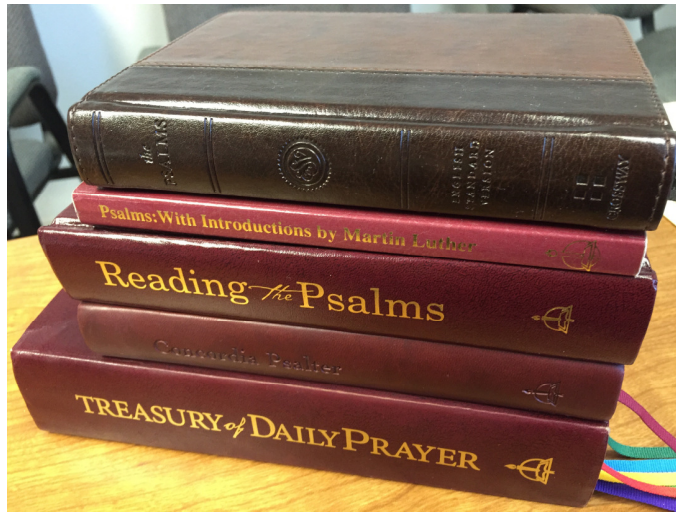
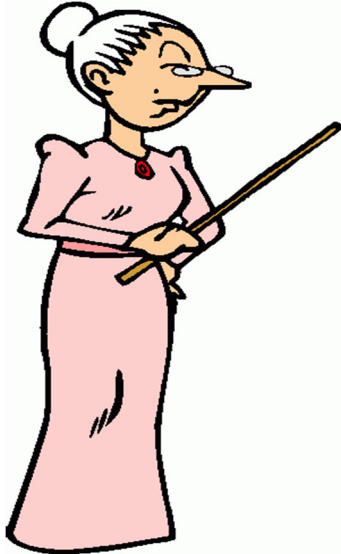


**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS**

DISCIPLINE



**SEPTEMBER 2018 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 11 ISSUE 9**

Redeemer **Reflection** Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

GOD LIKES YOU, RIGHT?

by Pastor Michael Geml

Taking a detour from the recommended topic of September's *Reflection* newsletter, (discipline) I thought I would pose a question for your consideration. A question you may have never considered in your relationship with God. First John chapter 4 tells us that, "God is **love**..." John 3:16, "For God so **loved** the world..." Jeremiah 31, the Lord said, "I have **loved** you with an everlasting **love**." The most identifiable characteristic of God is love. Everything that the Lord God says and does, flows from who He is, namely, a God of unconditional love. In love for you, He sent His beloved Son into the world to bear your sins and to be your Savior. There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus His Son (Romans 8). God loves you and to that blessed, eternal truth you can be sure. God's love for you is not in question.

My question for you is, "Does God like you?" Consider your closest human relationships. There is love between husband and wife. There is love between parent and child. There is love between pastor and parishioner. Even those closest of human relationships can be strained to the point where one party may make the statement, "I love you, but I don't really like you right now." Parents say it to children. Spouses say it to each other. Even pastors and parishioners share in this dissonance. Does God ever hold such an opinion of His children?



Maybe the question would be less intimidating if, instead of asking, "Does God like us," we ask, "Is God ever disappointed with us?"

The answer to that question is not necessarily easier, but it clarifies what needs to be done when it occurs. When there is offense given between husband/wife,

parent/child, pastor/parishioner, the best approach is not to win the dispute but to be reconciled to each other. "*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you*" (Ephesians 4:32). The healthiest foundation for any and every human relationship must start with that relationship we have with God through Jesus. For in Jesus alone there is forgiveness, life, salvation, and reconciliation.

I don't think it is a stretch to say that our heavenly Father is, at times, disappointed with us. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. But His love never fails. It continually calls us to daily repentance and by His grace we are reconciled to Him and to each other. To God be the glory!





SEPTEMBER

Monica VanDerWeide	09/04
Tara Kreklau	09/05
Cassandra Lockwood	09/07
Cecil Lanphear	09/08
Steven Rauscher	09/08
Jan Trowbridge	09/09
Diane Scouten	09/11
Katherine Albertson	09/14
Steve Alcenius	09/14
Judy Clouse	09/17
Caleb Bahr	09/18
Cindi (Lucinda) Byrd	09/19
Josh Brandt	09/20
Sue Simonsen	09/22
Carole Varney	09/23
Ronald Kane	09/28
Beverly Wisniach	09/28
Joanna Balcom	09/29
Elizabeth Balcom	09/29
Morgan Brandt	09/29

FROM THE GARDEN

by Judith Speed



Gardening is rarely seen as a spiritual discipline; however, there are few other places where you can find constant reminders and illustrations of God's

Word, His goodness, and His working in our lives. God can truly meet you in the garden.

