

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
LCMS**

# LIST



**JANUARY 2020 PUBLICATION  
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Redeemer **Reflection** Newsletter

*Loving People To Christ*

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# REDEEMER REFLECTION

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## OUR 2020 VISION

by Pastor Michael Geml

First, allow me to apologize for the title of this January article. “2020 Vision”—how cliché. But what’s done is done; let us move on. “Let us move on.” Now there’s a more appropriate and less cliché title for the year ahead. We may have a vision for the Year of our Lord 2020, but is it His vision for us? I’ll let you know this time next year. Planning is not a bad thing provided we hold on loosely and we are ever prepared to relinquish control to the One who has only our good in mind. (See Romans 8:28)

On the theme of moving on, think back to the beginning of this year, January 2019. Maybe you had some big plans related to a vacation, a promotion, or crossing off something on your bucket list. As the line from the poem reminds us, “The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” All too often our best laid plans go awry. Sometimes this happens by our own doing, and sometimes our plans are derailed by unforeseen circumstance. A job is lost, which may require a move to another state. A loved one is taken to heaven, which means numerous changes to every aspect of life. It is in those moments when moving on is so hard.



Disappointment and discouragement take hold, and we wallow in self-pity, doubt, and frustration.

When the Lord Jesus said, “I am with you always...” He meant it! His

promise becomes especially precious when we feel we can’t move on. His love and His strength shine most brightly in our weakness. In December, we anticipate and then celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus into the flesh. He is truly Immanuel, God with us. We must take special note and take to heart that Jesus is with us, He is with you, not just in the moments of celebration. He is with you when you just can’t move on. His presence remains with you as we come together to worship Him in this New Year. His presence is with you in a most glorious way when you receive His True Body and Blood in the Holy Supper. His presence is with you, and the world will see the Savior living in you and through you.

Dear friends, the vision for 2020 is clear. It is a vision of Jesus, our Lord and our Savior who is with you always.

A most blessed and Christ-filled  
New Year!

*Pastor Geml*

## FAMILY FAITH LIFE

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

### List

I have always been a list maker. Even before I was trying to remember so many things in my brain simultaneously. Even for those things I could remember without a list. I like making lists. I like seeing everything neatly on a piece of paper. And of course, depending on the list, I like crossing things off the list. (Who doesn't?)

Some lists are to-do lists, others are shopping lists, others are gift idea lists, prayer lists, address lists and the list of lists could go on and on. Some lists you'd love to be on and others you'd prefer not to be. But one type of list I really dislike is Santa's naughty/nice list. The mere mention of it makes me bristle. The naughty/nice list teaches that you have to "be good" (whatever that means) and if you are "good enough," then you will be rewarded with gifts. If you are "naughty," you will receive coal instead of gifts. I'm cringing just writing this.

The message of Jesus, in stark contrast, teaches something very different. It's a message of grace for those undeserving of anything good. It is a message that shows that we have a God who is giving us good gifts apart from anything that we do or don't do. It is not a message of punishment and reward; rather, it is a message of lavish goodness simply because of love. The Bible doesn't really talk about this in terms of a list, but it does talk about how this gift of forgiveness, life and salvation that Jesus offers lands our names in the Lamb's Book of Life. Now there's a list I love to be included on! Thanks be to God for this precious gift!



With the dawn of grocery delivery and online ordering for pickup, grocery shopping is becoming less common, but I don't foresee it going away as a regular part of everyday life anytime soon.

Quick trips for milk, bread and forgotten ingredients will always remain. Being that this is a part of our ordinary lives, we can also seize these moments to talk about God and shape faith 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 talk about faith and point our families to God while grocery shopping:

- **Comparisons**—As you compare products by brand, ingredient, price or what simply looks best, talk about all the criteria that we look at to "pick" things. Then talk about how over and over throughout Scripture God doesn't use the criteria that people use to choose His children, to appoint rulers, or to call people to a special task—God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16).

- **Who made that?**—Depending on the age of your children, play a simple game of "who made that?" in the grocery store aisles. Talk about how God made foods

to nourish our bodies and He even gave ideas for ingredients and recipes to people too!

• **Needs & Wants**—You may need cereal for breakfast at your house, but do you need Cookie Crisp or Lucky Charms? Those might be wants. Use the aisles and the requests of your children (and yourself!) to discern between needs and wants. Talk about how God knows both our needs and our wants. He provides us with “everything we need to support this body and life” (Luther’s Small Catechism) and sometimes gives us bonus blessings of our wants, too. How great is our God to provide us with all of our needs? How great is our God to also give us many of our wants? Talk about how we work hard to be able to buy things, but ultimately God is the Provider of those things, too.

