

# OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWS

## September 2024

### Faith, the Way It's 'Sposed to Be

It is very easy to talk about Faith, and to say that we have Faith, but we usually are a bit vague about what we mean. There really are two senses, at least, in which we use the word. The first is simply "belief." That's not what I mean here. The second sense is much greater, and much more difficult to grasp. The second sense of it is this – that we must discover our Spiritual Bankruptcy, and learn to live with it. We learn that we try our level best to live by the virtues which the Lord has outlined for us, and we discover that try as we might, we fail. And hypothetically, even if we were to succeed, we'd only be giving back to the Lord what is already His anyway. God, you see, despite popular belief, does not really care all that much about our actions, but rather His concern is over our relation to Him.

What the concern of God is over us is that we be creatures of a certain quality – namely, creatures as He intended us to be when He created us as a specie, in a certain relation to Him. I do not add, "...and in relation to one another," because that falls out as a consequence. When we are in the right relationship to the Lord, we will inevitably find that we are in the right relationship to one another; for instance, when the spokes of a wheel are in the right position and at the right tension to the hub, they're also in exactly the right position with respect to the other spokes. Now, as long as anyone is thinking that God is someone who has set us a task, like a school teacher, and that we're the other party in such a task, then we cannot in any way attain to Faith. We are out of whack. We cannot be in the right relation to God until we discover our Bankruptcy, that we just can't do it.

By "discover" I mean to really understand this with the heart, not just to mouth it like a parrot. Any child, given a certain amount of religious education can quote the line from Genesis about Abram, "Abram believed the LORD, and it was credited to him as righteousness." And the child can learn to say that we have nothing to offer to God. That's not enough to say it. No, we need to find this about ourselves by experience that it's true.

We cannot discover our failure to be able to keep God's Law until we actually set out to do it. Unless we really put our hands to it, whatever we say will always be backed with the unconscious thought in if we try harder next time, we just might succeed. That won't do it. "Trying" will never get us home again. All of this puts us on the slope where we slip and slide along to the point where we eventually say, "I can't do it, you'll have to do it for me." We tend, however, to look for that moment in our lives when it happens. When we do that, though, it's like watching ourselves to see if we are going to sleep. When we think about it, we'll never do it. Likewise, if we try to teach ourselves to have Faith, we never will.

Now, there are symptoms of Spiritual failure in our lives. When we abjectly refuse to be part of the family of God – that is, when we refuse to understand our relationship with one another – that's a symptom that maybe we're not in a proper relationship with God. If we love, it is because God loves us first. If we are self-centered, that's us, because God is not self-centered. What is good, is from Him; what is bad, is from inside of us. And, refusal to receive God's second-best gift, family in Christ, seems to be a rejection of God's role as Dad. And, "Father Knows Best." This is true.

The words, "Leave it to God," can be misunderstood, but that's all we have for now. Looked at from the outside, to say, "Quit trying," can make it look as if we are Spiritually lazy. Looked at from the perspective of Father Abraham, it means that all we can do is receive Good Gifts from God, because we can't do anything to earn them. Faith, being in the right relationship to God, and thence to one another, isn't something we do. It's something we are: Children, who let go, and trust. God, our Father, is good.

God's Peace to you all – Pr. Jeffery L

### **Website**

Our website: [ourredeemerprospectheights.org](http://ourredeemerprospectheights.org) contains links for Livestream online worship, Bulletins, Monthly News, YouTube service recordings, Online Giving and Sonshine Preschool info. Check it often.

### **Contact information for Pastor Leichman**

Email address: [Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org](mailto:Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org)

Phone: (847) 494-9494

### **Prayer Request Information**

Contact Jim Burmeister if you have a prayer request. Please be sure to have permission from the person for whom you are requesting prayers if you are divulging any specific medical information. If you would like specific wording for a prayer, please send it via text or email. Contact info for Jim: Text or Cell(847) 343-3798. Home (847) 934-5963

Email: [elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org](mailto:elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org)

### **Bible Study**

Join us for Bible Study in the Parlor on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm, beginning September 9<sup>th</sup> and continuing on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am.

### **Hunger Jar**

Please remember the **Hunger Jar**. The jar is located on a stand at the top of the steps. Funds donated through the Hunger Jar are designated to be used for the Food Pantry.

### **Coffee and...**

Please join us for a time of fellowship in the Parlor immediately following Worship. September Birthdays will be celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

### **Altar Flower Arrangements**

The 2024 pricing for Altar flower arrangements is \$30 per floral side or centerpiece. Checks can be made payable to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Thank you for your help with beautifying the Altar.

### **Outreach Opportunity Updates**

#### **Home Delivered Meals/Meals on Wheels**

The calendar for Meals on Wheels is now posted on the "Ongoing Collections" bulletin board. We are looking for volunteers to help with the meal delivery for the month of October. For questions and sign up information, please contact Laurie in the Church Office at 847/537-4430. Thank you for your support!

### **Food Pantry**

Just an update – we have been in contact with someone from the Chicago Food Depository and at the present time they are unable to partner with us. However, we are still moving forward and need to contact alternative food sources to get this going. As we continue to look to the future into setting up a Food Pantry here at Our Redeemer, we would like to plan a date/time to meet again – if interested in attending to discuss this further, please contact one of us:

Jim/Traudy or Stacey Hall

### **Summer Suppers Update**

We want to thank you all for your continual support of the Summer Suppers Program. We have been able to supply meals for around 20-25 guests each month. We thank you for your generous contributions of items we were able to give the guests and for volunteering your time to help prepare and serve the meals. We will keep you up-to-date regarding next year's involvement.

The Summer Suppers Committee – Jim/Traudy Burmeister and Stacey Hall

### **Sonshine Preschool News**

We are so excited to start school, which will be on Wednesday September 4. Our Parent information Night was held the third week of August and the parents indicated that the children are so ready to come back – and the parents couldn't be happier that school is starting. Thanks to so many of you who volunteered your time – our supplies are well stocked and organized, our toys are sorted, the rooms are set up and everything is shiny and clean. If any of you are ever interested in 'stopping by' to visit our classrooms, please feel free to do so – I have an 'open-door' policy!!! We ask that everyone pray for a safe and enjoyable school year for Jesus' little children as they learn and grow at Sonshine.

Traudy Burmeister



Sue Schroeder– 5<sup>th</sup>  
Ronald Bach – 11<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Witt – 21<sup>st</sup>  
Stacey Hall – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Bill Noll – 30<sup>th</sup>



Bob and Stacey Hartmann– 24<sup>th</sup>



September	1	9:00 am	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost With Communion Coffee and... September Birthdays
	4	9:00 am 11:00 am	Sonshine Preschool 2024-2025 Bible Study
	8	9:00 am	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost No Communion Coffee and...
	9	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	10	4:00 pm	BOD Meeting
	11	11:00 am	Bible Study
	12	5:45 pm	Summer Suppers
	15	9:00 am	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost With Communion Coffee and...
	16	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	18	11:00 am	Bible Study
	22	9:00 am	18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost No Communion Coffee and...
	23	7:30 pm	Bible Study
	25	11:00 am	Bible Study
	29	9:00 am	19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost With Communion Coffee and...
	30	7:30 pm	Bible Study