All Christians strive for spiritual maturity, which defined means "being like Christ." Spiritual maturity won't happen without discipline. The Bible says, "Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." Discipline and discipleship go together. Here are six key truths regarding them:

1. The Bible teaches that mature believers are called disciples. That's the term that the Bible uses for a mature believer – a disciple.
2. The Bible teaches that I cannot be a disciple without being disciplined.
3. The Bible also teaches that the more disciplined I become, the more God can use me.
4. The mark of a disciple is cross bearing.
5. How often am I to do this? The Bible says daily.
6. What is involved in cross bearing?
WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GIVE
CHRIST FIRST PLACE IN MY LIFE.

FAMILY FAITH LIFE

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



Sky-gazing is great fun no matter your age. In our hurried lives, it's rare for us to sit or lay under the sky for any length of time.

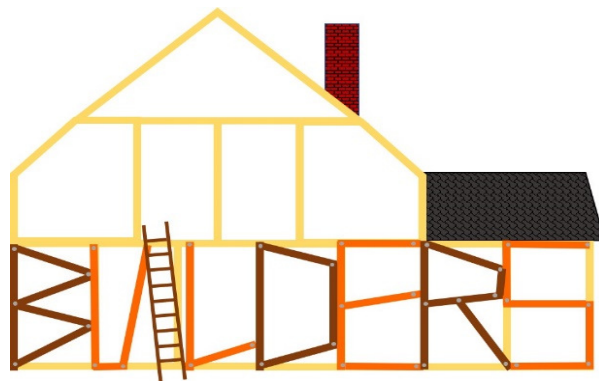
But looking upward at the sky is a great practice for many reasons, not the least of which is it helps our countenance turn upward as well. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today 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.” So, here’s the challenge for you. Spend some time looking up. And while you gaze, talk about faith. It doesn’t have to be complex. Here’s some simple ideas:

- **Stargazing**—Check out the constellations. See who can spot the brightest star. Try to count the stars (“if indeed you can count them”). The stars are a great reminder of God’s promise to Abram. A man with no kids at an old age. And God promised his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. What do you think of God’s promise to Abram? Did He keep His promise? God always keeps His promises. What promises has God made to you? Do you think He’ll keep them?
- **Cloud Spotting**—See what shapes you can spot in the clouds. Be as creative as possible and talk about all the things the clouds remind you of. Be reminded that our creative God made the clouds and many of the things the shapes of the clouds remind us of. Our God is so cool!
- **Sunrise and Sunset**—What’s the best part—when the day begins or when the day ends? Why do you think so? A case can be made for both: “God’s mercies are new every morning” Lamentations 3:22-23 and “God never slumbers or sleeps because He’s watching over you” Psalm 121:4. What does it mean that we have a God that gives us mercy every morning and watches over us every night? He is certainly worthy of our praise! (“From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.” Psalm 113:3)
- **Storm Watching**—Watching thunderstorms can be very fun. Lightning is an amazing thing. While God’s not actually bowling as some say,

storms do remind us that God is in control of everything. “Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding” Psalm 148:7-8. Talk about God’s power over everything, even the weather.

As we look upward with our eyes, we can also look upward in our hearts toward the God of the Universe.



Builders is our new monthly family life time—covering various topics and doing various activities that will build up your family and build up the body of Christ.

We will meet the first Sunday of September, the 2nd, for a family fun event—putt-putt! Meet at Ella Sharp Miniature Golf at 3:30 pm. All are welcome regardless of age or past participation in Builders. Cost is \$3 per golfer and due by Sunday, August 26, to Kimber Walsh. This event will be a bit shorter, so it will include some light refreshments, but NOT dinner. RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the narthex and make payments to Kimber Walsh by August 26 to reserve your spot.



Community Event

Redeemer is partnering with Trinity Lutheran to serve our community. This year's event has been moved to November 10 and will be at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Each month between now and then we'll have a challenge item. These items will be in the bulletin to remind you and can be turned in in the narthex.

September's Challenge Item: Deodorant

Besides items, we need volunteers for each area, corporate sponsorships, bulk in-kind donations, and financial donations. Please contact Kimber at kimberwalsh@comcast.net or 517-750-3100 for more information or if you're interested.



