



SEPTEMBER 2026



VICAR'S NOTES

But Who Are We?

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus asks His disciples a profound question: *"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"* Various answers are given. Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. Then Jesus makes the question personal, he asks point blank: *"But who do you say that I am?"* Peter boldly answers, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"* (Matthew 16:13-16).

Peter's confession stands at the very heart of the Christian faith. Jesus is not merely a wise teacher, a moral example, or a historical figure. He is the Christ, God's promised Savior, the Son of the living God. Upon this confession, Christ builds His Church.

As members of Christ's Church today, perhaps we should ask ourselves a related question: **Who are we?**

We spend much of our lives defining ourselves by our occupations, accomplishments, interests, or roles. We are parents, grandparents, workers, retirees, students, volunteers, and neighbors. While these identities are important, they do not reach the deepest truth about who we are.

The answer is found in Peter's confession. Because Jesus is the Christ, we are His people. Because He died and rose for us, we are redeemed. Because He has claimed us in Holy Baptism, we are children of God. Because He gathers us around His Word and Sacraments, we are members of His body, the Church.

In a world that constantly asks us to create our own identity, Christ gives us one. We do not have to earn it. We do not have to invent it. We receive it as a **gift of grace**. St. Peter later writes, *"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession"* (1 Peter 2:9). That is who we are.

Inside this issue

Vicar's Notes.....	1-2
Prayers.....	2
Bible Studies.....	3
Prop App Day	3
Important Message	4
Stewardship.....	5
Upcoming Events	6
Inspiration.....	7

(Continued on page 2)

But this identity is not only personal; it is communal. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. We are sinners redeemed by the same Savior. We gather not because we are perfect, but because we are forgiven. We are called to encourage one another, bear one another's burdens, and point one another to Jesus.

As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, our mission and identity are rooted in Christ alone. We are people of the Word. We are people of the Sacraments. We are people sent into the world to proclaim the hope we have in Jesus.

So perhaps Jesus' question still echoes among us today. Not only, "*Who do you say that I am?*" but also, "*Who are you?*"

Our answer begins where Peter's answer began. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. And because He is, we are His redeemed people, forgiven by His grace, nourished by His Word, and called to live as His witnesses.

That is who we are. And by God's grace, that is who we will continue to be.

Vicar Collins

Prayer Requests



Healing Prayers for members:

Wayne Buel, Jean Cote, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Pat Finkenbine, Judy Guastella, Joyce Krug, Jerry Lindberg, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Tom & Sue Poyer, Randy Schaub, Jim & Bonnie Schluentz, and Pauline Vickey.

Prayers for Friends and relatives:

Karen Bartram, Jacob Bennett, Joseph Caivano, Bonnie Chancellor, Michelle Cote, Darla Finkenbine, Carolyn Francis, family of Rosanne (Cherylann Galway's good friend), Glenn Galway, Mikayla Hacksunda & family, Paul Keesee & family, Bret King, Ann Ledesma, Esther Murphy, Michael Murphey, Don Rattey and family, Karen Wasson-Geis, Basil & Debra Wetherington.



Financial information is available to
all members upon request.

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 the book of Romans. All are welcome. Please consider joining us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please contact Yvonne Brussel at yayabrussel@yahoo.com or at 516-476-8241.



PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY --Sept 19th

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
Child Care Director	Samantha Espinoza-Margarito

OFFICERS

President	James Kruse
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Vacant
Secretary	Lori Wasson

BOARDS

Head Elder	Mike Nagel
Christian Ed.	Yvonne Brussel
Human Care	Cathy Mielke
Assimilation	
School Board	
Stewardship	
Comm & Parish Fellowship	Catalina Bakas
Financial Secretary	
Endowment Fund	
Property Mgmt.	

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild	Catalina Bakas
-------------	----------------

***The deadline for the October 2026 Newsletter is September 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!***

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

If you haven't heard, our treasurer/bookkeeper resigned in July and the position is vacant. If any of our full-time voting members are interested in this important role, please notify a church officer (James Kruse or myself) or any Council member of your interest.

Two weeks ago, I was asked to take on the bookkeeping duties. In addition, I will be providing a financial report at Council, Board and Voters meetings until we get a new treasurer; and I am providing a daily financial update to the Child Care Director and the Church President. I will also be sending out a summary of our meetings to everyone who is on our email list, so you don't have to wait for minute approval.

