

Redeemer Happenings

June 2023



An old Mennonite pastor was at the pulpit explaining the importance of time spent with God, and he took out a wide-mouthed mason jar. He began to drop stones of various sizes to the bottom. Big. Small. Smooth and jagged. *Plonk. Plonk. Plonk.*

“Notice what happens when you put them in randomly,” he said dramatically, and the jar quickly filled up to the top with dozens of stones left over. We shrugged.

“Now notice what happens when you put in the large stones first,” he observed sagely, and I started to pay attention.

The largest stones anchored the bottom, then the medium stones, then the smallest stones filled in all the cracks. Presto! All the stones fit snugly in the jar as each settled. And, with the Mennonites around me—which is to say, people deeply impressed by good, common sense—I rolled my eyes and agreed it was the best thing I’d seen in months.

For some people, the idea of prioritizing how to spend their day is very intimidating. I vividly remember my lonely grandfather, whom I loved more than butterscotch, explaining how the day felt absolutely interminable. In my recent conversation with author Mary Pipher, she wholeheartedly agreed: a single day can feel impossible to wrangle into shape. As she got older, her friends were dying and her role was changing rapidly, and all the familiar work of parenting and caregiving and working had given way to an entirely amorphous existence. She, like the Mennonite pastor, decided that the trick was to treat the day as something to prioritize.



**I FIND JOY IN
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BUT BECAUSE
GOD IS.**

First, she decided, there would have to be a walk. She would listen to the birds, *no matter what*. “We need to learn how to structure a day that is rich in meaning and joy-producing activities,” she writes. “How we spend our time defines who we are. There is no magical future. Today is our future.”

A day is a limited thing. It is a mason jar with only so much room to spare. So, as the adage goes, first things first. It will take some time for you to decide what the Big Stones and the Small Stones should be. Some seasons of our lives are overwhelmingly crowded, and if that’s the case for you just now, I completely understand. Maybe you can take a single moment, just breathe and

ground yourself in the remembrance that you are a complete delight. Just this could be your touchstone.

The best days will have room for the Big Stones. That doesn't mean that everything has to happen in the morning. There are two dozen self-help bestsellers at any moment ready to explain to you that you can solve the problem of bad days by conquering your mornings. Sorry, some people like to sleep in.

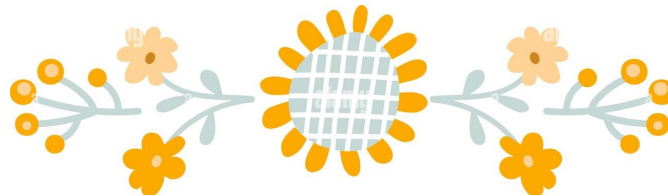
The structure of a good day is simply this: your biggest loves find their way in. God. Friends. Meaning. Family. Take some real unhurried time to reflect on how a spiritual practice might pop into your day. When is it practical for you? What is your preference? A night owl might choose to set aside a bedtime moment for her spiritual practice. Another might find that lunch is best. Either way. You will need a regular reminder to look for God.

And when your day is getting too stuffed, stop. Notice what is happening. Ask God for help, and look for the coming of Love that renews and restores the goodness.

Perhaps you have serious limitations—a health condition or too much work or caregiving to do. My friend with leukemia recently told me that she began to see each day as capable of only three things. Take a shower. Call a friend. Make lunch. Others have forty thousand things that must be done. To be human is to accept that we are limited and the more honesty we have about that, the better.

If we want to build a good day, we can start with just that. One day. One jarful at a time.

Taken from "Good Enough: 40ish devotionals for a Life of Imperfection" by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie



OWLS BBQ

Who doesn't love a barbecue? To all seniors of Redeemer, you are invited to come out on **June 7 at noon**. We will have all the fixings for a barbecue. Please **RSVP to the church office at 306-374-7585 by June 2**. Free will offering.



All Aboard the Rocky Railway VBS!

Redeemer's Vacation Bible School is now
OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!

**Mon July 10 – Thurs July 13 9am – noon plus
Thurs eve family event**

Forms available at www.redeemersaskatoon.ca
Or the church office. Cost: \$25/child

Get on board with our volunteer crew!

For more info, email redemervbs@sasktel.net or contact one of the conductors

Marlo Wilson 306-291-8212

Charlene Neumeyer 306-260-1267



Men's Prayer Breakfast will be **Saturday, June 17, 8:00am @ Smitty's
in Market Mall.** ALL men are welcome to attend!



Rebekah Circle June Bible study will be held on
**Tuesday, June 20 @ 7:00 pm. in the Fireside
Lounge.** Pastor Trent will be our study
leader. All ladies are welcome to attend.



