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# REDEEMER VEDEEMER REFLECTION

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## SERVING

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by Peggy Bennett

I often forget that there's a war going on. I tend to forget that those who have chosen to work in the military are actually in physical and emotional danger on many fronts, often on a daily basis, in service to us, the American people. I forget that I am being served, and possibly saved daily, by these men and women who have military careers.

Is it a choice they make? Yes indeed! Does that change the responsibilities involved or the very real dangers that exist for them? Not at all! The picture above is a real reminder of the price that is often paid by those serving our Country in the military. Families,



2009

as well as the individual who serve, often pay a high price, in this career.

There is always a price for serving. Protecting the future is the real commitment behind the choice to serve, in whatever capacity that may be, and our future always depends on the sacrifices of others.

Jesus died to serve us, guaranteeing our future, our eternity with Him. Let's take time this month to thank God for all those who serve us now and in the past. Let's thank God for the freedoms that we have because of the sacrifices of others, particularly, the sacrifice of our Savior when He chose to be a servant here on earth.

# KIDSVENTURE! CLUBHOUSE

## You're My Hero!

by Craig Britton

A good friend let me in on the truth that there is only ONE hero in the Bible and that's God. And when you think of it, the human characters that we become so familiar with through the years—we do tend to put on a pedestal. But in some sense at least, they ARE heroes that God wants us to learn from because they have all the bumps and warts that we do.

This summer KidsVenture! is focusing on Bible heroes, and some aren't the run-of-the-mill heroes we usually see in coloring books. The theme of the Redeemer **Family Picnic in September** is Bible Heroes, so we thought this might be good "training" for our young ones as they "carry" the adults into September.

The summer weeks will focus on Nehemiah, Stephen, the Wise Men, Ruth, Aaron, David, and Philip. The themes are Fairness, Forgiveness,



Tammy Hall reads a Bible story during KidsVenture!

Giving, Thankfulness, Helpfulness, Caring, and Evangelism.

It's a full seven weeks, so please pray with the Kidsventure! crew that our young ones will catch it and learn to live it by the power of the Holy Spirit. And pray for the continual renewal of the Holy Spirit for our teachers, too. We have to live it out in front of the kids, as do the parents. Our prayer is that Redeemer will produce its own heroes. In KidsVenture!, summer isn't for wimps!

## Bible Heroes Picnic

by Julie Highlen

A.J. Hunter says, "I was made to serve!" The Bible says, "For we are God's workmanship,

*created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Ephesians 2:10

**Volunteer for Bible Heroes, Stories, and Strengths Picnic, September 13th at 12 noon.**



Introducing ways to serve ♥ :

- ♥ Help at a game site
- ♥ Bring a passing dish
- ♥ Donate needed items
- ♥ Help serve food
- ♥ Help set up
- ♥ Help clean up
- ♥ Best of all—invite a friend, relative, or neighbor!

Come grow your Christian faith and introduce friends to a fun day of learning through games and food. Marilyn Rockwell and Julie Highlen are chairing the Picnic planning but need lots of help (and some needed items from around your home). Get involved and get ready for a **Fabulously Fun Family Day!**

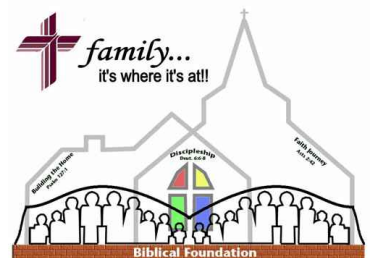
Wide belts are needed for the church picnic (Belts will be returned to you at the end of the day). All sizes from large to small are needed.

Remember: "And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." Ephesians 2:22

Come and let us build some Godly fun together.



Generating Christian Generations



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# THRIVENT

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## Enrich Your Life by Helping Others

If you're one of the 76 million baby boomers approaching retirement, you've probably given some thought to what you will do in the next phase of your life.

Most boomers are enjoying better health and are far more active than retirees of the past. If this sounds like you, consider contributing your time, energy, and expertise to one of the many volunteer organizations in your community.

Congregations, nonprofit organizations, and civic groups are just a few places that offer meaningful opportunities to those willing to serve.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans also offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities through its chapters. These opportunities give Thrivent Financial members and other Lutherans the chance to join together to meet individual and community needs.

