



The Lamp

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

Dear friends in Christ,

Well, it's that time of the year again when everything gets busy. It's always exciting at Redeemer, too, when things speed up and opportunities to participate abound. Each Fall we offer tons of fellowship and spiritual opportunities for each and every Redeemer member. Following is just a taste of the activities that are to come:

September 6 marks our last Praise! service of the year and we'd like to once again thank Katie Priskorn and all who helped out with our 10:30 Praise! services.



Our **Annual Homecoming Picnic** is scheduled for Sunday, **September 13** following the 10:30 service. This year we've added Dan Dan the Choo Choo Man, and we'll have pony rides, a petting zoo, popcorn, cotton candy and warm pretzels, too! Plan to join us for fun and fellowship. Continued thanks to Kim Davis for organizing the picnic for us again this year.

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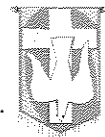
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Adult Bible Studies return Sunday morning, Monday evening, Tuesday morning/evening, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Look for the insert in this issue of the Lamp for a complete color-coded listing of all the Bible Studies that we're offering this year with specific dates and times. Check it out! You're heart and soul will be glad you did!



"**Bring One Sunday**" is Sunday, **September 13** at 10:30 (after the 9am worship service). Kids, come on by for fun, games & lessons that will last the rest of your life. Bring a friend too! Sunday School registrations cards will be available also. See page 5 for more information.

Confirmation begins in September. **Mandatory Orientation** dates:
6th & 7th grade - Tuesday, **September 8** from 7-8:30pm in the Chapel;
8th grade - Wednesday, **September 9** from 7-8:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.



Our new **Wednesday Lunch & Worship** begins this year Wednesday, **September 16** with lunch at 12pm in the Great Room and the worship service with communion at 1pm in the Chapel. See page 5 for more information.

POSITIVE PARENTING - for moms and dads - returns on Wednesday, **September 16** at 9:15 am in the Conference Room with Gary Priskorn facilitating.

Tons and tons of **Middle School** and **Sr. High** youth activities! Check out page 6 for more details.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast is Saturday, **October 10** at 8am with guest speaker Foster Braun, WJR radio personality. See page 4 for more details.



2nd Annual Members, Families and Friends Bike Ride at Stony Creek Metropark, Saturday, **October 17**, 10am - 3pm. More information on page 10.

Uh oh, I'm running out of room! You'll just have to start flipping through these pages so you don't miss a single exciting thing that's coming your way this Fall at Redeemer.

In His Name,

Pastor Randy

Homecoming
Picnic!

Sept. 13



The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

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e-mail: redeemer@redeemerbirmingham.org

website: www.redeemerbirmingham.org

Our mission is to faithfully communicate the love of God, nurture people in their Christian faith, and equip people to bring the love of Jesus to others.

The Rev. Randall Schlak Senior pastor
 The Rev. Cary M. Richert Associate pastor
 The Rev. Mark T. Wuggazer Youth pastor
 Gary Priskorn Minister of family life
 Joanna Newman Minister of discipleship
 Kitty Sweitzer Dir. children's & women's ministries
 Fred Rohrbach Director of music
 Jan Pflieger Organist
 Mike Lucas Assistant organist
 Pat Raezler Director of Westmaple Nursery
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 Steven Schuetz Building maintenance
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 Dr. Sandy Pourcho Resident counselor 248-568-6040
 Chad Speller Vicar
 The Rev. Duane Wuggazer Pastor emeritus
 The Rev. Carl E. Mehl Pastor emeritus



Worship
Schedule

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Chapel
 (Communion the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month)
 Sunday 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
 (Communion the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month)
 Monday 7:30 p.m. Chapel
 (Communion the Monday following the 2nd & 4th Sundays)

The Stewardship Report

<i>Weekly averages</i>	<u>July '09</u>	<u>July '08</u>
Worship attendance	390	411
Bible class	28	47
Sunday school	25	26
<i>Monthly totals</i>		
Communion attendance	671	736
Visitors	56	98
<i>Income and expenses</i>		
Income received	75,517	88,540
Budget requirements	99,250	91,327
General fund expenses	104,803	99,465
YTD fiscal year income	1,202,374	1,230,255
YTD fiscal year expenses	1,229,568	1,217,861

Plenty and Then Some

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. (Proverbs 3:9-10)

Stewardship Column

by Rev. Cary Richert
Associate Pastor



We are indeed richly blessed people! Our God is a gracious God. Amazingly, He provides for all our needs above and beyond what we often realize, and for which we often neglect to thank and praise Him.

In 2 Chronicles 31:10 we read about the contributions God's people in King Hezekiah's day were bringing to the temple. Azariah, the chief priest, said,

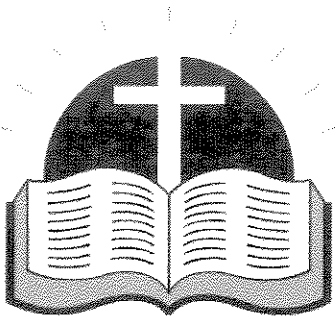
"Since the people began to bring their contributions to the temple of the Lord, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare, because the Lord has blessed His people, and this great amount is left over."