Want to better understand the world youth in your life inhabits? The Culture Translator provides weekly insight into how pop culture, technology, and media are influencing youth while equipping you to start biblically based conversations. Sign up for the culture translator and learn more at axis.org

*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.

SELF

by Kimber Walsh

We often think of discipline with a bad connotation—punishment and correction. Nobody likes to be punished or corrected because that would be to admit we have done wrong. But somehow when we add the word “self” in front of it, it sits a little better. Self-discipline isn't seen as punishment, it's seen as praiseworthy. The irony of that is that it's the same process as any discipline, but we are both the giver as well as the recipient, instead of merely the recipient of some form of correction. The ways humans think is fascinating. When we put ourselves in charge, we tend to think of the same circumstances differently. We tend to paint the once negative into a positive. If we say something rude and someone corrects us, we bristle and resist. But if we think to ourselves, “that was a rude comment; I should be careful not to say something like that again” we pat ourselves on the back for being good and bettering ourselves.

See, there is value in discipline, both received from someone else as well as imposed on ourselves. But the mindset of the “self” making everything better is the problem. We talk a good talk saying God is in control. We ask God to search us and find any unworthiness in us. We like to think that we are yielding to the discipline and discipleship of the Holy Spirit. But in reality, we keep the control thank-you-very-much, we ignore the Holy Spirit, and we can often be found kicking and screaming like a toddler demanding “I can do it myself!”

Eesh! Giving ourselves that much power and control in our own lives is a bad idea. When we elevate the “self” it's self-destructive, self-promoting, and remarkably self-centered! That's the thing about sin; we are guilty of making everything all about me. And not only that, but it's breaking the first commandment and making a god of ourselves. Double eesh! Even discipline, God's gift of correction, when presented selfishly, is not at all helpful. We need

to turn. We need to repent. We need to put off ourselves and turn to God to be made new.

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”-Ephesians 4:22-24

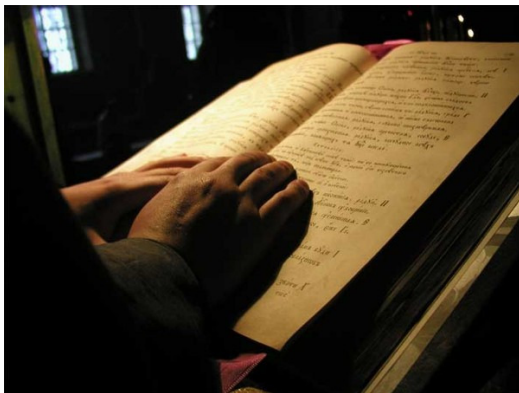
And God will put on our new selves. He will make the attitudes of our minds that are so “self” focused and power-hungry righteous and holy. By His Holy Spirit, He will correct us and guide us to no longer be corrupted by our deceitful desires. And discipline will be seen for the good it is in our hearts.

LAY READER WORKSHOP

by Deb Fall

Have you ever wondered how our lay readers express so beautifully the meaning of Scripture each Sunday? Have you ever felt a gentle nudge to

explore reading God’s Word out loud, but have been reluctant to step



out because you aren’t exactly sure how to pronounce some of the places and names in Scripture? If so, I encourage you to consider taking one step forward and attend the upcoming Lay Reader Workshop.

On Saturday, September 22, 2018, from 10 a.m. – noon, current lay readers and those interested in serving will have the opportunity to

become more confident and competent in communicating God’s Word clearly to listeners.

This 2-hour workshop will be led by Barbara Laughlin Adler, Concordia University Ann Arbor Professor Emerita, and author of *The Sound of Scripture: Reading the Bible Aloud*. There is no cost to attend the workshop and each person who attends will receive a copy of Adler’s book. To register, please complete a registration form found at the Welcome Center and leave it in my mailbox near the elevator.

To learn more about this workshop and Dr. Adler, visit soundofscripture.blogspot.com or contact Pastor Geml or Deb Fall.



YOUTH NIGHT BEGINS

by Dave & Kim McFarland

The second Sunday of each month will be 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 will be the youth leaders for this monthly gathering at Redeemer. We’ll meet in the Teen Room in the lower level starting at 5:30—7:00 p.m. on October 14.

