

7 Things Youth Need From Their Parents So They Won't Abandon God

By Frank Powell, church youth leader (excerpts from blog posted on www.faithit.com on June 20, 2020)

“Why are young people leaving the church? Parents ask what to do when your child turns away from God. If I had a dollar for every time I heard this question, I would have a lot of dollars. And I get it. The rate at which young people are leaving the church and walking away from God is alarming. Everyone has experienced a young person throwing aside their faith, either directly or indirectly. It's devastating.”

You see, I believe parents are the primary link between young people and God. Not the church. In his book *Soul Searching*, Christian Smith says this: ‘The most important social influence in shaping young people's religious lives is the religious life modeled and taught to them by their parents.’ Here's the deal. Parents, you are painting a portrait of God for your children every day. Every word, action, and conversation is a brushstroke to keep them from walking away from God. And when your children prepare to leave home, they are staring at a portrait of God. A portrait that shapes their actions and decisions about faith moving forward and whether or not they choose to walk away from God.

Are there exceptions? Absolutely. As a youth minister, I witnessed young people leave Jesus, even though the faith of their parents was rock solid. I also saw young people continue into college on fire for God, even though their parents had shaky, fickle faith. So, this isn't a black and white, issue. Few issues are. But will you, as a parent, play an enormous role in shaping the faith of your children? No doubt.

With that being said, I want to point out some things young people need from their parents. I present these as someone who left God for a season in college, someone who ministers to young people every day, and someone who is passionate about reaching the next generation.

1. They need you to stop handing their faith off to youth leaders.

Parents, you have the primary responsibility for building faith in your children. Youth leaders exist to equip you and supplement the work you are doing in the home. They don't exist to replace you.

2. They need you to care as much about their struggles as you do about their salvation.

Parents, what you can do is show the love of God to your children. This starts by helping them see their present struggles as God's concern. Sit down with your children. Talk to them. Show them grace.

As you do this, the gospel will come to life. Because the gospel doesn't just inform salvation. It informs everything. Addictions. Temptations. Identity issues. And once your children see that God walks with them through their struggles, they will have a stronger desire to give their lives to him.

3. They need you to answer the questions they are asking.

Today's culture is extremely complicated and complex. Young people see everything. Information (good and bad) is available on-demand. And as young people battle with difficult questions about sexuality, alcohol, and other social issues, the world is forming their perspective. Every article. Every conversation. Every video.

Yes, these conversations are awkward. Yes, they create tension. But your children are asking them. Unless you create space for the hard questions, they will turn to other sources for answers. And that usually doesn't end well.

4. They need you to stop protecting them.

The world is broken. No argument from me there. It seems as though our world is more sinful than ever. But I wonder what the response would be if the same microscope were placed on cities like Ephesus and Corinth? During the time of Paul, Ephesus was overtaken by witchcraft. Every spring, roughly 1,000,000 people traveled to the temple of Artemis, which was filled with prostitutes. Let's just say these people weren't going to the temple to talk about the weather.

So, how does Paul instruct the Ephesians to respond in the midst of a culture blanketed with sin? He tells them to put on the armor of God (Eph. 6:10-20). In other words, jump in the fight. Paul didn't understand a theology of retreat. There is no such thing. He expected the Christians in Ephesus to engage the culture, not run from it.

When the ultimate goal is to make sure our children never experience the evils of the world, we not only do them an injustice socially, we rob them of seeing the gospel's transformative power. As a parent, your goal should not be to teach your kids how to flee from evil. Your goal should be to show them how to engage it. For the glory of God. In those spaces, they will see the gospel. And it will become real.

5. They need to see God as more than rules and church attendance.

Looking back on my childhood, this was the most important factor in my faith as I transitioned into college. I needed to see that my parents trusted the promises of God. I needed to see that my parents made decisions as though God was real and alive, not a set of rules or a list of "do's and don'ts." I got that from my mom. Not so much from my dad.

Parents, especially fathers, never underestimate the impact of your decisions on your children. They need to see you trust God with your time and money. They need to see you approach your job as a mission field. They need to see you love people well. All people. They need to see you trust the promises of God in Scripture. If you boil Christian living down to church attendance and morality, your children will notice. And who wants to follow a God who is nothing more than rules and showing up to a building? I sure don't.

6. They need to see your struggles and doubts.

You need to be strong for your children. They need to see that you have it together. I understand that. But let's get real for a second. God is mysterious. Faith is not easy. Some questions about God don't have easy answers. You have probably experienced days where you considered throwing in the towel. Parents, your kids have doubts. And they need to see that you have doubts as well. Otherwise, when questions about God come, your kids will either internalize them or turn to another source for answers. Both are bad options.

