

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

GRACE



MAY 2025 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 18 ISSUE 5

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

*Making Jesus Known In The
Places Where We Live*

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GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE...

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

“Grace, mercy, and peace.” Would it be possible to be too familiar with those words? We who love Jesus hear and use them a lot. And that isn’t dangerous. What is dangerous is when we stop *thinking* about them. Deeply. They’re found in the Bible so much that, judged by sheer frequency, they must be important. Of course, we know they are. Now, in the past couple months, I have been focusing on prayer in my newsletter articles. I thought I’d maintain the course.

In my morning prayers each day, when I am walking through the landscape of those I love, I ask our LORD to extend the blessing above for each of those I name. “Father, pour out Your grace, mercy, and peace on my dear wife today.” And then I go forward with what I am aware they need. When their needs are prefaced with that trinity of gifts, I know my prayers are on a firm foundation because our LORD loves to give those very things to His people.

Many of Paul’s letters begin with the greeting, “Grace and mercy ...” Lovely. But when Paul puts pen to paper and writes the letters we call “the Pastorals,” that’s 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, he

begins with “grace, mercy, and peace ...”

It’s not that Paul doesn’t want the churches he writes to left short of peace, but I think that since he is writing to church leaders specifically in the Pastorals, he realizes that peace is so very necessary. First, for them to receive and then, to give away. And I think that it’s important for us to see the peace he “adds” as a completion of the grace and mercy gift announced in all his letters.

Try it today if it isn’t a part of your practice already. Ask, perhaps for those in your closest circle, for the LORD to extend His grace, mercy, and peace to them. And ask, too, that He would teach them and you to deepen the understanding of each: how they are distinct and how they blend. It makes for a wonderful and very needed part of intercession for others. And you most certainly can ask God to grant you those gifts as well.

Dear Father, for all who read this article today, I ask Your blessing of grace, mercy, and peace. And remind us that we cannot truly live without them. In Jesus’ name, Amen!





☺ **Coffee with Pastor Bible Study** every Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the church library. **NO Bible Study on May 22!**

☺ **Women of Redeemer LWML Spring Fling** from 10:00 a.m. until Noon in the lower-level Connection Room. A fun project, food, fellowship, and an informative presentation on S.O.A.R. Please signup by May 4th.

☺ **Sunday morning Adult Bible Study, Children's Sunday School, and Youth Bible Class** at 9:30 a.m.

☺ **Saturday, May 17 Prayer Walk** on-site at Redeemer. 5:30-6:30 p.m.

☺ **Mobile Food Pantry at Trinity Downtown** from 10:00–11:30 a.m., **Saturday, May 24**. 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.

☺ **Sunday, May 25 (Memorial Day Weekend)** There will be **NO BIBLE STUDY OR SUNDAY SCHOOL!** Two **Worship Services** at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m., both with communion.



JUNE 24 COMMUNITY HOSPITALITY BREAKFAST

by Gail Kleimola

Our congregation, Redeemer Lutheran Church, has been invited to share our “Community Hospitality” at the **104th Michigan District Convention** this **June 24** in the form of a breakfast. Seven congregations of the District are providing a meal that represents their ministry. I have been asked by Pastor Zach to head up the committee for this endeavor.

The breakfast will be served in the tent of the convention on Concordia University campus. This may be the last time our District will be able to use the grounds and the chapel due to the campus closing.

Another reason for the churches working together as a family is to lend support for each other.

I am excited for this wonderful opportunity, and ask all of you for your help with this outreach project where we can work together in joyful fellowship.

Our church is blessed with a big commercial kitchen we can use. We will be making cinnamon rolls and three

types of muffins ahead of time and freezing them. On June 23, we will box and prepare everything for transport to Ann Arbor.



We encourage everyone to give of their time and talents to help make this happen. There will be many sit-down jobs if standing for long periods is a problem. We sure will enjoy and appreciate any help. Baking, boxing, transporting, serving, and cleanup. More details will be coming in early May, and sign-up sheets with times will be available. Look for them in our Narthex and check the church newsletter and weekly bulletin.

Support for this event in the way of donations will be greatly appreciated. Whether it be specific ingredients or a monetary gift for supplies, thank you in advance.

Again, a list will be at the sign-up table in the Narthex in early May.

The District Office will be generating a short video of our congregation to be shown at the convention. If you see a camera pointed in your direction, smile pretty.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Gail Kleimola, 517-745-3640 or gailbkleimola@gmail.com.

4/21/2025 In Christ,
Gail Kleimola

SHOW OUR LOVE AND SUPPORT

Our congregation will be providing and serving breakfast for the 104th District Convention in Ann Arbor this June 24. Our beloved Pastor suggested giving some food for their hearts and minds as encouragement with each muffin and/or roll.

