



“WE ARE OF TWO MINDS”

The brother of our Lord Jesus says, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (James 1:5-8).

The etymology of the word “doubt” is from the Latin word *dubius* meaning “uncertain,” which is also a word in our English language. Look more deeply, however, and you find the word rooted in the Latin word *duo*, which of course means two. *Dubium* means a choice between two things. Another way of looking at this is to compare doubt with double, a word that comes from the same Latin root word, *dubius*. To entertain doubts is to be undecided, to have two minds on the matter, to be unstable in all ways.

Trust me this is useful because

it describes us very well as Christians today. We say we want the truth but, the truth is, we run after every falsehood that appeals to our minds as well as our hearts. We say we want to be confident of that truth but, we allow every naysayer to disarm this truth and leave us with uncertainty and doubt. We say we want to hold on to that which is larger than the moment and even eternal but, we cave to the whim of desire nearly every chance we get. We insist that we are our own people and go our own way but, seldom risk this lonely path without the support of others. We insist we are individuals but, we walk in herds, we walk in step with those ahead of us even when we fear they are going the wrong way.

We are like this not only in the matter of religion and faith but, of life itself. We love and hate our jobs. We love our friends but, spend most of our time with them filtered through media, like Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, etc. We love healthy

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Any man
can
be a father
but it takes
someone special
to be a Dad.



STEWARDSHIP

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give! (LSB 781:1-2).

In many congregations these stanzas are sung every Sunday when the offerings of God's faithful people are received. It's a sung reminder of who God is and who we are in relation to Him, of what God does for us and gives to us, and how we respond to His generosity.

We are stewards of God's varied grace to us. As stewards we acknowledge that God owns all things and that everything in heaven and on earth belongs to Him (1 Chron 29:14; Ps 24:1; Ps 100:3; 1 Cor 4:7; 1 Cor 6:19). Even we ourselves—all that we are and all that we have—are His. We are His because He created us, preserves us, redeemed us, and sanctifies us. As the stewards of what He has done for us and given to us, we give of our first fruits to Him and His Church.

And the Lord receives them and presses them into a use all His own. He sanctifies it. He hallows it. He uses it to ensure that the Word

of God is still preached among us. He uses it to ensure that there is water for Baptism, bread and wine for His Holy Supper. He uses what He gives to you and what you give back to Him for your good. Everything that happens in the church is purchased with the giving of the saints from what God has provided them. Holy giving from holy people pressed into holy service.

But there's more. For our giving does not just make the liturgical life of the church possible. It's not just the necessary means by which the vessels and sacramental elements, the hymn books and pastors are made available. The giving of God's stewards is part of the liturgy itself, part of the Divine Service. It is one of our responses within the liturgy where we, not just with words spoken or sung, but with deeds declare, live out and live in, the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet 2:9). Our offerings are part of God's sanctifying work that He has us do in the Divine Service for the life of the world.

That's what makes our stewardship so precious and significant. God hallows what we give and employs it to sanctify us and others. And that is why we sing: "And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!"

LCMS June Newsletter

FROM THE TREASURER



April 1-30, 2015:

<u>ACTUAL</u>		<u>BUDGET</u>		<u>OVER/(UNDER)</u>
INCOME:	\$14,958	INCOME:	\$15,404	(446)
EXPENSE:	\$13,892	EXPENSE:	\$17,393	(3,501)

FIRST QUARTER (Jan.-Mar.)

INCOME:	\$55,427	INCOME:	\$46,224	9,203
EXPENSE:	\$54,243	EXPENSE:	\$52,225	2,018

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter it's time for us to roll up our sleeves. All one has to do is look around our campus and see that much has to be done. The years have taken their toll and some wear and tear here and there needs to be addressed. Some of the work we can do ourselves but some will have to be contracted out. Due to our financial situation we need to prioritize and first address the areas where the problem might be a potential hazard or where further neglect would lead to a much more expensive repair.

At the present we are looking at repairing the carpet in the sanctuary. There are some places where carpeting is missing and we are fearful that someone may trip and fall. It would be nice to replace the carpet but first the sanctuary needs to be repainted. We have many hairline cracks around the walls of the church. A few hairline cracks would indicate just normal settling but many cracks indicate a shifting of the footing. Since we don't have rain gutters we suspect that to be the problem. Our steeple is in need of attention. We hope to cover these costs with grants from the earnings of the Endowment Fund.

In the Narthex is a poster asking for your help. Please consider how you can use your talents, time, and resources, the Lord has blessed you with. Just about all of our boards and committees are short of manpower and need your help. Don't wait to be asked. Call that board chair or committee head to see how you can help.

On property appreciation days show up and help. We have 10 acres of property with three buildings plus two sheds that need to be maintained. If all those of us that are physically able show up, you would be amazed as to how much can be done in a short period of time.

You all know our financial situation, things are really tight. We need your help. Please consider increasing your regular offering by a certain percentage. Any addition to your regular offerings will ease the pressure to meet our obligations.

To our Brothers and Sisters that have gone back to your other church families we miss you guys and look forward for your return in the Fall. Remember Redeemer in your prayers and also with your financial support. Please consider using Joyful Response as a convenient way of providing much needed financial support.

