

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

PROOF



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Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE PROOF

by Pastor Michael Geml

It was the evening of that first Resurrection Day. Jesus had risen from the dead and He appeared to the Disciples (minus Thomas). He had shown them the wounds that His body still bore. "Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord" (John 20:20). When Thomas was told about this he was doubtful. "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe" (John 20:25). Eight days later Thomas got his chance. Jesus appeared and offered his wounds for Thomas to examine; to place his finger into the nail marks and to place his hand into Jesus' side. Thomas had seen all the proof he needed. "My Lord and my God," Thomas said.

It was the summer of 1997 when I happened upon a small, unassuming religious artifacts shop in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The one-room shop was filled with crosses and crucifixes and various pieces of artwork, all with a Christian theme. One piece in particular stopped me in my tracks. It was a statue approximately four-foot tall. The title for the statue was, "Ecce Homo;" Latin for



"Behold the man." These words were spoken by Pontius Pilate as he brought Jesus out for the crowds to see. Jesus had been severely beaten and whipped and His body would have shown the marks of this brutality. We

have sadly sanitized the image of what Jesus endured. We wrongly think that two nails marks in His hands, one in His feet and a puncture wound in His side was the extent of His bodily injuries.

The statue, Ecce Homo, was as graphic a depiction as one could imagine. Gaping, bloody wounds were visible all over the body of Jesus. I was stunned by what I saw, to the point



where I had to look away. Isaiah wrote, "But He was wounded for our transgression; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and

by His stripes (wounds), we are healed” (Isaiah 53).

When we consider all that Jesus endured for us and for our salvation, suffering not only physical torture unlike anyone ever endured, but also taking upon Himself the sin of the world, we can’t handle the proof. Because we know that it was our sin that brought about such suffering. However, the proof of God’s love for us in Jesus remains, and by faith we hold it as the most precious thing in our lives.

The proof of God’s love for you is still found in the wounds of Jesus as His forgiveness is still proven time and again as we worship Him and continually receive forgiveness, life, and salvation. The proof of God’s love is to be evident in our worship habits, in our relationships, and in our world.

To Him be the glory forever and ever!

Pastor Geml



COMMUNITY CARE DAY EVENT

by Peggy Bennitt

Photos by Blair Bennitt, Lidya [Schalhamer](#)

On Saturday, August 3, beginning at 9:30 a.m., Trinity and Redeemer Lutheran Churches combined their volunteers and resources to gift the community with much needed back-to-school items for families. We served

over 500 people at Trinity through this joint event this year.

This is the second year for this event, but the third year of working together with Trinity to serve our community. “All the believers were together and had everything in common” (Acts 2:44), and we were blessed to be able to serve our community in this way.

The event began with a pancake breakfast along with registration. After



the meal, people were encouraged to go inside to get haircuts, or to pick up



hygiene items, school supplies, family devotional needs, and socks and underwear. All items provided were new and either donated or purchased through monies donated by individuals and businesses/groups. Thrivent Financial was again a significant contributor, providing grants for several areas.

Fun projects and games were also available to keep restless children

occupied during the distribution of supplies.

This event was the culmination of months of planning and preparation.



Trinity's Donna Lake took on the huge job of organizing volunteers, arranging for media, etc., and planning the step-by-step process needed to get to D-day with plans and people all intact. Kimber Walsh was the point-person for Redeemer, picking up responsibilities as they came to her.

Each person who headed an area was responsible for getting items ordered or shopped for, packaging or displaying the



items, delegating, etc. Thank you to all those who stepped up to do "extra stuff" as necessary.

Over 100 volunteers participated from the two congregations. Many stepped forward at the last minute to help where needed—young, old, and in-between. What a wonderful way for God's people to serve His less fortunate. Thank you, Redeemer, for all your support!

UPcoming EVENTS

😊 **Sunday, September 1:**

BUILDERS family building time; reserve the first Sunday of each month, **3:30-6:00 p.m.**, Putt-Putt Golf at Ella Sharp Mini Golf. Cost: \$3.00 per person. All ages and stages are welcome. Sign up on the list in the narthex if you plan to attend.

😊 **Sunday, September 8: *New Bible classes and Sunday school*** begin again, starting at 9:20 a.m. in the lower level.

😊 **Sunday, September 8: Church Picnic** following late service. Everyone is welcome. Please come and share a passing dish, play games, and enjoy great fellowship time together. Tailgate party theme!

😊 **Thursday, September 12: Pastor's Bible Class** begins again at 2:00 p.m. in the new lower level fellowship classroom.

😊 **September 14: *Cedar Point's PointFest***. Cedar Point will be hosting this Christian music festival featuring TobyMac, Zach Williams, Elevation Worship, and more. \$50 per person for Cedar Point, Pointfest, and overnight stay. This is a family event for our teens especially. See Dave and Kim McFarland for more information.

