



DECEMBER 2025



VICAR'S NOTES

PEACE

Peace is our common pursuit. As Advent leads us to Christmas, we are especially seeking a distinct season of peace. A peace not that the world gives, but the peace that can only come from Christ. Year after year, with each Advent season, we wonder if this year will bring a peace that endures. We crave the reassurance that God knows all our needs and will provide for them, not just for these short weeks but for every season. Despite knowing the promises of God to provide for us, we try to find peace on our own. We then define peace according to the ways we seek it. Is it that inner tranquility? We might imagine that peace comes when we finally have crossed off the last item on our shopping list of things we plan to buy. Are we trying to buy peace? Or we might look for the perfect place where peace is an undisturbed solitude, in a sailboat that drifts quietly toward a solitude island. We might seek peace by escaping memories of the past. Peace is not just the absence of conflict. These are our many ways of defining peace, but sadly, each of these directions could go on and on without ever being fulfilled. That peace comes always through the birth of Jesus, the Word become flesh who steps into the world and fulfills our desire for peace.

Advent is the first season in the "Time of Christmas." The calendar of the Church begins with Advent (from Latin *adventus*, which means "coming into"), a four-week period of preparation before Christmas. The Savior's birth is second in importance only to His resurrection on Easter Sunday. Traditionally, Advent encompasses a spiritual preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The Western Church sets the season of Advent as beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, or the Sunday that falls closest to November 30, and lasting through the daytime services of December 24. Christmas begins with the evening services (Vigil) on December 24 and extends through the twelve days of Christmas.

PARAMENTS The traditional color of Advent, and that which still best fits the historic pericopes of Advent, is violet/purple, which is both the color of repentance and the royal color of the coming King—the two main themes of the One-Year series. When possible, the paraments used in Advent should be different from those used in Lent, as the symbols used to express the character of the seasons are quite different. The only symbol common to both is the Agnus Dei, the Lamb of God. Since the adoption of Vatican II reforms of the liturgy by much of the Western Church, the use of blue as the color of

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VICAR'S NOTES

Advent has been adopted as well by many Lutheran General Introduction Peace Came to Earth Permission granted to purchaser to reproduce this page for use in congregational setting. All other rights reserved. - 9 - congregations. There is a historic tradition of Advent blue among the Swedish Lutheran churches. Blue suggests the color of anticipation and hope, a theme that is seen in the readings of the Three-Year series. A congregation should be attentive to the use of the paraments that carry the theme of the lectionary being used.

THE ADVENT WREATH — The Advent wreath is an arrangement of four candles, originally used in home devotions to count the weeks of Advent and symbolize the approach of the Coming One. The traditional Advent wreath featured white candles, but the custom of using seasonally colored candles has become common. If the church's Advent paraments are blue, four blue candles should be used. If the paraments are violet/purple, then three violet/purple candles should be used, with a rose candle included as part of the set. The rose candle is placed in the Advent wreath at the three o'clock position, and the candles are then lit from week to week starting with the violet candle in the nine o'clock position. The rose candle is lit on Gaudete ("Rejoice"), the Third Sunday in Advent in the historic lectionary. With its colored candles, the Advent wreath is better displayed in the nave than in the chancel. Removal of the Advent wreath for the services of Christmas allows the two seasons to be well-defined and distinct.

DECORATIONS DURING ADVENT — The decoration of the church during Advent should not be too elaborate. A problem has arisen in many congregations when the cultural celebration of Christmas in the season between Thanksgiving and Christmas is followed. The season of Advent helps us prepare for something greater. While not as austere as Lent, Advent does call for some restraint in deference to the "tidings of great joy" that will be proclaimed on the Nativity and during the season of Christmas. Candles as decoration should be kept to a minimum. Greenery may be hung but should remain undecorated. Banners may be hung but should be simple in style and decoration in keeping with the mood of the season. If the press of obligations makes it absolutely necessary to erect the tree before the Fourth Sunday in Advent, the lights should not be turned on until after service on the Fourth Sunday to help guide and highlight the transition from Advent to Christmas

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1 Sermon: Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2 Sermon: Peace to All, Near and Far

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3 Sermon: Our Peace Rests on Him Alone

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Sermon: The Diamond Found in the Manger

Yours in Christ
Vicar Collins Sita



Church: www.redeemerfl.com
Child Care: www.redeemerfl-cc.com
School: www.redeemerfl-school.com



Redeemer Lutheran Church of Englewood
Redeemer Lutheran Child Care
Redeemer Lutheran School

Bible Studies



Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please join us after the morning service (and after a cup of coffee – approximately 10:30 a.m.). We are currently studying the Gospel of John.

Table Talk: Table talk is a very informal Bible study held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM. Participants come with any sort of question. We work to answer those questions from God's Word and from our Lutheran Confessions. In doing that we all learn more about God's Word and its application in our lives. We are currently studying Philippians and possibly Ephesians. All are welcome. Please consider joining us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: It is our pleasure to announce that Sunday School has resumed at Redeemer Lutheran Church. All of us here at Redeemer joyfully welcome all children every Sunday, during Divine Service.

