

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATING 119 YEARS OF MINISTRY



Redeemer Lutheran Church
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Redeemer Herald Newsletter For September 2023



**Visitors and Neighbors:
Welcome to Redeemer
Lutheran Church!**

***Our door is open to you!
We would be happy to
have you join us as a
Partner in prayer, in song,
and in the hearing of
God's word.***



Our Mission:

As a community of faith, we worship the Triune God.
We are called to love and serve all God's people and
creation through word and deed.



Pastor's Page

"I place before you Life and Death, Blessing and Curse. Choose life so that you and your children will live. And love God, your God, listening obediently to him, firmly embracing him. Oh yes, he is life itself, a long life settled on the soil that God, your God, promised to give your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." **(Deuteronomy 30:19-20.)**

My dear beloved, as God's word instruct us in the ways that are right, it is important for us then to sit at the feet of the Lord, learning what truly brings us life and blessings.

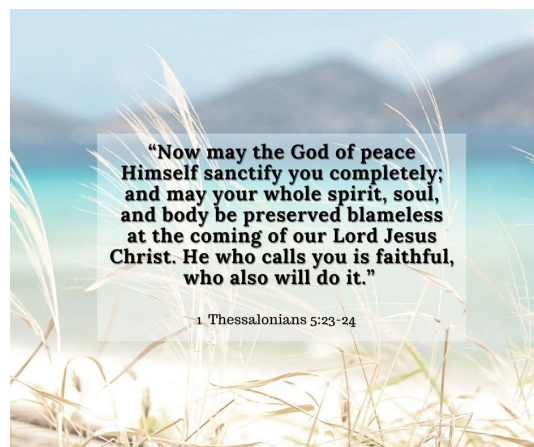
That's why, as we enter this fall season, it is important to be in worship on a weekly basis, it is good to be involved with Bible Studies and Faith Formation opportunities whether in a class or a small group where you are diligently studying the Word of God. Maybe even challenge yourself to take our worship and Faith Formation to the next level this fall and hold yourself accountable to it as we continue to love God and love our neighbors as ourself through words and deeds.

As God's words reminds us, "This commandment that I'm commanding you today isn't too much for you, it's not out of your reach. It's not on a high mountain—you don't have to get mountaineers to climb the peak and bring it down to your level and explain it before you can live it. And it's not across the ocean—you don't have to send sailors out to get it, bring it back, and then explain it before you can live it. No. The word is right here and now—as near as the tongue in your mouth, as near as the heart in your chest. Just do it! **(Deuteronomy 30:11-14)**

And now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the One who calls you is faithful, and will do it. **(1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24).**

Blessings Always,

Pastor Mukesh.



Prayer Concerns

Members: Lois Hershberger; Winnie Ferguson; Patti Paul; Lynn Leppo; Marty Danielson; David Erdman; Elizabeth Reinas; Don Farnham; Jim Reinas; Denise Robinson; Judy Lamb; Dee Grover; Rev. Karl Hommen; Rich Moulder; Mike Dunn; Katherine Patelunas; Heather Palladino; Ilene Kersten; Stephanie Rager; Ally Hommen; Michelle Morris; Jane Leppo; Edith Williams; Dolores Danielson; David Short; Bob Winkler; Millie Murray

Relatives and Friends of our Members: George Rehm; Jim Mosman; Paula Sykes, Kim Conti, Joanne Brower, Raymond Short Jr., Gerald Grover, Rich Orwig, Ronald Bruchbocker, Joanne Brower, Cheri Shenefelt, Ann Marie Danieluk, Bill Castelberg Jr., Millie Rogosky, Lucy Fassak, Terri Rehm, Judy Turner

Relatives and Friends of our Members Serving in the Military: Chad Durban; Joseph Piel; Kelly Cahill; Matthew Brandon Winter; Reid Furman; Julia Furman; Anne Furman; Matt Glaze; John Dichoso; Nicholas Ropars; Danny Parker; Billy Clark



Remember in Your Prayers Pastor and staff of Redeemer, and our Nations Leaders:

Pres. Joe Biden, Vice Pres. Kamala Harris, Our U.S. Senators, The Supreme Court, and the House of Representatives.