So, next time you're thinking about retirement, think about your strengths, passions, and special gifts. Then think about how rewarding it would be to share them. For instance, if you like building things or helping others, you might want to participate in a Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity project. In 2008, there were more than 350 such projects in which Thrivent Financial members worked alongside families in need to build their homes.

For more information about Thrivent Financial volunteer opportunities, contact Michael Jaska, FIC, 517-563-2913; Eric Westin, 517-581-4463; or Ken Crittenden, 517-740-9576, today, or visit [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com).

Happiness is a by-product of an effort to make someone else happy.



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## July

Rev. William Gatz	07/02
Phyllis Donnelly	07/03
Peter Lolich	07/03
Roy Schanne	07/04
Norma Cochran	07/07
Hazel McCracken	07/07
Kirk Balcom	07/09
Birdie Rozelle	07/10
Clarrissa Wilcox	07/12
Linda Fletcher-Acker	07/14
Eileen Spangler	07/15
Dorothy Lanphear	07/17
Deb Fall	07/20
Bill Gatz	07/27
Troy Brownlie	07/27
Kathy Voss	07/27
David VanDerWeide	07/28
Lori Schairer	07/29
Toni Noakes	07/29
Kristin Ganton	07/30
Lawrence Beebe	07/31

*I will praise You as long as I live, and in Your name I will lift up my hands.*

Psalm 63:4

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# TAKE IT TO THE LORD

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## Talking to God About What Matters

by Craig Britton

**What:** Community Prayer Gathering

**When:** Thursdays at 6:30-8:00 a.m.

**Where:** Redeemer's Sanctuary

This is prayer with brothers and sisters from both Redeemer and other area churches and ministries.

**Why:** This gathering focuses on praying for the greater Jackson community, area pastors and their families, civic leaders and law enforcement personnel, and the work of God's Kingdom in our community.



**Who:** Anyone and Everyone. Please stop in on the way to work or just because you need to connect with the Lord and other believers to start your Thursday morning on the right foot. Make this the beginning of your week!

Stay the whole time or come and go as your schedule allows.

“Pray, and never stop praying.”  
*The Apostle Paul*

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## THE MOW DOWN

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Dixie Chopper Zero Turn Lawn Mower. What does that have to do with serving the Lord? That piece of equipment is the “way and means” for keeping Redeemer property inviting and beautiful to the eye. The Klines, especially Linda, who loves machines and new technology, were trying to justify

the expense of owning such equipment, when the church's need for more detailed lawn care became obvious in 2008.

When bids were taken for the lawn maintenance service, the Kline's put in the best bid for the type of service needed, so in June of 2008, they were able to purchase the machine and began the lawn service to Redeemer.



Their service is a labor of love because, although they are paid for the service, their attention to detail is beyond the call of duty. It shows us the heart for serving that we as believers are expected to model in all circumstances.

And doesn't it show us the rewards of good stewardship and allowing God to provide for our wants, as well as our needs? God provided a productive way for the Klines to have something they wanted, but did not necessarily need, to use in His service. God often works in unusual ways and unusual circumstances.

Thank you to Richard and Linda for serving us with the gift of their time and resources.

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## VOTERS' MEETING

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by Blair Bennitt

The Voters' Meeting was held on June 14, with 28 people in attendance. Staff reports were given by Pastor Roper and Craig Britton. Craig voiced concerns with many issues within our church “Body,” including the lack of evangelistic outlook and the need for spiritual education and mentoring of all our people, as well as the community around us. Talk to Craig or any Leadership Board member for more detailed information on these issues.

Other reports were given by the treasurer, the audit team, the worship area planning committee, the elders, and the call process team. All forms and information for calling our next pastor have been submitted to District.

John Highlen, our congregational chairman, reviewed the Outcomes and committed the Board to doing this each month to keep Redeemer on track with our mission purpose.

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## REDEEMER JACKSON DOT ORG

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Got your attention, right? Do you immediately think of your computer? I hope you do, and I hope you recognize it as our church website!

Have you visited Redeemer's website recently? If not, you're in for a nice surprise. It's been revamped and updated. There are staff pictures and pictures of some of our volunteer staff as well. The *Sharing and Caring* ministry opportunity listings are on the web too, along with short biographies of many of our leaders.

The Web Team is in the process of adding an interactive calendar that can be viewed a month at a time or by the week, day, or overall as an agenda. More information is available by clicking on the event that interests you.