Mark your calendars for the rest of the year: October 14, November 11, and December 9. September’s youth event will be *Pointfest* at Cedar Point on September 15. There will be a meeting, September 9 after the late service, for all those signed up for the *Pointfest* event. We’ll disburse tickets and get any last minute information to everyone at that time.

PRAYER THOUGHTS

by Reverend Wm. Gatz

This month's *Prayer Thoughts* are about getting our Time of Prayer Meeting started again in September, possible on September 11 or 13 at 6:30 p.m. The date will be announced.

At our first meeting, I will set before you some goals. I would like to call our group *Prayer Warriors*. I will also be asking for input from you during our session. Our total time together will be an hour, with a half hour talking about what we hope to have happen, and another half hour actually praying.

THOUGHTS ABOUT PRAYER WARRIORS

“The Lord is the Lord of the congregation. It is not the board or the pastor. The work of the Lord in the congregation is a team effort – the Lord, the congregation, and the pastor. The Lord knows the plan He has for the congregation.

The Word of the Lord, prayer, and the Sacraments are the resources the Lord provides for His people to accomplish the mission He has for the congregation.

According to our Catechism, question 199 asks, “Who helps in our praying?” The answer: the Holy Spirit.

According to Acts 20:28, the Holy Spirit is the one who places the pastor in the congregation. It was the Holy Spirit who directed holy men of God to write the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:14-17). According to Romans 8:26, 27, when we don't know how to pray, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in our praying so that we pray according to God's will.

Every Prayer Warrior session should start by keeping in mind that the Holy Spirit is the source of all praying.



During our meetings as Prayer Warriors, I pray we will learn how to be guided by the Holy Spirit in our prayers. To me, the purpose of prayer is not to persuade or influence the Lord, but to join forces with Him. Prayer is not about us; it's about Jesus – His form and His purpose. I believe the greatest investment for our congregation is persistent prayer on the congregation's behalf. Some problems in our own lives or the life of the congregation will not be resolved by a few moments spent in heartfelt prayer.

Before I do anything for the Lord, I always pray about what the Lord wants me to do, and He gives me goals of what He wants me to accomplish. There are two things that I would like to see happen during our prayer sessions. First that we would learn to pray asking the Holy Spirit to lead us. Second, that our Redeemer would be blessed as we pray for very specific needs for our congregation. My prayer is that many of you who enjoy praying, will join us during our prayer time.



REDEEMER LIBRARY

by Peggy Bennitt

Our library is brimming with good family entertainment; not only in book form, but also in the form of audio books and videos. *Soul Surfer* is one such video.



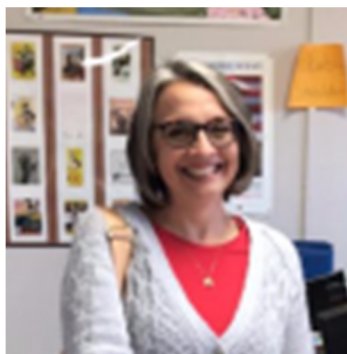
Soul Surfer takes place in Hawaii where the Hamilton family's idyllic, laid-back family life style of peaceful

serenity is broken by a surfing accident that turns their world upside down. The daughter, Bethany Hamilton, is severely injured while surfing with her friends and her best friend's father.

The amazing recovery Bethany makes, and the faith and struggles that make her strong again are wonderful, as well as heart-breaking, to watch. But the grit of this young teenage girl and her faith and fortitude are a joy to see. Her courage and love for others spurs her on to share her story with the world in order to encourage those overwhelmed by physical challenges.



Annasopia Robb, Dennis Quaid, and Helen Hunt make this movie truly exciting and amazingly authentic. *Soul Surfer* is based on a Christian family's real experience with a surfing tragedy, and there is some graphic violence at one point, so definitely PG-13.



MAKING IT HAPPEN... FOR 28 YEARS AND COUNTING

by Kristin Rathje, guest writer, with selections from her blog, *Next Chapter*; used with permission.

Yesterday, when a friend heard that today was our twenty-eighth wedding anniversary, she said, "Sometime we'll have to talk about how you made *that* happen..." Yeah, so, that's not exactly how I would characterize the last three decades. I didn't *make* anything happen.

I've *made* numerous mistakes, swift judgments, and poor choices. I started off strong — *making* the assumption that I knew how to be the best wife and mother there ever was, and so I've spent the last twenty-eight years learning humility. I'm not an expert at communicating, loving, being patient, or putting someone else first. The fact that we're celebrating twenty-eight years of marriage today is not a reflection of our success, but a testimony to the grace and steadfastness of God.

