# The Redeemer Revelation

# May 2024

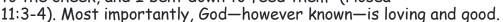
Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4330 Crow Road, Beaumont TX 77706

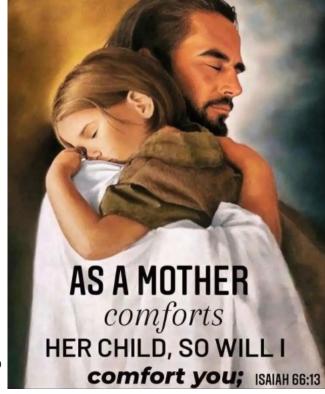
# Mother—and more

Though I've primarily known God as Father—along with metaphors such as rock, eagle, shepherd, potter—I also learned of Scripture passages portraying God as mother. For example:

- "For a long time I have kept silent ... But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant" Isaiah 42:14 NIV
- "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" Isaiah 66:13 NIV
- "Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them" Hosea 13:8 NIV
- In other words, God is pictured doing traditional "women's work": making clothes (Genesis 3:21 NIV), sweeping (Isaiah 14:23 NIV), preparing and hosting a meal (Proverbs 9:1-6 NIV), baking bread (Luke 13:21 NIV)

One of my favorite images of God is tucked in Hosea. While many modern dads nurture their toddlers this way, the tender words surely call to mind a mama's care: "It was I who taught [Israel] to walk...To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them" (Hosea





-Heidi Hyland Mann



#### PRAYERS FOR SICKNESS AND OTHER CONCERNS...

Continued prayers for Redeemer through the CALL Process Pastor Harkey

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING...

DEATHS...

SHUT-INS...

Doris Fouts Mark Turner Marie Brunn Clyde Defrates Marilyn Hoepner

> To request a prayer on the Prayer Chain please contact: Wanita Sanders (cell) 409/350-5311 (email) wanita.sanders@gmail.com Barbara Miller (home) 409/751-3205 (email) bmiller328@gt.rr.com



# 2024 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10 am RLCC Chapel 6 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision	2	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
5 Sixth Sunday of Easter 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Contemporary Worship Pastor Stephen Sohns CHURCH COUNCIL Lunch at Luby's	6	7 9 am Crafty Christians 11:30 am Sack Lunch Bunch	8 10 am RLCC Chapel	9 The Ascension of Our Lord	10 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm RLCC PreK Graduation	11
12 Seventh Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Traditional Worship/Communion Pastor James Menke	13	9 am Crafty Christians 5:30 pm RLCC Board Meeting	15 10 am RLCC Chapel 6 pm Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision	16	17 OFFICE CLOSED 6 pm Five Crowns	18
19 The Day of Pentecost 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Contemporary Worship FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST Pastor David Bahn VOTERS ASSEMBLY	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 9 am Crafty Christians	22 10 am RLCC Chapel	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 The Holy Trinity 8:30 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Traditional Worship/Communion Pastor Tom Haas	27 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY	9:30 am Crafty Christians Group: 4th of July Gnomes/ Bruno's	29 10 am RLCC Chapel	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED	

# Redeemer Lutheran Church

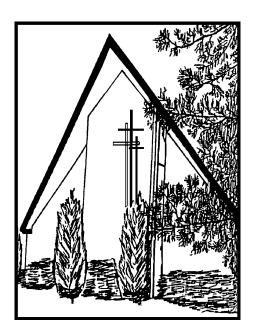
4330 Crow Road, Beaumout TX 77706 (409) 892-3286

# MEMBERSHIP ACTIONS

Winona Kocurek—Transferred Out to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brandon FL

# GIFTS RECEIVED

Barbara Rawlinson, gift toward Flower Fund in celebration of baptism of Dylan Meredith



