

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL
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www.redeemerwillmar.org

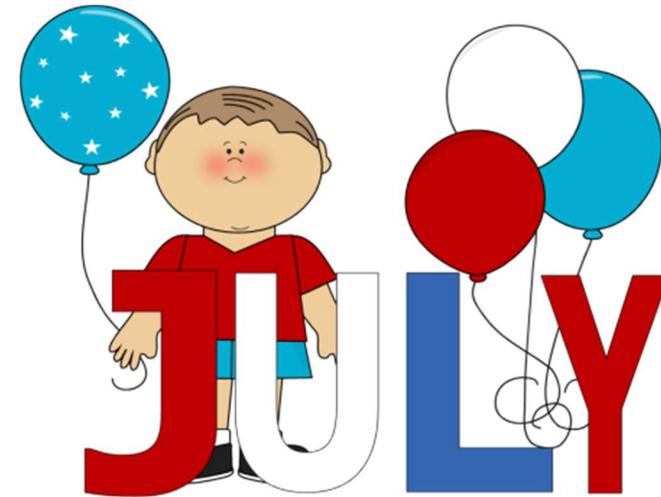
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Go Disciple All Nations

Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



2020

IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church

Volume XXX, Issue VII

Have you ever had a question stick in your head?

For a few months now we have been broadcasting a live stream video on Wednesday night, the goal was to study the Bible while taking questions from others who are listening. During the last few minutes, a subject came up that is still on my mind. Dave made a statement that I agreed with, but it also made my mind continue to spin. What Dave said was something about if we have learned from the pandemic. After the taping stopped, we were able to talk a little more but there is still more to address.



This is a thought that I cannot get out of my head. Did "we" learn anything during the stay-at-home sheltering? At first, I remember that people were looking forward to the whole thing lasting only a few weeks. The community was optimistic, and people sought ways to help others in a time of need. President Matthew Harrison (LCMS) wrote about how Lutherans and other early Christians helped those in need when others would not. When I look at the news with reports of viruses, riots, and hatred I cannot turn from the fact that the world needs the "Church" right now. People are scared, they are hurt, and there are others who do not like anyone messing with their independence. Have we learned that we are 100% dependent on God?

One of the key concepts that has been taught in this congregation came from Deuteronomy 6:6-7. God gave clear instructions that the family would be at the core of the congregation and the community. Before the pandemic hit, families were too busy to spend quality time together. We outsourced cooking meals, grocery shopping, and teaching the faith to our children. During the two months we were all in the same house, I heard many stories of families adjusting to time in the same room trying to manage school, career, and life. Are we looking forward to being out every night to a ballfield or staying busy apart? Was God tapping us on the shoulder and saying we were interested in too many temporary things?

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In the last two weeks of March, churches around the world scrambled to buy technology and harass the power of the internet. Pastors and leaders tried to connect with their congregation amid the separation by livestreaming and taping services. At first, people could not wait for the next service from their churches. Last month, the Barna Research Group said that people are now more likely to attend church at home where they can sit in bed in their pajamas while sipping coffee. The research from this group has shown that members are now more likely to trade in their local internet church service for the livestreaming from a "mega" church somewhere in a large town. Huge churches in the cities are more likely to have professional singers and a highly motivational preacher.

Have we learned during this time apart that the "Church" is not the building? We have not been able to meet as we have in the past, but the urgency of the Gospel is still needed more than ever. What I hope we have learned these last three months is that we still are called to follow Christ even though the meeting in a building has been disrupted. May we see that our mission is still the same as it always has been. God has equipped His "Church" for this very purpose and has not abandoned it one bit. He still lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:16-17

A special thank you to all who sent cards, gifts, and food at the time of Irene's going on to be with her Savior. Thanks to all who were able to be at the visitation or at the cemetery service. Jesus lead Thou on, till our rest is won, Heav'n Leader, still direct us, Still support, control, direct us, Till we safely stand, in our Fatherland. *LSB 718:4*
Cordially, Pastor Friedrich

**Go to www.redeemerwillmar.org for our online Sunday
Worship Services and Wednesday night devotionals.**

SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and a list is posted on the church office window. Please check your phone number for accuracy or if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