The prophet Malachi proclaims God's gracious promise: *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this," says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it'"* (Malachi 3:10).

In the hands of Jesus, two fish and fives loaves of bread were more than adequate to feed a crowd of five thousand people who were gathered to hear our Lord preach (Luke 9:10-17). God took what was offered and magnified and multiplied the gift. And there were 12 baskets of left-overs!

Through the Apostle Paul we have God's word of promise that He will provide for all our needs *"Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God"* (2 Corinthians 9:10-11).

How do we take that step of faith that asks us to give generously when we wonder how our paychecks will stretch until the end of the month? Perhaps the answer is to look to the Provider instead of to our own limited means. Jesus said, *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"* (Matthew 6:33). Given in abundance, and then some!



**Monthly
Worship Helps**
by Rev. Cary Richert
Associate Pastor

Throughout Pentecost Jesus' teachings are aimed at making true disciples, who believe and trust in Him by faith and who live worthy of the Gospel calling they have received from Him. Jesus' brother, James, echoes the important connection between true faith and the testimony of good works that accompany it. As the secular song "Love and Marriage" suggests, you can't have one without the other! But God's people must be clear on the role of good works.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that we cannot be saved by our good works, because no work is good enough to earn or deserve God's grace and mercy. God demands perfection. If we stumble at even one small point in our obedience, we are as guilty before God as if we stumbled at them all. The heart of the Protestant Reformation (observed October 25), was - and continues to be - that we are saved by God's grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. This is the clear message of Holy Scripture. It's called the *Gospel*, which is the only message that has power to save souls. [Romans 1:16-17] The *Gospel* of God's grace in Jesus Christ is at the heart of our worship at Redeemer.

Week of September 6 (14th Sunday after Pentecost)

OT: Isaiah 35:4-7a [Jesus, the Messiah, brings abundant spiritual blessings]

Ep: James 2:1-10, 14-18 [True faith in Christ is demonstrated by godly actions]

Go: Mark 7:31-37 [Jesus graciously heals a deaf man, who was also unable to speak]

Week of September 13 (15th Sunday after Pentecost)

OT: Isaiah 50:4-10 [Isaiah prophesies about the Servant, Jesus]

Ep: James 3:1-12 [The tongue is difficult to tame]

Go: Mark 9:14-29 [Jesus has power over evil spirits]

Week of September 20 (16th Sunday after Pentecost)

OT: Jeremiah 11:18-20 [Jeremiah leaves the vengeance for his persecution in the hands of God]

Ep: James 3:13-4:10 [True peacemakers exercise godly wisdom]

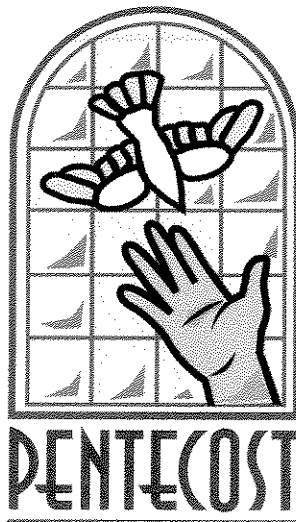
Go: Mark 9:30-37 [Jesus teaches His disciples that true greatness begins with being a humble servant]

Week of September 27 (17th Sunday after Pentecost)

OT: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 [God graciously answers Moses' and Israel's complaint in the wilderness]

Ep: James 5:1-12 [God's people are called to faithful patience in suffering]

Go: Mark 9:38-50 [Jesus teaches about being disciples fully committed to following Him]



Sacred Space

~UPDATE~

The enthusiasm for the Sacred Space campaign continues to build as we start putting the actual plan into action. There is a lot happening that you will be excited to hear about. In order to keep everyone informed on all facets of our mission, we will be using this page of The Lamp to update you on the progress, as well as communicating to you through other media as appropriate.

The architectural firm of Merritt, McPherson, Cieslak, P.C., has been chosen to turn Redeemer's blueprint vision into reality. Ron Cieslak, the architect responsible for our master plan, worked on both the site plan and design development drawings that were completed in late August. A landscape architect has also been retained to ensure that the grounds of Redeemer will be as warm and welcoming outside as the church is inside.

In August, the Request for Proposal was issued to over a dozen potential building partners. This month, the construction managers will be presenting their plans, and once the contract negotiations are complete we will select the construction company. At that point, we must take our site plan to the City of Birmingham Planning Board for review and approval prior to building. Our goal is to be on their September agenda.

As of July 22 our total pledge commitment was \$3,670,000. Over 220 families have committed, yet we are still roughly \$1,000,000 short of our goal. Our budget currently remains the same as that approved at the annual meeting. However, once we have authorization from the City of Birmingham and have chosen a construction manager, we should be able to refine our cost estimates.

