

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

HONOR



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Redeemer ***Reflection*** Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

THINGS ARE HEATING UP

by Pastor Michael Geml

So far, as of the middle of June, summer has not brought higher temperatures to our part of the country. We have seen much more cloudy sky and rain than sun lately. Those of you who have been itching to work on your tans and sit out in the warm, sometimes damaging, rays of the sun have had to keep the SPF 30 suntan lotion in the tubes. I am confident the days ahead will heat up sufficiently before the leaves begin to turn color.

Things may heat up in places other than the atmosphere. During the month of July, our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod will hold its 67th Regular Convention in Tampa, Florida. Florida in July? Whose idea was that? Things will most assuredly be heating up for those who will be attending. This year I was chosen to be the alternate delegate, which simply means that if the Pastoral



Delegate from our Circuit, Pastor Tyson Bentz from Lutheran Church of the Lakes, is unable to go, I would take his place. I am praying for Tyson! It isn't that I would not consider it an honor to go. I was honored to be the Delegate to the Convention in 2013 in St. Louis. But with the honor of going to the Convention comes the responsibility of being familiar with what is most likely to be discussed, debated, and voted upon. The workbook for the

Convention, as it sits unopened on my desk, is 553 pages long. Yes, I am praying for Pastor Bentz.

One thing I will ask of all who read this article, please be in prayer for the upcoming Convention. The dates for Convention are July 20–25. Our church has some critically important matters to discuss. Our delegates and our leaders at the synodical level need our support and prayers. I personally am praying that all matters will be discussed in Christian

love and concern for each other, and that the peace of God, that passes all understand, will guide hearts and minds. God's peace and His Hand of protection be upon all who will be attending the Convention.

God's peace be with us all.
Pastor Geml



Rev. William Gatz	07/02
Cole Gannon	07/05
Jenny Burmeister	07/07
Heidi Gannon	07/07
Kristina Bigelow	07/08
Kirk Balcom	07/09
Corey Gamet	07/11
Eileen Spangler	07/15
Dorothy Lanphear	07/17
Tina Mays	07/19
Deb Fall	07/20
Heather Gamet	07/21
Sally Wingle	07/25
Troy Brownlie	07/27
Kathy Voss	07/27
David VanDerWeide	07/28
Lori Schairer	07/29
Ella Potter	07/30

TOPIC FOR AUGUST

The topic for August is *Edit*.

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.



To Mars and Beyond launched each evening from June 17 through June 21,



2019. Kids and adults alike discovered the wonders of God's universe. They became voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them.

Thanks to the gracious activity of our God, our Mission was a grand success. We averaged over 60 space voyagers each day of VBS, and more than 100 each evening sampled our bill of fare in our ship's galley. Lots of smiles, music,



dancing, singing, and learning about Jesus. Add in crafts and good, healthy gaming outdoors, and what more could you ask?



There were so many great stops in the Bible Galaxy! With *To Mars and*

Beyond all covered in prayer, our God led our volunteers and staff and we rubbed up against the galaxy dust of the Word of God. May it continue to infuse even our breathing apparatus and food supply for the rest of our lives.

What a wonderful gift to our community God has made possible through our church and His people here with VBS. Thank you to all who give of their time and talents to make this adventure happen year after year at Redeemer.

FAMILY FAITH LIFE

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

Heart-Based Honor

God is intentional in everything. It is no accident that the second table of the law begins with the 4th commandment which says, “honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.” (Exodus 20:12) God began the commandments that pertain to our human relationships with this command to honor our parents, our first relationships.

There are probably a lot of ways to do that, but here are a few ways to continue to honor our parents as an adult child:

- Cherish them on account of their God-given vocation as your parents and not because of things they’ve done or failed to do.
- Speak well of them (or their memory) publicly and privately. [The old adage of “if you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all” applies here.]

- Respect them by giving them a window into your life. Sometimes that will have lots and lots of boundaries around it depending on the health of your parent and the health of your relationship with them.

(from "Loving Parents Well" sermon by Matt Popovits, September 27, 2015
<http://www.oursaviournewyork.com/sermons/sermon/2015-09-27/week-1-loving-parents-well>)

God wants us to be in great relationships with the people around us. That's why He gives us these commandments to follow. Great relationships start with looking into our own hearts and seeing how we are reflecting God's love to those around us. Often, we are falling short and need to repent. We could all benefit from some self-reflection on how we have followed or fallen short of showing honor to our parents. It might be too late to show the kind of honor God has called us to directly to your own parents, but it's never too late to turn our hearts back to God and surrender to His ways.



