



January 2019



WILL 2019 BRING US MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER YEAR OF GRACE?

When someone reaches the age of 40, we might say, “Life is just getting started for that person. There’s so much more life for that individual to live.” Someone of that age would not be “wet behind the ears.” On the contrary, an individual of 40 years would be considered experienced, established, or even mature and wise.

As Redeemer Lutheran Church enters into another year of grace, she enters into her fortieth year of Word and Sacrament ministry; Forty years of faithfully bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Englewood and her surrounding communities. Praise be to God!

A committee has already been formed and they are making plans for a joyous anniversary celebration with a special service on Sunday, March 24 at 9:15 a.m. Later on the same day, there will be a dinner planned for members (past and present), honored guests, family members, and visitors. The committee will have more information available for you in the coming weeks.

To assist in the kick-off of Redeemer’s jubilee, there will be an Evening Prayer Service on Sunday, February 24 at 6 p.m. with the Kantorei from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN. This 16-voice choir is comprised of male students studying for the Office of the Holy Ministry. Redeemer last hosted in February of 2010, the last time the Kantorei visited the Sunshine State.

Forty years may not seem like a long time, but when you consider what “bringing the Gospel to the nations” is up against, only with God’s help, protection, and direction could this be accomplished. The apostle Paul writes, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the

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rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Eph. 6:12) The devil is always attempting to silence the mouths of the saints. The devil and the sin-filled world are always attempting to cast doubt in the hearts of children loved by God. The devil, the sin-

(Continued on page 2)

filled world, and our sinful nature are always attempting to draw those for whom Christ has died away from His saving grace.

The Lord works in mysterious ways, to be sure, but we know from Holy Scripture the Church doesn't grow apart from the Lord's involvement. This is what we can learn about the Lord's sustaining work and growth at Redeemer with a quick journey with the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter preached the gospel in Jerusalem on Pentecost. "So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41) As the early Christian Church grew, "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

As a result of this devotion to the Lord's work, "day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:46-47)

Peter and John continued preaching the gospel of Christ in Jerusalem despite the risks and even being thrown in prison (*Read* Acts 3:1-4:3). "But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand." (Acts 4:4)

The church remained in one accord (*Read* Acts 4:5-5:11). "And more than ever believers were added to the Lord." (Acts 5:14a) They filled Jerusalem with the doctrine of Christ (Acts 5:28). "And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus." (Acts 5:42)

(Continued on page 3)

SERVING THE LORD

Pastor Rev. James Kress

Child Care Director Wendy Horvath

Office Admin Asst Caitlin Tilton

Organist Bill Bowers

Choir Director Collins Sita

Newsletter Editor Pat Finkenbine

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Youth Alan Duburg

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Property Mgmt. Jim Metzker

GROUPS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild Sally Zierdt

Men's Group

Altar Guild

Coffee Hour

As, “the disciples were increasing in number” (Acts 6:1), a dispute arose and was settled with everyone being united, especially because everyone desired unity (Acts 6:5). And miracle upon miracle, “the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.” (Acts 6:7)

Even through persecution the church continued to grow. “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.” (Acts 9:31)

After Paul had been on three “missionary journeys,” he returned to Jerusalem and was informed of the church continuing to grow. “Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified God.” (Acts 21:18-20)

In many ways, the first forty years of ministry at Redeemer Lutheran Church resembles that of the early church in the Book of Acts. The Lord established the Church; because of the will, work, and word of God, Redeemer grew in number; many were baptized, catechized even in the

midst of struggle and conflict, the Lord continue to add to Redeemer’s number. The Youth/Children’s ministries have never been larger. The Lord is increasing the numbers. The members of Redeemer, guided by the called and ordained servants of God, remain faithful to the teachings of the apostles’.

