

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LCMS

COMPASSION



NOVEMBER 2024 PUBLICATION  
VOLUME 17 ISSUE 11

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

*Making Jesus Known In The  
Places Where We Live*

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NOVEMBER 2024

### COMPASSION



Dear Redeemer  
Family,

"Great is Thy  
faithfulness, O God  
my Father; There is  
no shadow of  
turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not;  
Thy compassions,  
they fail not: As

Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be."

A beautiful verse to the beautiful hymn, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," reminding those who sing of God's never-failing compassion. Our amazing God looked upon our sinful estate and had compassion. The Father sent His Son, Jesus! Out of compassion, He suffered, died, and rose so that our condition would be changed. Changed we have been. He has taken us from poor, miserable sinners who were without hope, to redeemed children of God! Thanks be to God that when He gazed upon us, He did so with compassion!

Pondering God's compassion, I can't help but think about my own. When we gaze upon another person, how do we view them? Do we look at others with the same compassion as our Lord, or is

our vision of others blurred?

It is easy to view others with blurred vision due to sin. We can be quick to judge without knowing anything about the person. We can easily move to an improper critique based on very short interactions that give limited information. We can let the lens of hurt, anger, resentment, hate, or disdain so color our vision, we lose sight of how God views that person, either as a child of God or someone in need of a savior.

My prayer is that we can view others as our God views people. May we emulate the compassion that has been shown to us by our Savior. As we have compassion on others, may they see Jesus and His compassion for them too.

O LORD, help us to see others as You see them. Especially, through the lens of compassion. Amen.

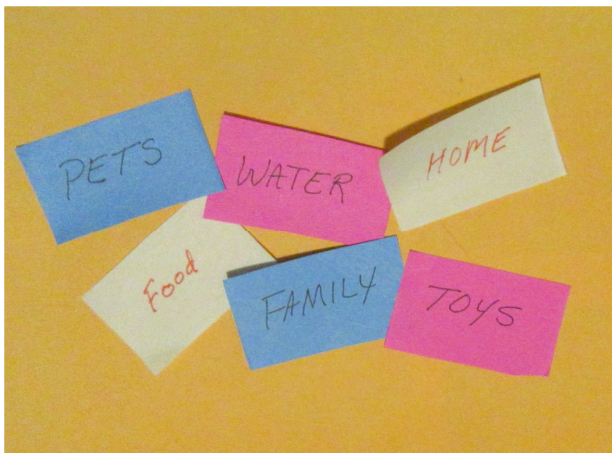
In Christ, *Pastor Zach*



## GIVE THANKS

by Kimber Walsh, Director of Family Life Ministry, DFLM, FLE

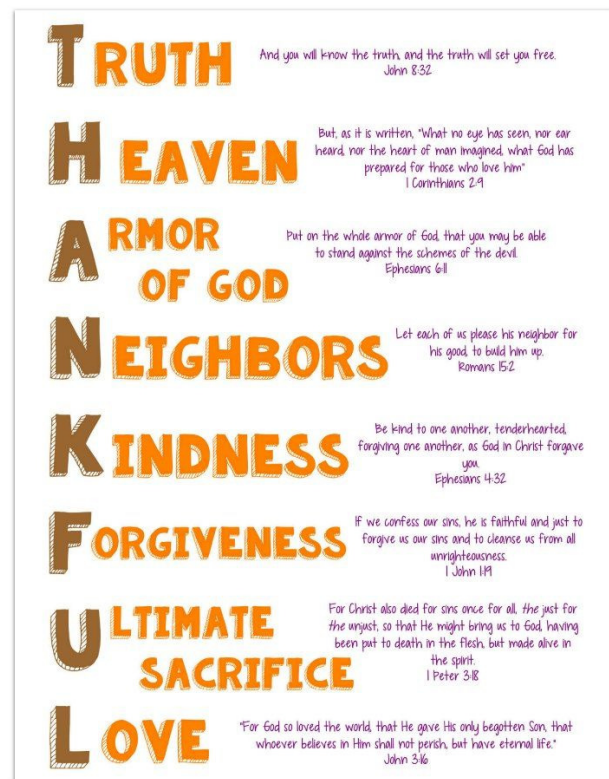
In college, I was part of a Bible study in which we were each challenged to keep track of things we were thankful for throughout the month of November leading up to Thanksgiving. My roommates and I decided to take on the task with small 1"x1.5" sticky notes adhered to our large picture window; one thing per note. We each began carrying the sticky note pads around with us in our bags and adding things we were thankful for throughout the day, sticking up the notes when we returned to our dorm room each night.