Prayer Initiative for September

On September 10, 2023, please pray for:

Marsha Goodwin ; Lois Gradel; Dee Grover and Son Trey; The Hemphill Family; Thomas and Jessica Herb and Ryker Herb

On September 24, 2023, please pray for:

Marge Einkenkel; Bunny Elinich; Lynne Engle; Joe and Linda English-Patton; David and Rosemarie Erdman



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>9/3</i>	<i>9:20 AM</i>	<i>Worship - Blessing of School Supplies</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>9/5</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>	<i>Shared Meal</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>9/6</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>	<i>Evangelism - Zoom</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>9/7</i>	<i>6:45 PM</i>	<i>Bell Practice</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>9/10</i>	<i>9:20 AM</i>	<i>Worship - Blue Mass</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>9/11</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>9/11</i>	<i>8:00 PM</i>	<i>Grief/Bereavement Group</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>9/12</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Council Meeting</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>9/14</i>	<i>6:45 PM</i>	<i>Bell Practice</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>9/17</i>	<i>9:20 AM</i>	<i>Worship - Rally Day</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>9/17</i>	<i>9:20 AM</i>	<i>Baptism - Emilia McHugh</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>9/17</i>	<i>After Worship</i>	<i>God's Work, Our Hands</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>9/18</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>9/18</i>	<i>8:00 PM</i>	<i>Grief/Bereavement Group</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>9/19</i>	<i>12:00 PM</i>	<i>WELCA In Person</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>9/14</i>	<i>6:45 PM</i>	<i>Bell Practice</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>9/22</i>	<i>5:00 PM</i>	<i>Fun Committee Event</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>9/24</i>	<i>9:20 AM</i>	<i>Worship - Mission Festival</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>9/25</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>9/25</i>	<i>8:00 PM</i>	<i>Grief/Bereavement Group</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>9/26</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Stewardship Meeting</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>9/28</i>	<i>6:45 PM</i>	<i>Bell Practice</i>

Check our website calendar and/or Facebook page for a current list of the events.

Please feel free to call or email the Church Office with any questions.

Council Highlights August 2023

August Council Highlights. Council did not meet in June and July 2023

WORSHIP TEAM – The Worship Team is working on the Blue Mass on 9-10-23. More information to follow.

FAITH FORMATION – Thank you to Jessica Hotalen for a wonderful VBS session this year!! It was a high energy week and the children and families enjoyed it.

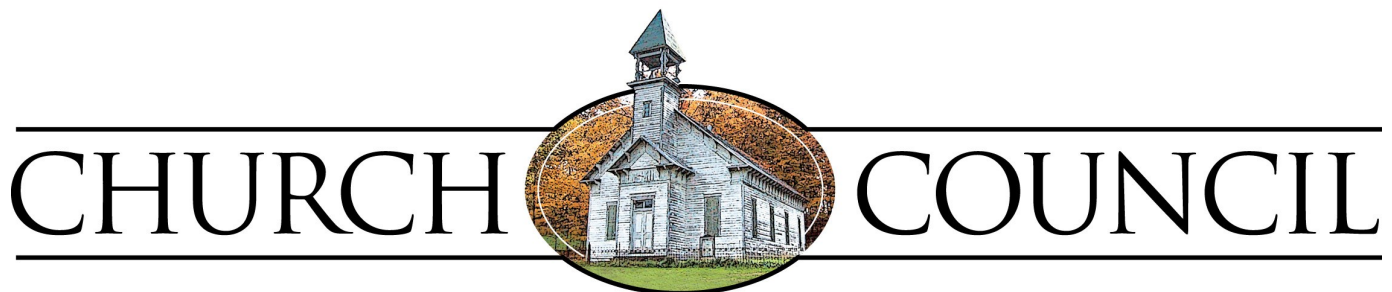
STEWARDSHIP TEAM - Denise Robinson is stepping down as the leader of Stewardship at the end of this year. We would be looking for someone to join this team as their leader.

SHARED MEAL MINISTRY – We had 20 volunteers at the last shared meal in August. Thank you all !!!

EVANGELISM TEAM – Karen Kondrk is waiting for a call back about the Pig Roast. More information to come.

SOCIAL MINISTRY – The Mission Festival Auction will be held on 9-24-23 this year.

Thank you to our church Secretary, Jennifer!!



Honoring Life

A vigil honoring both victims and survivors of the flash flooding in Upper Makefield at the 911 Memorial Garden of Reflection in Yardley on Sunday, July 23, 2023.