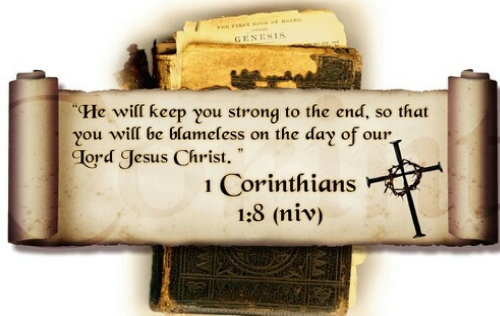
• **Shopping Carts**—As you use your shopping cart to carry all of your finds through the store, talk about what we as Christians carry. What does it mean to be a carrier of each of these things? Why has God decided to utilize His children in these ways? How are we enabled to carry the things God has given us to carry? Is carrying the things of God a burden or a blessing? Why?

Next time you stop by the grocery store, don’t forget you can use the time to chat about meaningful things of God and how they intersect with our shopping and our daily lives.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## JANUARY

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Marilyn Rockwell     | 01/01 |
| Maggie Haas          | 01/03 |
| Don Zastro           | 01/03 |
| Jamie Herrick        | 01/05 |
| Sharon Weatherwax    | 01/05 |
| Fred Wait            | 01/07 |
| Diane Seidzik        | 01/08 |
| Jill Kielhorn        | 01/09 |
| David Voss           | 01/09 |
| Jessica Jolly        | 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 |
| Thomas Gannon        | 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 |
| Janet Jean           | 01/29 |
| Ethan Anderson       | 01/30 |
| Lucas Kane           | 01/30 |
| Tom Simonsen         | 01/30 |
| George Williams      | 01/31 |



## LIST

by Peggy Bennitt

Lists are an important part of my life. If I want to remember something, I need to write it down. A list organizes me. Grocery list, a list of people to call, and things to do for the week go on a “To Do” list. Without a list in my hand, there’s no telling how I might waste a day or what I might bring home from the



store. I could have a list of 3 things to get, and forget my list. Then, thinking I’ll

remember since there were only 3 things after all, I’ll proceed to the store. Once home unloading the groceries, I’ll realize that I’ve got 25 items and only 2 of them were on that list. I am still without that third thing I needed.

Lists are often an essential part of getting things done in daily life. In this modern world, many people keep lists on their phones since they carry them everywhere they go, rather than a written list that can be lost or left behind. In fact, in the not-so-distant-past, we had “palm pilots” designed specifically for lists and itineraries for organizing the days and weeks ahead.

God’s Word is full of helpful and/or absolute requirements listed for us to follow for a God-pleasing productive life. The Ten Commandments are just one of many lists God has given in His Word to remind us what to do and how to do it. But like one of our own lists, God’s Word is useless if we don’t take it out and read it.



*For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*  
Hebrews 4:12

If we daily check our holy “To Do List,” we are more likely to come to the end of our day, our week, our lives thoroughly prepared for the next thing on God’s list for us. With eternity, with Jesus as the last item on our list, we can step into heaven with only that one thing left to check off on that to-do list:

*Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.*  
Psalm 100:2

## 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

We extend sincere thanks to all who donated food items for the Thanksgiving food boxes. Your generosity provided much needed food supplements to seven of our Redeemer families.



Maria Boyle and the Walsh, Bahr, Heffner, Brandt, and Martin families committed the afternoon of December 8 to caroling to the Jackson area shut-ins, wishing them Christmas cheer. What great Christian training for these 15 children! Thank you to each and every one.



Our shut-ins were the recipients of hand-sewn Christmas stockings by member Donna Zastrow. The stockings were filled with confections and other



snacks, including homemade gingerbread boy cookies donated by Marilyn Mantek. We truly appreciate all of our Redeemer members

who have engaged in personal visits to uplift these dear folks. On record are more than 50 visits during the past 9 months.

If you could imagine putting yourself in the place of a shut-in, think about just one day. The only interaction for most is from their daily caregiver. A face-to-face visit from a non-family member can be mood elevating for the shut-in and for the visitor. A typical visit is about half

an hour and can bring cheer and a smile to an otherwise boring day. Loneliness is a serious problem, and it is something a regular visitor can change. Please consider taking some time to make a visit to our aging Christian friends. Contacting me is the best way to find out who and where they are. (810-923-8723)

