

•INSPIRE•

Bible Studies

Sunday Adult Bible Study
Monday Women's Bible Study
Wednesday Noon

Women's Monday Bible Study

Mondays 6:30pm here at church in the Narthex. Study will be based on Ephesians, a letter from Paul. Please see Ann Werk for additional information.

This group will be collecting mites for **LWML** (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) on the first Monday of each month. Mite boxes are available in the office if you would like to contribute to this great organization.

Wednesday Noon Bible Study

An Inexpressible Treasure: The Theology and Practice of Holy Baptism. Our crucified and risen Lord, Jesus Christ, established Baptism, so that we would have a way to access our new promised life. We will examine the many gifts available to us from Baptism during this six part study. Topics will include: Baptism and the Story of Jesus, A New

Beginning, The Gifts and Benefits of Baptism, The Baptismal Commission, and questions about Baptism that are raised in this modern world. Join us for lunch and study each week at noon on Wednesday's.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Join Pastor Mike Sunday morning for a bible study on the book of Genesis - "The Beginning".

•Grow•

Youth Confirmation Class

Parents & Students
Wednesdays, at 6:30pm.
Questions? contact Pastor Mike
pastor_mike@redeemerwa
rsaw.org
cell:574-527-9483

Adult Information Class

Pastor Muller will be leading an *adult information class* starting on February 16 at 10:15am. Please let pastor know if you are interested. All are welcome.

Pastor Allen Werk will be leading the adult *Sunday school class*.

•Change•

VBS

"The Amazing Chase"

God's kids seeking

The Way

What? Yes! It is time to start planning 2020 VBS. To make VBS thrive & be a success, we need MANY volunteers. Organizing, leading a team, serving dinner, etc. There is no age limit, no experience required—we just need **YOU!** Fill out the Sign up sheet and place it in the office mail box.

Missions Board

Missions board is collecting boxes of tissues for Lincoln School. Collection will run until the end of February. Please put the tissues on the back pew by the elevator.

Sunday School/IMPACT Winter Party!

Today during Sunday school & IMPACT time **all kids** are invited to a Winter Party! Fun, food, games & fellowship. Come join the fun!

Redeemer Volunteering & Events

Sign up sheet

(Please place sign-ups in the Office mailbox)

Name: _____

☐ I'd like to donate to the Altar Flowers (\$25)

in honor of: _____ on this date: _____

There are dates available in March

Please use this insert and place in the church mail box

I'd like to join an awesome Bible Study! attend as many as you like!

☐ Sunday Morning Bible Study Monday Evening Women's Bible Study

☐ Wednesday Noon Bible Study

☒ VBS! Yes, I would love to help

☐ would like assistance from the Youth Group
(yard work, cleaning, a visit ...)

☐ I would like to help with Sunday School, IMPACT, nursery

☐ Volunteering at Lincoln School & Little Steps Daycare.
I am interested in learning about the many opportunities on how to implement our Vision Statement.

- **Church Directory** we are still in need of several photos. If you have not submitted a pic to the office, please do so—thank you. You can go to the members only website anytime to update your family info, view church members addresses, phone numbers, emails, etc. *However, since only members can see this info, an "invitation" needs to be initiated by the office.* Please contact the office to receive this "invitation". In a few weeks, copies of the directory will be printed for those who would rather have a paper copy.



Desires of a New Heart

Friday was Valentine's Day. In the stores, you've seen a lot of hearts.

Heart-shaped candies. Teddy bears holding hearts.

Even Cupid aiming his arrow at a heart.

Well, Jesus aims at our hearts, too. But not to make us fall in love with a sweetheart. In Baptism Jesus gave you a new heart.

A) In what way does Jesus's _____ change us (give us a new heart)?

- 1) **Didn't we hear Jesus give us good news last week:** *"Don't ever think that I came to set aside Moses' Teachings or the Prophets. I didn't come to set them aside but to make them come true (fulfill the Law for us)."* (Mat. 5:17 GW)
- 2) His righteousness counts as your record in God's courtroom as you stand there with _____ that clings to Jesus alone.
- 3) You need to know, no matter what personal harm you've suffered that has made you so angry, your heavenly Father works it for _____.