# DIRECTORY UPDATES

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

ALTAR CARE ... Stephanie Blalock

ORGANIST ... (12) Jolene Stadel (26) Charis Outlaw

COUNTER ... Roxanna Aydelotte

ELDER ... Terry Rodeheaver

READERS ... (5) Charis Outlaw (12) Kim Marks (19) Kelly Holman-Smith (26) Evelyn Pileggi

USHERS ... (5) Ted Mitchell (12) Michael Standley (19) Lance Smith (26) Jim Costello

GREETERS ... (5) Michael & Kelly Smith (12) Camrin & Jennifer Koenig (19) Richard & Liz Blake (26) Cindy Harris; Glenda Letsinger

# SPECIAL DATES THIS MONTH

- National Day of Prayer, May 2, 2024
- Ascension Day, May 9, 2024
- Mother's Day, May 12, 2024
- Armed Forces Day, May 18, 2024
- Pentecost, May 19, 2024
- Trinity Sunday, May 26, 2024
- Memorial Day, May 27, 2024

# **Birthdays**

May 4	Amy Pileggi	May 17	Christopher Rodeheaver
May 8	Andrew Robinson	May 19	Courtney Meinscher
May 9	Eddie Moaning	May 22	Barbara Rawlinson
May 11	Aiden Miller	May 28	Michael Lohr
May 12	Deneen Mitchell; Nicole Robinson	May 31	Wyatt Pritchett
May 14	Paul Stadel	·	
May 16	Jim Perry		

# Wedding Anniversaries



May 23 May 31 Camrin & Jennifer Koenig (15 yrs) Harry & Janice Wilson (39 yrs)

# **Baptismal Birthdays**

May 1	Mark Turner
May 4	Charlotte Singleton
May 10	Berith Kelm; Adrianna Pierce
May 17	Christopher Rodeheaver
May 24	Don Bates
May 25	Anthony Pileggi



## SACK LUNCH BUNCH



If you enjoy some good Christian fellowship ... come join the **Sack Lunch Bunch** on Tuesday, **May 7** at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for lunch, fellowship and games. Guests are always welcome so bring a friend!

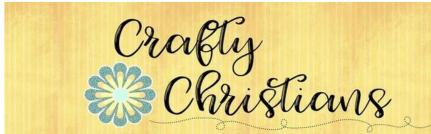
If you have any questions, contact Glenda Letsinger 936/346-9867

Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1 & 15 in the church Fellowship Hall





REDEEMER LUTHERAN RLCC Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall.



Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center ... Come Join The Fun!

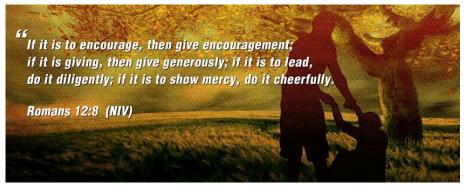
The Crafty Christian group will meet on May 28 @ 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

#### Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job's already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus' generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: "The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity" (Romans 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought—He gave according to the



plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Corinthians 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each "as he has decided in his heart," as the Lord says (2 Corinthians 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love "in deed" (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Exodus 36:5-6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord's work. We support our congregations in he preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

#### **AUTHORIZATION FORM**

The Simply Giving Program



Name of the organization: Redeemer Lutheran Church

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		ENVELOPE/DONOR #		DATE		
Effective date of authorization://  Type of authorization: //  Change donation amount Change donation date  Change banking information Discontinue electronic donation						
Las	Last Name First Name					
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	// Wee	NCY OF DONATION: kly – Mondays thly on the 1 <sup>st</sup> thly on the 15 <sup>th</sup>	FUNDS:  General/Operating Other	\$\$ Total \$		
ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS  □ Easter offering \$ Date to be transferred / / □ Thanksgiving offering \$ Date to be transferred / / □ Christmas offering \$ Date to be transferred / /						
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one):  Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)  Checking Account (attach a voided check below)		Routing Number:  Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3  Account Number:  Land Start with 0, 1, 2, or 3  Account Number:  Check Number  Account Number			
CHECKIN	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.					
	Authorized Signature:		Date:			

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check at the bottom of this page.