The apostle Paul writes to the Christian Church in Corinth, “What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.” (1 Cor. 3:5-9)

The Word of God above is a reminder to the members and servants at Redeemer Lutheran Church of who they are and to whom they belong. Redeemer isn’t a club or a society. Redeemer isn’t an association or an organization. Redeemer Lutheran Church is a body of Christ, a mission post for the Gospel, a lighthouse for lost sinners, a household of believers, children loved by God. Redeemer is forty years young. She’s just getting started.

In the Service and Faithfulness
of Christ Jesus,
Pastor Jim Kress

Check out our websites at: redeemerfl.com. Redeemerfl-cc.com and redeemerfl-school.com
And on Facebook at Redeemer Lutheran Church of Englewood and Redeemer Lutheran Childcare

It is no secret that God calls us to be generous with the gifts He has given us. Throughout the Bible, we read that just as God has generously given to us, so are we to give generously one to another. As Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35) and “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36).

But God also calls us to give to Him. And He, who does all things well, presses it into service for the benefit of all the people of God. See for example what God spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, after he and the people were safely brought out of Egypt across the Red Sea on dry land:

The Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, goatskins,[a] acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece. And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it. (Ex. 25: 1-9)

Notice in verse two that the Lord instructs Moses to tell the Israelites to “take for me a contribution” and that from everyone motivated from gratitude for what God has just accomplished and given to them, Moses is to gather up “the contribution for me.”

Pay attention, though, why the Lord wants the people of Israel to gather up these contributions for Him. God tells Moses precisely why: “let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.” The purpose for the contribution of the Israelites was so that He may dwell with them, that He would live among them. Through the tabernacle and the priesthood, through their rites and ceremonies, through their feasts and festivals, as through means, the Lord God, who brought them out of the bondage of Egypt would live and dwell among them and be their God, and lead them into the promised land, which flowed with milk and honey.

God dwells among us still. In the fullness of time, God’s son was born of woman, born under the law to redeem those under the law. He brought us out of bondage to sin, death, the devil, and Hell, and He did this by His obedient suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension. But He is not gone. He dwells with us through the means of His Word and His sacraments, through the preaching and the teaching of our pastors, through the rites and ceremonies of our liturgy. He dwells with us in the Church through those means. And He is leading us to the true promised land, to the new heavens and the new earth in the new creation.

In the meantime, as God, even now, continues to call us to give to Him, let us, who have been saved from slavery to sin and death, the devil and hell, be so moved in our hearts as to give generously to Him so that the means of grace, the means of His gracious dwelling among us, would continue now and into the future. For just as He did then so does He do now. He presses the gifts given to Him into service for the benefit of all His people. He puts it to use so that we may have Him with us always, even unto the end of the age.

Sunday Morning Bible Class for the Life of the World

As the church journeys toward heaven, it teaches the Word of the LORD, it washes at the font, and it feeds according to the will of the LORD. As God's people, we gather in a place called church and we attend Divine Service because it is there that God gives us the gift of His Son Jesus Christ. This is a promise that He has given us as the people of God, and it is the greatest gift that God could give us.

This promise of the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ comes to us when we are gathered in His name, because He has bound Himself to the preaching of the gospel, and the giving of Himself in the sacraments.

Now, from the world's perspective these are not important gifts, and yet from God's perspective, they are the most important gifts that He could give. We believe, teach and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ is present within our church according to His flesh. And the fact that the eternal God could be present amongst us in His flesh, through simple Words, through simple water, and through simple bread and wine, is part of the "MYSTERY" that we call the Liturgy of the Church.

Come explore this mystery with us following Divine Service each Sunday. This 12 session series on our Lutheran Liturgy is presented by Dr. Arthur Just in DVD form. For each session, a study guide will be provided. Dr. Just, professor at Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN, leads viewers through a presentation of our liturgical heritage and its Scriptural origins.

