

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LCMS**

# **SANCTUARY**



**JUNE 2019 PUBLICATION  
VOLUME 12 ISSUE 6**

Redeemer **Reflection** Newsletter

*Loving People To Christ*

**Redeemer Lutheran Church 3637 Spring Arbor Road, Jackson, MI 49201  
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Visit our website at: [www.redeemerjackson.org](http://www.redeemerjackson.org)**

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# REDEEMER REFLECTION

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## BE PREPARED

by Pastor Michael Geml

I was never a Boy Scout, but I do know their motto. The Boy Scout motto, “Be Prepared,” is words of wisdom, but perhaps too narrow in scope. Be prepared for what? Can one be prepared for anything? As nice as that sounds, to be prepared for anything would seem to be an unattainable goal. It is like advising someone to “expect the unexpected.”

Being prepared usually takes effort. When I deliver a Sunday sermon, it comes as a result of hours of preparation, research, reading, praying. While I never feel completely prepared to preach, I take great solace that God makes a promise concerning His Word, “...it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it (Isaiah 55). God spoke His Word and the universe came into being. That same Word comes to us in Baptism and creates new creations in Christ Jesus. In the forgiveness of sins given purely as a gift of God, He is preparing us for a life lived in grateful response to His love. The effort of preparing us was not ours but God’s.

I remember a song from years ago called “Sanctuary.” I don’t know if it qualifies as a song because it has only



one verse, but it speaks of a blessed truth all Christians need to hear. *“Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.”* “Sanctuary” used with permission.

John W. Thompson | Randy Scruggs  
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The Lord has prepared you to be a living sanctuary. In Holy Baptism, God the Holy Spirit was given to you. He lives in you and He continually offers the grace of God given in Word and Sacrament. That takes us to the subject of worship. Starting in June and lasting through the end of August, we will observe one worship service on Sunday mornings. We will gather for worship in the sanctuary of Redeemer Lutheran Church. The word “sanctuary” means holy place. We are sanctuaries of God who are called to gather together in the holy place God has given to us where He bestows His gift of grace in Word and Sacrament. There is no other place in this world where God has promised such a blessing. Whether it is during the summer or throughout the year, to remove oneself from the sanctuary and the worship of God, is to remove oneself from the blessings of God. Worshipping together builds us up as the body of

Christ and prepares us for works of service which God has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). May we walk in fellowship with God and with His Church, to glorify Him and serve our neighbor.

## VIETNAM VETERANS PRESENTATION



Redeemer Activity Center  
Saturday, June 1, 10:00 a.m. to  
12:00 Noon

The local Vietnam Veterans chapter, headed by our own Bob Wilkinson, recounts aspects of this critical event (the Vietnam Conflict) in our history from their own experience. They illustrate how patriotism, courage, and faith played key roles in this event.

Over 21,000 students, kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as adults have seen their dramatic presentation and been moved by what they hear and see. All ages are welcome to attend.

Contact Bob with any questions at 517-206-7559.

## TOPIC FOR JULY

The topic for July is *Honor*. Please consider sharing your stories/articles about what honor means or has meant to you in unique or challenging situations.

Or share a family story that made the meaning of honor clear to you.

Send articles or information to [bennitt49@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



*To Mars and Beyond* will launch each evening from June 17, 2019, through June 21, 2019, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. Vacation Bible School will be held in the lower level of Redeemer Lutheran Church at 3637 Spring Arbor Road in Jackson, Michigan.

Blast off *To Mars and Beyond* where kids will discover the wonders of God's universe. They'll become voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them. This is geared toward children ages 4-10.





