

Newsletter - July 2022

*Redeemer Church exists to Love God, Care for our Community, Serve St. Louis and Beyond.*

Acts 4:32-35

*They Had Everything in Common*

**32** Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

**33** And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. **34** There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold

**35** and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

I love the heading of this passage. "They had everything in common". The unity we see throughout the book's early chapters is one of the reasons why I find the book of Acts so compelling. The early church's unity is something we need to experience more at this point in history—record numbers of people struggling with isolation, anxiety, and depression. Our neighbors, co-workers, classmates, and even our friends and family members feel lonely and disjointed. Redeemer is called to invite them to be a part of our world. To have a place and have the same unity as the early church. Our world needs to experience "they had everything in common"

Having everything in common, like the believers in the early church, doesn't just happen; repentance has to occur for our church to experience the same type of unity. Change and death have to transform our desires. Luke talks about this in Luke 9:23–25, which says, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Tim Keller points out how these verses are written. "But there's more to it than that. In Semitic literature, the second and third sentences often restate the first. And here the second and third sentences say, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for me will save it." The word life is not the word for physical life. There's a good Greek word for that: bios, from which we get our word biology. The Greek word that's translated "life" is psyche, meaning "self." He's talking—pretty radically—about the psychological, inner life. "Your old way of having an identity, of gaining a sense of self, has got to end. In a sense, you have to die to it. And I can give you a whole new identity. You'll get a whole new true self." As we give up our lives, take up our cross and become disciples of Jesus, we create the opportunity to have unity with each other.



We see the early disciples of Jesus at the beginning of chapter two in Acts devoted themselves to apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayers. Early Christians were learning more about God and caring for one another. Practicing discipleship is how the believers were of one heart and mind. The gospel helps us love Jesus more and care more for others. One of the realities of the gospel is that Jesus leaves heaven to pursue us! We should do the same for those God has put around us! The mission to call others into God's kingdom is why we need to devote ourselves to Love God, care for our community, and serve St. Louis and Beyond. As we accomplish this mission, we are becoming better disciples of Jesus, and we will help others to begin to follow Jesus.

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# Thankful for a Monumental VBS!



Happy laughter, smiles, and singing filled the entire Redeemer campus in mid-June. Whether acting out the Bible story with Sue Gibson, creating Bible-themed crafts with Julie King, or learning how to apply Bible truths to their lives with Cheryl Ederle, children were actively engaged in learning about God. Throughout the week, twenty preschoolers through sixth graders worked together as a team with Kelly Dedeke and Emily Glastetter in Red Rocks Rec (games), learned hand motions for classic hymns and new songs with Dorcas Uebari and Jamie Pollard, and listened to Pastor Jeff share God's truth. They watched as Jesus (Mike Stuckmeyer) showed that he is the resurrected Light of the World who does amazing things. At Canyon Closing each day, students and staff alike enjoyed Kim Reinertson's slide show that summarized the daily Bible story and featured their pictures.

The preschool team led by Alison Brack did an AMAZING job of wrangling our littlest learners. Alison, Janine Uebari, Patti Schmeer, Andrew Hutchings, Ben Hutchings, Carolyn Harmon, Julie Voss, Alison's mom Jan, and others stepped in to help 8-9 preschoolers per day travel to each learning station and understand that God loves them.

Everyday crew leaders met with their groups to give "rock knocks", encourage them in activities, and demonstrate how God loves each child. Diane Gilbert, Mady Jones, Shara Jones, Jacob King, Jared King, Destiny Uebari, Jacob Pollard, and Andrew Koutsogiannis did a great job!

Special thanks to JoAnn Jackson, Jean Jones, Jan Kemper, and Dolores Cassimatis who made a delicious lunch for the children each day. One preschooler even told Jan she was the "best pizza maker ever." He got an extra bagel bite pizza for that comment!

Bob Jackson and Ben Hutchings helped daily with registration, attendance, and child safety, as well as helping with other tasks as needed. Patti Quinn served as the "glue" that helped pull things together as they tried to fall apart! She ordered and prepared materials, compiled presentation slides, ran sound, and ran to the store when equipment failed!

Planning a VBS is much like planning a wedding or other large event—lots of individuals each doing their part to make the whole event better and to focus on the guests (or Guest) of honor. Although not all listed by name, thank you to those who contributed financially, prayed, cleaned the church, tried to fix technology, transported children, made buttons to give to the children, and helped in so many other ways to make this event a success.

How does Redeemer continue to impact the next generation?

Pray for God's continued work in the lives of these children.