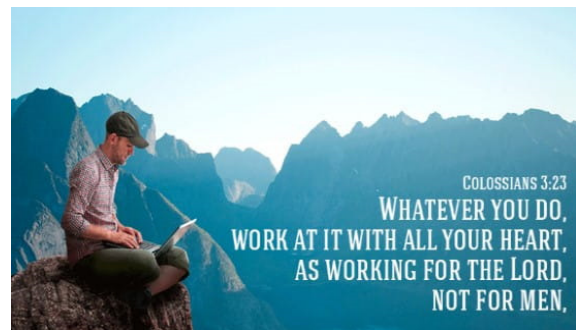
**On another note:**

**KITCHEN MAINTENANCE:**

Our kitchen is used by all the organized groups of Redeemer and by some members who host family celebrations. It is essential to keep this area as clean as possible at all times. I would like to kindly remind all users that **cleaning up after use is mandatory.** Please remember to wash and dry all items that are used and return them to the proper shelving. All linens used should be taken home and laundered, then returned within a week of use by whoever uses them.

If you have a few free hours on Saturday morning, January 11, you are encouraged to join us in a kitchen cleaning bee from 9:00 a.m. until noon. (The alternate date will be January 18 if there is a snow storm or a funeral.) Please bring a bucket, cleaning cloths, and some elbow grease to help deep clean and polish our kitchen surfaces and clean and reorganize the supply room.

Contact me anytime if needs arise that Christian Care Ministry can assist with. 810-923-8723.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

☺ **Thursdays, Ongoing: Bethel Bible Study.** This series will meet every Thursday evening from **6:30-9:00 p.m.**, throughout the normal school year.

☺ **Sunday, December 29: One service at 10:00 a.m.** There will be no Bible classes or potluck on this 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. May God bless your Christmas holiday with family and friends!

☺ **Thursday, January 2: Chancel Guild.** Chancel meets the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. We welcome new members at any time!

☺ **Sunday Evening, January 12: Youth Night** from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Youth Night will be on the second Sunday of each month throughout the school year. Come join us for Bible study with discussion topics, food, fun, and fellowship.

☺ **Thursday, January 9: LWML Women of Redeemer.** From 10:00 a.m.—Noon.

☺ **Sundays, January 19 & 26: Youth Sub Sandwich Sales** after both services. Order your sandwiches for pickup on February 2.

☺ **Sunday, February 2: Sub Sandwich Pickup** after both services.

### 2020 Fundraisers

☺ **Ongoing Fundraising—All Youth**—we need your help and you need the funds for all of the activities we



have in store this year! If you don't help with the fundraising events, you can't earn the money you'll need to attend events and participate in trips, concerts, and other activities.

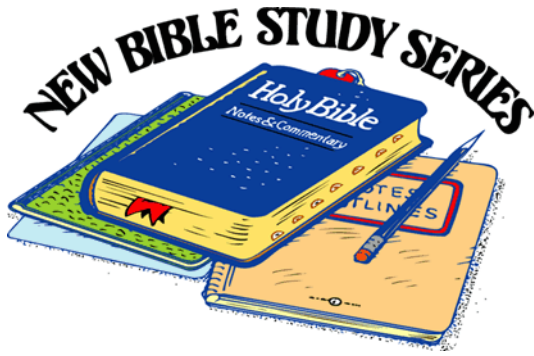
**Sub Sandwich Sale:** Taking orders for subs on January 19 and 26. Sub making on February 1, with sub pickup on February 2.

**Coffee Sundays:** March 8 and May 10

**Easter Lily Sale:** April 5

### How to Read the Bible & LISTEN TO GOD

- **Read with a Pen**— Make notes, circle stuff, ask questions. 
- **Hunt for Promises**— underline or highlight the promises.
- **Key Words**—look for those words that make the section make *sense*.
- **Repeat, repeat**—If a word or phrase is repeated, it's important.
- **If/Then or So/That**—look for the cause and effect phrases in the Bible.
- **Therefore**—if there's a therefore what is it there for?
- **Apply it**—ask how this part of scripture applies to me today. 
- **Use S.O.A.P.**—  
read Scripture,  
make Observations,  
find Application,  
and Pray.



## NEW SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

On Sunday, January 12, Craig Britton will offer a Bible study on 1 Peter titled, "The Amazed Disciple." This Sunday morning adult Bible class is open to any and all adult Bible-lovers. What a great way to start the New Year off right!

We will meet in the lower level education wing music room. Join Craig for this in-depth view of discipleship through the eyes of Peter.

## ALONE BUT, NOT ALONE:

*A group designed to enjoy life while single and/or widowed.*

by Gail Kleimola

Where has the time gone? We met last month on the 14th at Alpha Coney Island for breakfast. All had a great time. Julie Wyatt suggested we have a group fun time at her home playing games. No date has been selected yet.

