

Redeemer's Reflections

Discovering Christ's community through building relationships

JUNE~ JULY2026

This is a monthly newsletter
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Summer is finally here. The days are long. The sun is bright. Life slows down just enough for us to breathe.

When we step outside into the warmth, it is easy to connect with the ancient words of Genesis 1:31:

“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.”

Creation was not just a one-time event in the past. It is an ongoing reality that we experience every single day. Look around you this season:

- **The morning light** breaking through the trees.
- **The evening cool** settling over your neighborhood.
- **The vibrant colors** of fresh garden tomatoes and blooming

flowers.

- **The shared laughter** at family barbecues and community picnics.

These are not just random seasonal markers. They are modern glimpses of God's original, "very good" design.

In the rush of daily life, we often forget to notice the world around us. This summer, let us challenge ourselves to slow down. God took time to look at His creation and appreciate it. We should do the same.

Taking care of creation is our shared holy responsibility. Here are three simple ways to honor God's work this summer:

- **Rest deeply** by spending quiet time in prayer outdoors.
- **Protect nature** by recycling, conserving water, and reducing waste.
- **Share abundance** by donating extra garden produce to local food pantries.

Let every evening sunset and every morning sunrise remind you of God's love.

May your summer be filled with rest, joy, and a deep appreciation for this beautiful world.

(Editor's note: Due to the vacation of our fearless leader, Steve, there are no articles from him. He will be writing once more for our next newsletter. In the meantime, this said editor has requested an article from AI, and within seconds it produced the above article. I hope you enjoyed it.)



Too often we take our abundance in America for granted. Our grocery store shelves are full, fast-food restaurants abound and just drive along LaGrange Road in Orland and see how many restaurants there are. Now imagine how much of the food that gets served gets thrown in the dumpster. Our pantry gets excess food from another pantry that they cannot use. The other day I received a call from someone who was offering us a pallet of frozen turkeys. We would have to go pick them up and figure out how to store them while we figured out where to distribute them. They were coming from the South Side of Chicago. We consume and produce more food than any other country, and yet there are "food deserts" in many places on the South side of Chicago.



From our
VP

I believe that as individuals we need to connect to a variety of food banks and give food or money to help stock these food pantries. There are several in our neighborhood.

- St. Damien
- St. Christopher
- St. Stevens
- Together We Cope
- Greater Chicago Food Depository

To name just a few. We have so much while others have so little. That is just not the Christian way.

In Christ
Art James Council Vice President



WOMAN TO WOMAN:

Eve.....What a perky lady! She definitely had advantages. Stop and think about it. When she and Adam met, she didn't have to wonder, Is this the right man for me? She didn't have any immediate concerns if some sweet young thing was vying for her man's attention.

When they were wed, she didn't have to worry about forgetting someone from the invitation list or deciding who the attendants would be. No decisions were necessary on which photographer, caterer or florist. Talk about simplifying life.

Guess what? No mother-in-law or father-in-law conflicts. Never once have to hear, "Sure wish you could fry chicken like my mom." They never have to squabble over whose family they would spend the holidays with.

There was no friction about Adam not picking up his dirty clothes, at least not in their garden home. Nor did she have to take any ribbing about where she put Adam's lost snakeskin sandals.

Eve was unique. She's the only gal who didn't have to go through puberty, peer pressure of pimples. She didn't go through the agony of handing her parents a bad report card or the knee knocking experience of trying to explain why she was late getting home. She never once had to hear her parents say, "Why aren't you more like your sister?"

When she and Adam talked, it wasn't filled with endless tales of the good ol' days and the good ol' boys. Nor did she have to compete with Sunday night football. They had a romance, marriage, honeymoon and home life that was made in paradise.

Eve had it all.....well, almost all.

Til next month-----nice chatting with you.

Jan Strojny



REDEEMER'S ANNUAL PICNIC

WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 7.....

After our first outdoor worship. Bring a side or dessert

Our next outdoor worship dates are:

JULY 5

AUGUST 2

SEPTEMBER 7



Fern Schara, Pat Kropack, Lottie White, Pete & Debbie Animagi, Mike & Traci Stephens, Ryder Conrad, Noah Coyle, Chris McAuliff, Gary Miller, Leah Miller, John Tondini, Marie Burge, Tim Anthony, Laura Besowshek, Gary Cummins, Kuzmanich Family., Aven, Pamela, Nick, and Linda Bedier

Please use full names- first and last , and put your name on the prayer request slip.

Our hearts and prayers go out to:

Family and friends of Randy Walsh, especially Pam, on the death of her brother.

May they all be comforted by the resurrection and the life yet to come.



Nancy and her helpers- for all the work sprucing up the flowers at the doorstep , providing and planting the geraniums, weeding, mulching and all the rest!

Our lawn maintenance guy, that comes and goes in a flash and leaves our lawns beautiful!

To Steve, Art and whoever else has been working on the floors in the basement. It has not been easy!

Another church mouse, who sees all, fixes all! We thank you.

To Art and Marilyn who help so many -seen and unseen.
Blessings on your ministry!

To Sophie and Kim, who have made our upstairs bulletin board a work of art!



JUNE

Will be on June 30 at Amy Ogarek's home. The book is yet to be determined.

JULY

Will be at the home of Linda McHugh. Date and title TBD,



Birthdays

- 2 Traci Stephens
- 5 Robert Minnick
- 13 Elaina Minnick
- 21 Bonnie Trella
- 21 Bob Hecht
- 24 Jay Kropack
- 29 Debby Nowlan
- 30 Darlene Soucek

Anniversaries

- 1 Dan & Deb Frawley
- 5 Gary & Diana Carr
- 11 Jay & Dorothy Kropack
- 11 Art & Kathy James
- 23 Steve & Deb Nowlan
- 25 Dave & Connie Martin
- 30 Harold & Judy Carver



JUNE READERS

- 7** Dan Frawley
- 14** Gary Rickert
- 21** Jerry Marquardt
- 28** Steve Nowlan



Birthdays

- 11, Calvin James
- 13, Sherri Miller
- 17, Gary Schoenbeck
- 19, Lottie White
- 23, Carol Schaafsma

Anniversaries

- 26, Bob & Sue Hecht
- 31, Jim & Cathy Thrun

JULY READERS

- 5** Linda McHugh
- 12** Deb Nowlan
- 19** Bob Hecht
- 26** Drew Ogarek