Pastor Doug Hoglund, from Woodside Presbyterian Church, saying a prayer at the vigil honoring both victims and survivors of the recent flash flooding in Upper Makefield at the 911 Memorial Garden of

Pastor Mukesh Cheedie from Redeemer Lutheran Church, said a prayer at the vigil honoring both victims and survivors of the recent flash flooding in Upper Makefield at the 911 Memorial Garden of Reflection



Worship & Music Ministry

It has been a delightful summer for Redeemer to listen to the many talents that bless us and glorify God through music. We appreciate your dedication and willingness to serve.

Thank you for donating your time and energy to the church.





Redeemer's 119th Anniversary Picnic was a celebration success! While it would have been better to be outdoors, a good time was had by all. Lots of good food with even better company to enjoy it with.



WELCA NEWS

2023-24 Program year Kick-off Meeting Cook-Out Dinner with Bonfire

Tuesday, September 19, 2023
EARLY - 5:00 PM.

Hot Dogs and S'mores provided by Welca members.

Come Join – Everyone is welcome!



Homebound Visits

Welca members will be visiting homebound Redeemer members after Rally Day with a “Thinking of You” message and a small gift bag of goodies. Thanks to everyone who fixes the bags and everyone who visits.



Mark Your Calander 2023 WELCA Christmas Bazaar Saturday, November 4

The bazaar is coming up and every year, Welca depends on the entire congregation to make the bazaar a success. If you could donate any unwanted Christmas items for the bazaar, it would be very much appreciated. Your donations may be left in the library area at any time. Mark your calendar and plan to come out to shop and have lunch on Saturday, November 4.



WELCA NEWS

Garden Club

Garden Club members are watering the geraniums and keeping the flower beds weeded over the summer months. Thanks to Kim Overbagh, Linda Winter, Lynn Engel, Carole Chatelain, Deb Farnham, Lew Oser and Rita Solt, the geraniums look great again this season.



Financial Ministry



We continue to collect tapes from Redner Supermarkets and Brown's Shop Rite Stores. We do receive a percentage of money from these tapes which goes to the Current Fund.

Please try to keep them current. You can drop off your tapes Monday through Friday 12-1 or mail them to the church using the address of 239 Fairview Avenue, Penndel, PA 19047, or you can drop them in the basket in the narthex.

Thank you for your help.
Katherine Patelunas

Book Club

The current selection is **The Four Winds**, by Kristin Hannah.

The book club will meet on Sunday, September 17th, at 2pm in the Parish Hall.

The book is available on Amazon and several used bookstore sites, and from the Bucks County library.

All are welcome to participate.



Information Coordinator

OA will continue to meet in the church hall on Monday 7:30 pm and Friday 8:00 pm, except for the last Friday when the Fun Committee is there.

Girl Scouts will start to meet in September on Mondays at 5:00 pm and Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

Thursday evenings are still open for an outside group.

Bible study will resume in September, Mondays 7:00 pm.

Bereavement/grief support group will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings at 8:00 pm.

Jeannie Vitale, Chair



SOCIAL MINISTRY:

Social Ministry will begin meeting again in October on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm prior to Bible Study. The next meeting will be on October 2nd.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Grief Share

In August, the grief support group will begin meeting the second and fourth Mondays, at 7:00 pm in the church building. Starting in September, the grief support group will go back to meeting on the second and fourth Monday at 8:00 pm following Bible Study. Anyone who feels the need to share their grief, no matter how long or short it's been, is lovingly welcome.



Bible Study

Bible Study will resume on Monday, 9/11/23 at 7:00 pm in the church building and will continue every Monday. Come and join us for insightful and spirited conversation, and maybe you will discover something new!

Shared Meal



Our July shared meal was on the holiday, July Fourth. Surprisingly, there were nineteen (19) volunteers to help serve drinks, burgers, baked beans, potato salad, and desserts - with thirty-seven (37) guests present.



Tuesday, August 1, 2023

The next shared meal was Tuesday, August 1, when ziti was served with vegetables, rolls, salad, and desserts. We very much appreciate our ziti bakers. Scheduled for baking ziti in August was: Deb Farnham, Lynn Engel, Gail and Bob Blinstrub, Carole Chatelain, Rita Solt, Cindy Short, Denise Brad, and Marilyn Hrywnak. Thank you all. Special thanks to Marilyn for joining our wonderful team of volunteers who make this important ministry possible.



