

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

NEW



APRIL 2025 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 18 ISSUE 4

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

*Making Jesus Known In The
Places Where We Live*

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NEW

by Pastor Zachary Holdorf

As soon as the snow disappears, I take a walk out to my flower beds to see if anything is peaking out. Every year, disappointment strikes because flowers don't come up in February! I guess I need to be a little more patient.



Nevertheless, I keep making my rounds every now and then to see if any have

started to awaken from their slumber. It never fails; around March those little buggers start to awaken, and joy floods my heart. A new season is upon us! Spring!

Spring breeds new. New buds on trees. New color returning to the grass. New life as animals birth their young. New warmth as the winds start to blow out of the south and the sun moves higher in the sky. Renewed hope as the season of Lent draws to a close and gives way to Easter!

Easter makes all things new. The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. As Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead, we have been given new life in Christ. Our sins are forgiven. We have salvation and eternity with Him! Death is defeated and the devil is conquered! When Christ comes again, He will make all things new! New heaven, new earth, resurrected bodies, and life forever with Him and all who believe!

Paul captures this newness in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Thanks be to God for new, especially the "new" that Jesus gives to us!

In Christ,
Pastor Zach



☺ **Coffee with Pastor Bible Study** every Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. We are studying the Gospel of John, beginning with chapter 15.

☺ **Wednesday Lenten Suppers** are at 5:30 p.m. April 9 will be the last Shared Supper in Lent. Soups, sandwiches, and salads are the suggested fare for these meals. Bring food to share at the Wednesday potluck suppers in the RAC in the Lower Level.

☺ **Easter Worship, April 20, at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.** in the sanctuary.

☺ **Easter Brunch Potluck** served between services on Easter Sunday. No Bible study or Sunday school classes on Easter.

☺ **Wednesdays in Lent** will consist of a fellowship supper at 5:30 p.m., followed by worship in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.

☺ **Women of Redeemer Bible Study** monthly every third Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the lower-level Connection Room. We use the current LWQ (*Lutheran Women's Quarterly*) for this study.

☺ **Sunday morning Adult Bible Study, Children's Sunday School, and**

Youth Bible Class at 9:30 a.m.

☺ **Mobile Food Pantry** at Trinity Downtown from 10:00–11:30 a.m., **Saturday, April 26.** Volunteers should be on site from 9:00 a.m. until noon. This is a great way to serve our Lord and our community. Redeemer shares in this community ministry with our sister congregation here in Jackson, Trinity Lutheran.

MAY WRITING PROMPT

The writing prompt for May is **Grace**. What does grace mean to you? Has someone (besides Jesus) shown you grace recently? Maybe it seems like a very long time since anyone has shown you grace. Can you write about what grace has looked like in your life? Stories often help others to understand a word or a situation better. Jesus used stories constantly to help people understand what He was saying. Those stories were called parables.

Share your stories or remarks in an article for our **May Redeemer Reflection**.

Send comments, information/photos, and/or articles by the 15th of the month to the NL editor at bennitt49@yahoo.com, to be included in the following month's newsletter. All submissions are appreciated and prayerfully considered.

NEW LIFE

by Kimber Walsh, Director of Family Life Ministry, FLE

This week our three-year-old asked me "why do we sing to people when their bodies stop working?" And out of

context that may seem like a strange question, so let me fill in the back story. My father-in-law died a few months ago and the whole clan kept vigil at his bedside for the two days he was actively dying. We prayed, read Scripture, and sang hymns almost



continuously. We had family members from age two to ninety-four gathered around him and sharing the Gospel with him as his body quit working and was ushered into the nearer presence of Jesus.

When my kids ask me questions, it tells me what they are noticing and what they are thinking about. Sometimes, months after an event. See, when my father-in-law died, we didn't keep any of the kids from the room when they wanted to be there (except during medical checks). Some might find this strange, but it was our hope that a few things would happen:

- 1) They would be able to grieve firsthand. They saw their beloved Grandpa's body failing, and when we said it quit working after his death, they knew exactly what we meant. (And as a by-product, they also knew that no one else in our life is close to having a body that is not working.)

- 2) They would hear the Gospel, too. When we are in the midst of terrible life events, we all need to be reminded of the Gospel. It was my father-in-law's only hope, but it is our only hope, too.
- 3) They would know the primary way to comfort someone is by praying, sharing Scripture, and singing hymns.
- 4) They would recognize all the more the brokenness of this world and long for the resurrection and new life awaiting their Grandpa, and each one of them, in eternity.