😊 **Wednesday, September 25,
5:30—8:00 p.m.: Becoming a
Missional Family event.**

😊 **Sunday, September 29: Church
Family Potluck after the 10:00 a.m.
combined service.** No Bible classes or
Sunday school, just inspiring worship,
followed by fellowship potluck in the
RAC.

TOPIC FOR OCTOBER

The topic for October is *Modify*.

The *Reflection* is meant to help reflect
our Lord as we modify our daily life and



actions, giving proof of His existence in
our lives, particularly through our
activities and worship services here at
Redeemer. What can you share that will
show God working in your life or reflect
Him in those around you?

Please consider sharing your insights
and encouragement in an article for this
newsletter. Invite others to be part of an
experience that reveals our Lord actively
at work in our world today.

If you have comments or questions
concerning our *Reflection* newsletter or
its content, please feel free to send them
to me at the email address listed in this
article, and I will try to answer questions
or refer you to a staff member who may
be able to help.

Send articles or information to
bennitt49@yahoo.com, by the 15th of

each month, to be included in the
following month's newsletter. Articles
on the topics of Family, Prayer, and
Outreach are always welcome and
accepted for publication each month.



SEPTEMBER

Everitt Bastien	09/03
Monica VanDerWeide	09/04
Tara Kreklau	09/05
Cassandra Lockwood	09/07
Cecil Lanphear	09/08
Steven Rauscher	09/08
Jan Trowbridge (Bastien)	09/09
Diane Scouten	09/11
Katherine Albertson	09/14
Steve Alcenius	09/14
Judy Clouse	09/17
Caleb Bahr	09/18
Cindi (Lucinda) Byrd	09/19
Josh Brandt	09/20
Sue Simonsen	09/22
Carole Varney	09/23
Ronald Kane	09/28
Beverly Wisniach	09/28
Joanna Balcom	09/29
Elizabeth Balcom	09/29
Morgan Brandt	09/29

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

by Craig Britton

Now don't go setting another place at the table. I'm asking about a different meal, a different type of sustenance. All the way through the Bible, God's Word and His presence are given as a picture of being food for His people. Manna, the feeding of the five thousand, "I am the Bread of Life." Jeremiah speaks of

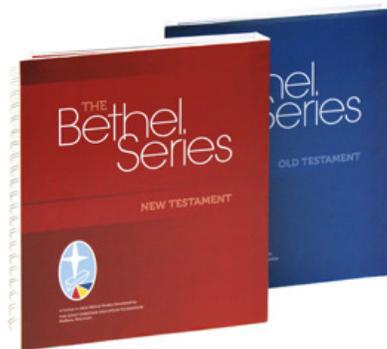


eating God's Word, and Job informs us that he holds God's Word in a higher place than his daily portion. When we see such wonderful allusions being made to the Word of the Lord, it really does beg the question, "How do I see the Scriptures?" Centuries of Christian history passed with no Bible or no access to it, and the church was sustained. So, what's the big deal if I don't have much interaction with it? I come to church. I hear the readings and the pastor.

All right. I get it. But the question above is moot in these days precisely because in our place in the Christian story, we *DO* have access to Scripture. In every conceivable way. And historically and theologically, no people should love the Bible or have a better grip on its message than Lutherans. That's what I think. We exist as an outgrowth of the passion of a man who desired that God's Word be the common speech of all believers.

In mid-June, I had the privilege of attending training in "The Bethel Series." This series is an amazing tool

for *lay people* to teach *lay people* the entire sweep of God's revelation to man in Scripture. For nearly sixty years, the work of Lutheran pastor Reverend Harley Swiggum has provided the big-picture meal of the Bible, for hungry Christians of all stripes, around the world. Over 2 million people have made the two-year trek. Some have taken it multiple times and some graduate to take on the mantle of teaching it in conjunction with others in their home congregations. At the training, I sat with students from around the U.S., and one from Tokyo, Japan. I sat at the feet of a lay teacher who begins her forty-first year of teaching "The Bethel Series" in her congregation and community ... including the local county correctional facility.



All of this to announce that The Bethel Series is coming to Redeemer after a decades-long hiatus. The series utilizes amazing artwork to teach and aid memory of the Bible's sweeping narrative. The series highlights the necessity to move us from our Western "Greek" mindset to match the mindset of the Hebrew culture from which the Scriptures sprang. You'll even get your own "Think Hebrew" pin if you become a part of this amazing movement of learning. We will launch in early October (more details later), and everyone from high school age and above is welcome. But the first time

through the two-year “intensive” will also have a focus on raising up and bringing along 3-4 others who will join me in teaching The Bethel Series here at Redeemer. And my prayer is that the Lord would lead us to varied points within our community, taking the Word to those who need it so desperately. Yes, there are people outside the church who really would like to know what the Bible really says. YOU can deliver the Bread.

