

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS**

SHOWERS



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Redeemer Reflection Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

A BENEFICIAL INTRUSION

by Pastor Michael Geml

Years ago, in my athletic youth, I readily admit that I played way too much softball.

Several nights during the week would find me at several different ball fields running, sliding, throwing, swinging, and loving every minute of it. I loved every aspect of the game; the grass, the dirt, the camaraderie, the competition. During those years I would closely monitor the weather reports throughout the day, hoping that the game scheduled for that evening would not be rained out. Sitting here now in my 50s, way past my youthful athletic prime, it is silly to admit that a harmless rain shower had such control over my mood for the entire day.

What I realized was that I was using the rain shower as an excuse for my attitude. That is very indicative of the human condition. Adam blamed God and he blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent; we carry on that sinful tradition when we seek to blame anything and anyone other than ourselves. It is so much easier to fix blame elsewhere than where it really belongs. I am not sitting in judgment over the weather because that is something out of mankind's



control. What I do kick myself over is allowing external forces to have such a high degree of influence in my life.

“Everyone complains about

the weather but no one does anything about it.” Or so the old saying goes. When it comes to the weather, our options are limited. If we dislike the cold we can move somewhere warm. But be assured that when you get to that new place you will find plenty of new things to complain about. We can run but we cannot hide. And not just from the weather but from our own sinful selves.

The truth is that the showers I cursed for ruining my fun, were the same showers that watered plants and other vegetation necessary for life. In reality the showers were a beneficial intrusion, but only when I chose to see things outside of my own selfish desires. The welcome intrusion of rain showers gives us a real example of God's love and His provision.

His provision comes to us in many ways that we discount or disregard. That provision extends even to eternity. The one provision that we dare not ignore is the shower of His love that comes to us in His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

This beneficial intrusion comes into our

sinful lives and covers us in God's forgiveness. The Passion of Jesus, His life, death, and resurrection, are undeniable proofs of God's love for us. May we live in heart-felt appreciation and eternal adoration of our glorious and eternal God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In His service,

Pastor Geml

TOPIC FOR MAY

The topic for May is *Blossoms*. What pops into your thoughts when you hear the expression *Blossoms*?

The *Reflection's* purpose is to *reflect* our Lord in our daily lives and actions. Not just within our church doors, but as we go about our daily lives *outside* these sacred doors of Redeemer. Do we reflect the Israelites of old with grumblings and complaints, or does the desert area around us reflect and blossom with the beauty planted in our hearts and souls by the Word we study and learn from each time we are together at Redeemer, or in our own homes of grace?

Do we blossom where God has placed us? Or do we keep the ground from displaying God's beauty in us? Are we all blooming where He's planted us, or are we withering in place and keeping the land from revealing the glory of our God? Share your "views from the pews" to keep us connected as the family of Christ here in God's House called Redeemer.

Please send articles or information to bennitt49@yahoo.com, by the 15th of each month, to be included in the following month's newsletter, using suggested topics or anything on prayer,

faith, family, or growing as we serve in the Family of Christ.

Thank you to all who share their faith on a regular basis through words and actions, and with articles of encouragement and inspiration for our Christian walk here and in the world around us.

Galatians 6:1

Brothers, if someone is caught in sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.



We all know someone who has "fallen away" from the Church or the Christian faith. It can be devastating to you as their loved one to see them missing out on God's truth and promises. Find encouragement, resources, devotions, and prayers at faithfamilyreunion.com. This Lutheran ministry was started by a "reunited prodigal" and her dad (who happens to be an LCMS pastor). You are not alone!

*Each month "Relevant Resources" will feature a different resource that may be relevant to you. If you have a topic request, please email kimberwalsh@comcast.net.



Charles Lewis	04/02
Barb Brandt	04/03
Judy Speed	04/03
Greg Wait	04/03
Tim Markham	04/06
Ron Jones	04/10
Jacob Lockwood	04/11
Ron Spangler	04/14
Don Moyer	04/22
Linda Kline	04/23
Rob Albertson	04/26
Bill Pohanka	04/27
Greg Krauss	04/28
Rick Pulver	04/28
Sharon Harshe	04/29

REDEEMER FAMILY LIFE OPPORTUNITIES

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

Love Jackson Community Event

In partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church, we will be putting on a community “clinic” event one Saturday in August to serve families in the Jackson area. We are hoping to focus on providing back-to-school needs for families such as physicals, haircuts, school supplies, and the like. The full list of services we will provide will depend on the volunteers we have and the skills they have available to share. Please be in prayer about this event now and consider how you can get involved. Our highest need is for volunteers who have a heart for serving our community. If you’d like to continue to receive direct updates about this project, planning meetings and the like, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Kimber Walsh at kimberwalsh@comcast.net or 517-750-3100.