## JUNE

Glen Speed	06/01
Connor Mogle	06/02
Kris Nowak	06/02
Adam Zeidan	06/05
Jacob Hankerd	06/07
Heidi Gannon	06/07
Elmer Mueller	06/10
Rev. Bill Roper	06/10
Robert Kellogg	06/11
Jeff Baird	06/13
Donna Smith	06/13
Peggy Bennitt	06/15
Ruth Geml	06/16
Jim Moore	06/17
Brandon Ellison	06/19
Roberta Kellogg	06/20
Maria Boyle	06/21
Brianna Fall	06/22
Debbie Mumford	06/24
Mardi Bartlett	06/25
Tony Mogle	06/25
Wanda Williams	06/25
Cynthia Ott	06/28
Levi Bahr	06/30
Carol Roper	06/30
Phyllis Tschabrun	06/30

*Praise the Lord. Praise God in His  
Sanctuary; praise Him in His mighty  
heavens.*

Psalm 150:1

## THAT'S WHERE I WANNA BE

by Craig Britton

*Sanctuary: A sacred or holy place*

Very often, although not always, the first use of a term in Holy Scripture sets the stage for the use of the same term ever after. Of course, the immediate context of a word spells much of its meaning, but the word that I highlight today is a word pregnant with religious meaning and not to be toyed with, at least in my humble opinion. The word is “sanctuary,” and it first appears in our English Bibles in Exodus 15, the seventeenth verse, which in the Authorized Version reads, “*Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of Thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which Thou hast made for Thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which Thy hands have established.*”

It just sounds wonderful as you read it, doesn't it? Redeemer as a family has been through a rather extended season of loss, stretching back about three years with many saints departed. And not just loss through death, but people moving away and those now limited by injury and illness who might never quite get back “to the way it used to be.” Add to that the fact that the world about us is changing at such a rapid rate, combined also with loss and personal change. Even the recent debacle claiming much of the revered Cathedral of Notre Dame, makes the floor at the least seem to be shifting beneath us, and at worst, disappearing altogether.

Enter the word “sanctuary.” Safety? Hiding? Quiet? Solitude? Holy and Sacred? I wonder: do you and I need a space like what is described by the terms above? Not a safe space to escape the



world. But a space to meet with the One who has all of life's loss, chaos, and instability well in hand. He doesn't cause the shifts as much as He is a Loving Observer of them.

Now, no philosophical discussions please, because in just a few more lines I want you to think in terms of a place or places to find the Lord that Moses declares in the passage cited earlier. Note first, "*Thou shalt bring them in.*" Who? Them? The saints of the exodus? Yes, God is bringing in His people. And their destination? "*The mountain of thine inheritance.*" Mountain. Throne. Home. Remember too, a good Bible reader looks for original intent: that meaning which those who first encountered the Word would have understood.

Then, we are reminded quickly that this is a place God has fashioned for Himself. I'm not at all sure that the Lord of the Universe has "tastes" the way we think of them, but in His Word, He displays Himself as one who has likes and dislikes. So I guess it is all right to claim that God has tastes. "...*the place, O LORD which Thou hast made for Thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord ...*" This is no God-sized man cave. Oh no. This is a dwelling FIT for Himself. Stop. Ponder. What kind of place is fitting for the Dread Sovereign of the Universe? "...*which Thy hands have established.*" Hand-crafted, so to speak. With attention to the details not only of décor, but of complete and total suitability. My, what a place. Do you seek a further clue?

Some eight centuries following Moses and the words of God he penned, the prophet Isaiah takes the pen and fills in a larger and perhaps, the most wonderful clue of all. But I'm not going to write it out for you. You must do the investigating on your own. At the very

end of the grand display of our Lord in Isaiah, He tells us where His dwelling is. Grab your Bible. Take up and read Isaiah 66:1-2. This is His home and yours. That's where I wanna be. And apparently, He does as well.



☺ **Friday, May 31—June 2: Junior High Youth Gathering.** Watch the bulletin for updates or check with Dave or Kim McFarland for details.

☺ **June 1: VIETNAM VETERANS PRESENTATION** will be offered in the Redeemer Activity Center on Saturday June 1, **10:00 a.m. —Noon.**

☺ **June 2: 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.

☺ **Saturday, June 8: VBS Planning Meeting.** All those planning to be involved please meet in the new lower level meeting area at **10:00 a.m.**

☺ **Thursday, June 13:**  
**LWML/Women of Redeemer will meet in the new meeting area in the lower**

level at 10:00 a.m. All women of Redeemer are welcome to attend.