The fourth of July brings about a lot of fun activities and opportunities for creating traditions of family fun that can be repeated year after year. It may not seem like it, but it is also 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."

Here are some ideas for how we can view our freedoms and celebrations through the lens of God's grace and point to him:

- **Fireworks**—There's something special and grandiose about fireworks; they're powerful and awe-inducing. You can rarely sit in a crowd and watch fireworks without hearing "ooo's and ah's." Sometimes sitting still and considering the power of God is even more awe-inducing. What are things that amaze you about God? Why?
- **Sparklers**—You only have a minute to let your light shine before it goes out. You run and twirl and stroke your arms wide in all directions so it can be seen. When we share the light of Jesus, it doesn't go out in a short time; the Holy Spirit keeps working faith in us. What if we each shared the light of Jesus like we share the light of a sparkler? What if we captured that excitement and used it to share the light of Jesus in our everyday lives? What would that look like?
- **American Flags**—Just as there's an appropriate honor due our flag that your family can talk about and learn about together, our God

is worthy of our highest honor and praise. What is honor? How can we show we honor God in our everyday lives? When we're in special places like God's house? When we talk about God or to God?

- **Barbeques**—Who doesn't love a good cookout? Great food and outdoor fun come together as the formula for an awesome day. As you eat the watermelon, talk about a blessing for every seed you find (black or white!). As you top a hot dog with condiments, talk about all the "extras" God's given your family to enjoy this summer. As you drink the lemonade, talk about how we can turn our sour days into sweet days...not with sugar and water, but when we consider God's grace and goodness.

Our freedoms are cause to thank God often and much. As you go along celebrating Independence Day, remember faith talks can enhance all that we do!

Community Care Day

We are again partnering with Trinity Lutheran Church for our annual event to serve the Jackson community. This year we will be providing back-to-school needs of socks and underwear, hygiene items, haircuts, and of course, school supplies in addition to offering free breakfast, prayer, Christian resources, and children's activities. This event will take place on Saturday, August 3 from 9:30 a.m.-noon at Trinity's downtown location.

July Newsletter

Sign up in the narthex to serve at the community care day in one of the following areas:

- Kids' Activities Station
- Haircut Station
- Pancake Breakfast
- Table Host
- Christian Resource Station
- Shopping (Before Event)
- Registration
- Setup/Tear Down

Financial donations to purchase supplies are being accepted payable to Redeemer with "Community Care Day" in the memo. Please contact Kimber Walsh at kimberwalsh@comcast.net with any questions.



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 July 7, from 3:30-6:00 p.m. The topic for our time together this month will be: Cross Generational Olympics—mixed age teams will work together to win classic games (outside or in the RAC). All abilities are welcome! Dinner is included when you sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Signing up helps us to make plans and accommodations for all.

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



Activity based family devotional resources that hit the ages of your children and incorporate an activity to help teach God's Word in engaging ways. Books or kits available for purchase and you can subscribe for free monthly devotions too! Visit **famtime.com** for more information.

*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.



😊 **July 7: 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.

😊 **Sunday, beginning July 14: Lutheranism 101 Class.** Any and all are welcome and encouraged to be a part of Pastor's Adult Information Class starting July 14 @ 8:30 a.m. The class will run through August 25 with the exception of August 4, when Pastor will not be available.

😊 **Thursday--Sunday, July 25--28: Annual Congregational Canoe Trip.** See Ron and Deb Rockwell for more details and information if you are interested.

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

😊 **Saturday, September 14: Cedar Point PointFest Youth and Family Signup.** Cedar Point will be hosting its famous Christian music festival with 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.

CHRISTUS PRIMUS AWARD WILLIAM A. GATZ

by Strategic Communications, May 21, 2019,
used with permission. Photos courtesy of
Concordia University Ann Arbor.



The Christus Primus Award is a service award presented to clergy, educators, or laypersons of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Recipients are recognized for their distinguished service to the Church and community. Rev. William Gatz is a 1961 graduate of Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Illinois. He has been a supporter of CUAA since he came to the Michigan District in the late 1970s, after serving in Ontario, Canada. He hosted Concordia Sundays at his church, was friends with

several of the faculty and staff through the years, and sent a number of prospective students to visit and consider God's work in their life through CUAA. He has faithfully attended our annual Veterans Day celebrations as a Korean War veteran, and he has prayed for God's Gospel work at CUAA for decades, both publicly and privately.

