



March 2023



PURPLE—THE COLOR OF LENT

Certain colors are used to communicate the truth about Jesus. Blue is used to represent the Hope, the certainty of salvation He brings as true God/true man. White represents His purity as true God. Red represents the blood He shed as a true man for the forgiveness of sins. Purple represents His essence as royalty because He is also the Son of God.

For a long time, purple has been the historical color used to symbolize the season of Lent. There are those who explain its use because of what is recorded in Matthew 27:27-30 where Pilate condemned Jesus to crucifixion and the soldiers escorted Jesus into the Praetorium and clothed His scourged body in a scarlet (purple) robe before placing a crown of thorns on His head, thereby mocking Him as a King of the Jews.

But there is another reason for purple being the color of Lent and how it is related to one of Jesus' last words on the cross – Matthew 27:46 – *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* In Hebrew this verse begins with *Eli, Eli . . .* therefore some of those witnessing this act as recorded in Matthew 27:47 thought Jesus was calling out for the prophet Elijah.

But for those who are familiar with the reading of Scripture in the synagogue/Temple, the reader does not refer to the book, chapter, and verse in reading like we do. Chapter and verse markings were not part of Scripture in Biblical times. The reader therefore would begin by referencing and quoting the first line, thereby getting everyone's attention and to make sure everyone was listening. What Jesus says on the cross is the opening of Psalm 22 – which most Bible scholars agree is a prophetic Psalm regarding the Messiah.

In reading this Psalm, most people focus on verses 6-7 and 12-18 as these verses relate to Jesus' suffering on the cross. But what is often overlooked is how verse 6 relates to Jesus and His suffering when it says – *I am a worm, not a man.*

Robby Gallaty in his book – ***The Forgotten Jesus*** – says this:

The word worm, or tola'at in Hebrew, is used to describe an insect that devours plants. If you look this word up in a Hebrew dictionary, you will find the same word can be translated as "crimson, scarlet, or purple. This is because in ancient times, the little toleah worm was crushed to extract a reddish-purple dye.

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PURPLE—THE COLOR OF LENT (CONTINUED)

The color crimson (a purplish red) is found throughout the pages of the Bible. Crimson was used in the construction of the traveling tabernacle – Exodus 26:1. God instructed that they make the veil of the temple of blue and purple and crimson fabrics and fine linen – 2 Chronicles 3:14. Rahab hung a scarlet colored cord from her window in Jericho so the Israelite army would spare her and her family - Joshua 2:17-21. The soldiers escorted Jesus and clothed his battered body in a scarlet robe – Matthew 27:27-30. Hundreds of miles from Jerusalem, Paul would share the gospel with the first European convert, Lydia, who was a dealer of purple cloth in Philippi.

Every color in the temple had meaning, and both crimson and scarlet were commonly associated with sin. God spoke through his prophet Isaiah – “Come now, and let us reason together. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)

Why is this significant? Because part of what Jesus was identifying with in Psalm 22 was the notion that he was being “crushed like crimson.”

By reciting the first lines of Psalm 22, Jesus encourages his listeners to develop a deeper understanding of what is happening to him as he hangs dying on the cross. Although the passage begins with agony and despair, it ultimately ends with triumph and victory. (Psalm 22:27-31)

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, ²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. ³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. ³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

With Psalm 22 in mind, Jesus is exclaiming from the cross We WIN in the end!”

Let the purple of Lent remind us of the suffering Jesus experienced, so that His blood could be shed, so He could die and then rise to obtain the victory over death, sin and the devil. Let it help us look forward with HOPE to the victory of LIFE which we will celebrate on Easter this year on April 9, 2023.

—Rev. Craig Mathews
Vacancy Pastor.

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 to be done inside the Church. If you can help, please come to the church and we will put you to work. **Property Appreciate Day will be every Saturday during March as cleanup from Hurricane Ian continues.**



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Easter & Lenten Services

2023

Mid-Week Lenten Services:

Wednesday, March 1st - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8th - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 15th - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 22nd - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 29th - 4:00 p.m.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 2nd - 9:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 6th—5:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7th - 5:00 p.m.

Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunday, April 9th- 9:15 a.m.





Lenten Discipline: Denying the Self

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts — the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God which pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh, but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

Fasting is a good example of this outward training. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. But you have learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above to discipline the desires of your body.