The Leadership Board is contributing a monthly synopsis of its meeting in order to keep the congregation updated on its activity but also to keep

all of us informed of possible upcoming activities or meetings that we can join to help serve our Lord through Redeemer congregation.

The Board invites all members to attend any or all of their meetings, which are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Check the newsletter calendar or the large wall calendar in the office for any changes in this schedule.



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## TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE HOUSE

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*Together We Can Make a Difference* is a serving ministry to our local Jackson community. The ministry house is located at 224 W. Wilkins St., Jackson, MI 49203. The phone number is 517-740-8444. The web address is: <http://www.togetherdifference.org/home.html>.

**The mission** of *Together We Can Make a Difference* is to make a difference...

- In our community—by connecting needs with resources.
- For churches—by being a point of contact with the community.
- For our neighbors—by being a resource center and telling them about Jesus.

**Our core values** are that...

- All people matter to God.
- We welcome all those God brings to us.
- Everyone has value and something to give.
- We ask God for direction every inch of the way.
- This will only work if God is the Owner/Leader.
- We recognize that we are in a spiritual battle

and prayer is the answer.

**How we serve...**

- Kids Explosion: Weekly "Jesus Parties" and summer outreach for school age children.
- Angel Food Ministries: Monthly food orders taken and delivered.
- Priceless Gift Toy Store—St. Vincent De Paul and area churches and organizations join to give free toys to Jackson's children. More than 3,000 children are helped each Christmas season.

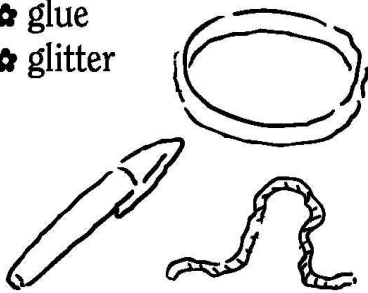
**At the House...**

- Soup with a Purpose: free soup lunch and Bible Study.
- Sewing and quilting classes.
- Cooking, canning, and gardening.
- Adopt-a-Cop: prayer partners for our law enforcement officers.
- Wellspring Praise: everyone invited, no musical talent or instruments needed—just a love for Jesus.

# Make a “Son” Catcher

## You will need:

- ✿ round, clear plastic, food container lid
- ✿ hole punch
- ✿ yarn
- ✿ permanent markers in a variety of colors
- ✿ glue
- ✿ glitter



## How to make it:

- ✿ Using the markers and glitter, decorate the lid with the name of Jesus and some bright colors and shapes.
- ✿ Punch a hole in the top.
- ✿ Put a piece of yarn through the hole and tie it to make a hanger.
- ✿ Hang in a window to catch the sun.

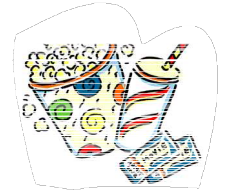


## Future Family Fun Festivities

(Beginning in June)

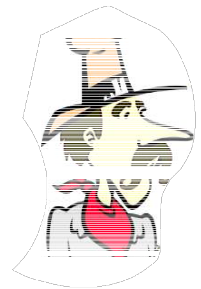
Where: Redeemer Lutheran Church  
(usually)

When: **June 28** (That's a Sunday) at 6 p.m.  
Dinner and a Movie! in the  
RAC

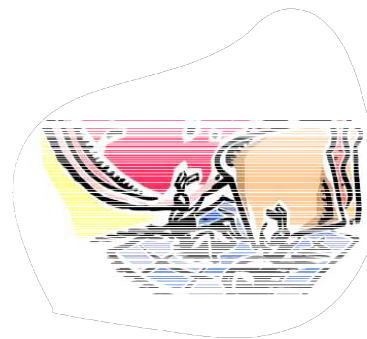


**July 24-26** at Smithville Landing  
(up North)  
Camping/Canoe Trip

**August 9** (That's a Sunday)  
at 4 p.m.  
A Country Carnival!



**September 13** (That's a Sunday) at 12 noon  
Church Picnic in the Pavilion and on  
the beautiful grounds of Redeemer!



Why: Creating opportunities for our Church Family,  
and families within our community, to  
relax and enjoy one another.

All events are open to the community. Invite  
your friends and neighbors! Plan ahead! Put  
these dates on your personal family calendar  
today! Celebrate Family Life!

These events are presented by families, for  
families.