We would like to attach to each container a small paper containing a positive word, Bible verse, phrase, or a child's work of art. It is also a way for everyone in our family to help with this project. We all will share our love of Christ and encourage each



other. Make as many as you want as we will need

approximately **400 notes**.

Limit the size of paper to 3" x 6". There will be a box at the sign-up table in the Narthex for your contributions. Please sign at least your first name to each and every paper. Your last name is a nice thing too, but is optional.

Thank you, in advance for your prayers, contributions, and help. May God use our congregation to further encourage and support each other in the district.

Blessings,
Gail Kleimola



JUNE WRITING PROMPT

The writing prompt for **June** is **Praise**. 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/are called parables. Share your stories or remarks in an article for our **June 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.



LOOKING AHEAD!

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 as last year, 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 and cannot be use in the sale!



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Donna Zastrow

05/20/1961

John & Donna Smith

05/05/1979

Robert & Katherine Albertson

05/24/1980

Steve & Gay Alcenius

05/23/1981

Joshua & Erin Kuntz

05/07/2016

Joshua & Madalyn Royal

05/15/2021



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Jerimiah Bigelow	05/01
Kelly Schnebelt	05/03
James Hood	05/04
Tiffany Kane	05/04
Arthur Drake	05/07
Dave Althouse	05/09
James Weatherwax	05/09
Mary Jo Bell	05/10
Brittney Gales	05/14
Laura Twichell	05/15
Karen Dewey	05/18
Derrick Gales	05/17
Trenton Schnebelt	05/20
Crystal Challendar	05/21
Jerry Rockwell	05/21
Barb Hock	05/22
Deanna Brandt	05/23
Kimberly Britton	05/25
Caeley Schnebelt	05/25
Nancy Bryant	05/27
Daniel Wilcox	05/28
Pam Brown	05/29
Averi Thomas	05/30
Megan Bahr	05/31



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 past newsletters.

NOTE: When you or your child(ren) borrow library books, please remember to **write the date on the card inside the front cover and place that card 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 plan what books/DVDs/genres to purchase in the future. Thanks for your help with this piece of the library cleanup and reorganization!

Please return books as you finish them, and we'd love to have your remarks/opinions of any books you read. Reviews to be published in this newsletter would be great! Thank you!



OUR FAITHFUL GOD

Donna Zastrow shared this poem that has helped her family through many difficult situations, and still continues to do so today. Our Savior is always faithful... this I know!

THIS I KNOW!

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.

GRACE

by P. L. Bennitt

*"Grace and peace to you from
God our Father and the LORD Jesus
Christ. I always thank God for you
because of His grace given you in
Christ Jesus."*

1 Corinthians 1:3-4

These wonderful words are used often by the apostle Paul to begin or end one of his letters to the various churches. What a comfort and blessings these words must have been to these growing groups of believers in Christ Jesus! They knew they had a champion in Saul/Paul, this amazing persecutor-turned-outspoken-teacher/evangelist. They too suffered trouble and persecution for their belief in a risen Savior, and grace was in short supply in this "after the resurrection" reality.

We too seem to be looking into a future filled with indistinct separations between right and wrong, truth and lies, and law and anarchy. When morality is questionable and authority is hard to distinguish from chaos, firm fundamentals seem hard to find. Now, more than ever, we need a rule book that doesn't change and a strong foundation that doesn't shake with the winds of change. Come LORD Jesus!

*"I have told you these things, so that in
Me you may have peace. In this world
you will have trouble. But take heart! I
have overcome the world."*

John 16:33

With God's grace, we are still being led by church leaders in the Michigan District and our church, who are grounded in the Bible and the Ten Commandments, given by God to His

people, not just considered suggestions. If the Bible says something is wrong, then it is indeed wrong. Not just “kind of wrong” or “questionable,” but wrong, as in “a sin.”

We are blessed, here at Redeemer, to have God-given staff members who are adamant in the belief that the Bible is God’s Word. Period. Our job, as members and fellow believers, is to support them in their work and pray for them and their families “whenever they come to mind.” That’s something every person can do anytime at all.

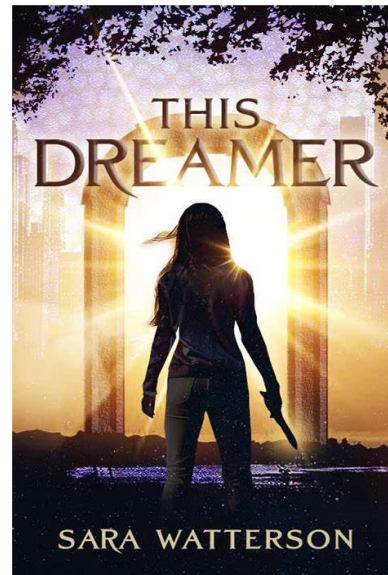
Prayer is easier than a text message to your best friend!

