

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS**

EDIT



**AUGUST 2019 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 12 ISSUE 8**

Redeemer **Reflection** Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

BUT I WAS SO CAREFUL

by Pastor Michael Geml

For most people today, email has become one of the many ways we communicate. We can even send emails to a whole group of people. When I send an email, I am overly cautious not to hit “send,” until I have read and reread my message several times to make sure there are no errors, either in spelling, grammar or punctuation. I don’t want people who receive my emails to think, “Man, what a dope. Why did he use the subjunctive and how does a pastor misspell the word, Church?” I suppose I can be overly careful not wishing to look dumb. Even when I think I have done the proper editing of my emails, there have been times when I realize that an error has gone undetected.

I can also be critical in the things I read. I have been using my current daily devotion for almost two years. I have read through the whole book twice. Looking through the pages, there are many words that have been highlighted with a blue marker because there are errors. See if you can catch the error in this example. “We have looked upon our Lord and Savior, who with the bright



light of His grace shines His face upon us.” I don’t know about you, but I would rather the Lord **shine** His face upon us.

The truth is, try as we might, there will be errors in what we say and do because we are flawed people. To be critical

of such tendencies in ourselves reminds us of who we are this side of heaven. We are sinners in need of editing. The flaws, the missteps, the sins of all people need correcting, and no amount of rereading and revisiting will correct the underlying problem. Only Jesus Christ can do that, and He has done that for us all. How blessed we are not only to know our Savior and the forgiveness He freely gives, but also that we have the infallible, unchanging Word of God. We read the Holy Scriptures not in search of errors. We read it to know that our errors have been corrected and perfected in the love of God, through Jesus our Savior.

The next time someone (myself included) sends an email or writes an article with an error, forgive them, just as in Christ Jesus, God has forgiven you.

God’s peace be with you!

Pastor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUGUST

Samantha Anderson	08/02
Blair Bennitt	08/02
Abigail Bahr	08/03
Kevin Herrick	08/03
Janet Gamet	08/04
Bob Rice	08/07
Andy Biegner	08/08
Ron Rockwell	08/09
Kay Burger	08/11
Craig Britton	08/12
David McFarland	08/12
Elsie Lyn Walsh	08/14
Dana Farley	08/15
Winifred Engle	08/18
Fran Althouse	08/19
Michelle Potter	08/19
Deb Fall	08/20
Ron Ellison	08/21
Trudy Gatz	08/24
Nelda Hoffer	08/24
Madison Brandt	08/25
Caeley Schnebelt	08/25
Allan Arvy	08/28
Stephanie Herrick	08/30
Sophia Kane	08/31

TOPIC FOR SEPTEMBER

The topic for September is *Proof*.

The *Reflection* is meant to help reflect our Lord in the daily life and actions of His people, giving proof of His existence in our lives, particularly through our activities and worship services here at

Redeemer. What can you share that will show God working in your life or reflect Him in those around you?

Please consider sharing your insights and encouragement in an article for this newsletter. Invite others to be part of an experience that reveals our Lord actively at work in our world today.

If you have comments or questions concerning our *Reflection* newsletter or its content, please feel free to send them to me at the email address listed in this article, and I will try to answer questions or refer you to a staff member who may be able to help.

Send articles or information to bennitt49@yahoo.com, by the 15th of each month, to be included in the following month's newsletter. Articles on the topics of Family, Prayer, and Outreach are always welcome and accepted for publication each month.

FROM THE GARDEN

by Judy Speed



EDIT

When it comes to gardens, don't be afraid to change things around and try new flowers or vegetable plants, or new combinations of both.

If you grow tired of something, take it out and try something new. If you find

you have varieties of perennials that are taking over your spaces, don't be afraid to thin them down. If you have other areas to move those thinned-out plants, fine. If not, give to a gardener friend or simply pitch them. Just don't be afraid to edit your garden when you feel necessary.

There seems to be a guarantee in life that change will happen. Change is something we tend to fear and become anxious about because we don't feel in control of life.

The good news is that God has a plan for our lives. If we trust in God and allow the change to help us become more like Jesus Christ in how we respond and act, then we are promised 'that all things will work together for good for those who love Him and keep His commandments.'

