

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

COVET



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Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

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

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REDEEMER REFLECTION



*Greetings in the name
of our Lord, Jesus
Christ.*

As summer winds down, I can't help but thank God for all the enjoyable moments the summer had to offer. This summer we continued faithfully gathering for worship. It has been a joy to gather with the saints at Redeemer to hear God's Word and be fed with His Word and Sacraments. It has been exciting to see a bunch of new faces. We have been blessed to have quite a few visitors join us for worship.

We were blessed with a successful VBS and Rummage Sale this year. Thank you to all who volunteered. We have enjoyed fellowship opportunities with potlucks and service opportunities sprinkled in. Just recently, we hosted the Capital City Brass Band and had an ice cream social. Around 180 people attended this event and even drew the



attention of WILX Channel 10 News out of Lansing. Most certainly, we can praise God for a wonderful summer.

Now we look to the fall. The month of September has some exciting stuff happening in it. September 11 will be our Fall Kickoff. The Sunday morning schedule will be: 8 a.m. Worship, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School

and Youth Bible Classes, 10:30 a.m. Worship. We will also bring back certain elements of worship that were set aside due to COVID. We will once again have rail communion, offering both individual cups and the common cup for the sacrament of Holy Communion. Lay readers will have opportunities to read the Old and New Testament texts again.

On September 11, during Bible class hour, we will have a State of the Church address. We will kick off the address by studying God's Word together and celebrating all that God has done over the past year. Our attention will then shift forward to what the Lord has in

store for Redeemer in the fall. This is a moment that you will not want to miss.

After worship, we will have a church picnic, with food, fellowship, and games. There will also be a “baseball game”—kids versus adults. Anyone can participate in the game. If not participating, you will want to watch because it could be hilarious watching your pastor strike out. We would love to have as many people as possible participate in the picnic. So, come, have fun, and bring a friend.

Sunday School and Youth classes start September 11 at 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible classes begin the following week. See the schedule of fall classes and locations on this page.

Handbells and choir will also begin in the fall and would be delighted to have more people participate if interested.

I am truly excited to see what the Lord has for us this fall. So come, Worship, Grow and Serve with us!

In Christ,

Pastor Zach

DEAR FATHER GOD



Only You can lead us away from the sin of coveting, Lord. Even as we look longingly at what others have, keep us from wanting what is not meant for us. Change our hearts

from wanting to have what You *have not planned* for us. Grant the discernment to know what a godly

pursuit is, and what is instead a god we’ve set ahead of You. Lord, You have given us blessing after blessing, all planned for our joy and pleasure, our learning and our future good. Keep our eyes on You and Your love, not on what is our neighbor’s. Give us an honest joy in the good things that come to others, especially those we know and love. Amen.

FALL CLASSES

Sunday School, Youth, and Adult Bible Classes resume Sunday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m. Below is a list of ways you and your family can grow in God’s Word each week at Redeemer.

| Group | Location |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Infant & Toddler Bible Story (Parents Welcome) | Nursery, Main Level |
| Preschoolers & Kindergarten (Sept 11) | Outside Connection Room, Lower Level |
| First-Third Graders (Sept 11) | Middle Room, Lower Level |
| Fourth-Fifth Graders (Sept 11) | Across from Teen Room, Lower Level |
| Sixth-Twelfth Graders (Sept 11) | Teen Room, Lower Level |
| Adult Class-Revelation with Pastor Zach (Thursday Morning Sept 15) | Library Room, Main Level |
| Adult Class-Praying the Psalms with Craig Britton (Sept 18) | Library Room, Main Level |
| Adult Class-Revelation with Pastor Zach Holdorf (Sept 18) | Connection Room, Lower Level |



CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 11

by Marilyn Rockwell

The church picnic is just around the corner. Everyone is welcome—members, friends, family, neighbors. Let's make this a fun-filled day for everyone. **EVERYBODY COME!** Play some games. Visit. Meet new people. Eat a wonderful meal.

This is the end of summer and the beginning of fall. Time to celebrate a new season!

Games start after the second service, followed by hot dogs and hamburgers cooked on the grill. You may bring a passing dish to share. Then, round out the day with a roaring good baseball game. See you all there!



MUSIC AND MORE!