I was supposed to get an email out but unfortunately, I didn't get it done. I am so sorry and know that most of you will understand that sometimes things just don't get done even with the best intentions.

During this month, I was able to have some discussions with a few of the members and want to share some of the

thoughts, including mine. It was suggested that we do a quarterly plan, which was my intent from the beginning. The group needed to settle into a rhythm first, and I think we are there. Another wonderful idea was to have an agenda each month for the meeting. I think it is time for others in the group to take over all of these ideas and continue the group.

I suggested the idea for a group, but wanted, from the beginning, for the group to form and become comfortable to get to this point. I hope for one or several of the group members to step up to the plate now and take lead of the group.



Feel free to call or email me: [gailbkleimola@gmail.com](mailto:gailbkleimola@gmail.com) or 517-745-3640.

**Let's meet at Alpha Coney Island on January 9 (Thursday) at 9:30 a.m. for our next meeting!**

To all, have a very blessed Christmas. Keep Christ as your focus these next days, weeks, and years. He is the reason for the season. Love to all.





| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday                                       | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|--------|----------|
|   |   |   |   | <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>Community Prayer<br/>7:00 a.m.—8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Study-Craig's<br/>2:30 p.m. in S. A.</p> <p>Bethel Bible Class-<br/>6:30 p.m.</p>  | 3      | 4        |
| <p>5</p> <p>Divine Service—C<br/>8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Classes<br/>9:25—10:20 a.m.</p> <p>Praise Service<br/>10:30 a.m.</p>  | <p>6</p> <p>Adult Choir<br/>6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells<br/>7:30 p.m.</p>  | <p>7</p> <p>Hour of Prayer<br/>7:15 a.m.</p>  | <p>8</p> <p>Quilters<br/>9:00 a.m.-12:00<br/>Noon</p> <p>Craig's Countryside<br/>Bible Study<br/>1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Ministry Council<br/>7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Band<br/>7:00 p.m.</p>  | <p>9</p> <p>Community Prayer<br/>7:00 a.m.—8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Women of Redeemer<br/>10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Pastor's Bible Study<br/>2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bible Study-Craig's<br/>2:30 p.m. in S. A.</p> <p>Bethel Bible Class-<br/>6:30 p.m.</p> | 10     | 11       |
| <p>12</p> <p>Divine Service<br/>8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Classes<br/>9:25—10:20 a.m.</p> <p>Praise Service—C<br/>10:30 a.m.</p> | <p>13</p> <p>Adult Choir<br/>6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells<br/>7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>14</p> <p>Hour of Prayer<br/>7:15 a.m.</p> | <p>15</p> <p>Craig's Countryside<br/>Bible Study<br/>1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Band<br/>7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>REFLECTION<br/>DEADLINE</b></p>  | <p>16</p> <p>Community Prayer<br/>7:00 a.m.—8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Pastor's Bible Study<br/>2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bible Study-Craig's<br/>2:30 p.m. in S. A.</p> <p>Bethel Bible Class-<br/>6:30 p.m.</p>  | 17     | 18       |
| <p>19</p> <p>Divine Service—C<br/>8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Classes<br/>9:25—10:20 a.m.</p> <p>Praise Service<br/>10:30 a.m.</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Adult Choir<br/>6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells<br/>7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>21</p> <p>Hour of Prayer<br/>7:15 a.m.</p> | <p>22</p> <p>Quilters<br/>9:00 a.m.-12:00<br/>Noon</p> <p>Craig's Countryside<br/>Bible Study<br/>1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Leadership Board<br/>6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Band<br/>7:00 p.m.</p> | <p>23</p> <p>Community Prayer<br/>7:00 a.m.—8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Pastor's Bible Study<br/>2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bible Study-Craig's<br/>2:30 p.m. in S. A.</p> <p>Bethel Bible Class-<br/>6:30 p.m.</p>  | 24     | 25       |
| <p>26</p> <p>Divine Service<br/>9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Bible Classes<br/>9:25—10:20 a.m.</p> <p>Praise Service—C<br/>10:30 a.m.</p> | <p>27</p> <p>Adult Choir<br/>6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Handbells<br/>7:30 p.m.</p> | <p>28</p> <p>Hour of Prayer<br/>7:15 a.m.</p> | <p>29</p> <p>Craig's Countryside<br/>Bible Study<br/>1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Praise Band<br/>7:00 p.m.</p>  | <p>30</p> <p>Community Prayer<br/>7:00 a.m.—8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Pastor's Bible Study<br/>2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bible Study-Craig's<br/>2:30 p.m. in S. A.</p> <p>Bethel Bible Class-<br/>6:30 p.m.</p>  | 31     |          |