Generating Christian Generations

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## IN OUR LIBRARY

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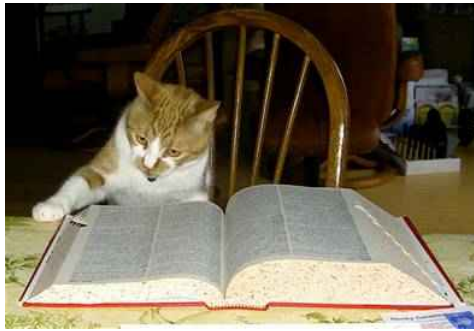
by Dave McFarland

### Devotional Review

Featured in the movie *Fireproof*, the book, *The Love Dare*, lays out a 40 day challenge to strengthen one's marriage. Regardless of your marriage status: whether newlywed, retired, burned out, or going strong (or you may just think it's going strong), this book will help make your relationship better than before. Each day you're given a "dare" designed to make you work on your marriage and how it relates to God. Some dares are very easy; some can be a challenge, but all of them are worth the results.

I should know. I bought myself a copy with the intention of reducing some of the fighting between my wife and me. The result of carrying out the dares has brought us closer than we have been in a long time. Also, it has brought me one step closer to God. The relationship with our spouses and our relationships with God affect each other. I honestly believe that if more people read *The Love Dare*, more marriages could be, not just saved but also, happy again.

Don't delay! Check out a copy of *The Love Dare* from the Redeemer library. Don't tell your spouse to get the book; dare to make the first move



(for some of you, that may have been like your first date together—you made the first move) and get it yourself.

### Book Review

An occult survivor seeks shelter from a freak storm in the small town of Summerville. That's when things go from bad to worse. A relentless killer forces her, and other strangers, to play a twisted game. If they refuse to play, they will all die. If they play the evil game, they all may still die. Worst of all, one of them may be the killer.

Ted Dekker's novel, *Skin*, delivers another thrilling story that keeps the reader in suspense to the very last page. Not simply a suspense novel, the book takes on tough issues such as: What is beautiful? What is ugly? As with other stories from Dekker, *Skin* reads easily with a fast pace and keeps the reader guessing right to the end. It also has a bonus tie-in with the storylines from his: *The Circle Trilogy*, *Showdown*, and *Chosen*. Yet, reading these other books is not a requirement to enjoy *Skin*.

Head to the Redeemer library today and check out *Skin*, another sure thing from one of Christian fiction's most renowned authors.

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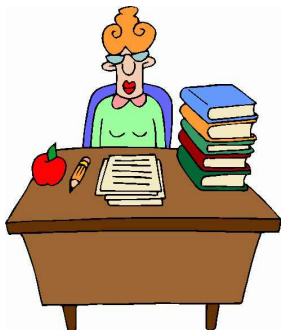
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## AUGUST TOPIC: TEACHING

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The topic for next month's newsletter will be: **teaching**. Teachers and students alike will be getting ready for a new school year, and the church will be readying its educational plans for the coming year, as well.



Remember: the deadline for the August newsletter is July 15th!



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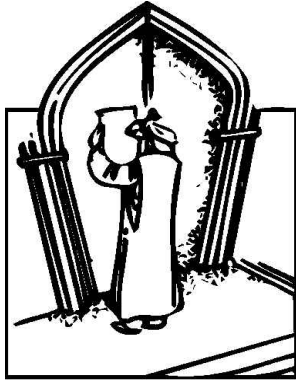
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# THE WITTENBURG DOOR

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by Craig Britton



*“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Jesus

I am often surprised at our own pride in serving others. Now don't misunderstand. In a sense, we should take pride in serving others, but so often it isn't the kind of pride that says, "Look what God has done," but rather, "I must be pretty special." All of our service should and must come from the heart of Jesus who said, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve"—an absolutely radical statement.

Martin Luther picked up on that truth as he developed the Small Catechism and it is reflected in two very special statements, although there are many more.

The first comes in the explanation of the Fifth Commandment: "You shall not murder." Seems a strange place for a comment on serving, I know, but listen to what Brother Martin says in answer to the good Lutheran question, "What Does This Mean?": "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need." The

Excerpt from *Love As A Way Of Life* by Gary Chapman:

...kind acts, whether small or large, reflect a desire to serve others, and service is at the heart of any loving person. Kindness means serving someone else even if it involves sacrifice.

second, we find in the explanation of the second article of the Creed. After stating the inestimable truth regarding the person and work of our Savior for us, we hear the why. "That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness..."