And our three-year-old is still thinking about it. She remembers singing hymns to her Grandpa as "his body stopped working." It is my prayer that she will never forget. This is one of the most difficult and most meaningful



things we have ever had the privilege of being a part of. And in the midst of those days and still today, we cling to our only hope, our sure and certain hope, that of Jesus Christ and Him crucified and risen from the dead, so that we too might rise with Him to new life!



LOOKING AHEAD!

REDEEMER RUMMAGE SALE Save The Dates!

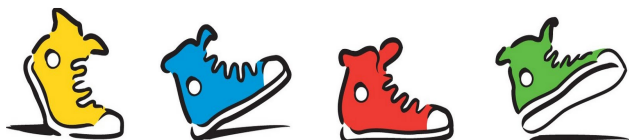
by Kathy Voss

The 2025 Redeemer Rummage Sale will be held **August 1 and 2**. Start saving the items you'd like to donate now and start asking for brown paper bags when you do your grocery shopping. We need clean, paper bags for the sale as it will be a "\$5 per bag" sale as last year.

Once again, we will donate the proceeds from this sale to support "Water Missions" ministry, where Jake and Jenna Voss "are doing the Lord's work."

SAVE THE DATES, please, and plan to donate, volunteer, and attend! Volunteers will be needed the week of the sale to set up and sort donated items.

REMEMBER: Only clean items in good repair can be accepted. **No electronics, please!** We cannot use or sell old electronics. Recycle or dispose of them as they are **NOT** reusable!



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Rebecca Huhn	04/28/1973
Tom & Sue Simonsen	04/26/1980
Greg & Donna Wait	04/13/1985
David & Kathy Voss	04/16/1994

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Angela Martin	04/01
Charles Lewis	04/02
Greg Wait	04/03
Betsy Noakes	04/06
Ronald Jones	04/10
Larry DeSimpelare	04/11
Carolyn Vandriessche	04/14
Rowen Hendricks	04/16
Isaac Kestner	04/20
Donald Moyer	04/22
Linda Kline	04/23
Jerome (Jerry) Kestner	04/25
Robert Albertson	04/26
Christine Richmond	04/26
Bill Pohanka	04/27
Donna Zastrow	04/28
Sharon Harshe	04/29
Ethan Nowak	04/29





PALM SUNDAY, April 13

Divine Service—Communion

8:00 a.m.

Adult & Children's Bible Classes

9:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service—Communion

10:30 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 17

Divine Service—Communion 6:30 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, March 18

Divine Service— 12:00 Noon & 6:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20

Traditional Service—Communion

8:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast Potluck

9:15 a.m.

Contemporary Service—Communion

10:30 a.m.

BRAND SPANKING NEW!

by P. L. Bennitt

When I was little, a popular expression used when something was new, was “brand-spanking-new.” I remember asking my dad why he said our car was “brand-spanking-new,” wondering if that was a bad thing since it required a spanking. I remember him laughing, and then trying to explain it to me.



He told me cowboys branded newborn or newly purchased cattle to mark ownership, and then “swatted or spanked them” to send them back to their mothers. This only confused me further and I still couldn’t connect with the spanking thing.

Dad finally admitted that it confused him too. The more he thought about it, the more he thought it made more sense that the saying might have come from doctors “spanking” new babies to get them to breathe when they were first born. Of course, that just made it stranger than ever to me, because even at five years old, I knew to be careful with a new baby, not spank it.

But whether we talk about a brand-spanking-new car or a brand-spanking-new season, we know “new” signals something fresh and wonderful ahead.

Our Lenten season gives way to the Easter season, and the Church's new life in our risen Lord!

A new start is a breath of fresh air after the weeks of walking through the suffering and agony with our Savior as He struggled carrying all our sins on His bleeding and broken body. His death made us free to start a new life with Him. Our brand-spanking-new life starts with the resurrection of our Brother Jesus, who rid us of our sins and conquered eternal death to give us a new life with Him! Brand-spanking-new!

Seventy years later, I still find old sayings intriguing, but often odd and not easily understood. So, even though "you *can* go the whole nine yards," "you *can't* have your cake and eat it too." You all *can* have a blessed Easter in this brand-spanking-new season with our risen Jesus! Blessings to you and yours!



