

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

REFORM



OCTOBER 2025 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 18 ISSUE 10

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

**The Redeemer Family exists to know Jesus,
grow in Jesus, and share Jesus.**

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OCTOBER 2025

REFORM



by Pastor Zachary
Holdorf

Grace, mercy and
peace be unto you
from God our
Father and our Lord
and Savior Jesus
Christ. Amen.

A Note on the Reformation

At the end of October, we will once again celebrate the Reformation. Dr. Martin Luther did not want to break away from the church but wanted to reform it. The church strayed from the Scriptures and was teaching false doctrines, like indulgences. Luther boldly took a stand and stood fast upon God's Word, which almost cost him his life. Many lessons can be learned from studying the Reformation. As the church today, we must continue to stand fast upon God's Word. The devil would like nothing more for the church than to "reform" her beliefs and fall back into heresy. Many church bodies already have. We, at Redeemer, must remain steadfast in the Word and the doctrines that we believe, teach, and confess. May the Lord help us remain faithful to Him and to His Word until the end.

A Word of Encouragement

Speaking of the Word, Dave Davis, President of the Michigan District of the LCMS, consistently reminds the people of God in the Michigan District to read their Bibles. This is my encouragement as well for us at Redeemer. I encourage you to carve out time in your day to pick up your Bible. Find a conducive reading plan that can help you stay on track. Pick up a *Portals of Prayer* or a good devotional. Attend a Bible class at Redeemer. I would love to see the Connection Room, on Sunday morning, completely full! Statistics show, according to Ambassadors of Reconciliation, that the more people you have in adult Bible class on a Sunday morning, the more likely you will be a healthy congregation!

A Prayer Request

In October, we will be having Town Hall Meetings to review sanctuary plans prepared by Groth Design Group. I ask for your prayers pertaining to this whole process.

- ✝ Pray for wisdom and clarity in direction in what the Lord would have us do.
- ✝ Pray that the devil is hindered as we hold these conversations. The devil wants nothing more than to use this as an opportunity to bring disunity to our congregation.

- ✝ Pray for the unity and health of our congregation.
- ✝ Pray for the Redeemer Leadership Team and Elders.
- ✝ Pray for the staff. As Andy always says: Pray! Pray! Pray!

Thank you for being people of prayer! *Pastor Zach*



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Farley	10/01
Riley Gannon	10/02
Beth Dewey	10/04
Wendy Lake	10/04
Pastor Zachary Holdorf	10/08
Benjamin Walsh	10/08
William (Bill) Huhn	10/10
Linda Weck	10/12
Gay Alcenius	10/13
Ron Hock	10/13
Penelope Wingle	10/13
Robin Melton	10/14
Chad Elbert	10/20
Betty Lathrop	10/20
Matthew Nehring	10/25
Brian Boyle	10/25
Lydia Heffner	10/27
Connie Grafe	10/30
Patrice Jones	10/30
Loretta Rice	10/30
Mike Hoffer	10/31

UPCOMING EVENTS

☺ **Coffee with Pastor Bible Study**
Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the church library.

☺ **Sunday Adult Bible Study meets at 9:30 a.m.** This study will meet in the lower-level Community Connection Room.

☺ **Sunday School for children and youth 9:30 a.m.** They will meet in the lower-level classrooms.

☺ **September 29, Women's Bible Study. *Luke in the Land*** begins at 10:30 a.m.-12 noon in the lower-level Connection Room. This **8-week study** will walk us through Luke's Gospel with snapshot glimpses of Jesus's ministry locations throughout Israel. Angela Martin will facilitate.

☺ **Sunday, October 5, Stand for Life Chain** from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

☺ **Town Hall Meetings: Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 19 at 11:40 a.m.,** will be held in the church Sanctuary. Information on Sanctuary plans for the future.

☺ **Pray Jackson prayer focus. Time and meeting place TBA.** Watch the bulletin and/or check with Craig.