None of us have all the answers, but together and with God's help we can overcome our current situation.

God bless each and every one of us. See you in church.

President, Joe Carlos

SERVING THE LORD

Pastor	Rev. James Kress
Seasonal Pastor	
LHM Ambassador	

Child Care Director	Wendy Horvath
Office Secretary	Deb Horner
Organist	Bill Bowers
Choir Director	Collins Sita
Newsletter Editor	Deb Horner

OFFICERS

President	Joe Carlos
Vice President	Stephen Wurster
Treasurer	Denise Fountain
Secretary	June Brown

BOARDS

Head Elder	
Christian Ed.	Pam Replinger
Human Care	Carol Carlos
Outreach	Cindy Johnson
Assimilation	Mary Kay Straw
School Board	Bill Bowers
Stewardship	Rev. Mark Steinke
Youth	James Straw
Financial Secretary	Deb Horner
Property Mgmt.	Todd Armstrong

GROUPS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild	Sally Zierdt
Men's Group	
Altar Guild	
Coffee Hour	

JOYFUL RESPONSE (LCEF) PROGRAM

Dear Members and Associate Members of
Redeemer Lutheran Church,

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has a stewardship program called *Joyful Response*. This program can benefit us as individuals, as a congregation, as well as our fellow Lutherans Synod-wide. What's so special about this program? It is offered at absolutely no cost to us as individuals or as a congregation.

Joyful Response is a great description of how the Gospel moves us into action. The Gospel message of Jesus' love and sacrifice for us motivates us to respond, in faith, by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Joyful Response* allows us to be more conscientious and consistent about our giving.

Through *Joyful Response*, (LCEF) allows us a very simple way to give to the mission and support of Christ's church here in Englewood and abroad as well. As already mentioned *Joyful Response* is free. It is also a secure program that allows us to give our tithes, offerings and gifts on a scheduled basis to Redeemer Lutheran Church.

This program has several advantages for so many people. Here are a few:

FOR YOU: It allows you consistent and scheduled giving in a safe and secure way. If you live here in Englewood, there is no more need to search for your offering envelopes, writing a check and waiting for it to be cashed. For those who spend time on vacations or who split their time between Florida and a northern state, it enables you to continue to support the ministry here in Englewood while away.

FOR YOUR LOCAL CHURCH: It enables better budgeting. We are able to rely on specific and consistent income so that bills can be paid and mission opportunities can be planned and carried out.

FOR THE CHURCH AT

LARGE: It enables the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to use the funds to grow mission churches for greater outreach and the spread of the Gospel saving message. This would enable a greater joyful response from more children of the faith from generation to generation.

As stated above, your automatic contributions are safe and secure in a proven system. Only one person, Deb Horner, our Financial Secretary, would know of any personal information locally. And did I mention *Joyful Response* is free?

Friends, all of this points to good and faithful stewardship on the part of the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church and for the Church as an entire entity.

Enclosed in this Newsletter is an application.

Please look it over and prayerfully consider your participation in this stewardship program. If you believe *Joyful Response* will be a benefit to you, please complete the form, indicate on the envelope *Joyful Response* and return to our church office to the attention of Deb Horner, Financial Secretary. If you are unable to print out an application, they may be picked up at the Visitor's Desk in the church Narthex or in our church office.

Thank you for your consideration as we work and walk together to carry out the work and ministry of Christ Jesus our Lord and only Savior. The Lord richly bless you in His grace.

Joe Carlos,

President, Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care

Rev. Mark Steinke,

Chairman, Board of Stewardship

Rev. Jim Kress

Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care

*Joyful
Response®*

"WE ARE OF TWO MINDS"



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food but give into our guilty pleasures. We honor people of principle but we tend to surrender our principles on the altar of desire and go with what feels good. We want accountability in government but only if our politicians tell us what we want to hear. We want the rule of law to apply equally unless we are guilty of an infraction and then we have all sorts of reasons, excuses, and justifications why it shouldn't apply to us.

And you know what? I'm just as guilty as the rest of us. As we have learned from the Augsburg Confession Article XX, good works is the fruit of faith. On the other hand, doubt is the fruit of sin. Before sin stains us with guilt, before sin marks us for death, before creation has become a battleground, and before God became our enemy, sin all began with simple doubt. "Did God really say ... ? Does the Word of God really mean ... ? Does God really want you to ... ?" These became the cracks that were quickly filled with guilt, shame, regret, and bitterness. We became of two minds toward God back in the Garden of Eden and it has not changed since.

Here's the good news, the Christian becomes a new person, created in Christ Jesus from the waters of new birth in Baptism, as a child of God and co-heir with Christ, receiving the salvation in whom the Spirit lives, works, and speaks. But the old Adam has not shut up and continues to plant doubt, and lots of it, in our minds about God's promises, about His reliability, about His trustworthiness, and about the certainty of His unending grace.

What happens is that these doubts either drive us into the arms of Christ or out of them.

No one is ever brought to more certainty by abandoning the fellowship of God's people gathered around the Word and Table of the Lord. No one is ever made more secure in the arms of God's unending grace by getting what they want, what they pray for, or what they think will make their lives perfect.

