

REFLECTIONS

MAY 2012



PASTOR AUGIE'S MESSAGE

Life Journaling

Recently we have been talking about the importance of Scripture, and in particular our need to be studying the Bible more. At Redeemer, we encourage using the "Life Journal" as a means of getting into God's Word daily. If you don't already have a *Life Journal*, let us know and we can get you one. But how do you use the *Life Journal*? Let me show you a **VERY SIMPLE, YET POWERFUL devotional method** that you can use with your *Life Journals*. It will help you:

1. get more out of your daily devotions.
2. be more regular in your devotion time.
3. learn and remember more Scripture.
4. start a regular devotional pattern if you don't already have one.

This practice can be *transformational* for you... it has been for me!. It is very easy, and while the Life Journal provides a reading plan that will help you read the Bible in one year, you can use the Life Journal, and this devotional method with any Bible reading plan, and with any notebook or even the computer.

Here's how it works...Just remember the acronym "SOAP":

1. **"S" SCRIPTURE.** Read whatever Scripture is on your plan to read for that day. It is important to have a PLAN. This method would work even if you open your Bible and plunk your finger down on a verse, but in order to receive the "whole counsel" of God, you should methodically

work through all of Scripture, so you don't just tend to the parts you like. As you are reading through your Scripture, begin to underline or highlight verses that stick out,

or really speak to you. Use a Bible that you feel comfortable marking up and making notes in. Don't worry about summarizing anything at this point. Just let your Spirit be open to God speaking to you through His Word. When you are finished reading your section of Scripture, skim back over it, and note the sections that you've underlined. What stands out to you the most? Where do you feel God really opened your eyes today? Whittle that down to a phrase or a verse or two of Scripture. Then in your *Life Journal*, write down today's date, and then under that put an **"S" and then write out the verse of Scripture**, Then make a note of the Biblical Reference (Isaiah 44:1, for example).

2. **"O" OBSERVATION.** Write down an **"O" and then write things that you observed during your reading or study of today's text.** This can be as extensive as you like. You can write down what's happening in the preceding and following chapters and verses (immediate context) of the section of Scripture you're reading, or if you'd like to go deeper, you can lookup some historical information on the internet or in a Bible Dictionary. If your Bible lists "cross-referenced" Bible verses, you might look those up and see what additional insights



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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jim Brunner, Council President



Over the past three months, I have presented what I call a 'Reader's Digest' version of the near and mid term plans aimed at the development of our "**Worship – Grow – Serve**" "**Ministries** to direct and lead us

toward achieving our Goal of '**500 by 500**' or more simply stated to serve 500 souls each week by the 500th anniversary of Luther's Reformation to be celebrated on October 31, 2017.

First, let me state that it is not about the numbers, but it is about our Mission to be a Lighthouse to our community and to the world. In **Worship** we encounter and receive the light of Christ through Word and Sacrament. We **Grow** in our faith through study and fellowship within the Body of Christ. We **Serve** as we reach out to our community and the world with the light of Christ shining through us to them. We can all as individuals worship, grow and serve in our own personal ways and those are a testament to our faith. However, as a congregation we too are one body in Christ and are charged with our Mission and committed to a mission to bring the message of Christ to all. To accomplish our Mission as a congregation, we need to Plan, we need to Organize, we need to Commit and we need to Act.

Pastor Augie has scheduled a congregational planning workshop on a Saturday in May, open to all members who are interested to hear and discuss our Ministry Development plans. This workshop is intended to be informative, interactive and directive from the standpoint of listening and incorporating the thoughts and recommendations of the attendees into our planning process. In addition to the overall plan, we will have several work sessions that deal with specific areas.

One of these work sessions will be on the subject of our congregational Governance or more specifically the modification of our Constitution and By-Laws that will provide a Ministry and Administrative structure to conduct and serve a congregation that worships 500 souls per week and beyond. As you might imagine, we will also discuss the development and expansion of our Ministries,

our Staff, and yes even our facilities.

I have been working with an Ad Hoc committee consisting of Kevin Lynaugh, Kathy Hemphill and Richard Evans along with vital check points with Pastor Augie as we have developed a functional organization chart which concentrates on the development and growth of our Ministries clearly under the direction of the Pastoral Office while the administrative, financial, facilities and planning will be undertaken by an Executive Committee. All of these activities and ministries will remain fully responsible to the Voter's as currently defined in our Constitution. Council positions will remain as elected and the Elders as appropriate will be given additional assignments to support various standing Ministry Committees.