If you have any questions, please contact Yvonne Brussel at 516-476-8241 or at yayabrussel@yahoo.com.



PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY --DEC 20th

We sure could use some help on our Property Appreciation Day every month. There is outside work to do and cleaning and dusting that needs to be done inside the Church. If you can help, please come by the Church and we will put you to work. Please search your heart to see if there is anything you can do to help maintain and beautify the Lord's home and property.

Property Appreciation Day is the THIRD SATURDAY of every month

SERVING THE LORD

Vicar Collins Sita

Secretary Michelle Kluver

Organist

Choir Director

Newsletter Pat Finkenbine

School Admin Wendy Horvath

Child Care Director Brandi Fordham

School Admin Asst

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Human Care Cathy Mielke

Outreach

Assimilation

School Board

Stewardship

Youth

Financial

Secretary Sherrie Keese

Property Mgmt.

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour

***The deadline for the January 2026 Newsletter is December 18th.
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!***



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves" (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas... dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

Put them at the top of your prayer list. – Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.

Make worship a priority – St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.

Be receptive to his work – If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.

Esteem him highly – Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.

Be at peace – This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3 –The Hanging of the Greens is scheduled for 3p.m. *Contact Catalina*
December 6 – Rotonda West Holiday Parade. *Contact Catalina*

December Board Meetings:

- Elders Meeting: Wednesday, December 3 @ 12:00 pm
- School Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 10 @ 12:00 pm
- Church Council: Wednesday, December 17, 12:00 pm

Special Voters Assembly Meeting

Sunday, December 21st After Services (10:30 a.m.)

Agenda:

- Budget Approval
- Election of Officers and Board Chairs

Prayer Requests



Healing Prayers for members:

Catalina Bakas, Wayne Buel, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Lana Garay, Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Wendy Horvath, Nancy Koslowski (knee replacement 11/19/25), Jerry Lindberg, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Cathy Mielke, Tom & Sue Poyer, Randy Schaub, Jim & Bonnie Schluentz, Paulette Sita, Bob Varone, and Pauline Vickey.

Prayers for Friends and relatives:

Mike Bakas, Karen Bartram (niece of Bernadine), Joseph Caivano (Lucia's son, continued recovery), Michelle Cote, Pat Finkenbine, Paulette Gaines (Cherylann Galway's sister), Glenn Galway, Mikayla Hacksunda (Lana's granddaughter), Renee Hickman (Sherrie Keesee's sister), Ann Ledesma, Connor Morrell & Cerena Morrell, Esther Murphy, Merry Sammons, Desiree Schultz, Karen Wasson-Geis.



Financial information is available to
all members upon request.

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!"

Psalm 98:4

K & 1 has finished their lesson on Joseph in the bible; they colored his coat of many colors and learned a valuable lesson about forgiveness. We were able to end our lesson with a visit from Vicar Collins, he sat with the children, and they were able to ask him questions to gain further understanding. This week we are learning lessons about the Pilgrims and how they left England so they could worship without punishment. They were able to make pilgrim hats and learn about the first Thanksgiving. We have also been doing some fun turkey activities as well. The children gave step by step instructions on how to cook a turkey and the responses were very funny. In Math the 1st grade is beginning to learn place value, and the kindergarten is learning basic addition. We look forward to continuing with the Abeka curriculum and enjoy sitting in circle time to go over what we have learned. *Mrs. Cataloni*

6 —Dear Parents and Community, we're excited to share what our 6th graders have been learning across multiple subjects this month! Students have been working hard, engaging in hands-on activities, and building new skills each day. In math, students are diving into fractions! We've been practicing how to multiply, divide, and simplify proper, improper, and mixed fractions. Students are applying these operations to real-world scenarios and growing more confident in their fraction fluency. In language, our focus has been on improving writing accuracy. Students have been identifying and fixing grammatical errors, paying special attention to punctuation, capitalization, and sentence structure. They've also been practicing rewriting sentences to make them clearer, stronger, and more interesting. In science, we are studying Earth's formation and the processes that shape our planet. Students have explored volcanoes, igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, and the complete rock cycle. They are learning how Earth has changed over time and what continues to shape it today. In history, students are traveling through the American West. We've been learning about the Rocky Mountains, the wildlife found within them, the Intermountain Region, desert life, the Pacific Coast, and the vibrant cultures of the Indians of the West. Students are developing a deeper understanding of these regions and the people who lived there. *Mrs. Longenecker*