The Saskatoon Public Library needs empty, unflattened 1L milk cartons to make into birdfeeders. If you have any to donate, please bring them to church and leave them in the blue bucket in the Place of Welcome before June 30th.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Stephen Ministry continues to grow! We had a small but mighty training class this winter and held a commissioning service May 7, 2023 at Messiah Lutheran in Prince Albert for three amazing Stephen Ministers. It has been a wonderful time of learning, fellowship and exploring caring ministry on a deeper level. Most of our sessions were held over zoom but that did not detract from the sharing and the getting to know one another really well. We did manage to meet in person a couple of times. We were strengthened by the word of God, the power of prayer and the knowledge and expertise of amazing clergy and Stephen Leaders. Thank you to everyone who participated. We could not do this without all of you ♥.

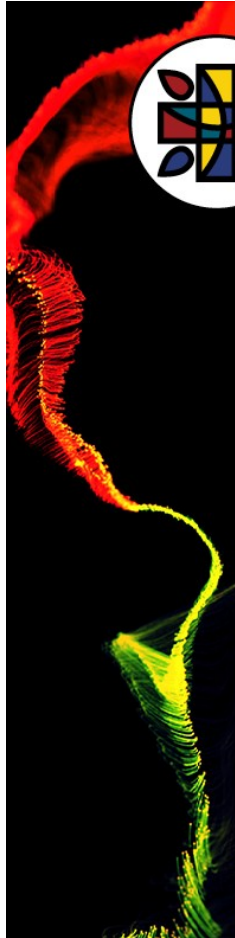
The three new trainees are all seasoned faithful members of the church. They have stretched themselves, strengthened their faith, grown in skills and found what it truly means to put the results in God's hands and just focus on the process of caring. Why do we get involved in Stephen Ministry and why is it so different than other visiting programs? One student said it so well: *"I'm most looking forward to God using me to make a difference for one person at a time in a meaningful way through committed caregiving relationship. ... I have always had a hearts desire to care for others in pain, to be a healer of sorts. The compassion and empathy I feel for those who are hurting is beyond my human understanding. [Personally] with God's help, I have walked through a journey unlike most of my peers would understand.... When God heals us, he doesn't just do it because he loves us, but to bring honour and glory to His Holy name. Through all of this, God has taught and prepared me in many ways to do something like Stephen Ministries which requires much commitment, selflessness, prayer, understanding and most of all a willingness to enter into the depths of pain and suffering alongside another human being. I am grateful and honoured to step into the messiness of life.."*

Would you like to be part of our caring ministry? Each of you are part of a Stephen Ministry congregation. Please join us as we help to ease the burdens of our pastors. Our prayer lists get longer and longer every week. The need for care – active listening, walking with someone through difficult times whether it be grief, job loss, divorce, mental health struggles, are at an all time high. We are here to walk with them during these times. If you would like to join us, or want more information please contact me at the number below.

Fran Seidler
Stephen Leader
306-280-0549
Penguinfan29@hotmail.com

L – R
Linda Jarock, Saskatoon
Lisa Haight, Messiah PA
Randi Arnot, Messiah PA





decolonizing our churches, reweaving our lives: experience, reflection, transformation

Tuesday, June 20 – Thursday, June 22

Q+A with our Panelists

What are you most looking forward to about this learning event?



Dr. Michel Andraos

Contributing to the building of an engaged community of learners who have a better understanding of what it means to decolonize churches.



Dr. Christine Jamieson

I am most looking forward to encounter, listening, and dialogue in our explorations of decolonizing churches and moving forward in a good way.



Dr. Néstor Medina

The opportunity to share and work together in imagining the possibilities of being in this world otherwise, and to honouring the forces of the Spirit in learning from each other about what it means to decolonize.



Rev. Dr. Ali Tote

Seeing a growing awareness of the subtle ways colonization continues to impact our lives, the life of the church, minorities, and Indigenous communities.

Register now, as space is limited!



"Do Good;
Seek Justice"
Isaiah 1:7

SINGING INTO UNITY


JUNE 4
3:00 PM

EMMANUEL
ANGELICAN CHURCH
607 DUFFERIN AVE
SASKATOON

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY IN JUNE

**AN ECUMENICAL
HYMN SING**

MORE INFORMATION :
306-653-1633
PCECUMENISM.CA

FINANCIAL UPDATE



For the month of April 2023, we had a deficit of \$3,060.69 before the fund account revenues and expenses. For the year to date, there is a deficit of \$9,450.48. Envelope giving was \$26,766.00 for April 2023 and is approximately \$1,000 less than budgeted and 29.2% of total budget to April 30 and expenses are approximately \$11,000 less than budgeted to April 30.