So, at this point—pray. Ask the Lord if this is your time to come to this meal. I need to know if you’ll join me, so let me know by **Sunday September 15**. The requirements, and they’re tough, are these:

- † 2 ½ hours of class time weekly (over two school years)
- † 6-10 hours weekly for homework, reading and preparation
- † Memorization and periodic quizzes
- † There is a cost of \$80.00 per student, per year for materials (scholarships available)

Day and time have not been scheduled as of the writing of this article. They will be soon. And this, by God’s grace, will be the first of many classes offered. I can promise a wonderful feast and you, and those you love, will be blessed immeasurably by your coming to the table.

THE PROOF IS IN THE PERSON

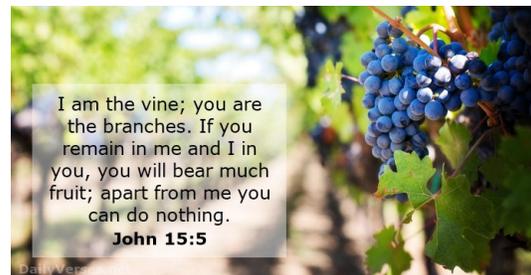
by Pastor Michael Geml

September marks the beginning and the end of several things. Certainly the

one that comes to most of our minds is the end of summer and the beginning of autumn.

September also begins a time to jump out of the pool and dive into Bible study. While I understand taking time off during the summer when Sunday School and Bible studies are suspended (we all need a break from time to time), I have never been able to wrap my mind around the practice of some who take a summer break from Sunday morning worship. Jesus said that good trees bear good fruit and bad trees bear bad fruit. Jesus also made this troubling statement: “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruit” (Matt. 7:19-20). Jesus also said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me, you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

The proof of our salvation and our place in God’s eternal presence is found only in Christ Jesus our Savior. This is a sure foundation founded on Christ alone. The proof of this foundation is lived out in the lives of His redeemed people. God has provided all we need to support both body and life, even as He provides continual sources of renewal and forgiveness and a communion of brothers and sisters to encourage and care for each other. This provision of God takes place on Sunday morning when we receive from God the means of His grace so that our lives reflect the



love first shown and given to us. 'Tis dangerous ground indeed when we take extended “vacations” from worship. Let us all be aware of, and participate in, what God offers us in worship and in the continued study of His Holy Word.

PRAYER HELPS

by Kristin Rathje, guest writer, with selections and/or excerpts from her Blog, *Next Chapter*, used with permission.

Over the weekend I talked with my 90-year-old godmother, who has now lived for over a year in her home alone—ever since her husband, my godfather, fell and broke his hip. She is so sad and lonely; her load is heavy—managing a home, driving to and from the facility where he lives, and dragging herself out of bed every morning. One thing sustains her—prayer.



I saw my mother this weekend, too. She has chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) and severe joint pain throughout her body. Each day for her, too, is a struggle—getting out of bed, managing her symptoms and the side effects of the medication she takes, and completing the tasks that give her life meaning: preparing meals, sending care packages, and praying for her grandchildren. Life has taught these women the power and solace that can be found in prayer.

They have learned that, more than anything else, prayer has the ability to effect change—on the grand scale and in their everyday lives...

My first reaction to any problem is to strap on my gear and get busy finding solutions. It's muscle memory from years of survival in the trenches. See problem? Find solution...Why is this still happening? Why haven't we done something? These are real people with real families!

...And we do need to act. Immediately. But all my sputtering in my living room on a Sunday evening won't likely make a difference...Eventually I run out of steam, and I begin to hear a faint sound calling me to prayer.

Someone recently said to me, “Don't talk to me about prayer. That helps you; it doesn't help me.” That's not entirely wrong.

Praying does help me. When I pray, it's often because I can no longer keep trudging along under the weight of the overloaded backpack of worry, concern, hope, and expectation that I find myself lugging around. I collapse under its weight, drag it into my lap, and pull out some of the weightiest pieces.

I take a good long look at each one and then hold it up for examination. I see a pair of hands extended toward me, waiting to accept each burden.

I lift each concern, each person, each hope as I say, “Please, would You? I trust You. You've got the power...the wisdom...the patience...to manage this. I do not. You have the perfect answer. I do not. I'm so tired of carrying it... Please...do Your best...heal...restore... redeem...renew...forgive...support... please.”

And this does help me. It does. When I lift my burdens to the hands that are strong enough to carry them, I'm lighter,



and hopeful, and relieved, because the God who created all things is able to do what I cannot do. He is able to take those items from my backpack and transform them into beautiful treasures—reminders of once-worries, once-pains, once-griefs. But that is not all.

My prayers, your prayers, our prayers combined don't just help us—no. They transform the world. They call upon the Almighty, the One who owns all the might, and they enlist His power, all the power, and He, our great Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, takes JOY in answering.

But, sadly, prayer is not the first place I turn...

And, to be honest, it's not even soldiering. Soldiers don't strategize or rewrite history. They obey orders. They execute strategies. They complete missions. They report back.

My writing of scenes and brainstorming of strategies is not an attempt at soldiering, it's worse—it's an attempt at commanding. I not only want to carry the backpack, I want to give the orders.