The next shared meal will be Tuesday, September 5 with Jay Green generously providing the food. We greatly appreciate Jay's help, and if you ever want a wonderful Philly cheese steak, "Jay's Joint" is on Highland Avenue in Parkland.



Events Happening



Honoring our Heroes

Please join Redeemer Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 9:20 am for our Blue Mass Worship Service.

Blue Mass has become a tradition in which Redeemer Lutheran gathers to honor and remember those who have died in the line of duty as well as recognize and bless those actively serving as policemen and women, firefighters, and EMS responders.

All are invited to stand in solidarity with these men and women who stand on our front lines, ensuring them of our prayers and support for their continued protection in their worthy endeavors throughout our community.

Refreshments will follow the worship service

Please RSVP to us at 215-757-2724, or by email to redemerlutheranchurchpenndel@verizon.net

Events Happening

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Join us for a very special Rally Day worship service as a way to kick-start the fall and the return from summer. There will be blessing of our school bags, commissioning of all Faith Formation leaders and all Educators, and a children's sermon.



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

**God's Work, Our Hands
Day of Service
Sunday, September 17, 2023**

During September 2023, ELCA congregations will join together for **"God's work, our hands," Sunday**. This year the ELCA is celebrating the tenth anniversary of this day of service. This annual day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

One Way to Join in "God's Work, Our Hands"



One opportunity for you to participate is by donating small and travel sized toiletries, such as: toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, shampoo, bar soap or body wash, combination body wash and shampoo, disposal razors, or a similar gift of your choice.

On September 17, please help the Faith Formation students to pack them. Your donations will be gifted to our guests at the food pantry, shared meal or Re-Store. Please place your gift in the box in the narthex on Sunday mornings up to and including September 17. Thank you for your generosity.

A Second way to join in "God's Work, Our Hands"

Write a note or card to someone serving in the military who is listed in the prayer list of the weekly bulletin. For privacy reasons, notes and cards may be given to their family member or friend at Redeemer for addressing and sending. If you are unsure of the correct family member or friend, please contact the church office.



Boscov's Friends Helping Friends

On Wednesday, October 18, 2023, Boscov's will host the 27th Anniversary of the Friends Helping Friends event, a special day filled with fun and fundraising to benefit area non-profit organizations. This annual event raises over \$2 million for local non-profit organizations including Redeemer Lutheran Church.

\$5 DONATIONS: Each pass is \$5 and Redeemer Lutheran keeps 100% of this donation!

25% Off* SHOPPING PASS: Customers donating \$5 will receive an In-Store Only Shopping Pass valid during this one day event, October 18, 2023. And you can register to win a \$100 Boscov's Gift Card: Scan the QR code on the shopping pass for a chance to win. One customer from each store will receive a \$100 Boscov's Gift Card!

See Gail Blinstrub to purchase your shopping pass, or call her at 215-891-1388.



Evangelism News



September 3rd, we bless the school supplies that were donated to Stuff the Bus

Thank you all for all for your generosity throughout the month. It will be appreciated by the Redeemer teachers who will split up the donations after they are blessed.

September 10th Blue Mass with a fellowship brunch afterward to thank all our local heroes.

September 17th Gods Work our Hands

Bring your small and travel size toiletries. You can also bring a card or letter to be given to their family member or friend at Redeemer.

October 14th Pig Roast

The Roast is back! There will be live music and great food. Bring your friends.

October 29th Trunk or Treat

After service, decorate your car a little and give candy to the neighborhood.

Thrivent

We are trying to update the Thrivent member list so we know who has available cards for events. If you are a current Thrivent member or are interested in becoming one, please see Chris Ryan. Thank you

Evangelism Quote of the month *Romans 10*

For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

For it is with your heart
that you believe
and are justified,
and it is with your mouth
that you profess
your faith and are saved.

Romans 10:10



Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship

News

by Denise Robinson



Once again in my stewardship research, I found this article that I found very insightful and educational. It's a bit long but worth the time to read it. The article states – “This idea of faithful stewardship should ring familiar to Lutherans, who hear the traditional offering prayer in the weekly worship liturgy of our standard hymnals, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (1978).”

Stewardship: A disciple's path By Robert C. Blezard, June 11, 2021

Mention “stewardship” at church and you’re likely to see a lot of eyes rolling and hear some deep groans—just before people bolt for the door with one hand on their wallets and checkbooks. That’s because, in too many congregations, “stewardship” has become a cheesy euphemism for “We want your money.”

