

# REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

## Slander



SEPTEMBER 2024 PUBLICATION  
VOLUME 17 ISSUE 9

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

*Making Jesus Known In The  
Places Where We Live*

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SEPTEMBER 2024

### WITH ONE VOICE

by Pastor Zachary Holdorf

How is September here already? It seems that the summer has flown by. I don't know about you, but my summer was full. Full of baseball, making memories with the kids, growing a garden, a trip to Nebraska, and enjoying as much of God's creation as possible.

As the seasons turn, so does the schedule. However, it's not less busy, is it? The schedule isn't less filled but filled with different stuff. School has started, fall sports are underway, social calendars are filled with fall events, etc.

As the seasons change and the calendar fills, I would like to share with you some of the things we have going on at Redeemer and encourage you to join us as we walk through the fall and into the New Year.

I would like to share with you our theme for the year: **"With one voice."** It is taken from Exodus 24:3:

*Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered **with one voice** and said, 'All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.'*

As a congregation, it is my hope that as we walk through the fall and into the New Year, we will seek to follow our

Lord, His Word, and what His will is for us, and in unity as the Family of God, we worship, grow, and serve. We have many opportunities to do so.

Worship is vital to the life of a congregation. This fall we will be spending some time looking at Biblical texts from Jeremiah, James, Hebrews, and the Gospel of Mark. With full summer schedules, you may have been pulled away from worship more than you wanted. Regardless of what has happened in the summer, let fall be a fresh start. I look forward to seeing you in **worship!**

We have many opportunities to **grow** in faith this year. Our Sunday School will kick off on September 8. We have classes for kids, youth, and adults! The kids will be looking at the armor of God. The youth will be diving deeper into who Jesus is, and the adults will be studying the book of Exodus with the theme "Deliver us"! Be on the lookout for more GROW and GOs. Growing deeper in God's Word together is something I very much look forward to as we enter this fall season.

As we look at the calendar ahead, we have many opportunities to **serve**. We need help in the following areas: Sunday School, coordinating events (potlucks, gatherings, etc.), choir and handbells, tech, Chancel, and food pantry. Be on the lookout for special

service projects as well. Most certainly a huge need, as we seek to serve in and out of the church, is praying for the mission and ministry of Redeemer. May the Lord use our efforts so that the Gospel is shared and more people come to the knowledge and truth of Jesus Christ.

As we march on, seeking to be faithful in worship, growing in Christ, and serving others, may we do so with one voice, to the glory and honor of our Lord and Savior.

In Christ,

*Pastor Zach Holdorf*

## What's Happening

😊 **Choir and Handbell rehearsals resume on September 10:** Choir at 6:30 p.m. and Handbells at 7:30 p.m.

😊 **Adult Sunday morning Bible Class, Children's Sunday School, and Youth Bible Study will resume on September 8.** Schedule included on page 5 of this newsletter.

😊 **Mobile Food Pantry at Trinity Downtown from 10:00–11:30 a.m., Saturday, September 28.** Volunteers should be available 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.

😊 **GROW & GOs resume in October.** Every Wednesday in October, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Redeemer Activity Center (RAC).



### THANK YOU, REDEEMER CHURCH FAMILY!

by Kathy Voss

Thank you, Church! The Rummage Sale was a HUGE success! We had set three goals for this event and all three were achieved:

1. Redeemer Church came together as a family with over 75 people





participating in some fashion,  
including financial donators.

2. We blessed our community, and as they entered our doors, welcomed them and invited them back for worship. Pray that the Holy Spirit brings them back soon.



3. WE, in turn, blessed *WATER MISSION* with our gift of \$7,750.00 from the combined sales and donations. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP, DONATIONS, AND LOVE!



