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REDEEMER NEWS

Official Newsletter of Redeemer Evangelical Church



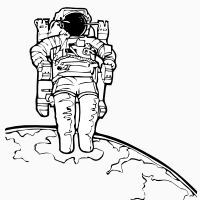
Pastors Pen

Judges 2:10

10 And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.

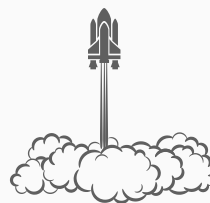
Did you just read that verse? Like, actually read it, not just skim it? Read it one more time. This verse is properly sad. Did you hear that last part? "There arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel." The next generation was clueless about who God was and what he had done for Israel. What will follow in the book of Judges is a cyclical pattern of God's people sinning, God judging them by sending oppression, the people repenting, and God raising a Judge to free his people. Not a fun book. Not a good look at God's people.

It is vital for us to teach the next generation the Bible because it reveals who God is and his faithfulness to his people in the Old Testament, New Testament, and today. I have been so excited over the past few weeks to have two new confirmands and two graduates, and in a few weeks, we will host VBS. These events indicate how Redeemer is helping the next generation to know and love God.



Goals of VBS

1. Teaching about Jesus
2. Inviting the Community
3. Having Fun



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Teaching About Jesus

During VBS, we will provide kids with a heaping helping of Jesus. VBS gives us 15 hours of discipleship. The Bible lesson each day is about Jesus. Lessons about Jesus are reinforced in games, snacks, crafts, and, more importantly, in the conversations the kids will have with volunteers and parents. Fifteen hours is almost the equivalent of 4 months of church services. What an investment in the next generation.

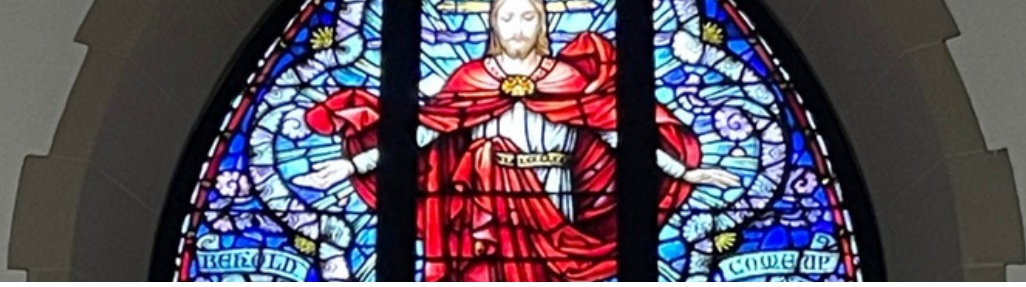
Inviting the Community

Vacation Bible School allows us to invite children of family members, neighbors, and coworkers that may not have a church home. For many folks today, going to church is challenging. Going to church is problematic for multiple reasons. 1) Going somewhere and something new is uncomfortable. Just think back to the last time you went somewhere unfamiliar. Not knowing where to go or how to act can make someone decide to stay home. If you ask someone to join you, people are likelier to join you to check it out. In *The Unchurched Next Door*, Dr. Thom Rainer said, "Eighty-two percent of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited." Rainer says, "Only two percent of church members invite an unchurched person to church. Ninety-eight percent of church-goers never extend an invitation in a given year." We need to become proactive and confident to help Redeemer grow. 2) Bad experiences at a previous church. A Barna Research Group study among unchurched adults shows that "nearly four out of every ten non-churchgoing Americans (37%) said they avoid churches because of their negative past experiences or with church people." We can help to reverse that experience with VBS. Another reason is more and more people are not attending church. According to Pew Research, only 28% of people say they attend church regularly. A Gallup poll shows that 47% of Americans identify as church members. That number is 20 points lower than in 1940, when more than 70% of Americans identified with church membership.



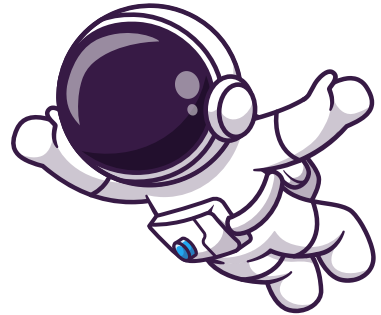
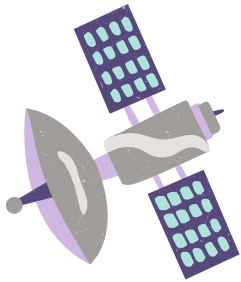
Having Fun

Fun exudes in VBS, from captivating decorations that are bright, imaginative, and engaging, games that are fun for everyone, and costumes during our teaching time. The hope is that every kid and volunteer will have fun. Shared memories we are creating will be of the joy we had during VBS but mixed with the teaching of Jesus and the gospel. Jesus is the hope and joy we share and the next generation at VBS. Will you come to have fun with us and share your joy with others?



