

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

MERCY



SEPTEMBER 2025 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 18 ISSUE 9

Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

*Making Jesus Known In The
Places Where We Live*

Redeemer Lutheran Church 3637 Spring Arbor Road, Jackson, MI 49201
Phone: 517-750-3100 Fax: 517-750-4590
Email: office@redeemerjackson.org
Visit our website at: www.redeemerjackson.org



SEPTEMBER 2025

MERCY

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 Mercy

Did you know mercy pursues you? It's all right there in Psalm 23. The Psalmist writes, in Psalm 23:6, *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."* The words "follow me" in the Hebrew have a strong connotation of pursuit or chasing after. Thanks be to God that He chases after us with love and mercy. We surely don't deserve it, but He chases us with it anyway!

A Word of Encouragement

As the summer winds down and we turn our attention to the fall, this is a great time to reflect on our routines. It's easy to get lost in all the summer activities. If you haven't been to church as frequently as you want, now is the time to jump right back in. I can tell you this, you won't regret it! I also highly encourage you to think about attending Bible study this fall. We are going to look at what it means to be the Body of Christ. You don't want to miss it!

A Request

As you may know, Redeemer has been a church focused on prayer for a very long time. We see in James that we are not only to confess our sins to one another, but also to pray for one another. James writes in James 5:16, *"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed."* I seek your prayers for me, the staff, those who are on our prayer chain, the direction of the church, and protection from the enemy. You may even want to grab the directory and just start praying through it for each person in our church family. Thank you for being a people of prayer!

In Closing

Hebrews 12:1 states, *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..."* We, at Redeemer, are truly surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. I thank God for each one of you. I am thankful to be a part of this Redeemer family! I look forward to seeing where our Lord leads us in this next year! May our eyes ever be fixed on Him!

In Christ,

Reverend Zach Holdorf

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.

☺ **September 7—Sunday School for
children and youth resumes at 9:30
a.m.** They will meet in the lower-level
classrooms.

☺ **September 13—Women of
Redeemer Fall Event.** We will be
blessed to have a presentation from
Karlee Gamet with highlights from her
summer mission trip to Guatemala. We
will meet in the Connection Room in
the lower level, from 10:00 a.m. until
12:00 p.m. A baked potato brunch with
various wonderful toppings will be an
added treat for our time together.

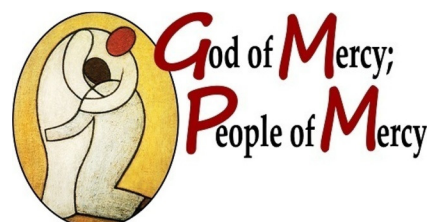
☺ **September—Pray Jackson** prayer
focus. **Time and meeting place TBA.**
5:30-7:00 p.m. Watch the bulletin
and/or check with Craig.

☺ **Saturday, September 27, Mobile
Food Pantry at Trinity downtown, from
10:00-11:30 a.m.** Volunteers should
meet at Trinity Lutheran and be
available from 9:00 a.m. until noon.



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



RUMMAGE SALE A SUCCESS!

by Kathy Voss



Our Annual Rummage Sale, held on August 1 and 2 this year, was a huge success! Thank you to all who donated time, food, clean and usable sale items, and prayer support for this mission and ministry event.

