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Redeemer's Christian Connection

June Newsletter



With all the talk of expanding our preschool and kindergarten to include an elementary school, I thought it would be good to share with you some thoughts on the importance of education in the light of God's Word. The following article has been adapted from the teaching section of our Synod's website.

Does the Bible have anything to say about the importance of education when it comes to subjects like reading, writing, arithmetic?

Consider the following questions and answers when it comes to asking students, "Why do you go to school?" The first response is the most varied; it's either "Because my parents make me" or "To get good grades."

From there, the answers become consistent.

"Why bother getting good grades?"... "To get into a good college."

"Why does getting into a good college matter?"... "So I can get a good job."

"Why is that important?"... "So I can make a lot of money."

"And is that your ultimate goal?"... "I want to have a good life."

The above answers are predictable in our modern age. The sad thing is, the final conclusion is the right answer, but it has been woefully corrupted by a materialism woven so deeply into the fabric of our society that even well-meaning Christian teachers fall for it, even though they know better. The words are correct, but the sentiment is laden with a seduction not dissimilar to the taste of the forbidden fruit of Eden.

An Abundant Life

The abundant life is not one surrounded by material wealth. Of course, few Christian teachers would disagree with that statement, but then what else do we mean when we look for “a good job” as an end to which education serves as the most convenient means? The good life is a life full of joy. Likewise, the good job is one filled with joy. True joy is not found by busying oneself with a single-minded career. True joy is found within one’s vocations. The plural is not an accident. We all have our vocations—both formal and informal. These are the various callings into which the Lord has placed us. He has gifted us with the tools and the skills to serve others and, in turn, serve Him. Therein lies the secret of true joy—it’s discovered when we take Christ at His word and die to ourselves, living out our vocations in servant relationship with our employers and co-workers and students and spouses and children and friends and siblings.

When Jesus told the Pharisees that as the Good Shepherd, He “came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10), He wasn’t speaking of material abundance but the joy that comes from knowing Christ as Savior and being inspired by that relationship, laying down our lives in service to those whose lives intersect our vocations. As He expounded upon this abundant life, He pointed clearly to His own act of service whereby He laid down His life for the sheep. Although we may not be called upon to die for others, we are called to lives of service.

Equipped to Serve

The purpose of learning grammar and mathematics and geology and consumer science isn’t to get rich off of other people but to be equipped in every way so that we might be prepared to serve others in whatever purposes the Lord calls us. Hidden within those moments of service are the joy by which the good and abundant life are defined. Education prepares us to discover joy by equipping us to serve.

So, what is the theology of education? It’s simple: education is the process whereby we are formed to do the good works of service, “which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). Education is the predecessor and the companion of all vocations, both religious and secular, enabling God’s people to honor their callings as St. Paul admonishes, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ” (Colossians 3:23–24). This is not talking about salvation by our works, since the reward of eternal life is our because of Christ’s work on the cross, which we receive through God’s gift of faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). But faith is certainly active in good works done according to our faith. Thanks be to God!





HYMN OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE

From One and All Rejoice hymnal
"O Church, Arise" - 258

Good words from Ephesians 6:10-20; Psalm 85:9-10; Hebrews 12:1-2; and Revelation 1:7
for days such as these!

O Church, arise, and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold, whose battle-cry is Love,
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died,
An inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come put strength in every stride,
Give grace for every hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory.

Birthdays

Kathy Bieth—June 7th
Doug Scarbrough—June 10th
Jace Holden—June 10th
Beth Gilleece—June 10th
Jace Holden—June 10th
Norbert Buchholz—June 15th
Linda Wacker—June 16th
Phyllis Reeder—June 18th
Gladys Sunderland—June 20th
Vicki Candelaria—June 20th
Sarah Weber—June 23rd
Bob Oeltjenbruns—June 24th
Aaron Miller—June 24th
Bill Sinner—June 27th
Aaron Rustebakke—June 29th

