



Teach | Equip | Serve

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office hours Tues-Fri. 8am – 4pm

FEBRUARY

Newsletter

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9AM WORSHIP

10:15-11:30 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL/PRECONFIRMATION

10:30-11:30 ADULT BIBLE CLASS

MIDWEEK LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ASH WEDNESDAY | FEB. 14

MW LENT SERVICES | FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 6, 13, 20

NOON & 7PM

SOUP SUPPER 6PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY | MARCH 28 | NOON & 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY | MARCH 29 | NOON & 7PM

The 2023 Offering Tax Statements have been distributed to the church mailboxes. If you are not able to come to church to pick up or if you have any questions, please contact Mark Rogers at 509-378-0270 or email mdm2@charter.net.

FROM THE PASTOR

STEWARDSHIP DEFINED: "THEREFORE"

According to the King James Bible Dictionary, the word "therefore" is used 1,237 times in the Bible. The most prominent use of the word "therefore" in Scripture is a "reaction or a response to what has happened in the past." It serves to connect a truth with a proper response. Understanding that "therefore" connects action or response to a truth, could we not use the single word "therefore" as a definition of stewardship? Is not stewardship faith in action! Stewardship is all we do after God enables us to say, "I believe." Through faith, we know that God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to the cross for the forgiveness of our sins so we can enjoy eternal and abundant life with Him. Through faith, we believe what Jesus has done for us; "therefore" we will serve and obey Him. "Therefore" is the link between knowing and doing. There are many wonderful definitions of stewardship, but if we attempt to simplify our understanding of stewardship and define it with just one word, the word "therefore" is as brief and concise as we can get.

In Romans 12:1, we find one of the hundreds of verses that use the word "therefore": *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God..."*. In the chapters preceding this verse, Paul repeatedly references God's abundant mercy to us. Using the word "therefore," Paul directs us, in light of God's mercy, to *"present [our] bodies as a living sacrifice."* Having received God's mercy, we are motivated to live as faithful stewards. God wants us completely and totally. Everything that we are and have should belong to Him. "Therefore," God wants all of us.

In our daily routines, we tend not to take this notion of giving everything to God too seriously. However, God's Word clearly wants us to think more about how we can use our lives and our bodies in service to Him. The question to consider is, "Do we use our bodies in ways that honor God?" Let's consider our hands. Do we use them to serve only ourselves, or do we use them in service to God? Do we use our eyes, ears, brains, mouths, etc., in service to God? God says every part of us is to be used as an act of worship. *"Therefore...by the mercies of God"* each of us should do whatever God puts before us and do it cheerfully.

May the word "therefore" remind of us of the importance of being faithful, and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be the stewards God has made us to be.

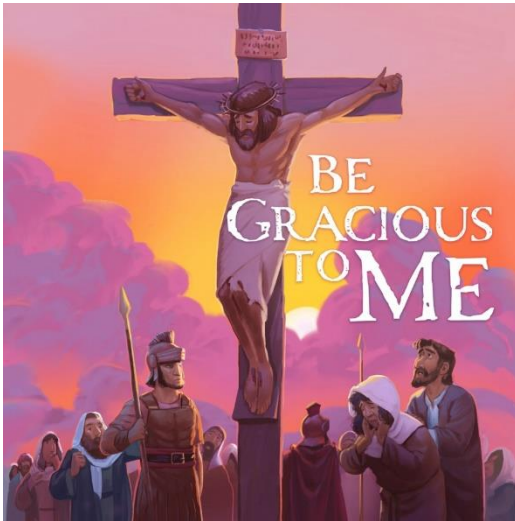
Peace,

Pastor Todd

MIDWEEK LENT SERIES

BE GRACIOUS TO ME

PSALM 41



No Old Testament saint attests to God's grace quite like King David. Raised from the sheepfold to the throne of the house of Israel; raised again (and again, and again) from sin: pride, murder, adultery, and despising of God; lifted clear of the snare of the wicked (Psalm 119:110), of the pit (Psalm 30:3), of the very gates of death (Psalm 9:13); with no merit or worthiness in himself, David was continually raised up by God's grace and favor.