Embrace change (editing) as a challenge to grow.



😊 **Sunday, August 4: BUILDERS** family building time; reserve the first Sunday of each month, **3:30-6:00 p.m.**, with a meal included. This is for all who desire more "tools" for "doing family" the way God intends. All ages and stages are welcome. Sign up on the list in the narthex if you plan to attend.

😊 **Sundays, July 14-August 25:**
Lutheranism 101 Class. Any and all are

welcome and encouraged to be a part of Pastor's Adult Information Class. The class meets at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays through August 25, with the exception of August 4, when Pastor will not be available.

😊 **Saturday, August 3: Community Care Day.** This will be the third year for this evolving event, a cooperation between Trinity and Redeemer Lutheran churches to provide needed help in our community. The event is available from **9:30 a.m. to Noon.** Supplies are donated and are available while they last.

😊 **September 14: Cedar Point's PointFest.** Cedar Point will be hosting this Christian music festival featuring TobyMac, Zach Williams, Elevation Worship, and more. \$50 per person for Cedar Point, Pointfest, and overnight stay. See Dave and Kim McFarland for more information.

😊 **Friday, August 16: Lugnuts Game at 7:05 p.m.** This annual event is a fun chance to see a great ball game, enjoy baseball "food," and enjoy time with family and friends with an evening at the ball park. See Craig Britton for more information and to reserve tickets.

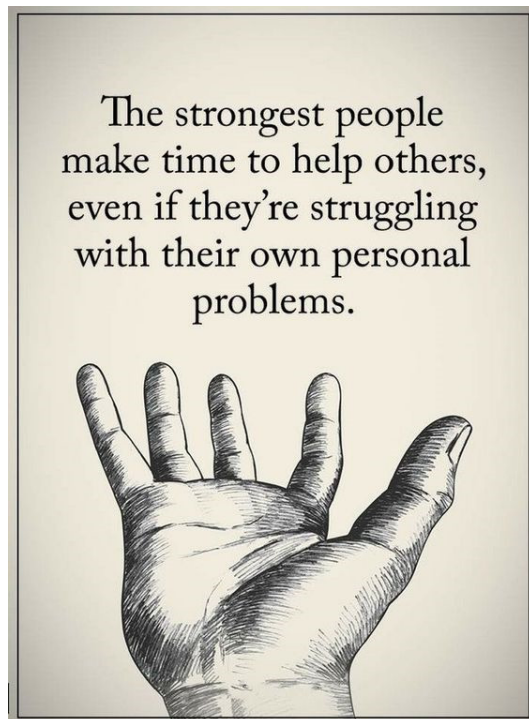
CHRISTIAN CARE MINISTRY

by Nyla Arvy

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, you labor not in vain.

I Corinthians 15:58

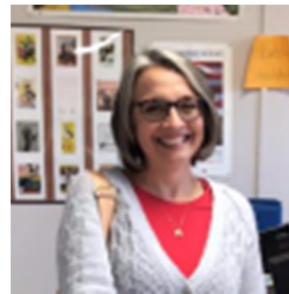
Are you looking for suggestions for something useful to do for others? Always remember that there is room for



random acts of kindness to others at very little cost. May I suggest you brighten someone's day by sending a greeting card to someone on our church roster? Remember the times when you gathered the daily mail from your mailbox and you discovered a handwritten card amongst the envelopes? Can you recall the joy at seeing the card addressed to you and the anticipation of reading the contents? Why not make someone's day by sending a card. The Redeemer roster is available at the information station or by asking for one in the church office. My challenge to you is to randomly pick a family from the list, even if you don't know them, and let them know who you are and that you care about them!

On fifth Sundays, plan to take part in the potluck lunch, socialize, and catch up on everyone's summer activities and news. We ask for some volunteers to set up tables and chairs a few days before

the date, to put out the food the day of, and to clean up and put things away. Thank you in advance!



I AM JUST A HUMAN, BEING

Reposted and Revisited July of 2019 from JULY 18, 2014

by Kristin Rathje, guest writer, with selections and/or excerpts from her Blog, *Next Chapter*; used with permission.