It’s a shame too. ***As our church’s traditional offering prayers express, stewardship lies at the very center of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.***

“Stewardship is everything we do after we say, ‘I believe,’” said Clarence Stoughton (1895-1975), who served as executive secretary of the Lutheran Laymen’s Movement for Stewardship and as secretary of stewardship for the United Lutheran Church in America, an ELCA predecessor. An internationally known educator, Stoughton served as president of both Wagner College, New York City, and Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio.

His definition of stewardship, which has become something of a mantra for Christian stewardship leaders in North America (just Google it), becomes clear when two key elements are understood.

First, a “steward” is a person of authority who is entrusted with the duty of managing and caring for another person’s property. More than a mere employee, a steward is endowed with a great degree of autonomy, trust and responsibility.

For example, in Jesus’ parable in Luke 16:1-13, the steward misuses his power and changes the amounts due on his master’s accounts payable. Christians know him as “the dishonest” steward because he betrays his master’s trust and cheats him for his own gain.

Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship News (cont'd)

Second, Stoughton's definition relies on the biblical understanding that everything in creation, even our lives, belongs to God. No exceptions. Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:15 describe how God created human beings in the divine image and put us in charge of what God has made. Thus, we are stewards—caretakers, managers, supervisors—given a high degree of authority and autonomy, but also commensurate responsibility. Our task as stewards represents a sacred trust and solemn duty. We carry it out in everything we think, say and do after we say, “I believe.”

This idea of faithful stewardship should ring familiar to Lutherans, who hear the traditional offering prayer in the weekly worship liturgy of our standard hymnals, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006) and the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (1978).

An in-depth exploration of these prayers reveals the life-giving connection between stewardship, offering and discipleship. The wording is slightly different between the two hymnals, so what follows is a compilation of the best of both.

Blessed are you, O God, Maker of all things ...

The first verse of the Bible frames our foundational understanding not only of stewardship but also of reality itself: “In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). How did the world get here? How did we? What's behind everything? It's God, who is holy and blessed. Everything is imbued with God's holiness, and everything belongs to God.

“The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it,” reads Psalm 24:1, echoing the theme of God's ownership. In case we thought it was only the “stuff” that belongs to God, this verse makes clear that we ourselves belong to God. Paul emphasizes this in Romans 14:8: “If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.”

We offer with joy and thanksgiving ...

The word “offer” captures the essence of faithful steward giving, implying free choice and a willing heart. By contrast, no one would consider a tax payment to the federal government an “offering.” Even if we consider our taxes a fair price for living in a free country, writing checks to the IRS is mandated by law and failing to do so carries harsh penalties.

That's not how God rolls. We offer freely, without expectation of reward, and withhold offerings without fear of punishment. And it's not just our money we offer to God, but the totality of what we are, as expressed in the hymn “We Are an Offering” (ELW, 692):

Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship News (cont'd)

"We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering."

We offer as happy and contented people, knowing that God provides all we have and all we need. This knowledge fills us with gratitude. "God loves a cheerful giver," Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:7, adding in the next verse, "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

What you have first given us ...

God is the source of all our blessings. We cannot and should not take credit for anything we have. As Deuteronomy 8:17-18 warns people who are rich, "Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth."

Similarly, remembering that God is the creator of all, we would be wise to avoid regarding our possessions and our lives as ours to use as we wish. God's people often refer to our blessings as "gifts," but this is misleading, says Charles Lane, a Lutheran stewardship expert, author and speaker.

"With God, there is no transfer of ownership. God is still the owner," Lane remarks in *Embracing Stewardship: How to Put Stewardship at the Heart of Your Congregation's Life*, which he co-wrote with Grace Duddy Pomroy in 2016. "We should quit using the 'gift' language in favor of language such as 'trust.' Everything we have is a trust from God, placed by God into our care and management."

Our selves ...

"Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture" (Psalm 100:3).

Because we are God's holy creations, all our energies are designed for godly purposes in service to the neighbor. "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life," Paul writes in Ephesians 2:10.

"I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last," Jesus tells his disciples in John 15:16. Paul enumerates fruits of the spirit as "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship News (cont'd)

“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it,” Jesus says in Matthew 16:25. The more we offer ourselves to God, the more we are blessed.

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Our time ...

From birth to death marks a finite span of days in which we live, breathe and have our lives. Each moment is precious, as Psalm 90:12 makes clear: “Teach us to count our days, that we may gain a wise heart.”

