



## Our Mission

*Jesus said*

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

*Matthew 28:18 –19*

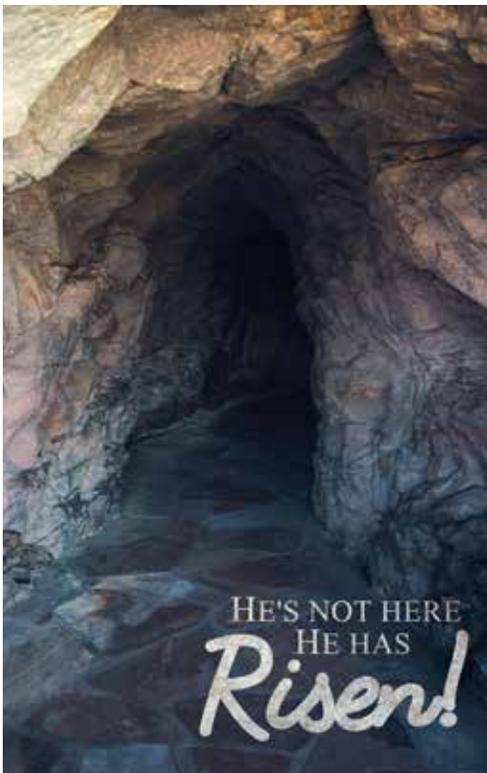
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**VBC Registration Continues**



## Reflections from Pastor John

Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, “It has come at last—salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup>And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you in great anger, knowing that he has little time.”

(Emphasis added)

Revelation 12:10-12 NLT

We have just remembered our Lord Jesus Christ’s suffering and death on the cross on Good Friday and celebrated His triumph over sin, death and the devil on Easter Sunday. This passage from Revelation reminds me of that awesome work finished by the King of kings and Lord of lords. He, Jesus, said, “It is finished.” The Kingdom of God our Father has come and the authority of His Christ, Jesus, the sovereign King is established. However, until Jesus returns, the devil fights like a cornered foe. Notice the emphasized part of verse 12 above. I’ve read that military people are trained to be very careful of, even wary of, cornered enemies, for they will fight with full abandon. We live in a time in the history of the world when Satan has already been defeated,

but he hasn’t yet been destroyed. An illustration I’ve heard and repeated is it is like the Nazis. After D Day WWII was, for all intents and purposes, over but there was still a lot of fighting to be done before the final victory. From the first verse of *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* we read,

*The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe.  
With craft and dreadful might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.*

But the second verse continues the thought and frames the power of Christ our King.

*No strength of ours can match  
His might! We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight  
Whom God Himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is He!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God’s only Son, adored  
He holds the field victorious.*

Through the season of Easter, a season that takes us from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday, we will be seeking to address and understand the many questions, challenges and conflicts that arise because our enemy has “great anger, knowing that he has little time.” Pastor Trevor and I asked, “What are the questions that, were they to be asked/raised among people with whom you are in relationship, would cause conflict?” We want to address these questions because the church needs to be a place that is safe

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for anyone to ask questions and share the doubts with which they struggle. We also process these doubts and questions on the strong foundation of “the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ.” So, we are not powerless against the anger of the devil’s rage.

I pray that your celebration of our resurrected King was a wonderful, meaningful and blessed time for you and your family and friends. May we learn to live as people of the resurrection with hope in the promise of life, and life in its fullness both here in this world and in the life to come. May we regularly and honestly ask ourselves the sobering question, “Under whose authority am

I choosing to live my life: under the authority of Jesus my Savior, or Satan my adversary?” May we graciously and faithfully give one another the space to wrestle with doubts and tough questions. May we always trust that Jesus our King is reigning and actively engaged in His mission to make all things new, to redeem and restore people to His kingdom. May we diligently practice positioning ourselves to join Him on His mission.

In the mighty name of the crucified and resurrected King, Jesus,

Pastor John

P.S. I soon will be sending out a letter to the Redeemer family about my time of renewal scheduled to begin right after

the Annual Congregational Meeting on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th. I am eager to share the exciting things the grant, graciously awarded by the Lily Foundation, will make possible. I will ask for your prayers as Sue and I have some quality time to reconnect and as I will join brothers and sisters in Christ in Asia as I travel to teach at the Myanmar Institute of Lutheran Theology. I anticipate the refreshment of God as I rest in Him. Then, may we look forward to being reunited in the fall with a fresh breath of the Spirit for the wonderful work that lies ahead for Redeemer as we GO! launching everyday, ordinary missionaries into our various neighborhoods. Thank you for your encouragement and support in this time of renewal.