The sessions include: An Introduction to the Lutheran Liturgy, The Structure of Liturgy, Jewish Origins in Christian Worship, the Table Fellowship of Jesus and Structure of Word and Sacrament, Liturgy in the Life of Jesus, The Liturgy of the Word, The Liturgy of the Sacrament, The Entrance, Preparation and Distribution, The Lutheran Liturgy: 1941, 182 and beyond, the Church Year and Sunday, the Lord's Day, The Services of Prayer, Catechesis, Baptism and the Liturgy of Life.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE

CLASS: Come join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Narthex for an exciting Table Talk discussion. Ask Pastor just about any question. We will search the Scriptures. We will have open dialog in the study of the Holy Scripture. Again, your questions and our discussion may range from current events to ancient church history. This is your time to "ask the pastor."



The Body of Christ—Classes

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST?

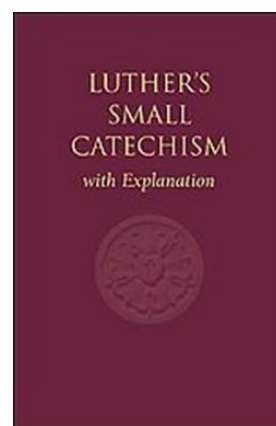
The Lord is gracious and abounding in steadfast love. This is what those who attend Divine Services at Redeemer Lutheran Church receive – the Lord’s steadfast love in both Word and Sacrament. St. Paul writes, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ... and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Cor. 12:12-14, 27)

An opportunity exists here at Redeemer Lutheran Church for you and your family to become a member of the body of Christ. Information classes will begin soon (a full schedule of classes is provided on the reverse side). We will meet in the narthex and classes will begin at 10 a.m. and run for about an hour and a half. This is a wonderful opportunity to understand more clearly what God’s Word says and how His Word is relevant in your life today. The atmosphere of the classroom is relaxed and yet the teachings remain faithful to Holy Scripture and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church.

- Have you been attending worship services here at Redeemer and would like to become a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church? Then this is the class for you!
- Have you been attending worship services at Redeemer, but are not sure what it is Lutherans believe, teach, and confess? Then this is the class for you!
- Do you have a child in our School or Child Care Center and would like to further establish both you and your child in a Christian congregation? Then this is the class for you.
- Are you a member of Redeemer, but haven’t brushed the dust off the old catechism in some time and would like to be refreshed in the teachings of the Christian faith? Then this is the class for you!

If you are interested in attending, contact the church office to reserve your seat. If you are interested but are unable to attend due to scheduling times, please contact Pastor personally via phone or email. He really does care about your spirituality and your eternal salvation. Pastor also believes these classes are great for couples to attend.

Information classes will begin on **Tuesday, January 8**, and conclude on **Thursday, February 7**. There are a total of 10 classes scheduled with a total of 15 hours of instruction from the pastor. Upon completion of these classes, it is our hope to formally welcome you as new members and into fellowship on **Sunday, February 17** by way of either confirmation, transfer, affirmation of faith, or as an associate member. Should you ever have a question about the classes or the Christian faith, please ask the Pastor. See you in class!



Tuesday, January 8
Thursday, January 10
Tuesday, January 15
Thursday, January 17

Tuesday, January 22
Thursday, January 24
Tuesday, January 29
Thursday, January 31

Tuesday, February 5
Thursday, February 7



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

Christmas has come and gone. The last of the cookies have been eaten and the decorations have been put away for another year. And the gifts we received and gave???? Some have been returned, some have broken, and some are still sitting waiting to be used. For many, the money spent on gifts seems to be wasted.

LCEF has investment opportunities that are not a waste of money. While giving investors a good return on their money, it serves another great purpose in furthering the mission and ministry of God's Kingdom. As churches seek to expand ministries, financial resources are needed and LCEF is available to provide those resources.

LCEF has many choices to suit your financial needs. Go to lcef.org to see the available products. Consider an LCEF investment. Your money will never be wasted!