Once again, proceeds from the sale

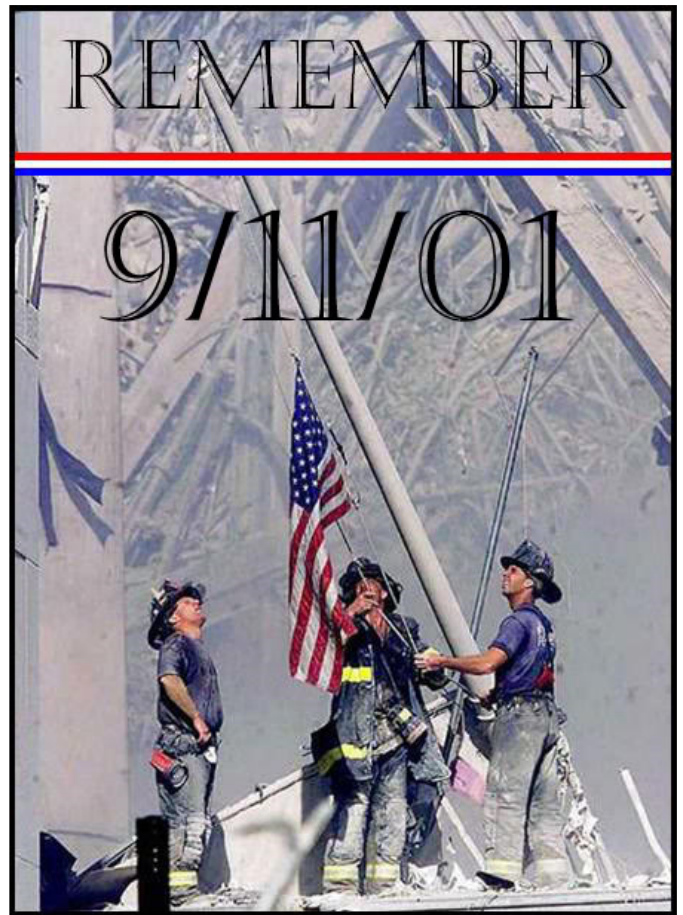


went to support Water Mission ministry, which helps provide for sanitation



and safe water for people and areas in dire need of clean water and water systems. This year the Rummage Sale raised \$10,000 for this worthy service ministry through sales and donations. Thank you to the Redeemer Family and the wonderful community where we live!

LEST WE FORGET!





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



OCTOBER WRITING PROMPT

The writing prompt for **October** is **Reform**.

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 in the Jackson area.

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.

NEEDED AND GIVEN

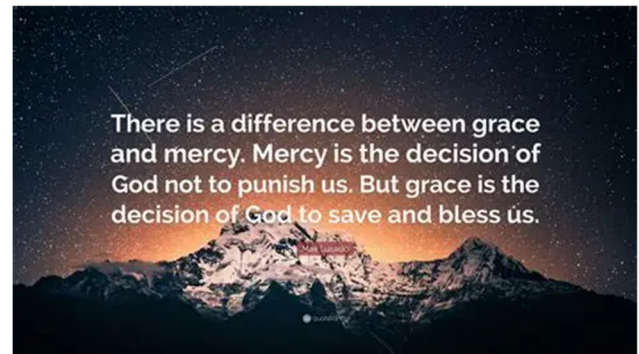
by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

When our wonderful editor let us know the prompt for this month's newsletter, I had a two-pronged response. First, was, "Oh, one of my most favorite topics." But as I began to consider just how to approach it for this format, I had another response: "Ugh! To admit loving God's mercy, there must come a confession. And one which attempts, at least, to fit the love of the subject so stated."

Mercy is a most blessed topic. But to truly love it, one must have not only experienced it but have embraced it. And there are no half measures in mercy. No bits and pieces. It's all or nothing. And that's where my second response becomes a challenge. To love mercy, to truly love it, one needs to grapple and own the fact that one needs it. And not some namby-pamby kind of need, but full-throated and dire need. And I do.

Be honest. Please be honest with yourself on this front. Is there a day, or any part of any day, where you don't see your great need of God's sweet mercy? Mercy is that divine withholding from us what we most certainly deserve. And what we deserve is beyond any help, save that which is offered in Jesus.

I had a wonderful seminary professor who used to say to us, "There is no prayer which our Lord loves to hear more from His children than this, "Lord, have mercy." Really? I used to think.



With all I could speak to the God of the universe about, with all I could ask from Him, His favorite request to hear is, "Have mercy, Lord?" I still think of that often. And I'm glad that I do.

I am a great "user" of that prayer. And I have found its sweetness to be without qualification. I'm not proud that I *need* to voice the prayer as much as I do. And I also pray that I will need to less. But how I relish that I have learned of God's mercy, its source, and its availability.

The great and ancient "Jesus Prayer" is a great way to make this need rise to the surface of our thoughts each day. Do you know it? It goes like this: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." It's also wonderful to pray it with plural pronouns to cover our forever family. If it isn't a part of your practice, perhaps that is a good addition to the conversations you have with our Father. Remember, it's something He loves to hear. From you.

prayer

CCBB CONCERT & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On Sunday, August 10 at 2:30 p.m., the annual Redeemer Ice Cream Social and CCBB Concert was held in the Redeemer pavilion. Ice cream was served beginning at 2:30 p.m., with the concert starting promptly at 3:00 p.m.