☺ **Saturday, October 25, Mobile Food Pantry at Trinity downtown,** from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Volunteers should meet at Trinity Lutheran Church and be available from 9:00 a.m. until noon.



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Duane & Anna Coon

10/05/1957

Robert & Roberta Kellogg

10/20/1962

George & Christine Richmond

10/23/1976

Bruce & Sharon Harshe

10/28/1978

Tom & Carrie Crutchfield

10/08/1994

Thomas & Heidi Gannon

10/16/2004

Christopher & Rachael Wingle

10/05/2010



BEGIN WITH WHAT YOU KNOW

by Craig Britton, Director of
Ministries

We live in a time of chaos. Noticed? The month just passed saw unspeakable acts of violence in our nation. Unspeakable from an ultimate standard point of view. But therein lies the issue. There is no “ultimate standard” any longer. No over-arching word of law and authority that rings true in the heart and mind of every person, nor the

collective of our nation. Now, as a disclaimer, there are individuals who recognize transcendent truth. And that’s because they know a God who speaks. And He speaks to them, they listen, and by His grace acknowledge His Word to be true. They know it.

A wise teacher once told me that while you are working on untying knotty problems, whether they are mathematical or philosophical, a good rule of thumb is to begin with what you know. Go back—even to the very roots of what you are considering, those “2+2” places. Go back to gain footing so that you know that each step after the first is grounded on something solid. That’s what Martin Luther did.

Martin lived in an age of chaos, too. Theological chaos (among other issues). The deeper the Lord took him into the rage of his day, the less footing he had, until he returned to those things he knew to be true.

Now in Martin’s case, he had to become familiar with foundational truth. Luther had *not* read the New Testament before his time at the seminary. And so, he received counsel to go back to the sources. It was a movement in the education processes of his day, so God was at work in and outside of the church. But the counsel came from a wise father in the faith



who knew where to look for truth: God's Holy Word. Martin looked where his mentor sent him. A spark grew into a flame, and then a raging fire. But it was not a fire of destruction, but of purification.

The opponents of Martin Luther accused him of fomenting revolution, religious and political. Such was *not* the case. Luther lived in a highly charged political culture, as we do. But that was not his emphasis. Luther wanted to share what God was teaching from His Word, but there needed to be change. Not revolution, but reformation. What is the distinction? Revolution destroys what was before it to build from the ashes. Reformation seeks to utilize the foundation previously laid. Read Jude 1-3. That's just three verses, not three chapters; Jude only has one of those. But just as the biblical author took his readers back to their beginnings, so Luther attempted to bring the church of Christ back to what they had always known.

Yes, fifteen centuries after the "starting line" of the church, the need arose to go back to study just what the church knew when the gun fired, and they were set speeding on their way to win the world. In other words, Luther's reforms began with what he knew, what the church had always known. And that's where we should be today. There's an adage that "the church is always reforming," but it's not building the new and novel. It's a reforming of foundational truths, the things we know. The things we have always known. God grant us to love, treasure, and share freely the things we know. Amen!



PLUG IN!

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



Sunday Morning Classes

Sunday School Classes have resumed and will continue through May 17, 2026. Classes for children, youth, and adults are available weekly.

Parent & Toddler Bible Story (Under 3)	Main Level, Nursery
Age 3-5 th Grade: Sing! Move! Memorize!	Lower Level, Music Room
Grade 6 th -12 th :	Lower Level, Teen Room
Adult Bible Study: The Body of Christ	Lower Level, Connection Room

If you have questions about where your family can plug in, please don't hesitate to reach out to the office during business days or grab one of the staff or leaders on a Sunday morning and we'll be happy to help connect you.

Grow & Go

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



This session, Pastor Zach will offer an Affirmation of Faith, teaching time, and a game for those in high school and under each week, while adults will have their own teaching separately.

The adults' topic will be marriage. Those wanting to get married in the future, those who are married currently, and those who have been married in the past, are all welcome!