The good news is that the majority of the congregation willingly voted "Yes" for the Sacred Space campaign at the June congregational meeting. This indicates that there is still opportunity for many more families to pledge based upon our campaign theme of "Not Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice."

Don't forget there a lot of ways to give to the Sacred Space campaign. Designated envelopes are now enclosed with your monthly offering envelopes, or you can call the office to find out how you can give electronically. Your Sacred Space giving amount will be noted on your quarterly statements.

Every one of us who attends Redeemer knows what a blessing it is in our lives. Today, we are all enjoying the foundation laid down by previous Redeemer generations.

What an opportunity it is to build upon this congregational family story, where we can help create a legacy for future generations to better share the joy of following Christ. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Sacred Space.

The Sacred Space Communications Team



INTERESTING FACTS OF THE BIBLE:

- The word "Bible" comes from the Latin word *biblia*, meaning "books"
- The word "testament" means "covenant"
- The Bible was written by about 40 men over a period of about 1600 years.
- The Bible was written from about 1450 BC to 100 AD
- The longest book in the Bible is Psalms
- The shortest book in the Bible is 2 John
- The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9
- The books of Esther and Song of Songs are the only books of the Bible that do not mention God.
- The word "Trinity" is never mentioned in the Bible.
- The word "Christian" only appears 3 times in the Bible.
- The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35 "Jesus Wept."
- The Bible has 66 books.
- The Old Testament has 39 books.
- The New Testament has 27 books.
- It comprises 1,189 chapters and 31,173 verses.
- The Bible is made up of 773,692 words and can be read aloud in 70 hours.
- The very last word in the Bible is "Amen".



Men's FELLOWSHIP Breakfast

Guys, mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 10**, when we'll have our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast from 8-10am in the Great Room. Our guest speaker for the morning will be Foster Braun, WJR radio personality. Watch the October "Lamp" and the Sunday bulletin for more details.

* * *
WEDNESDAY
 * **Lunch &** *
 * **W O R S H I P** *

Our *third Wednesday of the month* lunch & worship service will resume on *September 16* at 12 noon in the Great Room. Begun last September, this has become a well-received and anticipated part of the Redeemer worship schedule, providing a delicious lunch lovingly prepared and served by Karen Pridmore and her caring crew of helpers, followed by a brief worship service with Communion at 1pm in the Chapel. People of all ages are invited to join us for both the lunch and the worship service (or possibly just the worship service as you take your lunch break), and our hope is that some of our shut-ins might also be able to join us. Transportation can be provided if you let the church office know of your need 248-644-4010. To help in our meal preparation, we ask that you sign up at the West Entrance or call the church office. Also, keep in mind that our mid-week Bible study takes place from 11am - 12 noon in the Conference Room on Wednesdays, just prior to the lunch, and we encourage you to come to that as well. Hope you can join us to enjoy the warm fellowship as you are fed in body and spirit! Questions can be directed to one of our pastors.

POSITIVE PARENTING CLASS

Redeemer's Positive Parenting Class begins again on Wednesday, September 16 from 9:15 - 10:45am in the Conference Room. The purpose of the class is to offer an opportunity for moms (and dads, too!) to share questions and gain encouragement and insights on various aspects of Christian parenting. Based on various parenting related DVD's, books and other resources, the class has proven to be an excellent time for fellowship, growth and support for first-time parents as well as "veterans"! The class is open to all - Redeemer members, Westmaple parents, friends of Redeemer, etc. There is no charge for the class, childcare is provided, and there is no need for pre-registering. Just come when your schedule allows. The year will begin with a new DVD series featuring Dr. Kevin Leman, "Have A New Kid By Friday", which should make for some interesting discussion. A listing of the entire year's schedule is on the bulletin board across from the library, or you can pick up a copy at the Information Center in the West Entrance. Join us and bring a friend! The sessions are facilitated by Gary Priskorn, and if you'd like more information, contact Gary at 248-644-4010, ext. 23.

SHARE THE FAITH

Go ahead, take the month off. I mean, you talked to your **neighbor** about God last month, encouraged your **sister** in her faith the month before, and shared your faith walk with your **second-cousin's uncle** at that relative's wedding a year back. Surely you've done enough, right?

So go ahead, take the month off. I mean, the school year is upon us, Fall sports have started up, your job has been feeling tenuous. God can wait—He's notoriously patient. But, then again...maybe all of the surrounding uncertainties make this the **best** time to talk openly about your faith . . . about the-God-who-sustains-you...about the solidarity He adds to your life, whether in rocky times or smooth. Maybe now is the **perfect** time to take your recently unemployed friend out to coffee and really invest yourself in their lives – being there when they need you in the same way that Jesus always has been for you. Maybe **now**, above all else, is the most beneficial time to share your faith. Then again . . . maybe you could just take the month off.