Worship
Grow
Serve
500 by 500

It is currently the goal of the Governance Committee to work through Council reviews, congregational workshops and finally to present a finished product which has been approved by the Council to the Voter's Assembly for their approval at our September meeting and as currently required by our Constitution to be ratified by a second Voter's Assembly at our December meeting. This will be followed by a submittal to the District President for final approval.

In looking back over this past year and especially the past eight months of our fiscal year (September 1 to August 31) we have and continue to be blessed not only through our Pastoral leadership but more importantly the response and the reaction from the congregation to move forward in our walk together in our **Worship**, in our **Grow** study and fellowship and our **Serve** to our community. May the Lord Bless us and Guide us through the Holy Spirit to serve and glorify His Holy name.

In His Service,
Jim Brunner, Council President

STEWARDSHIP

B. J. Lahr, Stewardship Chair

A GIFT OF JOY is like a beautiful bouquet.

A GIFT OF JOY is 'SUCCESSFUL STEWARDSHIP'.

"...their overflowing joy...welled up in rich generosity..." 2 Corinthians 8 2:b (NIV84)

God uses your prayers and financial gifts to bear fruit.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will *"...multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruit..."* 2 Corinthians 9:10 (NKJV)

Christian Stewardship is a free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family-the church.

Stewards DO the right things for the right reasons as they manage life's resources of God's purposes.

To feel this JOY, you need nothing more than God's guidance and love.

So trust in His wisdom and follow His ways. *"...That you might have life in all its Fullness."* John 10:1-b (GNT)

During the month of May you will receive a summary of your 1012 giving (January-April). This summary will include a pledge report, where applicable. Thank you for your generosity and may you feel God's Blessings during this coming month.



EVANGELISM

Tom Burke

Congratulations! Thanks to all the planning and hard work our first Big Day Event Easter Sunday was a success. Our goal was to have 500 in attendance and we had approximately 430. We had so many volunteers doing so many activities that day from distributing doorknob hangers, parking, church services, music, brunch, Sunday School, Easter Egg Hunt, etc. It seemed like the entire congregation was involved in something that day. Thank you to everyone for doing such a great job.

The next Mission U School of Witnessing workshop is scheduled for Saturday, May 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Vista. The workshop is free. Lunch will be served and childcare is available. The workshop is provided by Lutheran Hour Ministries and the presenter is Pastor Jim Weist from St Peter's Lutheran Church in Shaker Heights, Ohio. This workshop will identify and examine some of the most difficult and most common objections that are raised about Christianity. Participants will be equipped with the tools to discover the root issues behind these questions and how to respond appropriately while directing the conversation back to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I attended one of the Mission U workshops before and it was very good. I plan to attend this one and if anyone would like more information please contact me either at church or 760/529-9970.

LCEF

Jo Voertman

Everyone earning income should be putting money into an IRA, either traditional or Roth, depending on their circumstances.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund offers both and the efficient, capable, friendly experts at the 800 hotline will be glad to help you choose which works best for you.

If interested in investing in LCEF, contact your congregation representative, who is Jo Voertman, 760-721-6674, email, jvbythesea@cox.net, or contact Lutheran Church Extension Fund, 1-800-843-5233

Remember, it's not a gift, donation or contribution, it's an investment!

Easter Program

The children's part of our Palm Sunday service was a little different this year, as we had the Youth Choir (*Sophie, Emma, Keira, Brendan and Emma*) enter the Sanctuary carrying palm branches, just prior to the Children's message, and then singing songs they had been practicing. Gary Wilson, with an assist from Jo Voertman, did a great job preparing the children during the month and they sounded great.



Our Easter Sunday events included the traditional *Easter Egg Hunt*, right after the Brunch, with the Youth taking charge this year. Many thanks to Rachel and Chloe for the preparations and guiding the effort during the event and to all the Youth who helped hide the eggs and monitor the little ones.