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Steinke

PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY

We sure could use some help on our Property Appreciation Days every month. There is outside work to do and cleaning and dusting that needs done inside the Church. If you can help, please come to the church and we will put you to work. **Our next Property Appreciation Day is Saturday, January 19th at 8:00 am.**



Treasurer's Report As of November 30, 2018

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
INCOME	10,859	13,442	(2,583)
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>17,482</u>	<u>15,986</u>	1,496
+/-	(6,623)	(2,544)	
YEAR TO DATE			
INCOME	134,624	147,968	(13,344)
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>179,393</u>	<u>176,214</u>	3,179
+/-	(44,769)	(28,246)	



Respectfully submitted,
Jean Clappe-Mixell
North Star Bookkeeping LLC

PRAYERS

SHUT-INS: Judy Clasen, Susan Jahns, and Rita Kaufman.

HEALING for Members: Neva Aldene, Deb Anderson, Carl Bertka, June Brown, Jean Cote, Jan Detrow, Charlie & Pat Finkenbine, Mike & Judy Guastella, Mark Horvath, Angela Mannato, Ken Mielke, Leslie Miles, Lillian Miles, Glenn & Marlene Mossner, Bob Payne, Tom & Sue Poyer, Jim Schluentz, Joyce Schneider, Dorothy Sinowetski, Russ Spooner, Caitlin Tilton, Bob Varone, Robert Vickey, Sally Zierdt, and Artie Zipp

FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Michelle Bernard, friends & family of Bert Blackford, Grace Blum, Gerry Borwick, Bill Bowers, Jr., Holly Burch, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Diane Carr, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Donna Connors, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Renee Dempsey, Dale & Trudy DesJardins, Ed Detrow, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Anton Durner, Chris Durner, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Lou Fountain, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Sandra Gettings, Nancy Gleis, Mary Ann Guilfoyle, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, John Hill, Rick Hill, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Linda Holt, John Hunter,

Linda Hunter, Chelsea Hutchinson, Stanley and Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Deb Jacobson, Bill Jaquest, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Barb Kern, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Alan Kraus, Erin Kress, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Joe Manson, Candace McGowan, Rev. Paul Mier, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Ron Mullins, Esther Murphy, Mariana Murray, Randy & Bev Parkinson, Charles Pentecost Jr., Julie Pool, Robin Potts, John Purdy, George & Yvonne Raetzke, Mary Raines, Rev. Ronald Rock, Paul Rollo, Ed Sheahan, Brittney Smith and her unborn child, Don Stewart, Paul Sullivan, Nancy Sly, Charles Tolley, Richard Traversa, George Vespa, Jim & Judy Wahl, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Wava Zeitlow, and Mary Ann Zipp

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Thomas Francis Styns II, Brian Jackson, Jonathan Koen, and Charles D. Weishaar



Pastor and members of the church are always willing to pray for you, family members and friends. If a loved one appears on our prayer list above, please call Pastor or the church office to give us a health update so that we may either keep or remove their name. Thank you!



ELDER & COMMUNION ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

Date	Elder & Reader	Communion Asst
Sunday, Jan 6th	Collins Sita	Dave Giroux
Sunday, Jan 13th	Mike Nagel	Dennis Replinger
Sunday, Jan 20th	Collins Sita	Steve Horvath
Sunday, Jan 27th	Rob Tilton	Rev. Mark Steinke



Date	Crucifier	Gospel Bearer	Acolyte
Jan 6th	Toby Hancock	Alyssa Hancock	Rylie Giroux
Jan 13th	Mykalina Sabol	Bella Fisher	Kylee Payne
Jan 20th	John Miller	Ariana Miller	Braeden Dolphin
Jan 27th	Kamrie Evanicki	Brianna Neef	Kyleigh Evanicki

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE



Date	Set-Up	Clean-Up
Sunday, Jan 6th	Lisa Kress	Gretchen Armstrong
Sunday, Jan 13th	Bob Varone	Carolyn Francis
Sunday, Jan 20th	Mindy Duncan	Jean Cote Joyce Schneider
Sunday, Jan 27th	Bob Varone	Gale Bakalik

Directory Update:

We are still planning to produce a new directory. Please fill out a form (available on the Visitor's Desk in the narthex) and update your contact information ASAP. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this project or are still needing your photo taken, please call or email Lisa Kress at 941-889-8938/ lisakress1968@gmail.com. Also, we will need signed permission to use your photo in the directory.