😊 **Monday, June 17-21: “To Mars and Beyond” 2019 VBS** will be an evening launch this year. We will make our own “Star Trek” as we watch Jesus and His Gospel move through the universe. Attend a planning meeting on June 8 at 10:00 a.m., and join the launch crew to get a front-row seat!

😊 **Saturday, June 29: *Prodigals Retreat*. 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.** Cost will be \$10 and will include a light breakfast and lunch.



## SUNDAY PRAYER CHAPEL

by Peggy Bennitt

Every Sunday morning, after each worship service, one or more members of the Redeemer Prayer Team head to the Prayer Chapel to petition our Lord on behalf of those requesting specific prayer needs in our church family. Prayers may range from requests for God’s blessings on a recent marriage or safe travel for a friend. Often the prayer requests are for dire health needs or release from pain. Prayers for blessing of family or medical emergency situations are examples of other common prayer

requests by our members. The needs vary each week, and each written request is prayed over for an entire month by our team.

Whatever the needs or thanksgiving prayers entail, our team of Pray-ers is on the job, and often on bended knee before our Lord, on behalf of the Redeemer family every Sunday. What a blessing to have the gift of prayer lavished on our congregation every Sunday.

We encourage everyone to become involved in this ministry. It only takes 10-15 minutes after a service on a given Sunday morning to help keep our people covered in prayer. Those precious minutes in prayer bless any and every situation more than you may ever know. God promises to answer prayer, and the more people that are involved, the more we can count on seeing our Lord at work both in our church and in our community.

*“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”*

Matthew 21:21

If you would like to become a part of the ongoing Sunday morning Prayer Chapel ministry, please contact Craig Britton at 517-750-3100. Or send your name, the service you attend, and the service after which you would like to serve, to Peggy Bennitt at [bennitt49@yahoo.com](mailto:bennitt49@yahoo.com). If you are already involved, God bless you and thank you so much for being a part of this wonderful ministry. You are a blessing as you bless others through prayer.



## FROM THE GARDEN

by Judy Speed



## SANCTUARY

Historically, the word ‘sanctuary’ meant the holiest of holy places—a sacred place or an area around an altar. Today its use has broadened to mean anywhere people go for peaceful tranquility or introspection. It also can mean a place for protection, either human or non-human.

I like to use the word when I refer to spending time in a garden. I don’t necessarily feel protected, and even though it doesn’t contain an altar, I do seek and find peaceful tranquility there spending time talking and listening to God. My sanctuary in the garden provides me with solitude and silence. The priority of Jesus’ solitude and silence is everywhere in the Gospels. It’s how He began his ministry. It’s how He made important decisions. It’s how He dealt with the demands of His ministry and cared for His soul. It’s how He taught His disciples and how He prepared for important ministry events. It’s how He prepared for His death on the cross.

Jesus’ solitude is how He went deeper in His love-relationship with God. Jesus invites you to join Him, wherever that may be.

So find your sanctuary...it may even be in a garden.

## SANCTUARY

### “Place or City of Refuge”

by Peggy Bennitt

Throughout history, the main worship area in a church or temple has been denoted as the sanctuary. Here people gather to “meet their God” on a regular basis, often using it as a refuge and a place for peace or rest. What a wonderful description of sanctuary. At [www.yourdictionary.com/sanctuary](http://www.yourdictionary.com/sanctuary), sanctuary is defined as “a place of refuge or rest, a place where you can feel at peace, or the holiest part of a temple or a church.”

In Biblical times, God arranged for a different kind of sanctuary for His people in respect to the law. *Cities of Refuge*, or cities of sanctuary, were established to protect anyone who had unintentionally killed someone. The

### *Cities of Refuge*

1. Then the LORD said to Joshua: <sup>2</sup> “Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, <sup>3</sup> so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood.
4. “When he flees to one of these cities, he is to stand in the entrance of the city gate and state his case before the elders of that city. Then they are to admit him into their city and give him a place to live with them.

Levites as the religious leaders chosen by God, were to handle these situations to make sure murder was not the intent.