Photos by Kimber Walsh



The combination band concert and ice cream social was incredible! On Sunday, August 14, 2022, Redeemer sponsored a musical and culinary treat

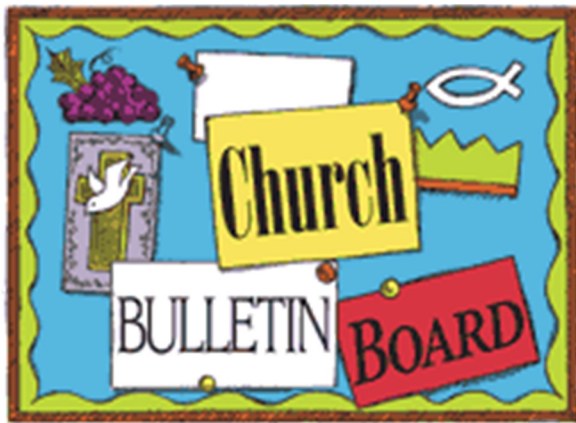


for the community with ice cream and wonderful music. What a great opportunity to gather on our lovely campus for an old-fashioned ice cream social with the added artistry of the award-winning Capital City Brass Band.



The Capital City Brass Band recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, and over those years the band has garnered high praise and two national championships in the competitions of the North American Brass Band Association. The social and concert were free, with donations being accepted for the CCBB.

What an enjoyable afternoon treat: ice cream and exceptional music. Hope you all enjoyed it!



😊 **Thursday, September 1—Chancel Meetings begin** again in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

😊 **Sunday at 9:30 a.m., September 11—Children and Youth Sunday School classes begin.** A State of the Church congregational address and Bible Study will also be held during this time in the sanctuary.

😊 **Sunday, September 11: Church Picnic.** After the second worship service in the pavilion. Games will commence right after church. Hamburgers and hot dogs provided and grilled by expert volunteers. Please bring a passing dish to share. Everyone is welcome!

😊 **Thursday, September 15—LWML/Women's Ministry Meeting begins** again at 10:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Fellowship Room.

😊 **Thursday, September 15—Coffee with Pastor Bible Study** resumes at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. The book of **Revelation** will be the focus for this study. For those of you who can't make the Thursday class, it will also be offered on Sunday mornings beginning September 18.

😊 **Sunday, September 18—Adult Bible studies and Children and Youth Sunday School classes are all in session**, with two adult classes offered: *Revelation* in the Lower Level Fellowship Room, and *Praying the Psalms* in the Upper Level Library.

😊 **Saturday, September 24: 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 available from 9:00 a.m. until noon.**

INDEPENDENCE

HOW TO ENCOURAGE AND WHEN TO PUSH
by Peggy Bennitt, FLE, with excerpts from: *3 Times It's OK to Push Kids*, by Mary Jo Wyse.

Encouraging and enabling our children to be productive members of society is a tricky undertaking for any parent at the best of times. The biggest challenge is to learn when to push, and when to wait for the consequences of

previous poor choices to make new/different decisions more obvious.

Before we push our children to try something, we need to ask ourselves, "Is this for the child's growth or am I just encouraging this because it's something I want?"

BORED FIX

If I complained of boredom, my Mom's go-to remark was "Call your friends, find something to do, or I've got lots of walls to wash."

Back then, to "call someone" in our neighborhood meant you went to their house, stood outside their door, and called their names. Phones were seldom used, and then only by adults. I was a bit shy when I was younger, but after lots of wall washing, I became more comfortable with finding "something to do" and "calling" my friends to do those things with me.



Because my mom pushed me a little to do something that was hard for me, I learned it's okay to be vulnerable. And I also learned to keep trying. Sometimes a kid could come [out], sometimes not. But having to initiate my own *play dates*, I learned to talk with adults and

work at friendships: two important life skills.

Boredom's not necessarily a bad thing. Sometimes it forces kids to get creative. But if your child's stuck, it might be good to give...a little push toward solving the boredom problem...get [out of that] comfort zone to try something new. I remember feeling less and less fearful of adults and more independent and secure in the neighborhood.

DRIVE TIME

My mother started pushing me to learn to drive a car when I was sixteen, emphasis on getting a job, which would also enable me to buy/choose my own clothes.

My Dad had already taken me out several times years before to practice with my older sister, but I really wasn't that interested. Besides, I knew if I learned to drive, I'd have to run errands and cart younger siblings (there were six of us) to activities and such. So, I chose not to take the Driver's Ed course (it was a free part of school curriculum back then), and that summer got a job that I could walk to.