**YOU WERE AMAZING!  
GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**

**WATER MISSION was supported  
through your donations and  
volunteered time!**

Thank you from:  
**Kathy Voss - Chairperson**  
**Gay Alcenius - Co-Chairperson**



### **SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

**Dave & Fran Althouse**  
09/03/1966

**Gary & Sharon Nehring**  
09/23/1967

**Rev. Walter & Carolyn Schmidt**  
09/07/1968

**Kurt & Linda Weck**  
09/08/1974

**Charles & Amanda Kapp**  
09/03/2016

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## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Kimber Walsh	09/02
Monica VanDerWeide	09/04
Cassandra Lockwood	09/07
Nancy DeGryse	09/08
Cecil Lanphear	09/08
Steven Rauscher	09/08
Janet (Jan) Bastien	09/09
John Bohm	09/11
Abigayle Challendar	09/12
Jason Mead	09/12
Katherine Albertson	09/14
Steven Alcenius	09/14
Judy Clouse	09/17
Caleb Bahr	09/18
Lucinda (Cindi) Byrd	09/19
Gary Nehring	09/19
Josh Brandt	09/21
Sue Simonsen	09/22
Carole Varney	09/23
James Wingle	09/25
Tyler DeSimpelare	09/26
Ronald Kane	09/28
Beverly Wisniach	09/28
Morgan Brandt	09/29



The third annual **FREE CONCERT** by the Capital City Brass Band took place on Redeemer's beautiful property on a cool Sunday afternoon that hinted at autumn. With a brisk breeze, and sweatshirts and umbrellas in attendance, more than 100 people joined us for a wonderful travel/vacation-themed concert. As children frolicked and played in the manicured pavilion area, and ice cream was served by our smiling volunteers,

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## **CCBB CONCERT & ICE CREAM SOCIAL**



music fans spread blankets or sat in lawn chairs enjoying everything from marches to Beatles tunes. It was a great afternoon spent enjoying the talents of this exceptional group of musicians



and visiting lands near and far via the vehicle of CCBB's talented members.

What a sweet way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

## FALL CLASSES

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

The 2024-25 school year is about to begin, and with it, the Sunday School year here at Redeemer. Sunday School offerings for the year will be 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. beginning on Sunday, September 8, 2024, and continue through May 18, 2025.

<b>Parent &amp; Toddler Bible Story (Under 3 years old)</b>	Main Level, Nursery
<b>Age 3-5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Armor of God</b>	Lower Level, Music Room
<b>Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: Who Jesus is</b>	Lower Level, Teen Room
<b>Adult Bible Study: Deliver Us! A study on the Exodus</b>	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.

## Michigan District Junior High Youth Gathering

Three of Redeemer's junior high-aged youth went to Frankenmuth for the

annual Michigan District Junior High Gathering in July. 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 including a mess-tival (messy festival).



The theme for this year's gathering was **Messy Mercy** and each session



pointed us to the messiness of our own lives in this sin-filled world and the



mercy of God which meets us in our mess and covers us and cleanses us.

One of our favorite sessions was led by LCMS DCE Karen Kempin in



which she talked about how a teenager changes the culture, drawing examples from the book of Daniel. It was not only faithful to Scripture and resonated with us, but it also provided much fodder for discussion in the car.



We thank you for your support of our youth and investing in them in ways that allow them to have opportunities like this one! It will not be soon forgotten!



Our Senior High Youth are already

planning for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer!

## 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.



Fall Session topics include:

October 2	Confession
October 9	Service Project
October 16	Political Engagement as a Christian
October 23	Lord's Supper
October 30	Why the Reformation matters today

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.