Easter Sunday also included normal Sunday School class time where the children enjoyed a visual learning experience (*movie*), along with the other activities. We were able to have an age appropriate movie in each of the three classes, so the children could stay in their usual rooms. The movies always seem to capture the children's attention and I believe it helps reinforce the importance of Easter by presenting the events in a way they can easily understand.

LCMS YOUTH MINISTRY E-BULLETIN – A PAST 'QUOTE OF THE MONTH': "Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there." (*Clarence W. Hall*) Surely a great quote for a world that doesn't want to recognize absolute truth.

The colors of Easter:

GREEN is for the palms that they waved at Him as He entered into Jerusalem.

Purple is for the wine He poured and blessed before He faced His final test.

RED is for the precious blood He shed from the crown of thorns placed on His head.

Black is for the sky as He died on the cross, suffering to redeem our loss.

Pink, Yellow and **Orange** are for the dawn that morn when the tomb was empty and hope was reborn.

White is for the dazzling light that awed all who saw Him arisen - the Son of God. ALLELUIA!



"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)



FELLOWSHIP

Barbara Gehring, Chair

The 2012 Chili Cookoff is officially over and what a competition it was!!! The setup crew headed by Hilda Kaladjian arrived at 9:00 a.m. and transformed the parking lot into “The Big Day”.

We had games for all ages including Bean Bag Toss, Knock Over the Glasses, Go Fish, 2 Jumpies, Cakewalk (very popular with lots of yummy desserts), Face Painting by Deo & Chloe, Balloon Figures by Rachelle, Guess the Jelly Beans and a Free Photo Op.

Our Youth Band led by Joe Flatt provided live music – great job guys!!!!

The cooks began arriving for the “Main Event” with their secret recipes at 10:30 a.m. We had 18 entries with very creative names (and ingredients) and the competition was fierce!!! Tasting was from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The ballots were counted and the official winners of the “RBTS 2012 Chili Cookoff” are as follows:

Spiciest: Rocky Collins with “Lightin’ the Afterburner”

Most Unusual: Heather Finke with “Spicy Mango Chili”

Best All Around: Laura Cline with “Cheesey Chicken Chili”

Coolest Name: Buck Lehmann with “Genuine Faux West Texas Hard Shell Armadillo Road Kill Chili with Champignons”

The winner of “Guess the Jelly Beans” was Pastor Augie. There were 1,380 jelly beans and he guessed 1,313. That’s a lot of jelly beans!!!

Congratulations to all of the winners and a big thank you to my committee and all of the volunteers. You all made the day come off without a “hitch”. Until next year.....

Rhonda Sutherlin



THE SCHOOL BOARD

Bobbie Ankenbrandt

One of the many innovative and impressive events that has been added to a busy school calendar is the annual **Redeemer Reads** awards celebration. The focus is on our Kindergarten students, all of whom have read **100 books** since the beginning of the school year! That is a huge accomplishment for anyone (ESPECIALLY a five year old!!)

As a former junior high teacher, I appreciate the difference that reading can make between success and failure, as well as the importance of children mastering this skill at an early age. It is such a joy to watch a young child's eyes light up when he/she makes a connection between a disjointed array of meaningless letters, and then begins to translate them into word combinations that actually make sense! This amazing discovery sends children on to an enthusiastic and passionate journey of exploration and adventure.

Congratulations to the recipients of this year's **Redeemer Reads** awards!

REDEEMER READS



**WE
READ
100
BOOKS
THIS
YEAR**



Redeemer's 5th Annual Art Extravaganza!

Thursday, June 7 & Friday, June 8

Preschool Art Display Schedule:

Displayed in Rm. 100

Thursday, June 7: All TTH 3 year olds

Friday, June 8: All MWF 4 year olds & Bonus

• • •

Kindergarten Art Display Schedule:

Kindergarten Art will be displayed both

Thursday, June 7th and Friday June 8th

in Rooms 5 & 6 from 2:30-3:30



All masterpieces will be available for sale at \$20.00 to raise money for our school.

Creator God, Thank you for making so many different flowers and plants. I want to help you by looking after them.

Amen

Taken from our Daily Devotional Book: God and Me



Summer Camp is Almost Here...

Summer Camp is from 9:00-12:00 daily with Lunch Bunch at an additional charge from 12:00-1:00.

