

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

LOVE



FEBRUARY 2025 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 18 ISSUE 2

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

*Making Jesus Known In The
Places Where We Live*

Redeemer Lutheran Church 3637 Spring Arbor Road, Jackson, MI 49201
Phone: 517-750-3100 Fax: 517-750-4590
Email: office@redeemerjackson.org
Visit our website at: www.redeemerjackson.org



LOVED

by Pastor Zachary Holdorf

When you are filled with joy...
you are loved.

When you are afraid...
you are loved.

When you are sad...
you are loved.

When you are feeling lonely...
you are loved.

When you are content...
you are loved.

When you are anxious...
you are loved.

When you are happy...
you are loved.

When you grieve...
you are loved.

When you are stressed...
you are loved.

When you are hurting...
you are loved.

No matter what takes place in your
life, **YOU** are loved by Jesus!

*"I have loved **You** with an
everlasting love"*

Jeremiah 31:3

Loving Lord,

When I consider all the war, hunger, oppression, and hopelessness in my world, I feel overwhelmed and insignificant, unable to think of how my small resources could begin to touch the great need I've been made aware of. Remind me, Father, that if each person with his tiny bit of energy, time, and money would meet a need nearby, then a great deal of suffering could be alleviated by people just like me. I guess it's time for me to ask You to challenge my faith in this truth by showing me a need nearby.

*Happy are those who consider the poor;
the Lord delivers them in the day of
trouble. The Lord protects them and
keeps them alive; they are called happy
in the land.*

Psalm 41:1-2

"I never think in terms of crowds in general, but in terms of persons. Were I to think about crowds, I would never begin anything. It is the person that matters. I believe in person-to-person encounters."

Mother Teresa





Grow & Go

We are offering a whole Redeemer family opportunity to **Grow** in Biblical skills and knowledge **& Go** out into daily life equipped to live as Christians.

Winter session topics include:

January 22	District Engagement with President Davis
January 29	Encouragement in the Faith
February 5	Lord's Prayer

Come and get tools for your faith walk, **Wednesdays** from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Redeemer Activity Center (Gym). This time together includes a dinner and fellowship. Please sign up to participate on the sheet in the narthex to give us an accurate count for planning.



☺ **Coffee with Pastor Bible Study** every Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. We are studying the Book of James.

☺ **Women of Redeemer Bible Study** monthly on the 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.

☺ **GROW & GOs Wednesdays**, beginning on January 15 through February 5 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Redeemer Activity Center (RAC). Topics and more information on these opportunities for family learning and fellowship are on this page.

☺ **Mobile Food Pantry at Trinity** Downtown from 10:00-11:30 a.m., **Saturday, February 22**. 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.

PROMPT FOR MARCH

The writing prompt for **March** is **Dance**. Why do some churches forbid dancing? Is it sinful to dance? Is that Biblical? Dancing and music are usually associated with joy and



celebration. What, if anything, is wrong with that? What makes you dance? Check out what the Bible say about dancing. Share what you discover in remarks or an article for our March newsletter. Send to NL editor at: bennitt49@yahoo.com.

The *Redeemer Reflection* newsletter is provided to encourage and inform our members and our community, supply learning tools and educational insights, as well as give updated information to help you through the next month and beyond. Our newsletter highlights ways in which we, as a faith family, interact with our local community and within the church itself.

Send comments, information/photos, and articles to bennitt49@yahoo.com, to be included in the following month's newsletter. All submissions are appreciated and prayerfully considered.

MUDSLINGERS

by Tim Hetzner, Ambassador for Spiritual Growth. *At the end of the day... Making A Difference In People's Lives and In God's Kingdom.* January 16, 2025. Used with permission.

"The slingers surrounded and attacked it."

2 Kings 3:25

In Old Testament times, "slingers" were people who defeated others by slinging stones and blocking their wells by throwing mud and rocks into them—wells of water that were essential to their survival. Today, mudslingers are people who make malicious attacks against others. Now, chances are that you may have encountered some

"mudslingers" yourself, and even suffered at their hands. What should you do? Avoid them because they're dangerous. You can't mud wrestle with a pig without getting dirty. Not only will the pig win—he will enjoy the fight!

