

# REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

## THIRSTY



JULY 2025 PUBLICATION  
VOLUME 18 ISSUE 7

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

*Making Jesus Known In The  
Places Where We Live*

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## THIRSTY

by Pastor Zachary Holdorf

Have you ever been really thirsty? I remember when I was playing football in high school, we would practice early in the season in 95-degree Nebraska heat in August. Thirsty was an understatement! Parched, with severely dry cotton mouth, the tongue felt like the Sahara Desert. This seems to more appropriately describe the miserable experience. We longed for Coach to say, “water break.” The problem was that our water source was not refreshing. It was a makeshift PVC pipe-contraption that was hooked up to a



garden hose. That tepid hose water was just enough to keep heatstroke at bay. Talk about being thirsty!

In our modern era, we have many refreshing drinks to fend off thirst. Who wants to be thirsty, right? The Bible

tells us that we are blessed if we thirst. But Jesus isn’t talking about water or a refreshing beverage. He’s talking about righteousness. He’s talking about Himself. Jesus states in Matthew 5:6, *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”*

I wonder how thirsty is the Church? How thirsty am I for Jesus and His righteousness? I truly believe the Church is tempted in various ways to quench their “thirst” in everything *but* Jesus.

Think about all that distracts Christians from coming to church, reading the Scriptures, praying, or serving in the church. When we try to quench our thirst in anything except Jesus we will be left wanting every time. I love what Jesus says in John 4:13-14, *“Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’”*

Have we ever been thirsty before? Sure! Thanks be to God, when we “thirst” we have the Fount of Living Water, and we will truly be satisfied!

In Christ,

*Pastor Zach*



## BAKING FOR LIFE ENCOURAGEMENT Muffins & Cinnamon Rolls

Food and ministry go together like loaves and fish blessed by the visiting preacher. Fellowship has always been a part of ministry, and food is often the glue that promotes the bonds of friendship and family.



From start to KP finish, Redeemer volunteers bustled and hustled to make wonderful homemade treats of muffins and cinnamon rolls for all those



attending the June 22 Michigan District Convention in Ann Arbor. It is a bittersweet farewell gathering for a passing era in Christian educational services for our District.

Thank you to all our volunteers for this wonderful service. To extend hospitality to those who have provided leadership and counsel in the past is a precious gift.

## CONCORDIA HOSPITALITY BREAKFAST

by Gail Kleimola

**A BIG THANK YOU:** Our church family has proved yet again that we are a wonderful church family blessed by God. A very diverse group of our members of various talents and ages came together to create a tasty experience for a breakfast served to the delegates of the 108<sup>th</sup> District Convention of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in Ann Arbor.



This year's convention was rather somber and sad as it was probably the last time the District would be able to use the campus of Concordia University. So many of the pastors and delegates attending graduated from Concordia Ann Arbor. We decided a tasty and comforting meal was a must.

Our bakers made homemade Chocolate Breakfast Muffins, Famous

Blueberry Muffins, Cinnamon Rolls with cream cheese icing, and the most wonderful, beautifully decorated and tasty sugar cookies. We topped off our assembly with gluten free and dairy free muffins, fresh fruit, yogurt, and coffee.

The church kitchen is a true joy to have at our disposal. We are so blessed with this gift. My hope is that we take advantage of this room and put it to use showing God's love to many.

Thank you to all who helped with this project. Many hands made the job a wonderful experience. God bless you all!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

☺ **Coffee with Pastor Bible Study**

Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the church library.

☺ **Sunday Multigenerational Bible**

**Study at 9:30 a.m.** This study will meet in the lower-level Community Connection Room. Everyone is invited!

☺ **Sunday, June 29, Fellowship and**

**Fun Night.** Bring a favorite picnic/potluck passing dish to share. Hot dogs, s'mores, a bonfire, and an activity will be provided. These special fellowship Sundays will continue through the summer on these dates: **June 29, July 13, 27, and August 24. Rain or shine!**



😊 Thursday, July 17 thru July 24—**National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.**

😊 Saturday, July 19—*Pray Jackson* prayer focus. **Meet on-site at Redeemer. 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

😊 Saturday, July 26, **Mobile Food Pantry at Trinity downtown, from 10:00–11:30 a.m.** Volunteers should meet at Trinity Lutheran downtown and be available from 9:00 a.m. until Noon.