An offering plate is located at the top of the stairs in the sanctuary for you to drop off your donation as you enter or exit the church service. In addition, the following options are available for you to make a donation:

1. Mail to or drop off a cheque at the church

You can mail a cheque directly to the church office. Mailing address: 812 Preston Avenue, Saskatoon, Sask. S7H 2V2. You can also drop off a cheque in the mailbox at the front of the church or in the church office.

2. Interac E-Transfer using online banking

We are set up for automatic deposit. If you use online banking, you June make a payment to Redeemer Lutheran Church by:

- i. Logging into your personal banking account, add Redeemer Lutheran Church as a recipient using the email address redemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net
- ii. Enter the desired amount and click send. Instructions on how to send and receive an e-transfer are found on Interac's website: <https://www.interac.ca/en/consumers/products/interac-e-transfer/>
- iii. You should follow up with an email to redemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net advising of your donation.

3. Monthly PAD donation

You may request to sign up for a monthly Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) donation. This option allows you to automatically make your donation monthly by allowing the church to debit your account for your donation. Please contact the church office if you would like to take advantage of this giving option.

Please note that you may also donate marketable securities to the church. This will allow you to eliminate any capital gains taxes and allow you a tax donation credit at the same time. Further details June be found at the following link: [Gifts of publicly traded shares and stock options - Canada.ca](#)

Please contact the church office for details on making a donation of marketable securities.

Ron Litzenberger



STEWARDSHIP AND GIFTS

Stewardship is at the heart of using our spiritual gifts. All that we have is a gift from God, entrusted to us to use while we live on this earth. We can best thank and praise God for these gifts by using them—and by using them well. The connection between stewardship and gifts is made clear in 1 Peter 4:10:

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

Peter suggests that God has entrusted us with treasures. First, we have God's grace. Second, we have God's grace-gifts or endowments. We who are created by God, redeemed by God, and elevated to the status of heirs in God's family can hardly pretend that we have any role other than being good stewards. Being a good steward means being a good manager and caretaker of someone else's property, and that "someone else" is God.



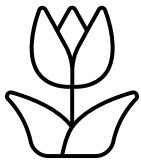
The biblical concept of stewardship has too often been watered down. Our tendency is to think of stewardship as something separate from our daily lives, something that has to do only with money. Jesus had a very different view of stewardship:

And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one. . . . Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" . . . But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it." And they brought one. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Jesus said to them, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's" (Mark 12:14-17).

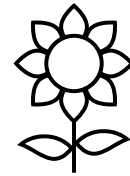
The religious leaders had presented Jesus with a no-win question, and he confounded their attempts to trap him by giving an amazing answer. On the surface, Jesus' words could be taken to mean, "Let the emperor keep his money," but he was really saying something more radical and profound. If the stamped image and the name of the emperor on the denarius revealed its owner, then what about us, who have been created in God's image? What about us, who bear God's image? How much of us does God own? All of us, of course.

Stewardship involves claiming for God every aspect of our lives. Nothing can be excluded—certainly not our spiritual gifts. We owe it all to God. Stewardship means that we make each of our gifts available for God's work on earth.

The good news is that God asks of us in stewardship only what God has already given us: our very selves. God is like a generous dinner host. When we ask, "Can we bring anything?" God smiles genially and says, "Just bring yourselves." Our stewardship of our spiritual gifts is not a new law by which we must live but rather a free response to God's love for us in Christ. We give our gifts to God because of the good news: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).



GoForth Hub Club



Come for a fun, relaxing afternoon – enjoy the activities
and make new friends!

Monday, June 5, 2023 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

at Calvin-GoForth Presbyterian Church

1602 Sommerfeld Ave. (Holliston neighbourhood)

In partnership with the Saskatoon Council on Aging, the GoForth Hub
Club will take place on the first Monday of each month.

Each afternoon will include

- Time to socialize
- An opportunity to have your blood pressure checked
- A brief exercise time with age-appropriate activities
- Entertainment
- Refreshments

June 5 – Presentation - Climate Change and the Earthshot Prize

- Sing-a-long with Fran Gordon and Friends

Fully accessible – Free parking

Please note: **Masks are required.** (COVID protocols observed)

For more information contact Sheila Cameron-Hopkins (306-955-9119)

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Saskatoon SK
S7H 2V2

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E-mail:

redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net

A Community of Life & Love, Hope & Healing



We're on the web!
redeemersaskatoon.ca

Join Us On



If you are unable to worship with us in person, join us each week at 9:50 am on YouTube by clicking this link:

[Redeemer Lutheran Saskatoon - YouTube](#)

This link is also available on the homepage of our website redeemersaskatoon.ca at any time.

You can also go to this same link at any time afterwards to view the service if you are unable to join at 10am. We encourage you to hit 'subscribe' on our YouTube page, so that all future worship services will be highlighted for you. If you have any questions or need assistance in connecting to our YouTube site, just give us a call and we will be glad to help you out.