Consider what resources and activities are needed to help these children grow in Christ in the midst of an ever-changing world

Ask God how he wants you to be involved in raising the next generation at Redeemer

*From 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 ESV*

*<sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth... <sup>8</sup> He who plants and he who waters are one... <sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.*

**July 10 at 10:30 a.m. in the library—VBS/Children's Ministry planning meeting**

## GROWING IN PRAYER

This month we celebrate Independence Day, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Our new nation believed God created human beings to be **free**.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, **Liberty** and the pursuit of Happiness.”

What do you believe our founding fathers meant by “**liberty**?”

“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you **free**, you will be **free** indeed.” (John 8:34-36)

What do you believe Jesus meant by “**free**” in this passage?

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

What is this verse saying we are “**freed**” from eternally when we believe in Jesus?

“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you **free**.” (John 8:31-32)

What do you believe Jesus meant by “**free**” in this passage?

While Christians still battle with sin, they are no longer slaves to it. Through the power of Christ, His people can be set **free** from the bondage of sin.

If we know we are forgiven, and that nothing can ever separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39), why not continue to do whatever we want then?

- ◇ Pray that your attitude and behavior will help you and others, and not cause you to lose control.
- ◇ Pray the words you say and the actions you do, point others to Christ.
- ◇ Pray God can help you live up to who you are now in Christ.
- ◇ Pray and give thanks for God’s only Son who set us free from the bondage of sin by sacrificing himself for us on the cross.

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Church Office Hours: Pastor Jeff has been coming up on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm —besides Saturday & Sunday. Pastor Jeff’s contact information 314-363-5862. Patti continues to come up to the church office on Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm; besides Sunday.



In the book of Acts, we see that the people who trusted in Jesus became disciples of Jesus. Dallas Willard says this about disciples, "A disciple is a learner, a student, an apprentice – a practitioner... Disciples of Jesus are people who do not just profess certain views as their own but apply their growing understanding of life in the Kingdom of the Heavens to every aspect of their life on earth." We have to ask ourselves is, what are we giving up our life for? Every day when we spend our money, time, and attention, what are we giving them to. Like the early church, we need to die to ourselves to give up all that we have for the sake of caring. As we become more like Jesus we give up our lives and we care for others. Part of caring for others is including them in our lives.

My hope at Redeemer is that we all become disciples of Jesus. As we all become disciples of Jesus more, we become more unified and more attractive to those looking for more unity in the world. My prayer is that we would strive to have everything in common.

Pastor Jeff

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## Kuelker Missions . . . Your Missionaries to Mexico

Greetings on this glorious day that God has given us.

Also, I want to say Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. That day signifies when we, as a nation, gained our freedom. So, we celebrate our liberation in remembrance of what occurred back, then. Jesus, himself, gave us freedom in **Galatians 5:1** *Stand fast therefore in the liberty with which Christ has made us free, and do not again be held with the yoke of bondage.* Remember freedom always comes with a price.

**Becky:** From the day she arrived in Tepic. She has been busy packing things for the move to the new house. Most of all she has been very occupied arranging her ministry schedule. She has made up both bags with school supplies and Christmas. Becky has met twice this month with a lady from her ladies group and she held the Ladies Breakfast to plan the Ladies Conference and other events.

**Mike:** I, also, have been busy helping with packing and downsizing for the move to the new house. I made visits to the Fiscalia general and to the villages to let them know that I was back. Everywhere they were glad to see me. In the villages they asked me when the next visit would be. There was a place on the way to El Roble where a man named Carlos didn't say that he was glad to see me, but he asked me what lesson did I have to share with him?

### Prayers:

- That there is good weather when we move. It is rainy season here.
- Pray for continued good health for us and the brothers and sisters in the mountains.
- Pray for our finances so we can continue the work which you helped start.

Remember to Keep C.O.O.L. (Christ Over Our Lives)