With the school closing at the end June, the church is now responsible for the expenses and utilities for maintaining the buildings, as well as the remainder of the school building loan. That loan alone is over \$750 a month. We also received our TRIM notice on August 25, and our anticipated property tax is over \$14,000. This is the tax used to provide emergency services to Redeemer, such as Fire and Police.

This summer we had members step up and donate to replace a water fountain in the Fellowship Hall and to repair our lawn mowers; one member gave \$1,500. And just last week an anonymous donor gave \$10,000 to replace one of the A/C units at the Childcare center that could no longer be repaired. Praise God for their generosity!

We raised \$7,000 selling school desks, furniture, storage cabinets and two Smart Screens which went toward paying out our former teachers' contracts. We also donated our Abeka and supplemental curriculum, games and tools to Good Shepherd in N. Ft. Myers who are experiencing similar difficulties as Redeemer. We thank God for giving us the opportunity to help Good Shepherd and pray for God's continued blessings and grace upon Good Shepherd Church and School.

We are asking, as you prayerfully consider Stewardship and the roll you play in the financial future of Redeemer, to consider these increased financial needs in support of God's mission at Redeemer.

Yours in Christ,
Lori Wasson, Recording Secretary

Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.
(SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect this belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER 2026

DATE	TIME	DAY	EVENT
09/02/26	12:00pm	Wed	Elders' Meeting
09/03/26	8:45am	Thurs	All Student Chapel (Narthex)
09/03/26	9:30am	Thurs	Table Talk (Narthex)
09/03/26	10:30am	Thurs	ASC Chapel (Narthex)
09/06/26	9:15am	Sun	15 th Sunday After Pentecost (No Communion)
09/06/26	10:30am	Sun	Coffee Hour
09/09/26	12:00pm	Wed	All Church Luncheon (Sign up in Narthex)
09/10/26	8:45am	Thurs	All Student Chapel (Narthex)
09/10/26	9:30am	Thurs	Table Talk (Narthex)
09/10/26	10:30am	Thurs	ASC Chapel (Narthex)
09/13/26	9:15am	Sun	16 th Sunday After Pentecost (No Communion)
09/13/26	10:30am	Sun	Coffee Hour (Narthex)
09/16/26	6:00pm	Wed	Church Council/Board Meeting
09/17/26	8:45am	Thurs	All Student Chapel (Narthex)
09/17/26	9:30am	Thurs	Table Talk (Narthex)
09/17/26	10:30pm	Thurs	ASC Chapel (Narthex)
09/19/26	10:00am	Sat	Property Appreciation Day
09/20/26	9:15am	Sun	17 th Sunday After Pentecost (No Communion)
09/20/26	10:30am	Sun	Coffee Hour (Narthex)
09/21/26	7:00pm	Mon	Gulf Coast Bead Society (Fellowship Hall)
09/24/26	8:45am	Thurs	All Student Chapel (Narthex)
09/24/26	9:30am	Thurs	Table Talk (Narthex)
09/24/26	10:30am	Thurs	ASC Chapel (Narthex)
09/26/26	10:00am	Sat	Gulf Coast Bead Society Workshop (Fellowship Hall)
09/27/26	9:15am	Sun	18 th Sunday After Pentecost (Communion – Rev Mathews)

**WHEN GOD PUSHES YOU
TO THE EDGE OF
DIFFICULTY,
TRUST HIM FULLY.
BECAUSE TWO THINGS
CAN HAPPEN:
EITHER HE WILL CATCH
YOU WHEN YOU FALL,
OR
HE WILL TEACH YOU
HOW TO FLY.**



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

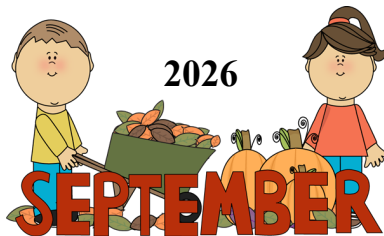


Redeemer Lutheran Church of Englewood
Redeemer Lutheran Child Care

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILD CARE**

6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED - OPTION 1



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

Church Phone: 941-475-2410

Church Fax: 941-475-9726

Email: Church.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 & 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)*