Many have pointed out the irony of being called 'human beings' in a culture that is so focused on 'doing.' We often find our worth, meaning, and identity through what we *do*. Strangers, upon meeting, ask one another, "so what do you *do*?" The child comes home from school, and the parent asks, "what did you *do* today?" The husband says to the wife, "what have you been doing?" It's fine if what you *did* was close a million-dollar deal, get an A on a paper, or promote world peace, but not so great if what you did was file for bankruptcy, get in a fight with a friend, or simply change diapers all day. When we form our identity or measure our worth based on what we do, we may end up struggling with perfectionism, workaholism, and, in the absence of peak-performance, depression.

I must admit from the start, that in the world of *doing*, I have been an over-achiever. I stood at the starting line of adulthood declaring that I was going to win. I was the mom who, while holding a full-time teaching position, trained for and ran a half-marathon, baked cinnamon rolls and tortillas from scratch,

clipped coupons, and made all my children's clothes (just kidding on that last one). You get the point. I have got *doing* down. To a fault. I often *do* when I don't want to feel, or when I need to be in control, or when I am angry or afraid. It is my way of avoiding the interior me — the human *being*. So when my health began to shift and I suddenly found myself unable to *do* all the things I like to *do* and started to *be*, it



was pretty ugly. I began to *be* angry, and scared, and depressed, and worried, and sad, and bored. I didn't like to *be* with me. I was downright whiny — and this momma has never done whiny!

My strategy to cope with this was, of course, to *do* something! While I was struggling to manage all the responsibilities of my full-time-plus position as a teacher and administrator of a high school, I spent evenings and weekends applying for all kinds of jobs where I could *do less*! After about six months *doing* that, I got an interview and an offer to *do*, shockingly, more! And then, ...and then...a solution was provided! I didn't have to *do* anything! My husband was offered a position that relocated us to a new environment and provided me with some time to just *be*. And here we are.

Being.

A long time ago, a huge group of people was following Jesus around, so he walked up the side of a mountain and started speaking to them. He said,

“You *are* the salt of the earth...you *are* the light of the world.” He didn't say “Be the salt of the earth.” Or, “be the light of the

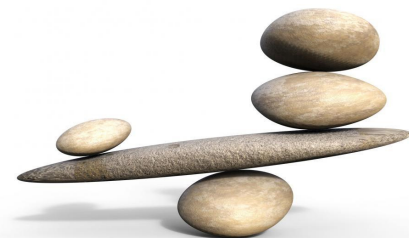


world.” He said “you *are*.” The word “are” is the present tense plural form of “be.” We *are* already the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Our identity is not dependent on what we *do*. Our identity is firmly planted in Christ. We *are* His.

I enter this time of rest and *be-ing* chanting this mantra, “I am His. I am a human, being His.”

I will pray that you find some space to just *be* today, too.

Epilogue: Five years later, I'm still trying to find the balance between being and doing. I'm discovering in many areas of life that balance is not about choosing one option (i.e. being) over another (i.e. doing), but about finding ways to live in the tension of the existence of both. Our identity is based on



who we *are* in Christ, **and** He calls us to *do* — to live our life — out of that truth. We can *do* great things because of who He has made us to *be*, which is really not as easy as it sounds, especially in a culture that values accomplishment

and status. We can easily forget that the most important is already done; we quickly fall back into patterns of trying to do more to earn position, identity, or status. However, when we realize that our identity is based on who we are in Christ, we can freely do without the added pressure of earning our worth.

As I watched our granddaughters this weekend, I loved them every minute — when they were charming, when they were naughty, when they were sleeping, and when they were showing off. My love for them was not based on what they were doing; I am simply in love with their beings. As they grow, others may not be so kind, but the One who made them — and us — will love them through all the things that they *do*, while they learn who He has made them to *be*. The same is true for you and me.

Be kind and compassionate to one another.”