😊 Monday, July 28 at 9:00 a.m. in **the RAC**, setup for the Rummage Sale will begin. **Ongoing through July 31!**

😊 Friday and Saturday, August 1 & 2. **Annual Rummage Sale in the RAC. 9:00 a.m. doors will open! See you there!**



## REDEEMER RUMMAGE SALE August 1 and 2

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 "\$5.00 per bag" sale as last year.

Once again, proceeds from this sale go to support "Water Missions" ministry, where Jake and Jenna Voss "are doing the Lord's work." **Water Missions** help provide for sanitation and safe water for people and areas in dire need of clean water and water systems.



**CAN YOU HELP? Contact:**

**Kathy Voss** at 517-740-3660 or  
**Gay Alcenius** at 517-795-0302  
If no answer, please leave a message.

**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 and cannot be used in the sale!

Set up for the Sale will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 28. We would appreciate any and all help with the setup of tables and sorting of the items for sale.

We plan to have lunch and snacks available for our volunteers, so if heavy lifting or sorting is not your forte, consider volunteering to donate meals or meal items, and/or snacks and drinks for our workers. Contact Kathy Voss or Gay Alcenius if you can help with this much appreciated portion of the Sale team of volunteers.

## THIRSTY

by P. L. Bennitt

*I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I  
was a stranger and you welcomed Me...*

Matthew 25:35 ESV

I love this Bible passage! To me, it embodies what the church, our faith families, should look like to the world... Hospitality. And not just hospitality, but spiritual hospitality. Caring that serves the physical needs and worldly needs, even as it addresses the spiritual food—the spiritual thirst—that accompanies the obvious needs.

How aware are we of the thirsty around us? How eager are we to share the spiritual water that God gives us freely in His Word—that thirst-quenching water revealed in the Bible? Do we share our joy indiscriminately with anyone around us? Or do we save

it for only our friends or those we already know? Does an easy smile or a quick hug come naturally? This may be exactly the living water that someone else is missing in his or her life. Let's not be stingy with our joy and the Word that feeds that joy.

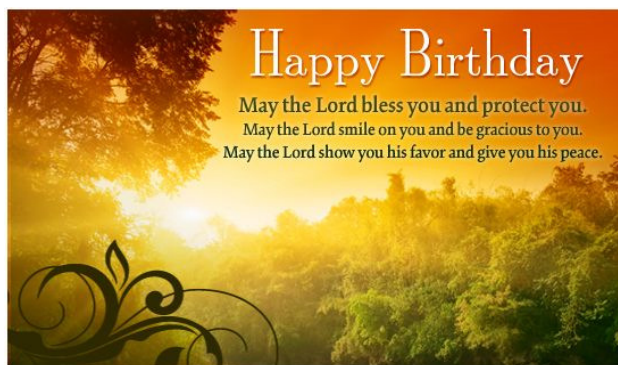
In the first Christian churches, worshippers were encouraged to "*greet each other with a holy kiss*," a type of trust-giving. In a world often marked by division, the call to greet one another warmly challenges us to overcome barriers and foster genuine relationships within the church. Let's consider how we can show love and unity in our church communities; whether through a handshake, a hug, or simply a warm greeting with a smile.

The call to bring water to the thirsty is our Lord's way of pulling down barriers that could separate us from the spiritual water we ourselves need, and that we need to share with others.

Don't be stingy! Share the water of life that's spelled out in the Bible. Share your joy that Jesus has provided with that free gift of life-giving spiritual water whenever and wherever God gives you opportunity.