JULY

Lila Rekedal – 320-235-9218

Randy & Jill Augustin
Ken & Alix Behm
Mark & Amy Boeschen
Jeff Carlson
Kristine Carlson
Michelle Corti
Chris Dahline
Wayne & Kelly Dahlke
Marv & Sharon Erdelt
Melanie Garberich
Bill & LeeAnn Houselog
Shane & Brooke Jensen
Clarence & Violet Klucas
Steven & Christine Kurtzbein
Judy Linhoff
Craig & Heather Petersen
Tina Pillatzki
Bob & Lila Rekedal
Jose & Wendy Reyes
Milt & Marcella Sadd
Leon & Carole Schultz
Lyle Smith
Wayne Streich

AUGUST

Cassie Drenkow – 608-387-5246

Lori Schroeder – 320-290-7035

Matt & Teresa Behm
Art & Elaine Bolland
Carol Dahlke
Cassie Drenkow
Lyle & Kathy Eisenlohr
Scott & Rachel Grewe
Trudy Hemingway
Russ & Rachel Jeppesen
Jim & Cari Kardell
Eileen Klinghagen
David & Tamara Knapper
Jason & Jennifer Landin
Michelle Marotzke
Wayne & Laurie Nelson
Bill & Sandra Peters
Chris & Jeanne Reznecheck
Michael & Kay Sandau
Lori Schroeder
Loren & Judy Schultz
Tim & Denise Smith
Curt & Deb Swart
Don & Birdie Urban

NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.

Losing FOCUS

On July 6th we will kick off our Virtual VBS, yep I said virtual. In all my 10 years of ministry I have not once done anything close to a Virtual VBS. It has been strange to and a blessing to do VBS this way.

Normally VBS prep and planning is filled with long days of decoration design, volunteer gathering and training. Then, once the week arrives, it seems all my energy is centered into a 3-hour time period each day greeting kids, making sure volunteers have what they need and that everything keeps moving. However, this year, when our theme is centered on FOCUS, our Focus had to change. From a fun high energy week of activities and kids on our campus to equipping and encouraging for our families through the materials we provide them to walk through as a family what it means to keep our FOCUS on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith as this year's theme verse from Hebrew's states, "We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith" Hebrews 12:2a

As I was preparing to write this article, I spent some time reviewing this verse. The [This] the writer refers to is running the race of perseverance in our faith. The author reference that since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, we can run with perseverance by keeping our focus on Jesus. You see Hebrews 12 follows that great chapter in the Bible that some reference as the Heroes of Faith chapter. You've heard it by faith Noah, Abraham and so forth.

Honestly the people referenced weren't heroes, they were ordinary, flawed people like all of us. So how did they make this section of the Bible, because their faith endured. It endured floods, exoduses out of slavery, death, invasions by foreign armies, betrayals, lies, ridicule and wars. When you put it all together and step back, a global pandemic followed by racial tensions are two of many life situations these people faced, yet through all of it they still trusted in the promises of God. What can be more encouraging in our own current walk right now when the situations of this world seem overwhelming, to remember that the battle is not ours but the Lord's and to shift our focus to Him during this time.

Where is your focus today? Are you in Summer focus with some new shades, are you in auto focus letting events around you shape the way you see, are you in manual focus struggling to turn the dial the way you want it to go. Or is your focus on Christ and letting him guide and lead. May you take time this month to REFOCUS on the author and perfecter of our faith, JESUS.

Blessings, Cassie Drenkow, Director of Christian Education

Don't worry if you haven't gotten your VBS box yet we still have some available, just contact the church office. The first lesson begins July 6th.



GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS



Jacob Meyer

Saturday, July 11th

We will have a Drive By event from 11 am- 12:30 pm, or you can join us for a Back Yard Social from 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm.
1215 13th Ave SW, Willmar

Kaitlin Mogard

Graduation Open House

Saturday, July 11 ~ 2p - 5p
1313 9th Street SE, Willmar
All are welcome to stop by and congratulate Kaitlin.

FOCUS VBS OFFERING PROJECT For the month of July during our Virtual VBS will be supporting one of our local partner organizations Community Basics/Hope for Our City with physical donations of 30 oz Jam or Jelly, Ketchup and Brown paper Lunch Bags. Donations can be dropped off in the donation box located in the entryway of door 21. We will also be accepting monetary donations which can be dropped off in the church office. We encourage all of our members to help us support this organization during this next month.