How we spend our time may be the most crucial stewardship question of all. After all, income levels and talents differ widely by individual, but everyone is given the same number of minutes and hours in a day. How we use them says a lot about our priorities and values.

When we choose to give our time to church, to neighbor, to a ministry that works for God’s purposes, we are stewarding our time wisely.

Our possessions ...

Whether we cut a \$100,000 check for the building fund or place a box of macaroni and cheese in the bin for the food pantry, we give out of the material abundance with which God has entrusted us, knowing that generosity blesses not only the recipient but also the giver.

“It is more blessed to give than to receive,” Jesus is quoted as saying in Acts 20:35. We receive many blessings when we give financially—including the satisfaction of helping others or contributing to a worthy cause—but the greatest benefit may be how it changes us.

In giving financially, we break money’s powerful connection to our self-interest. In giving, we learn to be generous-hearted people who can more easily love their neighbor as themselves. This is an especially important lesson for those who are well-off.

For those who don’t have material possessions to spare, the church follows Jesus’ teaching, made clear in the story of the widow’s mite (Mark 12:41-44)—that all offerings, no matter how small, are treasured and valued. For those whose financial situation prevents them from giving monetarily, the church values and welcomes offerings of time and talent.

Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship News (cont'd)

Signs of your gracious love ...

“God is love.” Though the loving character of the Almighty is revealed throughout the Bible, 1 John declares it plainly, twice (4:8 and 16). Moreover, the iconic Gospel verse John 3:16 begins “For God so loved the world.”

Since God is love, all that God does is done in love, and God’s love permeates creation. Therefore, we can readily observe God’s gracious love in all that we are, all that we see and all that we experience.

We would be misreading this line if we inferred that wealth is a sign of God’s favor, because then the opposite would also be true—that poverty is a sign of God’s disfavor. In fact, the Bible is clear that God holds the poor in special regard and that wealth can bring spiritual challenges. In Luke 6, Jesus says, “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God” (20) and “Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation” (24).

Use us and what we have gathered ...

As people dedicated—heart, soul, and possessions—to God’s purposes, we put all we have and all we are in the service of God, trusting that the Spirit will give us direction and guidance.

*The ELCA’s slogan says it simply: “**God’s work. Our hands.**” But author and mystic Teresa of Ávila explained it beautifully in the 16th century:*

“Christ has no body on earth but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. ... Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

In feeding the world with your love ...

The world hungers for so many things, including food, peace, companionship, clothing, education, safety, medical care, housing and relationship with God and God’s people. All these important needs fall under the umbrella of God’s love.

These needs also fall under the mission mandate that our congregations are fulfilling across town and across the world. When we give to our congregation, our synod or our churchwide ministries, we feed the world with God’s love.

Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship News (cont'd)

Through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord.

Jesus models for us self-giving for the sake of others. It's through Christ and in his name that we joyfully and thankfully offer ourselves.

The offering prayers we say every week in worship help us understand afresh that stewardship is more than whether we give our money to God's mission in the world. It's how we use every good blessing that God has entrusted to us on our journey of faith.

Again, as Stoughton wisely remarked, "Stewardship is everything we do after we say, 'I believe.'"

Robert C. Blezard is pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, Md., and editor of Living Lutheran's study guides. Previously he served as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.



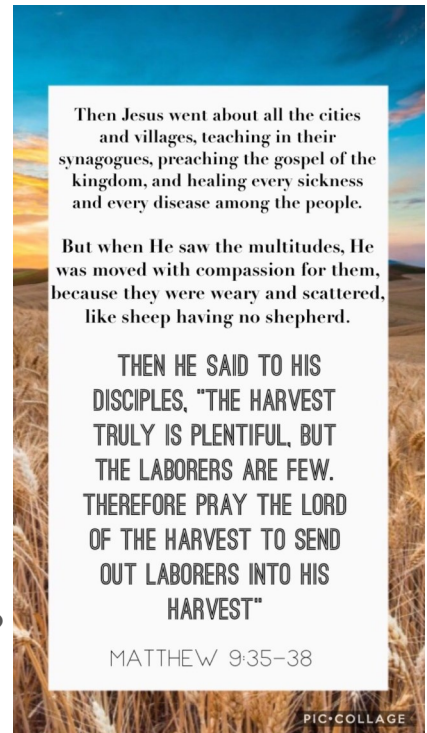
Discipleship through Dialogue

Read the following Bible verse, lesson, and prayer. You might want to discuss the ending questions with a family member or fellow