Hey, Kids! "Bring One" Sunday will take place on September 13 with fun and games and lessons that will last the rest of your life! Surprises, prizes and a welcome home awaits all of our families and their friends. Your friends can come too so invite them! So, let's begin the school year with a bang! If your Sunday School registration cards need updating please stop at the Information Center at the West Entrance. Everyone who checks in at registration to view their cards will receive 5 J Heroes! Remember . . . check in at registration, bring a friend, stay for the games and picnic and begin our year in Christ! Wowwwweeee!

Parish Health Ministry Mind Over Mousse

The words from Matthew certainly apply when trying to eat well: "the spirit is willing, but the body is weak"(26:41). We know about the healthier food choices that are better for us, but we can be easily swayed.

You don't have to be a nutrition expert to know that while walking through the fair grounds, choosing grilled chicken on a stick is a healthier choice than eating a battered and deep-fried piece of pizza.

More challenging, however, are situations where the temptation is more subtle. Picture yourself at a conference after a hearty banquet meal where a large piece of chocolate mousse cheesecake is placed in front of you. Do you charge ahead with the fork, devouring every morsel, or do you take a moment to think about what you've already eaten that day (or even at that meal)? The mind may be saying "I've had quite a few calories today, maybe I should take it easy on the dessert," but the body is saying "dig in!"



Now, if you view the mousse cheesecake as the best dessert you've ever had in your life, then there's a good chance you'll devour it all. If, however, you keep a proper perspective and view the cheesecake for what it is – one of many tasty desserts that are always easily accessible – then you will take control of the food instead of letting the food's sensations control you. Think of it this way: this delectable dessert is probably similar to the last one you had, or the one you could have next week, or the one a month from now. In other words, it's not going to be the "end-all" dessert to savor before the firing squad. (If it is, then you have bigger problems than added calories!) Instead, have a few enjoyable bites, be content and satisfied with the rich flavor, but then put the fork down and push the unfinished dessert away.

Perhaps you've heard that the best part of any delicious desert is the very first bite: that initial sensation of sweetness on the tongue and the complementary saccharine smells filling the nostrils that make us say, "Oooohhh, this is good!" No subsequent bite, however, will ever match the sensations brought by the first. If all of the ensuing bites are going to be the same, (or even less than the original) then why continue? You will get just as much flavor and satisfaction from 8 bites as you will from 15, but for a lot fewer calories.

You *can* assert your own will over the dessert. Just eat slowly to savor the taste; be content with a smaller portion; and know that other dessert opportunities will come along. That type of mind set puts you in control to stop the excess of unwanted calories. Be strong. Take control – and for your health's sake, don't let the mousse win!

SOURCE: "Better Health," Summer 2009, Concordia Plan Services



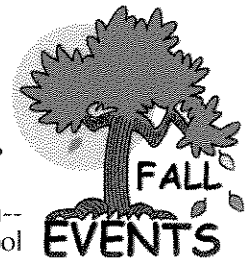
for MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ...

Water Wars! – Fall Kick-off event -- Saturday, September 12, 3-6pm. There will be water games, squirt gun fights, and a hamburger grill-out. Cost is \$5 in advance and \$12 at the door. Wear your swim suit and bring your own water gun. Registration forms are available on www.Wuggie.org.

Corn Maze – Sunday, October 11, 1-5pm. Get lost in a giant maze of corn! Stalk your friends! Tell corny jokes! Have a bushel of fun! \$12 includes transportation, admission to the Corn Maze, and cider and donuts. Advance registration required. Registration forms are available on www.Wuggie.org.

Fall Retreat – November 6-8 at Camp Skyline. Don't miss this highlight of the year! Bring a friend! Theme is Walking By Faith. This retreat will knock your socks off! We'll go for HIKES in the woods, play FOOTball, and a giant FOOT party, and learn about God's plan for our SOLES. (Get it? Soles?) It'll really stink if you're not there! Cost is \$95, but there is a \$15 early bird discount if you get your form in by October 13. Registration forms are available on www.Wuggie.org.

for SR. HIGH STUDENTS ...



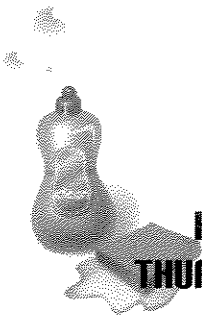
September 13 ----- Bible Study 7-9pm -- Wuggie's Bible Studies are always cool and real. "Wugg tells it like it is, but I can see what he's talking about. He doesn't make you feel bad, but excited. Whatever he's talking about, it's relevant."

September 16 ----- (Wednesday) Service Core: Family Of God Mission, 4-8:30pm -- Family Of God is a Soup Kitchen in Detroit. We make dinner for about a hundred homeless people in our own kitchen at Redeemer, and then take it to F.O.G. and serve it. You can come at 4:00 and help cook, or show up by 5:30 to go there and serve, or both! Please sign-up in the YR, or send me an email!

September 20 ----- Scavenger Hunt!, 7-9pm -- It's a classic. Come early and be ready to go at 7. Bring a permission slip if you want to ride with someone else.