As November ended, we decided to keep going because we enjoyed the renewed perspective of looking for our blessings through each day. God had trained our eyes and our hearts to see the things around us and the things we experienced each day in a new way. By the end of the school year, our window was covered with all the blessings we'd noticed since November. God was at work in our hearts that year, helping us see the bounty of blessings He heaped out on us each and every day. If I had a thankfulness-sticky-note-window today,

I'd write that season of God shaping my heart on it.

Regardless of when or how we track our blessings, I think we'd all readily admit that they are abundant. Thanksgiving is a great time to assess our blessings, especially if we've gotten out of practice over the year. Our abundant blessings point us back to God's provision and blessings over and over again.



## TOPIC FOR DECEMBER

The writing prompt for **December** is **Strength**. What does the word strength bring to mind as we approach the Christmas season? Do those two words, strength and Christmas, have anything in common or any similarities? What does strength mean to you?

The *Redeemer Reflection* newsletter is provided to encourage and inform our members and our community, supply learning tools and educational insights, as well as some 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](mailto:bennitt49@yahoo.com), to be included in the following month's newsletter. All submissions are appreciated and prayerfully considered.

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

☺ **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, November 23**. 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, Trinity Lutheran.

☺ **Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group** will meet in the Teen Room on **Sunday, November 24 from 3:00–5:00 p.m.**

☺ **Thanksgiving Eve Worship**  
**Wednesday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m.**

☺ **Midweek Advent Worship**  
**Services:** the dates are: December 4, 11, and 18, **at 6:30 p.m., the first three Wednesdays in December.**

☺ **Christmas Eve Worship Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.**

☺ **Christmas Day Worship**  
**Wednesday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m.**

## THERE'S A "T" IN THE MIDDLE

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

Sometimes when my mindset is on Jesus, I don't think of my dad or brother first, but of my mom and my sister. Do you know why? Because there is in this rock-solid identity of a Jewish carpenter/rabbi from Nazareth, the stream of what we would call compassion, empathy, or "heart" that we usually associate with women.

Now, I make that statement with the full understanding of what our culture has allowed on this issue of gender identity. But I stand by my previous assertion. This is Biblical stuff here and I can tell you that I see, in my mom, my sister, and my other Christian sisters, this capacity to bend low to serve with compassion, not out of weakness, but out of immense strength. Now, lest you think this article a treatise on women only, I also see immense compassion (which means to suffer with) and empathy (which I define as "trading the places of the heart") in many men in my



life. And in that I do include my dad and brother.

No, these qualities, while exemplified so beautifully in so many women, can be owned and operated by men as well. I am thankful for the expression in both. But there is a danger zone in compassion, in empathy. And that is when we lose truth, better Truth, as our guiding star or compass in the giving of the heart to those in need.

Now please don't think that I am arguing for some cold, calculating test or parameters that must be applied to persons or situations before we deem them fitting for our help. But we *do* need to recognize the fact that our emotions, apart from the truth of God's Word and apart from the God who is truth itself, are easily swayed by what we perceive.

I remember hearing from someone driving a fishing boat long ago, "It don't matter how heavy the anchor is if the chain ain't long enough." And if you



want a boat to stay in place, especially in a moving current, you must have something that provides that

stability. That's what truth does, and that's why the truth takes first place in living out compassion.