Reverend Gatz explains, "I believe my prayer ministry began at the age of three when I had whooping cough. My mother prayed over me when I died and came back to life immediately. Since that time, my goal has been to spend time daily praying for pastors of Michigan District congregations and their wives and for our Concordia University system."

Reverend Gatz has demonstrated his distinguished work in service to Christ and His Church through more than fifty years of clergy service, especially through numerous speaking events, and teaching about prayer. He is a wonderful supporter of our mission and believes that God is changing our world by His Gospel message and love of Jesus through our students. He truly wants every student to follow Jesus and be His ambassador in our world, so others will follow Jesus. Reverend Gatz embodies our mission of "service to Christ in the Church and the world."



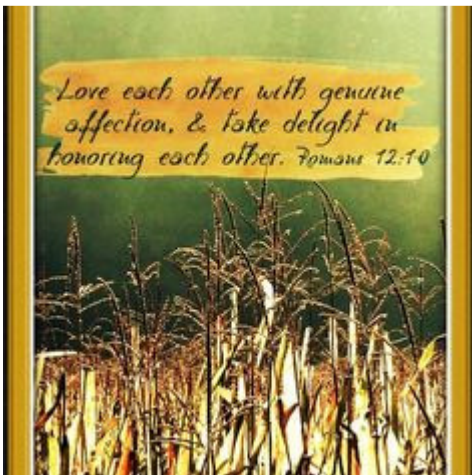
Reverend William Gatz has indeed provided “distinguished service to the church and community,” and for this we are pleased to present him with Concordia University Ann Arbor’s *Christus Primus* award.

Editor’s Note: We at Redeemer are proud to honor our former pastor, Reverend William Gatz, on receiving this much deserved award. His focus on prayer for his entire tenure at Redeemer has influenced many in their attitude and firm belief in the power of prayer. Now, as a member of Redeemer, he is still a great encourager to all in the belief of prayer as the foundation for every decision we as a church make.

God bless you and yours, Pastor Gatz, as you enjoy the recognition. Thanks for all you have done and been for the Church itself, and the individuals you have encouraged with your faith and guidance.

Well done thou good and faithful servant.

Matthew 25:21a



NOT AN ANGEL

by Cathie Miller

There is a small scrap of loose-leaf paper taped inside my Bible. For a long time, I carried it around in my wallet. But, after about 30 years or so, I realized it needed a more permanent home if it was to last until my days end. So now, the words written on it from so long ago, are safely remembered.

I was 19 and a freshman in college. On my way to my next class, I was maneuvering through the frenetic and frantic hallways, when a friend smiled, grabbed my hand, and passed me a note. She was just the messenger. The scrap of paper itself was from Teddy Miller. It read, “Cathie Martin is an angel.” Perhaps, to a future husband, I looked angelic at the tender age of 19. But, all these years later, I struggle with that concept! Teddy’s favorite treat is a bowl of grapefruit. I prefer a bowl of ice cream. That cold and creamy delight calls out to me from the freezer far too often. And, I far too often give in. Several weeks ago, I was scurrying about the kitchen preparing dinner. I popped the lid on a can of pineapple and emptied the fruit into the waiting bowl. But, as I was in a hurry, I skipped my usual next step of bending the sharp lid safely down into the can. I simply tossed it into the garbage...and there it landed...on its side...hidden in sinister waiting... just like the blade of a buzz saw.



My next ingredient took me to the freezer. And, there temptation hit me smack in the face. A nearly empty carton



of chocolate ice-cream with, at most, a tablespoon or two of goodness left. I simply could not resist. But, as always, pain follows pleasure. And, I scowled at myself that I should once again fall into

temptation so easily. In anger and shame, I crumpled the empty carton and carried it to the garbage can. But, in my frustration over my ice-cream crime, it was not enough to merely dispose of the evidence. I needed to hide the evidence. From myself. And, more importantly, from my skinny spouse.

With great effort I proceeded to shove the carton into the trash, when I immediately came into direct contact with the forgotten buzz saw. All I initially felt was a deep burning sensation, followed by the tingle of warm blood trickling down my hand. Like lightning lights up the sky at midnight, the picture of what had just happened flashed into my mind. It took all of my courage to pull my hand out of that garbage can. I did not want to see what I knew I would see. The can lid had sliced open my right thumb from knuckle to tip of nail. I needed stitches. Lots of them.