God's grace wells up in Psalm 41, where David exults in divine mercy amid his own weakness, powerful enemies, and treacherous friends. In this psalm, David tracks the flow of divine grace back to its source at the cross and, with prophetic vision, finds it springing forth in the lives of all baptized believers—including you.

How has God's grace raised you? If you haven't been set on a royal throne or made ruler over a great people, maybe you've seen improvements in your finances or employment. Or perhaps family strife has been quieted. Or maybe a compassionate helper or valuable ally has entered the picture at just the right moment. Have you shaken off a bad illness, a bad habit, or a bad influence? If so, rejoice and thank God for His grace and favor!

But if you feel like you're sinking instead of rising, what then? Is there any comfort for the saint of God who looks around to find that "the waters have come up to my neck" (Psalm 69:1)? David knows that saint's fortunes because they are his as well:

In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him;
the Lord protects him and keeps him alive;
he is called blessed in the land;

You do not give him up to the will of his enemies. (Psalm 41:1–2)

You have a sure hope! Therefore, do not look for hope in your experiences or your emotions, which will portray for you the same bleak scene that David captures in Psalm 41:

- * My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die, and his name perish?" (v. 5)
- * When one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while His heart gathers iniquity. (v. 6)
- * Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. (v. 9)

Faith offers a better vision: despite all that binds and bruises and bleeds you, God *will* raise you up. He has raised you already! In Holy Baptism, God has "raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6). If you are *in Christ*, how can you sink? How can you fall?

Lent is the ideal time to meditate on David's ordeals and your secure position in Christ. Psalm 41 provides the ideal guide to your meditation. If the laments of Psalm 41 call to mind your numerous difficulties and need for deliverance, they depict even more clearly the work by which your deliverance has been won.

Because you are in Christ, you share in all things with Him, even the prophetic Word. David's vision in Psalm 41 has become your reality in Christ. In the day of trouble, the Lord delivers you; the Lord protects you and keeps you alive; you are called blessed in the land (see Psalm 41:1–2). Press on to know the Lord's suffering, death, and Word. As surely as the Lenten journey ascends to the victory of Easter, you shall be raised up.

Where can I listen to past sermons?



CHURCH WEBSITE

richlandredeemer.org

On homepage click on "News & Media". From drop down list select "Live Stream & Audio Archives."

ELDERS CORNER – FEBRUARY 2024

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' (Matthew 22:37-39)

Yes, we should love our neighbors as ourselves. There are wars, political strife, murders, and increasing crime in our country and the world. All of these involve our neighbors, one's we should love. We should be Godly neighbors to all people. We are all sinners. There are also many good Samaritans helping others during national disasters, emergencies, and other times when our neighbors are in need. Unfortunately, the good Samaritan examples are small compared to the other negative events we see on the nightly news. Jesus gives us some guidelines on being a good neighbor in Luke 6: 27-35, *"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."*

In Acts 9:10-18, Ananias was asked by Jesus in a dream to go to Saul of Tarsus (Paul) and place his hands on him to restore his sight. Ananias was very hesitant to go help a person that had done much harm to the followers of Jesus in Jerusalem and who had authority to arrest all who called on Jesus' name. Ananias was a Godly neighbor, going to Saul and placing his hands on him and the scales from his eyes were immediately removed and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. In Acts 7:60, Stephen, when he was being stoned, prayed and asked the Lord Jesus to not hold this sin against them. These are examples of loving your neighbors, even when the world would most likely do the opposite.

Many years ago I read a story about a pastor on his first Sunday at a new church. He was only known by a few church members that were involved in his calling. That first Sunday he dressed up as a bum and purposely did not smell the best. As he entered the church sanctuary, he proceeded to walk slowly up the aisle and sit in the first row of the church. Many members' whispered less than Christian comments and some got up and moved away from where he was sitting. When it was time for the service to begin, the pastor got up and introduced himself. They were obviously shocked and embarrassed by their response. Would you react in a similar manner? Would you be a "neighbor" and welcome the individual and introduce yourself? Many in that congregation learned a great lesson on being a neighbor firsthand. We are created in God's image (Genesis 1:27), all of us, whether male or female, Black, White, Hispanic, or Asian. *"He created all the people of the world from one man, Adam."* Acts 17:26 *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are ... heirs according to the promise."* Galatians 3:28-29.