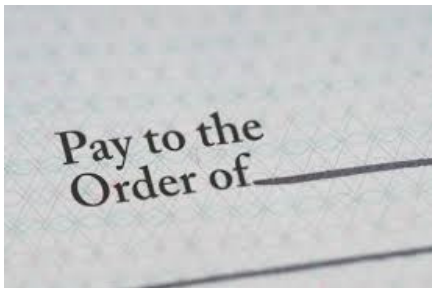
By the next summer, my senior year in high school, I realized the choice I'd made in this issue was like "cutting off my nose to spite my face." Not being able to drive was hurting myself and keeping me dependent on others. Not a wise choice if I wanted to be independent and be on my own.

So, I took the course before my senior year in high school, got my license, and have never regretted that change of mind. I gained a lot of confidence by stepping out of my comfort zone and doing something that

was for the benefit of myself, as well as others.



Mom didn't push too hard, but gave me an incentive with the thought of a



job with a paycheck to spend as I chose. It was my choice, and a chance at

two types of independence: monetary and decision-making. I also learned to appreciate having a choice.

"You're not always going to be able to push kids into doing something, nor should you always try... But if done carefully and gently, there are situations when it's okay to push your kids a bit and is even essential to their growth and development.

Sometimes, the fear of the unknown or inertia holds kids back. Challenge them to give [new things] a try. Gently push or encourage them... supporting them along the way is helpful, and it'll give them confidence."

Before we pressure our child(ren) to try something, we need to ask ourselves, "Is this going to benefit [my child] or me? When the focus is on our child(ren), a gentle push may be all

that's needed. Keeping the focus off of [ourselves] will also help prioritize [the child's] mental health."

COVET

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries, reprinted with permission.

We all know there are certain words, words used in the Bible that we



don't use or hear much outside it. Covet is such a word. It's an older word that describes an inordinate desire to have what belongs to someone else. And to somehow depend on it. I mean really depend on it. Two of the Ten Commandments in the ancient church's numbering of them deal directly with this sin. It is the setting of the heart and its hopes on anything other than God. Therefore, as the New Testament highlights, covetousness is idolatry.

Our reading (Luke 12:13-21) highlights what we have come to know as "the parable of the Rich Fool." Danger! It is so easy to read Jesus' story here and come away thinking, "Well at least I don't have that problem. I'm not rich after all." Danger! Anyone reading this in the Western world is rich compared to world standards. Period.

Next, and perhaps more dangerous: my heart is always set to want what flesh and world tell me I need most. Satan orchestrates the stilted desire and then "covers" it with errant thoughts so I don't see my sinful desire as sin. Danger!

Jesus contrasts the desires this way: "So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:21). Worldly treasure versus true riches. Self-versus-God. The distinctions could not be clearer. And Jesus graciously paints the picture before us so that we will be challenged to desire the life and blessings that He and only He gives. Rich toward God, indeed.



HEART WORK

by Kimber Walsh, CFLE

As is the case with most families with young children, we have many fights, tug-of-wars, and tears shed over the sharing (or lack thereof) of toys. Sinful natures come out. Impulses are rampant. And as soon as an idea strikes or a new toy appears on the scene, the grabs are usually not far behind. Of course, we could sit here and point fingers at children acting like we don't also struggle with covetousness. We just play our covetousness a little closer to the vest. We scroll through pictures of other people's vacations. We drive past the "perfect" house down the

street. We read novels that portray relationships that we could only ever dream of (often because they could never happen between real people!) We complain and barter with God over our health, wishing that we could have what we used to. Our sinful natures come out quietly.

Heart issues are hard issues. It's easy for us to change our clothes and even to a degree our habits and routines, but our hearts? That's something only God can do. When talking with and teaching our children, we often say that something only God can do is a miracle. It's interesting that God commands us to not covet; a heart issue that we cannot do for ourselves. He commands us to live in ways in which, on our own, we will fall short, because we are fallen people. Enter Jesus. He is the Redeemer of the Heart. He is the one who can fulfill every one of God's commands. He is the Changer of our Hearts in miraculous ways.