Another example is almsgiving. An increase in giving to the church and its mission during Lent is also a form of outward training. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is — it leads you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Tim. 6:6–10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry



**Financial information is available to
all members upon request.**

Bible Studies



Sunday Morning Bible Study: Bible study on Sunday mornings has resumed. Please join us after the morning service (and after a cup of coffee – approximately 10:30 a.m.). We will be using a study called “Exploring God’s Word: Old Testament.” Description below is from the CPH website:

Understanding God’s Word often means looking at it from a fresh perspective – getting “the big picture” as well as the important details. Exploring God’s Word includes 12 individual sessions, maps, charts, a glossary, and a section of intriguing Bible facts. Exploring God’s Word helps you gain a broader understanding of what the Bible means when viewed as a whole – not simply as a collection of individual books.

Table Talk: Table talk is a very informal Bible study now held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, immediately after the 8:45 school chapel service. 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. If no one has a question to get the discussion started, we often look at the readings for the coming Sunday. One way or another there is always friendly and interesting discussion.

All are welcome and encouraged to come early to attend the chapel service. Who can’t be cheered by the sound of the children’s voices? There is always coffee and usually doughnuts. Please consider joining us! **Pastor Mathews** is now leading the discussion; come and meet him.

- Respectfully submitted—Tim Matheny, Elder

SERVING THE LORD

Vacancy Pastor Rev. Craig Mathews

Office Admin Asst Caitlin Tilton

Organist Bill Bowers

Choir Director

Newsletter Pat Finkenbine

School Admin Wendy Horvath

Child Care Director Debby Buel

School Admin Asst Pam Dineen

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Stewardship

Youth

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Property Mgmt. Bob Varone

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Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour Joyce Schneider

**The deadline for the April 2023 Newsletter is March 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!**

Please pray for all those still recovering from Hurricane Ian

SHUT-INS: Rita Kaufmann and Dorothy Sinowetski

HEALING for Members: Bill Bowers, Jean Cote, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Don Garay, Mike & Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Marva Jonas, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Cathy Mielke, Lillian Miles, Tom & Sue Poyer, Jim & Bonnie Schluentz, Bob Varone, and Pauline Vickey

FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Michelle Bernard, Grace Blum, Tony Bozell, Mary Brissette, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Diane Carr, Pat Carroll, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Donna Connors, Lisa Copeman, Donald Cornish, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Tom Curry, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Stan Elenbaas, Lori Elliott, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Gerald & Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Sybil Fuchs, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Barbara George, Sandra Gettings, Wayne & Roberta Giannone, Ken & Sandry Gittings, Nancy Gleis, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Mikayla Hacksunda, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Haley Harris, Debbie Harrison, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, John Hill, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Chelsea Hutchinson, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Daniel & Michelle

Kalstrup, John Kearns, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Esther Laird, Judy Larkin, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Joe Manson, Dave McMullan, Ray Mielke, Dominic Miretti, Pete Mogg, Jessica Morales, Mike Morrissey, Ron Mullins, Esther Murphy, Bill & Jean Nesbitt, Linda Owen, Riley Emilia Paquette, Charles Pentecost Jr., Rob Powers, John Purdy, Mary Raines, Paul Rollo, Becky Rurade, Sandra Scheel, Ed Sheahan, Natasha Schock, Nancy Sly, Laurie Steinke, Juliette Renee, Charles Tolley, George Vespa, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gene & Donna Wensel, Gordan Winkel, and Wava Zeitlow

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Rev. Ross Engel, USN Chaplain, Lance Cpl. Joseph Garay USMC, Zeke Garrison, Brian Jackson, Jonathan Koen, and Charles D. Weishaar.



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 the church office to give us a health update so that we may either keep or remove their name. Thank you!

The Cross in My Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm;
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification
For all the world to see
It's simply an understanding
Between my Savior and me.



When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or a Key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me, too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
If only I'll let Him be.

Redeemer Food Pantry

Our new Human Care Team will be starting a food pantry on the Redeemer campus. The pantry cabinet has been purchased and assembled. It is in the school office. We have received a \$250 Thrivent Action team grant. We will be using this to help stock the pantry.

The pantry will be primarily for the benefit of members of our congregation and families with students enrolled in our school and childcare. Redeemer members are asked to pick up extra non-perishable items when shopping. Leave donations any Sunday under the coat rack near the ladies restroom.

Following are some initial suggestions—

- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Canned meat such as tuna or chicken
- Soups
- Oatmeal
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Spaghetti or macaroni and spaghetti sauce
- Breakfast cereals such as Cheerios, Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies—no “high sugar” please.