Ephesians 4:32

EDIT

by Peggy Bennitt

To edit: *Arrange, revise, and/or prepare written, audio, or video material for final production, usually by a party (called an editor) other than the creator of the material. The objectives of editing include (1) detection and removal of factual, grammatical, and typographical errors, (2) clarification of obscure passages, (3) elimination of parts not suitable for the targeted audience, and (4) proper sequencing to achieve a smooth, unbroken flow of narrative.*

Retrieved on June 23, 2019, from:

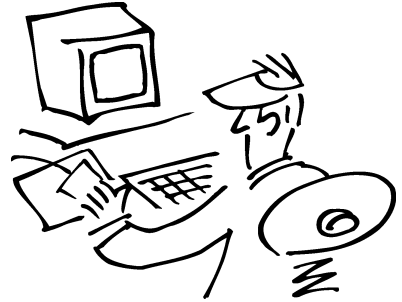
<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/editing.html>

Editing is a vital part in the creation of a product to make it as perfect as possible, or better stated: the best I can do. As editor of the *Redeemer Reflection*, it is my responsibility to gather, assemble/“layout” written materials provided, check for factual, doctrinal, and grammatical errors, search out interesting articles that might encourage and inform our members in their daily walk with our Lord, and write the occasional article.

I actually have an expert who double-checks my editing as well, and adds her professional touch by a final edit to catch my mistakes. Monica V. is as necessary to me as breathing when it comes to the editing process. I too will “read” what I think I wrote and “see” what I expect to see written in materials I have perused several times. An edit by several people is imperative to produce the best product possible.

Now, what on earth does *edit* have to do with us?

Do we want to be the best we can be? How well do we manage *being the best* on our own? I don’t know about you, but I’m muddling along making one mistake after another continually. And, I’m not sure, but I think I may have cornered the market on self-pity, doubt, and pride. What a strange mix that is, right? So, it would be nice to have someone who could edit my life and fix or erase the mistakes that are a huge part of my reality here on Planet Earth. Anyone else there with me?





Enter: The Editor. He can remove doubt, erase self-pity, and reinstate the pride of being His child under His guidance and direction. How does this happen? *Ask.* When I swallow my earthly pride and ask Him to make me the perfect work He intended me to be from the start, then He can make me a blank page and fill it perfectly. Our Editor-in-Chief gave His Son Jesus to white-out all our sins, both now and in the future. Oh, and He's deleted all those nasty mistakes from the past as well.



Nothing will escape His all-seeing eye as He removes all the errors of our sins through His Son's erasing blood. Through this forgiveness, our eyes are opened and we see clearly as people free of the fear of eternal death because that is no longer who we are. He now gives us all a smooth and unbroken flow to the narrative of our life, right up to our transition into our eternal home in heaven with Him.

None of us are perfect this side of heaven. But thanks to our heavenly Editor, we have a cleaned up manuscript of our life with a new theme to the narrative. His story has now become our story. And all we have to do is ask Him. Prayer is available to us 24/7 with no

waiting or leaving a message. The peace and comfort available from Him are ours in a constant and overflowing measure. Tap into Him as your go-to resource and let Him edit the mistakes and replace the worry with His peace.

Edit my life, O Lord.

Make it read like the faith-walk You meant me to have, with You as my Guide and my life Editor. Correct my errors and give to me the discernment that comes from Your instructions through Your Word.

Give me Your peace and comfort as I continue to write my story on the pages of time. Grant wisdom to my words and sensitivity to my writing. Guide my heart, and lead me with Your editorial guidelines (The Bible) into life eternal. Help me to be an example of a God-fearing follower of You.

Amen.

"...my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer."

Psalms 45:1

FAMILY FAITH LIFE

by Kimber Walsh, Director of Family Life Education, CFLE, Redeemer Lutheran Church



As the kids head back to school later this month, there are many new experiences and re-visiting of some familiar experiences. In both, there are opportunities to talk about the things of

God as we are charged to do in Deuteronomy 6:6-7:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the way, when you lie down and when you get up.”

Here are some ideas for how we can use the back-to-school time to talk about faith and point our families to God:

† **New Teacher**—For the most part, a new school year brings with it a new teacher. A new person to both learn from and learn about. A new authority-figure. And a new start. God is all about new starts. His mercies are new every morning (Lam. 3:23). He gives us unending forgiveness and keeps wiping our slate clean over and over again so that we can start fresh. Talk about what having a new start from God means to you and how that new start can be used as an opportunity.

