starting films and televised series, and even starting meals. And I'm good at not finishing them. Which for the meals part is probably good practice. We don't always have to clean our plates, but I digress.

Even in discussions of the Ten Commandments, I find the first three commandments are much better known than commandments eight through ten. My point is that the beginning of anything usually receives more attention than the ending.

We Lutherans number the commandments in such a way that a big split comes between the first three dealing with our relationship to God, and the final seven dealing with the horizontal, earthly dimension of relationships. And that is a helpful division, at least for me.

But **the final three commandments**, as the Small Catechism portrays them, use the word “neighbor.” No slander of

neighbor, and no coveting of anything that belongs to him or her, human or otherwise.

In fact, with Luther's wonderful explanations, the

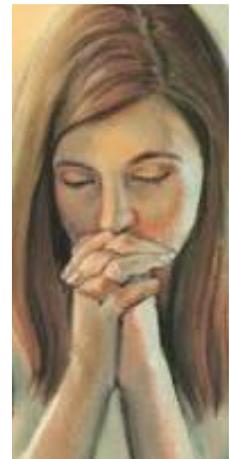
restrictions on sins against neighbor are coupled with positives of blessing one's companions whether they are of the “next-door” variety, or neighbors around the globe. “Defend him, speak

well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way,” illuminates commandment eight.

For the last two, we are encouraged to “help and be of service to him in keeping it” (house/inheritance). And we are to encourage wives, servants, and animals to “stay and do their duty” to our neighbor. Language that is perhaps a bit awkward, but the understanding should be crystal clear: “God gives us neighbors that we might shower the love given us by Christ upon them.”

Knowing does not equal doing. There is the challenge. One thing I remind myself to do now and again is to pray for those who live in the homes of our neighborhood as I drive in and out. When I see Wendy across the street, or banter with Scott about his kids in Alaska, or when dear Carol gets her steps in front of our home, I am reminded to not simply talk to them, but to talk with the One who made them. The One who made us neighbors.

Being a neighbor and loving our neighbors is about wanting them to thrive and cheering them toward that end. Of course, thriving at its root comes from gaining life. Real life. The adage, “You cannot give what you do not have,” comes into play here. You and I do have life. Real life. And our neighbor needs it. And of course, that life is a Person. Love your neighbor. Cheer for your neighbor. Pray, indeed for your neighbor. And then,



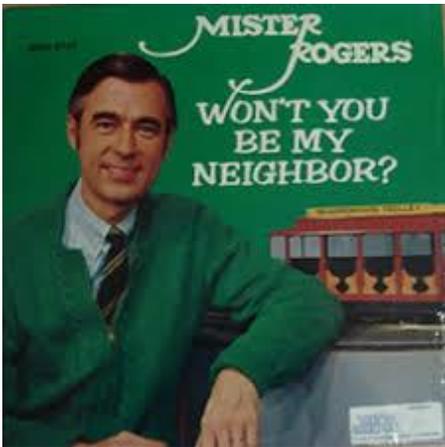
by God’s grace, ask for the opportunity to introduce them to Jesus. There isn’t a more neighborly thing we could do. Those final three commandments do point to Jesus. And better yet, to sharing Jesus.

Lord, in being a neighbor to others, help us not just to start well, but to follow our task all the way to the end. Amen!

WON’T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

by Peggy Bennitt

Most of us remember *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood* from when we were



young parents, or when our kids were little, enthralled with the puppets and their interaction with “real people.” In this epic

children’s TV program, which ran from 1968 until 2001, Fred Rogers worked very hard to encourage parents and other adults not to “dummy down” words, emotions, or music for children. He also wanted us all, starting with the children, to be kind and treat everyone as important and equal. Using puppets and “guests,” Rogers taught kids, and adult, how to interact positively with others and connect emotionally as well.

As the *Washington Post* once noted, Rogers taught young children about civility, tolerance, sharing, and self-worth “in a reassuring tone and leisurely cadence.” His program taught what it means to be a neighbor by modeling acceptance of those around us and their differences culturally, physically, and intellectually. Everyone has something that validates who they are and how they are special, and each of us responds to our surroundings uniquely.



“Rogers [spoke often] about the complicated feelings every person has, from childhood on. He admits to his own anger and confusions [as a child] and notes that he was able to express these through music (perhaps, giving a reason as to why his show’s theme song is so nuanced and even epic).

“Music was my first language. I was scared to use words... I didn’t want to tell people that I was angry. But I could show it through the way I would play on the piano,” Rogers said. “I could literally laugh or cry or be very angry through the ends of my fingers.”

(<https://americansongwriter.com/behind-the-song-wont-you-be-my-neighbor/>)

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood theme song:
*Lyrics to "Won't You Be My Neighbor," by Fred M. Rogers. © McFeely-Rogers Foundation. All Rights Reserved.

*It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,
A beautiful day for a neighbor.
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?

...I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you,
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you.

So let's make the most of this beautiful day,
Since we're together we might as well say,
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?
Won't you be my neighbor?
Won't you please,
Won't you please?
Please won't you be my neighbor?

This simple song seems to sum up an entire lifetime of being a neighbor. And not just a neighbor, but a good neighbor to everyone. We have wonderful examples all around us; Fred Rogers was only one of many. But what a great model of a real neighbor he was for us all. Let's not forget how to be a good neighbor. Let's practice.



CARD CARE MINISTRY

The Care and Concern Greeting Card Outreach is one of many ways we try to encourage our members who are shut-ins, recovering from surgery or



illnesses, have lost loved ones, or just need some support through a difficult

time. A list of members who might appreciate a cheerful card or a heartening note is in a framed display on the table in the narthex. There is also a greeting card file box, along with a church directory with addresses.