Matthew 9:35-38 - And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Have you ever seen a sheep without a shepherd? Occasionally a domestic sheep gets lost and turns up years later, and you see photos of them in the news. They are lucky to be alive! With no shepherd, the sheep are in constant danger from predators like coyotes and wolves. It has no medical care, so it probably has parasites, and a broken bone or infected cut could kill it. It has no one to guide it to places where there is good grass and water to drink, so it may die of hunger or thirst. And its wool goes unshorn, possibly for years—which is the reason these pictures turn up on the news media. A sheep can't shear itself. And wool that goes on growing year after year is wool that gets matted, dirty, and very, very heavy. It is a burden to the sheep. One sheep found in 2015 was carrying 90 pounds of extra weight in fleece alone!

No wonder Jesus is concerned for the people He is seeing every day. God didn't make them to live on their own. They too need a Shepherd, the God who made them and knows them and wants them to be healthy and blessed. Jesus has come to gather them in, all these lost sheep from God's flock. He will heal them, protect them, provide for them, and keep them safe. And He will do all these things at the sacrifice of His own life—because a good shepherd loves his sheep and will die for them if necessary, so they may live.



Discipleship through Dialogue continued

But gathering up all God's human sheep is going to take a lot of manpower. Jesus has no intention of doing it on His own. He calls disciples to help Him and sends them out to teach and preach and heal. And He calls us, every Christian believer, every sheep that God has already found, saved, and tended.

Now it's our turn to seek out other sheep and bring them home. Jesus will do for them what we cannot—save and heal and forgive. We will help however He directs us—listening and caring and finding housing or medical care or jobs or counseling, whatever is necessary for the people God values so much. And we will pray—because Jesus, our crucified and risen Shepherd, tells us to pray that God will send out more laborers. There are still many lost sheep in need of loving care. And God has honored us—you and me—with the chance to reach them.

WE PRAY: Dear Lord, I don't really know what I'm doing, but You can care for lost people through me. Please make whatever use of me You see best. Amen.

Reflection Questions:

1. Do you have friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers who are not believers in Jesus?
2. If so, what are you doing to love and care for them? Name a few specific things.
3. What are some skills or gifts you have that could be put to the benefit of your neighbors?

(This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo, lhm.org., 6/15/2023)



Sharing God's Bounty

September

The Exalted State of Servanthood

Martin Luther, as professor of theology in the 1,500's wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." Perhaps those two sentences appear at first to be contradictory. What Luther was trying to help us understand is that we, as Christians, are called to freedom from an obligation to serve, but that we are called to the freedom to serve joyfully.

This call to joyful servanthood is understood and often scoffed at, simply because we have confused servanthood with servitude. Servitude conveys the idea of bondage and even slavery. Servanthood, on the other hand, connotes voluntary service, joyful giving of ourselves, a willing choice to help others, and selfless commitment.

One who is involved in servitude serves unwillingly out of a sense of fear and has no hope of entering into a different state, while one involved in servanthood lives in an exalted state, a healthy and uplifting climate of helping others. Even though challenges must be overcome and problems may abound, the joy of servanthood is the overriding experience.

How do we get from a state of servitude to a state of servanthood? This transition is made when we properly understand the Word of God which clearly defines servanthood by explaining Christ's purpose in coming to Earth: " . . . *the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*" (Matthew 20:28). Jesus has lived the perfect life of the servant in our places, so we no longer are constrained to try to "measure up" to what God expects. The Law never saves, never enables us, only shows us our shortcomings.

When we look at Christ, though, and how he lived his earthly life and what he has done for us, we are freed to respond with heartfelt, sincere, loving service to those he has placed around us. The acts of service we render are the same; the motivation and attitude are what make the difference. Through Christ, we are elevated to the exalted state of servanthood.

Time is a gift that is given to man.

We are to use it according to God's own plan.

To each he gives a measured amount; to each a directive to make it count.

Spend this gift wisely. Develop life's plan to the Glory of God and the Service of Man.