A sweet treat of ice cream and the heavenly gift of a soft breeze on a hot

and humid summer day added to the classic refreshment of wonderful music played by the talented Capital City Brass Band. What a refreshing way to while away a sultry afternoon!

There was no charge for this event, as it is Redeemer's gift to our community. Donations, however, are always welcome for the ongoing efforts



of the CCBB's musical contributions to our Jackson community and surrounding areas.

Thank you to the faithful few who did set up, serving, and teardown. You are an amazing gift to the community and to our faith family. Jackson is so blessed to have such a talented group of musicians who are willing to share that gift with their community. Thank you CCBB... again!

YOUTH GATHERING 2025! NEW ORLEANS



Redeemer and Trinity Lutheran Churches combined their youth and youth leaders to travel to New Orleans to attend the Youth Gathering held in late July that brought 20,000 youth and youth leaders together. Many said it was a great experience, but that the bus trips there and back were miserably long. But some great memories were made along the way.

They got home tired but with memories of an event that they'll remember for a lifetime. Thank you to our faith family for helping them earn their way to such a wonderful experience!



TALKING WITH GOD

O Lord, I feel my heart panic from those forces that seem to overwhelm me. I am so afraid, because my world seems to be in such horrible jeopardy. Help me, O Lord, to turn to You for courage during this dreadful time. Increase my faith and strengthen my confidence in Your care for my welfare. This I pray. Amen.

What do you believe today in spite of your circumstances? In Whom do you trust today, given your circumstances? Let faith be your resting place—your sanctuary in the middle of the chaos.



CALLING ALL WOMEN! FALL EVENT

On September 13, the Women of Redeemer (LWML) will have a Fall Gathering in the Connection Room in the lower level, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Karlee Gamet who will give a presentation with highlights from her summer mission trip to Guatemala. A brunch of baked potatoes with various wonderful toppings will be provided, an added treat for our time together.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you would like to attend, please sign up so we have

enough for everyone to enjoy. We hope you join us for this kick-off event for all LWML Women of Redeemer for the year.

If you plan to attend and could bring men's ties to make glasses cases for MOST Ministries, that would be great! Any questions? Please contact Donna Zastrow or the church office for more information.



MERCY

P. L. Bennitt

Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man."

2 Samuel 24:14

No one is as merciful as our God. **No one!** If this were not true, would we still be here? Think about it! We are sinful and totally unworthy of anything we receive from God. **TOTALLY.**

UNDESERVING. Not worth any effort on His part at all. But His mercy is such an integral part of Who He is, He can't help but be merciful and loving to His badly flawed children. We are blessed beyond measure by our flawlessly perfect Heavenly Father. Thank God we are **NOT** dependent upon man for mercy and forgiveness. King David had it right, "...let us fall into [God's] hands, not the hands of man."

Ever feel worthless or depressed about yourself and all you haven't done in a week? Ever look around at how productive and godly everyone else seems to be? Wondering why you're not doing or being more than what you are?

**STOP IT!
NOW!**

You are the best **YOU** God ever made! The old saying, "God don't make junk!" is still true today. You are still around because God has some amazing plans for you! In His mercy and love for us, His plans are still intact.

God has surrounded you with all you need to complete His plans for you. In His mercy, He will grant you His mercy and peace to be your best **YOU**. Just ask Him. And move forward into His grace!

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>C-Denotes Communion Services</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p> <p>Handbells 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Divine Worship 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Youth Classes Start 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p> <p>Handbells 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Quilters 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>LWML Women of Redeemer Fall Brunch</p> <p>10:00 a.m.— 12:00 Noon</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Adult Bible Study, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p> <p>Choir 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pray Jackson!</p> <p>Time: TBA</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Divine Worship 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Adult Bible Study, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Praise & Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p> <p>Choir 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Quilters 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Coffee with Pastor Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Lloyd Ganton-S. A. 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity</p> <p>10:00-11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Need Volunteers</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Divine Worship-C 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Adult Bible Study, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Praise & Worship-C 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Luke in the Land Women's Bible Study-10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study Countryside 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Team 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.</p> <p>Choir 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells 7:15 p.m.</p>	 <p><i>Autumn</i></p>			