It took seven stinking sutures to close up my thumb. It is healing nicely. But, for the rest of my life, I will envision a tin can lid, and a tablespoon of ice-cream, every time I look upon the scar which will forever remain physical proof of my weak, foolish, and sinful nature. "Cathie Martin is an angel." Perhaps

only to the boy who wrote those words in love for her.

Back when movies contained no sex, violence, profanity, nudity, or other perversion, Rogers and Hammerstein wrote a musical called "State Fair." In the 1962 version, Bobby Darin sings a beautiful love song to Pamela Tiffin. He is a worldly radio personality. She an innocent and simple farm girl. In trying to sound more sophisticated, Margie tells Jerry that she is not what she appears. She is no angel. He replies...

*"You're not an angel
No you're not
You're mine, You're
mine, You're mine."*



It occurs to me that perhaps God, our Heavenly Father, looks upon us in a similar way. We are all sinners. We sin whether or not we want to. Time and time again. Over and over again. As St. Paul says,

Romans 7:19

For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

Left on our own, we are far from angels. Lost and condemned, we are orphans wandering alone in a fallen world of sin. Yet, Scripture tells us that our weak, foolish, and sinful nature is made perfect in the blood of the Lamb. Through the sacred and scarred body of Jesus comes salvation. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus comes life eternal for all believers.

Our Father does DEMAND perfection. He does not EXPECT perfection from you and me. By His

grace, and through the Holy Spirit, He instead grants us faith in the perfection of His son, Jesus. Making us His children. Belonging only to Him.

May my faith be such that God shall one day look upon my face and say,

"You're not an angel

No you're not

You're mine, You're mine, You're mine."

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING—#TRUTH

by Dave McFarland, Youth Leader, Redeemer

This year's Jr. High Youth Gathering centered on John 8:32—*"and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."* The Gospels reveal God's truth while the world promotes lies. I had the privilege to go with six students and two other chaperons to Frankenmuth's Bavarian Inn

Lodge <https://bavarianinn.com/>, the site of the 2019 Youth Gathering.



I loved driving over the covered bridge near the lodge and seeing the reaction of those who had never been here before and never crossed the bridge. One called it "the creepy bridge," but trust me; it's safe. After dropping off our

stuff in the rooms, we headed for the Heritage Park Pavilion, a short walk from the lodge.

The inside was set up for games, and also had a dining area for the weekend and a stage area for worship. Soon the high school praise team, IMPACT, from Valley Lutheran High in Saginaw announced the call to worship. Made up of a trio of singers, trio of guitarists, keyboardist, bass guitarist, and drummer, they led us in worship with powerful songs. Then Sven and Dean took the stage with their high octane presence, leading us through more songs and fun. With a message from Reverend Gabe Kasper, a pizza break, then more worship, we finally finished for the evening and headed back to the lodge at about 11 p.m.

Saturday was the big day. Up and back to pavilion by 7:15 a.m. for breakfast, then morning worship. At 9:30 a.m., we drove to nearby St. Lorenz Lutheran School where we had two Sectionals: One was on Visual Faith by Valerie Matayas, on how you can take a random act of doodling and turn it into a creative expression utilizing God's Word—Scripture into art. The other sectional was #Lies by Reverend Jason Bauer. He explained how "the Father of Lies," Satan, has continuously tempted us since Adam and Eve's time, and he shared what tools we need to use to follow Christ.

After lunch we split up, with most of us headed to a servant event at Franklin Avenue Mission in Flint. There, we helped out by setting up air conditioners and organizing mission supplies, such as clothes, diapers, bottled water, etc.



One of my personal highlights was dinner time, featuring the Bavarian Inn's famous chicken dinner at the Heritage Park Pavilion. Of course, I had seconds.

That evening, the Youth Gathering moved to St. Lorenz Church. Inside, we found the lights off, except for those around the altar and its famous stained-glass windows still lit from the remaining light outside. What an awesome sight.



Everyone was asked to be quiet, setting the mode for worship. Opening with bag pipes, the service was led by Reverend Bill Yonker, with unplugged music by Sven and Dean. It was an unforgettable worship experience!

Sure, we all had fun during free time shopping, swimming, playing mini-golf and arcade games, and more. But the best part was spending a three-day

weekend focused on God with worship, serving, prayer, and fun.

Sunday morning, the Youth Gathering wrapped up with one last breakfast and worship together. A big thanks to the LCMS Michigan District for hosting the Jr. High Youth Gathering and you, Redeemer Lutheran Church, for your support of youth activities.