Believe it or not, adversity does have the power to drive us from the abounding grace of God but adversities, trials, struggles, and tribulations also have the power to drive home the truth that this abundant and unending love of God is the only security we know this side of heaven's glory.

We lie to ourselves, yes we do, by insisting God would not want us to suffer and so we indulge in what we know is evil and wrong. We choose a moment of sinful pleasure over an eternity of joy. We lie to ourselves that if God really loved us then all these bad things would not be happening to us. We rather choose to believe that God's purpose is merely the clean-up crew who fixes our own self-indulgent wrongs and the struggles of living in a sinful world clearly at odds with His purpose and plan. And then we feel justified in rejecting God while finding that such rejection has not authored any word of peace for our hearts but only the poisoned fruit of bitterness, despair, and hopelessness.

What will you do with your doubts? That is the question. Will we stew and fret in them until the only thing we know is uncertainty? Or will we surrender them to meet the Lord where He will be found: in the rich green pastures of His Word and the still quiet waters of His Sacraments. This is what I struggle with every day and, I suspect, it is where you live also. If I have learned one thing over my life, doubt offers me no refuge, no peace, no promise, no future, and only the most painful

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regret. Faith is always a risk but its risk cannot be as empty as the alternative of doubt, despair, and death.

Let us rejoice that God has sent to us the Spirit of truth to keep our mind stable in the His Word of truth. Let us rejoice that God has also

sent us the Spirit of truth to make known to our fearful and double hearts the true Gospel and to break down the walls of our hearts to believe. Furthermore, let us pray as a Church and as individual Christians: Lord, I believe. Help me in my unbelief.

In His Service,
Pastor Kress



We Are All the Duggars By Chad Bird

Yesterday (May 26th) this article by me and my friend, Daniel Emery Price, was published on the Liberate website. It has since had over 10,000 shares so, needless to say, readers are interested in this subject. If you've been following the Duggar family, then here is a biblical approach to the scandal that has enveloped them.

Leo Tolstoy famously wrote, "All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." The problem is that I've yet to meet a family that fits into Tolstoy's tidy categories of "happy" and "unhappy." The reality is far messier. Put tears and laughter, love and betrayal, fights and hugs into a blender and out will come a family. Even in homes where the walls are decorated with portraits of grinning moms and dads and kids, there's usually a closet door that's kept shut. Last week we were reminded of that, when the media flung open that door in the Duggar family home. And the skeletons came spilling out.

Josh Duggar, now twenty seven, the oldest son in TLC's hit show, "19 Kids and Counting," sexually abused five underage girls—four of

them his sisters—when he was in his early teens. On the family's Facebook page, Josh, his wife, and his parents have acknowledged this, as well as described how they addressed the abuse a dozen years ago when it occurred. Josh, who had been a lobbyist in Washington D.C. for the Family Research Council, has since resigned his position. And TLC will not be airing any episodes of "19 Kids and Counting" for the foreseeable future.



What happened within this family is many things—tragic and abusive, shameful and selfish, destructive and deceptive. It is all manner of evil, no matter how you look at it. But

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We Are All the Duggars

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there is one thing that it is surely not: it is not surprising. Not in the least. The only ones stunned by this revelation of abuse are most likely those who assume that the Duggar family image on their reality show does, in fact, accurately reflect reality. But there is no reason why this family's secret should be shocking, especially to the Christian. The Duggars are not the pristine, ideal family that their television show portrays them as being. They never have been, nor will they ever be. Nor is any family. They are parents, sons, and daughters who have a civil war raging within each of them. It just so happens that Josh's particular battles, and the pain he inflicted upon others as a result, have taken center stage.

Consider these words: "I don't understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." These are the words of Paul, the one we've dubbed Saint Paul. He frankly admits that he's anything but a model of moral perfection. "I do the very thing I hate," he admits. He's got a civil war raging inside him, too. He's fully sinful in himself and fully righteous in Jesus Christ, all at the same time. He is what the Reformers called *simul justus et peccator* (simultaneously saint and sinner). What Paul's particular struggles were, what those things he hated were, he doesn't say. He doesn't have to. He's simply upfront about his condition—the fallen, curved-in-on-itself human condition.

As it was with Paul, so it is with the Duggars, and so it is with every Christian: each of us lugs around an old corrupt nature that we won't shed this side of the grave. Of course, that nature rears its ugly head in different ways with each person, sometimes in ways that must be addressed with spiritual as well as psychological help. With Josh, sadly, it was through sexual abuse; with others it's through addictions and greed and hate and selfishness

of every kind. But one thing is certain: not just Josh but all of us harbor our demons. And the sinful nature within us is daily clawing its way out to manifest itself in ways great and small, public and private. Only liars and fools pretend otherwise.

The sooner we as individual Christians, as Christian families, and as churches present ourselves to the world that way, the better. Believers face more than petty allurements, make more than "mistakes." We fail and fall in mega ways.

Dear world, do you struggle with alcohol or drug abuse? So do we believers.

Dear world, has your family been wounded by infidelities? So have ours.

Dear world, have your children hurt each other through sexual abuse? Yes, ours too.

Dear world, do your families members commit crimes and end up in prison? Ours too.

Dear world, do you have a closet full of skeletons? So do we Christians.