Church Council will meet May 5 in the front Sunday School Classroom immediately following worship.

Voters' Assembly will meet May 19 in the Sanctuary immediately following worship.



Board Chairs, PLEASE e-mail your board reports to bmiller328@gt.rr.com no later than April 29



# YOUR HELP IS NEEDED IN FILLING THE 2024 ALTAR FLOWER SCHEDULE LOTS OF DATES AVAILABLE IN APRIL—JUNE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE

SAVE YOUR IMPORTANT DATE BY WRITING YOUR NAME & SPECIAL OCCASION OR MEMORY NEXT TO IT.
THE COST IS \$30.00 PER ARRANGEMENT.



If you have moved or have changed your phone number or gotten rid of your land line or changed your

e-mail address PLEASE... Send all updates to wanita.sanders@gmail.com

HALLWAY ...

# Fellowship: May 2024

2024 Potluck Fellowship Sundays: Bring your favorite breakfast dish May 17, Jun 21, Jul 19, Aug 16, Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 15 & Dec 20.

5th Sunday Fellowship Meals: Jun 30, Sep 29 & Dec 29

#### **Game Night:**

**BUNKO:** Jul 19, Nov 15 Yahtzee: Aug 16, Dec 13

**5 Crowns:** May 17, Sep 20

Farkle: Jun 21, Oct 18

\$5 donation and bring your favorite snacks to share.

Iced Tea and water will be provided.



If you would like to assist would like to assist with these events, please contact Kelly Holman @ 673-6622.



#### Future Ideas for Community Sharing:

The Fellowship Team is looking for ways to engage the congregation more in the community.

Please keep your eyes and ears open to an event that may need our help or if you have an idea for a community event to be held at our church.

THROUGH PEOPLE

# May 2024

# Stephen Ministry Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why is it called Stephen Ministry?

The name Stephen comes from the Bible in Acts 6 when the Apostles commissioned the first layperson to provide care to those in need. Founded in 1975, Stephen Ministry is a non-profit providing training and resources for biblical caregiving in churches and organizations worldwide. While the organization is based in St. Louis, Redeemer's Stephen Ministry is one of thousands of ministries around the world practicing its model of care.

#### How can Stephen Ministry help me?

We all experience challenges in life — times when we could benefit from care and support. Stephen Ministers can provide the emotional and spiritual care you need when faced with a crisis or difficulty such as:

Loss of a loved one

Hospitalization

Birth, adoption, miscarriage, or infertility

Divorce or separation

A chronic illness

Loneliness or discouragement Spiritual questions or crisis

Relocation concerns or anxiety Recovery after an accident or disaster

Unemployment or a job concern

Dealing with terminal illness

Incarceration

#### Can I get a Stephen Minister for someone I know? YES

The steps to refer someone to receive help from a Stephen Minister are:

- 1. Someone (you, a relative, or friend) who is hurting and in need of Christian care.
- 2. Always with the person's permission, our Referrals Coordinator learns about this need for care from the person, a pastor, staff member, or a friend.
- 3. Our Referrals Coordinator meets with the person to talk about Stephen Ministry.
- 4. With the person's permission, arrangements are made for a Stephen Minister to meet weekly with the person.
- 5. The Stephen Minister continues to provide Christ-centered, confidential care as needed.

#### A Stephen Minister is:

A Christ-follower who walks beside a person who is

Christian friend who cares, encourages, listens, prays, and supports.

A carefully selected attendee who has completed 50 hours of training to provide distinctively biblical care

Someone who faithfully meets weekly with his or her care receiver for as long as there's a need

#### A Stephen Minister is not:

A licensed counselor or therapist

A problem-solver

A casual visitor with a quick fix

#### **Becoming a Stephen Minister:**

Do you believe God has gifted you to care for hurting people? Then prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

#### A Stephen Minister is:

- A child of God who walks beside someone who is hurting.
- · A member of the church body who is carefully selected to serve in this role because of his or her caregiving gifts.
- A person who has received 50 hours of training to provide high-quality, distinctively Christian care.
- · A caring Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports and encourages.
- Someone who meets faithfully each week with his or her care receiver for as long as there is a need.