Session 1 Sun, Sand & Water: June 25 to July 6 (Closed 7/4)

Session 2 Wind: July 9 to July 20

Session 3 Summer Olympics: July 30 to August 10

Session 4 Science Discovery: August 13 to August 24

Summer Camp Tuition:

• Tuesday/Thursday (3's): \$135.00 + \$10.00 snack fee = \$145.00

• Monday/Wednesday/Friday (4/5): \$180.00 + \$10.00 snack fee = \$190.00

• Monday through Friday (4/5/6): \$240.00 + \$10.00 snack fee = \$250.00

A non-refundable Registration and Supply fee for a total of \$35.00 must accompany the completed Registration Form.

Please call Cindy for more information.



Important Dates to Remember:

May

- Tuesday and Wednesday, April 24 and 25 ~ Chapel, Parents are *always* welcome
- Monday, May 28 ~ Memorial Day/Legal Holiday: **SCHOOL CLOSED**
- Tuesday and Wednesday, May 29 and 30 ~ Chapel, Parents are *always* welcome
- Thursday and Friday, June 7 and 8 ~ 5th Annual Art Extravaganza: **NO LUNCH BUNCH/ENRICHMENT**
- Tuesday, June 19 ~ Last day of school for TTH classes: **NO LUNCH BUNCH/ENRICHMENT**
- Wednesday, June 20 ~ Graduation & last day of school for Kindergarten, Bonus and MWF classes: **NO LUNCH BUNCH/ENRICHMENT**

CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS

Gary Wilson, Director

Our Chancel and Children's Choirs performed for Easter and Holy Week. The Children's Choir sang for Palm Sunday for the second service and were excited to sing "Give Me Oil in My Lamp," and carry palm branches down the isle. The choirs rehearsed for five weeks, learning new songs.



The Chancel Choir sang on Easter Sunday along with piano and trumpet accompaniment. They sang "The Easter Alleluia," and "Risen On High."

Our Chancel Choir will sing on Sundays through June, and take the month of July off. Why not join us every Wednesday evening from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm to rehearse new anthems for spring? We would love for you to join us.



CHOIR MEMBER OF THE MONTH

CINDY UM

Cindy was born in Seoul, Korea and grew up with three brothers and one sister. Her mother and all her brothers and sister are in Korea.

Cindy has one son who is working for "Operahous Zurich" (the Swiss National Opera House) in Zurich, Switzerland as an opera singer (tenor), for the past twelve years. He is married and has one boy, eight years old, and one girl, five years old.

She has been married to Charles for nineteen years and they met at the Korean Baptist Church in California.

Cindy has been singing in church choir since 1985 and a soloist at Vista United Methodist Church and Korean Presbyterian Church altogether about 20 years.

She is very sure that God gave her this gift of singing to praise the Lord. She is very grateful to God. Cindy has sung on several occasions at RBTS for a joint recital with the Korean Church.

Cindy is always excited to sing with our Chancel Choir and feel like they are all family members.

Charles and Cindy have run a little deli shop (J.C. Deli) in Carlsbad since 1995.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ~ LWML

Kathy Seemann, President



Only two more meetings before LWML's summer break! Join us on May 8 for the regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The COO from LSSCCC (now that's an intriguing list of letters!) will bring us up-to-date on Lutheran Social Services.

June 11, *Monday*: ALL ladies are invited to the spring dinner at El Camino Country Club...pasta buffet for \$20...5:30 program...a return of the popular "high-fashion-affordable jewelry sale" with proceeds going to LWML. No one should miss this event! Registration and payment are due by Sunday, June 3, to BJ Lahr, Ann Doering, or Barbara Gehring.

LWML, under the incomparable leadership of Norma Russell, hosted the spring Zone Rally on April 15. Ladies from as far away as Temecula joined together in chatter and prayer. Chaplain Robert Crossan humbled the group by relating his seven month experience in Afghanistan.

Afterwards, the attendees enjoyed an absolutely professionally presented luncheon, complete with an auction of beautifully arranged baskets and table prizes of amazing wood sculptures by Buck Lehmann.

Joyful people abound at RBTS and you are one of them! ALL ladies, let's meet June 11 at the El Camino Country Club!



Sunday, May 13

Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia began the campaign that brought about the official observance of Mother's Day in the United States. Her mother died, and Anna wanted all mothers to be remembered. She asked that white carnations be the official mother's day symbol. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed the orders that made Mother's Day a national holiday.

