

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**LCMS**

# Betrayal



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Redeemer Reflection Newsletter

***LOVING PEOPLE TO CHRIST!***

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# REDEEMER REFLECTION

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## BETRAYAL

by Peggy Bennitt

Betrayal is a constantly recurring theme throughout history. Names like Marcus Brutus, Benedict Arnold, Judas Iscariot, Delilah, and King David all should remind us of the dark history we humans have when it comes to being trustworthy or faithful in any given situation. Even Adam and Eve betrayed their Lord by doubting His word and then disobeying His rules for them in the garden.

As we move into the season of Lent and the Passion of our Lord, we are forced to revisit again that dark hour of betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot. It's so easy for us today to point a finger at Judas. We find ourselves thinking we would never have betrayed our Lord.

Food for thought: Judas was obviously not a believer yet. He believed Jesus was a great teacher, but did he believe Him to be the promised Messiah? Did he just want to be part of the inner circle with this "latest and greatest" rabbi? Or was he just in it for whatever he could get? Remember, Judas controlled the purse-strings for the disciples of this Jesus. He was pleased when the money was coming in and upset when money was wasted (John 12:4-6).



Betrayal happens at all levels and in every relationship: government, workplaces, families; betrayal is rampant now in all these areas just as it was in biblical times and throughout history. Even our literature reflects this dire

penchant for betrayal. What sorry creatures we are.

All our experience with history should teach us, when we look back, how badly human wisdom is betrayed when it relies on itself.

Martin Luther

But there is Hope; it's spelled J-E-S-U-S! That same Man/God who was betrayed, took the punishment of the unrelenting onslaught of mankind's sin and beat death at his (Satan's) own game. Thank our God for His love and forgiveness... all we have to do is ask for it. The biggest mistake Judas made was not asking for forgiveness. In desperation, he took his own life.

Did Hell claim a victory with that death? We'll never know this side of heaven. Judas may have asked for forgiveness before his life ended, but his life (and death) should be a wake-up call for each of us. Forgiveness waits on the other side of betrayal. Ask for it. Betrayal doesn't have to be permanent.

## JESUS, THE ONE AND ONLY

by Peggy Bennitt

A new year, and a new Beth Moore Bible Study to start that year out right. Redeemer is again providing an opportunity for women



to really dig into their Bibles. It started on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, at both 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., but it's not too late to join this in-depth study of our Lord and His Word for our lives. The cost of the class is

\$20.00 and the class meets every Tuesday up until Easter. What a great way to beat the winter blahs and re-ignite your passion for the Savior.

The study is DVD-based, and Beth Moore's teaching and insightful life applications provide spiritual growth opportunities for every participant, whether a new believer or a life-long Christian. Discussion of the previous week's personal Bible study is a key part of this learning process and challenges each one of us to personal spiritual growth.

Please plan to join us in a renewing of our commitment to "grow in the Word" for another year. All women are encouraged to be a part of this adventure in faith and the opportunity to share the journey together.

## FAITH LEGACY

by Peggy Bennitt, FLE

*Faith Legacy* classes began in October, with the very first training session for parents of 1st and 2nd grade children. Redeemer is implementing this important

series to support and train parents to be the spiritual leaders in the home.

The second training series of *Faith Legacy* classes for parents followed and continued



through November 12. This class was for families with children 2-3 years of age.

The third set of *Faith Legacy* classes for parents of 3rd and 4th grade children was held on Thursday evenings, January 12, 19, and 26, at 6:30 p.m., in the home of Tony and Kirsten Mogle, with the Blessing Event being held on Sunday, January 29 with the presentation of *The Bible* to the children along with a special blessing.

The fourth set of classes for parents of children ages 4-5 on Mondays: January 23, 30, and February 6, will be held in the church library at 6:30 p.m. on those evenings. Contact Steve Hall or Craig Britton if you are interested in becoming involved in some other way with the *Faith Legacy* training for parents.

**Coming in March**, families who have completed one or more of the classes will be invited to spend a day at church with their child building a Faith Chest. Men and women who have woodworking talents will be on hand to help those parents who are challenged in that area. This is a family project and the children, together with parents or guardians, will enjoy building this Chest for their spiritual *Legacy* items for worship and spiritual growth.



Contact Craig Britton at 750-3100 for more information, or speak with Steve Hall.



**OpenDoors**

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

On January 3, Boko Haram, a Nigerian group that seeks to impose Sharia (Islamic law), issued an ultimatum in a newspaper threatening violence if Christians did not leave predominantly Muslim northern Nigeria in three days. Since then, according to Compass Direct News, Boko Haram, which in the Hausa language means “Western education is sacrilege,” has reportedly claimed responsibility for killing at least 44 people in four states.