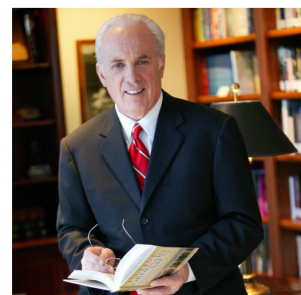
Thank you to everyone who donated books and DVDs to the Redeemer library during the past year. This includes a new four-book series for teens and a new work of fiction from Concordia Publishing reviewed in this newsletter.

When you or your child borrow library books, please remember to write the date on the card inside the front

cover and place it in the gray metal file box on the desk top in the library. This lets us know which/what kind of books are preferred and helps us know what to purchase for the future. Thanks!

A TRIBUTE

by Craig Britton,
Director of Ministries



I'm doing something quite unusual this month. I want to give personal tribute to a man who has marked my life now for five decades. Pastor John MacArthur of Grace Community Church (non-denominational) has been a faithful proclaimer of Christ and his Word at the same congregation since 1969. He was most likely headed for a pro football career when the Lord "sidelined" him in a car accident that put him the hospital for several months. He came out of the hospital confirmed in the calling that the Lord had given him before that accident.

He is not Lutheran, but neither was I when our lives intersected through his radio program. For many years, he was my primary "go-to" because of his quality and his verse-by-verse teaching of the Bible. That has been my method much of my ministry because he taught me, and so many others, that all the Word of God must be given to God's people, the way it was penned, and with good understanding.

My shelves hold many of his books, and I wore out many cassette tapes (you're old if you know what those are) and later teaching CDs. Countless

hours I have spent listening to his radio program and through the wonder of the internet as well. Pastor John is in his last days on earth. I don't, as a Lutheran Christian, agree with all his conclusions. But I don't have to. I honor this man as a faithful scholar and proclaimer of God's Holy Word. And I love him as a brother in Christ. He has taught me, admonished me, corrected me, and encouraged me more times than I can count. And we have never met. I believe we will one day. And the Savior, before Whom we bow, will fill both our eyes and hearts with all we have ever wanted and needed.

Thank you, dear Father, for Pastor John MacArthur. Bless his wife, Patty, their children, and grandchildren. And bless our brothers and sisters at Grace Community Church. May John, and all those he loves, know and experience the great presence and peace of their Savior and ours. And may You hasten the day we all meet together before Your throne. Amen!

THIS I KNOW!

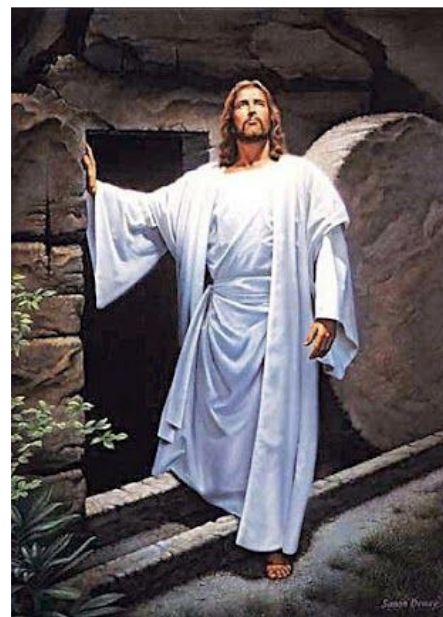
Donna Zastrow asked me to share this poem with all of you. It has gotten her family through many difficult situations, and still continues to do just that. Our Savior is always faithful!

I do not know what next may come
 Across my pilgrim way,
 I do not know tomorrow's road
 Nor see beyond today.
 But this I know: My Savior knows
 The path I cannot see,
 And I trust His wounded hand
 To guide and care for me.



I do not know what may befall
 Of sunshine or of rain;
 I do not know what may be mine
 Of pleasure or of pain.
 But this I know, my Savior knows,
 And what so'ere it be,
 Still, I can trust His love to give
 What will be best for me.

I do not know what still awaits,
 Or what the morrow brings,
 But with the glad salute of faith
 I hail its opening wings.
 For this I know: that in my Lord
 Shall all my needs be met
 And I can trust the heart of Him
 Who has not failed me yet.



THE POBLO CONNECTION

(People Of the Book Lutheran Outreach)

Excerpts from the POBLO January newsletter
article: A NEW YEAR, by Alicia Winget.

We have [recently] celebrated the gift of the incarnation of Jesus the Son of God, wrapped in the body of Mary's baby, wrapped with the love of God, His



Father, so that His beloved children of the whole world, may eagerly tear open this package and find

within—NEW life!