Here is how you can help.

- Spread the word to your children, grandchildren, family, friends, and neighbors!
 - Registration forms are on the back table at church and can be returned to Grant.
 - Families may sign up online:
 - <https://vbspro.events/p/redeemerstl>
- Pray for the children who will come and for their families.
- Pray for the volunteers who will serve in the Sing and Play Celebration, Awesome Bible Adventures, Oasis Tastes (snacks), KidVid Cinema, Red Rocks Rec (games), Imagination Station (crafts), and Canyon Closing.
- Become a volunteer—we still need individuals to serve as Crew Leaders with small groups of five children and to help in the opening and closing songs and activities. High school through adult volunteers are welcome and will participate in a background check.
- Donate money or items to be used for VBS



VBS could also use any empty 2L bottles you might have! We will have a blue tote you can put them in where you walk in for worship service.

**PLEASE
BRING!**





2.5 MILLION KIDS AT VBS

70,135
SALVATION
DECISIONS

155,344
PROSPECTS
DISCOVERED

1,383 RESPONSES TO
GOD'S CALL INTO
MINISTRY OR
MISSIONS

THERE ARE MORE THAN
2.5 MILLION VALID REASONS
TO DO VBS. THESE ARE JUST A FEW:



VALUABLE
BIBLE STUDY

15 HOURS OF
INTENSE
DISCIPLESHIP



SHARING
THE GOSPEL
EVERY DAY



VOLUMES OF
BEVERAGES
AND
SNACKS



7 MONTHS OF MINISTRY IN 1 WEEK



VOICES BOISTEROUSLY
SINGING



VERY
BEST SUMMER

VITALIZING
RECREATION



VIGILANT
VOLUNTEERS



\$6,526,962 GIVEN TO MISSION
CAUSES THROUGH VBS OFFERINGS

GROWING IN PRAYER

So, what are your plans for the summer? Summer brings sunshine, warmth, and longer days. It can also bring specific prayer opportunities.

- Prayers for those who work in the heat.
- For schoolteachers to have a refreshing time off.
- For safe vacation travels.

What are some specific prayer needs you might adopt this summer for your friends and neighbors?

- Prayers for wisdom for ways to bless a neighbor, delivery driver, postal worker.
- For safety in neighbor's swimming pool.
- For fun and new-made memories.

How can we pray for our church family and community?

- Prayers for the many high school and college graduates.
- For anyone who is facing health problems.
- For all of us to have a hunger for the Bible.



These suggestions are only a few. There are many more who can be prayed for by name. Just remember, no matter what the season, whether it is your friends or neighbors, or whether it is our church family or community, we can always pray for opportunities to share God's love!



Women's Fellowship Meeting

MAY 4, 2023

Meeting was opened 10:30 am by President Cheryl with a prayer.

Minutes were read and accepted for March and April as I was not present for the April meeting.

Correspondence: Sending a card to Tyson Jones with a gift card from Starbucks for his wonderful help with our luncheon. Thank you card to Barbara Kay for her wonderful portrayal of "Margaret Brown".

Treasurers report: Read and accepted.

We cleared \$595.00 for the luncheon.

We need to consider others dietary needs for our next luncheon.

We decided to not make sub sandwiches for Father's Day.

We may consider doing them during the super bowl.

There was talk of our purchasing round tables if the council will approve. We also talked about having the kitchen cleaned. A lot of dust from the plaster work has accumulated.

June meeting is our picnic and will be handled by the officers as usual. Will have fried chicken, baked beans, potato salad, a vegetable plate and dessert. For drinks we'll have tea and lemonade.

We set the date for our spaghetti dinner for September 16, 2023.

The meeting was closed at 11:32am.

Devotional by Joann: Story about a family at a restaurant and how their little boy expressed love to a poor gentleman.



She then ended with a prayer.
We ate our lunch and were served a delicious piece of lemon meringue pie.

Thanks to all that served us this day!

Respectfully submitted by Janice Kemper, Recording Secretary



Two weeks ago there were many challenges with technology and sound during the weekly service. I spent 1.5 hours on Saturday night trying to fix the screen display problem. Then Jeff and I spent Sunday morning (with the help and insight of many others) to try to fix the issue; again to no avail. Then during the service the sound to the guitar started cutting out for a few songs. Big thanks to Gary Jones and Leo with finally resolving the screen display problem.

Reflecting on this with Jeff after the service, this would have really bothered me years ago. Do not get me wrong, I want everything to work properly as it helps us to worship. I have also come to realize that there are moments that remind me that there are many things beyond my control. Who is in control? God is!

Isaiah 41:10 says, “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”. Are you having a day where things just are not working? Are you finding yourself frustrated at every turn? Realize that God will give you strength and help exactly at the point you need it.