*Father, we weep with these families in northern Nigeria who have lost loved ones and who have sustained injuries. Comfort them and protect them. Give the church leaders wisdom*

*as to how to respond in ways that are godly. May we be faithful in storming Your throne room on their behalf that they might see clear evidence that their defense is in the Lord alone. In the name of Jesus our sure defense, Amen.*

## ERBER NOTES

by Peggy Bennitt

In November, the World Mission Team bought a Christmas gift for the Erber family and presented it to Reverend Erber to take back with him to Nigeria. Thanks to all of you who contribute so regularly to Redeemer, we were able to purchase another Kindle for them, as well as the movie *Soul*

*Surfer*. The following is part of Joyce’s response to Redeemer’s generosity:

“David has been filling you in on the important news. But I wanted to write a note



that we watched the movie, *Soul Surfer*, (part of the Christmas gift Redeemer purchased for the Erbers) the night we got home to Jos. It was just what we needed. We

enjoyed it a lot. God is always with us no matter the challenges. And Bethany Hamilton faced more than most young girls ever do with God’s help. A very inspirational story. Thanks for sharing it with us!

We’re laughing here in Jos because we’re cold! Jos is on a plateau at a higher elevation. At this time of year we get dry wind off the Sahara that brings fine dust. It’s a lot colder. It’s not cold off the plateau. So we were hot last week when we were down south. It’s been in the 50s outside and 60s in the house. Cement floors and no heat. So we’re all complaining. You would think we are all pathetic.

Anyways, I hope you are keeping warm there in “real” cold weather. Thank you for all your prayers.”

### **Most recent note from Joyce Erber:**

We got word yesterday that the strike was over. The president agreed to renewing some of the fuel subsidy...it is a compromise, although the president said that he still intends to gradually completely remove the subsidy...If the government can gain people’s trust, people will agree to removing the subsidy. So it is not really over. We’ve just gotten through a mile marker.

So school will start tomorrow for Naomi and David should have no trouble flying back to Nigeria on Friday. I talked to him on the phone yesterday and he was doing very well. Thank you so much for prayers.

Love and blessings, Joyce



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Aaron Friedlein	02/02
Betty Taylor	02/03
James Taylor	02/04
Allyn Dicks	02/05
Mikayla Richardson	02/08
Dorothy Mayer	02/09
Karen Balcom	02/13
James Alcenius	02/16
Amanda Simonsen	02/17
Brian Fall	02/20
Linda Tschabrun	02/20
Emily Byrd	02/26
Chong Markham	02/27
Barb Knueppel	02/29

But Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”  
Luke 22:48

**Judas kiss** A sign of betrayal, duplicity, or insincerity. The reference is to the kiss Judas Iscariot gave Jesus in betraying him to the authorities. The term dates from the early 1400s.

## PIZZA-BOWL

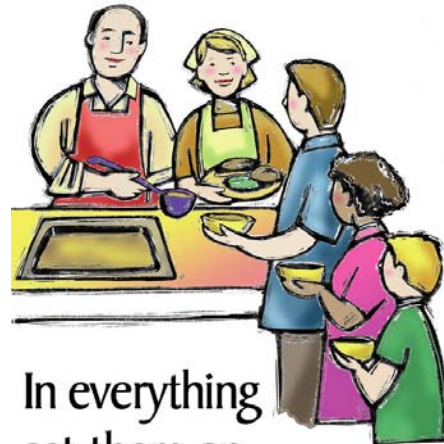
by Peggy Bennitt

Huge pieces of cake. A dozen or more pizzas. Pepsi galore. Did I mention the gigantic pieces of cake?

The Redeemer staff, spearheaded by Craig Britton, put on a wonderful *Volunteer Appreciation Celebration* on Friday, January 13, at the Summit Lanes Bowling Center in Vandercook Lake. Bowling and pizza fans of all ages turned out to test their bowling prowess and spend the evening with some of their ministry partners from Redeemer.



It was a wonderful evening of fun and food, laughter and sharing. Thanks again to Craig, for the planning and implementation involved. It was worth the effort in enjoyment and camaraderie for all those who attended. If you were able to make it and shared in the fun, please let him know how much you enjoyed the celebration.



In everything  
set them an  
example by doing  
what is good.

Titus 2:7

## LWML

by Diane Siedzik

The LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) had its second meeting and came up with many great ideas for our ministry. We will be meeting next on February 26th, at 3:00 p.m. at the church. At this time we will be making handmade cards for our college students (13) along with discussing new agenda items. All women are welcome.