Practically speaking, we can also combat covetousness with some tools:

- ♥ Flee from the comparison game. This might include putting your phone away, deleting apps, discontinuing getting regular updates on the family/friend group even if that means skipping the Christmas letters.
- ♥ Feed your heart contentedness and your lips thankfulness. Assess your blessings. Count them. Thank God for them.
- ♥ Repent. Turn back to God every time you covet. He is the only one who can do this miraculous heart-change work.
- ♥ Get into relationships with people who are allowing

themselves to be sanctified too.
They always help point us back
to God.



Happy Anniversary

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dave & Fran Althouse 09/03/1966



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Kimber Walsh | 09/02 |
| Everitt Bastien | 09/03 |
| Monica VanDerWeide | 09/04 |
| Lisa Bassett | 09/05 |
| Cassandra Lockwood | 09/07 |
| Cecil Lanphear | 09/08 |
| Steven Rauscher | 09/08 |
| Jan Bastien | 09/09 |
| Abigayle Challendar | 09/12 |
| Katherine Albertson | 09/14 |
| Steve Alcenius | 09/14 |
| Judy Clouse | 09/17 |
| Caleb Bahr | 09/18 |
| Cindi Byrd | 09/19 |
| Josh Brandt | 09/20 |
| Sue Simonsen | 09/22 |
| Carole Varney | 09/23 |
| Ronald Kane | 09/28 |
| Beverly Wisniach | 09/28 |
| Morgan Brandt | 09/29 |

MORE. MORE. MORE.

by Peggy Bennitt

*Take heed, and beware of covetousness:
for man's life consisteth not in the
abundance of the things which he
possesseth.*

Luke 12:15 (KJV)

The story of the Rich Fool in the Bible is one that has always stuck in my head. This man had so much that he had to keep building bigger barns to store it all in. Then the Lord comes to him one night and says, *"Thou fool, this night thy soul is required of thee...whose shall all these things be...?"*

Don't we do that same thing? What are we saving all this "stuff" for? My Mom used to say, "If you haven't worn it or used it in the past year, get rid of it, because someone else may need it."



Each year when the rummage sale comes along, I try to clean out our closets of clothes that no longer fit, or haven't been worn recently. I do the same with my fiction books and household items. Next year, I'll probably have to get rid of Halloween costumes as the Grands no longer raid my attic for such things. Memories are probably my chief cause of covetousness. I don't want what others have so much, as I want to hang onto things that hold good memories for me.

I think this is a different type of coveting. It's more like being unwilling

or afraid to give something up that we no longer need. This is a form of idolatry, not just coveting. Anytime we place something ahead of God and His place in our hearts, that's idolatry.

But here in this text from Luke, God is saying that if we haven't taken care of our souls, and we're not right with Him, we have nothing. *"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

Does this mean we shouldn't have things that make us happy? Absolutely not. God wants us to have a good life and enjoy what we have. What HE DOESN'T WANT is for us to strive for things just to "have" them or to "keep others from having" them. When *things* become more important than our Lord is to us, that's idolatry, with a dash of covetousness on the side. Memories are wonderful, and a gift from God, but our eternal future has to be our most precious treasure.

I think the old adage "You can't take it with you" is one of the best ways to remember what is important.

Covet: To want something ardently, especially something that another person has; long for with envy.

I long for eternal life, but want everyone I love to be there with me. That is my treasure, my eternal treasure. I long to have what the saints in heaven have, but I don't want them *NOT* to have it. To have my family and those I love with me in heaven... that is the only worldly treasure I pray I will have with me for eternity, and that's actually a spiritual treasure as well.



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
|  | | | C—Denotes Communion Services | 1 Chancel 9:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m. | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Contemporary Service 9:30 a.m. | 5  OFFICE CLOSED | 6 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. | 7 | 8 Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m. | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. Sunday School & State of Church Address—9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service— C 10:30 a.m.  | 12 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. | 13 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. | 14 Quilters 9:00 a.m.—Noon | 15 Coffee With Pastor 10:00 a.m. Women of Redeemer—LWML 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies Begin— 9:30-10:15 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m. | 19 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. | 20 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. | 21 | 22 Coffee With Pastor 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m. | 23 | 24 Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m. Need Volunteers from 9 'til Noon |
| 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 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. | 27 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. | 28 Quilters 9:00 a.m.—Noon | 29 Coffee With Pastor 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m. | 30  September | |