And if you yourself have become a slinger, here is a portion of Scripture you would do well to read and keep in mind:

"If you stop making trouble for others...then your light will shine in the darkness, [you will begin to get attention from and have influence with the right people]...The Lord will always lead you [you will begin to make the right moves]. He will satisfy your needs in dry lands [He will give you success in the most unlikely places, and in spite of adverse circumstances] and give strength to your bones [cause you to live a long and healthy life]."

Isaiah 58:9-11

Now *there* is a benefit package worth working for!



Guard your character because it determines the level of God's blessing in your life. So, here is the word for today: don't be a mudslinger!



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Brian & Deb Fall
2/12/1977
Brian & Janie Boyle
2/14/1990
Jack & Stefanie Bohm
2/21/2014
Jerry & Marilyn Rockwell
2/27/1960

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

David Lathrop	02/06
Arynn Holmes	02/07
Sue DeSimpelare	02/08
Cheryl Mack	02/08
Mikayla Richardson	02/08
Lilia Bahr	02/10
Amanda Kapp	02/17
Bethany Richardson	02/18
Judith McCaslin	02/19
Brian Fall	02/20
Avery Holdorf	02/20
Mark Kuntz	02/20
Linda Tschabrun	02/20
Joshua Royal	02/21
Sandy Croyle	02/24
Emily Byrd	02/26
Barb Knueppel	02/29

LOVE

by P. L. Bennitt

*Love does no harm to a neighbor.
Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the
law.*

Romans 13:10

What does the word “love” mean to you? In this day and age, I’m beginning to think we’ve “dummied down” many of our beautifully descriptive words. I could make a long list of “dummied down” words here, but my main focus is “Love.” What comes to our minds when the word love is used nowadays?

We hear the word “love” spouted often; many times, with no real connection to actual love, but only having to do with something fun or pretty or unusual.

- ♥ “I love that book!”
- ♥ “Don’t you just love that dress?”
- ♥ “I love that puppy! He’s so cute.”
- ♥ “(S)He’s incredible/so talented, good-looking, different, etc. “I love (insert actor’s or musician’s name)”

Did the Greeks have it right? They used at least nine different words for the different “types” of love: Eros, Philia, Storge, Pragma, Ludus, Mania, Philautia, Agape, and Meraki (modern concept).

1. EROS: Sexual Desire
2. PHILIA: Soul Connection
3. STORGE: Devoted Love
4. PRAGMA: Mature Love
5. LUDUS: Playful Love
6. MANIA: Obsessive Love
7. PHILAUTIA: Self-love

8. AGAPE: Unconditional Love
9. MERAKI (modern): Creative Endeavors

9 Different Types of Love According to the Ancient Greeks



I have a friend who is a gifted artist. She totally enjoys and immerses herself in her painting. Does MERAKI best describe her affinity for painting? Or, in my own case, my writing is a way I relate to and connect with the world around me. Is that MERAKI or would PHILIA be more apt?

Would it be correct to say, PRAGMA for the love for my husband? Or maybe STORGE, EROS, or PHILIA would be a better word in my case. And yet, there are many days when the best love-word for our marriage relationship would be AGAPE. Yes. I think that is often the case, particularly with a spouse. These alternate meanings for love could be interchangeable.

So, would it make understanding easier if we substituted these unique

words in our modern-day usage? Maybe... but maybe not. Maybe we have



become *intuitively smarter* about what we mean when we say we love something or someone. Maybe intuitive love is a close cousin to AGAPE love.

In the Bible, when God says He loves us, AGAPE is what is meant. We intuitively know this. We will always be connected to our Lord and Savior no matter how we change the wording or how far we wander away from Him.

The word “love” may have different connotations depending on how it is used in a given sentence. So maybe I, like the Greeks, am over-thinking this whole “love-thing.” Love may just be as simple, and yet as all-inclusive, as Agape infers.