ANNUAL CANOE AND CAMPING WEEKEND

Friday, July 26—Sunday, July 28

by Ron Rockwell

Whether you're new members or old friends, everyone is welcome to the Annual Redeemer Camping/Canoeing Weekend. Don't miss out on the best weekend of the year. Smithville Canoe Livery right on the Manistee River is the destination. Included in the cost is camping Friday and Saturday night, a private campground area for our group, two docks for swimming for all ages, and canoeing for two on Saturday. There is a small additional charge if you need extra canoes for the river canoe trip or if you plan to camp on Thursday night as well as the weekend.

Also, there is an additional opportunity to go tubing on Friday afternoon at a cost of \$10.00 per person. Last year we had 22 tubes tied together drifting on the river. There are a limited

amount of kayaks, too, that can be reserved in advance. Saturday evening's traditional supper of "Garbage Can Stew" consists of ham, potatoes, carrots, kielbasa sausage, corn-on-the-cob, onions, and cabbage all steamed together for a meal that will leave you sated, but ready still for the finale of homemade hand-cranked ice cream.



Your weekend can be as active or as relaxing as you want it to

be. Join us for a fun-filled weekend complete with fellowship, food and fun. The weekend ends Sunday with a shared buffet breakfast before the trip home. Hope to see new faces, as well as returning friends and church family. For more information or to make reservations, call Ron Rockwell at 517-937-6219.

REDEEMER BACKPACK RESULTS

by Dave Althouse

This past May, Redeemer Backpack Team completed its twelfth year of providing much needed food for children at Frost Elementary School. This year we filled 1007 backpacks, an average of 37 per week, at a cost of \$5,622. By comparison, last year we filled 1202 backpacks, an average of 45 per week, a cost of \$4,719. Each backpack contains eight different food items and weighs

about eight pounds, enough food for one child for an entire weekend.

Over the past four years, the number of backpacks needed has declined; whether it's because of a returning health to our economy or changing population growth, we are unsure. But current needs are being met as we become aware of them.

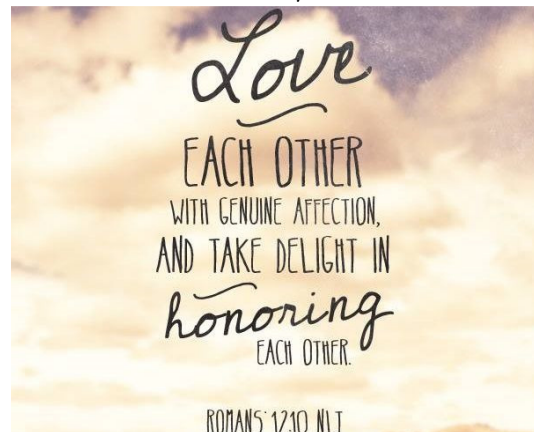
Frost Elementary is scheduled for demolition in 2020 and students will attend a new school that will be built to replace the old Frost and Cascade schools. That means we will still be filling backpacks next year, and possibly into the 2020s if storage and assembly facilities are available at the prospective new school building.




The Backpack Team continues to praise and thank God for providing all the necessary resources to sustain this worthy and beneficial outreach program.

To Him be all the glory and honor.

Redeemer Backpack Team



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
C —Denotes Communion Services	1	2 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	3 Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	4 OFFICE CLOSED  4th of July	5	6 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.
7 Divine Service— C 9:30 a.m. Monthly Birthday Celebration after Worship Builders of Family 3:30—6:00 p.m.	8	9 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	10 Quilters 9:30 a.m. Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	11 Community Morning Prayer Gathering 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m. at Canton's Assisted Living, S. A.	12	13 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.
14 Lutheranism 101 Class 8:30 a.m. Divine Service 9:30 a.m.	15 REFLECTION DEADLINE	16 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	17 Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	18 Community Morning Prayer Gathering 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m. at Canton's S. A.	19	20 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.
21 Lutheranism 101 Class 8:30 a.m. Divine Service— C 9:30 a.m.	22	23 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	24 Quilters 9:30 a.m. Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Leadership Board 6:30 p.m.	25 Community Morning Prayer Gathering 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m. at Canton's Assisted Living, S. A.	26	27 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Buddy Ball 10:00 a.m.
28 Lutheranism 101 Class 8:30 a.m. Divine Service 9:30 a.m. CANOE TRIP ENDS	29	30 Hour of Prayer 7:15 a.m.	31 Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	ANNUAL CANOE TRIP July 25—28 