

## •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  
Class has begun!  
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.

Thank you for the scholarship money for the semester. I am currently in my last semester of nursing school for my RN. When I graduate, I am going to stay at where I work, at KCH in the ER. Thank you again for everyone's support! Sarah Doyle

Meeting Next Sunday:  
Mission's Board at  
10:15am & Education  
Board after 2nd  
service 12:15ish

## 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 February & 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.



## The Upside Down

These “beatitudes” are the blessing Jesus gives us.  
But those same blessings are like a slap in the face of those who are self-satisfied.

### **A) Pharisees thought God would reward them for being such \_\_\_\_\_ people.**

- 1) But to God, they were self \_\_\_\_\_ and self \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Jesus’s words are like a warm comforting \_\_\_\_\_ to those who look for a change to the evil in this world.
- 3) He gives to those the world sees as \_\_\_\_\_ His grace.  
And to so called winners, He gives a wake up call.

### **B) So, Jesus turns the world upside down with these \_\_\_\_\_.**

- 1) Professor Richard Jensen reminds us; *"Jesus turns the law around. Humans are not meant to serve the law. The law is meant to serve humans. The law serves us as we seek to identify the neighbor’s need. The law is not only about us and relationship to God. The laws also about us and our relationship with our neighbor."* (Preaching Matthew’s Gospel)
- 2) Jesus is telling us; look at the people the world forgets, through God’s \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) God \_\_\_\_\_ things differently than we do.

### **C) The poor in spirit, meek, peacemakers, are blessed, not because of their virtue, because they can look forward to in the great**

**“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”.**

- 1) Philip Yancey reminds us, *"The Greek word (we translate as blessed) conveys something like a short cry of joy, "Oh, you lucky person!"... "How lucky are the unlucky!"* (The Jesus I Never Knew)
- 2) Jesus is saying if you don’t value anything past being healthy, wealthy & wise, you won’t be able to \_\_\_\_\_ His kingdom.
- 3) God makes \_\_\_\_\_ of the world’s rejects... How lucky are the unlucky!"

•Paul in his letter to Corinth; *"God’s nonsense is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.* Brothers and sisters, consider what you were when God called you to be Christians. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view. You were not in powerful positions or in the upper social classes. But God chose what the world considers nonsense to put wise people to shame. God chose what the world considers weak to put what is strong to shame. God chose what the world considers ordinary and what it despises—what it considers to be nothing—in order to destroy what it considers to be something. As a result, no one can brag in God’s presence.” (1 Cor. 1:25-29 GW)

**Close:** Jesus calls us to reach out a hand, to reach out and risk to bring God’s grace into the lives of people around us.

## **"Designer Gods"**

Isaiah 41:10 - *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*

There are times when a pastor has to say what the Lord would have him say. That was what happened to a pastor friend of mine who was visiting with a prospective member. Everything was going wonderfully well until the pastor began to speak about the Lord's laws and His divinely decreed penalties and punishments for sin. Hearing about hell, the lady blurted out, "Pastor, that's impossible! My god would never do anything like that to anybody!" Surprised by the lady's reaction, the pastor went on to other topics as he tried to find the words for a direct, simple-to-understand answer. When he had his answer prepared, he rejoined the discussion. He began by saying, "You know, a little while ago, you said your god wouldn't condemn you for disobeying his law. I think you're right. Your god wouldn't condemn you because

1. he likes you just the way you are;
2. your god accepts you and thinks you're a really good person;
3. your god wouldn't call you a sinner, or condemn you to hell;
4. he certainly wouldn't suggest that you need a Savior.

"The only problem," my friend continued, "is that your god isn't real. He's a wish, a dream, a figment of your imagination. He certainly isn't the God of the Bible. The God of the Bible says *keep Me first*."

"And what was the lady's reply?" I asked my friend.

He told me, "I don't know. That was the last time I saw her."

You see, that lady didn't want to keep God first. She thought she was the master and God was a beggar who should be glad to glean the crumbs that fell from her table. She thought of God as a cuddly-wuddly teddy bear who might make her feel warm and secure when she needed Him, but would, the rest of the time, sit patiently on her bed, or wherever she put Him.

She thought of God as being a spiritual Santa who waited anxiously for her to pass on the list of things she wanted, but who could be ignored the rest of the time. She thought of God as a nice grandpa who gave gentle suggestions, but would never give orders, who looked at her and burst His buttons at how good and gentle and generous she was.

Well, my friends, that's not the way things work. God is the One who is always in control.

When humankind sinned, He was the One who promised a Savior. He was the One who sent His Son to take our place under the Law and offer His life as the ransom and payment for our sin. He is the One who uses the Means of Grace to put faith in our hearts, and He is the One who preserves and keeps us for heaven.

From start to finish, He is the One ... the beginning and the end ... the Author and Finisher of our faith.

**THE PRAYER:** Dear Lord, forgive us when we foolishly think we know better than You. Even as we trust You for salvation, help us trust in You for direction in our day-to-day lives. This we ask in the Savior's Name. Amen.