“Agape love is selfless love...the love God wants us to have, isn’t just an emotion, but a conscious act of the will—a deliberate decision on our part to put others ahead of ourselves. This is the kind of love God has for us.”

~ Billy Graham ~

“Agape is something of the understanding, creative, redemptive goodwill for all men. It is a love that seeks nothing in return. It is an

overflowing love; it's what theologians would call the love of God working in the lives of men. And when you rise to love on this level, you begin to love men, not because they are likeable, but because God loves them."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.~

What does "love" mean to you?

KNOT JUST FOR QUILTERS!

by Donna Zastrow

All Women of Redeemer, and men too, if you can tie a knot!

We are in need of volunteers for our quilt group to help assemble the quilts and tie them together with yarn knots.

No sewing required!

We meet at church in the sewing room downstairs on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Come join us from 9:00 a.m. to 12



noon. We hope to see you at our next KNOT party, to help assemble quilts for people in need.

If you like to sew or cut and assemble squares for

quilts, we would love to have you share that talent in this ministry, too. But anyone who can tie a knot is encouraged to come lend a hand as we assemble them. **Knots** are **not** without value, particularly in this ministry.

LOOKING AHEAD!



REDEEMER RUMMAGE SALE 2025!

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 those clean, paper bags for the sale as it is a "\$5 per bag" sale as last year.

Once again, we will donate the proceeds from this sale to "Water Missions" ministry, where Jake and Jenna Voss work "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!

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

by Donna Zastrow

Women of Redeemer/LWML offers a monthly Bible study the third Thursday of each month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Lower Level. We use the *Women's Quarterly* as our study guide, and these are available on the table outside the church offices. The Bible studies and leader's guides can also be accessed online at:



[LWQ Winter 2024 - Lutheran Women's Missionary League](#)

If you would like to be a part of this ongoing Women's Bible study, please join us February 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lower-Level Connection Room. Hope to see you there!

UNCOMMON SENSES

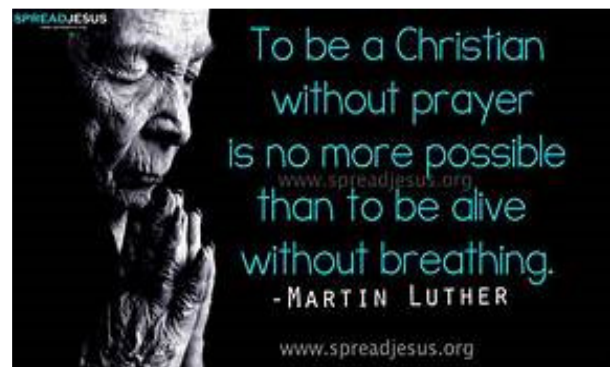
by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

Yes, you read the title correctly. I think about how many times in the past several years I have heard others clamor for solutions to myriad problems with a plea for "common sense." So perhaps "uncommon sense" would be a step above the norm called for. But notice the title refers to "senses," and so I am referring here to

the senses we have. And in this article, I would focus our attention on hearing and seeing. Marvelous miracles they are in the service of our daily lives and so, in and of themselves, they are uncommon.

In this new year, I am pondering once again the place of prayer in the life of a congregation. It is never far from my mind or fingertips because of the work I do with our congregational prayer chain. A great privilege. But as congregations change, as time passes and as the motion of a church takes on new forms, our thoughts on prayer and its practice also need consideration.

The church in our culture has been so given to "programs" in the past fifty years, that it has bled its way into the teaching on and practice of prayer. There *need* to be times of corporate prayer for God's people outside of regular worship. There *need* to be "ways" of praying taught and practiced.



Many of the most effective come not from new-fangled considerations, but from looking into the Scriptures and into the Psalms to see the content and even the format for effective prayer. But in addition to that, believers today need to be reminded of the simpler place and pace of keeping eyes and ears attuned to surroundings, and letting

our prayers arise to God simply from what we perceive around us.