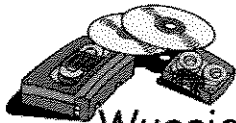
September 23 ----- (Wednesday) See You @ The Pole! -- Gather at the flagpole at your school before school. You'll be surprised how many of your fellow Christians there will be - people you know, who you don't know are Christians. Wuggie will be at Seaholm, but go to your flagpole no matter what school you go to!

September 27 ----- Heart Of Worship, 7-9pm



KITCHEN "CLEAN UP" THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Now that VBS is over, kids are back in school, and wanderers are home from distant warm and sunny lands, its time to give the Redeemer kitchen a good fall cleaning. Wear your grubbies, bring a friend, and come help us clean the kitchen from ceiling to floor. This is your chance to fix something in the kitchen that has bugged you for a long time! Our vision is to have a clean, well-organized kitchen that will be easier to work in. We also hope to improve the work space and the efficiency of the storage spaces (including the refrigerators!) For more information, please call Karen Pridmore at 248-451-0273 or Gini Claudepierre at 248-225-3664.



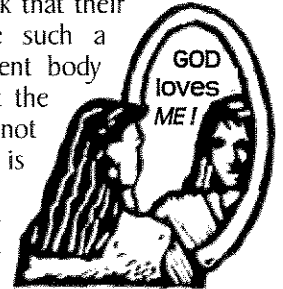
Wuggie's Music, Media & More

This month I'd like to take a break from reviewing specific media and write about the effects media in general has on our society, our children and ourselves. From time to time, researchers have attempted to *prove* through *scientific research* that violent or highly sexualized media consumption changes behavioral patterns in children and adolescents. The variables between nature and nurture- how different people process media and how that media consumption affects their behavior, norms, and values - are so complex that inevitably the research falls short of conclusiveness. I don't need any scientific research to tell me what I already know - media is a very powerful force in our society, influencing our norms, values, attitudes and behaviors. Many scientific studies have conclusively shown that the human brain does not fully mature until the early twenties. This means that the media has even more influence over the norms, values and behavior patterns still being developed in adolescents and teens.

During this past Summer at Redeemer's Summer Kamp, we focused on teaching the adolescent campers about how the media influences our self image, self-esteem, body image, and identity. We talked about how advertisers have one central message: "You will be a better person, more valuable to others, and feel better about yourself if you buy and use our product or service." We specifically zeroed in on the messages that the media sends to women, that thin women are more valuable, attractive women are more valuable, and younger women are more valuable. We taught the girls that

this is a lie designed by Satan to separate them from the love of a God who created them and values them and loves them exactly the way they are. Then we showed them a video in which a professional fashion photographer explained the process of photo re-touching. We watched as he imported a photo into his computer, and with a few clicks of a mouse he slimmed thighs, tightened waistlines, trimmed arms and shoulders, lengthened faces, and removed blemishes and wrinkles. He then explained that as little as five years ago, only 50% of all magazine ads were re-touched in this manner. He claims that today the figure is 100%. No advertiser, magazine editor, or model would dare to publish a photo in a magazine without it being re-touched. Simply put, no one, not even super-models, look like super-models. (View the video yourself. Just search "Tim Lynch Photoshop" on YouTube.)

The result is that teen girls see a terrible discrepancy between the mirror and the magazines, and between their body image and the images on the TV screen. So their body image suffers and they become disconnected from their Creator. The damage might even be worse for boys. As boys are inundated with unrealistic images from magazines, television, and movies (not to mention Internet porn - you do have software on your computer to prevent your teenager from accessing this, correct?) they receive a distorted version of reality. In this distorted view of reality, most women are young, thin and have a certain body shape. In this distorted view of reality, the coolest, most popular successful boys are the ones with the 'hot' girlfriends. Boys are programmed by this distorted view of reality to think that their chief aim as a man is to have such a girlfriend. A woman with a different body shape or who otherwise doesn't fit the distorted view of reality, is simply not good enough for them. Inner beauty is dismissed. The result is that boys grow up to be men who are dissatisfied with the women they have married.



Meanwhile the almighty God of the Universe, Creator of all that exists, looks at his greatest creation, and mourns that they do not see themselves as He sees them. One of our key verses at Kamp this year was from I Samuel, "The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." The media gets us all thinking and behaving as if only our outward appearance matters, our body image, our status symbols, our accomplishments. God sends the opposite message: What matters is our hearts, our love for each other and for Him. God wants us to see ourselves as dearly loved children of God, special unique and wonderful creations. God wants us to derive our self esteem, value as human beings and identity from that.

**"God is the builder
of everything" Hebrews 3:4**

Funny How Things Turn Out

A plane ticket for one to Los Angeles ends up being a ticket for five to come the opposite way. My ticket is relegated to a stack of papers with "do later" designations and my California family will wing their way here in a week. What changed? Life. It simply got to be too much. My son and his wife teach in a private school in North Hollywood. He is a humanities teacher, she a theater director. Their classes are filled with bright kids from privileged families. These are children of celebrities who are surprisingly unspoiled and down to earth with great insights about the world around them.