The LWML is requesting leaders of any church ministry group to contact Ruth Geml if they have need of volunteer help: Kitchen, Maintenance, Garden group, KidsVenture, Decorating Ministry, etc. Contact Ruth at 517-563-2179. We are a young group and we are learning as we go. Please plan on joining us on February 26th, at 3:00 p.m., and bring your suggestions to help us better serve Redeemer and the community.



Please save items that are useable and clean for donating to the sale. We hope to begin collecting items a week or two before the sale, so stay tuned to the Sunday bulletin and the *Reflection* newsletter for further information on this important event to provide funding for the Frost Backpack food supplement ministry.

A few suggested items:

- ◆ Appliances in good repair
- ◆ Books
- ◆ Clothing (clean)
- ◆ Craft Supplies
- ◆ Dishes
- ◆ Furniture
- ◆ Games
- ◆ Jewelry
- ◆ Seasonal Decorations
- ◆ Shoes
- ◆ Toys (clean and undamaged)

Start your spring cleaning early and save your "treasures" for this annual event.

## TOPIC FOR MARCH

The topic for March is *Denial*, for those who would like to write an article but are challenged without a topic. Articles on prayer, family life, Christian educational opportunities, or other topics that affect Christian living in any way, are encouraged.

Share what God has taught you through life experience, His Word, or just life on planet earth. Find those teachable moments and share them with us as an article for the *Reflection*.

The *Reflection* strives to *reflect* our Lord first, but our members and their life experiences also, as they walk with their Lord and struggle with life in the real world.

Please send articles for the March *Reflection* to [bennitt49@yahoo.com](mailto:bennitt49@yahoo.com) by February 15th.



## RUMMAGE SALE IN MAY

The annual Redeemer Rummage Sale will be held again this year in May. The times and dates are yet to be determined, but the need for quality items for the sale is definite.

## AGENT UNDERCOVER

by Peggy Bennitt

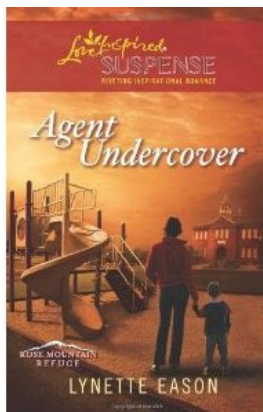


*The LORD is my Light and my Salvation—  
whom shall I fear? The LORD is the  
Stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be  
afraid?*

*Psalm 27:1*

Undercover Drug Enforcement Agent Paige Ashworth's introduction to the little town of Rose Mountain, North Carolina, came on her first day of school. No, she wasn't a student, but a newly hired guidance counselor for elementary school. And the introduction came as she rescued a little boy from a speeding car—on her bicycle!

"Pain. That was her first thought. ...Memories flitted back. Bits and pieces. A little boy. A school. A crosswalk. A speeding car...She'd pedaled like a madwoman to dart in front of the car to rescue the child...Where was the little boy?"



Working undercover in the little boy's school, Paige's job is to discover who killed little Alex's mother, and to find out if his Uncle, the very handsome Doctor Dylan Seabrook, has anything to do with that death. Doubts and intrigue escalate as Paige must struggle with her growing concern and love for Alex, and her growing attraction to his Uncle Dylan.

Suspicious "accidents" and possible suspects add excitement and suspense to the mixture. *Agent Undercover* by Lynette Eason is a great suspense novel that will

keep the reader in the chair turning pages right up until the last well-written sentence.

There are now several *Love Inspired Christian Suspense* novels in the Redeemer Library for your reading pleasure. These books are published in a "pocket" paperback format for easier handling, but printed in larger type for reading ease. Pick one up today and take advantage of great Christian fiction at no charge. Check one out today!

## PARENTING TIP

Excerpt from [biblicalparenting.org](http://biblicalparenting.org)

### Drawing the Line on Tattling:

Tattling is one way that children point out problems rather than trying to make things better. It's important to teach children what offenses they should report to a parent and what they should try to resolve on their own or just ignore.

Parents need to know when property or people are in danger, but much of the daily infractions or mistakes made fall into a gray area requiring discernment on the part of a parent and child. You don't want to remove all reporting of offenses because sometimes you'll rely on one child to help you know when another is in danger or in trouble.

Sometimes a child should overlook an irritation and not be so easily provoked. If a child has tried to resolve the problem, and the offense isn't one to drop, then the child should report it to an adult. This isn't tattling. It's following a biblical model of conflict management. The Scriptures teach that if a problem can't be resolved between two people, then one should get another person involved in the process (Matthew 18).