The greatest witness that Christians can present to the world is not their own morality, their ideal family, or their dream marriage, but their weaknesses and sins and failures, all of which have been atoned for by the crucified and resurrected Jesus. Our witness is never, "Look at how well we're doing at being good," but always, "Look at the good Savior who died for our evils."

Here's what happens inside the closed doors of Christian families: sinners live together in very close proximity. And you know what that means. Husbands who are righteous in Christ, but sinful in themselves, do and say mean and hurtful things to their wives. Wives who are righteous in Christ, but sinful in themselves, do and say mean and hurtful things to their husbands. Christian children mess up big time, rebel, and yes, sometimes sexually abuse others. We do terrible things. Tempers flare,

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We Are All the Duggars

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eyes lust, tongues yell. In other words, sinners act the way sinners are. We are no better than the world is. Nor should we claim to be. We are far from perfect. We are by nature sinful and unclean. And because of that, we return, again and again, to the blood Christ shed that atones for our sins—the same blood, dear world, that has atoned for yours as well.

Christians families do not live on the mountaintop of morality but at the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ. In his shadow is shelter from the burning sun of iniquity. Whatever repercussions Josh may experience from what he's done, he will find at the foot of the cross a God who does not punish him, but says, "I love you. I have forgiven you. My blood has made you whiter than snow." If this seems scandalous, then you're beginning to understand the grace of Christ. Christ's love is a scandalous gift. He didn't die for the not-so-sinful portion of humanity. He was crucified for all. He died for sexual abusers, murderers, gossips, hatemongers, adulterers, pornographers, and you—whoever you are, whatever skeletons may be piled in your family closet.

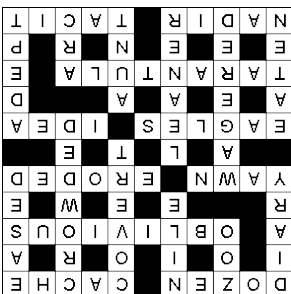
But there's still more that Jesus did. Christ took upon himself the shame that others inflict upon innocent victims. He lived and died and rose again for the girls that Josh abused. The battered wife, the rape victim, the child whose bedtime lullaby was the screams of a drunk father—these who have been physically,

emotionally, and psychologically harmed by the evils of others, they too find peace and wholeness in the battle-torn, broken body of the Son of God. He didn't just die to forgive us for the wrongs we do, but to provide us with healing from the wrongs others do to us. For in Christ, the Spirit puts us into communion with a restoring God. He gives us the peace that passes understanding. Not the evil that others have done to us, but the good Christ has done for us, is what defines who we are. We are God's sons and daughters. We are adopted into the family of a Father whose greatest joy is loving and embracing us as the dearest things in all creation to him.

Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar have said, "We pray that as people watch our lives they see that we are not a perfect family." We would echo that prayer, and add to it. I would pray that as people watch their lives—and as they watch the life of my family as well—they would see families that boast only of their weaknesses, that do not deny their flaws, and that find peace and healing only in Jesus Christ.

We are all the Duggars. We are all dysfunctional sinners living in flawed families upheld by grace. There is only one who is perfect, the one who became our sin, that in him we might become the righteousness of God. And in his wounds, bleeding with love, all of us find healing.

You can read more of Chad's writings at <https://birdchadlouis.wordpress.com/> also known as the Flying Scroll.



Dear Church: An Open Letter From One of Those Millennials You Can't Figure Out

A lot's been made over the millennial generation and their religious life. Why they go to church. Why they don't go to church. What they want. What they hate.

I'm going to do something different here. I'm not going to cite Barna. I'm not going to quote Rachel Held Evans. I'm not going to link to any articles or blog posts.

I'm just going to tell you what's true for me, and what I've seen to be true of others like me.

I am one of those rascally millennials, by the way. One of those enigmatic, paradoxical, media-dependent, coffee-drinking young people swept together under this millennial umbrella. Except coffee tears up my stomach, so I dropped that stuff.

I was born when a former actor was in the White House. I was crushed the day slap bracelets were banned from my elementary school. I remember hiding in my room with my five-inch TV to watch Friends and Seinfeld and the Simpsons, and all the other shows I wasn't allowed to see. I don't remember what it's like to not have a home computer. I can barely recall a time before cell phones. I've never left home without one.

I've always been in church. I've never left, though I've come close several times. I would have left in high school if I'd had the option, but in my house, attendance at my cool, hip, contemporary-worshiping, youth-group-glorifying, moralism-preaching, theology-eschewing McCongregation was a non-negotiable.

So I went. Through every repetition of "Shout to the Lord," every True Love Waits commitment ceremony, every rapture-ready dispensationalist Bible study, every sermon series on how to make myself into a good, moral, well-behaved person so that I wouldn't tick off God and bring condemnation to

America.

But I was always a misfit. Always a skeptic. Always a doubter. Always an outsider.

Today, you're my livelihood, and putting food on my table overcomes the gravitational pull of my mattress on a cold, rainy Sunday morning. Or a hot, dry one. Or any other one. But that pull is still there. It's always been there. It's never left.



The truth is, my relationship with you is still love-hate.

I love the theology, but I hate the expectations of pseudo piety.