While Justin taught a debate camp this summer, Jen took a turn with a five week drama camp which would culminate in a play presented to friends, faculty and parents on Friday, July 31. The lead-to-be was Lily, a 17 year old girl, who grew up in a home that revered education. Her mom is a professor teaching in a law school and her dad, a free-lance writer for the LA Times. Lily spends her free time volunteering in a clinic for addicts. She would never get the chance to star in that play. On a Friday afternoon at 3:00 while on her way to pick up papers for her mother, Lily was abducted and murdered by a vagrant; her precious, young, innocent life taken by an addict's need. "We need to come home, Mom," my son said over the phone last week. Home. The place where things will be all right. The place where love and care heal broken spirits and faith floats overhead like a constant whisper. Home where hugs, laughter, conversation and tears mend hearts. The place where you are always forgiven. Lily won't ever come home again.

I cannot imagine what her family is going through. I pray they would be lifted up by friends and grounded by faith to endure this terrible time. And, selfishly I thanked God that losing a child was never something I've had to know yet. What are we supposed to learn from the death of a child? What are we supposed to learn from tragedy at all? For me, life becomes more precious, moments with people I love more important, faith more constant, relationships more meaningful, the journey here not as significant as the journey after, Christ at my side, no separation in what He taught and what I believe. His life was given so Lily would have a place to spend eternity and that is what makes grief

barely manageable. And, here is the kicker; Jesus' life was given so her killer could have eternity too. Isn't that amazing? Lily's parents can rail against the injustice, weep at the horror of this crime against their daughter and he, the homeless, disenfranchised, lost killer of an innocent child can be heaven's child too.

That night, I prayed for Lily's family, my own, and for her murderer. The first two were easy, the last extremely difficult. It is discomfoting to ask forgiveness for his brutality when she was so filled with promise. But I am called to acknowledge that somehow I am not different than him in the eyes of God. He is, as I am, loveable, forgivable and salvageable.

On Wilshire Boulevard in downtown LA, on a sunny Friday afternoon, Lily Burk lost her life. But that loss will be insignificant when we see the light of glory in Him. Until then, I will imagine Lily as a whole, unscarred, beautiful young woman in her heavenly state – a precious child of God. I will attempt to translate that truth for my children and give them the end of the rope I hold onto - the other end firmly held in the hands of Jesus Christ. That is the hope and the truth I cling to. What else is there?

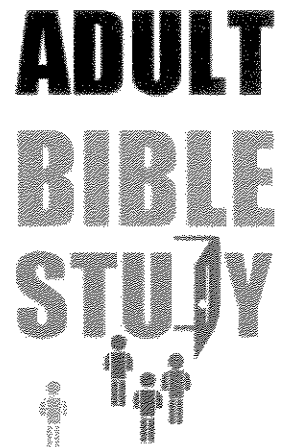
Love, Miss Kitty

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the GLORY that will be revealed in us.

~ Romans 8:18

2009-10 ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

See the brochure enclosed for a full debriefing on the coming year's studies. After taking it out, browsing it over, and circling those 2 to 10 studies you want to be sure not to miss, be sure to save it in a frequently seen place as a reminder. We look forward to spending time with you in the Word!



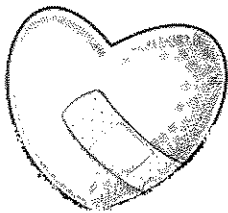
Dr. Sandy's



Well summer is just about coming to a close and before you know it, the leaves will be turning color and fall will have begun. Funny thing about summer...we get distracted with the immediate fun and activities at our disposal and the seemingly "normal"/routine things of our lives get put to the side until we pick them up again in the fall.

This column today is dedicated to husbands in general. You see, this topic has been weighing very heavily upon my heart this summer and I know that God is using this time to talk to you. How many of you right now, reading this column, can honestly admit that you have been ignoring your wife's cry, comments of her unhappiness with the marriage, and requests for you to attend marital counseling? My experience tells me, a lot of you. I see and hear this more than not!

Maybe it's the way that you're wired, the way God made you, that you don't believe in prophylactic behaviors, you fix things when they are broken and not before? Bad idea when it comes to marriage. Fatal mistake. A common saying I hear my husband say a lot is "we (people in general) never get enough credit for prevention". You need to hear me and hear me LOUDLY when I tell you husbands...it has been my experience since the day I became an intern in the counseling field many years ago, that when I get a couple into my office (because of the husbands call to me for help) where the wife has either moved out or filed for divorce... you will almost assuredly NOT get her back.



You see guys, when a woman keeps dropping hints or tells you she's unhappy and you do nothing about it (perhaps out of fear of being the bad guy in therapy, or uncovering stuff you are not ready to deal with yet, or fear of the ensuing female drama in therapy) she takes that as you don't care and never will change. Indifference usually sets in, apathy ensues and she prepares to start leaving you, in her mind. She tries it on in her head, maybe gets a job, starts working out more (to finally attract the right one . . . in her mind) gets more involved outside the home. Whatever her coping modality is...it is also an exit strategy. Once the wheels are in motion...by the time you get served with papers or she moves out...guys She Is Gone, period. And it's been my experience, that by this time, it will be too late because she's been leaving/detaching from you for months if not years, and you won't be able to get her back. I am telling you this is a chronic problem that must stop.

