# REDEEMER REFLECTION

# NEW YEAR, SAME OLD THING

by Pastor Michael Geml

To those among us who are inclined to make a New Year's resolution I say, "More power to ya!" I gave up on those many years ago. All of my previous resolutions to better myself always came to a predictable,

sad ending, usually after just a few short days if not a few short hours. I have come to the realization that when I resolve to make improvements in my life, either physical or spiritual, I tend to be much more successful when my motivation is not based on a date on the calendar but on what best honors God. In other words, improvements which I consider to be necessary in my life are placed under the category of "Christian Stewardship." Or, how can I better use the gifts of body and soul that God has given to glorify Him and serve others?

That brings me to the subject that has been whispered about for the past two-and-a-half years here at Redeemer. What does Pastor eat? The reason that question is asked is because of the changes that Ruth and I have made in our daily lives. The bottom line is there are certain foods we eat and certain ones we don't. WE ARE NOT VEGANS! Our diet is best described as Whole Foods, Plant Based. (Genesis 1:29). Again, this was not a vanity decision. It was a decision, or resolution, based on my family history and on the health concerns I was experiencing at the time.



Space and time do not permit me to go into details here. However, for those whose interest has been piqued, I do plan on sharing with anyone interested the extended explanation. This upcoming event will include a number of free samples of culinary creations that have

become family favorites. We will also be showing a fascinating documentary that sets forth in more detail the science, the medical background, and the astounding things taking place in the lives of more and more people who have resolved to make a change for the better.

Some information that comes to us throughout our lives is just that; informational. It is interesting but that is as far as it goes. But occasionally some of the information becomes transformational. The information you will hear, if you come to the event, may or may not be life-changing, but I guarantee it will be informative and enjoyable. Additional information concerning times and dates will be coming in the New Year. Until then, whatever you resolve to do or to not do in the New Year 2019, may it be something that honors God and serves your neighbor. A most blessed, safe, and happy New Year to all!

In Christ's service,
Pastor Geml



# **JANUARY**

Marilyn Rockwell	01/01
Maggie Haas	01/03
Don Zastro	01/03
Katherine Krauss	01/04
Christopher Krauss	01/05
Jamie Herrick	01/05
Sharon Weatherwax	01/05
Fred Wait	01/07
Diane Siedzik	01/08
Jill Kielhorn	01/09
David Voss	01/09
Jessica Ellison	01/10
Ross Noakes	01/10
Andy Schnebelt	01/10
Donna Wait	01/10
Bruce Harshe	01/13
Hayden McFarland	01/17
Bob Varney	01/17
Jamie Brandt	01/21
Karlee Gamet	01/21
Meredith VanDerWeide	01/21
Keni Lewis	01/22
Tracy Jones	01/23
Vivianna Richardson	01/23
Bill Walter	01/23
Joshua Martin	01/24
Susan Belt	01/25
Barbara Pulver	01/26
Amber Doxtader	01/29
Ed Faris	01/29
Janet Jean	01/29
Ethan Anderson	01/30
Lucas Kane	01/30
Tom Simonsen	01/30
George Williams	01/31
9	

# **BLESSING EVENT**

Photos by Jamie Brant







On Sunday, December 9, 2018, two families completed the Faith Legacy worship training with their little ones. The heart-shaped Worship Kit that the children decorated included a votive candle in a glass holder and small stand-up cross,

items for the children (and their families) to use for devotions and worship in the home.

The Blessing Event is a wonderful occasion for the church to celebrate families building families God's way, as the parents speak a personal blessing over their little ones. What a blessing these families are to our church and community. Using the training provided through Faith Legacy and our Builders family training, both provided and facilitated by our Family Life Educator Kimber Walsh, Redeemer is inspiring families to keep God as the center to family life. The next Faith Legacy class for families with 8-year-olds will be on Sundays, January 13 and 20.

All families, no matter what the ages or stages of life, are also encouraged to participate whenever possible in the Builders activities and training provided on the first Sunday of each month, from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. This usually includes a family-style meal as well: a great time to connect with other families and learn something along the way.