I am not telling you to have confession hour every night. But there is power in vulnerability and authenticity. Your kids need to know you are human. And they need to know the path to intimacy with God involves seasons of doubt and struggle.

7. They need you to plead for God to build and sustain their faith and know that it's from God.

Parents, in the journey to lay a foundation of faith for your children, nothing is more important than prayer. Pray for your children. Pray with your children. Every day. I am eternally grateful for my mom. She is awesome! And I am convinced that my faith is a product of her relentless devotion to prayer. I think my mom prayed so much eventually God got tired of hearing her ask for transformation in my life. So, after years of hearing thousands of versions of the same prayer, he called me back home. And I haven't looked back since. Even if your child is a long way from God, He is only one prayer from them.

The church plays a role in the faith of your children. But the primary responsibility is yours, parents. You got this. God would never give you a task and not equip you for it. Your children don't need the funniest, most knowledgeable, or best communicator to build their faith. They need you. So, give them what they need.



THE POWER OF PRAYER WORKS!!

Please remember in your prayers the following members...

Ann Block	Kay & Reuben Carlson	Arla Block
Grace Hartleben	Vian Kersten	June Norrbom
Verna Tellock	Donna Kubiacyk	Marcia Tellock
Gordon & Agnes Schlender	Jean & Carleton Benz	
Lorna Alberg	Eugene Preuss	

Keep in your hearts the family of Joanne Preuss who passed away on Monday, Sept. 26. Her funeral will be at Redeemer on Monday, Oct. 3 at 11:00 (visitation from 9-11 at church.)

We are thankful for continued healing of Curt Low, Reuben Carlson, Nancy Pehlke, and Saul Hanke, Kim Timm, and Lindsey Kersten!

Your calls and visits are greatly appreciated. Pastor Sharon tries to visit monthly. She would welcome a volunteer to help. If you'd like to add a prayer request to this list please call the prayer chain below or the church at 715-253-2590 and leave a message. Redeemer Prayer Chain....Please call anyone on this list with the name(s) of the person for whom you would like prayers. That person will call the next one on the list, etc. etc.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1) Lorna Alberg | 715-393-0104 | 4) Lee Innerebner | 715-253-2200 |
| 2) Ida Brekke | 715-253-2734 | 5) Mary Netzler | 715-253-6290 |
| 3) Gail Koehler | 715-253-6275 | | |

October Birthdays

Kaylin Karcz 10-3
River Mattes 10-4
Nancy Pehlke 10-4
Keilen Benson 10-12
Shirley Schmidt 10-12
Ryan Buntrock 10-14
Carol Klinner 10-15
Annie Jo Czerwonka 10-18
Kay Carlson 10-18
Deb Rieck 10-21
Kari Zeinert 10-25
Judy Boda 10-27
Agnes Schlender 10-31



October Anniversaries

Brandon & Callie Hirsch 10-5
Tom & Karen Kersten 10-10
Curt & Evie Low 10-12
Kurt & Linda Evje 10-26



& Birthdays
Anniversaries

Our Monetary Discipleship for September 2022

Worship Date	Worship Attend	General Fund	Missions	Building Fund	Sunday School Offering	Other Income	Total
9-4	13	\$660.00					\$660.00
9-11	23	\$1,200.00					\$1,200.00
9-18	24	\$615.00					\$615.00
9-25	18	\$1,090.00			\$5.00		\$1095.00
Total		\$3,565.00			\$5.00		\$3,570.00

Offering envelopes are available in the wall rack near the main entrance door in the Gathering Space.

Please use an envelope with your offering and write your name and amount on the envelope.

Using the envelopes insures you get credit for monies given to the church and helps with the accounting. Thank you!

There is an Adult Bible Study Breakfast 9 am at Schultz Restaurant in Tigerton (bring your Bible) the first and third Wednesdays of each month (October 5th and 19th).



Community Events:

Fall Art Show

WOW presents – 5 Photographers, “Life Through the Lens”

The fall art show will be an exhibition of photography at the WOWSPACE Gallery. The photographers are Roger Bloemers, Wausau; Brian P. Gutheinz, Bowler; Hans Schmitt, Birnamwood; Tom Walchesky, Howards Grove; and Brent Zeinert, Wittenberg.

The final shows will be Saturday & Sunday, October 1st – October 2nd, 11 AM – 3 PM.

WOW Fall Theatre Production—“The Red Velvet Cake Wars”

Fridays and Saturdays, Oct 7-8 and Oct. 14-15 at 7:00 p.m.

