



February 2023



### The Month of Love

February is often referred to as the month of **LOVE**. The focus of the month, at least the first part of the month – is on love. It seems as if love is in the air, which was promoted and made popular by John Paul Young in 1977. His song – *Love Is In the Air* – peaked at #7 on the US Pop Chart in 1977. When I was thinking about what to write for the February newsletter, I knew it had to be about love and this song popped into my head.

When I looked at the lyrics on line, I noticed something. Yes, the song was written as if the singer was thinking of his/her true love, as well as the love he/she receives. But for those of us who are disciples of Jesus, I believe this song also shows us what our love for God should look like as well as God’s love for us. Here are some of the lyrics:

*Love Is In The Air  
In the whisper of the trees (whisper of the trees...)  
Love Is In The Air  
In the thunder of the sea (thunder of the sea...)*

*And I don't know if I'm just dreaming  
Don't know if I feel sane  
But it's something that I must believe in  
And it's there when you call out my name (call out my name...)*

*And I don't know if you're an illusion  
Don't know if I see it true  
But you're something that I must believe in  
And you're there when I reach out for you (reach out for you...)*

*Love Is In The Air  
Everywhere I look around (I look around...)  
Love Is In The Air  
Every sight and every sound (and every sound...)*

*And I don't know if I'm being foolish  
Don't know if I'm being wise  
But it's something that I must believe in  
And it's there when I look in your eyes (in your eyes...)*

*Love Is In The Air  
Love Is In The Air*

God’s love is manifested everywhere in this world. When we

*(Continued on page 2)*

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Faith  
♥  
Hope  
♥  
Love

1 Corinthians 13:13

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And now these three remain  
Faith, Hope and Love

But the greatest of these is

**LOVE**

## THE MONTH OF LOVE (CONTINUED)

don't see God's love, but instead see hatred, evil, destruction, fighting, wars, greed, etc., that's because of sin. Our sin as well as the sin of other people.

But we need to remember that God shows His love in a more spectacular way. God shows His best love on the cross when His Son shed His blood, died and then rose again. That is the best revelation of God's love. And we will be reminded of that love – God's grace – in the Midweek Lenten services beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22 at 4:00 pm.

Again, as in Advent, the afterschool students along with some of the VPK students will be joining us for chapel. The theme will be *God's Amazing Grace* as we celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that famous hymn.

For the Sunday morning worship at 9:15, the theme will be *God's Promised Treasures*. Each week the focus will be on the different treasures/articles that remind us of God's eternal love for us.

You are invited to join us on Sunday morning and Wednesday late afternoon each week and hear again and again how God shows His love for us and how we can share that same love with others.

And yes, there will be the disposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday.

—Rev. Craig Mathews

	<p>Financial information is available to all members upon request.</p>
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### 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 for a while as cleanup from Hurricane Ian continues.**



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## *Don't Replace "And" with "Or"*

We've all heard that stewardship means giving to the church of our time, talents and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. As we confess in the Small Catechism's explanation of the First Article of the Apostle's Creed, God gives us everything we have and enjoy. First we confess that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses" (SC II). Then we confess that He gives us material things. The time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all three of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have, and indeed, everything we are, comes from God's fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word — when we replace the word *and* with the word *or*. It is always written with the *and*, but when we read it, we read it with the *or*. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolls that everything that we have and are is a gift from God, to be given back in service of His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose from when we serve God. The giving of our time, talents *and* treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents *or* treasure.

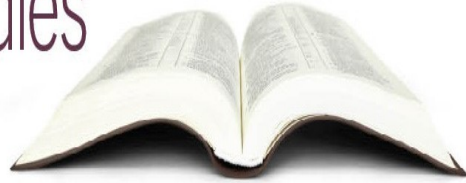
Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give of our treasure and not of our time and talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus, we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things for us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents *AND* treasure as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings with which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents and treasure to our families, our society, our church and our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price: the holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything — His time, His talents and His treasure — to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love — time, talents and treasure together.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:

# 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

### OFFICERS

President    Wade Duncan

Vice President    Bill Bowers

Treasurer    Lucia Kruse

Secretary    Caitlin Tilton

### BOARDS

Head Elder    Rob Tilton

Christian Ed.

Human Care    Jean Cote

Outreach

Assimilation    Joyce Schneider

School Board    Tim Matheny

Stewardship

Youth

Financial Secretary    Mindy Duncan

Property Mgmt.    Bob Varone

### GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild    Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour    Joyce Schneider

**The deadline for the March 2023 Newsletter is February 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, Zeke Garrison, 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, 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!**

## REDEEMER SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE

School is back in full swing after Christmas Break. Due to delays from Hurricane Ian, we are finishing the last few weeks of the first semester in early January, as I write this.