7 & 8— Good day Redeemer Lutheran Congregation, it has been an exciting month in 7th and 8th graders class. In Math both classes have been learning the value of discounts and coupons, so they know a bargain for the Christmas season. Also, they have been doing Linear Equation and Algebra. In Science they both have been studying and theorizing about the Comet 31/atlas and coming up with different scenarios and theories as to why it could be heading our way. In ELA Both the classes have been busy writing about different topics that they enjoy. We have kids writing about sports, others writing about what they would like to be when they get older. And one has come up with his own business and how he plans on achieving his goal before he gets out of high School. He is choosing to start an HVAC business and has already stated that the school and church, plus myself will get a discount on his services. In History they have been learning about our Veterans and why we celebrate Veteran's Day and its meaning. They helped out by planting the American Flags in the front of the church and cleaning the area for the new

SCHOOL

memorial and flag raising ceremony that we've just had. The kids have told me how honored and privileged they felt working on these projects. As their teacher I am extremely proud of the middle school for rolling up their sleeves and diving in to help and learn about how veterans make sacrifices for everyone around themselves. They have also been learning about the Holocaust, the causes and effects of this monstrous event. Not one of my classes has had the chance in school to study the subject in depth. They will be taking a field trip in January to the Holocaust Memorial in Naples for a firsthand account with survivors to hear their personal stories. The kids have been extremely busy all around, but from my class to all of you, have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving. Safe travels and great fellowship to all. Love *Coach Don*.

Upcoming Dates

December 6 – Rotonda West Parade
December 11 – Gingerbread Day
December 12 – PTL Parents Night Out 6-9 pm
December 18 – Christmas Program
December 19 – Christmas lunch with Santa
December 22-January 7 – Christmas Break
January 5 – Staff return from break



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DAYCARE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

WHAT WE LEARNED

- *Letter of the month: Dd, Gg
- *Number of the month: 9,10
- *Shape of the month: Square
- *Color of the month: Green
- *Bible Lesson: Jesus is Born
- *Bible words: Oh come let us worship (Psalm 95:6)
- *Studying: God has a plan, The good news is spread, God keeps his promises, God leads us to worship
- *FOCUS: JOY AND LAUGHTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

- DEC 23 SANTA BRUNCH
PARENTS WELCOMED
(CLOSING AT 2PM)
- DEC 24-26 CHRISTMAS BREAK
(CLOSED)
- DEC 31 NEW YEARS EVE
(CLOSED)
- DEC 22-23, 29-30, 2-6 CHRISTMAS
ALL DAY CARE
(AFTER SCHOOL) K-5

REMINDERS

- *I NEED A HEAD COUNT FOR ALL STUDENTS BY NOVEMBER 24TH FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK DECEMBER 22ND-23RD, DECEMBER 29TH-30TH & JANUARY 2ND-6TH
- *NO VPK FOR CHRISMAS BREAK DECEMBER 22ND- JANUARY 6TH

BIRTHDAYS

- Jayce M. 12/2
- Ryder B. 12/12
- Avarleigh E. 12/12
- Kameron W. 12/24
- Grace G. 12/29

OPENINGS

ALL CLASSROOMS
HAVE OPENINGS

A Christmas Letter from Jesus

**When you look for me at Christmas
You won't need a special star.
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem
I'm right here where you are.
You may not be aware of me
amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores,
and all the decorations.
But if you take a moment
from your list of things to do
To close your eyes and say a prayer
I'm waiting here for you.
You're the one I want to be with,
You're the reason that I came!
And you'll find me in the stillness
Where I'm whispering your name.**

Word Search Puzzle: Christmas



G O N G G E Y T O M A J I N N E E C S G
 N E M E S I W E E R H T J A F U N H N O
 J O L L Y O L D S A I N T N I C K R O O
 X C S Z S J Y T S W N I W Y R V G I I D
 F O V H K K O O G T V I S A O I I S T C
 R E B M E C E D J I F N O D D W M T A H
 T G V C K P O X T F O I T I Z H X M R E
 O J Z I N T H Y U I O W G L S V W A O E
 F U N N V O S E T G A S Y O Y J H S C R
 A G E Y P C N I R G O N G H C T G T E P
 M G V B E K D Q Q D G L G N A J E R D V
 I S A N T A C L A U S H E E I P Q E B W
 L H E N R M A N G E R R R L L D L E K C
 Y P Y T K W F R Q A S W R M U S I H P X
 E D M F P Y A D N P H C U K C Y Z T F D

angels
 Christmas tree
 December
 decorations
 eggnog
 family
 gifts

good cheer
 holiday
 Jolly Old Saint Nick
 manger
 nativity scene
 Santa Claus
 shepherds

stocking
 Three Wise Men
 tidings of joy
 traditions
 wreath
 yule log

Luke 2:14: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,
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6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

Church Phone: 941-475-2410

Church Fax: 941-475-9726

Email: Church.Office@redeemerfl.com

School Phone: 941-473-7998

Email: School.Office@redeemerfl.com

Child Care Phone: 941-475-2631

Email: redeemerchildcare@gmail.com

REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, associate members and visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Redeemer is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. (LCMS).

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Divine Service: 9:15 am

Bible Study: 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)*