**YOUTH NIGHT** 

by Dave & Kim McFarland

The second Sunday of each month is the time for our young people (middle school/high school youth) to get together, play games, have Bible study, and just have fun...and pizza.

Dave and Kim McFarland are the youth leaders for this monthly gathering at Redeemer. We meet in the Teen Room in the lower level from 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars!

# JOINING JESUS BIBLE STUDY

by Craig Britton

Joining Jesus? Haven't I already? Or better ... hasn't He joined me? All good and pertinent questions. So, before you form too many questions for me to answer, let me enlighten you. "Joining Jesus" is a new class offering from what I am calling our "Foundation and Formation" series. I just thought that name up. But I am putting together a series of "back to the basics" courses that will be available on an ongoing basis here at Redeemer.

The courses will run the gamut of Christian discipleship. Some of what is in the works are courses on Christian/Lutheran Basics, How to Study Scripture, some format for studying the entire Biblical narrative from Genesis to Revelation, and the course coming first in line in January 2019, namely, "Joining Jesus."

I have partially hijacked a portion of the title of a book coming from one of our amazing Lutheran pastor/teachers, Greg Finke. His book, *Joining Jesus on His Mission*, will frame some of the discussion, but I chose a piece of the title that points to what Jesus calls you and me to do. Tell others about Him. "Oh no! An evangelism course???!!! Open the doors, I'm headed out!"

Please ... give yourself just a minute more of exposure to this. Another amazing Lutheran pastor, Mark Wood, has written materials for our Synod titled, *Everyone His Witness*. I am excited about this material for the simple reason that it doesn't try to press anyone into a mold where they would find themselves squirming and screaming to get out. Here's what Mark says about this approach: "The Everyone His Witness program is designed to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to share the Gospel in their everyday lives with the people whom God has placed into relationships with them."

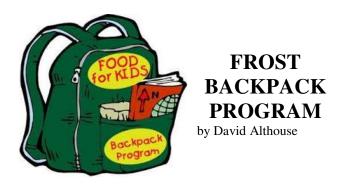
This is a wonderful approach. It's *not* easy and in no way am I promoting something that won't be a *personal challenge*. Frankly, if I ever teach something that doesn't challenge...well, let's just say that's not in me. Pastor Mark

Wood has developed "The Lassie" approach: Listen-Ask-Seek-Share-Invite-Encourage. And what I'm most excited about is that I will be learning right along with you.

So, two things I am asking you to prayerfully consider. First, come along to our first class which begins Thursday evening, January 24, at 7:00 p.m. The class will run six consecutive Thursdays wrapping up on Thursday, February 28. And second, I am asking for someone to come alongside as a *co-learner* with me, who might have an interest in guiding later classes through "Everyone His Witness." And that really is the role. Guiding.

Participation in the first class will be limited to 24 persons for time/discussion parameters. The class will hopefully be held in our new teaching space beneath the sanctuary, if it is ready to go. If not, we will begin in the Redeemer Library.

The Gospel is the church's treasure. I for one want to, and need to, learn again the joy of being His witness. Join me.



And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.

#### Mark 10:16

On October 18, Redeemer's Backpack Team began its 12<sup>th</sup> year of providing food for children in need at Frost Elementary School. Once again, our loving God has provided all the necessary resources of personnel, time, and funds to offer this community outreach effort.

Each Thursday, the team meets to pack the backpacks with eight different food items; enough to feed a child for the entire weekend. As in the past, we have been given the names of 70 students from a pool of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Through December 13, a total of 417 bags/backpacks have been filled; an average of 52 bags weekly. One recurring problem that we experience each year is that not all students remember to return their backpacks each week for refilling. Also, some drop out because the need is no longer there.

All the food we distribute is ordered from the Food Bank in Battle Creek at a cost of about 33 percent of wholesale prices; this is a great



savings for the program. This school year, our first food order was delivered on August 28 at a cost of \$4,857—about 6,121 pounds of food. The delay in delivering the food to the students was due to the time needed by the school's social worker to identify the neediest children and then obtain approval from a parent/guardian to allow participation in the program.