Those two statements, from the pen of Martin Luther, give rise in my mind and heart to the why and how of service. The why is simply because I follow (or claim to follow) a Savior whose very mission to me was and is service. Read the letter to the Hebrews to find the ongoing service of Jesus to all His younger brothers and sisters.

The how is a bit more subtle and this is where we so often get off track with that "pride" thing. We serve out of the very power of the cross of Christ and not our own. Have you ever thought of service that way? Now it's not just the example of Jesus but His very life given to us that prompts, allows, and empowers us to serve. It is, among everything else in the Christian life, a gift from our Savior-God.

Take up and read, brothers and sisters. Search out the Catechism and the Bible, upon which it is based, and find there morsels of the finest food that will nourish and equip you for service. Then, go and do because, by virtue of your new birth, it is your very nature to serve.

Soli Deo Gloria



## WORK WANTED

Will do housework for reasonable wages. Call Nancy at 517-960-9067.

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# KIDSVENTURE! ON VACATION!

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by Craig Britton



Gay Alcenius

Yes, that's right. The KidsVenture! Crew is taking a well-deserved vacation during the month of August. A huge thanks to Tammy Hall, Gay Alcenius, Deb Rockwell, Julie Highlen, Lori Zeidan, Susan Belt, and Kim Britton. These ladies are

our mainstay in KidsVenture, with several other helpers volunteering as their schedules permit. (Hey, where are all the men?) I'm so proud of this

group and the other helpers along the way.

Kidsventure! will kick off again on September 13th. We need new faces to step into this great ministry and help serve if we are to grow. We have some great plans for the coming year, so see



Susan Belt

Craig Britton or Tammy Hall for more information.



Thanks to all you parents for sharing the lives of your kids with us. What a privilege it has been!

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## FAMILY MATTERS

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by Peggy Bennett, FLE

This month's focus on serving has by its very nature also focused on families and volunteering. I really don't think we can separate the three concepts, do you? They are all interrelated. Healthy families serve one another throughout each and every day, usually without even realizing it. A mother gets her child a glass of milk: that's serving. A dad and mom go to work every day: that's serving. A dad fixes the car or mows the lawn; he is serving his family.

Children serve in their families too. Setting the table for a meal, cleaning up their room, taking out the garbage, washing the family car; all these are acts of service to the family.

I'm sure we can all think of hundreds, no thousands, of instances of serving that happen within the family. How about serving in our church family? We can do almost anything within the church family that we do within the biological family. Maybe not washing the family car, but almost everything else.

Building repair and maintenance is no different than home repair, except for maybe a larger

work area. Serving a drink happens during fellowship time every Sunday after both services. Anyone can be a part of this ministry. Serving at fellowship is a form of serving the church family; maybe not milk, but the action and intent are the same.

Volunteering to work in some ministry or capacity within the church is serving the Lord and fellow members in a very tangible way. "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40.

The same is true of community work, serving within our local neighborhood doing "hands on" service through community sponsored programs supported by local agencies and/or churches, is being the hands of God in this place. *Together We Can Make A Difference House* is a great example of a place to actively serve the Lord by serving others.

Family of God, family of man; we are all connected through our family ties. Become an active family member.

Redeemer's Family Life ministry is promoting events designed to help family connect or reconnect family members within the home, and within the church and community. Revisit pages 5 and 6 to find an opportunity for serving.

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## TO BE OF USE

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by Marge Piercy

The people I love best  
jump into work head first  
without dallying in the shallows,  
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.  
They seem to become natives of that element,  
the black sleek heads of seals  
bouncing like half-submerged balls.



I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,  
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,  
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,  
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge  
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest  
and work in a row and pass the bags along,  
who are not parlor generals and field deserters  
but move in a common rhythm  
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.  
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.  
But the thing worth doing well done  
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.  
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,  
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums  
but you know they were made to be used.  
The pitcher cries for water to carry  
and a person for work that is real.

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## WORK THAT IS REAL!

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by Peggy Bennett, FLE

The poem above, by Marge Piercy, has long been a favorite of mine. It always speaks to me of the dedicated volunteer church workers who serve tirelessly year-in and year-out with little-to-no thanks and no paycheck. They serve their Lord only, and derive wonderful fulfillment and satisfaction from knowing that they do His will.

I love working with volunteers “who submerge in the task, who go into the fields to harvest and work in a row and pass the bags along, who are not parlor generals and field

deserters.” I like to think that I’m one of those workers myself, and I love the challenge of working with other volunteers who “strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward, who do what has to be done, again and again.”