### JESUS GIVES LIVING WATER

*If one knows the gift of God, he  
would have asked him, and he would  
have given him living water.  
(By John 4:10)*



## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

**Robert & Loretta Rice**  
07/18/1953

**Larry & Sharon Lotridge**  
07/29/1961

**Art & Barb Knueppel**  
07/16/19??

**David & Judy Clouse**  
07/27/1975

**Dale & Lynette Luksan**  
07/15/1978

**Sean & Leah Anderson**  
07/08/2000

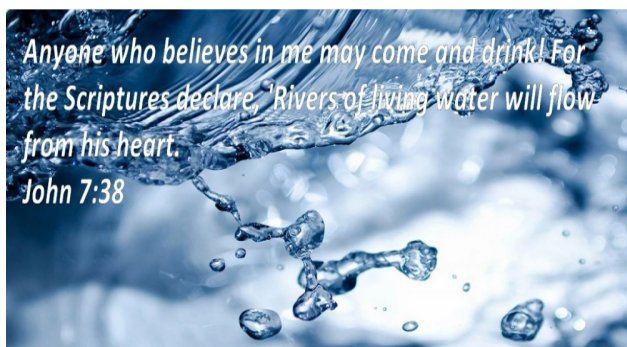
**Jerome & Claudina Kestner**  
07/19/2003

**Joshua & Angela Martin**  
07/30/2011

**Chris & Kimber Walsh**  
07/03/2015

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

Rev. William Gatz	07/02
Cole Gannon	07/05
Hannah Martin	07/05
Kristina Bigelow	07/08
Sharon Lotridge	07/08
Halaina (Lainey) Garcia	07/13
Genevieve (Ginny) Heffner	07/13
Eileen Spangler	07/15
Tina Curl	07/19
Deborah Fall	07/20
Caleb Heffner	07/21
Lillian Martin	07/23
Rebecca Mead	07/23
Sally Wingle	07/25
Troy Brownlie	07/27
Kathy Voss	07/27
David VanDerWeide	07/28
Lori Schairer	07/29
Ella Potter	07/30
Lynn Ward	07/31



## **DRY ME!**

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

“You don’t drink enough water.” My dear wife reminds me of that often, and it has shown up in a couple medical issues of late. Now, we have a son who



is a physician's assistant, and he can tell me what I'm missing medically and physically because of my lack of H<sub>2</sub>O intake. But I can feel it. At least at times. Maybe you know what that lack of life-giving fluid can do to you. I'm learning how to catch it, so I am doing better. Drink up. It's good for you.

Water is used a lot in the Bible to refer to God Himself, to refer to the effects of receiving God's Word, and to describe the life given to us by taking that all in. Not too long ago I wrote somewhere about Jesus promising life-giving water as He spoke in the temple in John 7. *"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"* You'll find that in verses 37-38.



I can't force anyone to drink enough water for their own good. And clearly, no one can get that message through my thick head. Something else must click. And it must click *in me*. Zero in on Jesus' words at the beginning of the text above, *"If anyone thirsts."* Did you get that? Jesus is depending on us to feel our need, our lack of what only He can give. And that's where being filled begins. God is already willing and

desiring to give His gifts and He never puts obstacles in the way. He may even, and most certainly does, give us much needed gifts even when our desire is low. But here is the important portion of this truth: we will never *gain* all that God wants us to have without desiring it. It is God's water given to one who *thirsts for it* that produces our realization of what God has given. Then, and only then, will our praise to God abound properly in return.

You know what? I'm thirsty.



## THE CIRCLE SERIES BLACK/RED/WHITE

By Author Ted Dekker, reviewed by P.L. Bennett

Three novels. Two worlds. One story. Enter an adrenaline-laced epic where dreams and reality collide.

**Black**—An incredible story of evil and rescue, betrayal and love, and a terrorist threat unlike anything the human race has ever known. A virulent evil has been unleashed upon the people of Earth. The only man who can stop it is Thomas Hunter, an unlikely hero whose life is stretched between

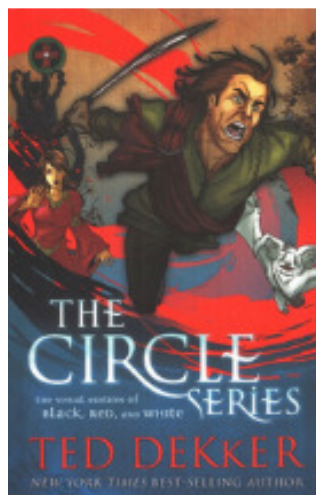


two worlds. Every time he falls asleep in one reality, he awakes in the other.