Jesus came to us to save us. He did it for two reasons primarily. First, was love for His Father and the desire that His Truth be vindicated. And second, His love for lost sinners that for some amazing reason He wants to spend

eternity with. Now, no one would accuse our God of coldness in dealing with humanity through His Son. But in our world, we've learned a form of "goodness," or "concern," that simply gives to others what they want, often before we take the time and effort to determine what they need. The two points above, pointing to why Jesus came to us, are both based in reason. On something that is true. Love is included. But love is secondary and serves the truth.

"Speak the truth in love," writes St. Paul to the Ephesian Christians. Faltering and failing at either will not give the desired result. But the truth is first. Jesus spoke to the woman at the well in John chapter 4, that the Father seeks those who worship Him in spirit (Spirit) and truth. Because even the good intentions of spirituality can be sidetracked without the moorings of faithful teaching. The truth is first.

Our world in our time, as in all times, is filled with people with genuine, rubber-meets-the-road needs. There is absolutely no question about that. You and I as children of the Living God, the God of the Bible, are commanded to live with compassion toward others. Think of it: compassion that is commanded cannot be devoid of truth because the authority behind the command demands truthfulness for compassion to be genuine. The truth is first. I want to be compassionate to those in need. I want to follow the example of Jesus I've experienced in my mom, in my sister, and in so many others. But I cannot be truly loving or truly compassionate if the truth of what is needful doesn't enter my mind and heart first.



## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

**Jim and Diane Siedzik**

11/4/1978

**Craig & Sally Wingle**

11/26/1983

**David & Monica VanDerWeide**

11/15/1997

**Tony & Kirsten Mogle**

11/15/1997

**Kevin & Juli Smith**

11/07/1998

**Pastor Zachary & Katrina Holdorf**

11/22/2008



Autumn is a season of reflection, of response to God, and of remembering His grace and goodness. Let Him soothe your spirit, cleanse your heart, and transform your thoughts with His love.

*Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.*

Proverbs 10:12

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Lori Zeidan	11/01
Knox Elbert	11/04
Kirsten Mogle	11/06
Dean Potter	11/06
Leah Anderson	11/07
Richard Kline	11/07
Tony Farley	11/09
Kristofer Herrick	11/12
William (Bill) Poland	11/15
Bradley Wendt	11/15
Erin Kuntz	11/17
Claudina Kestner	11/18
Jacob Kane	11/20
Don Curl	11/21
Grace Nehring	11/21
Jackson Royal	11/22
Phoebe Walsh	11/23
George Richmond	11/24
Mary Biegner	11/25
Sherry Hood	11/25
Jon Bahr	11/27
Duane Coon	11/27
Stefanie Bohm	11/28

*Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.*

Psalm 50:14

## SUNSHINE BAGS FOR CONCORDIA STUDENTS

After sharing a meal and sharing the purpose for putting these “Sunshine Bags” together for Concordia Ann Arbor students, many members of our church Circuit gathered in our RAC to assemble the bags.





## COMPASSION

by P. L. Bennitt

Compassion is an integral part of our humanity. Without compassion, we are no better than animals. Compassion to me is tender hearts with helping hands.

At one time Redeemer had a ministry called "Helping Hands" that was a part of what we called "Compassion Ministries." We did everything from help people to pack and move, rake leaves or do other yard work for shut-ins, provide meals for shut-ins and newly released hospital patients or those recovering from surgeries or illnesses, limited timeframe



house cleaning, and occasional house

maintenance. It was what I called "practical compassion."

Jesus was into Compassion Ministry. He healed people. He visited shut-ins. He provided meals for those in need. I'd even go so far as to say that He "cleaned house" on more than one occasion. His was common practical ministry, along with His godly miracles and spiritual and Biblical focus. But He first took care of the human aspect, even as He addressed the spiritual necessities.