A few "Thank yous" are in order: To the P/S FoodMart at Wildwood and Ganson streets for donating 624 boxes of PopTarts during its October food drive—a sincere thank you! To an anonymous couple who have once again purchased all the new backpacks for this year—thank you both so much! At about \$7.00 per backpack, this amounts to a significant donation.

The Backpack Team is grateful to have the privilege to serve these special children. It is only through the continued love and concern of our Heavenly Father who sustains this program year after year. It is appropriate that we say, "We praise God from Whom all blessings flow."

The Frost Backpack Team

## **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

The month of December brought more random acts of kindness in Christian Care Ministry. Here are a few of them.

The giving tree once again provided a member family in need with many gifts from generous people in our congregation to enhance their Christmas.

Homemade cookies were baked and donated by Gail Kleimola and Marilyn Mantek for



cookie boxes that were distributed to our shutins and other designated families (12 in all).

Maria Boyle, along with the Bahr, Brandt, Martin, and Walsh families, visited shut-ins on December 16th and sang Christmas carols,



bringing much joy and inspiration to their day.

I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to all who participated in bringing the JOY of the season to our Christian friends through these events.

## 2018 VOTERS' MEETING

The 2018 annual Voters' Meeting was held on December 9, and began with a devotion and prayer by Pastor Geml. The congregation recognized and approved the addition to our membership of Mr. Dale Luksan. The minutes from the last Voters' Meeting of December 10, 2017, were approved without changes.

The staff—Pastor Geml, Craig Britton, Deb Fall, and Kimber Walsh—all gave reports reflecting events and projects that were part of the 2018 activities and outreach to our community. A Child Protection Policy has been adopted by the Leadership Board so that Redeemer will be proactive in maintaining the commitment to be a safe place for all young people.

There were reports to the voters by the Leadership Board (Dennis Dixon, Chairman), Ministry Council (Craig Britton), Elders (Bob Kellogg), and the Renovation Committee concerning updating of our church building. The updates have already begun and will include: A new (and possibly restructured) roof including insulation, replacement of windows in the sanctuary, completion of the large classroom/fellowship area in the lower level, and replacement of the old boiler and heating system for the older section of the facility. These updates are already in the works, with the possibility of other improvements as needed.

The financials through October 2018 were approved as presented by our treasurer Linda Kline. The proposed budget for 2019 of \$469,448.00 was approved and unanimously accepted by the voters, as was the unopposed reelection of the present Leadership Board officers:

Dennis Dixon—Chairman
Andy Biegner—Vice Chairman
Glen Speed—Secretary
Also on the Leadership Board, serving at-large:
Josh Brant
David Voss

The 2018 Voters' Meeting was adjourned with prayer.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 6: BUILDERS

Family building time; reserve for the future 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.

Sunday, January 13: YOUTH GROUP
Fun, food, and faith-building in the RAC the second Sunday of each month; reserve the dates for the future. 5:30—7:00 p.m.

Two Sundays, January 13 and 20, Faith Legacy for families with 8-year-olds will be offered, with the Blessing Event on Sunday, January 20, at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Upwards Basketball Practices in the RAC January 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, and 29 from 6:00—8:00 p.m. AND January 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 5:00—6:00 p.m.

Thursdays, beginning January 24: 7:00 p.m. *Joining Jesus* Bible study: A 6-week class facilitated by Craig Britton.

#### **FAMILY FAITH LIFE**

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

# ONE MAN'S TRASH...

Children have an incredible gift of teaching us big lessons through small things, often without even realizing it. God has given us people—children and adults around us—to teach us more about Him and His love for us. We need only see it.