“...Respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the LORD and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live at peace with one another.”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13



THIS DREAMER THE CHRONICLES OF THE MARKED



NEW TO OUR LIBRARY

Reviewed by P.
L. Bennitt

*I was looking
in the visions
of my mind
as I lay on
my bed, and
behold, a
watcher, a
messenger,
came down...*

Daniel 4:13

Adan is one of the “Gifted,” a Dreamer. No one has ever heard of that “gift” though. A Healer, a Water Mover, a Strength Wielder... everyone knew of those gifts. But not a Dreamer. Not even Uziah had heard of that “Gift” before. Adan figured that his dreams may give him glimpses of the future, but what good was that? And besides, no one believed that it was a true gift anyway. He just wanted to be normal.

He and his younger brother, Ben, lived in a group home under the guidance of Uziah, a Guardian who was an immortal and a father-image for them all. He taught strength training, was a mentor, and was a Marked Strength Wielder. He’d Marked Adan as one, too, which only increased the intensity and frequency of the dreams.

Even though Ben and Adan were the only two who were actual siblings, Uziah considered them to be family. But Adan’s dreams and nightmares set

him apart in their make-shift family. In his latest dreams, he'd seen Uzziah meet with a Messenger. What did that mean?

"Will my dreams come true?" he asked Uzziah.

"You can't help what you dream, Adan." Uzziah clamped a hand on his shoulder. "All you can do—all anyone in your position can do—is figure out what good you can do with the Gifts you've been given."

As Adan and Uzziah try to comprehend this "dream gifting," the Control Room, manned by immortals who keep a close watch on the happenings in the earthly world and all its sectors, has Evie, a Watcher, who wonders about these gifted humans and what it would be like to have a real body, per se. She particularly is intrigued by the one called the Dreamer.

✓ This is a great read for middle-graders, to YA, to adults. You'll be introduced to a "Sector Five" board game called *Guardian Quest* and the intrigue of the game pieces which include, among others, a Maker, a Watcher, and a Deceiver.

Just For Fun! See if you can figure out who are the Maker's Marked ones. As you read, see if parts of this book remind you of any special Bible stories that you can remember.



A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS

Proverbs 31:25-28

"She is clothed with strength
and dignity;
she can laugh at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom,
and faithful instruction
is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs
of her household and does not eat
the bread of idleness.
Her children arise and call her blessed;
her husband also,
and he praises her."



GOD'S MASTERPIECE

by Herbert Farnham

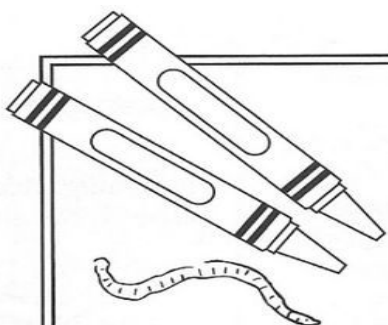
God took the fragrance of a flower,
The majesty of a tree,
The gentleness of morning dew,
The calm of a quiet sea.

The beauty of the twilight hour,
The soul of a starry night,
The laughter of a rippling brook,
The grace of a bird in flight.

Then God fashioned from these things,
A creation like no other,
And when his masterpiece was through,
He called it simply—Mother.



The Kids' Pages



Just for KIDS

Bugs in the Bible



Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs!

Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.



*Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse.
Circle them in the puzzle below.*

Proverbs 6:6 _____

Exodus 16:20 _____

Psalms 78:45 _____

1 Sam. 24:14 _____

Matt. 23:24 _____

Isaiah 50:9 _____

Judges 14:8 _____

Isaiah 59:5 _____

Acts 12:23 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Deuteronomy 7:20 _____



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S

Answer: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
C—Denotes Communion				1 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Gan- ton-S. A. 2:00 p.m. NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER	2	3 NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER WALK 10:00 a.m. @ New Leaf Park on Fourth Street Downtown
	4 Divine Worship 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.	5 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	6 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	7	8 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Gan- ton-S. A.	9
10 Women of Redeemer <i>Spring Fling</i> 10:00 a.m.-Noon	11  Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m.	12 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	13 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	14 Quilters 9:30 a.m.	15 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Gan- ton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	16
17 Redeemer On-site Prayer Walk 5:30-6:30 p.m. @ Redeemer Come join us!	18 Divine Worship 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.	19 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	20 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	21	22 NO Pastor's Bible Study today Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Gan- ton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	23
24 Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m. Volunteers Needed! 9 'til Noon	25 Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m. No Bible Classes or Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m.	26  OFFICE CLOSED	27 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	28 Quilters 9:30 a.m.	29 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Gan- ton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	30
31						