What an amazing God to care so much, that He would provide means of escape for murderers. We see this same God providing eternal escape for the convicted sinner on the cross next to Jesus at the Crucifixion. Jesus, the sanctuary for sinners, assures the man that “today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” Sanctuary assured with death breathing down his neck. What peace

that sinner must have felt in his last moments. What joy he must have felt as he stepped from this world into heaven with His Savior. And we too have that assurance from our Lord.

The accused person in Bible times had to run 32 miles for sanctuary at a City of Refuge. That's farther than a marathon, which is 26.2 miles. Today, we have only to travel into the arms of our Savior through prayer to enter a sanctuary that is always there for the asking. Prayer and a contrite heart are the steps that take us to our sanctuary at any time.

As we enter any sanctuary of a church on any given Sunday, bring to mind that we step into the sanctuary of the Lord's



arms at that moment, and His peace and rest are ours. He is our refuge and strength. He is our sanctuary in time of need.

Safety. Refuge. Jesus. *Sanctuary*.

## **FAMILY FAITH LIFE**

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

### **The Place I Want to Be**

When my family arrives at church on Sunday mornings, it is challenging to keep my daughter out of the sanctuary until we're ready to go in before worship begins. She is eager to go in and get started. She knows that good things happen in the sanctuary.

Any of you who have had toddlers in worship with you know, that it's not always an easy thing. There are wiggles and cuddles, squawks and shushes, by these beautifully busy, curious, and ever-learning little ones. My daughter is not quite two and she is no exception to these wonderful toddler-isms. On the especially wiggly and loud mornings, I or my husband, like any other parents, sometimes have to take our little one out of worship for a few minutes to allow her to collect herself. As soon as we step through the doorway into the narthex, she is literally begging to return to the sanctuary. It is the place she wants to be. Because despite the sometimes difficult-to-focus moments, she also loves to worship God. She sings "la la la" (sometimes during the songs and sometimes at her whim), she folds her hands in prayer, she says "amen!" (usually as an echo to the rest of the congregation) and she points at pastor as he leads us.



My husband and I are asked on occasion, why we even bother taking our daughter to worship with us as "toddlers don't get anything out of it and they are too distracting for us to get anything out of it either." But I think those questions and comments are misguided. Our toddler is learning to worship, by the grace of God. The Holy Spirit is clearly working on her little heart. And in the sanctuary, worshipping God is the place



she wants to be. I may not always be able to tell you what the Old Testament reading was or all the finer points of pastor's message on a given Sunday, but I get a lot out of worshipping with a toddler. I learn things about seeing worship through a child's eyes again, and I learn over and over that in the sanctuary worshipping God is the place I should want to be too. Maybe we could all learn a thing or two about worship from the toddlers among us. Maybe we too, despite the sometimes difficult-to-focus moments, could learn to love to worship God in His sanctuary.

*“Lord, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells.”*  
*Psalm 26:8*



Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a time when the Holy Spirit is hard at work strengthening and energizing the faith of all those present—children, parents, and volunteers alike. After VBS is a great time to keep the faith talks going 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.”*

Not sure where to start? Here are a few ideas...

- ♥ **Projects**—Ask your child about the projects and activities they did while at VBS—what they made and what it reminds us of. Challenge them to come up with projects that your family could do together to help others—serve your elderly neighbors by helping care for their lawn, deliver canned goods to a food pantry, make blankets for a shelter, pick up litter in a local park, make cards and send them to those needing encouragement, etc. Their creativity might surprise you!
- ♥ **Friendships**—As your child mentions names of other children they met while at VBS, ask your child about their new friend. Pray together for the new friend and their family.
- ♥ **Themes**—Review the daily themes with your child and talk about how to apply them to everyday life. What does it mean to go beyond with faith? How can you go beyond with boldness? What does it look like for you to go beyond with kindness? How might you go beyond with thankfulness? What are some ways you can go beyond with hope?
- ♥ **Songs**—Ask your child what songs they remember from VBS. What was your favorite and why? What did you learn about God from that song? Why is that message important?