Perhaps the “uncommon senses” of sight and hearing might be used, and used daily, to unlock, if you will, a greater movement heavenward in prayer and the consequent response from the God of the Bible addressed in the Psalms as, “Oh You who hear prayer.”



As you walk into your place of employment, into the halls of your child’s school, into your dental office or the grocery to pick up a few things, color your entrance with “Dear Lord, help me see and hear that I might lift others to you.” There is so much before us each day in our neighborhoods and in the hearts of our neighbors that warrants being spoken of before a listening God. When we simply lift to the Lord what we see and hear, then He is sanctifying our steps and bidding us come to Him with what moves our hearts as we live our daily lives for His glory and the building of His kingdom.

It sounds rather dramatic. And it is! Think of lifting people, places, and plans to the Lord as we listen and watch, that we might speak specifically to the Lord about what catches our eyes and ears. And from His listening ear and wise gaze will come answers. And perhaps, further challenges for prayer.

King David prayed, “O LORD, open my eyes that I may see wondrous things in Your law.” I would add only, “O LORD, open my eyes and ears to see and hear that which You desire me to set before You.”

Let’s commit in this year, by grace, to use our *common senses* in that uncommon way.

SIX WAYS TEENS REALLY NEED YOU TO SHOW LOVE

By: Lisa Rowell, retrieved January 15, 2025.
How to Really Love Your Child - iMOM

“You know what I love about you today?” I asked our 15-year-old. She looked up from her phone, waiting for my response. While this question was part of our daily ritual, the answers change. I said: “I love how you handled your disappointment at the competition. Even though you expected to place higher, you still clapped for everyone and genuinely congratulated the winner.”



After mumbling a “thanks,” she went back to texting her friends. And although she didn’t respond by giving me a hug like when she was eight, I knew she needed to hear those words from me to encourage her heart on a

tough day. As our children grow, the way they need us to show them love changes, too. If you're wondering how to really love your child during the tween and teen years, keep these six ideas in mind.

1. Tell her why you love her.

Of course, you love your child unconditionally. So, keep saying "I love you." At times, however, be specific when you say the words. Focus on character traits or positive behaviors you'd like her to repeat. For example:

- I love how brave you are to try out for the play.
- I love how you took the initiative to empty the dishwasher.
- I love your focus. You worked hard to bring up your math grade.

During this tumultuous season, many teens feel like no one gets them. However, telling your child why you love her helps your child feel seen, heard, and understood.

2. Include him in decision-making.

Involving your teen in decisions, from small choices like where to eat for dinner to bigger things like picking electives, sends a powerful message: I trust you. You show him that you respect his growing autonomy, value his opinions, and believe in his maturing ability to make sound choices.



As you involve your tween or teen in the process, give him a framework for making bigger decisions. This collaborative approach strengthens your communication and your bond. Plus, it builds his confidence in trusting his voice and taking responsibility for his choices.

3. Share your family stories.

Teens are in a critical phase of identity formation as they try to figure out who they are and where they fit in. Research from Emory University shows that teens with a deeper knowledge of their family history experience greater emotional well-being and a stronger sense of identity. So, keep telling stories from your childhood (and his), how you and your husband met, and even encourage your dad to repeat his tall tales one more time. It's a small way to remind your teen that he will always fit in with (and be loved by) his family.

4. Create a positive morning routine.

On the surface, establishing a positive morning routine for your teen might not look like how to really love your child, but it's something your teen needs from you. The routine can be as simple as always warming up her car or filling her water bottle. The predictability offers security, a constant in the ever-changing teen world. Plus, your teen navigates a heavy emotional, social, and intellectual day at school. Sending her out the door with a reassuring moment with you reminds her that she's not facing the world alone. You're right there with her.

5. Set clear rules and enforce consequences.

While setting clear rules and enforcing consequences doesn't fall under a love language category, it's a fundamental pillar of a loving relationship with your teen. Boundaries provide a sense of security, and although **your child may push back against the rules**, those rules show him that you care.

But Mom, you and I know that holding our teens accountable isn't the most pleasant way to love our children.