Just nine years later, Anna filed a lawsuit in an effort to stop the over-commercialization of Mother's Day. She lost her fight. Now, cards, letters, candy and dinners out mark Mother's Day for most families. Anna had hoped for a day of reflection and quiet prayer by families, thanking God for all that mothers had done.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We celebrated the April birthdays of Tom Burke, Evelyn and Lyle Meyer and Dawn Suhr on Thursday, April 19 at Sammy's Wood Fired Pizza. The birthday celebrants enjoyed enormous "messy sundaes", along with their lunch.



One hundred forty-three dollars was contributed to the Youth Fund to help with the remodeling project of the Youth Lounge.

The May and June celebrants will unite in celebration on Thursday, June 21. Watch this space for more information.

Everyone is welcome to join us but reservations are needed. To make yours, or to find out more about our group, call Jo Voertman, 1-760-721-6674, jvbythesea@cox.net.

May

Birthdays

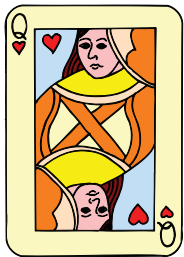
5/1 Jennifer Jacoby
 5/4 Andrea Fulton
 5/5 Geoff Boone
 5/5 Garrett Boone
 5/5 Dorothy Dahlen
 5/5 William Fulton
 5/7 Joe Flatt
 5/10 Tanya Finnerty
 5/13 Russell Erickson
 5/14 Dan Borchardt
 5/14 Frank Esqueda
 5/15 Gregg Boone
 5/16 Josh Steffan
 5/18 Kevin Lynaugh
 5/18 Audrey Winkstrand
 5/19 Eric Prior
 5/21 Laurel Michel
 5/23 Scott Smerud
 5/24 Stella Berrier
 5/25 Jennifer Frost
 5/25 Marge Smith
 5/26 Hilda Klaidjian
 5/27 Sophia Chan
 5/27 Terra Teat
 5/28 Tracey Kiernan

Anniversaries

5/5 William & Andrea
 Fulton (54 years)
 5/31 Jim & Bonnie
 Brunner (55 years)



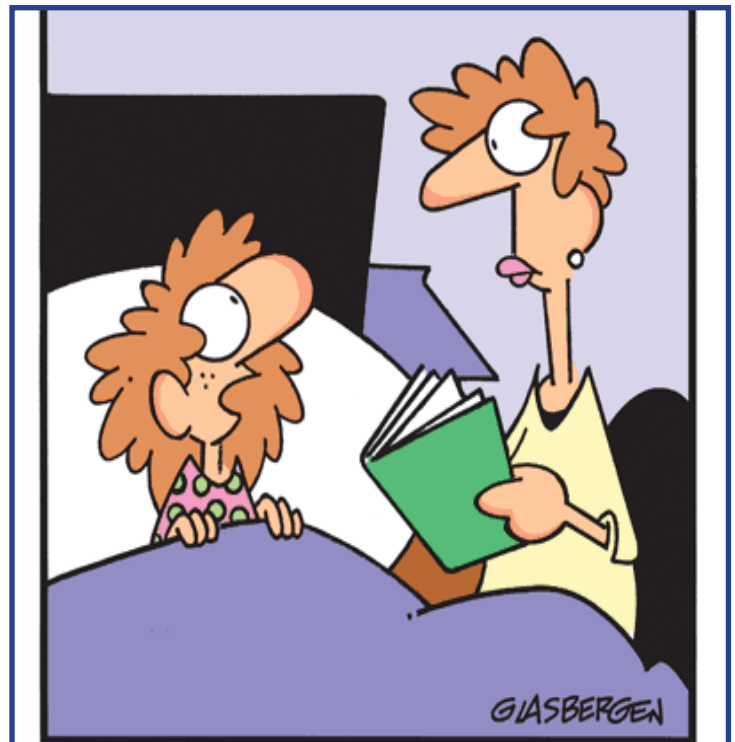
BRIDGE CLUB



The May Bridge will be at the home of Lois O'Donnell on Friday, May 25 starting at 12:30 p.m.

We play from twelve-thirty until four on the fourth Friday of every month except December (third Friday in November). Usually there are two tables. Light refreshments are served.