B) Jesus talks about a righteousness pure from sinful _____.

- 1) In what ways do we break the 6th Commandment? "Do not commit adultery" (Mat. 5:27) It's more than cheating on your _____.
- 2) Jesus said, pluck out your eye to remain pure. But it's not really our eye or hand, is it? It's a _____ matter.
- 3) *"Stay away from sexual sins... The Holy Spirit, whom you received from God, lives in you. You don't belong to yourselves. You were bought for a price. So bring glory to God in the way you use your body."* (1 Cor. 6:18-20 GW)

C) Finally Jesus talks about a goodness pure from misusing His _____.

- 1) How do we break the 2nd Commandment? "Don't misuse God's name."
- 2) The Pharisees misused _____. So, Jesus calls them out, *"Simply say yes or no. Anything more than that comes from the evil one."* (Matthew 5:37 GW)
- 3) How can your new heart shine out through your words?
 - Show that new heart through the window of your _____.
 - Reflect the light of Jesus in your _____.

Close: when people know that you are a woman or man of your word, how much more will they take you at your word when you tell them about Jesus.

"Not What Was Expected"

Matthew 3:11 - (John said) *"I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

Things and people aren't always what they seem to be, are they?

It was only a few years ago that my heroes were the super athletes who rushed for touchdowns, who threw no-hitters, or who could hit a homer or a hole-in-one. Today, my heroes have changed. Today, I respect the person who wears the helmet of a fireman not a football player. I honor the humble policeman who rushes to help a trapped motorist rather than the prima donna who rushes for a touchdown and does a dance in the end zone. In my opinion, the rock star at his concert has been pushed aside by the teacher in her classroom. The actor who has an opinion on everything has been supplanted by faithful fathers and committed mothers who know only one thing: they want their children to love and be loved by Jesus.

People aren't always what they seem to be.

That is certainly the case when it comes to Jesus. He is hardly ever what people expect. In the Gospel of Mark, the first chapter, we see John the Baptist giving a mighty powerful introduction to the Christ who is soon to arrive. The Baptizer is saying to get ready -- One mightier than me is coming!

Coming from the lips of John, those words were quite an endorsement. I mean, after all, John the Baptist was a pretty impressive, a very special, fellow. John looked special. He ate special. He dressed special. And, most importantly, John talked special. When he preached, his proclamation was passionate and powerful. There was no pussyfooting around when John opened his mouth. If you had made mistakes, he pointed them out in vibrant, living color.

That's why, when John said a Man mightier than me is coming, the people sat up and paid attention. They were impressed and filled with anticipation. Maybe this new mighty Man might take care of them. Maybe He might feed them or heal them. Maybe He might kick the Romans -- with their bags and baggage -- right out of the country. Nobody knew what this mightier Man might do, but that didn't stop each of them from having hopes and dreams about the mightier Man who was right around the corner.

And then, just as John had promised, Jesus came. The Man who was mightier than John showed up.

Was His a mighty arrival? Was His coming everything that everybody had expected? You would never, not in a hundred years, guess what really happened. Let me simply say Jesus wasn't who or what they expected.

Rather than ruling, Jesus came as a Servant and a Savior. Rather than hanging with the rich and famous, He spoke with the sinner, the Samaritan, the leper, and the possessed. Like John He condemned sin, but He also showed people the Lord was ready to forgive sins. Rather than conquering the Romans, He gave His life and, in so doing, defeated sin, death, and devil.

He, my friends, was and is mightier than John. He is the Christ and He is our Savior. For Him, we give thanks.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, for my many sins I offer sincere repentance. For the Savior who has removed those sins, I offer thanksgiving and unending praise. May I always be faithful to the One who was greater than John: Jesus, God's Son, my Savior. This I ask in the Savior's Name. Amen.