We've all observed it; that child who finds some small piece of literal junk bound for the trash can that they consider a great find. You'd be hard-pressed to pry it out of their little hands,



and probably find it even more difficult to convince them with any

explanation that their treasure is worth nothing. We are sometimes like that. The junk, I mean, not the children. (Well, probably sometimes like

the children, too!) You and I are literal pieces of junk; a truth we feel all too intensely, at times. Our junk-status has us bound for the eternal incinerator. Yet the God of the Universe sees us. He sees what we really are, crumpled up messes, dirty, broken, good-for-nothing, and He considers each one of us a great find. We are His beloved children, and no amount of prying could remove any one of us from His mighty hands. Despite our best efforts in showing God who and what we really are, despite our proving time and time again that we are exactly what we seem to be, despite any explanation or confirmation that we give that we are, in fact, worth nothing, God is not convinced. He treasures us, His beloved pieces of junk.

Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it.

A man is powerful on his knees.

~ Corrie Ten Boom~



Prayer is dangerous. It can change you. It can disrupt your life/routine. Don't pray and let everything be the way it is. Pray, and receive peace, guidance, understanding, faith, purpose, protection from evil, and a deeper relationship with God. Jesus prayed often, and He tells us to be constant in prayer.

Join the Michigan District at "Be Constant in Prayer" (Theological Conference) and learn more about this gift from our heavenly Father on Saturday, February 2, 2019, at 8:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lansing for just \$20 per person. Speakers include: Rev. Dr. Victor Belton, Constance Denninger, Rev. C. Bryan Wolfmueller, Rev. Christopher Paavola; Rev. John Rathje as facilitator and President Rev. Dr. David Maier as moderator.

For more information and to register, visit michigandistrict.org/2019-theological-conference.

Faith Legacy"

Faith Legacy is a series that seeks to help families grow spiritually through age-specific resources to talk about faith at home. **Parents of 8-year-olds (or soon to be 8)**, please plan to join in the sessions of the Faith Legacy Series called "First Bible" Sundays, January 13 and 20 9:30-10:15 a.m. in the music room on the lower level. On the 13th, the session is designed for just parents, and on the 20<sup>th</sup>, the 8-year-olds will be joining us too.

The Blessing Event will be in late service on January 20. Please contact Kimber Walsh at <a href="mailto:kimberwalsh@comcast.net">kimberwalsh@comcast.net</a> or 517-750-3100 for more information if you'd like to participate.



You'd likely not know it from the number of times I hit the snooze button some days, but I love new days. A new chance to do what God's given us to do. A fresh start after a night of rest and a reset on whatever happened yesterday. God's mercies are new every morning, even January 1, as a new year comes simultaneous to a new day. This new year, we have a fresh start to include God in what we do as we go about our ordinary days.

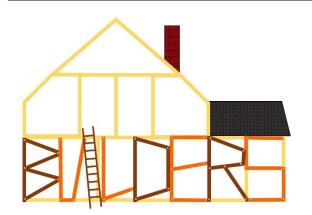
"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the way, when you lie down and when you get up."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

- Resolutions—Resolutions are often our way of saying "I'm not being who I'd like to be in this area, and I want to change." If your family is in the practice of making resolutions, talk about them in the context of why those changes matter. Model repentance for areas of sin that you are working on changing and help your kids repent too. Ask God to change your heart together. We cannot change our actions alone and expect results. Heart change is necessary for real change.
- New Starts—There are so many things that start new at the beginning of a new year. One great opportunity we have is in our relationships. If we have broken or sour relationships, we can take time to talk to that person and mend issues. We can also use the new year to forge new relationships. As a family, decide at least one person each that you will befriend and get to know this year. Then talk about ways that you can start to do that.
- <u>2019</u>—As you transition into remembering what year it is now, use every error of saying or writing the

- wrong date to remind you to talk. Talk about 2018—favorite memories, God's greatest blessings, times when God was with you, ways you saw God at work in your life. Then look to 2019—talk about what you look forward to, what you are hoping for, how God is calling you to serve Him.
- <u>Ball</u>—Countdowns, whether they be the Times Square ball or otherwise, have a way of generating excitement that can be really fun. What are things that we can count down to that point us to God? We don't know when Jesus will be coming again, but we do know when He came at Christmas. We do have a day we remember when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. We know the day God entered into each of our hearts (Baptism).