Anyone interested in joining our group may contact the Bridge Co-ordinator, Alice Lehmann, buckalicelehmann@sbcglobal.com, 1-760-941-1197.



"Snow White was poisoned by an apple, Jack found a giant in his beanstalk, and look what happened to Alice when she ate the mushroom! And you wonder why I won't eat fruit and vegetables?!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

BAPTISM CLASS: Wednesday, May 2nd at 5:30pm. If you are interested in finding out more about what Redeemer teaches about baptism -- then this is for you.

FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH: This six week class covers the foundations of our Christian teachings. Great for those new to the faith or those who want another look at the core teachings of Christianity. Begins May 3, Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:30pm.

GOOD SAMARITAN PROGRAM: This is a FREE financial study and was created to help improve the lives of everyone by educating and empowering them until they reach financial freedom and are able to live the debt-free life God desires. The 6-week series will cover God's purpose for your finances, budgeting, the culture of debt, saving, funding your future and the power of giving. Sundays from 2-3pm. Register in the church lobby!

SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE VOERTMAN'S – The study is on Sundays, at 6:30pm as we continue “One Christ, Many Creeds” – looking at Methodism. Contact Jo at 760-721-6674 for more info – we meet twice a month.

MEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY – Join us as we study Romans. We meet 7am on Mondays at Coco's located on Vista Way @ Melrose.

THE TRUTH PROJECT – Mondays at 7pm at Iadicicco home. Each lesson discusses in great detail the relevance & importance of living a Christian worldview in daily life.

BIBLE STUDY WITH THE LEHMANN'S – join us the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 1pm as we study the Book of 1 Corinthians. Contact Alice at 760-941-1197 for information.

THURSDAY STUDY WITH THE LAHRS – We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month, at the home of Paul & BJ Lahr at 6:30pm. – Contact BJ at 760-945-3750 for more information.

THURSDAY NIGHT STUDY – We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays. Contact Don Howard at 760-931-0253 for more info.

WOMEN'S SUMMER STUDY – We are studying Jeremiah on the 4th Wed of each month. Meeting on the Meyer Patio at 7328 Melodia Terrace, coffee ready at 9am. Future dates are 5/23, 6/27, 7/25, and 8/22. Contact Evelyn Meyer at lylemeyer@roadrunner.com with any questions. Pick up a schedule today!

ART OF MARRIAGE Rachele Iadicicco 760-431-8990
Mark your calendar for Friday and Saturday June 22nd and 23rd for the Art of Marriage conference. This is a six-session

dynamic video event designed to help you grow as a couple and strengthen the foundation of your marriage. Registration begins in May.

PRAYER IN MAY Pastor Augie 760-431-8990
The prayer meetings in May will be Wednesday May 2 and 16 at 8am and May 9, 23 & 30 at 6pm. Please join us in the Sanctuary for about 30 minutes of guided prayer.

RBTS POLO SHIRTS Barbara Gehring: barbgeh@sbcglobal.net. Polo's have been ordered, and we purchased a few extra. If you would like one, stop by the fellowship table and see a sample. If you are interested in having your own RBTS women's V-neck or Men's polo shirt, please email Barbara with your size. They are great for wearing when we serve or travel as a group! The cost is \$18 each.

CRAFTING & SCRAPBOOKING Tracey Kiernan 760-761-1176

Have a craft you want to work on? Want to work on it with friends? Stop by on Saturday May 5th from 10am-10pm and join the fun!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL KICKOFF MEETING

Dan Bitner 760-729-2682

It's VBS time!! and if you may be able to help out this year, or if you just want to know more about the program, please join us for the kickoff meeting next Wednesday May 2nd at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall! You will get a chance to see an overview of the program & curriculum and hear a sample of the music. This is a great outreach event and there are lots of opportunities, should you choose to join in the fun. We plan to use the GoFish Guys VBS program (it has great music and a solid bible focus), along with a mission project in support of the Free Wheelchair Mission. The VBS week is July 23rd – 27th and this year's theme is PRAISE, “Where kids get down to lift God high.”

LIFE JOURNALS & TWITTER

 Pastor Augie --

pastor@redeemerbythesea.org

Receive periodic “Tweets” from Pastor Augie regarding your daily life journal readings! Visit www.twitter.com/RevAugie and sign up to receive PA's tweets on your computer or phone! To learn more about the Life Journal & how to use it, contact PA.