REDEEMER SCHOOL

Emmanuel. We hear that word a lot around Christmas time. What does that really mean? This month in Bible class Pastor has been teaching our students about our Emmanuel. Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel”. God is with us! Jesus came down from heaven to be with us. The birth of Jesus, the Holy One, the Messiah, the Savior of all men, the Prince of Peace, the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, our Everlasting Father, has made a way for God to be with us. What a privilege it is to be able to teach our students that God is with them every day and every hour.

This month the VPK kids came and visited our class. Our students showed them what it is like to be in kindergarten. We did many gingerbread centers. We read The Gingerbread Girl, made gingerbread houses, colored and made a gingerbread man, practiced some rhyming words, and did some writing. It was a lot of fun for us and we were so glad that VPK had such a good time.

We have started our health unit. We have learned about healthy and unhealthy habits. We are learning how to take care of our bodies by providing it the proper nutrients and by getting the proper exercise and sleep. Mrs. Angela is doing an amazing job teaching this unit. The students are really enjoying learning how to make responsible choices with the body that God has given them.

This month has come and gone so fast. We are looking forward to the New Year. We have new students joining us for the 2nd semester. Our class is growing and we are excited. Thank you for your continued support!

Submitted by Nicole Hopkins



***The deadline for the FEBRUARY Newsletter is January 19th.
Please have all your submissions sent to patchas123@gmail.com
OR drop them off at the church office by the date indicated above.
Thank You!***

HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS



JANUARY
2019



REDEEMER CHILD CARE
WISHES YOU A
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Tuesdays
at 3:45

1/8 God's Word Is
Important

Luke 2:41-52

1/15 Jesus Is Our
Substitute

Matthew 3:13-17

1/22 God Has Mercy on
His Children

Luke 17:11-19

1/29 Jesus Is All
Powerful

Luke 8:40-56



Dear Jesus, give me eyes
of faith to see that You
are God's beloved Son.

Amen

Vision & Hearing

Screenings



January 15, 2019

Closed

January 1, 2019

Birthdays

Ms. Brandy 1/5

Brooklynn N. 1/7

Eva 1/9

Blake 1/11

Isabella F. 1/15

Brayden N. 1/16

Justin 1/17

Nicholas G. 1/26



Congratulations!



Congratulations to Ms.
Jadilyn on her Graduation
from EMT School



Thank you for being an
Awesome Teacher!

Ms. Emily - 4 Years

Ms. Jadilyn - 2 Years

Santa Lunch



Thank you to all the
members of Redeemer
Lutheran Church and
Child Care families who
took a gift tag off the
Angel Tree for the Santa
Lunch! Thank you to the
anonymous donor and to
Catalina Bakas for taking
the last few tags off the
tree. The children had a
wonderful time and loved
their gifts!

A GREAT BIG THANK
YOU TO SANTA!

A Great Big Thank You!

Thank you to Ned Ash and
Marilyn Ledesma for all the
snacks and Angel Tree gift
tags from the Angel Tree
for the Santa Lunch. We
greatly appreciate you!

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

~Francis Ridley Havergal

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
2 Corinthians 5:17*

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,
SCHOOL & CHILD CARE
6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

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REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,
SCHOOL & CHILD CARE
6465 Mayport Street
Englewood, FL 34224
REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.
Pastor

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Church Fax: 941-475-9726
School/Child Care Phone:
941-475-2631
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REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, Associate Members and Visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church, a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Divine Service: 9:15 AM
Bible Class: 10:30 AM
Sunday School: 10:30 AM

The Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care Family are called into the service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by His command (Matthew 28:18-20) to:

- ♦Disciple all nations, that is, all people;
- ♦Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- ♦Proclaim the Gospel and teach His Word in its truth and purity; and
- ♦Never be ashamed of the Gospel—it is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).