Don’t you think Paul was like that? Wasn’t Jesus one of those people? “The people I love best jump into work head first.”

Lord, I love those kinds of people and can’t get enough of working with them for the Kingdom! What a joy! What a challenge to me! What a blessing to work with some of God’s best “natives of that element!”

God commands us to serve and we are to “serve wholeheartedly,” Ephesians 6:7, “as if [we] are serving the Lord, not men.” When we take care of our neighbors, our family, our coworkers; when we care for others with a servant-heart, then we are serving not only them, but our King as well. “The work of the world is common as mud.” Indeed. But when we are serving the Lord, there is nothing common about it.

“But the thing worth doing well done has a shape that satisfies.” When we volunteer and help make an event or a ministry happen, the reward that the Lord gives is the satisfaction of the success of another Kingdom project. We team up with other



Christians, and while doing that “common as mud” work, we build friendships; we build spiritual muscle. We build up and edify each other. We build the Kingdom of believers here on earth. We model Jesus.

We are God’s “Hopi vases...made to be used.” We are never as thoroughly at our best as when we are serving.

Let’s challenge each other: Are we “parlor generals” or are we in the “common rhythm” of serving, doing “work that is real?”

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## HOW CAN I SERVE?

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by John Highlen

We all know that we need to serve God, but how exactly do we go about doing that? Do we serve God when we use the gifts and abilities that He gave us? How about when we're helping others or when we put the needs of others ahead of our own? Are we serving God when we go ahead and do things that need to be done even if they're not pleasant things to do? Is God being served when we share His love and good news of salvation?



The answer, of course, is "YES" to all of the above.

There are probably as many ways to serve God as there are people to serve. Each one of us can find ways to serve that are designed just for us. As an example, whenever I have someplace to go, I tend to get there early; sometimes way early. If I'm not running at least a half hour ahead of schedule, I have issues. It just seems to be the way I'm wired. Anyway, when you show up at events way early, you usually get put to work. That suits me just fine because I don't do very well at standing around and doing nothing. I like to help people, and by always getting places early, I have LOTS of opportunities to serve God by helping others. I believe those opportunities to serve are designed just for me.

Even if you just look around Redeemer,

opportunities to serve are all over. If you're artistic, you can help decorate, you can help with props for dramas and children's programs, you could help with communications and advertising for ministries, or you could help kids with crafts. The list of possibilities is long. Likewise, if one of your gifts is praying for others, you can pray for Pastor and the staff, you can pray for the other church leaders, you can pray for all of the different ministries, or you can pray for all of the different people. There are so many different people and different things that need to be covered in prayer that gift alone could keep a person busy for the rest of his life, and that's no exaggeration.

We all have special skills and abilities that God gave us specifically for the purpose of serving Him in our own unique way. Our job is matching our abilities and the things we like to do with the needs that are all around us. If you're not sure what your gifts or abilities are or you're not sure what needs are out there, ask. I know that the staff would be glad to help you find a special place to serve. I'd be glad to help you, too. If I don't know of a specific need that would be a good match for you, I know lots of other people we can ask.

No matter who you are, regardless of your gifts or abilities, your age or gender, regardless of your circumstances, God has a place for you to serve. Keep in mind, also, that there's a great sense of satisfaction that comes for serving.

If you're not extremely careful, you might actually find yourself having fun, too. Give it a try. I think you'll like it.

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## BETH MOORE BIBLE STUDY

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A new 10-week Bible study began on Wednesday, June 17, in the church sanctuary at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3637 Spring Arbor Road in Jackson, Michigan. This study of the book of Esther is held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and all women are welcome.

Even though the class has already started, if this is a Bible study you would like to be a part of, please come and join us.

If there is enough interest, this Bible study may be offered again in the fall. Contact the church office at 517-750-3100, if you are interested. Workbooks are \$20.00.



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## IMPROVING YOUR SERVE

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Contact the Church Office for further information about ministries unless otherwise noted. The office number is: 517-750-3100. Diane Scouten is our church office manager and will be glad to assist you.