This comedy, written by the team of Jones, Hope, and Wooten, is filled with colorful characters, crazy plot twists and lots of Southern charm. Tickets (\$12) are available from cast members and Wittenberg Sentry. You’ll see lots of familiar faces (Miriam Nelson, Lois Anderson, and Nancy and Paul Pehlke.)



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
September 8, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Norrbom

Members present:

President: Paul Norrbom

Treasurer: Peggy Emmel

Secretary: Deb Rieck

Education: Ann Hawley, Mary Peterson, Tracy Dombeck

WMA: Linda Evje, Carla Hanke, Kim Timm

Parish Life: Gail Koehler, Lois Anderson

A quorum was present.

Opening Devotions: Deb Rieck

Motion made by Lois Anderson, seconded by Mary Peterson, to approve the agenda.

Carried.

Council Visitors: None

Motion made by Linda Evje, seconded by Kim Timm, to approve the August 10, 2022 minutes. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report shows an account balance of \$68,678.77 as of August 31, 2022. Of that amount, \$29,878.08 is non-budget, and the budget has a balance of \$38,800.69.

Motion made by Kim Timm, seconded by Mary Peterson, to approve the Treasurer's Report and the bills as presented to be paid. Carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parish Life

- For the Bazaar to happen on Oct. 8th we will need volunteers and vendors. (Baked goods, baskets, crafts, etc.) (*Note-the bazaar has now been cancelled.)

Trustees

- Furnace filters have been purchased.
- Foundation pictures were taken. We need to get bids to look into patching or replacing on the west side of the church to improve the slopping away from the church.

Worship/Music/Arts

- Pianos and organs will be scheduled for tuning in October.

- February 22 is Ash Wednesday. Although that is down the road, we need to think about planning the Lenten services. Both Redeemer and Zion WMA committees will have to meet.
- Do we want to start up the fall pancake breakfast again? Possibly October 30th?

Parish Education

- Met September 7th with Zion.
- Confirmation will start in November from 9:00-10:30 and will be taught by Laura Clark.
They will be at Zion November-December and at Redeemer January-April. In May it will move back to Zion with the possibility of a few Wednesdays. There will be a parent/confirmation student meeting on Wednesday Oct. 26 at 6:00pm at Zion.
- Christmas program will be December 18th at both churches.

OLD BUSINESS

- Transition Process-There will be a meeting after church on September 18 to gather input from the congregation for what we would like to see in a new pastor.
- Checking into making arrangements with Pastor Sharon to make home and hospital visits with parishioners. She could also preside over funerals.
- ATIS will inspect our elevator in October.

NEW BUSINESS

- The office printer needs to be cleaned. EO Johnson will be called.
- Ann put together a binder of important information that will help the new pastor.
- New Sunday Usher Duty: Open pastor's door and help the supply pastor with the headset.
- Copies of the Constitution were given to new members.
- Budget Review in November. Committees need to have proposals in by the November Council Meeting.

Next Council meeting, Thursday, October 13, at 5:30pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion made by Mary Peterson, seconded by Linda Evje, to adjourn. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
 Deb Rieck
 Council Secretary

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
Special Congregational Meeting
August 28, 2022

Council President Paul Norrbom called the meeting to order.

A quorum was present.

Paul Norrbom explained to members present the need to form a Call and MSP (Ministry Site Profile) Committee. There could be two committees each with 3 members or one committee with 3 people willing to participate in the duties of both. This committee will work with the 3-person committee formed by Zion to work on completing the Ministry Site Profile and call a Pastor when the time comes.

Motion made by Lois Anderson, seconded by Ann Hawley, to offer the positions on the MSP/Call Committee to Fay Rosenow, Sara Horne, and Paul Norrbom along with two alternate members Kaylin Karcz and Kimberly Timm. Motion carried.

There will be fellowship times planned after church, during Sunday School, to discuss as a church what we are looking for in a Pastor. These would be friendly brainstorming conversations. The first one will be after the 8:30 service on September 18, 2022, which is the first day of Sunday School. All are encouraged to attend.

Other business:

- Linda Evje was thanked for her work in scheduling substitute pastors for the upcoming months.
- Lois Anderson reminded everyone to consider a position on council. Many positions need to be filled. Please contact Lois Anderson or any council member if interested.
- The Church Bazaar will be October 8th this year. Members are encouraged to bring in craft items and baked goods to sell.

Motion made by Peggy Emmel, seconded by Mary Peterson, to adjourn. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Rieck
Council Secretary

Reminder: If you can't make it to church, our worship services are taped and posted on our Facebook page and website.