Love the gospel, hate the patriotic moralism.

Love the Bible, hate the way it's used.

Love Jesus, but hate what we've done with him.

Love worship, but hate Jesusy entertainment.

And those other kids I went to church with, I've come to find that many of them were misfits, skeptics, and doubters, too. Some of them still go, but more of them have left.

Some of them left because they had no desire to conform to an outdated cultural norm that demanded we keep up appearances by parking our butts in our regular Sunday pew.

They didn't believe, and didn't believe they needed to pretend that they did.

Others have left because they grew keen to the bait-and-switch tactics. They've left because they didn't fit in, and couldn't pretend

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Dear Church: An Open Letter

From One of Those Millennials You Can't Figure Out

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anymore. They left because the Jesus preached from the pulpit didn't look much like the Jesus of Nazareth. They left because all the bells and whistles and hooks and marketing rang hollow.

They left because they had been constantly catered to, constantly kept busy, but had never been taught how to be a part of the church.

The programs won't bring them back.

The coffee won't bring them back.

The show – the lights, fog machine, the contemporary worship that we think is essential – nope, that won't do it, either.

But here are a few things that might just work with some of us. They may seem crazy. They may contradict everything you've heard. But, as one of these millennials, this is what would work for me, and for a lot of the people I know who have left.

Don't expect a "worship style" to do your dirty work. Contemporary worship hasn't worked. The longer we extend the life of this failed experiment, the more we see the results.

In my experience, contemporary worship brings in three groups. Baby boomers who are still stuck in their rebellion against the establishment, parents who mistakenly think that contemporary worship is the only way for their kids to connect to the church, and a small percentage of young adults who've never left and who never knew anything other than contemporary worship.

In modeling worship after commercial entertainment, you've compromised your identity, and we're still not coming back.

And even if we did, would there be any church left? Would there be anything beyond the frills, the lights, the performance, the affected vocals? Would we still see a cross? Would we still find our place among the saints who have come

before? Would we find reminders of our life-long need of grace?

Or would we have been hooked by something altogether different? Would we merely find your answer key for the great mystery of faith?

Don't give us entertainment, give us liturgy. We don't want to be entertained in church, and frankly, the church's attempt at entertainment is pathetic. Enough with the theatrics. Enough with the lights, the visuals, the booming audio, the fog machine, the giveaway gimmicks, the whole production. Follow that simple yet profound formula that's worked for the entire history of the church. Entrance, proclamation, thanksgiving, sending out. Gathering, preaching, breaking bread, going forth in service. Give us a script to follow, give us songs to sing, give us the tradition of the church, give us Holy Scripture to read. Give us sacraments, not life groups, to grow and strengthen us.

Week after week, season after season, year after year, let us participate in the drama of the gospel. It's not supposed to be fun. It's not supposed to produce intense emotional response. It's a microcosmic, disciplined, anticipatory remembrance of who we were, who we are, and who we are to be. We need this. We need these heartfelt rituals in our lives to keep us returning to the fount of grace, to mark our way back home.

Be yourself, and you just might shake us out of our technology-induced, entertainment-craving slumber. Keep giving us Jesusy versions of mainstream entertainment, and there's no hope. You can't compete. You'll lose every time.

Don't target us. In doing so, you've marketed and advertised yourself into oblivion. We're left with homogeneous congregations of approximately the same ages and backgrounds who are just there for what they can get out of the church. No wonder we've left. Just be the

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Dear Church: An Open Letter From One of Those Millennials You Can't Figure Out

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church. Be yourself. Use your regular old liturgy. Offer your regular old sacraments. Sing your regular old songs. Cast a wide net, and let whosoever will come. Trust me, we're more likely to show up when we don't feel like fish snapping up the bait.

Be inclusive. Tear down silos. Save us from ourselves. We don't need more youth group lock-ins, more Sunday School options for each age group, more senior adult outings on beekeeping and genealogy. We need more of each other. We need to look into the faces of old and young, rich and poor, of different colors, races, and ethnic backgrounds, so we can learn to see Jesus in faces that don't look like us. So we can remember that the kingdom is bigger than our safe, suburban bubble. That's right, we need community, not bound together by age or economic status or skin color, but wrought with the hammering of nails on a wooden cross.

Our internet connectivity is just fine. The rest of our lives is a different story. We are hopelessly disconnected. Church, you can be a powerful remedy if you stop posing as a Fortune 500 company scheming to sell a product.

Welcome the toughest, deepest, grittiest, most desperate, most shocking questions. We have lots of questions. More and more, what we see in the world doesn't jive with what we grew up hearing from the pulpit. You have done more damage by requiring politeness, by refusing to engage, by brusquely rebuking honesty and vulnerability. You're better than that, church. At least you should be. You should be a safe place for struggling, grappling, doubting.

Allow us to be real with each other, to avoid the temptation to gloss over the crap going on around us with easy, tidy, Jesusy clichés'. You've always taught us how the world is black and white, just like *The Andy Griffith Show* and *I Love Lucy*. But, and excuse us for noticing, the world is mostly gray, gray like Ricky Ricardo's dinner jacket and Barney Fife's nightstick. Let's embrace that grayness together.