#### A Prayer for our Stephen Ministers and Care Receivers

Merciful God, You are good. You are our Great Physician, our Healer, and our Comforter.

We ask for your guidance and blessing on our Stephen Ministry. May this caregiving ministry touch the lives and hearts of people within and outside of our congregation. Help us to serve one another, reach out to those who are hurting, and care as you taught us.

Dear Lord, We pray for our Stephen Leaders, that they may be clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Guide their leadership, and be with them through the joys and challenges of their ministry.

Dear Lord, You called Stephen Ministers to bring your compassionate care to those who are burdened. We pray for our Stephen Ministers as they serve by listening, loving, caring, and supporting. Reveal to them your presence as they care and serve. Help them to rely on your promises and to turn back to you for strength.

Dear God, in the midst of everyday troubles we can sometimes lose sight of the promise of our salvation in you. There are those in our midst who carry heavy burdens. Help us to remember them in our prayers and lift them up to you. We pray that each of us, during difficult times in our lives, will recognize our need to receive care from others and be willing to accept your care through our brothers and sisters in Christ. Help us to encourage those who are especially burdened to turn to a pastor and/or our Stephen Leaders who can help them receive the one-on-one care they need.

And whatever we do, in word or in deed, we do it all in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God our Father through him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Our Stephen Ministry Team is ready to bring God's love and care into your life.

#### Stephen Leaders:

Dan Dapp, Fritz Koehnen, Ted Mitchell

#### Stephen Ministers:

Liz Blake, Kelly Holman-Smith, Camrin Koenig, Glenda Letsigner, Wanita Sanders, Lance Smith



#### A Prayer to Keep a Grateful Heart

By Lynette Kittle

# "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful" - Colossians 3:15

Having a grateful heart seems to be rare these days and at a premium to find. Social media is full and overflowing with discontented hearts - -hearts that are angry, disappointed, hurt, grieving, and more. Still, God calls us to be thankful. So where and how do we gain gratefulness in such an ungrateful world?

Many individuals are living with an outlook of lack, seeing all the things they don't have because it's much easier to look at our glasses half-empty than half-full. Seeing our lives as lacking leads us to believe that if we only have more—more of the things we believe we need to be happy— our lives and our attitudes would be different. But it's not true. Grateful hearts don't come from owning things, holding positions, or having everyone love us. In an ever-changing world, there is no guarantee of hanging onto earthly possessions, especially in the shadow of natural disasters, wars, and more.

#### It's Up to Us to Choose

Whether we believe it or not, especially as Christians, it's up to us to choose to focus on what God has so graciously given us rather than what the world gives and takes away on a daily basis. Godly gratefulness is not dependent on what we own; yet, God has given us so much to be thankful for in life.

Colossians 3:17 encourages, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,

do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Even if we have nothing to our names, we have incredibly valid reasons to thank Him daily. Things, positions, locations, and more don't bring happiness; rather, true gratitude comes from deep within us.

#### Gratefulness as a Sacrifice

Sadly, life sometimes brings tragic losses of loved ones, homes, jobs, and more, but still God calls us to be thankful. He knows our weaknesses and understands how it can be difficult for us to do so when we're disappointed, discouraged, suffering, or grieving. Although 1 Thessalonians 5:18 instructs us to "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus," it doesn't mean we thank God for the sad situations, but thank Him in the midst of them.

Some believers are confused by this verse, thinking God expects us to thank Him for the sad and tragic situations and losses that bring us disappointment, discouragement, suffering, and grief. But He's not. God's given us so many spiritual blessings, not dependent on our circumstances, that we can praise Him and give Him thanks no matter our situation. He is compassionate and recognizes this kind of gratitude as a sweet sacrifice to Him. Psalm 116:17 encourages our sacrificial thankfulness. "I will sacrifice a thank offering to You and call on the name of the Lord."