God has blessed us so abundantly with His love that He enables us to go beyond the status quo. We don't have to leave VBS at VBS, we can take those things and carry them into our conversations and our everyday life after VBS, too.

## Redeemer's New Website

The long-awaited new website for Redeemer is up and running! You may visit it at [redeemerjackson.org](http://redeemerjackson.org) (same as always). It is a great source for information about all things Redeemer and has a catalog of previous newsletters as well.

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**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 your life stage or the makeup 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 June 2, 3:30-6:00 p.m. The topic for this month will be Hospitality. Dinner is included and childcare is available for those who need it; please sign up on the sheet in the narthex so we can plan accordingly.

Questions? Contact Kimber Walsh at [kimberwalsh@comcast.net](mailto:kimberwalsh@comcast.net) or 517-750-3100.

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## Faith Family Reunion



### Our Prodigals

by Paula Isakson

You're invited to a one-day retreat on **Saturday, June 29, 9:00 am-3:00 pm.**

When children have left the church and faith in Jesus Christ, parents that are left behind often find themselves feeling isolated and alone. The feelings of guilt and shame can become overwhelming as they wonder what they did wrong, could have done better, or what they failed to do. The end result makes parents feel as though they are living solo with the need to carry this burden on their own.

We invite you to begin the journey of discovery together with us and other like-minded parents in a one-day retreat, as we explore the notion that we might all share similar stories and that maybe we are really not alone on this road.

Here is the overview of how a Faith Family Reunion retreat works:

#### **1. You will probably feel a bit nervous about attending a retreat.**

We are not going to “tell you what to do” or “tell you what you could have done better,” but rather offer you a time where you can hear from a prodigal that has returned to the faith and to be surrounded by other parents going through similar situations in life. The prodigal will share what she and her family went through during her time

away for over 25 years and try to give a bit of insight into the thinking of a prodigal.

**2. You'll discover there are people who understand what you are going through.**

During the day, we give you the opportunity to share your experiences, if you so desire. If you just want to listen, that is ok too. Our goal is to make sure that the environment is warm, welcoming and safe where everyone is made to feel comfortable without any pressure.

**3. You will learn helpful, practical information that can help you as you go through these tough times. You will have a chance to talk about your experiences and hear from others who are going through the same thing.**

Topics are covered such as:

- † Unconditional Love and Our Prodigals
- † Creating Community with Other Parents
- † Communication with Our Prodigals
- † Responses to Loss
- † What If?
- † How to Pray for Our Prodigals
- † How to Connect with Our Prodigals
- † Dealing with The Hurt & Guilt
- † Self-Care

Everyone is invited to share some of the practical ways that they have interacted with their prodigals, including what has and has not worked for them. If you just want to listen, that is OK, too.

**4. You might even form new friendships.**

Our goal is to have you leave with hope and maybe even new friendships, realizing that you are not alone. During this retreat, we hope to provide you a warm, comfortable, loving and non-threatening environment where you might feel the freedom to express yourself.

**5. Faith Family Reunion's passion is to inspire and transform parents with prodigals so that you are encouraged and able to reach out to your prodigals.**

We hope that this time together can maybe "little by little" break down the walls of shame and secrecy. As we join together with one another, we hope to create a community within the church family where you feel safe to begin the conversation with others, feel support, and, in time, be encouraged to reach out to your prodigals.

Paula Isakson (Founder of Faith Family Reunion) will share the Faith Family Reunion story and touch on the curriculum that she and her father, Dr. Jakob K. Heckert (co-founder and theological editor), developed that addresses the subject matter.

**Visit:**  
**[faithfamilyreunion.com/Redeemer-Lutheran-Church](http://faithfamilyreunion.com/Redeemer-Lutheran-Church) for more information and to register.** Cost will

be \$10 and will include a light breakfast and lunch.



Looking for great biblical resources on marriage or parenting? *Visionary Family Ministry* has a number of videos, podcasts, and blog posts to equip and encourage you in your journey of living as a Christian in your family life. Visit **visionaryfam.com** for access to these and other great resources.

\*Each month "Relevant Resources" will feature a different resource that may be relevant to you. If you have a topic request, please email [kimberwalsh@comcast.net](mailto:kimberwalsh@comcast.net).