I believe that's called insubordination.

Sigh. So much energy expended and none of it is necessary.

In fact, I don't even need to carry the backpack.

I'm lugging it around trying to find my own answers and solutions, when I've been invited (some might say commanded) to turn it over, to lift it up, to surrender it.

And when I surrender it, change happens.

Change in me.

Change in others.

Change in the world.

Because those hands that are reaching out to receive the items I'm lifting up, are able (unlike mine) to heal, restore,



redeem, renew, forgive, and support. Sometimes I am invited into the process, and sometimes I'm invited to stand still and behold the work of the Lord.

And that does, in fact, really help me. It changes me. It renews me. It gives me hope and strength.

I know that tomorrow when I wake up, I am very likely to forget all this, strap on my backpack, and start lifting up boulders in search of answers, but I pray that I tire quickly and remember to sit down and surrender my load into more capable hands.

"The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer."

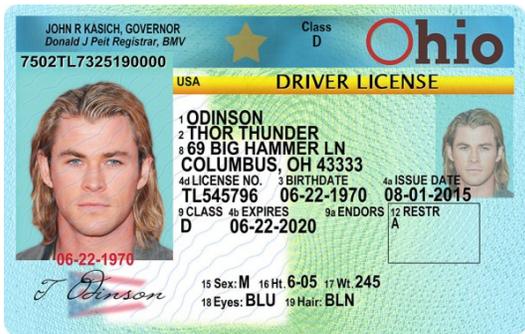
Psalm 6:9

PROOF

by Peggy Bennitt



Identity theft is a bane in our current society. Proof of who we are is no longer fool-proof. In bygone years, a person's driver's license was considered to be absolute proof of one's identity. Now,



with all the elite technology available to everyone, most school-age children can make a fake I.D. Even Social Security numbers are no longer an assured form of identification.

So, what can we do and where can we go to find proof of information or identities anymore? The internet is so handy, and pontificates that it is a fast and accurate informational highway. Do we dare trust that? Anyone who has ever done any research online knows that the information available is formidable, as well as contradictory at best. The material is subject to opinion, inaccuracies, and misinterpretation, at the least. Some websites are set up for the very purpose of misleading or "scamming" the public out of money or possessions. "If it's on the internet, it

must be true," is NOT necessarily a true statement.

There are protections devised for internet safeguards and security, and these are recommended necessities for any responsible internet user. But proof doesn't always have to be difficult, or require constant updates or more money spent. Once we find a dependable source for the information we need, it makes sense to stick with that source. Correct?

We, as Christians, have a source we can always depend on to provide accurate and truthful guidance for our lives. Our Lord Jesus is that source, and His Word, recorded in the Bible, gives us guidance and information about life from its very creation. World events, geological catastrophes, natural environmental upheavals, rise and fall of cultures and empires, governments and peoples, have come and gone, and the ebb and flow of these centuries are mentioned in Bible history. The facts don't change. In the Bible, the words and repeated history from the beginning are spoken of before, during, and after the events occur. World history supports the histories recorded in the Bible.

The Bible doesn't change with each new "belief system" that comes along. We can depend on this source



because it doesn't change the facts at the whim of mankind. When earlier facts are backed up in future eras, they are validated. The proof is then verified and

the facts are given credence. “God’s Word is truth,” John 17:17b says, and history backs up His Word.

As Christians, we can feel safe in our identity as God’s people. With the Bible as our firm foundation, we have proof of both who we are and Whose we are. How comforting to know that we can confidently claim our true identity from the perfect source, knowing that He will be the constant proof for our faith and the life to come.

FAMILY FAITH LIFE

by Kimber Walsh, Director of Family Life Education, CFLE, Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Pudding

I like pudding. I have a delightful recipe for banana or coconut cream pudding for which I eagerly await an occasion to make. I distinctly remember the taste of a particular homemade pudding at a restaurant from my childhood. I’ve also never turned down a SnackPak or “dirt” pudding. Though my dad recounts the burnt crispy edges of homemade pudding (yuck!), my favorite part is the creamy smooth texture. It’s a little bit sweet, but not too much. Mmm!

“The proof is in the pudding” is an old saying that means you can tell how good something is when you taste it. When I taste pudding, I can taste the proof of that saying. It also brings to mind God’s goodness.

*“Taste and see that the Lord is good.”
Psalm 34:8a*

How can we taste the goodness of the Lord? It’s not quite the same as getting a spoonful of pudding. But it is something He invites us to do often. We can taste the goodness of the Lord by reading His

Word laced with sweet love and grace. We can taste the goodness of the Lord by partaking of His supper—the wine and bread along with Christ’s very body and blood on our tongues—and the forgiveness, life, and salvation on our souls. We can taste the goodness of the Lord through experiencing the abundant undeserved blessings He gives us. And we can taste the goodness of the Lord through the people around us that are extensions of His love and grace to us.

The proof is in the pudding—the Lord is GOOD!