We can all be better neighbors. Let us demonstrate the love of God in every aspect of our lives. People (our neighbors) will notice that we are different, but different in a good way, "Gods way"!

Rick Stutheit, Redeemer Elders.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Psalm 31:15 reads, *"My times are in Your hands..."* All the time we have is a gift from God, and we are to be faithful stewards with His time. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will not get so wrapped up in ourselves and the ways of the world that we foolishly waste our time. Living wisely includes proper time for worship, time for service to others, and time for self-improvement and enrichment. *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of time, because the days are evil"* (Ephesians 5:15-16). Whether God gives us long or short lives, our goal is to please Him by using our time faithfully.



MONTHLY CHURCH LUNCHEON (formerly Senior Potluck) – Friday, February 2 in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome! Lunch is served at noon. No need to bring anything.

MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST will meet Saturday, February 10 at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. All men of Redeemer and Emmaus-Pasco are invited to enjoy food, fellowship, devotion.



MIDWEEK LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS will begin Wednesday, February 14. Grab your valentine and come enjoy some delicious soups. If you would like to provide soup or dessert, please look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall coming soon. Soup is served at 6pm followed by worship service at 7pm. See you there!

"She seeketh wool and flax worketh willingly with her hands."

Proverbs 31:13



QUILTING/KNITTING GROUP - Are you looking for an outlet for your creativity? Service organizations are always in need of lap quilts, prayer shawls, and port protectors for cancer patients etc. Join our quilting/knitting group on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 9:30a to 11:30a. Meet in the Sunday school room across from the restrooms in the church. Questions call Terri Lahti @ 509-539-3560.

LYDIA GUILD LADIES AFTERNOON OUT

Ladies of Redeemer, Lydia Guild would like to invite you to an afternoon out. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 11 at 1:00p for Chinese food, fun, and fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please bring \$5 to help offset the cost of the food. Come one, come all and have some fun. This activity will be in lieu of our February meeting.

We will also be sending gift cards to our college students in February. If you have a student away at college, please provide an address to Terry Strege at 509-619-3582 or the office at office@richlandredeemer.org.

Redeemer Lutheran School Exploratory Committee Progress Report



September 2023 expansion at Calvary School, Kennewick.

The Redeemer Lutheran School Exploratory Committee is assembling materials for an Archibald and Company Architects *Preliminary Design Plan*.

The plan will include two important pieces of information – preliminary construction cost estimates; and building, ADA, and zoning code reviews.

The plan will contain also building, parking, and landscaping options; floor

plan options with maximum occupancy configurations; and exterior 3-D views.

The code reviews will identify any federal, state, county, or city codes preventing the Parsonage from being remodeled – or preventing a new school structure from being built on Redeemer property. The code reviews will identify items that need to be changed to achieve compliance, if the Redeemer Voters' Assembly chooses to remodel the Parsonage.

The preliminary construction cost estimates will help determine whether a remodeled Parsonage or a new building is the most cost-effective path forward.

Plan options for building, parking, and landscaping and schematic exterior 3-D views will help the congregation better visualize a school campus. They will help select the best design, size, and proportions for a school building... the best locations for parking... the best traffic flow pattern for parents dropping off and picking up children... and more.

All elements of the *Preliminary Design Plan* will help the Redeemer Voters' Assembly make wise decisions and avoid costly errors, when considering opening a Lutheran school at Redeemer. The demand for Christian schools is high. Calvary, Liberty Christian, Christ the King, and Tri-Cities Prep have waiting lists; the



*Class at Trinity Lutheran School in Freistadt, Wisconsin.
(LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford)*

Pacific Northwest Christian College is growing; and Sage Patriot Classical Academy hopes to open its doors in the fall of 2024.

Current Redeemer Lutheran School Exploratory Committee Vision Statement: "Redeemer Lutheran School will prepare students to prosper and to lead; changing darkness to light, engraving Holy Scripture on hearts and minds, one student leader at a time."

- *If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.* -



REDEEMER BUNNY MINISTRY is coming to an end. Because of my age, I can no longer take care of my eight-acre farm. The rabbits are finding new homes, and I will be moving into a retirement facility. March will be our last month to visit the assisted living homes.