WHERE'S YOUR FOCUS This month our online Family Bible Time will use materials from our FOCUS VBS. Don't worry if you missed getting a box we still have some available. In it you will find all the supplies you'll need to participate each week in the lessons that will be posted on the Redeemer website. Just call the church office to request a box.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS who were confirmed at a private service on Sunday, June 21st. Top row: Matthew Mohr, Adam Sandau, Matthew Lingbeek, Bradyn Bush-Gregory. Bottom row: Chloe Jensen, Adriana Behl, William Jorschumb, Christina Spieker, Monica Rhoda & Koda Helfinstine.



†† JULY 2020 ††

YOU CAN ALSO JOIN US IN THE PARKING LOT ON SUNDAYS IN JULY.
TUNE INTO FM STATION 101.9 FOR THE WORSHIP SERVICES.

| | ELDERS | GREETERS | ACOLYTES | SOUND | LIBRARY |
|---|--|----------|----------|-------|---------------|
| July 5 8:00 AM 9:30 AM | Dave Danzeisen Stan Skaro Neil Buboltz Wayne Dahlke | | | | |
| July 12 8:00 AM Communion 9:30 AM | Matt Akerson Steve Lueders | | | | |
| July 19 8:00 AM 9:30 AM | Dave Runke Jeff Pitt Brandon Kopacek Paul Meyer | | | | |
| July 26 8:00 AM Communion 9:30 AM | Doug Jorschumb Neil Buboltz | | | | |
| USHERS | 8:00 AM * 9:30 AM * | | | | (*Head Usher) |

During this time of uncertainty, if you have questions or concerns please feel free to call your Elder.

YOUR ELDER

Dave Danzeisen
Brandon Kopacek
Stan Skaro
Steve Lueders
Paul Meyer
Doug Jorschumb
Neil Buboltz
Wayne Dahlke
Dave Runke
Matt Akerson

PHONE

894-2396
905-0734
599-4506/894-9450
894-5750
651-295-6670
235-5451/905-2447
796-2352/894-9681
262-9847
235-9068/894-1474
894-4997

HOUSEHOLD NAMES

Akerson – Bokelman
Bolland – Davis
Derksen – Grewe
Grothe – Jacobson
Jaspersen – Kruse
Kubasch – Meyer
Mikkelsen – Pillatzki
Pitt – Schoumaker
Schroeder – Streich
Stueckrath – Zetah

UPDATED GUIDELINES & PROTOCOL FOR RETURNING TO CHURCH

- For Sunday mornings in July, worship services will be available in the sanctuary, online, and in the parking lot at 8:00 and 9:30 am. Communion will be observed on the first and third Sundays and will be offered in the parking lot also for those who wish to remain in their cars. Please tune into the FM station 101.9.
- **Entrance will only be through the South narthex doors and the North single door. Exit will only be through the East single door.** Please note that all other doors will be locked. Doors will be propped open during entry and exit with one-way traffic only to help maintain physical distancing. Some hallways will be blocked off, please respect these areas.
- Elder's will monitor entry, please keep the 6' distance, see tape placed on floor. Please stay in line and do not greet each other with touching.
- As you enter, your temperature will be checked with a no-touch thermometer.
- Every other pew will be utilized so that people cannot sit closer than 6' (unless you are members of the same household). You will be ushered into the sanctuary and you will not have a preference as to where you want to sit and at the end of the service you will be ushered out. This action should be respected.
- Areas within the church will be thoroughly sanitized before and after each service. Hand sanitizers will be available throughout the church.
- Please limit bathroom use if at all possible. Tape will be placed outside the restroom to indicate where you should stand in line to wait. One person at a time please.
- Those people who are over 65 and those with underlying health conditions should consider staying home and listening online or in the parking lot. Please stay home if you are sick.
- Please bring your own protective wear. **Facemasks will be required.**
- Designated boxes will be available for your offering as you enter the sanctuary or as you exit the sanctuary.