† **New Class**—In a new class or a new grade, some might know one student, and some might not. Sometimes that can cause anxiety and feelings of wondering where one “fits.” This is a great time to discuss true identity and that we are God’s because He claimed us through baptism (Is. 43:1). Talk together about all the groups, formal or informal, that you are in. Talk about how that can lead to sometimes feeling included or excluded from other groups. Talk about how you are in God’s family and always fit there no matter how you fit anywhere else.

† **Lunchbox**—When a lunch gets packed, there’s lots of decisions to make. Turkey or ham? Cheese or no cheese? Carrots or celery or both? Maybe cucumbers instead? An apple or an orange? How will it all fit without

getting smooshed? How will it stay cool but not freeze? Even in the lunchroom—to trade or not to trade? Which item sounds better? Thinking about how we weigh our “lunchbox decisions” can also help us think about how we weigh our decisions in daily life. Talk about how we make decisions, what factors go into them and what makes some decisions sound better than others. Talk about how the Holy Spirit guides us in making our daily decisions and how we can see that as a blessing.

† **Field Trips**—School field trips feel like the most exciting days of the year to students—a break from the classroom, a chance to learn in a different setting (sometimes when they don’t realize they are learning at all!), and the experience itself of wherever the class is going. Talk about places you are excited to go as a family or with your class/work. What makes you most excited about those places? Talk about how right now we are not with God and the excitement that we will someday all get to be with Him. Talk about what that might be like.

As your family transitions back into a school routine, challenge yourselves to think about ways to see God at work and talk about what He’s up to on a regular basis.



Builders is our monthly family life time—covering various

topics and doing various activities that will build up your family and build up the body of Christ. No matter what life stage or make-up of your family, you are

welcome to join in our time together. All of us could use a little more Biblical perspective on how we do family and we can all be a part of encouraging others as well. We will meet on August 4, 3:30-6:00 p.m. The topic for our time together this month will be: Faith5. Dinner is included when you sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Signing up helps to make plans and accommodations for all.

Questions? Contact Kimber Walsh at kimber@redeemerjackson.org or 517-750-3100.

Flood Buckets for Detroit

At the end of June, Redeemer assembled 100 flood buckets for the Michigan District's Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) to be used with those affected by flooding in the Detroit



area this year. We had servants from the age of 1 through 90 from our Redeemer family work together to assemble the buckets.

The Detroit area experienced

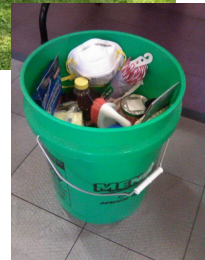
record-breaking flooding this spring and summer with an estimated 3,000



homes being affected in Wayne County in the May flooding alone, and more since. Our buckets are being utilized in the Jefferson Chalmers area, which has

experienced extreme flooding. The retaining walls there have not been able to withstand the ongoing high waters. Please continue to pray for the families affected by the flooding this year.

Redeemer would like your support to continue with disaster relief efforts in the future. If you'd like to take a more active role with the Michigan District's LERT, contact Kimber Walsh at kimber@redeemerjackson.org.



COMMUNITY CARE EVENT

Please volunteer in some way for our Community Care Event, which will be **at Trinity, on Saturday August 3, beginning at 9:30 a.m.** Thank you, Redeemer, for all your support!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p style="text-align: center;">2019 C—Holy Communion</p>				<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>Community Prayer 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m. at Ganton's Assisted Living, S. A.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>  <p>Community Care Day with Trinity @ Trinity 9:30 a.m.—Noon</p> <p>Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>NO Lutheranism 101 Class Today</p> <p>Divine Service— C 9:30 a.m.</p> <p><i>Builders of Family</i> 3:30—6:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>Community Prayer 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m. at Ganton's Assisted Living, S. A.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p>Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>Lutheranism 101 Class 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Divine Service 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>Quilters 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Ministry Council 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>Community Prayer 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m. at Ganton's Assisted Living, S. A.</p> <p><i>Newsletter Deadline</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p>  <p>Game Time 7:05</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>Lutheranism 101 Class 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Divine Service— C 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>Community Prayer 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m. at Ganton's Assisted Living, S. A.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>Lutheranism 101 Class 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Divine Service 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>Hour of Prayer 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Leadership Board/ Ministry Council 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>Community Prayer 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m. at Ganton's Assisted Living, S. A.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <p>Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.</p>