When we do, God responds, as recorded in Psalm 50:23. "Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor Me, and to the blameless I will show My salvation." In uncertain times, God calls us to focus on Him and His faithfulness instead of our situations, to remind ourselves of His promise to never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5) and to trust Him to help us through everything we face in life.

#### Let's pray:

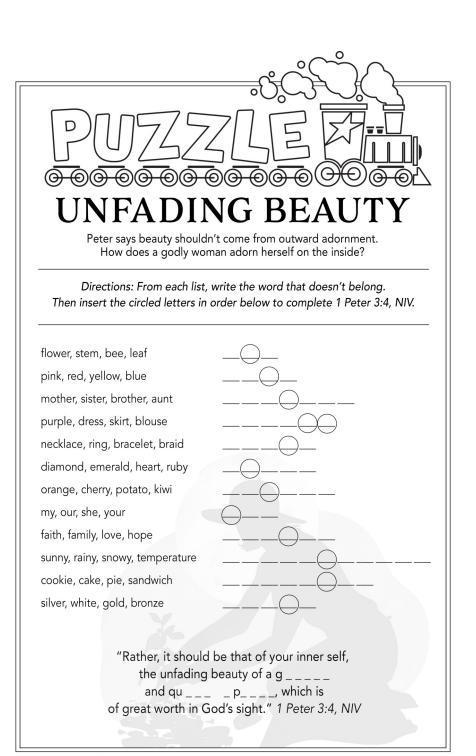
#### <u>Dear Father,</u>

Thank you for all Your spiritual blessings You so lovingly and graciously bestow upon me. As Ephesians 1:3 states, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Strengthen and encourage me, Lord, to be thankful each and every day of my life for all You have given to me. Help me to focus on all Your benefits. Lead me to live a life of sincere gratitude to You. Keep my heart softened and set on seeking You. Teach me through Your Holy Spirit to walk and live each and every day of the year, with a grateful heart, not dependent on my situation and circumstances but based on who You are and what You've given Me through Jesus Christ, my Savior. *In Jesus' name, Amen* 

Lynette Kittle is married with four daughters. She enjoys writing about faith, marriage, parenting, relationships, and life. Her writing has been published by Focus on the Family, Decision, Today's Christian Woman, kirkcameron.com, Ungrind.org, StartMarriageRight.com, and more.

She has a M.A. in Communication from Regent University and serves as associate producer for Soul Check TV.

# **ACTIVITIES PAGES**



Answers: bee, pink, brother, purple, braid, heart, potato, she, family, temperature, sandwich, white; gentle, quiet, spirit

# a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

#### What you need:

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



#### What you do:

- 1. Roll out a portion of clay to about ½-inch thickness.
- 2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
- To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
- 4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
- 5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase.

  Arrange flowers and greenery to
  make a Mother's Day bouquet.



# A good memory can remember the day's blessings and forget the day's troubles.



Match the Bible name in the left column with an associated action, characteristic or event in the right column.

- 1. Samson
- 2. Paul
- 3. Moses
- 4. Mary
- 5. Jonah
- 6. Peter
- 7. Deborah
- 8. Esther
- 9. Jesus
- 10. Eve

- a. Preached to the city of Nineveh
- b. Rose from the grave
- c. Possessed great strength
- d. Old Testament judge and army leader
- e. Was driven out of Eden
- f. Announced ten plagues to pharaoh
- g. Well-traveled New Testament missionary
- h. One of 12 disciples
- i. Jesus' mother
- j. Old Testament queen

ANSWERS: 1-C 2-G 3-F 4-I 5-A 6-H 7-D 8-J 9-B 10-E





#### July 28, 2024 BBQ & Auction Fundraiser

The last weekend in July each year, Camp Lone Star hosts the annual BBQ and Auction Fundraiser to support Camp and all that this ministry does to transform lives and grow God's kingdom. This event is one of the main events which supports Camp Lone Star each year and we work hard to be good stewards of the financial resources entrusted to us in order to best glorify God and transform lives through Adventurous Christ-Centered Experiences.