ALONG THE WAY

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



As spring approaches, something else approaches...wedding season! And that means this time of year is the primary time for bridal showers. This is a tradition that started primarily for

women, but has expanded and now often includes the guys as well in couples showers (though my husband says it's still not really THAT fun for men). "April [bridal] showers bring [summer wedding] flowers"...that's what that saying is about, right? The whole point of wedding showers is to bless a couple with household needs as they start out partly because it would be expensive for them to have to buy everything they need by themselves and partly because women love to buy other women "stuff." Heaping blessing upon blessing on a new couple is a great practice in our busy and (often) selfish society.

Easter is a time that I often think of the blessings God heaps out on us. He sent His Only Son into the world to live among us AND He suffered AND died on the cross as payment for the sins of every person to ever live AND He arose victorious from the grave AND He ascended into heaven AND He's coming back for us to take us to be with Him AND in the meantime He gives us gifts like the Lord's Supper and His Word to remind us that He's forgiven us AND He provides us with all that we need to support our lives. (AND really the list could go on and on and on, but I'll spare you.) We get to see all of the undeserved blessings that God has showered on us when we take a look around.

This Easter, let's focus on some of the heaped-out blessings of God as we have fun together:

- Dyeing Eggs-Whether it's with vinegar and food coloring, shaving cream, Koolaid, or some other new Pinterest method, so many families make this part of the Easter time fun. Originally, Easter eggs were dyed red to symbolize the blood that

Jesus shed at His crucifixion. As you dye eggs this Easter, consider finding part of the Holy Week account of Jesus that you are reminded of by the colors you're using. Let the kids come up with some. Talk about what colors remind you of certain things that happened to Jesus and why. (Like green for the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed.)

- Egg Hunt-The egg was a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus as new life emerges from a hard shell, reminding us of the tomb Jesus was buried in. Not only that, but we can also be reminded of how the women who went to visit the tomb on the first Easter searched for Jesus. They were filled with great joy when they found out that Jesus had risen from the dead, and kids are filled with a small bit of joy when they find an egg filled with a treat. Consider leaving one of the eggs empty so that you can talk about the feeling the women had when they found the tomb empty. Discuss how you would feel if you didn't know where Jesus was.
- Lilies-White lilies in particular are a symbol of joy and hope. The white lily reminds us of the joy we have that we've been forgiven of all our sins through Jesus and the hope that we have to live forever in heaven with Him. What is joy? What is hope? Why does having these things matter?
- Chocolate/Candy-There was a time when people gave up sweets and treats as a regular part of the Lenten season. They wanted to focus on their repentance and sorrow before Christ, and this was a small "fast" that many chose to do. Going

without something during Lent is often a reminder of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness after 40 days of fasting. That's why candy is such a big part of the Easter celebration for many because they haven't had any for the 40 days of Lent. If your family "gave something up" for Lent, talk about what it will be like to enjoy it again. If not, talk about what treats you think we all might get to enjoy after our resurrection in the New Creation that Christ won for us at Easter.

- New Life (Bunnies, Chicks, Flowers, etc.)- All of these are symbols of new life. When Christ died on the cross, He won new life for us in Him. That new life is given to each of us at Baptism and we can be reminded of that at Easter. What does it mean to have 'new life' in Christ?

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 charges us to talk about faith as we go about life.

"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."

Not all showers are bad...and we can remember that God's showers this April are a celebration of what He did and what's He's promised to do for each of us!

RUMMAGE SALE/FROST BACKPACK PROGRAM

by Dave Althouse

As most of you are aware, the annual Spring Rummage Sale provides the majority of funding for the



Backpack Program. In 2017, the Rummage Sale is scheduled for Thursday, May 4th and Friday, May 5th. Donated items may be brought to the church from May 1st through May 3rd. However, for those of you headed out on vacations or trips, bring items to the church anytime. A storage room has been set aside in the church basement classroom area. A sign is posted outside the door to the area stating *Rummage Sale Storage Room*. Check with the church office if you need directions.

As in the past, all donated items should be gently used items, clean, and in good working order. We no longer accept TVs, pianos, bed springs, mattresses, or entertainment centers. Also, we will no longer accept digital or electronic equipment, including computers, because they are outdated so quickly.