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### The Voice

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If you are interested in receiving  
The Voice electronically,  
please contact the church office or  
[pam.blodgett@redeemer.us](mailto:pam.blodgett@redeemer.us).



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

**Mark your calendar!**

**8-Week Summer Book Discussion Group**  
**Becoming Myself; embracing God's dream of you.**

by Stasi Eldredge

*"The most important journey any woman can take is the one into becoming her true self through the love of God. It's a beautiful paradox: the more God's you become, the more yourself you become—"*

**Fellowship and Discussion**

**Wednesday Evenings**

June 26 – August 21

(Note: we will not meet the week of July 4th)

Led by Janet Stephens, Meg Madden, and Elisa Hermes

Books cost \$13.50 and are available at the Connection Center beginning May 5.

Study at the home of Janet Stephens - 4023 Lomar Dr., Mt. Airy MD 21771



### Beacon House Saturday May 11

**Provide food** - A food sign-up and recipes for the month's menu are hung in the Lobby. Food is to be delivered to Redeemer by 9:45am on serving day.

**Serve** - Adults and children 12 and older are needed to heat and serve the meal. The team gathers at Redeemer for prayer, departing at 10 am to travel to Beacon House to complete the preparing and serving of the meal. Typically we finish by 1:30 pm.

Sign up on Serving Opportunities Board in Lobby. Questions? Contact Paul Schweitzer at pcschweitzer@gmail.com.

### Triple R Mission Ministry

A Day of Service

Saturday May 4

7:30 am – 1:00 pm

Devotions, Donuts & Lunch included

All welcome to help clear tree branches.

Home of Heather Zujkowski  
7910 Bennett Branch Road  
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Questions?  
Contact Karen Bransom  
at 301-253-4344

Don't miss out  
on sharing the blessings!!

### Children & Family Ministry

#### Zach's Club Registration

Begins **May 1st** for families who attend Redeemer Lutheran. On **May 15** it will open up to those already attending Zach's Club and/or Zach's Club Moms. Lastly, it will open up to the public as a first come first served basis on **June 1**.

For more information contact  
Valerie Bartel at  
valerie.bartel@redeemer.us  
Don't delay, sign up now!



### Vacation Bible Camp Adult & Teen Volunteers Needed!

For ages ending  
6th grade through 101 years old!

**Volunteer Meeting**  
**Monday June 3**

**6:45 pm in the Chapel**

Go to Vacation Bible Camp at [www.redeemer.us](http://www.redeemer.us)  
to register online as a volunteer.

**Questions?**

Contact Kathie Zimmerman  
at [kathie.zimmerman@redeemer.us](mailto:kathie.zimmerman@redeemer.us)

### Save the Date! Redeemer Ramblers

*Ramblers on the move!*

#### "Smoke on the Mountain"

Totem Pole Playhouse

**Thursday June 27**

Carpool from Redeemer at 11:45 am

\$30 - by Monday June 10

Plus dinner afterwards

**All welcome!**

Questions? Contact Joanne Kessler  
at 301-253-0335





Redeemer Lutheran Church  
27015 Ridge Road  
Damascus, MD 20872

Sunday Worship  
8:00 & 11:00 am

Sunday School for All Ages  
9:40 – 10:40 am

G.R.O.W. Wednesdays  
Dinner – 5:30 pm  
Activities – 6:15 – 7:45 pm

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically or receiving this newsletter in error,  
please contact the church office at 301-253-3000.



*“Come with us and blast off to Mars and beyond.  
Explore where God’s power can take you!”  
Bring your kids to Vacation Bible Camp  
and introduce them to Jesus!*

## **Vacation Bible Camp**

**Monday June 24 – Friday June 28**

9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Ages 3 years with parent through 5th grade.

***Don’t forget to invite your friends and neighbors!***

**Registration opens April 1!**

**Register and pay by May 15 for early bird cost**

\$25 per child or maximum of \$75 per family.

**After May 15 Cost**

\$30 per child or maximum of \$90 per family.

**Online registration and payment available at [www.redeemer.us](http://www.redeemer.us)  
Registration deadline is June 17, 2019.**