

August 2018

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF REDEEMER CHURCH



## Fuse is Back!

We are starting earlier this year, August 19th, with a new time, 6:15 PM, and with both Jr. High and Sr. High on the same night! That means there will be a lot more fun to be had!

Come join us for:

- Opening night on August 19th
- Movie night on the 26th
- the 5th Annual Jello-Riot on September 9th

Bring a friend and see you there!

If you have any questions please contact Pastor Mike Weiss at 414-541-5580 or [mike@redeemerefc.com](mailto:mike@redeemerefc.com).

## The Food Pantry Needs You

The pantry is open every Monday from 9:00 am to Noon and the second, third and last Saturdays of the month from 8:00-10:00 AM. We are in need of volunteers to work at least one day a month to help with serving patrons of the pantry. Contact Richard or Marla Demien if interested in joining the team.

The pantry serves over 120 families per month, providing over \$60,000 worth of food last year to needy families within the community. The food and personal care items are provided from Hunger Task Force and Redeemer Church donations. Please join with the Pantry Team members to continue to provide this service to the community.

## It's That Time of Year Again!

The first night of Awana will be on Wednesday, September 5th with a Family Fest kick-off! This will include jump houses, food, and games. We will also have a table where you can register your child(ren) for the upcoming Awana year. Volunteers are needed to make this night a success. Please sign-up at the Welcome Desk.

We will also have pre-registration on Sunday, September 9th between services. This will give Redeemer families multiple opportunities to register their children.

Finally, thank you so much for answering our need for Leaders last year. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you have any questions or would like to serve at Awana, please contact Earl Przybylski at 414-507-6801 or [earlprz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:earlprz@sbcglobal.net). See you in September!



### SAFETY CORNER

## It Takes Many to Protect the Church

Ask 100 people from 100 different churches, "What's the number one concern in safety and security in your church? Virtually all will say "The children come first. Protect the children."

Redeemer's Safety/Security Team agrees. That's why the S/ST wishes to acknowledge the support and close-knit cooperation it receives from many others in the church including the Pastoral and Office Staff, the Children's Wing leadership and classroom volunteers, Elders, and Trustees to support our mission to watch over all in our church, and especially the children.

Church members as a whole would like their churches to be wide open and welcoming. They don't like locked doors, security cameras, and the need for a ministry that focuses the safety and security. But many are coming to realize this new reality is here to stay. It is a new normal.

# Loving the Alien Because We're Aliens

There is an interesting section in Deuteronomy chapters 9-11. After discussing the importance of adhering to an attitude of gratitude towards God (rather than assuming that God was rewarding the people because they were righteous...which the Israelites were not), God follows His putting of Israel in their place with a series of exhortations, starting in Deuteronomy 10:12 and following. One of those commands is to...

*"...show your love for the alien (Heb-ger), for you were aliens in the land of Egypt." (Deut. 10:19)*

Among the responses to the fact that we are given so much by God because He is gracious (and certainly not because we deserve it), is to show empathy to the vulnerable and put that empathy into action. This Hebrew term "ger" refers to a "resident alien", someone who is not an Israelite, but has been given permission to live in the land, along with respecting Israel's laws, particularly about worship of YHWH. And Israel is supposed to not only empathize with this person, but to treat them with dignity and care knowing that they were at a certain disadvantages. Israel knew well what it was like to live in a land that was foreign territory. They had to request

permission to settle in Egypt (Gen. 47:4) and have that request granted (Gen. 47:5-6), but they were always at the mercy of the Egyptians. And they felt that vulnerability keenly when a new Pharaoh arose who did not honor any previous arrangements with Israel and instead, enslaved them (Ex. 1:8-11). And so, Israel is told to empathize with the resident aliens in their land, knowing keenly their disadvantages (e.g. language barriers, cultural barriers, etc...that would also lead to economic disadvantages). And not just empathize, but love!

Today's equivalent to the Old Testament "ger" would be legal immigrants who will still be at a disadvantage with language barriers, refugees who have been granted asylum, but are still quite vulnerable, etc... And Redeemer has been given a wonderful opportunity. After a long process involving the elders, trustees, pastors, and others, we are opening our doors to Shalom Christian Fellowship! Pastor Paul Sum shepherds this small church made up of Chin-speaking Burmese Christians, many of whom

came to the United States as religious refugees. They began utilizing our building, having outgrown their previous space, on July 22nd. So we are grateful that God has given us the opportunity to offer grace to them as He has given us much grace as well. But, more than that, we want to do more than offer them space. We want to embrace them as fellow brothers and sisters of the same grace and allegiance—to the glory of Jesus. It is an undeniable Christian stance and it is a clear command and application of the Word of God through our study of the book of Deuteronomy. What better way to show our gratitude for the love of God than to pass it forward in this way?

~ Pastor Dave



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Redeemer Evangelical Free Church  
7735 W. Howard Ave, P.O. Box 20864  
Milwaukee WI 53220

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