In a perfect world, how to really love your child focuses on hugs and "I love you." But consistency in enforcing the rules shows your kid that you're invested in the person (s)he's becoming and believe in her/his capacity to learn and grow into a responsible adult. As a mom, remembering that long-term goal helps soften the blows of slammed doors and emotional outbursts when you dole out those consequences that "ruin their lives."

6. Give your teen space to chill after school.

How was school? Did the Biology test go OK? What did the teacher say about your presentation? Did you and so-and-so patch things up?

When they get home from school, we bombard our kids with questions because we care. But, to our teens, our

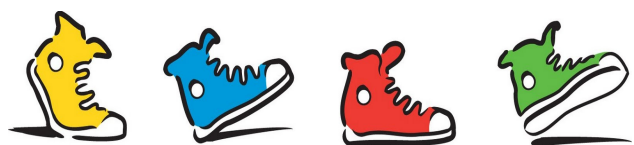
questioning can be the good ol' straw that breaks the camel's back. After a long day managing the workload of multiple classes, the expectations of teachers, and peer relationships, they often need to hole up in their rooms.



Letting your teen decompress for a bit after school shows your teen that you understand. Save your questions for later. This minor tweak when you check in with your teen makes a major difference in how to really love your child.

What's the biggest challenge you've faced in connecting with your teenager and showing her (him) love?

*Articles and/or opinions and comments are welcome at any time. Suggestions for special topics to be addressed will always be considered and appreciated. Send your comments to: bennitt49@yahoo.com.



I LOVE MY JOB!

by P. L. Bennitt

On January 22, 2025 our Michigan District President, Reverend David Davis was invited to share his vision for our District, as well as answer questions and share in the fellowship of Redeemer's Faith Family community. Everyone is always welcomed and encouraged to join any and all of these Go & Grow learning opportunities. This was a very special opportunity.

President Davis' first statement hit me hard and with truth: *It's a sin for the people of Hope to be pessimistic!* Do we truly believe this? If so, are we living a life that shows that to others? With that in mind, the theme: **We're Not Alone!** takes on a new depth of meaning with just two main thoughts:

1. Be encouraged. Our King Reigns! He is for us!
2. Be in the Word. Read the Bible and meet Jesus there... every day!

Davis also stressed, "Leadership, through strong relationships, is of utmost importance." He pointed out that we as Christians must remain mission-driven, not ruled by sentimentality. Are we focused on The Kingdom or on churches? Kingdom work or institutions? "God is about community [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] and we are created in His image.

During the Question-and-Answer time, President Davis first took questions from our kids.

Question: What is your favorite Bible passage?

Answer: "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food,

though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

¹⁹ The Sovereign LORD is my strength;
He makes my feet like the feet of a deer, He enables me to tread on the heights. Habakkuk 3:17-19

Question: What is your favorite Christian song?

Answer: *Jerusalem The Golden*

More questions, from some of the older crowd, including concerns about possible Districts closing as churches close or consolidate. There are 346 churches in our Michigan District, with 41 Circuits with Circuit Counselors such as our Pastor Holdorf.



The realities of closing churches and schools needs our prayers for our next generation of pastors and teachers. How can we encourage and excite our younger generations to serve the Lord in these areas? Question to consider: Is it for us and ours, or the world?

As our Elders and Pastor prayed over our District President, his prayer request was "that I will act like a Christian in all that I do." His parting remark to us all was: **"YOU ARE ENOUGH BECAUSE GOD SAYS SO!" AMEN!"**



Play
“*Who*
Am I?”

?