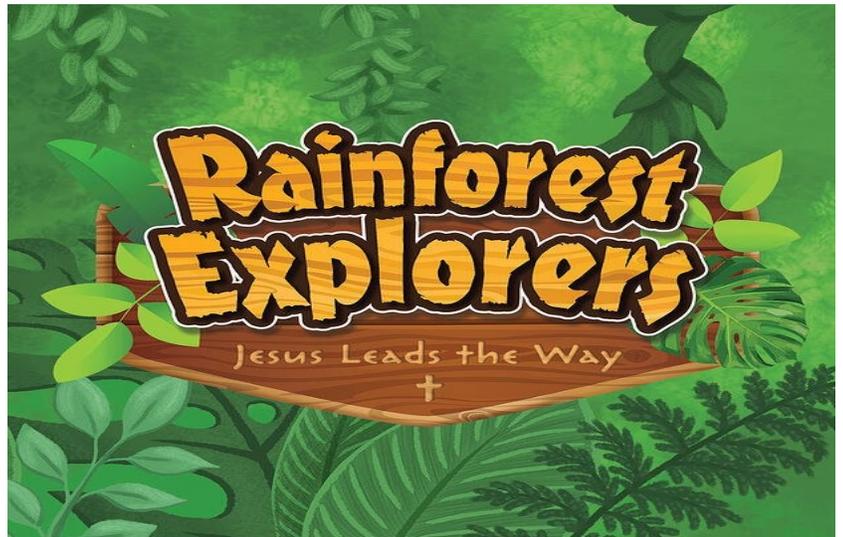
Baptismal Birthdays

Matthew Holden—June 1st
Lisa Althaus—June 3rd
Ryan Althaus—June 3rd
Klaus Winkelmann—June 6th
Michelle Scarbrough—June 8th
Alissa Heinecke—June 14th
Janice Main—June 16th
Teresa Sidor—June 18th
Karen Jetley—June 21st
Scott Keene—June 21st
Drew Miller—June 22nd
Norbert Buchholz—June 30th

Wedding Anniversaries

Chuck & Teresa Sidor—June 1st
Drew & Mary Miller—June 10th
Dennis & Tina Oeltjenbruns—June 13th
Lowell & Sue Kindschy—June 17th
Ed & Phyllis Reeder—June 19th
Jacob & Janell Oberheu—June 20th
Hartland & Michelle Clubb—June 22nd
Phillip & Doreen Dwyer—June 29th
Michael & Lisa Althaus—June 30th

Vacation Bible School 2021



We are looking to plan VBS for the first week in August. The theme is Rainforest Explorers. Please contact Alissa if you are interested in teaching, bringing snacks, or helping in any way. [**alissacheinecke@gmail.com**](mailto:alissacheinecke@gmail.com)

970-901-9075

THE LORD'S MINISTRY

Redeemer Lutherans attendance figures and financial blessings that were given for the months of May to further maintain the Lord's ministry.

Date	Attendance	Communicants	Offerings Received Gen./Designated Funds	Needed Operating Budget
5-2-2021	91	66	\$3,541.00/\$2,865.00	\$4,455.06
5-9-2021	102	84	\$4,820.61/\$1,195.00	\$4,455.06
5-16-2021	71	59	\$2,750.50/\$96.21	\$4,455.06
5-23-2021	84	69	\$2,536.25/\$194.00	\$4,455.06

"Life Thoughts in the Church Year"

June 6 – Pentecost II (Proper 5B) – “Our outer self is wasting away ... in this [earthly] tent we groan” (2 Corinthians 4:16-5:2). The Scriptures understand the difficulties of a terminal diagnosis. And it holds life precious all the way through the bitter end: “Our inner self is being renewed day by day ... preparing for us an eternal weight of glory.” Physician-assisted suicide cannot even compare!

June 13 – Pentecost III (Proper 6B) – The teachings of Jesus frequently smile at the mention of seeds (Mark 4:26, 31). The Lord likes how tiny and inactive things leave Him ample room to work life. Since He holds inanimate objects in such high regard, what exhilaration must He have over embryonic human beings! Declaring God's kingdom means defending the unborn.

June 20 – Pentecost IV (Proper 7B)/Father's Day – Godly fathers protect and preserve and provide (Psalm 124:1-6; Job 38:4, 8-11). Godly fathers do not suggest their daughters abort surprise pregnancies. Godly fathers do not stand idly by and let the mothers of their children make life-ending choices. Godly fathers do not keep silent as a culture of selfishness threatens their loved ones. Godly fathers speak truth and show love and share life!

June 27 – Pentecost V (Proper 8B) – The Heavenly Father beholds life where the world cannot perceive it (Mark 5:39). Our Lord and Savior brings forth life where even medicine abandons it (Mark 5:41-42). And when we believe and celebrate it (Mark 5:36), He turns even the mourning of surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis into dancing (Psalm 30:11-12)