(Photo: Cathy Mielke assisting in stocking the Redeemer Food Pantry)

Thank you in advance for your help and support for “our neighbors”.

Board of Human Care

If you need assistance because of hurricane damages or know someone in the Redeemer community who needs this type of help, please check at the Visitor’s Desk in the narthex and fill out a form (yellow paper) to submit to Jean Cote or Lana Garay. The Board of Human Care would like to continue to live out the words of Jesus here at Redeemer and in our communities, as we love God and love our neighbor. They need your help as they are looking to identify members of our Redeemer community who need assistance.

Redeemer Educational Ministries

Second semester of the school year is in full swing with lots of learning going on. There were several field trips, including one to a Mexican restaurant where the children enrolled in Spanish ordered their lunches in Spanish. Another group went to Clearwater Aquarium.

Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is open! Tell you friends, neighbors, and family about our great school. Open House is scheduled for March 4. Our goal is to start 55 students, an aggressive 38% increase over this school year. We will have food trucks and fun activities for school and childcare families. Enrollment packets are available from the school office (in the Fellowship Hall).

Wendy Horvath, our Education Ministries Administrator, and Pam Dineen, our school secretary, visited Peace Lutheran School in Bradenton. This was a great opportunity to learn and to develop professional relationships. Both came back to us with ideas for improvement at Redeemer Lutheran School.

Our childcare ministry remains strong. The VPK children visited an assisted living facility to share the love of Jesus by passing out flowers to the residents for Valentine's Day.

Post-lan repair to play area fences and drywall has been completed. With a full childcare staff in place, we can increase enrollment somewhat. Wendy applied for another ARPA grant through the coalition and was approved for nearly \$100,000.00. Our plan is to use this phenomenal blessing to update and expand the playground areas currently used by childcare and after school care so that they can also be used by the day school.

Tuition for the school and budgets for the school and childcare are set, approved at the February board meeting. The board also approved our concept for a Board Scholarship Program. The needs based program will benefit families whose income is above the limits for state funds but below 150% of that limit. Forms and other details will be completed in the last month so that the program can go into effect for the 2023-2024 school year.

Our school is YOUR school. I am honored to help make it a GREAT school. Please reach out to me at any time with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Matheny, School Board Chair
Tim.Matheny@RedeemerFL.com

Redeemer Lutheran School



*The Bears are Roaring!
It's time for...*

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**REGISTRATION OPEN
MARCH 20-24
9AM - 1PM**

**JOIN OUR DEN for
the 2023-2024
school year!!**

Any child who is 5 years old on or before Sept 1, 2023 is eligible for kindergarten.

All incoming kindergarten students need a birth certificate, immunization record and physical exam before school starts in August.

**PLEASE HELP US PLAN
FOR NEXT YEAR AND
REGISTER EARLY!**

**SCHOOL.OFFICE@REDEEMERFL.COM
941-475-2410**



Day School Update – February 2023

Kindergarten - 2nd Grade:

February has been a busy month in kindergarten – 2nd grade. We are now in our 3rd quarter of school. We had our 100th day of school celebration. This is an exciting milestone in elementary school. It is celebrating all we have accomplished and looking forward to the last half of the school year. By the 100th day of school kindergarten is reading and writing sentences, they can count to 100 by 1's, 5's and 10's. They have started adding and can identify most numbers to 100. We celebrate the 100th day of school by doing everything in 100s. We wore special shirts, counted out 100 pieces of snack, stacked 100 cups, wrote 100 words, and did one hundred of different exercises. Older grades wrote what they would do as the 100th president, added and subtracted numbers with a hundreds place, and building a structure using 100 straws. 100th day of school is a great day of hands on learning.

This month we also had a wedding for the letters Q and U. This is a great way for our students to remember that when you have the letter Q the letter U goes with it. We do many things with QU words. We made a quilt piece with a present for QU. Each student drew a picture and wrote a sentence about what they would give Q and U. We also learned how to not quarrel and sometimes you just have to be quiet. This is a great experience that our kids remember forever. Second grade has been learning about plants in Science. 2nd grade also included Kindergarten and 1st grade to grow some bean plants for our school. They also cleaned out our garden and put in some new plants that they now can care for and watch grow. The scripture verse for this month is Psalms 23, they memorized each verse.