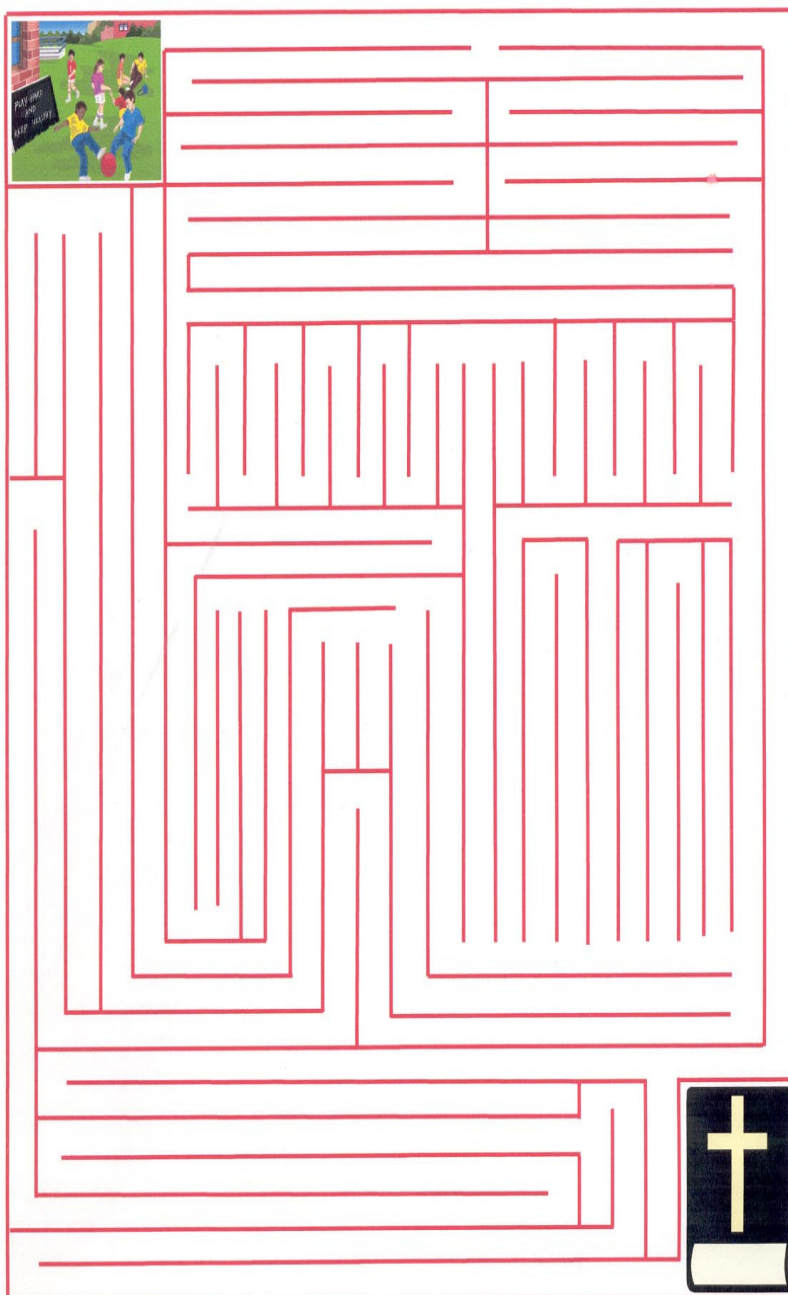
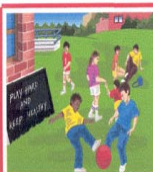
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1. Before you begin, agree on how many points are needed to win.
2. Choose a person from the Bible. Don't say who it is.
3. Without talking, act out something that your person did.
4. To discover who you are, the other players each ask you one question that can be answered "Yes" or "No."
5. The first person to guess the right answer gets 1 point. If no one gets it right, you get 1 point.
6. Take turns acting out parts until someone wins.



Stay True!

Stay on the path and follow the word of God.



FEBRUARY 2025

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

C-Communion						1
2 Divine Worship 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.	3 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	4 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	5 GROW & GO 5:30 p.m.	6 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	7	8
9 Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m.	10 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	11 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	12 Quilters-9:00 a.m.	13 OFFICE CLOSED STAFF CONFERENCE	14 	15
16 Divine Worship 8:00 a.m. NO CLASSES Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.	17 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	18 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	19	20 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Redeemer Women Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	21	22 Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m. Need Volunteers 9 'til Noon
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