Sometimes we confuse worship within the church service as a time when kids are to be seen and not heard; we think they need to learn to be quiet and sit still so that us adults can worship. But that’s not at all what Scripture teaches. Throughout Scripture, time and time again, we hear talk of God’s people assembled to hear His Word with the youngest children present. It makes sense if you think about it—worship is a time when God gives His people gifts—He teaches us truths from His Word, He announces His forgiveness to us, He invites us to be strengthened and refreshed through the Sacrament. Why would God want His precious children, of *any* age, to miss out on that?! In a worship service too, we can talk about God and shape faith as we are charged to do in Deuteronomy 6:6-7:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the way, when you lie down and when you get up.”

Here are some ideas for how we can talk about faith and point our families to God in the worship service:



Location—Sit in the front to allow your child the best view of what’s going on. Point out people and things they will see to help guide their attention throughout the service. Have them count how many crosses they can see; ask them what color the paraments for the week are; take note together about which candles are lit and which are not; see if they notice when pastor turns to face the congregation (explain this is when he is speaking on God’s behalf to us) and when he turns to face the altar (explain this is when he is speaking with us to God). *For more tips on how to explain what you see, reference the guide list following.



Engagement—Worship has a predictable rhythm to it. We stand up and sit down, we say phrases, prayers, and sing songs. All of these are things that children of all ages can participate in at some level. Depending on the age of your child, choose one word they can say at the end of a phrase or have them say the “Amen.” Encourage them to stand up and sit when you do, encourage them to fold their hands or hold your hand when prayers are being offered. Some can sing the songs,

some can’t quite yet, but they can dance or clap or hum. You can also prompt your child to listen for key words to tally on paper or squeeze your hand at every mention. All of these are ways all of us can be engaged in worship.



Prep—Have you ever considered what you can do before worship to help your children (and maybe yourself) be more present? Wiggle and run, visit the restroom and get a drink of water, set your expectations, practice sitting quietly in other settings, grab a book, puzzle or quiet activity. Find activities that share a Bible story.



Follow Up—After worship, review and discuss at an age-appropriate level. Point out things in everyday life that remind you of or reinforce what was taught. Talk about all the good things God gives us in worship and the great blessing that it is to us each time we go.

Redeemer has some great resources available for those bringing children to worship (and for those who want to be a positive influence on the next generation of church-goers that may be sitting near you!) Check them out:



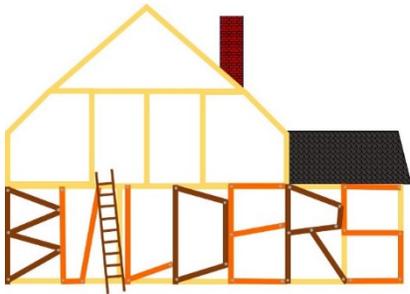
Weekly there is a portion of the bulletin called “Kids in the Divine Service.” This piece teaches about sights around the sanctuary, liturgy components, and worship practices. You’re never too old to learn something new about what we do and why we do it.



Weekly there are sermon notes sheets available on the readings of the day for all ages on the usher table. Any worshipers

can use these to guide their thoughts and their doodles throughout the worship service as well as at home afterwards.

✂ On the welcome center, there is a small booklet called “The Family’s Guide to Corporate Worship with Little Ones.” This includes tips on how to engage little ones with the service, how to help them learn to worship, and even what each of us misses if little ones aren’t there.



Builders is our monthly family life time—covering various

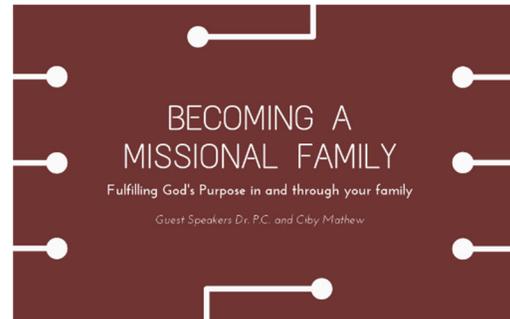
topics and doing various activities that will build up your family and build up the body of Christ. No matter the life stage or makeup of your family, you are welcome to join in our time together. All of us could use a little more Biblical perspective on how we do family, and we can all be a part of encouraging others as well. We will meet on September 1 at 3:30 p.m. This month, we will have a fun family fellowship outing at Ella Sharp Mini Golf. Cost is \$3/golfer (scholarships are available if that’s a burden to you). Please sign up in the narthex and pay by Sunday, August 25.

*Note: **Builders in October**, usually on the first Sunday, **will be replaced** by the below “Becoming a Missional Family” opportunity at the end of September. Please slate that date on your calendar

instead of October 6, and register for that event online.

Questions? Contact Kimber Walsh at kimber@redememerjackson.org or 517-750-3100.

Missional Family



Are you serious about fulfilling God’s mission in this world together with your family? God puts us in families to grow in relationship as we walk together, share together, love together, cry together and grow together. This is indeed the Creator’s purpose! But is there a grander purpose beyond this? Discover God’s grander purpose for every family by being partners in God’s mission.