**Center for Women Crisis Counseling Volunteers:**

For training information call 517-787-4673

**Children/Youth/All Ministry Volunteers:**

Craig Britton

**Communication Team:** Peggy Bennitt - 517-529-3924

**Countryside Ministry:** Church Office - 750-3100

**Electronic Sign Operation:** Church Office

**Event Planners:** Marilyn Rockwell, Julie Highlen, Craig Britton

**Family Life Ministry:** Craig Britton and Peggy Bennitt

**Newsletter Volunteers:** Layout and design,

writers, proofreaders, print and collating help. Contact either Peggy at 517-529-3924 or Monica at 517-750-1747

**Library Ministry:** Debbie Rockwell

**Meal Ministry:** Gail Sonnenberg - 517-531-5483

**Music Ministries:** Deb Fall, Kris Nowak, and Ted Miller

**Nursery Volunteers:** Kim McFarland

**Physical Properties Ministry Volunteers:** Blair Bennitt - 517-529-3924

**Scripture Readers:** Deb Fall - 517-750-3100

**Together WE Can Make A Difference House Volunteers:** Call Wendy Wight at 517-740-8444

**KidsVenture Teachers and Helpers:** Craig Britton, Gay Alcenius, or Tammy Hall

**Website:** Paul Rumohr

**Quilters:** Deanna Brandt - 517-782-6157

*“Serve the Lord with gladness...”*

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## CAN WE TALK?

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by Peggy Bennitt, FLE

“Can we talk?” This was a catch phrase used by comedienne Joan Rivers for years when she had something provocative or intriguing to share with people. Often it was just nonsense, “catty” gossip, or silly questions, but the catch phrase always got a laugh and the attention of the audience.

So, “Can we talk?” The economy is bad. People are in dire need. Our government isn’t fixing it. No laughing matter there.

But, “Can we talk?” People need us to care enough to give spiritually, emotionally, financially, and personally in service to others in these tough times. Are we at Redeemer strong enough spiritually to do this?

“Can we talk?” How is our faith walk? Mine could use improvement. Are we strong enough to take on this burden to serve or do we constantly need to be served? Am I whining or am I serving Him?

The church was formed to serve. Not to be





served. Not to pass judgment. Not to hold community events or raise money. Jesus did NOT care about church.

He cared about serving His Father through service to others. He cared about serving...and so did the home churches of the early Christians. “...do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.” Galatians 5:13. “Serve one another in love” is our catch phrase.

So, “Can we talk?” We need volunteers for the soul-care of members and neighbors and community at-large, not just for church maintenance.

Can we go back to WWJD mode? Can we talk volunteering? Look through the list of services and ministries listed above and see where you can serve within the church or within the community. How can each one of us be *Jesus* to someone else each day?



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>C-denotes Communion Service</p>		<p><b>1</b> Beth Moore Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Young At Heart Noon-3:00 p.m. in the RAC Countryside Bible Study - 2:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice - 6:30 p.m. in RAC</p>	<p><b>2</b> Community Prayer Gathering 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>		
<p><b>5</b> Blended Service-C 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. KidsVenture/Youth &amp; Adult Bible Classes 9:20 a.m. - 10:20a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> PAT (Prayer Action Team) 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>8</b> Quilters 9:00 a.m.-12 Noon Beth Moore Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Countryside Bible Study - 2:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice - 6:30 p.m. in RAC</p>	<p><b>9</b> Community Prayer Gathering 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m..</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b> Blended Service 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. KidsVenture/Youth &amp; Adult Bible Classes 9:20 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. Praise Service - C 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> PAT (Prayer Action Team) 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>15</b> Beth Moore Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Countryside Care Home Ministry 10:15 a.m. Countryside Bible Study - 2:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice - 6:30 p.m. in RAC</p>	<p><b>16</b> Community Prayer Gathering 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Communication Team 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b> Blended Service- C 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. KidsVenture/Youth &amp; Adult Bible Classes 9:20 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. Family Worship 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> PAT (Prayer Action Team) 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>22</b> Quilters 9:00 a.m.- 12 Noon Beth Moore Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Countryside Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice - 6:30 p.m. in RAC</p>	<p><b>23</b> Community Prayer Gathering 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>  <p>Camping/Canoeing Trip July 24-26 a.m.</p>
<p><b>26</b>  Blended Service 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. KidsVenture/Youth &amp; Adult Bible Classes 9:20 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. Praise Service - C 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> PAT (Prayer Action Team) 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>29</b> Beth Moore Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Countryside Bible Study 2:30 p.m. Praise Team 6:30 p.m. in RAC</p>	<p><b>30</b> Community Prayer Gathering 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	