Compassion is our mission as Christians. Spiritual salvation is the final goal of our efforts. But salvation is

not ours to give. That's Jesus and the Holy Spirit's job. We are like John the Baptist as we "prepare the way" with compassion and sharing what we know of our Jesus, compassion being the most obvious. Share Jesus constantly; use words when you have to.

Remember how blessed we are that our Lord trusts us to be His hands and feet in this world. He trusts us and gives us the gift of compassion to share, and to receive. ***We Get To Do This!***

## OUR MISSION MONEY AT WORK FOR HURRICANE RELIEF

In mid-October, Redeemer was contacted for help to send supplies and monies to assist with the devastation brought by the hurricanes in the South.



Without hesitation, our church donated supplies that had to be delivered by the weekend.

This is an example of our tithes and item donations at work to help in times of dire need. We are so blessed to have agencies that are aware of needs and know that our church family is willing



to help at any given time, especially in emergency situations.

Our staff is available and knowledgeable in managing our ministry resources in order to accommodate such emergencies. God has blessed us to bless others. What a

privilege we have to serve our LORD and fellow man when needs arise!



## book Review!

### THE YADA YADA PRAYER GROUP

Reviewed by P. L. Bennitt

Anyone can pray, right? The answer Jesus gives is, "When you pray..." He never says "...if you pray," or "... there's only one way to pray..." No, He says "when you pray..."! And He gives a formula or outline for prayer with what

we now call The Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6: 9-13.

In Matthew 6:1-20, Jesus gives His disciples pointers on the attitude and focus we should have "when" we pray.

*"7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.*

*8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you even ask Him."*

When we pray "with others" in a group, we get the awesome experience of hearing the hearts of others as they approach God with praises, thanks, and requests. We "feed off" their communion with the Lord and are drawn out of ourselves into conversation with Him.

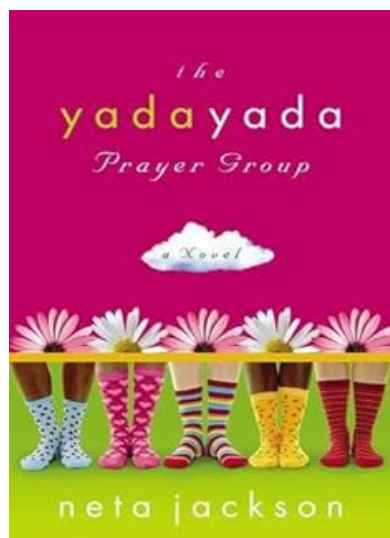
In *The Yada Yada Prayer Group* by Neta Jackson, women attending a weekend Chicago Women's Conference are assigned to prayer groups for prayer support during the conference. We meet Jodi Baxter, a first-time conference attendee, her associate from work, Avis, and a hodge-podge of women from various walks of life and cultures.

By the end of the weekend, Jodi finds herself attached to all these women, even as she begins to recognize her own strengths, limitations, and ability to accept and learn from others with all their quirks and different (sometimes annoying) personalities. How refreshing to read a book and find the heroine is just as flawed as I am!

How wonderful to watch the friendships grow and strengthen as these diverse women come together as praying friends who learn to be vulnerable with each other and share

families and life experiences in some amazing situations.

I highly recommend this book as good reading and a look into



acceptance of cultural diversity and the realization that people everywhere have similar struggles and joys. Under our skins, we are all the same, and Jesus loves us all. *The Yada*

*Yada Prayer Group* is about a family of friends built on prayer, with all the warts and gold included.

Various cultural recipes are included at the end of the book, as well as instructions on forming your own prayer group! Happy Reading!

**Rated:** Suitable for adult and older teens.



**Check it out!**



*As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.*

Colossians 3:12

## Holiday Worship Services



## thanksgiving

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service**  
Wednesday, November 27  
6:30 p.m.

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



**Midweek Advent Worship Services**  
Wednesdays: December 4, 11 & 18  
6:30 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship Services**  
Tuesday, December 24  
6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.