3rd Grade:

Our third graders have been reading, writing, singing and memorizing I Corinthians 13:4-8. This chapter has made a profound difference in how they see themselves and others behave. I enjoy asking the students if they have been kind and patient during the school day. This simple reference helps them stay on the right track.

We have been learning about capitalization rules in Language and Spelling especially with proper nouns. I hope you have a chance to hear our students read aloud. Their comprehension skills are improving and their fluency, too. We have planted a flower garden outside. Our Science has been teaching them how to keep plants alive and how they use photosynthesis to make their own food. Our history lessons have been explaining our three branches of government: executive, judicial and legislative. We have also learned about all 46 presidents before Presidents Day on Monday. I had to let them know that I have been through 13 presidents in my lifetime. What a history book I am! Thank you for all you do to help our students be loved and nurtured [here](#) Redeemer Lutheran Day School. All of you [are](#) greatly appreciated.

—Miss Fran, 3rd Grade Teacher

4th Grade:

Fourth grade has enjoyed two field trips this past month, to the Clearview Aquarium and the ECHO Global farm/Shell Factory. Besides that we learned about St. Valentine, the plan of salvation, finished our study of the 66 books of the Bible, have been studying vertebrates and are conquering fractions/LCD.

5th and 6th Grade:

The Fifth and Sixth grades went on a tour of the Cedar Point Environmental Center. They explored native organisms in their natural habitat. The students were given a guided tour, and their

knowledge of the fauna and flora of this region was remarkable. The students paid for the Naturalist Tour by donating cans of food to the pantry of Englewood. The 5th and the 6th grades joined the 4th grade in touring Echo Farm in Fort Myers. The Farm helps to cultivate plants that can survive in regions where growing plants may be difficult. They teach native people to grow these plants to lead to better nutrition in areas where people are undernourished. These activities help the students to be aware of the natural world beyond themselves. They will need to develop skills that will help them be good stewards of this natural world that God has entrusted them with, and to care for others.

—Submitted by Pam Dineen



CHILD CARE

321...Blast off

Letter of the month: R & E

Number of the month: 9

Shape of the month: Star

Color of the month: Black

Bible Lesson: God's People Praise and Honor Jesus

This month we are learning about Outer Space and St. Patrick's Day

What we are learning in VPK A... This month we are learning about clothing and how they are made and what/who makes clothing. We will also take time to make some of our own. Later in the month we will start talking about recycling and its importance to our earth. Submitted by: Jazmyne Crady

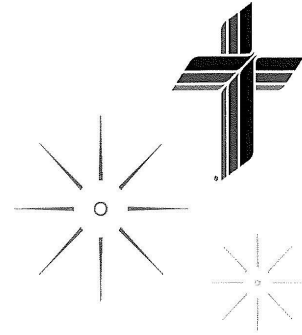
What we are learning in VPK B... This month we are learning about plants, trees and nature. We are also working on letters R & S. We will be talking about and celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Submitted by: Mallory Oliver

We will be joining the Day School for their yearly open house on March 4, 2023, from 10-1. Food Trucks will be here for lunch as well as Ice Cream, Bounce House, Games, Popcorn, Crafts and more. We hope to see you there.

Daylight Saving Time is on Sunday March 12, 2023

Annual Open House

And Family Fun Day!



Please Join us on:
Saturday, March 4th
10 am—1 pm

Redeemer Lutheran School & Child Care

FREE activities:

Bounce House, Raffle
Baskets, Photo Booth,
Arts and Crafts, Games,
Popcorn,
and more...

Come and see
how we're
growing.

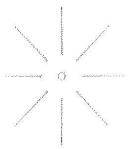
Offering
Christ-centered,
comprehensive
elementary
education for
grades K – 8.

Delicious food available for
purchase from:

Nunn Better BBQ 10am-1
Kona Ice 11:30-12:30

6970 Mineola Road
Englewood
941-475-2410

School.office@redeemerfl.com



2.22.23

Season of Lent

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

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Palm Sunday | Lent | Jesus | Good Friday |
| Crucifix | Barabbas | Tomb | Resurrection |
| Peter | Jerusalem | God | Eucharist |
| Cross | Ash Wednesday | Wine | Last Supper |
| Pontius Pilate | Pentecost | Mary Magdalene | Judas |
| INRI | Gethsemane | Easter | Christianity |
| Apostles | | | |

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,
SCHOOL & CHILD CARE**

6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED - OPTION 1



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,
SCHOOL & CHILD CARE**

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941-475-2410**

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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).*