Husbands PLEASE, PLEASE, if you have heard recently or even not so recently (exit strategy could now be in place) her at all complaining or her disenchantment "with your marriage"...get help. I don't care who you go to, JUST GO!!!! Too many divorces happen because counseling and pastoral consultation was not sought. Did you know that over 72% of all divorces are filed by women? I learned that statistic in Graduate School in the 1990's! I shudder to think what that statistic has grown to now.

Let me end by saying this: 1) Swallow your pride (divorce court is far more humiliating). 2) Tell your wife that you have noted her pain and care about the marriage too, and you will research and find a counselor that you both can see for counseling. 3) Get off your rear and do it today because unbeknownst to you, she could, in her mind, be planning an exit scheme that you will find out about when it is too late!

God's Speed!
Dr. Sandy Pourcho

Mandatory Orientation

2009-2010 CONFIRMATION PROGRAM
~ FINAL NOTICE ~

ATTENTION ALL 6TH, 7TH and 8TH Grade
Confirmation Students and Parents!

Have you marked your calendar for Confirmation Orientation?

- 6th and 7th Grade Orientation ONLY -- Tuesday, September 8, 2009, 7:00-8:30 PM -- Meet in the Chapel
- 8th Grade Orientation ONLY -- Wednesday, September 9, 2009, 7:00-8:30 PM -- Meet in the Fellowship Hall (downstairs)

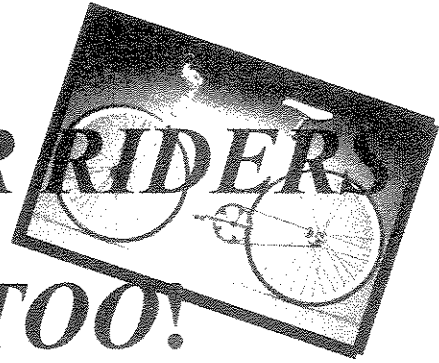
8TH GRADE PICTURES WILL BE TAKEN!
Please dress appropriately in modest attire

Confirmation classes begin Tuesday,
September 15, 2009.
Instruction and activities from 6:00-8:00 PM

If your child is NOT REGISTERED, please do so immediately. Forms are available from Lisa in the main office at Redeemer or in the Confirmation box in the folder marked "CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION" outside the Sunday School Office. Return completed forms to the folder or to Lisa in the main office. Thank you!

Contact Leslie Whitfield, Confirmation Assistant, for more information - Home: 248-646-0720; Cell 248-330-8685; or e-mail: whitclassl@aol.com.

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2nd ANNUAL MEMBERS, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS BIKE RIDE
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SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2009 – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Park entry fee \$4.00 or free with yearly sticker.

Join us for the day and enjoy God's creation while cycling and walking. Other fun things available are crafts and playground activities for kids, baseball, basketball, and volleyball. Bring your sports gear! You can even go on a guided bird watching and nature walk.

10:00 AM - Meet at the West Branch Pavilion "A".

Bike ride on the paved path around Stony Creek Lake begins at **10:30 AM**

12:30 PM Picnic lunch and soft drinks provided by Redeemer.

BYO other refreshments - Beer and wine allowed in non-glass containers.

Crafts for kids, guided bird walk, and other activities begin after lunch.

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T-Shirts are available. Check with Pastor Randy and he'll try to have a shirt for you.

Register at Redeemer's west entrance. **Deadline: October 12, 2009**

Questions? Call Gary Priskorn or Nancy Tar (248.399.7243)