This is what a “**missional family**” is all about. Missional families reflect the deep relationship that exists in the Trinity, and they are engaged together to accomplish the task of God. Ministering outside the home by neglecting ministry within the home is not scriptural and defies the very purpose of God’s mission.

Dr. P.C. Mathew, through his research and also through his own practical experience of opening his family’s home to many students and families for the last 20 years, reveals the distinct characteristics of a missional family to help every Christian family to fulfill God’s grander purpose in this world.

Join us on **Wednesday, September 25 at 5:30-8:00 p.m.**, as we hear directly from Dr. P.C. Mathew and his wife, Ciby, (all the way from India!) on this vital topic. This event is free, but registration is required at redeemerjackson.org. Dinner and childcare are additional options that must be included in your registration.



Community Care Day

Our third annual Community Care Day in partnership with Trinity, serving our community with Jesus' love through



meeting needs, was Saturday, August 3. Following are more photos from the event. Note the lines for each station of the event.

In a tight two-and-a-half months of



planning, God blessed our efforts to enable us to serve about 525 people with free school supplies, hygiene items, socks and underwear, Christian resources, kids' activities, breakfast, and haircuts. Hearing the stories of people, and being able to come together to serve



our neighbors, was a tremendous act of God's grace to us and to those around us too!

What Will It Take?

by Craig Britton

C.S. Lewis once quipped that it is not that men can't believe when confronted with the claims of Christ, it is that they *will not believe*. Issues of what the unaided will is capable of as it relates to Christ aside, Lewis's point is that those who are waiting for some "magic key" to open the door to the proof of who Jesus is, will have a long wait. Those with such a view are not interested in

truth, but in their own sovereignty. In other words, they want to be in control, and to say “yes” to Jesus is to say farewell to living life for self and self-satisfaction.

We live in a society that is not only post-Christian, but post-truth. In other words, truth is not recognized as a universal, and with what passes for truth today, truth becomes unrecognizable. Just up the road from my house is a church with a sign that reads, “*Finding Our Own Paths to God ... Together.*” Remember, I said a church. A supposedly Christian Church (Congregational), and what is written on their sign, facing everyone who drives by, is a patent denial of the authority of the Bible. What do I mean? Open to John 14:6. Jesus, in contradiction to the church sign, says there is one way (path), and that isn’t open to an individual’s interpretation. Any individual. Jesus says that He is THE way, THE truth and THE life. Now you can access that truth by yourself or in a group, and it is wonderful when we learn and walk together. But I don’t get the luxury of “choosing” which way I take to heaven. There’s only One.

Now here is where the Lewis quote above finds its real interpretation in 2019. Men and women outside of Christ don’t want a way to God. They just want their way. Jesus goes on to say in our



passage above that if you want to get to the Father (the only true and living God) you must go by way of His Son, Jesus. That’s it. No private interpretation of the map. No place to say, “I found my own way.” And that, at face value, is terribly disconcerting for people in our PC, broad-minded, and afraid-to-offend society. It is almost that the culture has convinced the Christian Church that it has to open its doors, arms, and minds so that everyone may enter, and that with their own way to heaven. Remember this caution: open minds often end up empty minds.

Jesus, when challenged by his opponents including his own brothers at the time, gave what I think is the most succinct “proof” statement in all the New Testament. Do you want to know if Jesus is whom He claims to be? Do you want proof that His teaching is true? Then listen to the Master: “If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority” (John 7:17). What is He saying? He’s saying that to do God’s will, to believe and live in accordance with God’s will (truth), just do what Jesus says and you’ll know. Simple, isn’t it? And it’s not circular reasoning, because it leaves the option open that you might find He’s wrong.

Listen to Jesus and do (believe) what He says, and you will have your proof. Not the proof the world says it requires. Not natural proof, but proof beyond nature. Now that scares some, but if you listen or watch Jesus for any amount of time in the Bible, you’ll quickly realize you’re not dealing with some average “Joe” off the street. A supernatural life requires—indeed cannot do without—supernatural proof. It’s the only kind that counts in such situations.

Are you looking for proof? Look to Jesus. Are you seeking heavenly endorsement for the claims of the carpenter of Nazareth? Look to Jesus. Are you yearning for the eternity Jesus died to supply? Look to Jesus. He won't disappoint and your Proof will be sure.
Look to Jesus.

FROM THE GARDEN

by Judy Speed



GARDEN TO DO LIST FOR SEPTEMBER

- 🌱 Stop pruning and fertilizing
- 🌱 Bring summer vacationing houseplants back indoors while the windows are still open. Check carefully for hitchhiking pests
- 🌱 Start fall clean-up in the flower beds, cutting back anything that has finished blooming or is diseased
- 🌱 Take cuttings to overwinter indoors
- 🌱 Start winterizing your water garden
- 🌱 Watch for frost warning and cover tender plants
- 🌱 Photograph your gardens and containers for a record of the year's triumphs and frustrations
- 🌱 Give the compost a last turn
- 🌱 Divide and move perennials

- 🌱 Dig and store tender bulbs like: dahlias, caladiums, cannas and tuberous begonias
- 🌱 Start planting spring flowering bulbs
- 🌱 Plant trees and shrubs. Keep well-watered, if there isn't sufficient rain.
- 🌱 Dispose of any diseased or infested plant debris, to avoid overwintering the problem.