**Christmas Day Worship Service**  
Wednesday, December 25  
9:00 a.m.



**The Priceless Gift Toy Store**  
is a community service of

**Together We  
Can Make A  
Difference  
House**



*Jesus said, By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35*

We have an opportunity to demonstrate God’s love to families who are hurting. For almost twenty years, the Jackson community has come together to serve an average of 4,000 children each year by providing Christmas gifts through *The Priceless Gift Toy Store*. We are good stewards of what God has provided when we share used toys our own children have outgrown and/or make handmade gifts to donate.

This is one of our most effective annual



outreaches to our city. Each year the

need is here—and Jesus is in every detail, large or small. This service to the community is made possible because of our volunteers and partnerships with St. Vincent de Paul and more than 100 other business, schools, and churches.

Donations of gently used toys or handmade gifts will be accepted Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. through November 24. Such items as toys for all ages including books, games, video games, stuffed animals, dolls, and cars. Teen gifts including makeup, perfume, cologne, hygiene items, craft supplies, jewelry, jewelry boxes, and new batteries.

Donation boxes are located at the Mall “store,” at Jackson Candy & Fudge Factory, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, as well as other locations around town. Preparation of toys and gifts for *The Priceless Gift Toy Store* are handled at the Dream Center, located in the Westwood Mall, Jackson. We will work there **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** until Thanksgiving Eve. After Thanksgiving, *The Priceless Gift Toy Store* will be open to actual “shoppers.”

Please call \*David or \*\*Wendy to ask questions and/or volunteer in any way to help in this important ministry. Thank you for all your prayers and hard work to make a difference in the lives of the children in our community.

\*David Kemler, General Manager, St. Vincent de Paul Stores (517-784-8377 for David)

\*\*Wendy Wight, Director, Together We Can Make A Difference (517-740-8444 for Wendy).



# Thanksgiving

Blessing Baskets



## THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Redeemer annually prepares Holiday Food Baskets for Thanksgiving and Easter. The sign-up sheet to provide items for the Thanksgiving baskets will be available on Sunday, November 4.

Claudina Kestner spearheads this ministry and may be contacted if you would like to help package and/or deliver baskets prior to Thanksgiving Day.

## A NEW DAY: THE OLD IS GONE!

*Everything old has passed away; see,  
everything has become new!*

2 Corinthians 5:17

*Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!* I sort of like the old tunes that bring soft memories to mind and that soothe my soul with the sounds of days gone by. But those new songs have a rhythm and a beat that the kids of today are moving to, and I must confess, they are very catchy.

God, I pray to stay in touch and in tune with where Your Spirit is luring me, and all of us, to go. My fear of

tomorrow I release to Your love of me today.



## MASTER CONDUCTOR

It must be the human condition, Lord, to want to stand out and be the center of attention, but I want to be a member of Your orchestra, to play melodies and symphonies that don't focus on my singular abilities but that instead focus on the music You have written.

I am choosing to step into the orchestra pit and take my chair. I trust in the Master Conductor to use my talents and blend my sound. And when the time comes for me to play, I trust that it will be used to enhance Your music.



When the orchestra begins its concert, should the violin strike up its own version? Or the drum? Or the oboe? Or the trombone? What discord there would be unless the Conductor leads all the instrumentalists to play together. And that is what must occur in the church: God must lead us as we serve together in harmony.

# November

# 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><b>C - Denotes Communion Services</b></p>					1	2 
3 Divine Worship 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.	4 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	5 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	6	7 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	8	9
10 Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m.	11 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	12 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	13 Quilters 9:30 a.m.	14 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	15	16
17 Divine Worship 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.	18 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	19 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	20	21 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	22	23 Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m.  Need Volunteers 9 'til Noon
24 Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m. Youth Group 3:00-5:00 p.m.	25 Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	26 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	27 Quilters 9:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship 6:30 p.m.	28 	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30