Please call the church office or call Dave or Fran Althouse (517-787-5963) if you have questions or would like to become involved. More help is always needed. With the Lord's blessings, we look forward to yet another successful rummage sale.

The Backpack Team

“RAINDROPS KEEP FALLING ON MY HEAD”

by Lynne Gatz

When I think of springtime showers, I think of the song “Rain Drops Keep Falling on my Head,” sung by B.J. Thomas, (Songwriters: Burt Bacharach & Hal David). It’s just a song I sang as a kid whenever it rained, just for fun. One of the lines is

*“Crying’s not for me,
‘cause I’m never gonna stop the rain by
complaining’
because I’m free, nothing’s worrying
me”*

I always loved the tune, and it’s one of those songs that just gets stuck in your head. There is a moral of the song’s story. Complaining about your troubles doesn’t change a thing about them.

The “raindrops” in this song are a metaphor for problems, annoyances, or the negative aspects in life that we can’t change. Complaining serves no purpose. “Rain” or life’s daily problems will occur regardless. This reminds us of how Jesus tells us not to worry, “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them....Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?” (Matthew 6:26-27). I’ve learned that feelings of anxiety, worry, and frustration add up to much wasted emotional time and energy.

Sometimes there is nothing like hearing an old favorite song on the radio, to bring us back to a cherished point in time. This song was a part of the movie *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* with Robert Redford and Paul Newman. The movie earned several Academy Award nominations and the song was the first number one hit of 1970. For some reason I remember this song in the same

way that I remember the Sunday school songs from my childhood.

At times in our life, “the raindrops that keep falling on our heads” may turn into storms within our life. We go through periods of time that involve prolonged suffering or hardship. Just as Jesus told Peter to keep his eyes on Him when he tried walking on the water, we need to stay brave amidst the waves and the storms that assail us. We must keep in mind that “even the winds and the waves obey Him” (Matthew 8:27).

When Jesus woke up and calmed the storm, he scolded the disciples and asked them why they were afraid. Not only does this illustrate the Lord’s almighty power, it releases more power in us when we trust Him. Our first impulse should be to trust God. “Whoever believes in me, just “as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him” (John 8:38).

We see the Lord’s handiwork as the flowers and trees begin blooming this spring. If we wait patiently, our “April showers will bring May flowers.” So much beauty can be derived from a good rain shower on this beautiful earth of ours.

Since the moment of creation, God placed such incredible detail within our natural world, “And God saw that it was all good” (Genesis 1:25). As the song “Raindrops” says,

*“But there’s one thing I know
the blues they send to meet me
won’t defeat me
It won’t be long ‘til happiness steps up
to greet me.”*

SHOWERS

by Peggy Bennett

Showers and high winds dropped Michigan into “spring-mode” in early March making me wonder if our “April showers” may have come a tad early this year. Much of our state was without power for many days; some as long as a week. My hubby and I hit the five-day mark without power which had us wondering whether we’d ever be able to be without the drone of a generator again. I had only been home from back surgery for a few days when the power-outage hit our area, so don’t get me wrong; we were thankful to have a working generator. But by the end of five days, the blessing had become a nuisance noise in the background.

How often don’t the showers of life seem to be dreary and make the world seem lifeless and lackluster. Even though we know the storms of life—the rough times—the valleys—often clear the way for new growth and bring needed nourishment and moisture to our world; it also disrupts what we had planned and makes us change and adjust to a different design. Showers almost always mean a change is coming.

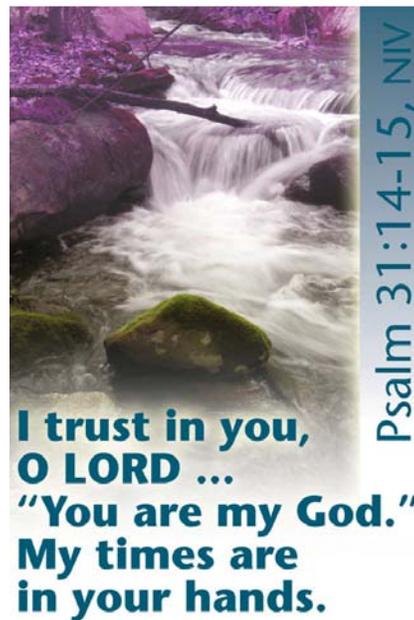
Our God is good about redirecting us through the use of common ordinary life situations, often to change our outlook, or even more often, to remind us of His power and majesty over everything He’s created...including us. Too often, we are so caught up in our own life drama that we forget about Him, as well as those who are in this life with us. Maybe that’s part of His plan when He allows the power He’s given nature to unleash itself and remind us of the Power that is harnessed only by and in Him. Nature’s power is only a glimpse of the captured power of Almighty God. What an amazing experience God gave us as He

cradled us all through the windy storms and provided trained workers to repair and rebuild damaged equipment and clear away damaged trees and debris. What a God we have! We saw His power in action and His provision for us all in the aftermath.