FALL GROUP CRUISE Paul Lahr 760-945-3750 or paul.lahr@cox.net

Members and Friends of RBTS—Are you interested in taking a 14 day cruise this fall, October 6, out of Bayonne, NJ, north to New England (Bar Harbor, Maine), Canada (Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Quebec), and Portland, Maine, ending in Bayonne? Call Paul. Several from RBTS are sailing!

they provide and write that down. Whatever you observe that helps “set the stage” for today’s reading... write that down. I find that this is the sort of thing that may be obvious to you while you are reading, but very often flees your memory when you look back at just a section or verse of Scripture out of its original context. Record those observations for ‘safe keeping’ in the “O” section of your journal entry.

3. **“A” APPLICATION.** Now write an **“A” and then write how God is speaking to you personally through this verse.** What is He saying that you need to hear? What is He saying that challenges you, or perhaps that comforts and encourages you? This section in your journal, simply helps you apply the verses of Scripture to your life and your current situation.

4. **“P” PRAYER.** Finally, **write down a “P” and the prayer(s) that emerge in your heart following your devotional time.** By this point in your time with God, it is likely that you will realize that you need to make a change, to be strengthened, or just to be comforted and given hope. Talk to God in this section. Tell Him what’s in your heart, and ask Him to give you what you need. He longs to do this for you... He is waiting for you to come to Him. This is the part of your journal where you don’t want to ‘hold back.’ You cannot hide anything from God. By not coming to Him on your knees in your journal/prayer you are only short-changing yourself of God’s power to heal, strengthen, comfort or grow you. Write it down. Be “Real,” honest and sincere with God.

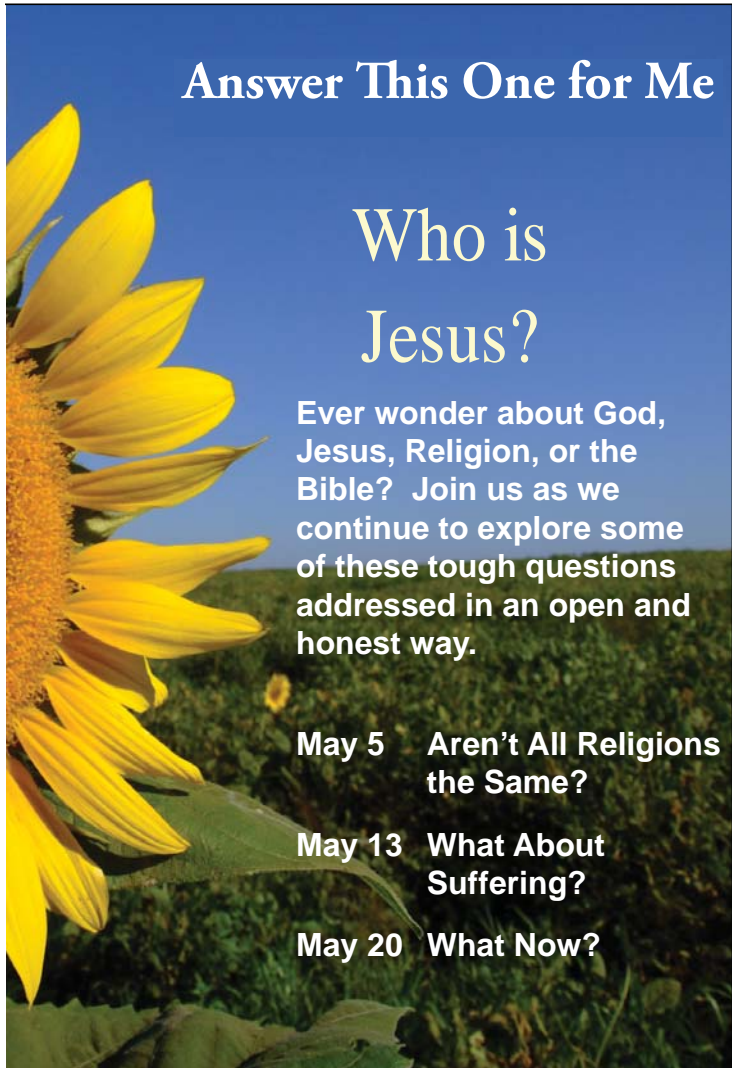
That’s it! It’s a pretty easy thing to do, and the blessings are many. In fact, the **blessings can be compounded when you SHARE your devotional (SOAP) thoughts with someone else!** Try it the next time you get together in small groups, or with a new-believer you are mentoring, or at a meeting for church, or even with someone with whom you might differ theologically! It is a great way to open the Scriptures and dig in. This way, you are ready and ‘prepared,’ since God has already spoken to your heart on the topic. You can even use it as a means for accountability. The next time someone tells you that they wish they read the Bible more, you might suggest they try the S.O.A.P. method. Then when you see them, ask them to share something with you from their journal. If the pages are empty - then it’s clear that they haven’t yet begun to really work at studying God’s Word devotionally.