I want to thank those people who have been so committed to the ministry. Roxanne Kelley was with us until she and Wally moved to Atlanta. Sharon Gano came faithfully until she went home to the Lord. Marge Valenti has been with me the longest – about 14 years! Shirley Vance, Lois Stutheit and Ramona Engelmann round out the crew. Ginny Wendland came to a home where her long-time neighbor was living.

We know how much the residents will miss the bunnies! But we who have been bringing them will miss very much visiting with such precious people. It has been a joy to bring our little furry friends to sit in their laps and hear them say "You have made my day!" It has been a privilege to serve the Lord in this way. To God be the glory!



Kathy Zaloudek, The Bunny Lady

LUTHER SENIOR CENTER LUNCH – For the past 40 or so years Redeemer members have been providing a lunch for the residents of LSC. Each Wednesday, one of the local Lutheran Churches provides “Food for the Soul” with the Pastor leading a short worship service for residents followed by the “Food for the body” in the form of a lunch which is supplied by the church. Our day is the second Wednesday of each month. In February our day falls on Valentine’s Day! We plan to serve Lasagna, salad, garlic bread and dessert. The lasagna is taken care of, *but we need volunteers to provide salad and dessert.* We typically serve about 20 people each month. If you are willing to provide food and or serve, please contact Ginny Wendland at 509-946-6983. This is an ongoing service/ministry, so help is needed each month. Thank you to all who have been helping already! Menu ideas are welcomed!!

February Birthdays

- 3 Terry Strege, Julia-Rae Parker
- 5 Sandy Guymon
- 8 Duane Ward
- 10 Pat Gibson, Tim Woodall
- 12 Judy Nash, Karin Nickola
- 14 Luise Batdorf
- 16 Gina Morgan
- 23 Kelley Hawkins, Lois Stutheit
- 25 Carolyn Lyon
- 26 Ken Hoopingarner
- 28 Mark Lyon



February Anniversaries

- 3 John Sr. & Della Blessing
- 14 Gary & Marikay Sebade
- 16 Dan & Millie Dubbs
- 18 Mark & Denise Rogers
- 20 John & Laurette Beitz

March Birthdays

- 1 Erik Ruff, Katje Compton
- 2 Mark Rogers
- 3 Joette Sheeley
- 7 Victor Garza
- 8 Dan Niebuhr
- 9 Stella Compton
- 10 Shirley Mellick
- 11 Eleanor Woods
- 12 Dian Mauth
- 16 Bev Wetzler
- 17 Margaret Gartner, James Perham
- 18 John Blessing Sr.
- 20 Chambray Turner, Grace Ward
- 24 Marikay Sebade, Bobbie Van Buren
- 25 Mitch Rogers, Matt Rogers
- 29 Della Blessing



March Anniversaries

- 11 Bernie & Carol Simpkins
- 17 Jay & Beki Van Buren
- 19 Bill & Shirley Clarkson
- 25 Ken & Basilisa Sump
- 30 John & Pat Rohlfing

PRAYERS – Please let the office know of any changes to the prayer page by calling 943-4967 or emailing office@richlandredeemer.org. *Indicates friends/family.

HOMEBOUND:

Pearl Raabe
Ruth Shook
Reta Siefken
Bernie Simpkins
Eileen Stixrud

CANCER:

Bob Littlejohn
John Schug
Beth* (neighbor of Linda Einspahr)
Barbara Connell* (sister-in-law of Sandy Guymon)
Phyllis Delvin
Rev. James & Ann Gier* (son & daughter-in-law of Marlene Paris-Ufkes)
Kevin Raabe* (son of Pearl Raabe)
Sandi Sheeley* (sister of Karin Nickola)
Deanna Snider*

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Ray Boecker
Bob & Cheryl Evenson
Gretchen Fleming
Chuck Fordham
Steve Gano
Sally Grego
Elaine Kutrowski
Marj Littlejohn
Pearl Raabe
Ruth Shook
Reta Siefken
Bernie Simpkins
Eileen Stixrud
Bobbie Van Buren
Bev Wetzler
Gregg Lee* (son of Barbara Lee)
Jody Schug* (wife of John Schug)
Phillip Turner*

MILITARY:

Sam Willhoite
Darion Woodall
Brandin Bunch*
Jacob Cagle*
Brandon Gano*
Byron Gano*
Matthew Gano*
James Hare*
Sean Williams*