Birthday's and Anniversaries

September Birthdays

9/1	Donna Kistner
9/1	Pearl Ward
9/4	Michelle Brownlee
9/5	Edna Schwenk
9/6	Michael Leppo
9/7	Dolores Hoppe
9/10	David Feldbauer
9/11	Michelle Seyferhelt
9/14	Gail Pulsinelli
9/15	Ilene Kersten
9/18	Cindy Oser
9/19	Brian Woodford
9/25	Isabella Palladino
9/27	Lynda Jones
9/27	Trevor Davis
9/28	Arlene Shecter
9/28	Tyler Mecutchen
9/29	Amy Meola
9/29	Julie Short
9/30	Mike Ruth
9/30	Tracey Crouse

September Anniversaries

Michelle & Garnett Morris
Sean and Amy Schuette
Jessica and Richard Hotalen
Angelique Defeo and Jim
Dave and Cindy Short
Gary and Kim Overbagh
Joan & Mike Dunn



"Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Sometimes our records are incomplete. Please let us know."

Children's Ministry Vacation Bible School



In July, we held our annual VBS, we had 22 kiddos! (mostly boys!) It was great seeing some familiar faces as well as many new ones! At VBS, we went back to the medieval ages and became Keepers of the Kingdom! To become keepers of God's good kingdom, we learned how we can put on the armor of God! Throughout the week our kiddos played games, did fun crafts and ate some tasty treats! They also did some exciting science experiments - learning all about Newtons' laws of gravity!



Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who made this week possible – Michelle Brownlee, Denise Goccia, Denise Robinson, Chris Martin, Chris Ryan, Carole Chatelain, Meghan Schmidt, Debbie Letham, & Greta!

Also want to shout out some of our amazing Youth Volunteers – Alan Ryan, Russell Harding, Trevor Brownlee, Ian Ryan, & Hailey Schmidt!



Children's Ministry

Can't believe summer is already over! Our 2023-2024 school year will begin in September! We are always hoping to see some new faces in our KidMin program – kiddos and volunteers! If you are interested in learning more about what we do in Kidmin, reach out to Jessica Hotalen

We have a lot of exciting things coming up, here are some dates to remember!

September 17th – Rally Day

We will be installing leaders & blessing our backpacks for the upcoming school year

October 28th – Halloween Event

October 29th – Trunk or Treat

December – Christmas Pageant (Date TBD)



Youth Ministry

I'm excited to say that we are looking to bring our youth back! Some of our youth will be helping out throughout the year! We also have some exciting activities planned for the year!

Youth Ministry is looking for middle & high school age youths! If you have a kiddo that age, let me know!



Haunted House may make a comeback this year ... BUT ... I NEED YOUTH HELP!!!!

Kid's Pages September

?? Bible Quiz ? ?

Besides being known for his proverbs about wise living, King Solomon was knowledgeable in other fields, including which of the following?

- A. zoology, including ornithology and ichthyology
- B. botany
- C. herpetology
- D. songwriting
- E. A and C
- F. B and D
- G. All of the above



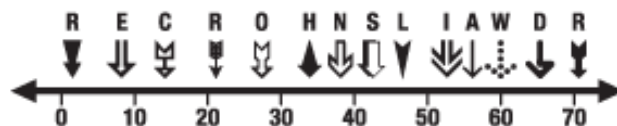
Answer: G (See 1 Kings 4:29-34)



A full Quiver

Our heavenly Father loves families and has a special purpose for each generation.

Directions: Use the key to match the number of each arrow with the correct letter.



Like

56 21 71 28 60 42

in the hands of a warrior are

14 33 52 47 65 2 9 39

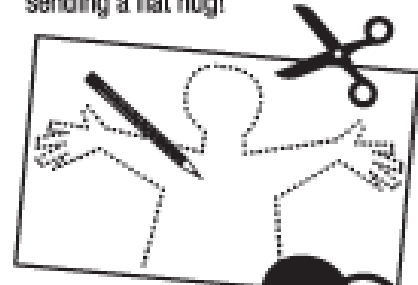
born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

PSALM 127:4-5, NIV

Answer arrows, children

Envelope EMBRACE

Show long-distance love to grandparents and other relatives by sending a flat hug!



What you need:

- Craft paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers
- Envelope



What you do:

1. Roll out some craft paper (long enough to spread your arms across it).
2. Lie down on your back on the paper, with arms outstretched. Have someone trace around your arms, hands and head with a pencil.
3. Cut out the outline of your hug.
4. Draw your face and features on the paper. Use markers to color your hug to look like yourself. Write a note on the back.
5. Fold up and mail your two-dimensional hug to a loved one.