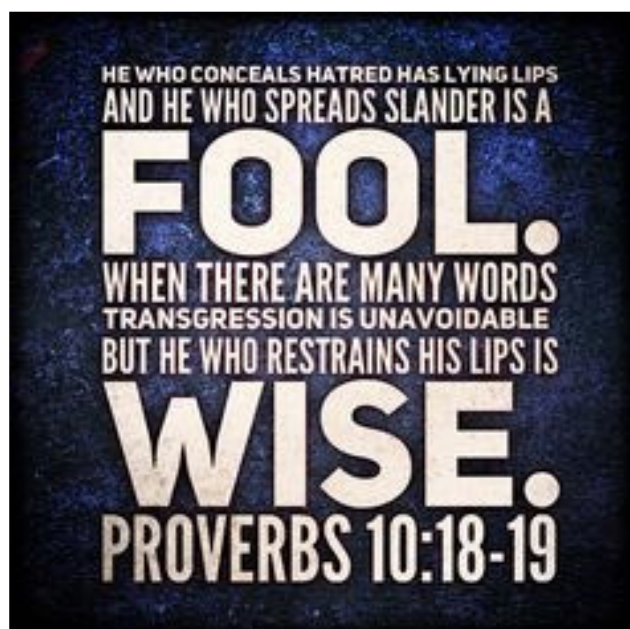
## ALWAYS SOMETHING TO SAY

by Craig Britton, Director of Care Ministries

Always something to say? Is that true? In a recent study, it is proposed that the average American speaks roughly 16,000 words per day. That's over 900 words per hour, taking on average



nearly two hours to speak them. Of course, this can vary widely. But it is no wonder that the Bible says so much about *saying*. From Proverbs and the Psalter to the Gospels, and in nearly every corner of the Bible, there are instructions about what to say, what not to say, and indeed, how words should be spoken. Here's an example: *"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."* So, St. Paul writes to the Ephesian Christians. I imagine they took it to heart as we might. I am equally sure that they faltered in keeping the charge of the great apostle. As did he. Lord, have mercy.



As we read the Bible and encounter passage after passage regarding the power of our speech, it is well for us to remember that everything that is, began with speech. God's speech. And as Psalm 12 reminds us, *"The words of the LORD are pure words."* Perhaps it would be well for us to muse on that

text the next time we open our mouths or even think to. I am often guilty of speaking what may hurt or damage others. Just as often, I realize that I did far too little thinking before opening my mouth.

Purposely, this article is short on words. While speech takes the form of the written text just now, I encourage us all, especially where the world seems to be heading, to take additional time to think before we speak, to realize our words are a reflection and product of our hearts. And to remember, the chief use of our words is the exaltation of our great God.

*God's peace to all.*

## FOOLS, TONGUES, AND SLANDEROUS WORDS

by P. L. Bennitt

"...in the Old Testament... a fool is a godless, and immoral person (cf. Ps. 14:1; Prov. 9:13-18; 14:9). He is a wicked reprobate, destitute of spirituality. Further, and most significantly, many... translators see the epithet, "You fool!" as implying a curse... as, "You cursed fool" [i.e. 'You damned fool!']... or you, fool, are damned!

Out of hateful and malicious anger, one individual is sitting in judgment on another (in effect, taking the place of God) and calling down eternal destruction on the object of his hateful wrath. This bears little relation to our current use of the word (fool) ..." <https://wordwisebiblestudies.com/the-fool>

It does, however, give us a close-up view of just how despicable one would have to be to get the label of fool.

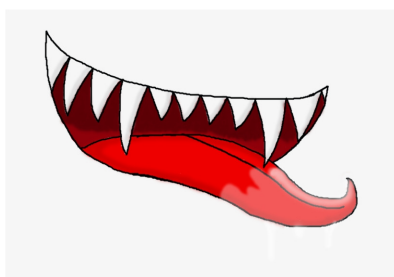


When we couple the derogatory term “fool” with “slander,” we are given a terrifying glimpse of the damage and ultimate carnage that can be caused by the sin of slander, and why it should be avoided. All this is presented to show us God’s view of how vile and appalling



slander is to Him.