Oh, one more thing. When you are working on your Life Journal, it’s good to have a blank notepad next to you. You can use that to write down any “busy thoughts” that come to your mind while you are reading and studying Scripture. So many people struggle with this. When we sit still to study the Bible, we can tend to have a flurry of thoughts flood our mind with what we have to do today or tomorrow. If you think to yourself “I’ll remember it,” and you don’t write it down, what tends to

happen is that your brain keeps dwelling on it, and it clouds your thinking and focusing on God and His Word. **It is far better to set your Bible down for a moment, make a note of what you have to do in your planner or notepad, and then move on with your devotion.** In fact, I’ve found that God uses my devotional time to bring me to some of my best thoughts and ideas. It is a good feeling if you sense that God is leading you in your daily tasks. It gives you a greater sense of purpose. The main thing, though, is not to let these thoughts distract you from reading and praying through Scripture.

Why am I trying so hard to get you to try this devotional method? Because it has been truly **transformational for me!** It has changed the way I approach my devotional time. By being a more active ‘participant’ in my time with God, I get so much more out of it. For years I tried sitting down and doing devotions with nothing but my Bible in hand. But there’s something about bringing a pen and paper into the picture... It means that **I seriously expect God to say something to me**, or show me something that day! I pray that you will enjoy many such encounters with God using your *Life Journal!*

Pastor Augie



Answer This One for Me

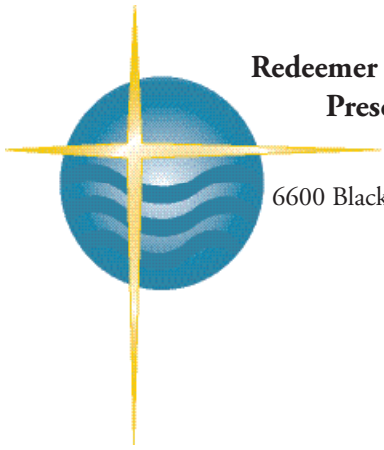
Who is Jesus?

Ever wonder about God, Jesus, Religion, or the Bible? Join us as we continue to explore some of these tough questions addressed in an open and honest way.

May 5 Aren't All Religions the Same?

May 13 What About Suffering?

May 20 What Now?



**Redeemer by the Sea Lutheran Church
Preschool & Kindergarten**

6600 Black Rail Road, Carlsbad, CA 92011



REFLECTIONS

Pastor	Rev. Augie Iadicicco	760-431-8990	pastor@redeemerbythesea.org
Office Manager	Rachelle Iadicicco	760-431-8990	om@redeemerbythesea.org
Preschool Director	Cindy Brown	760-431-8293	director.redeemerpreschool@yahoo.com
Church Council President	Jim Brunner	760-929-8756	brunnersr@att.net
Head Trustee	Ken Voertman	760-721-6674	kwwbythesea@cox.net
Elders	Don Winslow	760-729-4678	donlwinslow@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 am - Traditional Service
9:45 - 10:30 am - Enrichment Classes for all Ages
10:30 am - Praise Worship Service with Sunday School (*dismissed from worship*)

Elders (Responsible for members who last name begin with these letters)

Marcus Shaw (A-B)	Ed Meinardus (C-E)	Charles Finney (F-H)	John Palmer (L-M)
Don Winslow (L-M)	Doug Sandow (S)	Russ Hanthorn (T-Z)	Lyle Meyer (T-Z)