Select a card and mail it to another member, maybe including a handwritten note as well, to show that "we care," individually and as a church family.

Please consider checking out the card ministry display each month, to become more aware of our members who aren't able to be with us and would benefit from a friendly card. This is an easy and inexpensive way of loving and caring for others as Jesus would.

Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:37-40



BE THE BEST NEIGHBOR YOU CAN BE!

This past weekend I looked out my living room window and observed. The neighbor kids were playing with my children in the yard. Cars drove by as people headed to a destination or back home. The regulars were out for their daily walks and there were a few runners as well. I wondered, who are they? What are their stories? Do they know Jesus?



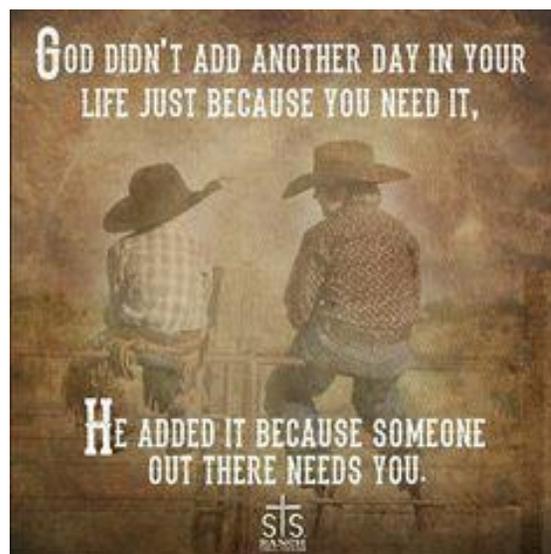
Some I know, as we've sought to build relationships with our neighbors, but many I haven't met yet. The Lord has planted me and my family in this neighborhood to be a blessing and a witness.

To be a blessing and witness is simply being the best neighbor you can be. To do that, you can get to know your neighbors. What are their names? This is easily achieved by a simple introduction. This is a great first step.

You can also pray for your neighbors, and, if so bold, ask if they have any prayer requests. You can even meet a need, if you see one. A great example is shoveling a sidewalk in the

winter. You can also invite your neighbors over for food and fellowship to deepen those relationships.

Prayerfully, through it all, you can share Jesus, encourage those in the faith, or introduce Jesus to those who do not know him. Jesus writes in Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."



May the Lord help us to simply be the best neighbor we can be, and through the working of the Holy Spirit, our neighbors will come to faith in Him.

Blessings,

Reverend Zach Holdorf



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

OCTOBER

2022

1

Communion Service—C

2

Divine Service
8:00 a.m.
**Adult & Children-
Bible Classes**
9:30-10:15 a.m.
**Contemporary
Service**
10:30 a.m.
Life Chain
2:30-3:30 p.m.

3

**Craig's Bible Study
Countryside**
1:30 p.m.
Praise Team
7:00 p.m.

4

Hour of Prayer
7:15 a.m.
Adult Choir
6:30 p.m.
Handbells
7:30 p.m.

5

**Craig's Bible Study
Lloyd Ganton-S. A.**
2:00 p.m.

6

Chancel
9:00 a.m.
**Coffee with Pastor:
Bible Study of
Revelation**
10:00 a.m.
**Craig's Bible Study
Lloyd Ganton-S. A.**
2:00 p.m.

7

8

9

Divine Service-C
8:00 a.m.
**Adult & Children-
Bible Classes**
9:30-10:15 a.m.
**Contemporary
Service-C**
10:30 a.m.

10

**Craig's Bible Study
Countryside**
1:30 p.m.
Praise Team
7:00 p.m.

11

Hour of Prayer
7:15 a.m.
Adult Choir
6:30 p.m.
Handbells
7:30 p.m.

12

Quilters
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
**Craig's Bible Study
Lloyd Ganton-S. A.**
2:00 p.m.

13

**Coffee with Pastor:
Bible Study of
Revelation**
10:00 a.m.
**Craig's Bible Study
Lloyd Ganton-S. A.**
2:00 p.m.

14

**Newsletter
Deadline**

15

16

Divine Service
8:00 a.m.
**Adult & Children-
Bible Classes**
9:30-10:15 a.m.
**Contemporary
Service**
10:30 a.m.

17

**Craig's Bible Study
Countryside**
1:30 p.m.
Praise Team
7:00 p.m.

18

Hour of Prayer
7:15 a.m.
Adult Choir
6:30 p.m.
Handbells
7:30 p.m.

19

**Craig's Bible Study
Lloyd Ganton-S. A.**
2:00 p.m.

20

**LWML-Women of
Redeemer**
10:00 p.m.
**Coffee with Pastor:
Bible Study of
Revelation**
10:00 a.m.
**Craig's Bible Study
Lloyd Ganton-S. A.**
2:00 p.m.

21

**Mobile Food
Pantry
@ Trinity**
10:00-11:30 a.m.
**Need Volunteers
from 9 'til Noon**

22

23

Divine Service-C
8:00 a.m.
**Adult & Children-
Bible Classes**
9:30-10:15 a.m.
**Contemporary
Service-C**
**Potluck on
the 30th**

24

**Craig's Bible Study
Countryside**
1:30 p.m.
Praise Team
7:00 p.m.

25

Hour of Prayer
7:15 a.m.
Adult Choir
6:30 p.m.
Handbells
7:30 p.m.

26

Quilters
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
**Craig's Bible Study
Lloyd Ganton-S. A.**
2:00 p.m.

27

**Coffee with Pastor:
Bible Study of
Revelation**
10:00 a.m.
**Craig's Bible Study
Lloyd Ganton-S. A.**
2:00 p.m.

28

29

30

31