In this day and age, I think we’ve lost the value of the depth and power of some of the old words used often in the Bible. Words like wrath, hellfire, and damnation don’t have the shock-value that they used to hold. Maybe we need to be reminded of the abject pain and grief that are part and parcel to slanderous remarks or mean-spirited comments. With that in mind, we should weigh our words carefully before we speak, because those words have power and should be used with discrimination. Consider the healing or the damage that our words can cause—*before* we open our mouths. A single

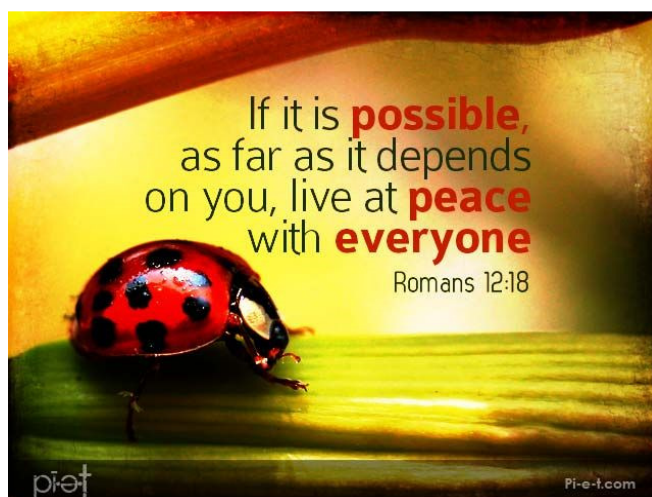


word spoken in haste can be hurtful beyond measure.

Last month, in this newsletter, we

deliberated on the adverse effects of gossip and how hurtful it can be. Bear in mind, slander is a malicious older cousin to gossip. The Bible warns about “lying lips, spreading strife, and slanderers separating close friends.” The evils of gossip are magnified in the wickedness of slander.

As God’s people, let’s be ever vigilant in guarding our thoughts and words against anything that would intentionally harm another. Our lives should always reflect our Redeemer.



## THE OPPOSITE OF SLANDER

by Lynne Gatz

My intention in writing an article in Redeemer’s newsletter this month is to express great appreciation to our church family for providing meals as we grieved the loss of our mother, Trudy Gatz. The topic of discussion this month being “slander,” seems harsh in regards to the intent of my message.

*“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure...think about such things.”*  
(Philippians 4:8).

Wise words for us to keep in mind as we mourn her loss.

You may or may not be aware of an incredible ministry within our church that provides meals to individuals during trying times [such as a death in the family, return home from hospital, shut-ins, etc.]. This ministry, led by Nyla Arvy, has been such a blessing to our family. We were uplifted more than you could imagine by this ministry. On Christmas Day, Nyla even provided an entire meal for us. We have such special people here at Redeemer who have showed such kindness. You all have helped mend our broken hearts as we adjust to a “new normal” in our lives. *“I thank my God every time I remember you,”* (Philippians 1:3). In the days and weeks that followed Mom’s passing, even grocery shopping or preparing even the simplest meal took so much effort. The kitchen was her space and there were reminders of her everywhere.

Life was so different one year ago. We were so blessed to have such a wonderful mom, and my Dad had his “sweet Trudy.” My mom was a very strong lady with incredible strength of character. She taught us to never malign, criticize, or speak poorly of anyone, and led by example. When I’d vent at the end of the day, she always seemed to take the other person’s side and try to help me see things from their point of view. I always wanted her to take my side, so I often found this frustrating. My parents have maintained tremendous empathy and caring for others, always living their life together in opposition to slander.

My Dad and I would like to thank you, our Redeemer Family, for caring for us. Each time someone brought a

meal, we prayed a prayer of thanksgiving and asked the Lord to bless those who were [and are] so caring.

*“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers”*  
(Thessalonians 1:2).