Mike, Becky & Berenice

P. S. Remember where we go your spirit goes with us. THANK YOU and GOD BLESS

# Caring Hands & Hearts

Serving our Community through Ministries of Redeemer



## Church and Education Building

- Local 805 Theater Wardrobe for monthly meetings
- Kings Cross Community Church uses our Sanctuary for their Saturday Gatherings.
- All Souls Community Church uses our Sanctuary, Toddler rooms and pit area for the Sunday 11:15 gatherings.
- First Light Ministry - uses our Library on Wednesday evenings.
- Girl Scout Troop—uses our Library for their meetings and used Fellowship Hall for their Thanksgiving dinner hosting their families for a delicious meal they prepared.
- Participated in the Girl’s Scouts April Shower collecting 759 items.
- Al-Anon uses our Library for their weekly meetings and quarterly meetings.
- Princeton Heights: met for the Neighborhood Association monthly meeting until 12/2021.
- Dartball league—our team uses our facility for their home field.
- Gateway Science Academy-South School using a Classroom for 2021—2022 School Year for their Advance Math Students. Winter Concerts on Dec. 13, 14 & 15th.
- GSA-South PTO “Family Bingo Night” on April 2nd.
- GSA-Middle School Choral Concert on 12/9; - Musical “Lion King”. 3/ 17, 18 and 19
- GSA-High School Drama performance 1/28, 29 & 30th; Spring Performance 5/19

## Affton Christian Food Pantry

A group helped to sort over 2600 canned food items on 12/11.

## Food Pantry for GSA-South School

Monthly canned goods and Cash donations from the Quilters and others. VBS donated canned food and personal care items to the Gator pantry for their Mission Project.

## Women’s Fellowship Yearly Missions

Yearly sponsor of a child at Every Child’s Hope.

Christmas / End of the Year Donations

Unleashing Potential

Lydia House

Every Child’s Hope

Emmaus Homes

May—Baby Shower for Nurses for Newborns

Participated in the GSA-South Trunk or Treat with 2 tables and lots of candy to share with the children of the school and surrounding community.

## Church Wide- Mission projects

Dutchtown Outreach—Donations of items and gifts for their annual Operation Christmas Kid Shoebox Ministry Night and supplied a meal for all before packing the shoe boxes.

GSA-South School—We participated in their Giving Tree donations. We helped to make the season bright for over 30 different families.

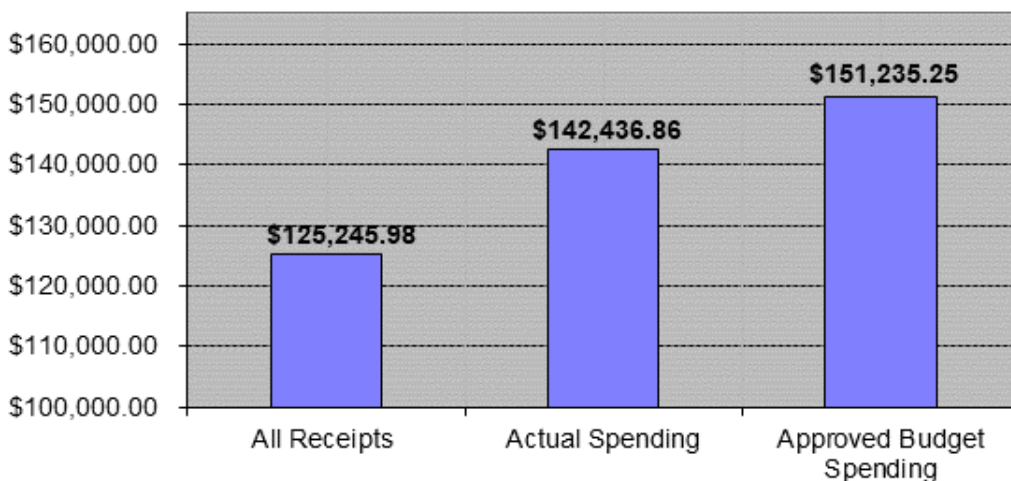
## Church Wide Mission Support through our

### Financial Giving

Local Ministries: Up Unleashing Potential; Emmaus Home; Every Child’s Hope

Global Ministries: Mike & Becky Kuelker; Micah Project and AIM School (Christian Education)

**Year to Date — September 1, 2021 — May 31, 2022**



## Tithes and Offerings:

As we continue through our fiscal year our prayer is that God’s tithes and our offerings will continue to be a blessing to the mission of the church.



## Church Council: May 9, 2022 Meeting

**Opening prayer and Devotion/Leadership Development** – Pastor Jeff opened with a reading “The Divine Hours”. A form of prayer at specified times to be used by individuals or groups at specific times of the day.

**Minutes and Treasurers Reports:** were reviewed and approved.

**Worship:** Pastor Jeff is continuing the series on the Book of Acts.

### **Worship Information - On line and in person**

May	Facebook	YouTube	Website - Sermon	
Average views/week	89	10	23	Average in person - 55

This information is from Facebook and YouTube and our Website. Each “view” represents one phone, computer, or television that watched the service (partially or in its entirety). It does not tell us how many viewers there were on each device.