# From the Pastor's Heart

## LOVE IS IN THE AIR by Pastor Geml

No offense intended to the love-struck among us, but do we really need another mushy, flowery Valentine's Day reminder of how

uncaring and insensitive we are if we do not drop a bundle again this year at the florist, candy shop and jewelry store? Before there is an outpouring of rage, let me reassure you that love is one of my favorite subjects. Love certainly needs to be shown from time to time. I just choose not to take my cues from those in the retail industry who tell me what I need to be doing every February 14th (to say nothing of Sweetest Day). My thoughts on the subject take a different path. God's love for us was and is expressed perfectly in and through His Son who came to give His very life for you and me. God cared enough to send us the very best!

There was a song from back in 1978 by John Paul Young called, "Love is in the Air." Admittedly it is a "mushy" song. But one verse is particularly strong in theological flavor:

*And I don't know if you're an illusion;  
Don't know if I see it true.  
But you're something that I must believe in.  
And you're there when I reach out for you.*

Yes, love is in the air. But it is a love that this world and its ways cannot comprehend. The above verse was probably not intended to point us to the Savior, but it says it well. I am reminded of 1 John 4:16-17, "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us..." Complete and perfect love comes not in a box of chocolates, or in the verses of a love song, but in the cross of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." We are

friends of Jesus. In perfect love for us He has laid down His life. He is not an illusion. He is real flesh and blood. In Baptism, God took hold of us. By faith we take hold of Jesus who promises to be with us when we reach out for Him in faith.

There are several days in February that capture our attention; Valentine's Day, Super Bowl Sunday, Ash Wednesday. That's right, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Season of Lent, is on February 22. During this season of repentance, we will be embarking once again on a journey to the cross of Good Friday and the Empty tomb of Easter Sunday. We make our journey together as we "See His Cross."

Please consider joining with your Christian family here at Redeemer who will be in worship during the forty days of Lent. We will be worshiping every Wednesday during Lent at 7 pm.

The cross that Jesus faced for us and for our salvation is never to be forgotten. Let this Holy Season be for you and for your family a time to return to God in true repentance and find in Him that new, glorious resurrection life He has for you.

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, return to the Lord in repentance and live." 2 Peter 3:18



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



**February**  
2012

1 Countryside Bible Study 2:00 p.m.	2 Community Prayer 7:00 a.m.—8:00 a.m.  Pastor's Bible Study 2:00 p.m.  Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m.	3	4 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.
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5 Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. KidsVenture/Youth & Adult Bible Classes 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m.	6 Adult Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.  Faith Legacy Training (Parents of 4 & 5 year olds)—Church Library 6:30 p.m.	7 Beth Moore Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  Beth Moore Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  Praise Team-Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.	8 Countryside Bible Study 2:00 p.m.  Quilters 9:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon	9 Community Prayer 7:00 a.m.—8:00 a.m.  Pastor's Bible Study 2:00 p.m.	10	11 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.
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12 Blessing Event for 4 & 5 year olds—at both services Divine Service 8:00 a.m. KidsVenture/Youth & Adult Bible Classes 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Praise Service— C 10:30 a.m.	13 Adult Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.	14 Beth Moore Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  Beth Moore Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  Praise Team-Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.	15 Countryside Service 10:15 a.m.  Countryside Bible Study 2:00 p.m.	16 Community Prayer 7:00 a.m.—8:00 a.m.  Pastor's Bible Study 2:00 p.m.  Confirmation Class 6:30 p.m.	17	18 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.
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19  Divine Service— C 8:00 a.m. KidsVenture/Youth & Adult Bible Classes 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Praise Service 10:30 a.m.	20 Adult Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.	21 Beth Moore Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  Beth Moore Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  Praise Team-Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.	22 Quilters 9:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon Countryside Bible Study 2:00 p.m.  7:00 p.m. Leadership Board 8:00 p.m.	23 Community Prayer 7:00 a.m.—8:00 a.m.  Pastor's Bible Study 2:00 p.m.	24	25 Men's Choir 9:30 a.m.
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26 Divine Service 8:00 a.m. KidsVenture/Youth & Adult Bible Classes 9:20 a.m.-10:20 a.m. Praise Service— C 10:30 a.m. LWML Meeting 3:00 p.m.	27 Adult Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.	28 Beth Moore Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  Beth Moore Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  Praise Team-Sanctuary 7:00 p.m.	29 Countryside Bible Study 2:00 p.m.  Soup Supper 5:45 p.m.  Lenten Service 7:00 p.m.	<b>C—Denotes Communion Services</b>		
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