As we ring in the new year, we also ring in new opportunities to talk about God as we go about life just as God has called us to do. God, grant that we may be faithful to that responsibility in 2019!



**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. Families are couples with children, single parents, parents with teens, couples without kids or grown kids, single individuals, grandparents with grandkids.

When we say family, we're talking about you and your situation!

We will meet on Sunday, January 6, 3:30-6:00 pm. This month's topic is apologies, repentance, and relationships. Come get tools to apologize, repent, and forgive well for the bettering of all of your relationships. RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the narthex so plans can be made for childcare and dinner.

Questions? Contact Kimber Walsh at kimberwalsh@comcast.net or 517-750-3100.



Hope-Full Living is a daily devotional for Christian seniors. Annual subscriptions are very affordable and will provide seniors with encouragement on their faith and life in the golden years.

Hopefulldevotions.com (note the double L!)

\*Each month "Relevant Resources" will feature a different resource that may be relevant to you. If you have a topic request, please email <a href="mailto:kimberwalsh@comcast.net">kimberwalsh@comcast.net</a>.

#### **TREASURE**

by Peggy Bennitt

I have not departed from the commands of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily bread.

Job 23:12

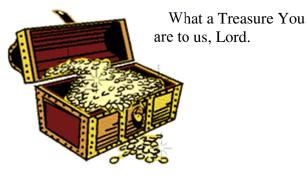
What do you treasure most?

It concerns me that God is not always first on my list when I think of this question. The answer should be a no-brainer. Without God I would have nothing and be nothing. Enough said, right? Oh, if that were only true. My perverse nature keeps the worldly stuff at the forefront of my brain and my all-loving God continues to be pushed down the list. Yet He will, "keep me as the apple of [His] eye; hide me in the shadow of [His] wings..." as the psalmist says in Psalm 17:8.



I am so much "of this world" that my thoughts jump immediately to my husband, my family, my friends and church family; my God pops into my head...next...not last, but certainly not top priority as He should be. Yet without God, I have nothing, and still, He is not my first thought when I think of Treasure. "What is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him?" Psalm 8:4. Why does He even bother with us?

We have such an awesome God! Thank Him always for His viewing us through His Son Jesus Christ's blood sacrifice for our contemptable and ongoing sinfulness. We are treasures in His sight, and He sees us as His precious children even as we struggle in our sin. He ransomed us with the Treasure of His Son; our Treasure is forever ours. We are blessed beyond measure!



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 12:34

#### **OVERCOMING LONELINESS**

by Mark Merrill. Retrieved excerpts from <a href="http://www.markmerrill.com/3-steps-to-overcoming-loneliness/">http://www.markmerrill.com/3-steps-to-overcoming-loneliness/</a> on December 13, 2018.

Because of the type of job I have, I have a larger social media presence — but even people with lots of followers can still feel lonely. Why? Because those are not real relationships. No matter how many online friends we have, in this age of super-connectedness online, we are relationally disconnected.



We get so busy keeping up with social media friends that we lose touch with the friends and family who really matter, the relationships that combat loneliness. Why do we have this tendency? It is because real relationships can be hard, messy, and

require more fruit of the spirit—patience, kindness, etc.

Which do you think is more important to God? Dozens of posts a day or to love our neighbor with time, attention, and affection? Which of these two does He value more: Hearts on an Instagram page or hugging your neighbor? You have to truly fulfill the second

greatest commandment to love your neighbor as yourself.

So, remember those closest to you... Here are three steps to overcoming loneliness. *Note:* Now I'm going to start with the least intensive way to connect, and work up to the ways that have the most power to do away with your feelings of loneliness and help others with theirs.

#### 1. Text

I try to text my children every day. It can be something as simple as an "I love you," a Bible verse, or a silly emoji. I want them to know I'm thinking about them. If you text those you care about, be sure to respond when they text you.