The day includes an outdoor worship service under the canopy of trees near the lake (A/C live streamed service is available in the Koop Center) followed by that good 'ole Texas BBQ. After that, enjoy the great fellowship and fun of the live and silent auctions—you won't want to miss it!

In 2023, over 400 friends of Camp attended and raised \$107,951 to support Camp Lone Star and all that this ministry does to transform lives through adventurous Christ-centered experiences.

As always, it will be a day of fellowship and celebration for all that God is doing at Camp—we look forward to seeing you there!

#### AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED ...

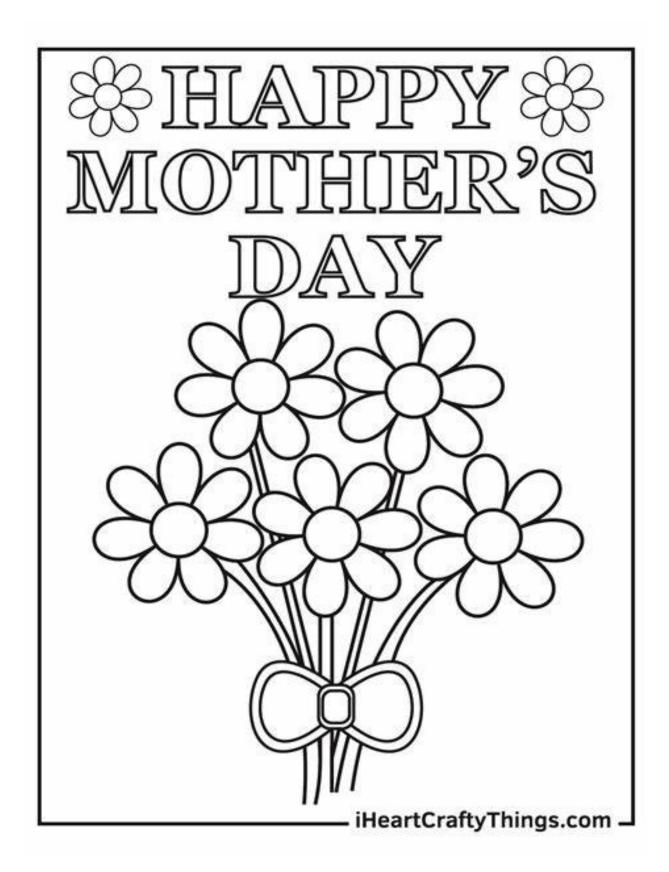
If you would like to donate an item, please go to the website camplonestar.org and click <u>Auction Item Form.</u>

Desired items include: gift certificates, vacation packages, product baskets, handmade quilts/furniture, electronics, quality art pieces, autographed sports and music memorabilia, event tickets, Camp Lone Star themed items, and more.

All donations need to be received by July 14, 2024

Thank you for supporting Camp Lone Star and helping us transform lives and grow God's kingdom!

# COLORING PAGE

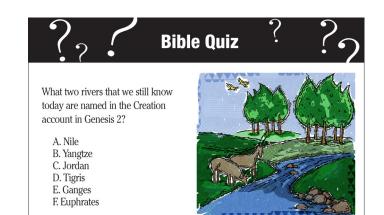


# **Christian Symbol**

GREEN — Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost (as well as the season of Epiphany). The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and arouth of the



and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship and faith.



Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14.)



Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4330 Crow Road, Beaumont TX 77706
Presenting God's message and equipping people to become followers of Jesus Christ.

Church Office (409) 892-3286 www.rlccc.com Barbara Miller, Office Manager Wanita Sanders, Office Assistant