Wendy Horvath has accepted the School Board's offer to be our Education Ministries Administrator, over both the Childcare and School ministries. Wendy's commitment to the success of the school motivated her willingness to step up to the greater responsibility. Her experience dealing with Childcare teachers, parents and students is directly applicable to dealing with School teachers, parents, and students. Wendy has already proven to be an asset for the school.

Financially, our school remains strong. We are projecting a deficit for the 2022-2023 school year. When we are in the new facility next year, we anticipate growing enrollment without any or with only a small increase in our staff, putting the school back in the black.

Debby Buel, our long-time Assistant Director, has agreed to step up to be Director of the Childcare ministry. She will continue to report to Wendy Horvath. The Childcare ministry will continue to function well under her ongoing leadership.

We have yet to repair the playground fence and equipment damage caused by Hurricane Ian. We have identified a fence contractor; that work may be done by the time you read this. We are researching options for the playground equipment.

By the time you read this, we will have completed Lutheran School's week. Activities will involve both the school and the childcare. Watch for pictures!

Thank you for the honor to be your school board chair. Please reach out to me at any time with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Matheny, School Board Chair  
[Tim.Matheny@RedeemerFL.com](mailto:Tim.Matheny@RedeemerFL.com)



### **Redeemer Food Pantry**

Our new Human Care Team will be starting a food pantry on the Redeemer campus. 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”

## Day School January Update

K-1 has finished learning about Canada this past week. They made Beaver Dam Cookies during Home EC by melting chocolate and adding bran sticks to form a dam. In Art they watched a show about the Canadian Beavers and each child crafted a Beaver and had to go outside to collect sticks for the dam. This week the children began learning about Mexico and we have a field trip scheduled to go to a Mexican Restaurant. We always make sure to incorporate what they are learning into fun activities.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade has been learning about their five senses. The human body is one of God's most amazing miracles. Your body is always working, even when you are sleeping. God designed all of the parts of your body to work together. Every part of your body has an important job to do. "I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." *Psalm 139:14*

3<sup>rd</sup> Graders have been learning to write in their journals by picking a topic and writing in paragraph format. They have made encouraging cards to send to their Pen Pals in California. In Science they are learning that plants breathe CO<sub>2</sub> and we breathe oxygen that the plants make for us. They are going to start growing plants for their classroom. In History they have started to read about Thomas Jefferson and how he authored the Declaration of Independence. The children have been practicing for their singing parts for the service on Sunday, Jan 29. All are welcome to attend!

The 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been focusing in Bible on memorizing each of the 66 books of the Bible, what they are about and the order. In Math, we're hitting fractions! In History, we just learned about the war of 1812 - the only time that much of Washington, DC was burned to the ground by an invading army! Spanish is ramping up in preparation for visiting a Mexican restaurant, and at the end of the month we're going to study Science at the Clearwater Aquarium.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades are working together with the fourth graders to master learning the books of the Bible through song techniques and repetition. We have also been reviewing the concept of Incarnation and finding biblical references in the Gospels. Science lab has provided an opportunity for the students to understand the major macro and micro ingredients found in food and how they assist with bodily functions. The students, through discussion and experimentation, were able to describe each ingredient and how it aided in either fueling the body or in the growth and repair process. They also learned about high volume nutritional foods and were able to pick out these foods from a variety of foods provided.

--Submitted by Pam Dineen

## Child Care

Love is in the air!

Letter of the month: B & L

Number of the month: 8

Shape of the month: Heart

Color of the month: Pink

Bible Lesson: Disciples share Gods Love

This month we are learning about Dental Health, Presidents Day and Groundhogs Day.

What we are learning in VPK A... We are learning about buildings and how they are built and who builds them. We have been keeping up with all the construction at the Day School and using it as an awesome visual that the kids love watching. We are using this time as a refresher to topics we went over in the beginning of the year to prepare for assessments.

--Submitted by: Jazmyne Crady

What we are learning in VPK B... This month we are learning the letters M and N. We are also practicing our songs for VPK Graduation and learning about Moses for our letter M. 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.

Closed February 20 for Presidents Day



# Looking for LOVE



Find these words

HUSBAND  
JOY  
KISS  
LOVE  
PAIR

CARING  
CELEBRATION  
FAMILY  
FOREVER  
HAPPY

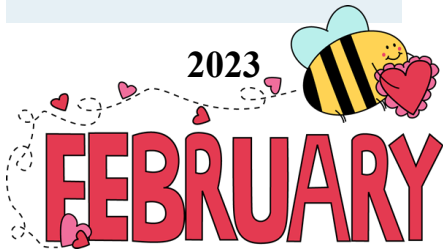


RING  
TOGETHER  
TRUST  
UNION  
VOWS

WIFE  
HEART  
HUG  
MARRIAGE

*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.* John 15:12

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



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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).*