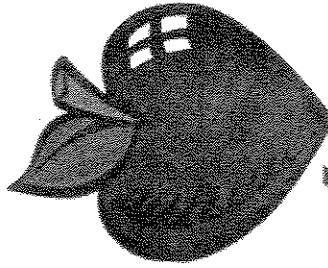


September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
8:00 AM Worship C 9:00 AM Worship/Comm S 10:30 AM Worship/Comm S 11:00 AM OSLECD Worship C	Labor Day - Office Closed	9:00 AM Garden Club CY 11:00 AM Prime Timers Mtg. CF 7:30 PM Leadership Team Intro. Mtg. GR	6:45 AM Men's Bible Class/Breakfast GR,K 9:30 AM MDO Staff Mtg. CF	Westmaple Parent Visit Days 9:30 AM Community Bible Study GR,L,P,UC 12:30 PM Issues & Action Meeting CF 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal MR		3:00 PM Middle School Water Wars G,K
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:00 AM Worship C 9:00 AM Worship/Comm S 10:30 AM Worship/Comm S 11:00 AM OSLECD Worship C	Labor Day - Office Closed	9:00 AM Garden Club CY 7:00 PM 6th & 7th Confirmation Orientation C,CF,FI,GR,S	Westmaple Parent Visit Days 6:45 AM Men's Bible Class/Breakfast GR,K 12:00 PM LCFSA Chapter 18 Mtg. GR 7:00 PM 8th Grade Confirmation Orientation FH 7:00 PM Women's Ministry Mtg. L	Westmaple Parent Visit Days 9:30 AM Community Bible Study GR,L,P,UC 12:30 PM Issues & Action Meeting CF 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal MR		3:00 PM Middle School Water Wars G,K
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:00 AM Worship/Comm C 9:00 AM Worship S 10:30 AM Sunday School BL,FI,L,LC,N,RC,UC 10:30 AM Worship S 11:30 AM Homecoming Picnic G,K 1:00 PM 7pm Sr. High Youth Group C,YR 2:00 PM 7pm Sr. High Youth Group G	Westmaple Begins 5:00 PM ARS Class UC 7:00 PM Love of Life FH 7:30 PM Recovery Inc. LC 7:30 PM Worship/Comm C 8:15 PM Elder Meeting CF	9:00 AM Garden Club CY 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study GR 6:00 PM Confirmation Class BL,FI,G,K,L,LC,MR,P,RC,UC 7:00 PM "Just Prayer" C 7:30 PM Leadership Team Mtg. GR	6:45 AM Men's Bible Class/Breakfast GR,K 9:15 AM Positive Parenting Class CF,N 11:00 AM Midweek Bible Class CF 12:00 PM Wednesday Lunch & Worship C,GR,K 7:00 PM Women's Book Group L	9:30 AM Community Bible Study GR,L,P,UC 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal MR	9:15 AM Mom's Day Out BL,FI,N,RC	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:00 AM Worship C 9:00 AM Sunday School BL,FI,L,LC,N,RC,UC 9:00 AM Worship/Comm S 10:30 AM Sunday School BL,FI,L,LC,N,RC,UC 10:30 AM Worship/Comm S 1:00 PM 7pm Sr. High Youth Group C,YR 5:00 PM Pizza Supper (Prime Timers) GR	8:30 AM Laborers of Love GR 5:00 PM ARS Class UC 7:00 PM Love of Life FH 7:00 PM Men's Ministry Meetings CF 7:30 PM Recovery Inc. LC 7:30 PM Worship C	9:00 AM Garden Club CY 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study GR 6:00 PM Confirmation Class BL,C,FI,G,GR,K,L,LC,MR,P,RC,UC	6:45 AM Men's Bible Class/Breakfast GR,K 9:15 AM Positive Parenting Class CF,N 11:00 AM Midweek Bible Class CF	9:00 AM Lamp Assembly CF 9:30 AM Community Bible Study GR,L,P,UC 6:00 PM Westmaple's Coffee & Conversations (7pm) GR 7:00 PM Celebration Rehearsal MR 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal MR	9:15 AM Mom's Day Out BL,FI,N,RC 6:30 PM "Fireproof Your Marriage" G,GR,K	1:30 PM Violin Recital C

September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <p>8:00 AM Worship/Comm C 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study GR 9:00 AM Sunday School 9L, FH, L, J, C, N, RC, UC 9:00 AM Worship S 10:30 AM Sunday School 3L, FH, L, L, C, N, RC, UC 10:30 AM Worship S 1:00 PM 7pm Sr. High Youth Group C, G, YR</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 AM Bridge - 4 GR 5:00 PM ARS Class UC 7:00 PM Love of Life FH 7:30 PM Recovery Inc. LC 7:30 PM Worship/Comm C</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 AM Garden Club CY 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study GR 6:00 PM Confirmation Class BL, C, FH, G, GR, K, L, LC, MR, P, RC, UC</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:45 AM Men's Bible Class/Breakfast GR, K 9:15 AM Positive Parenting Class CF, N 11:00 AM Midweek Bible Class CF</p>			



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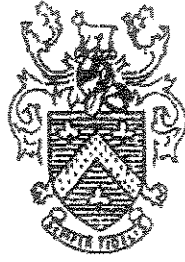
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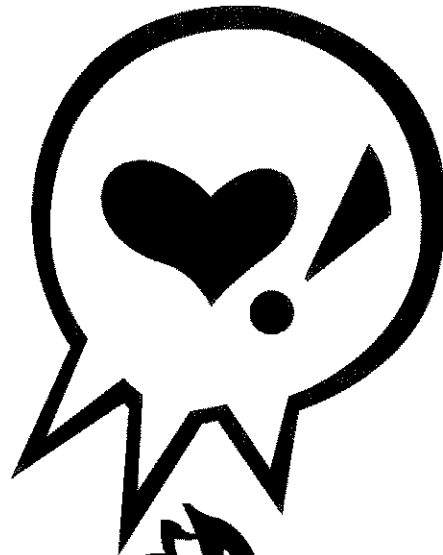


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