# BOOK REVIEWS

## A PROMISE TO BELIEVE IN

A novel by Tracie Peterson

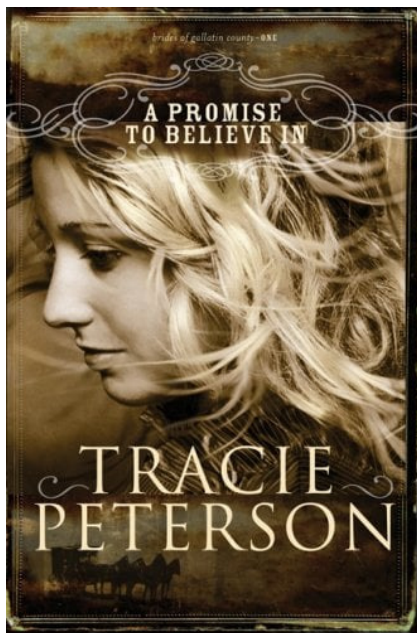
*A Promise to Believe In* begins with the senseless death of a good man, George Gallatin. He and his three daughters run a stage stop in a small Montana town, and although it’s a hard life, it’s the first time the sisters have ever known any sense of permanence in their lives. When their father is hit by a stray bullet one evening, Gwen Gallatin and her sisters are left alone to run the stage stop and deal with their grief.

Losing her father to a fluke accident after sending him on an errand, and being widowed on her wedding day, Gwen feels she has a curse on her, and her family and those she loves will eventually face death because of her.

When Hank shows up on the Gallatin House’s doorstep and demands to know which hussy married and killed his brother, he underestimates the sisters and their hard-earned independence and love for one another. Confronting Gwen, Beth, and Lacy just

after they'd buried their father and Gwen had been widowed, was pure bad timing. Since her husband Harvey was an orphan, and had no family, Gwen and her sisters expected Hank had some explaining to do.

Throughout the story, the reader will



enjoy the antics of Lacy, who is determined to get justice for her father's death, accident or not. And Beth pitches in to make Hank's life miserable enough to send him back to his

mama.

There are a few eligible bachelors woven into the story, and a nefarious saloon owner mixed in as well. Stirred in with the fact that the sisters and many others in this small Montana settlement have strong faith and caring hearts, maybe God is at work in all this and has a better plan and purpose in mind. Maybe Christian faith is at work even in the Old West.

This book, and thousands more like it, is available for all to check out and enjoy throughout the year. Amish living, mysteries, fantasy, children's books, family help and devotions, Bible history, theology, audio books, Christian movies, and more are available at all times. Browse at your

convenience and take some reading home with you today!

Adventure awaits between the covers of a book!

**Check it out!**

## TOPIC FOR OCTOBER

The writing prompt for **October** is **United**. Unity is what we strive for; united is what we are as a church family. But ARE we?

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.





# September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Divine Worship</b> 8:00 a.m. <b>NO BIBLE STUDY</b> <b>or SS Classes</b> <b>Praise &amp; Worship</b> 10:30 a.m.	<b>2</b>  LABOR DAY <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Hour of Prayer</b> 7:15 a.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Coffee with Pastor</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Craig's Bible Study</b> <b>Lloyd Ganton-S. A.</b> 2:00 p.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Divine Worship-C</b> 8:00 a.m. <b>Adult Bible Class &amp; Sunday School</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>Praise &amp; Worship-C</b> 10:30 a.m.	<b>9</b> <b>Craig's Bible Study Countryside</b> 1:30 p.m. <b>Praise Team</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>10</b> <b>Hour of Prayer</b> 7:15 a.m. <b>Choir</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Handbells</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>11</b> <b>Quilters</b> 9:30 a.m.	<b>12</b> <b>Coffee with Pastor</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Craig's Bible Study</b> <b>Lloyd Ganton-S. A.</b> 2:00 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
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<b>29</b> <b>Divine Worship-C</b> 8:00 a.m. <b>Adult Bible Class &amp; Sunday School</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>Praise &amp; Worship-C</b> 10:30 a.m.	<b>30</b> <b>Craig's Bible Study Countryside</b> 1:30 p.m. <b>Praise Team</b> 7:00 p.m.	 <b>C - denotes communion services</b>				