We continue to remind people that no one is obliged to come if they do not feel safe and we will still have online services or parking lot worship services broadcasted on the FM radio station available. Please be patient and abide by these guidelines as we seek to keep our community as safe as possible during these trying times.

| SUNDAY | ATTEND | ONLINE | COMM | WED | ONLINE | PRIVATE |
|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------|------------|----------|
| June 7 | 115 | 196 | 105 | June 3 | 127 | |
| June 14 | 85 | 354 | | June 10 | 172 | |
| June 21 | 152 | 434 | 118 | June 17 | 252 | |
| June 28 | 64 | 169 | | June 24 | 86 | |
| | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 416 | 1153 | 223 | | 637 | 0 |

Affirmation of faith: Adriana Behl, Bradyn Bush-Gregory, Koda Helfinstine, Chloe Jensen, William Jorschumb, Matthew Lingbeek, Matthew Mohr, Monica Rhoda, Adam Sandau, Christina Spieker. Adult: Kathy Ecklund
Out by release: Ethan & Elizabeth Marcus, Grant & Ryan Miller, Kirsten Hill, Zachary & Paul Kimpling
Out by death: Marlene Porter

REDEEMER LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Enrolling now for Fall
 Ages 3 to 5 years old
 2 to 5 days per week
 Half or Full Day



Accredited, Christian Curriculum
 4 Star Parent Aware
 Eligible for Scholarships

Registration forms are on the welcome counter or on the website at:
www.redeemerlutheranpreschool.org

2020 PHOTO DIRECTORY

Lifetouch has rescheduled our photography appointments. Photo dates have been rescheduled for August & September. More information will be forthcoming.

**VOTER'S MEETING
 JULY 26TH AT 10:30 AM
 AFTER SECOND SERVICE**



CALLED TO EXCEL IN THE GRACE OF GIVING

The Apostle Paul tells the church in Corinth and us that they were not only to excel *"in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you..."* (2 Corinthians 8:7), they were to excel also in the grace of giving. Giving plays an important part in our lives as Christians. Faithful giving is an expression of heartfelt love. It is not an act of duty, although Christians are commanded to give. It is the joyful response to Christ from those who have been redeemed from slavery to sin and death for eternal life both here on earth and in Heaven forever. The size of the gift is not what Christ is looking at, but the motive of the giver.

Jesus said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35). Many of us have experienced just that blessing as we have given a gift to someone we love. Unfortunately, however, it is a human tendency to grasp at wealth, sometimes in a vain attempt to achieve security, many times for the status we think it will bring us, and often just because of our greedy natures. Our human logic is at variance with the words of Proverbs 11:24-25. *"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessings will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."*

God promises that we will always have enough; He will meet our needs. In fact, Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *"You will be enriched every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God"* (2 Corinthians 9:11). Giving, then, is based on trust. As we trust that God will provide even beyond our needs, even to the point that we will have enough to be generous to others, our grip on things of this earth will loosen. Not only will we be able to help others in need, but we will bear witness to our Lord as He is given the glory for our generosity. With God's help, we can all excel in the grace of giving.

TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH THRIVENT CHOICE! A heartfelt thanks to all of you who directed Choice Dollars to Redeemer Lutheran Church and Preschool. During 2019, a total of \$2,183 was directed to us. Thrivent Financial and its members once again showed us how, together, we can make a difference by helping to strengthen communities and change lives.

NOTE NEW ADDRESS: Pastor Steve & Corinne Bielenberg
2541 Pascal Street North, Roseville, MN 55113

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!! July collections will be *SNACKS*. Beef Jerky, Nuts, Raisins, Granola Bars, Microwave Popcorn, Tuna, Hard Candy, Licorice, Canned Ravioli/Beef Stew, Powdered Drink Mix. Please place donated items in box located in the narthex.

YOUR GIVING OPTIONS

- 1) Online Giving is available by going to redeemerwillmar.org and clicking on the Give Now button to use a credit card, debit card or bank account to donate to Redeemer. You can also setup recurring payments if desired!
- 2) You can give via text by sending Give and the amount (e.g. Give 100) to 320-200-2029.
- 3) Offerings (**placed in your offering envelope**) may be mailed to Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1401 6th Street SW, Willmar, MN 56201.
- 4) Consider using our *"Simply Giving"* program to have your offerings electronically transferred to the church's account. It's as easy as filling out a form and returning to Chris Yoose in the church office.



The new church sign was given to the church by an anonymous member. With the same donations we were able to bless the Preschool, our partner organizations, and scholarships for church workers. Thank you!