And now, as the world rushes on to consider a new year, is this best-Gift-ever left lying in a corner surrounded by gift paper, never to be treasured?

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a NEW creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become NEW." (NKJV) As we contemplate this new year ...before us, let's live in the truth that it is Jesus who makes things NEW—makes us NEW...

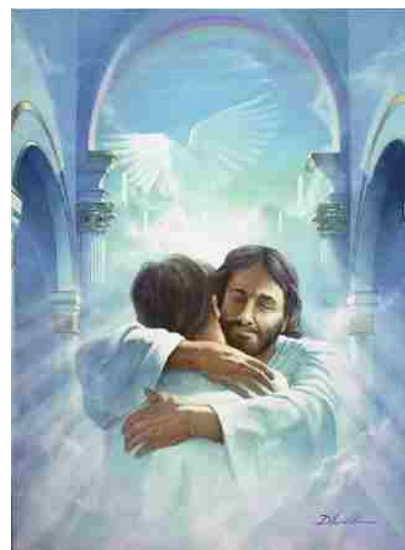
In ancient Athens, the populace was devoted to learning NEW things. When Paul arrived there, the people asked him to speak to them about this NEW doctrine he was teaching. Paul told them of the One, true God, Creator of all things, and of His ordained One, Jesus, whom God raised from death (Acts 17).



Our world is not so different from first-century Athens. Our culture is in chaos. People seek remedies for loneliness, emotional pain, and spiritual emptiness through drugs, alcohol, and unwholesome relationships. Eager for the latest and greatest, instead of following the one true God, people serve many gods—money, pleasure, sports, self, etc.

... As we [walk through this NEW year of 2025] what better way can we love one another than to tell [those who don't yet know Him] of the NEW life available in Jesus?

... That is precisely the mission of POBLO ministries and we, Redeemer Lutheran Church, support this vital and necessary outreach ministry.

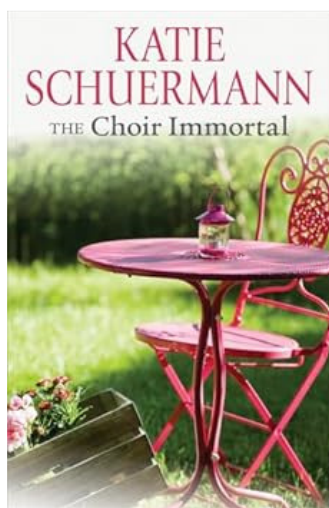




NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

Reviewed by P. L. Bennett

***The Choir Immortal*, by Katie Schuermann**, is now available in our church library. I'll admit that as I first began to read this book, I was expecting a "fluff and feel good" read, with church humor and cliché characters showcasing our Lutheran "traditions and customs." Instead, I found a church community much like our own, with similar members and similar struggles.



A quirky faith family with disagreements, conflicting opinions, sometimes tactless, but always caring, friendly, Bible-believing people who love one another, sums up Zion Lutheran in Bradbury.

Not all characters are lovable, but each has some redeeming quality that had me thinking: how quick we can be to judge, even when we know little or nothing of the backstory to the lives we touch. Pastor Fletcher and Dr. Emily Duke, the choir director; Alice and Evan, older newly weds; Mrs. Arlene

Scheinberg, church secretary: these are just a few of the characters we meet at the start. Blaine, a gifted music major who is trying to adjust to his parents' shattering divorce, finds himself questioning his own identity as those around him in the church also struggle with their own perceptions and misconceptions along the way.

Through it all, the depiction of real family life with all its ups and downs, joys and sorrows, and life and death situations thrown in, is shown. We raise our children "to live trusting God's promises." We must also show them "how to die trusting in those [same] promises."

As I read this novel, I was reminded of the wonderful *Mitford* series by Jan Karon, which also focuses on a church in a small town and the community that supports it. The outreach and well-meant ministrations of the congregation there often trickled into the lives of even non-members, to the consternation of a few and the benefit and blessing of many. This small town of Bradbury has much in common with Mitford.

I highly recommend this book. It will make you laugh out loud and bring you to tears. Older teens and adults, both young and old, will enjoy this novel from Concordia Publishing.

* If you enjoy this book, our library also has the Jan Karon *Mitford* series.

[The righteous] will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green...