Love the **LORD**  
your God,  
obey him, and commit  
yourself firmly to him.  
This is the key to your life.  
*Deuteronomy 30:20*

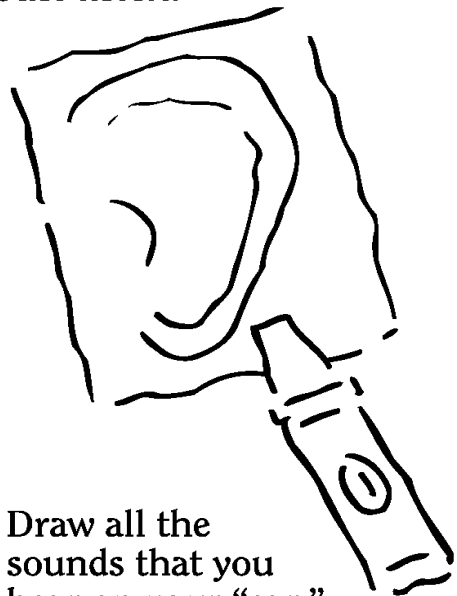
## Play a "Listening" Game

*Here is a game that  
you can play by  
yourself or with a  
group of friends.*

**You will need:**  
white paper  
pencil or  
markers or  
crayons





**How to play:**  
Draw a large ear on your  
paper. Make it as big as  
the paper! *Sit quietly.*  
*Just listen.*



Draw all the  
sounds that you  
hear on your "ear."  
Choose different places to  
play. Set a time limit. If  
you're playing with friends,  
share what you heard.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <b>Men's Choir</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>Vietnam Veterans' Presentation</b> 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. <b>Junior High Youth Gathering</b> May 31—June 2
2 <b>Divine Service—C</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>Builders</b> 3:30—6:00 p.m.  <b>Junior High Youth Gathering</b> May 31—June 2	3	4 <b>Prayer Chapel—Hour of Prayer</b> 7:15 a.m.	5 <b>Craig's Countryside Bible Study</b> 1:30 p.m.	6 <b>Community Prayer</b> 7:00—8:00 a.m. <b>Craig's Bible Study</b> 2:30 p.m. in S. A.	7	8 <b>Men's Choir</b> 9:30 a.m.
9 <b>Divine Service</b> 9:30 a.m.	10	11 <b>Prayer Chapel—Hour of Prayer</b> 7:15 a.m.	12 <b>Quilters</b> 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. <b>Craig's Countryside Bible Study</b> 1:30 p.m.	13 <b>Community Prayer</b> 7:00—8:00 a.m. <b>LWML—Women of Redeemer</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Craig's Bible Study</b> 2:30 p.m. in S. A.	14	15 <b>Men's Choir</b> 9:30 a.m.
16 <b>Divine Service—C</b> 9:30 a.m.	17	18 <b>Prayer Chapel—Hour of Prayer</b> 7:15 a.m.	19 <b>Craig's Countryside Bible Study</b> 1:30 p.m.	20 <b>Community Prayer</b> 7:00—8:00 a.m. <b>Craig's Bible Study</b> 2:30 p.m. in S. A.	21	22 <b>Men's Choir</b> 9:30 a.m.
<b>To Mars and Beyond VBS June 17—21</b> <b>5:30—8:15 p.m.</b>						
23 <b>Divine Service</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>Faith Legacy Blessing Event—age 4</b> 30 <b>Divine Service—C</b> 9:30 a.m. 	24 31	25 <b>Prayer Chapel—Hour of Prayer</b> 7:15 a.m.	26 <b>Quilters</b> 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. <b>Craig's Countryside Bible Study</b> 1:30 p.m. <b>Leadership Board/Ministry Council</b> 7:00 p.m.	27 <b>Community Prayer</b> 7:00—8:00 a.m. <b>Craig's Bible Study</b> 2:30 p.m. in S. A.	28	29 <b>Men's Choir</b> 9:30 a.m.  <b>Prodigals Retreat</b> 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.