So no more three points and a take home. No more self-help. No more marriage and parenting advice. No more anger management pointers. We don't need you to be our therapist, we need you to be our church. We need you to grapple with us, to push back. We need you to show us how to be the hands and feet of Christ, to struggle with us in making it more on earth as it is in heaven.

It's not too late, church, but your tactics aren't working.

It's time for a new strategy.

It's time to be uncool. To be radical. To be different.

It's time to be yourself.

Your Friend,
Jonathan



PRAYERS

SHUT-INS: Carl & Betty Bertka, Marjorie Boliere, Betty Keller, Helen Perry, and Ruth Sutley.

HEALING: Mickie Abel, Neva Aldene, Alice Borowski, Melissa Brew, Pat Finkenbine, Terry Fountain, Bernice Heppner, Susuan Jahns, Ken Miekke, Martin McGrath, Sandy McGrath, Joe Maramonte, Bob Mortenson, Marlene Mossner, Carolyn Plesner, Don & Bonnie Roussin, Duwayne Schoeneck, Fred Toth, Bob Varone, Arlene Wiley and Robert Vickey.

Friends & Relatives: Esther Ahtila, Linny Aspery, Gioconda Barlow, Dick & Marilyn Bjornas, Grace Blum, Michelle Bernard, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Jack Carlos, Diane Carr, Debbie Carr, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Joanne Clymo, Martin Cressman, Renee Dempsey, Dale DesJardins, Irene DiTommaso, James Dodge, Barb Dumeah, Bruce Everson, Darla Finkenbine, Marla Flores, Lou Fountain, Manual Galan, Glenn Galway, Liam Garland, Nancy Gleis, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Joel Heppner, Walter Heppner, Glory Herget, Joan Hillis, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Carol Holmes, Linda Holt, Roger Houser, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Stanley & Lynne



Jablonski, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, John Kearns, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Stacey Lampert, Friends and Family of Wayne Lewin, Ray Likowski, Denise Line, Sean Maki, Joe Manson, Pete Mogg, John Montondo, Mike Morrissey, Maureen Nesvacil, Randy Parkinson, Charles Pentecost Jr., Margo Plamondon, Mary Raines, Rachell Sanders, Ryan Sheahan, Don Shepherd, Friends and Family of John Sleichert, Nancy Sly, Debbie Speer Smith, Virginia Stanley, Charles Tolley, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Reece Withers, Tim Wright, and Angel Zavala.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Eion Guelfi, Brian Jackson, Joshua Jones, Jonathan Koen, David MacLeod, Steven Seigmundt, Charles D. Weishaar.

***The deadline for the July Newsletter is June 16th
Please have all your submissions sent to
redeemerfl@verizon.net OR
drop it off at the church office to
Deb by the date indicated above.
Thank You!***

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.

BIBLE STUDY

DYING TO LIVE *The Power of Forgiveness*

A nine part DVD series featuring Rev. Dr. Harold Senkbeil

More and more it seems that the world and its media are shaping our culture. We work to be spiritual people ... but how does one get and stay connected to the Creator?

In this DVD series Rev. Senkbeil helps us to better understand as baptized Christians how this spiritual relationship takes place, and how this gives us a life of forgiveness and hope.

Each DVD session is approximately 20 minutes in length. A study guide is also included that provides appropriate discussion questions for each segment. The sessions include:

Part I: The Incarnational Foundation of the Christian Life

Our Dying World

Our Living Lord

Our Death/His Cross

Part II: The Sacramental Focus of the Christian Life

Holy Baptism: Water of Life

Holy Absolution: Word of Life

Holy Supper: Feast of Life

Part III: The Liturgical Shape of the Christian Life

Divine Service: The Liturgical Life Together

Private Prayer: Liturgical Life Alone

Christian Vocation: Liturgical Life in the World

This series will begin Sunday, January 4, 2015.

Come join us on Sunday mornings at 8:00 AM before services.



ENGLEWOOD HELPING HANDS

At this time of year, Englewood Helping Hands is very busy and are always in need of supplies for their pantry. **Also, if you would like to volunteer to help at the pantry, contact Englewood Helping Hands at 941-474-5864.** If you would like to donate to their pantry, following is a list of the current needs: canned chicken, tuna or ham, peanut butter & jelly, mac & cheese, canned fruit, cereal, rice, soups, toilet paper, paper towels, bar soap, shampoo, clothes detergent and dish soap. Thank you for all your support.



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is invited to the Fellowship every Thursday, starting at 10:00. Several of our Snow birds are returning and we have a full house of tables. We are happy to add more. The most popular things to play are: Pinochle, Phase 10, SkipBO, and Hand & Foot. We also have Dominoes or other games if they are requested. There must be something you would like to have fun with, so come on out. Once in awhile we have a special home made lunch but usually everyone brings a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert furnished.



KRAFT KORNER

We are always in need of items we can sell in our corner. Even if you think it is junk "remember, your junk is someone else's treasurer. Please check around and see what you might have. We have a pretty good supply of books if you need to read while relaxing or waiting in doctors office. Come check it out.

LUTERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTION

If you are not familiar with the Lutheran Witness magazine, it has undergone some wonderful improvements this past year. Renewed or new subscriptions are now being received. If you would like to renew or begin a subscription, please contact the church office. Yearly subscriptions are \$11.00 and all checks should be made out to Redeemer Lutheran Church c/o The Lutheran Witness. The Lutheran Witness can also be obtained electronically or by way of a mobile application. Go to the following link in order to get connected today: <http://www.lcms.org/resources/publications>.

PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY

We sure could use some help on our Property Appreciations 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 June 13th, 2015 at 10:00 AM.**



HUMAN CARE

Those of you that do not have computers are sometimes unaware of illness and deaths in our church family. We are beginning a prayer chain to keep you informed of what is happening in our family. We would like the names and phone numbers of all who do not have computers so we may keep you informed. **Please either call Carol 941-255-3354 or send a mailing with the above information.** We will then include you in our prayer chain.



Summer at Redeemer Child Care



June 2015 Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays at
3:45

6/1 The Good Shepherd
John 10:1-18

6/8 The Parable of the
Sower
Matthew 13:1-23

6/15 Daniel in the lion's
Den
Daniel 6

6/22 The Three Men in
the Fiery Furnace
Daniel 3



Dear God,
You gave us Jesus to die
on the cross. Thank you
for rescuing us!
We love You!
Amen

Birthdays

Wesley 6/1
Hunter 6/1
Isabella H. 6/3
Jacob 6/4
Makayla 6/8
Janiyah 6/10
Caleb W. 6/14
Lilyana S. 6/14
6/16 Ava T.
Lilyana R. 6/20
Danielle 6/25
Kolton 6/26



VBS
July 27-31



Volunteers needed!
Please call Pam Replinger at
473-9018 or Wendy H. at
475-2631



Summer is here and we will
be very busy with pool
days, field trips, the ice
cream truck, special
activities and more.

Special Days in June

6/21 Father's Day



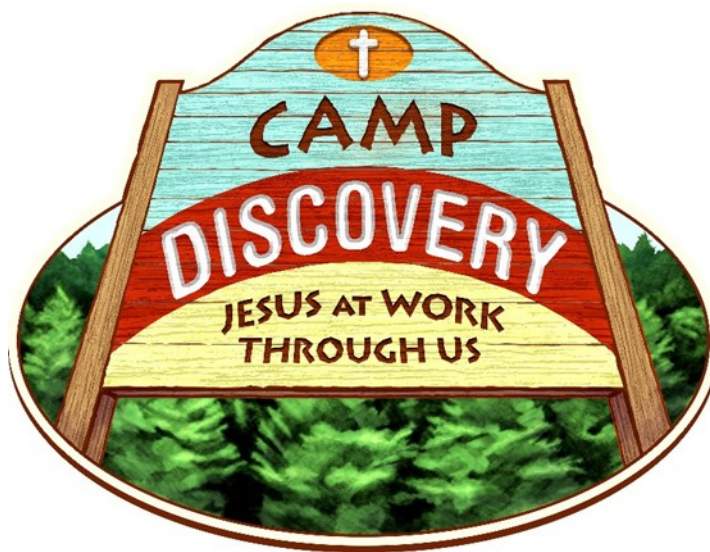
VPK Graduation

June 4, 2015



Congratulations to the
VPK Class of 2015!

*Submitted by Wendy
Horvath*



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

***Concordia's Camp Discovery...
Jesus at Work Through Us
JULY 27th – 31st (9am – Noon)***

At Camp Discovery, kids have fun as they explore the Bible, make new friends, sing songs, and learn how Jesus works through them in their everyday lives. Campers discover 5 Bible truths that excite and challenge them. Jesus, their True North, gives them the wisdom and the courage to step out in faith and serve—whether they're at school, playing with friends, or helping out at home. Now, that's a VBS with purpose!

**PLEASE CALL PAM REPLINGER AT 941-473-9018 OR
WENDY HORVATH AT 941-475-2631 IF YOU WOULD LIKE
TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS YEAR'S VBS! THANK YOU!**

MEMORIAL GIFT—CRUCIFIX DEDICATION

The blessing of our new Processional Crucifix was made possible through the generosity of the family of Marie Talley. Marie as a result of her faithful service and love for Jesus and His Church will be long remembered. We know that the cross was the instrument which was used to crucify Jesus, the Savior of the world. However, a cross with a corpus (body) represents the central doctrine of Christianity (justification), that Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, died as the sacrifice for sins, fully atoning for all that God, the Father, required. As you gaze upon the crucifix, may you be reminded of the eternal blessings you have in a loving, merciful, and compassionate Savior, who died for you, that you may live with Him. What a perfect picture of grace - Jesus on the cross.



ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

Date	Set-up	Clean-up
Sunday, June 7th	Jim and Mary Kay Straw	Lora Laurain Gretchen Armstrong
Sunday, June 14th	Gwen Wurster Carol Carlos	Deb Horner Lisa Kress
Sunday, June 21st	Carolyn Francis Bernice Heppner	Jim and Mary Kay Straw
Sunday, June 28th	Laurie Steinke Lisa Kress	Gwen Wurster Carol Carlos

CLASSIFIEDS

Real Estate Services

Lora Laurain
Placida Properties 888-941-9444 or Cell 941-408-5292

Lawn Care

Call Todd Armstrong at 941-961-7584 for your lawn care needs.