#### 2. Call

Did you know that when a child hears his mother's voice, his body manufactures more of the hormone that produces positive feelings? If you've gotten out of the habit of talking by phone to those you care about, reach out to them today. Better yet, make a point to call your close friends and family regularly. Studies on loneliness show that a simple phone call can lift your spirits and the spirits of the person you're talking to.

#### 3. Face-to-face or Facetime

"I'm so busy" is the mantra of our society. We are so busy checking our texts that we can't look at our wife when she's talking to us. We can't watch TV with our teenager because we're answering emails. We can't meet a friend for dinner because we're "crazy busy." The best way to become less lonely is to spend more time with people we care about. Then, when we're with them, we need to *really* be with them... no screens, no pretense, no need to rush off somewhere. If you don't have people in your life who you feel close to, push yourself to be with others so that you can develop face-to-face relationships; volunteer, visit a church, join a club.

Loneliness cannot be overcome alone. God created us for community. We each have to

make the effort to make time, reach out, and connect with those we care about.



Editor's Note: As I read this article, I had to face some pretty convicting thoughts about my own lack of connectedness lately. I believe that

communication is imperative for healthy relationships, yet I am basically a homebody who loves solitude. So this means I need to push myself out of my comfort zone and reach out to those special people around me.

Whatever it is that holds you back from connecting with those you love; make the effort to conquer it. Loneliness is really a choice. Don't make that choice. Choose people, and relate. Remember, God designed us with relationship in mind.

Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

1 Timothy 6:18-19



# **WOW! THANKS!**

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

Have you ever found yourself replaying the blooper reel of your life, only you're not laughing?

It seems the highlight tape — all the moments where you really shined — has been lost or erased and the only film left is your missteps, failures, and blatant rebellious choices. And you watch it over, and over, and over. Yeah, I've been attending a private viewing for a while, so when our pastor opened up Titus on Sunday morning and started ticking off all the requirements for leaders in the church — being hospitable, self-controlled, upright, disciplined — and all the disqualifiers — being arrogant, quick-tempered, insubordinate, or greedy—I knew right where to cue up examples of how I have blown it and have proven myself to be unfit for the call, which is ironic, since my husband and I have spent our entire adult lives in church work. It wasn't long into the sermon when I found myself slinking down into the pew, buried under the weight of conviction. And at 52 years of age, it's tempting to think "I've ruined it all. I can't go back. I've caused so much damage." And once that thought has formed, it threatens to become a truth that one might believe, even cling to.

So, I was sitting there slunk down, feeling pretty pitiful, when I heard the words, "to the redeemed, all things are redeemed." I wrote them down; my ears perked up.

I heard my pastor admitting his tendency to be so exceptionally hard on himself, afraid that he will get it wrong and fail his family, his church, his God. He said that when he had admitted this to a friend earlier in the week, the friend had replied, "If you are teaching your child how to ride his bike and he falls down, don't you run to him and say, 'it's ok, we'll try again." And I could see the scene: I could see my pastor bending down to his child, scooping him up, wiping his tears, and speaking those words of encouragement.

And as I saw my human pastor in my mind's eye, I simultaneously saw my Father, looking at my blooper reels. I heard Him say, "It's ok. You can try again."

And then, while I was still taking in that image, I heard my pastor say, "Every failure has been wiped clean because we are in Christ."

And then we were receiving communion.

And then I heard myself singing: Let no one caught in sin remain/ inside the lie of inward shame/ but fix our eyes upon the cross/ and run to Him who showed great love/ and bled for us...

And I was choking on the words because they were what I needed to hear. Inward shame is a lie. I have been caught in sin, but I don't have to remain there, wallowing, slinking, hiding.

All has been redeemed.

If I believe that Christ died for my sins, then I believe that my sins are paid for — they are redeemed. I don't owe a penalty. It sounds really cheesy and Sunday school-ish.

Unless it's true.

And it is.

Tonight, a full 36 hours after the pew slinking and song singing, I was reading Anne Lamott's *Help, Thanks, Wow,* and I saw this prayer:

Hi. God.