Come and get tools for your faith walk—Wednesdays: October 29, November 5, and November 12, from 5:30-7:30 pm in Redeemer's Connection Room. This time together includes a dinner of fellowship. Please sign up to participate on the sheet in the narthex to give us an accurate count for planning.



The Michigan District Junior High Gathering

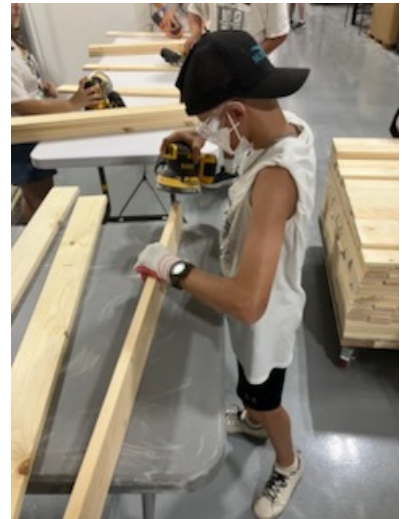


Three of Redeemer's junior high-aged youth went to Frankenmuth for the annual Michigan District Junior High Gathering in August. This three-day

event was packed with biblical truth, worship of our great God, servant events, and fun

fellowship with other junior high youth from throughout Michigan.

The theme for this year's gathering was *Together*.



Each session pointed us to the family of God and how we are not alone. We can come together to serve. We can love each other.

And we are blessed to be able to mutually encourage one another in the journey.

For our service project, we helped prepare lumber for making twin-sized beds for an organization called "Sleep in



Heavenly Peace” based in Saginaw. Their objective is that no child in their community sleeps on the floor. We also got a few splashes in at the waterpark after all the gathering things were completed.

Women’s Bible Study



Follow Kristi McLelland through Israel as we study snapshots from the Gospel of Luke to see where the stories of the Bible took place.

Over seven sessions, challenge the way you read the accounts of Jesus through teaching videos that take you to locations in Israel like Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Jerusalem, and the road to Emmaus. Along the way, you’ll see how Jesus, the Messiah, brought His kingdom to earth for everybody.

Beginning September 29, the study will run for 8 weeks on Mondays, from 10:30 a.m.—12 p.m., in Redeemer’s Connection Room on the lower level. Sign up in the narthex so we can order enough materials. All are welcome, including friends outside of Redeemer.

TALKING WITH GOD

I’m ready to learn today, Lord. I know from experience that some lessons are pleasant, while others are painful. But it

seems that as I grow in wisdom, the understanding from lessons learned in the past makes my way smoother.

Thank You for that growth process. Keep me in it, I pray, and grant me grace today to accept Your instruction through the people and circumstances I encounter.

Help me remember:
Today I’m a student and my experiences are my teachers.



TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Two Town Hall Meetings are scheduled for the month of October. One on **Wednesday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m.**, and the second on **Sunday, October 19 immediately after the late service.**

If you are interested in the future plans for Redeemer’s Sanctuary and possible building project, these meetings are designed to present proposed Sanctuary plans, budget projections, and discussion on the necessary Capital Funding Campaign to accomplish these goals. Please plan on attending one of these opportunities to ask questions and help to you gain a clearer picture of what God wants for the mission He has given Redeemer in this time and place.

Please continue to pray that our leadership team be led constantly by

our Lord. Only with the guidance of our Father God will we be able to discern His plan and make the decisions that are His will for the Redeemer family.

Pray! Pray! Pray!

LIVE IN THE 'HERE AND NOW'

This devotion was written/compiled from multiple sources by Tim Hetzner, used with permission.

"But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."

Ruth 1:16

The book of Ruth illustrates the difference between those who step out in faith and take risks and those who give in to fear, play it safe, and miss God's best for them. The book begins with these words:

"There was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife [Naomi] and his two sons."