Soon Thomas no longer knows which reality is real. Yet it quickly becomes apparent that his choices in each world impact the other—and that the fates of both rest in his hands.

**Red**—In one world, Thomas Hunter is a battle-scarred general commanding an army of primitive warriors. In the other, he's racing to outwit sadistic terrorists' intent on creating global chaos through an unstoppable virus. Thomas must find a way to change history—or face the destruction of two worlds.

**White**—Thomas Hunter has only days to survive two separate realms of danger, deceit, and destruction. The fates of both worlds now rest on his unique ability to shift realities through his dreams. Thomas and The Circle must quickly decide who they can trust—both with their own lives and the fate of millions of others.



And neither the terror of Black nor the treachery of Red can prepare Thomas for the forces aligned against The Circle in White.

Beautiful artwork graces this 3-in-1 graphic novel. A great plot from Ted Dekker, one of the modern greats in Christian allegories and storytelling prowess, makes for a fantastic reading experience. This graphic novel is available in the Redeemer library, as are the three full-length regular novels by

Dekker, of this same series. Also available is the fourth in the series—*GREEN*. Check them out!

## AUGUST WRITING PROMPT

The writing prompt for **August** is **Follow Me!** Articles on prayer, family life, or outreach and evangelism are encouraged as well. We all enjoy hearing how our members have seen God working in their own lives and those of the community we are a part of here in the Jackson area.

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 **July Redeemer Reflection**.

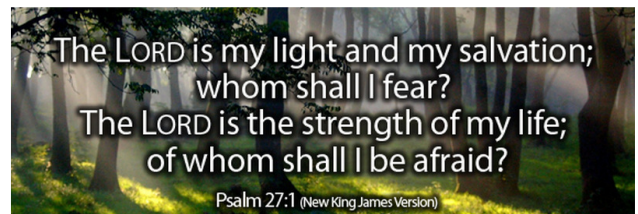
Send comments, information/photos, and/or articles by the 15th of the month to the NL editor at [bennitt49@yahoo.com](mailto:bennitt49@yahoo.com), to be included in the following month's newsletter. All submissions are appreciated and prayerfully considered.

**BUT WHOEVER DRINKS THE WATER  
I GIVE HIM WILL NEVER THIRST.  
INDEED, THE WATER I GIVE HIM  
WILL BECOME IN HIM A FOUNT OF  
WATER SPRINGING UP TO ETERNAL  
LIFE."**

**- JOHN 4:14**

## THIRST-QUENCHING PATH: REFRESHMENT FOR THE JOURNEY

Support and encouragement are necessities for any journey, and the voyage during any transition can be bumpy. As our Faith Family moves forward on this new path, we are blessed with opportunities to serve and help in each step along the way. One way Redeemer provided this was to serve up food and faithful reassurances as Ann Arbor's Concordia University closes its doors.



# July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	2	3 NO Coffee with Pastor Bible Study today!  Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	4 OFFICE CLOSED   Independence DAY	5
6 Divine Worship 8:00 a.m.  NO Bible Classes today!  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.	9 Quilters 9:30 a.m.	10 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	11	12
13 Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m. Multigenerational Bible Class 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Fun Night-5:30 p.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.	16	17 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2 p.m.	18	19 Pray Jackson! 5:30-7:00 p.m.
				Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 17—24		
20 Divine Worship 8:00 a.m.  Multigenerational Bible Class 9:30 a.m.  Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.	21 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m.  Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	22 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	23 Quilters 9:30 a.m.	24 NO Pastor's Bible Study today!  Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	25	26 Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m.  Need Volunteers 9 'til Noon
				Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 17—24		
27 Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m. Multigenerational Bible Class 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Fun Night-5:30 p.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.	30	31 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.		
						9 :00 A. M. July 28—31 Set Up for Rummage Sale