I am just a mess. It is all helpless. What else is new? I would be sick of me if I were You, but miraculously, You are not.

I know I have no control over other people's lives, and I hate this. Yet I believe that if I accept this and surrender, You will meet me wherever I am.

Wow. Can this be true? If so, how is this afternoon — say two-ish? Thank You in advance for Your company and blessings. You have never once let me down. Amen.

And I think to myself, didn't He just meet me where I was yesterday? Say noon-ish? And didn't He prove again that He will never let me down?

He sure did. Wow. Thanks.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1

#### THANK YOU!

The annual Bethlehem Marketplace was a wonderful experience again. God has blessed us as we honor Him with this enactment each year



with this family Christmas experience. By adding new tents this year, we continue to grow the family involvement, as well as add



authenticity to what we present to the community. We hope to pique the interest of those who visit, which may encourage them to seek more knowledge of the Savior and His story for mankind.

Thank you to all who shared their time, talents, ideas, and skills to make this better and more fun each year.



Thanks also to all who baked, played the beautiful chimes, did set-up, clean up, and all



the many services provided in the background. Thank you all for your hard work and service to our Lord.



Well done, thou good and faithful servants.

Diane Siedzik



HEBREWS 2:12

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	19	OFFICE CLOSED  C—Denotes Communion Service	Craig's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.— Countryside Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	Community Prayer 7:00 a.m8:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m., Ganton's, S. A.	4	5 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Men's Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.
Divine Service—C 8:00 a.m. Bible Classes for Ages 4—Adults, and also Confirmands 9:20 —10:20 a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m. Builders' 3:30—6:00 p.m.	Upwards B-Ball Practice 6:00—8:00 p.m Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m	8 Hour of Prayer— Chapel 7:15 a.m. Upwards B-Ball Practice 6:00—8:00 p.m Elders' Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Quilters 9:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.— Countryside Ministry Council 7:00 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	Community Prayer 7:00 a.m8:00 a.m. Women of Redeemer 10:00 a.m.—Library Pastor's Bible Study—2:00 p.m. Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m., Ganton's Upwards B-Ball 5:00—6:00 p.m	11	Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Men's Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.
Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Bible Classes for Ages 4—Adults, also Confirmands and Path Legacy-8 9:20—10:20 a.m. Praise Service— C 10:30 a.m. Fouth Group 5:30—7:00 p.m.	Upwards B-Ball Practice 6:00—8:00 p.m Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m	Hour of Prayer— Chapel 7:15 a.m. Upwards B-Ball Practice 6:00—8:00 p.m  REFLECTION DEADLINE	16 Craig's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.— Countryside Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	Community Prayer 7:00 a.m8:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study—2:00 p.m. Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m., Ganton's Upwards B-Ball 5:00—6:00 p.m	18	19 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Men's Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.
Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. Bible Classes for Ages 4—Adults, also Confirmands and Fatth Legacy-8 9:20—10:20 a.m. Praise Service w/ Faith Legacy Blessing Event 10:30 a.m.	Upwards B-Ball Practice 6:00—8:00 p.m Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	Hour of Prayer— Chapel 7:15 a.m. Upwards B-Ball Practice 6:00—8:00 p.m	Quilters 9:00 a.m12:00 Noon Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. Leadership Board 7:00 p.m.	Community Prayer 7:00 a.m8:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study—2:00 p.m. Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m., Ganton's Joining Jesus Study 7:00 p.m. Upwards B-Ball 5:00—6:00 p.m	25	26 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Men's Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.
Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Bible Classes for Ages 4—Adults, and also Confirmands 9:20—10:20 a.m. Praise Service— C 10:30 a.m.	Upwards B-Ball Practice 6:00—8:00 p.m Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m.	Hour of Prayer— Chapel 7:15 a.m. Upwards B-Ball Practice 6:00—8:00 p.m	30 Craig's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.— Countryside Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	Community Prayer 7:00 a.m8:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study—2:00 p.m. Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m., Ganton's Joining Jesus Study 7:00 p.m. Upwards B-Ball 5:00—6:00 p.m		