### **Pastor’s Report**

**Welcome Committee update**– Julie Voss has organized volunteers to be weekly greeters and there are 12 volunteers.

**Children & Family Ministries update** – VBS was awesome! We had 23 kids and 30 volunteers which included Jamie Pollard our amazing coordinator. The group will be meeting on July 10th to debrief and look towards next steps. January will start planning for next year’s VBS. Discussed the possibility of starting weekly family worship for preschoolers.

**Music Ministry**—Jacob Pollard, Music Minister –shared that there will be no major changes for the summer. He is Getting to know people and organizing. He is looking to use the gifts and resources already has. Jacob will be out of town on July 24th, but will make prior arrangements for Sunday Worship.

**Wedding**—Ryan Ederle and Madeline Mullins will be married on September 3, 2022. Rehearsal will be on Thursday, September 1st. Kim Jones will be coordinating the wedding.

**Website Development:** Refreshing website. Pastor Jeff discussed new layout for website and updates were viewed. Andrew Hutchings is working on the website for Pastor Jeff. Hoping to go live soon.

**Time away**– Jacob Pollard 7/24

**House and Grounds** - Sanctuary projectors - We have 2 bids and one more will be coming the week of 7/3. Another possible solution is being investigated - the use of TV screens .

We are working on bids to replace: Northwest (back) wall of the balcony is water damage; Water issues near the outdoor elevator—parking lot; various plumbing issues. When Harry receives the bids he will explain them to the Council for Approval.

Harry has developed a 5-year plan to prioritize and replace AC units which no longer work, Congregation will discuss at Annual Congregation Meeting in September. Currently there are 2 units which no longer work.

### **Study Items:**

- Council Members for upcoming 22-23. Sharon Leicht will be completing her 2nd 3 year term. Gary Chambers and Ralph Wirtel will be completing their 1st 3-year term and are eligible for a 2nd 3-year term. Gary Chambers has agreed to run for a 2nd term and Ralph Wirtel has declined to seek a 2nd term and will be retiring.
- 2022-2023 Budget Preparations– Budget request letters to missions will be mailed or emailed the last week of June. The goal is to begin working on next year’s budget at the July meeting. Please be in prayer about how God is asking Redeemer Church to fulfill our mission statement—to love him more, care for our Community, and serve St. Louis and beyond.

### **No Action items this month.**

# July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English as a Second Language Classes are taking a break.					1
<b>"Bring a Meal" Sunday</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Family Worship, Communion Young People remaining in worship Coffee Hour following worship in Fellowship Hall 11:15 am All Soul's Church - Sanctuary	Office Closed for 4th of July	9:30 a.m. AI-Anon Meeting	<b>6:30 - 9:30 p.m.</b> FirstLight Ministry Small Group - Library	9:00 AM Men's Fellowship & Bible Study <b>6 to 8 pm</b> District Meeting for AI-Anon	8
<b>9:00 am</b> Family Worship Young People remaining in worship Coffee Hour following worship in Fellowship Hall VBS - debrief meeting 10:30 - Library 11:15 am All Soul's Church - Sanctuary	9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Church Council	9:30 a.m. AI-Anon Meeting	<b>6:30 - 9:30 p.m.</b> FirstLight Ministry Small Group - Library	9:00 AM Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	15
<b>9:00 am</b> Family Worship Young People remaining in worship Coffee Hour following worship in Fellowship Hall VBS - debrief meeting 10:30 - Library 11:15 am All Soul's Church - Sanctuary	9:00 am Quilters Street Cleaning Day	9:30 a.m. AI-Anon Meeting	<b>6:30 - 9:30 p.m.</b> FirstLight Ministry Small Group - Library	9:00 AM Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	22
<b>9:00 am</b> Family Worship Young People remaining in worship Coffee Hour following worship in Fellowship Hall 11:15 am All Soul's Church - Sanctuary	9:00 am Quilters	9:30 a.m. AI-Anon Meeting	<b>6:30 - 9:30 p.m.</b> FirstLight Ministry Small Group - Library	9:00 AM Men's Fellowship & Bible Study <b>10:00 a.m. - 2:30 pm</b> Operation Christmas Child using Fellowship Hall for Meet & Greet	29
<b>9:00 am</b> Family Worship Young People remaining in worship Coffee Hour following worship in Fellowship Hall 11:15 am All Soul's Church - Sanctuary					
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**The News**  
Redeemer Evangelical Church  
6450 S. Kingshighway  
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**9:00 a.m. Sunday  
Family Worship**

Names of officers of organizations and council members are available on request at the church office.