On Facebook at: www.facebook.com/redeemer.lutheran.568

On the Web at: redeemerlutheranwittenberg.weebly.com (This Month at Redeemer)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please sign up today!

Our list is located on the table in the gathering space. Be an usher, greeter, reader, communion assistant, or videographer. For those trained in counting collections after church, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the secretary's office.

Thank you for helping!

We will have fellowship in the Gathering Space on the days that people bring treats. There is a signup on the bulletin board. Thank you!!

Community Giving

WB Weekend Backpack Program



The Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District along with the Wittenberg Food Pantry has implemented a backpack program which provides nutritional, easy-to-prepare food for students in families that are struggling to have food needs met over the weekends during the school year. Pantry volunteers fill backpacks that students take home Friday and return on Monday. There are over 40 students enrolled in this program and the cost of feeding each one is about \$100 per year.

Redeemer Lutheran has donated \$200.00 collected from the Lenten Soup/Sandwich donations to support this program.

Individually if you are interested in sponsoring a child for a year for the WB Weekend Backpack Program, please send \$100 to Wittenberg Food Pantry, PO Box 212, Wittenberg WI 54499. Include a note denoting that it is for the WB Weekend Backpack Program, and also list "In honor of" or "In memory of" if you wish. If it better fits your budget, you could also sponsor a child for a semester for \$50. All donations will be listed on their website at wittenbergfoodpantry.weebly.com Thank you for helping feed the hungry in our community!

Redeemer's Fall Bazaar that was scheduled for Sat. Oct. 8th has been cancelled. We might have a basket raffle on Oct. 30th after church if we have a pancake breakfast that day.



Rake in the Blessings!



Fall Into God's Word!



Zion-Redeemer Lutheran Parish Schedule of worship leaders

Sept. 25th, 2022	Lay leader Lois Anderson
Oct. 2nd, 2022	Lay leader Ann Hawley
Oct. 9th, 2022	Rev. Asher O'Callaghan
Oct. 16th, 2022	Rev. Gary Froseth
Oct. 23rd, 2022	Rev. Jen Hoffman
Oct. 30th, 2022	Rev. Jen Hoffman
Nov. 6th, 2022	Rev. Jen Hoffman
Nov. 13th, 2022	Rev. Tryphine Schrubka
Nov. 20th, 2022	Rev. Jen Hoffman
Nov. 27th, 2022	Lay leader Ann Hawley
Dec. 4th, 2022	Rev. Jen Hoffman
Dec. 11th, 2022	Rev. Phil Bogen
Dec. 18th, 2022	Rev. Jen Hoffman

Info from the Aging and Disability Resource Center: Shawano County

Book Club: The ADRC offers a free book club to anyone interested in attending. If you need a copy of the book just let us know! The book club will be held on the following dates:

- October 12: at the Shawano Library from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. The book being discussed is “The Wounder Healer” by Dr. Omar Reda. This meeting will be discussing the first half of the book. The Second half will be discussed on November 9.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers: This course will help caregivers learn strategies and self-confidence while caring for a friend or family member. The class will be held on Wednesdays (Sept 28 – Nov 2) at the Bond Center in Oconto from 9:30 am – noon.

Boost Your Brain: This course is designed to help individuals learn new habits to maintain cognitive health while also practicing skills for better memory performance. The class will meet on Mondays (Oct 17 – Dec 5) at the ADRC office in Oconto Falls from noon – 1:30 pm.

Memory Café (Oconto County): The Oconto County Memory Café meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm.

Memory Café (Shawano County): The Shawano County Memory Café meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm.

Caregivers Support Group (Oconto Falls): This caregiver support group takes place at the ADRC in Oconto Falls the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

Caregiver Support Group (Shawano): This caregiver support group takes place at the Shawano Library the 4th Wednesday of each month from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm. Contact Mary Jo at 715-526-4712 or Kristin Waukau at 715-799-5270 for more information.

Early Stages Support Group (Shawano): This support group is geared towards those in the early stages of dementia. The meetings take place at the Shawano Library the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

Brain Check-Ups

A brain check-up is a wellness tool that helps identify possible changes in memory and cognition. Brain check-ups take about 15 minutes and will be held at local libraries from 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm on the following dates:

October 4 – Menominee Library in Keshena

Shawano County UW-Extension is also offering the following event: (see fliers on bulletin board for more info)

- Youth Mental Health First Aid: October 3rd from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, virtual. Contact 715-526-6136 to register.

Thank you!!