Perennial Cutting Back Tips:

Most perennials can be cut back in the fall, although a few, like chrysanthemums, prefer to remain standing to act as winter mulch. Do some research on which plants/flowers should be pruned in fall and which should be pruned in the spring.

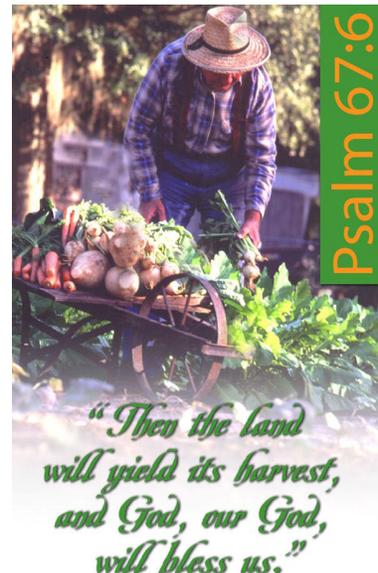
Perennials to prune in fall: These include irises, begonias, clematis, and daylilies

Perennials to prune in spring: These include asters, lavender, lamb's ear, and hostas

Wait until a frost has caused the plants to dieback. You do not want to encourage new growth that will be hit again. Start with plants that were diseased or had a pest

problem and dispose of that debris. **Do not compost it.**

Do not prune woody plants, trees, and shrubs until they are dormant.



Psalm 67:6

"Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us."

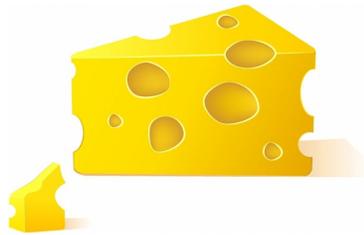
TUGGY'S CHEESE

by Cathie Miller

Tuggy was twenty-five pounds of curly black fur. Soft, watery brown eyes. Sloppy, wet pink tongue. Even sloppier and wetter kisses. He was everything a pampered poodle should be. More than a simple canine companion, Tuggy was like a third child to me. For thirteen years I coddled him. Babied him. Loved him. And, Sir Tuggles returned that love a thousand-fold. When we finally laid his little body to rest, I think I buried a piece of my heart with him. To this day, if I close my eyes, I can still feel him sitting upon my lap. The press of his paw upon my arm. The warmth of his head upon my shoulder. The familiar Tuggy odor, as sweet as any expensive perfume tickling my nostrils once again.

Over the years, some have kindly suggested that I purchase another puppy. To no avail! For I am a “one-man woman.” And, I could no more replace Tuggy, than I could replace Teddy.

There was one thing Tuggy valued more than anything else. A hunk of cheddar cheese. He simply had an incredible, insatiable appetite for it. He adored it so much he would not even eat it! When gifted a tiny morsel of cheddar, he would trot to his favorite corner of the room and furiously dig an imaginary “hole” in my carpet. While nestling the golden tidbit between his teeth, amidst heavy drooling, he would ever so gently deposit his prize into the secret hideaway he thought he had prepared. To finish the job, he would use his nose as a scooper



and spread imaginary “soil” over the spot. In his wee doggie brain, and for all intents and purposes, Tuggy had safely buried his hunk of cheddar cheese. Once fully satisfied that his treasure was safe and secure, he would contentedly, and cluelessly, scamper off.

Of late, I have been sorting through some of my own treasures. Teddy and I are in the process of moving to Georgia. There, we will start another chapter in our nearly 50-year book of life as man and wife. We are both scared and excited. But, the work involved in this great endeavor leaves us little time to ponder the situation. There is simply just too much to do...too many decisions to make. What should go to Georgia? What should be left behind? What should simply be discarded?

One collects a lot of possessions in 50 years. From birth announcements and baby shoes, to T-shirts and teapots. Pictures, letters, cards, books, and such. All the tangible evidence of a lifetime of experiences, both happy and sad, dearly remembered just the same. It is only natural that we hang on tightly to what we treasure in life. Even more so when we face the unknown. Then our treasures become even more deeply treasured.

Matthew 6:19-21

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Tuggy's cheese was always collected by me after a day or two. Wet and rubbery, the forgotten cheddar was simply tossed into the trash. Tuggy never noticed. Nor did he seem to care, if he did. The thought of his treasure meant more to him than the treasure itself.

And, so it is with you and with me. The earthly possessions we so cling to will not last either. Some will become lost. Some will be forgotten. Some will become yellowed with age. Some faded with time.