FREE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS, HERE IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!!!

We have limited space, but space available, for you to place your FREE advertisement. Please contact the Church office by phone or email if you would like to place an ad.

LOST AND FOUND

If anyone is missing any items, namely eyeglasses, gloves, umbrellas, etc., please check the Lost & Found box located in the narthex.

GREETERS

June 7th Denise & Terry Fountain

***June 14th Martha Winters
Sally Zierdt***

June 21st TBA

June 28th TBA

***Submitted by
Assimilation***



COFFEE HOUR

June 7th TBA

June 14th TBA

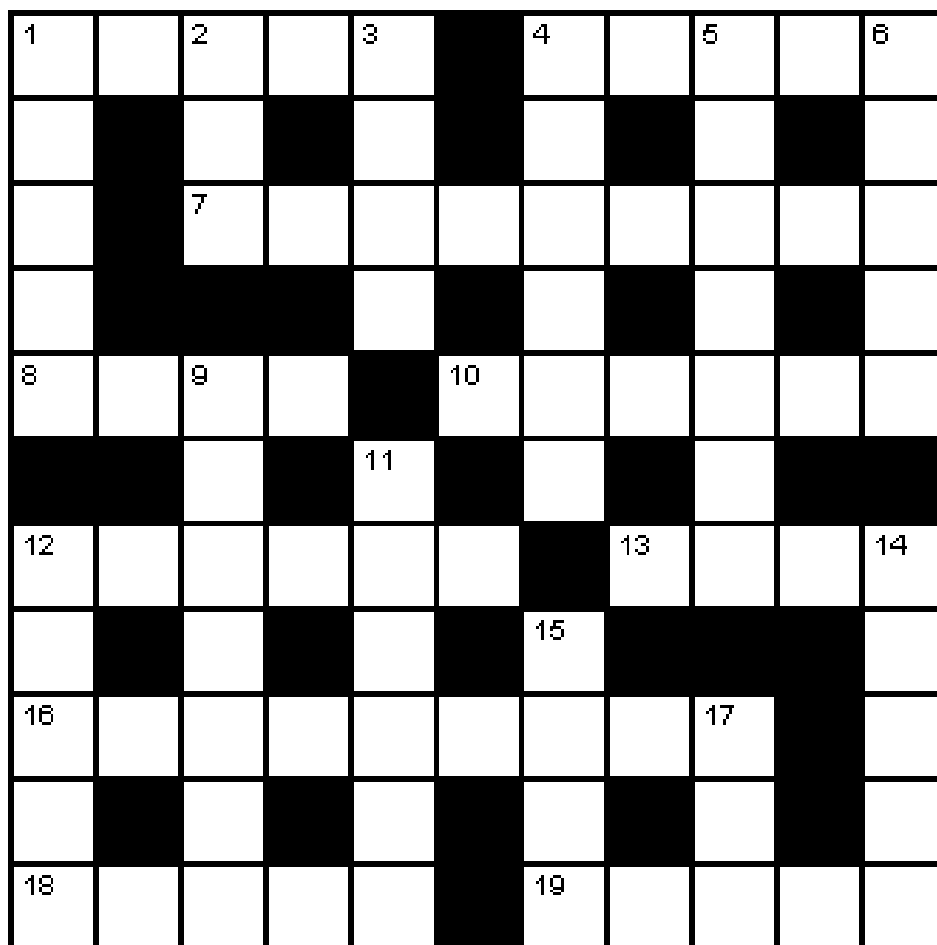
June 21st Mary Kay Straw

June 28th TBA

***Submitted by Brd. of
Community &
Parish Fellowship***



PUZZLE PAGE



Across

1. Twelve (5)
4. Hoard (5)
7. Unaware (9)
8. Gape (4)
10. Wore away (6)
12. Birds of prey (6)
13. Notion (4)
16. Large spider (9)
18. The lowest point of anything (5)
19. Implied (5)

Down

1. Journal (5)
2. Menagerie (3)
3. World's longest river (4)
4. Secret or hidden (6)
5. Bustling (7)
6. Abated (5)
9. Placed a bet (7)
11. Thinner (6)
12. Consumed (5)
14. Proficient (5)
15. Female relative (4)
17. Part of a circle (3)



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Solution on Page 8



Web—Church: www.redeemerfl.com



Web—Child Care: www.redeemerfl-cc.com

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

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED - OPTION 1

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PLACID, FL
PERMIT 774



REDEEMER LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILD CARE
6465 Mayport Street
Englewood, FL 34224

REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.

Church Phone: 941-475-2410

Church Fax: 941-475-9726

Child Care Phone: 941-475-2631

E-mail: redeemerfl@verizon.net

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:

Bible Study: 8:00 AM

Divine Service: 9:15 AM

Sunday School: 9:15 AM

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 941-475-2410

*We, the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church are called into the service of our Lord by
accepting His command (Matthew 28:18-20):*

- Making disciples of all nations/peoples*
- Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*
- Proclaiming the Gospel and teaching the Word.*

Christ's love for us compels us to serve our neighbors as He served us.