Things went well for a while, then tragedy struck. First, Naomi's husband Elimelech died, and she was left with her two sons. They married local girls named Orpah and Ruth, and then the sons died. Overwhelmed with grief, Naomi decides to return home to Bethlehem and advises her two daughters-in-law to stay in Moab and hopefully find husbands and raise families.

This is where the difference shows up in the two girls. Orpah decided to stay in Moab, even though it was a

place of heartache and hard times. Why? Because it was the place she knew. It was her comfort zone. She didn't have the faith to go forward.

Ruth was different. She said to Naomi: *'Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God'* (v. 16).

Orpah went back, Ruth went forward. And it paid off. Back in Bethlehem, she met Boaz, her new husband. Not only was he wealthy, but he took good care of her, and they had a son from whom descended both King David and our Jesus. God rewards faith, not fear. So, the word for today is—it's time to break with the past and move forward.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help me put aside my fears and have faith to move where You are leading—even though I do not know where You are leading, I *do* know You *are* leading. In Jesus' name, Amen.

REFORM

by P. L. Bennitt



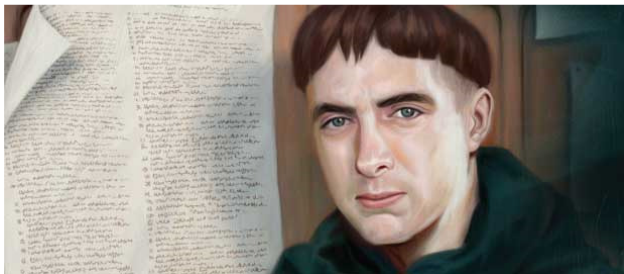
Reform: to put or change into an improved form or condition; to amend or improve by change of form or removal of faults or abuses.

There are a lot of similarities between when Jesus came, confronting the Sadduces because they had strayed from God's original laws, and when Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses to the Church door in Wittenburg,

Germany. Neither were meant to “tear down religion,” but to “reform” or return God’s laws to His original context or intention. Man-made laws and Indulgences were never mentioned in God’s law for His people.



In both cases, the people drifted away from what God originally said, and the blame fell squarely on the religious leaders in both cases. That does NOT mean the people were blameless. But it does mean that the people AND the leaders must always be aware of what God says before adding or subtracting from His Words.



Reform or changes are not always the answer to every problem. Change for the sake of change is never the way to go. But when change or “new” is suggested, we are expected to make informed choices for what is God’s will in any given situation. Just as Martin Luther went back to the early church sources, so must we use our resources and pray as we step forward in each new venture.

God speaks, but we need to listen. Prayer and study of God’s Word will give us the directions we need in each new situation or endeavor. Reform does not mean to tear down. Reform means to re-form what has become distorted or needs repair. It does NOT mean “destroy everything that has gone before.”

As we move forward with building plans at Redeemer, let’s make sure we bathe the process in prayer. God willing, we will build His House in this place with Him, and His Word and Sacraments, as our foundation for the generations to come. We build on Him. For His work. He is our one foundation. We build and re-form for His glory in this place.



“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”

MARTIN LUTHER, SWORDANDSOLAS.COM

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
C-Denotes Communion Services 			1	2 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	3	4
5 LIFE CHAIN Divine Worship 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Youth Classes 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.	6 Women's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	7 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	8 Quilters 9:30 a.m.	9 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	10	11
12 Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Youth Classes 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m.	13 Women's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	14 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	15 Town Hall Meeting For Sanctuary discussion 6:30 p.m.	16 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. LWML Women's Bible Study-10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	17	18
19 Worship-8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study, Youth & Sunday School Classes 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m. Town Hall Meeting	20 Women's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	21 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	22 Quilters 9:30 a.m.	23 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	24	25 Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity 10:00-11:30 a.m. Need Volunteers
26 Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Youth Classes 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m.	27 Women's Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	28 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:15 p.m.	29 Grow & Go 5:30 p.m. Includes Supper	30 Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Canton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.	31 Reformation Day Happy Halloween! 	