...

The stress of that first year alone might have done us in, but we were starry-eyed and convinced that we had won the lottery, and we were going to have the best life ever, even if we did have moments where insecurities led to worry that led to yelling or tears or silence. Because we did (and do) have those. I remember one time, it had to be in the first month (or even week) of our marriage. Who

even knew what started the squabble, but there we were in the kitchen, standing like two giant X's, arms and legs splayed, chests out, voices raised, fingers pointing, spouting the kind of words we had never said toward one another before. It was terrifying — ours was to be the perfect marriage — how could this happen? Doors were slammed; we fell to silence. And then we began to learn how to repair.

Undaunted, on the heels of that first year, before John had even finished his counseling internship and secured a salaried position, we decided that we'd like to start our family. Before our second anniversary, we'd moved again, he'd begun an internship, and we were expecting a baby!

Shortly after our third anniversary, he was settled into a position on a church staff, we had purchased our first home, and we were expecting another baby!



By our fifth anniversary, our youngest was on the way!

It was the season of babies. We were elbow deep in diapers, blankies, and sippy cups. My husband, on a church staff, worked long hours while I navigated days of feeding, reading, playing, and rocking. It was such a rich time what with all the

cooing and snuggling, but the pure physicality of it all was exhausting. I was daily relieved when John joined me in the second-shift — the bathing, rough-housing, and putting to bed. We had established a partnership — he picked up where I left off and vice versa, but it wasn't all hearts and flowers...Often, when he saw me hanging on by a frazzled thread, he pushed me out the door to catch a breath, take a break, or sit in silence. He's always been quick to care for me — to see my needs often before I know I have them.

Throughout the years, we've shifted roles many times as we navigated five more moves,

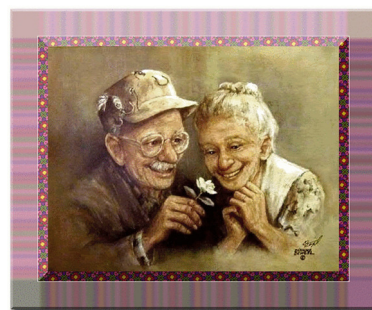
two more graduate degrees, various stages of parenting, and numerous professional positions. Recently, we've found the most cherished roles of our lives as Oma and Opa to our two precious granddaughters!

We've walked many roads together. We've attended weddings; we've been eye-witnesses to divorce. We've visited hospitals to welcome newborn babies; we've been in the room for the last breath of life. We've been in conference rooms and court rooms. We've been in churches and synagogues. We've been to Austin, Boston, Chicago, and Detroit. We've even been to Canada, Africa, Israel, and Haiti! We've heard the best news and the worst news — all of this, together.

After twenty-eight years, we're still happy to sit across the table with one another and talk for hours or to share the couch as we watch a whole Netflix series in a weekend... or simply drinking tea on our patio in the quiet of the morning, each reading our own book and saying absolutely nothing.

How did we make *that* happen? ...

We didn't *make* that happen. None of our choices made that happen. Except one, maybe. We decided, way back in 1989, that if we *got* married, we would *stay* married. We would make our marriage vows to God, and He [Whom] we trusted, would *make* it happen. Though we were young and ill-equipped, we knew already that if we were going to have a life-long marriage, God would have to carry us in the palm of His hand. And He has.



*Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He,
I am He who will sustain you.*

*I have made you and I will carry you;
I will sustain you and I will rescue you.*

Isaiah 46:4

DISCIPLINE

by Peggy Bennitt

Discipline can mean many different things depending on its usage and context. In the Oxford Dictionary, there are several definitions listed. Discipline can be the “practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behavior, using punishment to correct disobedience.” Or it can mean to “train oneself to do something in a controlled and habitual way.”

When God speaks of discipline in His Word, what comes to mind? Do we think of a mean entity with a whip? A sergeant drilling the troops? Sitting in a corner with a dunce hat on? Or do we automatically think of His Word as a discipline for ourselves, to study, obey, and find security and guidance through the wisdom found there?

Maybe both of these come to mind. And maybe even more images jump to mind when we hear the term discipline and apply it to our God and His Word.

I personally love the discipline of Bible study and delving into God’s Word. As I learn more about my Lord and His plans, I even enjoy discovering His rules along with His compassion and forgiveness. Like a good parent, He follows through with His promises, whether those promises are wonderful and loving, or consequences for sin. He gives us clear instructions in His Word so either retribution or reward should not surprise us.

Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

Job 5:17

The discipline of Bible study should be part of our daily lives. If we are in the Word regularly, we will better understand what our Father expects of us, and embrace Him as we learn to recognize Him in every aspect of our lives.

As we learn to discipline ourselves, to commit ourselves to Him and the study of His truths, His story; we draw closer to Him. We

also gain knowledge and guidance for our life here on earth.

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.

Proverbs 12:1

Our Lord does not soft-soap His rules, nor pull punches when He speaks of consequences. He is truthful with His warnings, and lovingly forgives our childishness and sins if we are truly repentant. Discipline is what makes us the people we are meant to be. Without discipline, especially God’s, we cannot know right from wrong or learn to focus in order to gain knowledge of Him. Without discipline, chaos would reign. But with God and His Word to guide and disciple us, we can lead a life that model’s Jesus as disciplined people of a just and loving God.

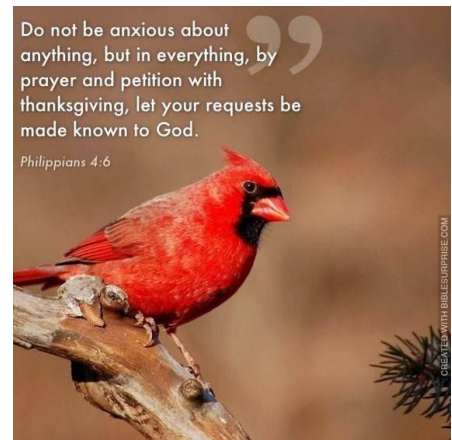
Let’s let discipline define us as God’s people.

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY

by Craig Britton

A new adult Bible class will begin September 9th in the RAC at 9:30 a.m. **Treasuring Joy: Philippians** will show us Paul, imprisoned and awaiting probable execution, and share his secret: inner joy and peace through Christ’s presence in his life.

Plan to join us, on Sunday mornings as we study this time in Paul’s life and get a glimpse of his amazing faith in a bad situation.



Sun

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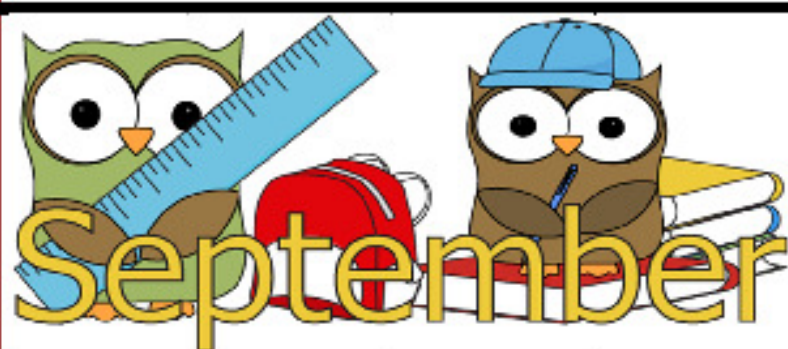
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Divine Service— C 9:30 a.m. <i>Builders</i> Mini-golf outing 3:30 p.m. meet at Ella Sharp Park	3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY	4 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 6:30 a.m.	5 Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. Liquids Game 7:00 p.m.	6 Community Prayer 7:00—8:00 a.m. Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m. in S. A.	7	8 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.
9 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Bible Classes 9:20—10:20 a.m. Praise Service— C 10:30 a.m. Pointfest Meeting After late service	10 Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m.	11 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 6:30 a.m.	12 Quilters 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	13 Community Prayer 7:00—8:00 a.m. Women of Redeemer 10:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m. in S. A.	14	15 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Cedarpoint/ Pointfest Music Festival
16 Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. Bible Classes 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m.	17 Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m.	18 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 6:30 a.m.	19 Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m.	20 Community Prayer 7:00—8:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m. in S. A.	21	22 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m. Lay Reader Workshop 10:00 a.m.
23 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. Bible Classes 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Praise Service— C 10:30 a.m. C-Commission at the 10:00 a.m. service at the 30th.	24 Adult Choir 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m.	25 Prayer Chapel— Hour of Prayer 6:30 a.m.	26 Quilters 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Craig's Countryside Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Praise Team 7:00 p.m. Leadership Board/ Ministry Council 7:00 p.m.	27 Community Prayer 7:00—8:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study 2:00 p.m. Craig's Bible Study 2:30 p.m. in S. A.	28	29 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.
30		31				