-Jacob



MISSIONS



**UNLEASHING
POTENTIAL**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD
AFTER SCHOOL
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
ENRICHMENT CAMPS**

*Formerly
Neighborhood
Houses*



Kinsley loves slime. Her best friend knows how to make over a dozen different types, and during Covid-19, Kinsley watched videos of child Youtubers making it.

So when Ms. Shawnica and Ms. Zoe introduced an experiment where the children could choose between making different types of slime, Kinsley was all-in.

The kids could choose between sparkle slime, fluffy slime or clear slime. Kinsley chose sparkle slime. She joined with Ms. Zoe and two others, and they got to work.

First, they performed measurements, Kinsley working on her math skills as she measured out $1 \frac{1}{4}$ tablespoons of contact lens solution with a half-tablespoon measuring spoon. Next, they chose colors. Kinsley chose blue, green, purple and white. Then they needed to mix it all together. But the mixers weren't working well. So Kinsley decided to get messy.

"She is so creative," Ms. Zoe said. "She didn't mind getting her hands in, and I loved it."

These aren't the only experiments they've done during the Unleashing Potential afterschool program. Other ideas have included making a Leprechaun Concoction, where they mixed baking soda, vinegar and a squirt of dishwashing soap to cause green foam to spray out of the top and ooze down the side of the container. Another time, they filled a balloon with salt, then placed it over the rim of a soda bottle, so that when the salt interacted with the soda, the balloon would inflate. Kinsley loves these experiments. Science is her favorite subject. She gets it from her mom, who knows "a lot of scientific facts," she said.

"I want to learn more and get smarter and know why things work the way they do," she said. "And I love the ideas Ms. Shawnica and Ms. Zoe bring to the program."

*Actual student/name has been changed to protect child's identity

Church Council Minutes

REDEEMER EVANGELICAL CHURCH - MAY 8, 2023, 7:00 PM

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

Council Members attending the Meeting: Harry Archambault, Gary Chambers, Gary Jones, Penny Long, Leo Quinn, Julie Voss, Gary Gilbert, Ralph Wirtel, Jeff Hutchings, Eric Uebari, Jacob Pollard

Members/Staff absent: None

Opening Prayer: Jeff Hutchings/Pastor

Amending the Agenda:

Informational Items: (Sharing what's happened, going to happening, or might need to occur)

Thank you notes - Ladies Luncheon; the cleaning crew(Sherry & Troy); Jenny Klump

-Minutes approved

-Treasurer/Financial report-Approved

Pastor's Report-

-Jeff will not be available to preach on the 21st of May. Lawrence Baker will preach for Jeff.

-Continuing with the book of Philippians

-Graduation for David and Mady

-GSA Security Issues

-VBS will begin on the 10th of July to the 14th of July

Music Ministry

-Still looking for a pianist; no progress on organist

Website

-30 days (4/1 - 4/30) Total Views - 159; within those visits, there were 347 page views; Good and accurate results

Dutchtown Outreach

- Using fellowship Hall May 17th from 4pm - 10pm

House and Grounds:

-Water Issues: caused by GSA's parking lot run-off; still under review

-Plumbing: Check to see if Merlo Plumbing Invoice has been paid

-Harry has given a handyman a list of work that he can no longer do himself. Work includes:

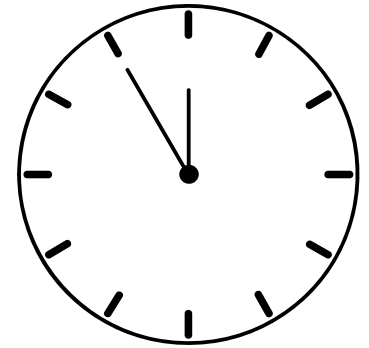
1) replacing three lighting fixtures, one in Jeff's Bathroom & two in the Music room;

2) replacing the electrical outlet and conduit that powers the sump pump in Fellowship Hall. Nothing has been completed as of today.

4) Still need to get bid for concrete pad needed outside on Sanctuary North wall to funnel water from downspout away from foundation wall. There is a temporary fix on the drain pipe now. Pass around pictures of area needing concrete pad.

5) Water fountain on top floor of Educational Building need replacing. Does not cool water and nozzle is broken and missing the plastic lever. GSA School uses this and Vacation Bible Study. Received bid for new water cooler: \$1,126.06; need bid for removal of old unit and installation of new unit from plumbing company.

6) Roof leaking into Educational Building upper floor rear stairwell. Dave Ederle is working with roofing contractor on fix.



Study items:

-Future plans for Chair Lift inspections.

The Council meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's prayer Next council meeting is at 7pm Monday, June 12th at Redeemer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Eric Uebari

SAVE THE DATE!



JULY 10TH-14TH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

THE NEWS
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NAMES OF OFFICERS OF ORGANIZATIONS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST AT THE CHURCH OFFICE.