Incredible power. Unbelievable love. God at work. The Almighty loving us through the showers, the tempests of life.

I needed the reminder, even as I questioned His timing. Why now? I’m hurting. This isn’t a convenient time, Lord. And then I saw neighbors working together to remove trees or clear damaged property. Workers offering help and encouragement over and above their job descriptions. God is still alive and well and caring for us. Thank God for the showers that point us steadily to Him, and the new growth and new outlooks that are a direct outcome of His showers of blessings on us daily.

Lord may we always be thankful for Your ever-present showers that bless us throughout our lives. May we feel Your love and power through nature and the actions of Your people. Amen.



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

C—Denotes Communion Service

2017

APRIL

1

Men's Choir
9:30 a.m.

Men's Buddy Ball
10:00 a.m.

2

Divine Service— C
8:00 a.m.
Adult & Youth Bible Study
9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m.
Praise Service
10:30 a.m.
Prayer Service
5:00 p.m.

3

Adult Choir Practice
6:30 p.m.
Handbell Practice
7:30 p.m.

4

Countryside Bible Study
1:30 p.m.
Soup Supper
5:45—6:45 p.m.
Lenten Service
7:00 p.m.
Stuff Easter Eggs after supper and after Lenten Service

5

Community Morning Prayer Gathering
7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study
2:00 p.m.
Craig's Bible Study
2:30 p.m. Ganton Assisted Living (SA)
NO Confirmation—Spring Break

6

7

Men's Choir
9:30 a.m.
Men's Buddy Ball
10:00 a.m.

Men's Choir
9:30 a.m.

Men's Buddy Ball
10:00 a.m.

9


Palm Sunday
Divine Service
8:00 a.m.
Adult & Youth Bible Study
9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m.
Praise Service— C
10:30 a.m.

10

Adult Choir Practice
6:30 p.m.
Handbell Practice
7:30 p.m.

11

Quilters
9:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon
Countryside Bible Study
1:30 p.m.
Praise Team
7:00 p.m.
Ministry Council
7:00 p.m.

12

Community Morning Prayer Gathering
7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study
2:00 p.m.
Craig's Bible Study
2:30 p.m. Ganton Assisted Living (SA)
Maundy Thursday Service—7:00 p.m.

13


GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
at
12:00 Noon & 7:00 p.m.

14

Men's Choir
9:30 a.m.
Men's Buddy Ball
10:00 a.m.
Hide Easter Eggs for Hunt—11:00 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt—1:00 p.m.

Men's Choir
9:30 a.m.

Men's Buddy Ball
10:00 a.m.

Hide Easter Eggs for Hunt—11:00 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt—1:00 p.m.



16


Divine Service— C
8:00 a.m.
Praise Service
10:30 a.m.

17

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

18

Countryside Service
10:15 p.m.
Countryside Bible Study
1:30 p.m.
Praise Team
7:00 p.m.

19

Community Morning Prayer Gathering
7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study
2:00 p.m.
Craig's Bible Study
2:30 p.m. Ganton Assisted Living (SA)
Confirmation Class
7:00 p.m.

20

21

Men's Choir
9:30 a.m.
Men's Buddy Ball
10:00 a.m.

Men's Choir
9:30 a.m.

Men's Buddy Ball
10:00 a.m.

23

Divine Service
8:00 a.m.
Adult & Youth Bible Study
9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m.
Praise Service— C
10:30 a.m.

24

Adult Choir Practice
6:30 p.m.
Faith Legacy Training
Handbell Practice
7:30 p.m.

25

Countryside Bible Study
1:30 p.m.
Leadership Board
7:00 p.m.
Praise Team
7:00 p.m.

26

Community Morning Prayer Gathering
7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.
Craig's Bible Study
2:30 p.m. Ganton Assisted Living (SA)
Pastor's Bible Study
2:00 p.m.
Confirmation Classes
7:00 p.m.

27

28

LWML RALLY
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
RAC reserved

LWML RALLY
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

RAC reserved

30th-5th Sunday
10:00 a.m. Service w/Communion & Potluck Following