

Redeemer/ St. George's Summer Newsletter 2025



From the Pastor's Desk

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." - Luke 10:27

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Friends!

Summer is upon us, and that presents certain seasonal challenges. We are aware, throughout the year, of the easy yoke and light burden that our baptism has outfitted our lives with. In every moment and decision we are called into living that reckons with the reality of God's presence, and our commitment to living by His Word (not by bread alone). We are continually reminded of our need to hold Jesus in the centre, as we attend worship each Sunday. We are re-drawn into the story of our salvation, the story of God's grace to us.

A part of realizing the benefits of taking part in the corporate worship of the Church (as opposed to engaging in private acts of devotion alone) has to do with the people in our Church family, our faith community. In some cases, we have praised God in the same pew, next to the same other people, for years (ever since our parents praised God next to their parents, in the same pew!). This builds familiarity and a comfort in gathering for worship each week.

Perhaps the lack of this sense of a generational community contributes to a drop off in attendance over the summer months. We have travelled and are in less-than-familiar surroundings, we won't know the people in the next pew, and so we don't attend a local congregation's service; we haven't travelled, but we know that the people who usually sit around us have, and so we consider their pending absence to excuse us from attendance. It would seem strange to be there when "they" aren't.

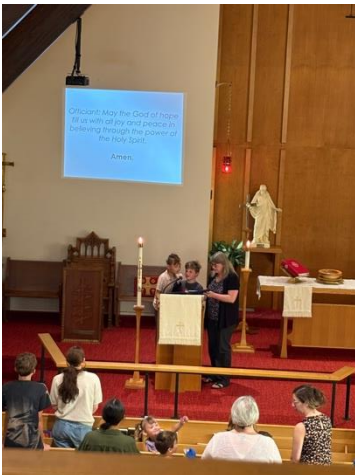
My hope is that this summer we can embrace the strangeness of worshipping with different people, or the same people as usual but fewer of them. Our baptismal commitments are for the whole of life, and that includes when we (or others who are normally close by) are away. Years ago, I invited the folks of St. George's to bring back, from their summer journeying, the bulletins from the churches they would visit. I want to re-issue that challenge to everyone in our community. Let's bring those back and put them on the bulletin board at Redeemer/St. George's, and take the time to look through the ones that others pin. If our brothers and sisters, our Christian family, are walking with some strange folks this summer, while they're in strange places, may we each take interest enough to see just how strange those others are!

And in the meantime, let's not be strange with each other. May we grow closer to one another, even over the summer months, as we continue to meet for corporate worship on Sundays, that our community would be strengthened to welcome travellers back, and newcomers in, as our faithful God moves among us by His Holy Spirit.

Yours, in Christ,

Jonathan+

Sunday School leading the service June 15



Joint service with St. Luke's and St. Paul's



This month at church:

Jonathan will be at camp July 4 – July 10 and on holidays July 13 – August 10

Baptism on August 17th

September 7th - Welcome Back Service/BBQ with Bishops Jason & Rachael leading the service for Jonathan's induction



The Bible Project

This year we have taken on the ambitious challenge as a community of Christ-followers, to read the entire bible. To assist us in this task, we will be following the One-year Bible Reading plan from the Bible project. You can find this online here: <https://bibleproject.com/>

There is also an app that can be downloaded to assist you with this challenge. You can find it in the app store or on google play. It is called BibleProject App



Many thanks to Adriana for filling in while Jan was away.

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