We were born into this world with nothing to our names. May we leave this world with nothing but the name of Jesus upon our lips. Our Heavenly Father has bestowed upon us, through the sacrifice of His Son, the undeserved gift of eternal life with Him in Heaven—for all believers. By Faith alone. By Grace alone. By Scripture alone. Eternal life with Him in Heaven. A treasure like none other. And, far more precious than Tuggy's cheese.



BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN

Sunday School, Youth, and Adult Bible Classes resume Sunday, September 8, at 9:20 a.m. Below is a list of classes through which you and your family can grow in God's Word each week at Redeemer.

Group	Location
Preschoolers-First Graders	Outside Meeting Room, Lower Level
Second-Fifth Graders	Across from Teen Room, Lower Level
Sixth-Eighth Graders	Library, Upper Level
Ninth-Twelfth Graders	Teen Room, Lower Level
Adult Class: Christ in the Old Testament led by Pastor Geml	Meeting Room, Lower Level
*Adult Class: 1 Peter led by Craig Britton	Music Room, Lower Level

*This class will begin on Sunday, September 22.

...YOU'RE A ROCK STAR!

Excerpt retrieved from:
<http://www.imom.com/mom-do-you-know-youre-a-rock-star/>

A few months ago, I had one of those afternoons that involves hustling home from the grocery store, in the rain, at rush hour, with my baby, my preschooler, and the ingredients for dinner in tow. Have you had one of these afternoons recently? You know the kind—you're at max capacity, lost in thought, making a mental to-do list a mile long to the delightful sound of your children, who are annoying each other as much as humanly possible while strapped into their car seats. In the moment, it can be hard handling stress. But sometimes, these moments can surprise you.

A voice inside my head ordered me around and told me all the things I needed to do and all the things I wasn't doing well. But all of a sudden, the

sweetest sound, the voice of my older daughter, Harvest, broke my inner monologue.



Harvest: "Hey Mommy! Hey Mommy! Hey Mommy!"

Me: "Hey, baby, what is it?"

Harvest: "I want to tell you something. Mommy, did you know that you're a rock star?"

Me (totally caught off guard and chuckling a bit): "Awww, thank you, baby! Why am I rock star?"

Harvest: "You're a rock star! ...you make dinner, put our clothes on, fix our hair, and make our bed. And you work! You're a rock star."

Up until this point, I had spent most of that day convincing myself I was a total failure as a mother. I felt pulled in a million different directions, meeting my

family's needs, maintaining friendships, preparing to move, and adjusting to a new job. I especially was concerned with how distracted I'd been in this season of transition and how that negatively could affect my daughters. My sweet girl spoke words of life directly over my greatest fear in that moment. She silenced my inner critic.

I don't know what you've got racing around in your heart and mind or what the voice inside your head is saying to you today. But I'm here to tell you something important.

Proverbs 31:28 NIV



"Her children arise and call her blessed...."

Regardless of how you feel, mom, you're a rockstar, too!...

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Psalms 127:3



Annual Picnic



Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 8, for the annual Church Picnic. This year's theme is Football Tailgate Party. We will have brats, wings, and hot dogs for the food mainstay. If your last name begins with A thru L, please bring a dessert. M thru R, please bring some sort of snack food, and S thru Z family names, please bring a salad.

There will be games to play, football and Corn Hole toss to name a few.

Come dressed in your favorite team's gear and enjoy the fellowship. Hope to see everyone there.

Enjoy pictures from other church picnics.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Divine Services— C 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Builders 3:30—6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Community Prayer 7:00-8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Study-Craig's 2:30 p.m. in S. A.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>C—Denotes Communion Services</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Men's Choir Practice 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Divine Service 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>All Bible Classes Begin Today 9:20—10:20 a.m.</p> <p>Praise Service—C 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Church Picnic After late service</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Adult Choir 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Quilters 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Community Prayer 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Women of Redeemer 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Pastor's Bible Study-2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bible Study-Craig's 2:30 p.m. in S. A.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Men's Choir Practice 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Youth/Family POINTFEST @ Cedar Point</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Adult & Children's Bible Classes 9:20—10:20 a.m.</p> <p>Praise Service 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>NL DEADLINE -Pointfest Ends-</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Adult Choir 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Community Prayer 7:00 a.m.</p> <p>Pastor's Bible Study 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bible Study-Craig's 2:30 p.m. in S. A.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Men's Choir Practice 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Divine Service 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Adult & Children's Bible Classes 9:20—10:20 a.m.</p> <p>Praise Service— C 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Adult Choir 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Quilters-9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Missional Family Event 5:30-8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Combined Councils 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Community Prayer 7:00 a.m.</p> <p>Pastor's Bible Study—2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bible Study-Craig's 2:30 p.m. in S. A.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Men's Choir Practice 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Divine Combined Service— C 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><i>No Sunday School or Bible Classes</i></p> <p>5th Sunday Potluck After the service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Adult Choir 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>2019</p>  <p>September</p>				