Krissy, *Fiscal Support Specialist*, W7327 Anderson Ave, Shawano WI 54166, (855) 492-2372 (715) 526-6787 – Fax krissy@adrcwolfriver.org

Guidelines for a Safe Sanctuary:

- In an effort to keep everyone healthy and safe, we ask that you consider the wellbeing of those around you.
- Masks, while not required, are considered a way to reduce the spread of airborne illness and the use of them is encouraged.
- Upon entering the church, during the service and after church, please allow ample distance to those outside of your family that are around you. The personal space and comfort zone around each and every one of us has increased over the last year. Please be aware.
- If you are not feeling well, please stay home. If you are a part of the service, we will find someone to fill in for you. You will be missed and we will most certainly pray for you.

Dear Redeemer & Zion Friends,

Thank you so much for the gifts and well wishes! I'm enjoying my retirement so far! I still plan on keeping in touch by visiting shut-ins until you get a new pastor.
Thank you! *Pastor Sharon*

(For pastoral needs, call the church office: 715-253-2590 or Ann Hawley at 715-446-2119)



Youth News

Sunday School started on September 18th at 9:30 a.m. after our 8:30 worship. For those in second grade or younger, your teachers are Tracy and Makenna Dombeck. For those in grades 2-5, your teacher is Ann Hawley. Laura Clark will be the music leader again this year for Sept.-Oct.. Thank you also to Mary Peterson and Mary Mattes for volunteering to be substitute teachers.

Confirmation will start Sunday, Nov. 6 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. at Zion. Thank you to Laura Clark for volunteering to teach confirmation! Classes will meet at Zion Nov.-Dec., then at Redeemer from Jan.-April, and finally back to Zion for May. Students can stay for worship for the 10:30 service following their class. There may also be a few Wednesday classes. There will be a parent/confirmation student meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 6:00 p.m. at Zion.

The Christmas program for both churches will be Dec. 18th. There will be no Sunday School Nov. 20th. Confirmation students will help with the Christmas program and with Easter breakfast (April 9, and the set-up on April 8).

Crossways Camping Ministries Homecoming 2022 – Save the Date

**Homecoming 2022 at Waypost Camp
Saturday, October 8, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**



Last fall, we decided to try something new. Instead of holding a fancy Gala dinner, we planned a Homecoming event to welcome people back to camp after Covid kept so many of us away. It was a wonderful day of reunion and outdoor fun. The response was so positive, we're planning Homecoming 2022.

We're still planning all the details, but we hope you'll put a note on your calendar now. We'll have classic camp activities, a great meal, and a chance to tour the site. This will also be a fundraiser event, helping to raise campership money for our Summer 2023 campers!

October 2022

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 WOW Fall Art Show- 11 am-3 pm
2 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Sunday School WOW Fall Art Show- 11 am-3 pm	3 Funeral 11:00 am for Joanne Preuss at Redeemer (visitation 9-11)	4	5 Adult Bible Study Breakfast 9 am at Schultz Restaurant in Tigerton (Bring Bible	6 Church office hrs: 3-5 pm	7 WOW Fall Play "Red Velvet Cake Wars" 7:00 pm	8 WOW Fall Play 7:00 pm Waypost Camp Homecoming 10am-3pm
9 8:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School	10	11	12	13 Church office hrs: 3-5 pm Church Council 5:30 pm church basement	14 WOW Fall Play "Red Velvet Cake Wars" 7:00 pm	15 WOW Fall Play "Red Velvet Cake Wars" 7:00 pm
16 8:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School	17	18	19 Adult Bible Study Breakfast 9 am at Schultz Restaurant in Tigerton (Bring Bible)	20 Church office hrs: 3-5 pm	21	22
23 8:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School	24	25	26 Newsletter deadline for October newsletter Parent/confirmation student meeting at	27 Church office hrs: 3-5 pm	28	29
30 8:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School & maybe Pancake Breakfast with basket raffle.	31 Happy Halloween!					

Communion: Communion will be given every Sunday that we have a pastor.

*****Worship time is 8:30 am for Redeemer for September-December. Zion will meet at 10:30 am.**

Redeemer Lutheran Church
W18205 College Avenue
P.O. Box 220
Wittenberg, WI 54499
(715) 253-2590
redeemerwitt@gmail.com



*The mission of Redeemer Lutheran Church
is to care for all people through the proclamation of the Gospel,
celebration of the sacraments, and service to our neighbor.*

*We strive to accomplish this by our witness at church, home, school,
work and play, all to the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.*

Bringing people to Christ ~ Bringing Christ to people