— Psalm 92:13-14 (NAS)



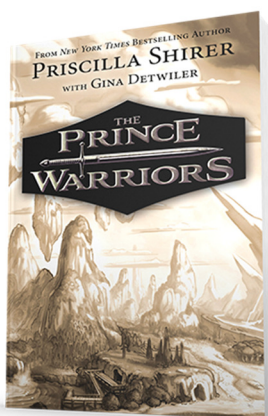


The Kids' Pages



The battle is real.

Brothers Xavier and Evan are used to battling each other. But now they're discovering that there is a much bigger battle going on all around them. And it's their turn to fight. Based on Ephesians 6:10-18, *The Prince Warriors* is the first book



in Priscilla Shirer's epic new children's series that brings to life the invisible struggle ensuing in the spiritual realm. Xavier, Evan, and their friends have typical lives until they enter a mysterious land called Ahoratos.

There they meet their guide, Ruwach, who offers wisdom and direction as the kids' initial adventure begins—an adventure filled with armor and danger and a very real enemy.

Excerpt from Book I of *The Prince Warriors* series:

"They heard a loud crack, and then a tree right next to them split open, its edges glowing red like embers from a roaring fire.

"Lightning!" Xavier said. They dodged out of the way as a blackened tree began to topple over, crashing to the ground in a shower of sparks. Evan felt his courage evaporate. If this was a dream, it was getting way too scary: the deadly lightning, the falling trees, the growing rumble that seemed to shake the forest to its roots, the ominous blackening of the sky. Evan wanted to wake up now.

But somehow, he knew. . . he *knew* that this was real.

"Welcome to Ahoratos," said the strange little creature in the purple robe. "Earth is but a shadow of this unseen realm. *This* is the real world where the battles rage, where your true enemy lies."

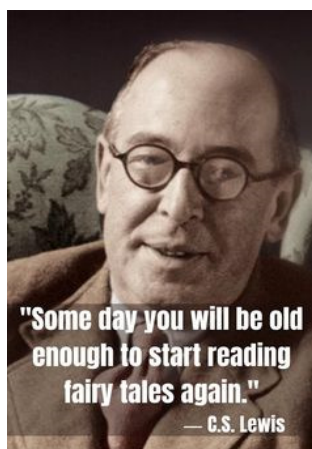
"How can we fight this enemy?" said Xavier, glancing at his little brother, Evan, in alarm.



"We're just kids."

Ruwach gave the slightest smirk. "Here in Ahoratos, you are warriors. **Prince Warriors.**"

Redeemer's library now has the entire 4-book *Prince Warriors* series! This is an excellent reading experience for middle grade students through adults.



CHECK



THEM

OUT!

FYI: Unicorns and dragons are mentioned several times in the Old and New Testaments of the KJV translations of the Bible: Psalm 92:10, Deuteronomy 33:17, Psalm 91:13, and Revelation 20:2, to mention a few. **Check 'em out!**



Make a special Easter treat for your family and friends.

You will need:



- * Cookie cutters in the shapes of Easter symbols – butterfly, cross, flower – or other shapes.
- * 4 small boxes or 2 large boxes of gelatin dessert, such as Jell-O®. Pick your favorite flavor.

* 2 1/2 cups boiling water.
(Ask an adult to help.)

* Large mixing bowl.

* 13" x 9" pan.



How to make the treats:

* Pour boiling water into a large bowl.

* Add gelatin mix and stir for 3 minutes.

* Pour into a 13" x 9" pan.

* Put into the refrigerator until firm – about 3 hours.

* Cut the gelatin into Easter shapes with the cookie cutters.

* Remove from pan and enjoy!



April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
C-Denotes Communion		1 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	2 Shared Supper 5:30 p.m.  Worship Service 6:30 p.m.	3 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	4	5
	6 Divine Worship 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.	7 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	8 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	9 Quilters 9:30 a.m. Shared Supper 5:30 p.m.  Worship Service 6:30 p.m.	10 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	11
13 PALM SUNDAY Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m.	14 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	15 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	16	17 Redeemer Women Bible Study-10 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2 p.m. Maundy Thursday-C Service 6:30 p.m.	18  GOOD FRIDAY Service 12 Noon & 6:30 p.m.	19
20 EASTER Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m. Easter Potluck Brunch Between Services Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m.	21 EASTER MONDAY 	22 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	23 Quilters 9:30 a.m.	24 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	25	26 Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m. Need Volunteers 9 'til Noon
27 Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m.	28 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	29 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	30			