



APRIL 2026



VICAR’S NOTES

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He is Risen! He has risen indeed. We celebrate an empty tomb! God sent His sinless Son, Jesus, to share our flesh and blood with all the limitations that each of us have as human beings. He came to take our place and to fulfill what all of us find impossible to fulfill. His purpose was that through His death on the cross, He would break the power of Satan, who had the power of death. And by His resurrection to deliver those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the fear of dying (Heb. 2:14-15).

It seems that the world is constantly trying answer the question of who Jesus is. We know who He is. But it’s never the answer Jesus said of Himself: *"I am the First and the Last. The Alpha and Omega. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and hades."* (Revelations 1:17-18). We are a saved creation!

Just as the angel had said to the women: *"Don't be afraid!"* he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead, just as he said would happen. The empty tomb tells us that God the Father accepted the sacrifice of His Son for you and for me. Paul said, *"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." But Christ has risen! "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." He did that in order to put us right with God, whom we can now as brothers and sisters of Christ can call God, Father.* May this Easter season be a joyous one, go in His peace, Live in His joy.

Yours in Christ,
Vicar Collins

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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: Sunday School has resumed at Redeemer Lutheran Church. All of us here at Redeemer joyfully welcome all children every Sunday, during Divine Service.

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



PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY --APR 18th

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

Property Appreciation Day is the THIRD SATURDAY of every month

SERVING THE LORD

Vicar Collins Sita

Secretary Michelle Kluver

Organist

Choir Director

Newsletter Pat Finkenbine

School Admin Wendy Horvath

Child Care Director Brandi Fordham

School Admin Asst

OFFICERS

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Human Care Cathy Mielke

Assimilation

School Board James Kruse

Stewardship

Comm & Parish Fellowship Catalina Bakas

Financial Secretary Sherrie Keesee

Endowment Fund Sherrie Keesee

Property Mgmt.

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour

***The deadline for the May 2026 Newsletter is April 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!***



A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, "How much should I give?" But this question really means, "Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?"

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no "Thus saith the Lord," or "should" concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply

(Continued on page 4)

that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

Prayer Requests



Healing Prayers for members:

Wayne Buel, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Bernadine Edwards, Pat Finkenbine, Rylie Giroux, Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Sherrie Keesee, Joyce Krug, Jerry Lindberg, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Cathy Mielke, Tom & Sue Poyer, Randy Schaub, Jim & Bonnie Schluentz, and Pauline Vickey.

Prayers for Friends and relatives:

John Baldrige, Karen Bartram, Joseph Caivano, Michelle Cote, Ron Dozier, Caroline Francis, Paulette Gaines, Glenn Galway, Mikayla Hacksunda & family, Renee Hickman, Ann Ledesma, Esther Murphy, and Karen Wasson-Geis.



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



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL

04/08/26	12:00 p.m.	Wed.	School Board Meeting
04/12/26	9:15 a.m.	Sun.	Divine Worship
04/15/26	12:00 p.m.	Wed.	Church Council Meeting
04/18/26	10:00 a.m.	Sat.	Property Appreciation Day
04/19/26	9:15 a.m.	Sun.	Divine Worship w/ Communion (Pastor Keisel)
04/21/26	12:00 p.m.	Tue.	Ladies' Luncheon (<i>Ephesus Mediterranean Grill</i>)
04/25/26	12:00 p.m.	Sat.	Men's Luncheon (Lighthouse Grill)
04/26/26	9:15 a.m.	Sun.	Divine Worship
04/26/26	10:45 a.m.	Sun.	Quarterly Voters' Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial information is available to
all members upon request.

MORE WAYS TO CONNECT WITH REDEEMER

Facebook: Our Sunday Services are broadcast live on Facebook every week!
The bulletin is available on the website.

Website: Check out our website at www.RedeemerFL.com

Monthly Email: Not receiving our monthly email? Let us
know at church.office@redeemerfl.com, or visit the office!



Every Day is Easter

**"Easter comes but once a year"
So many people say.
But, to a person saved from sin,
It's Easter every day!**

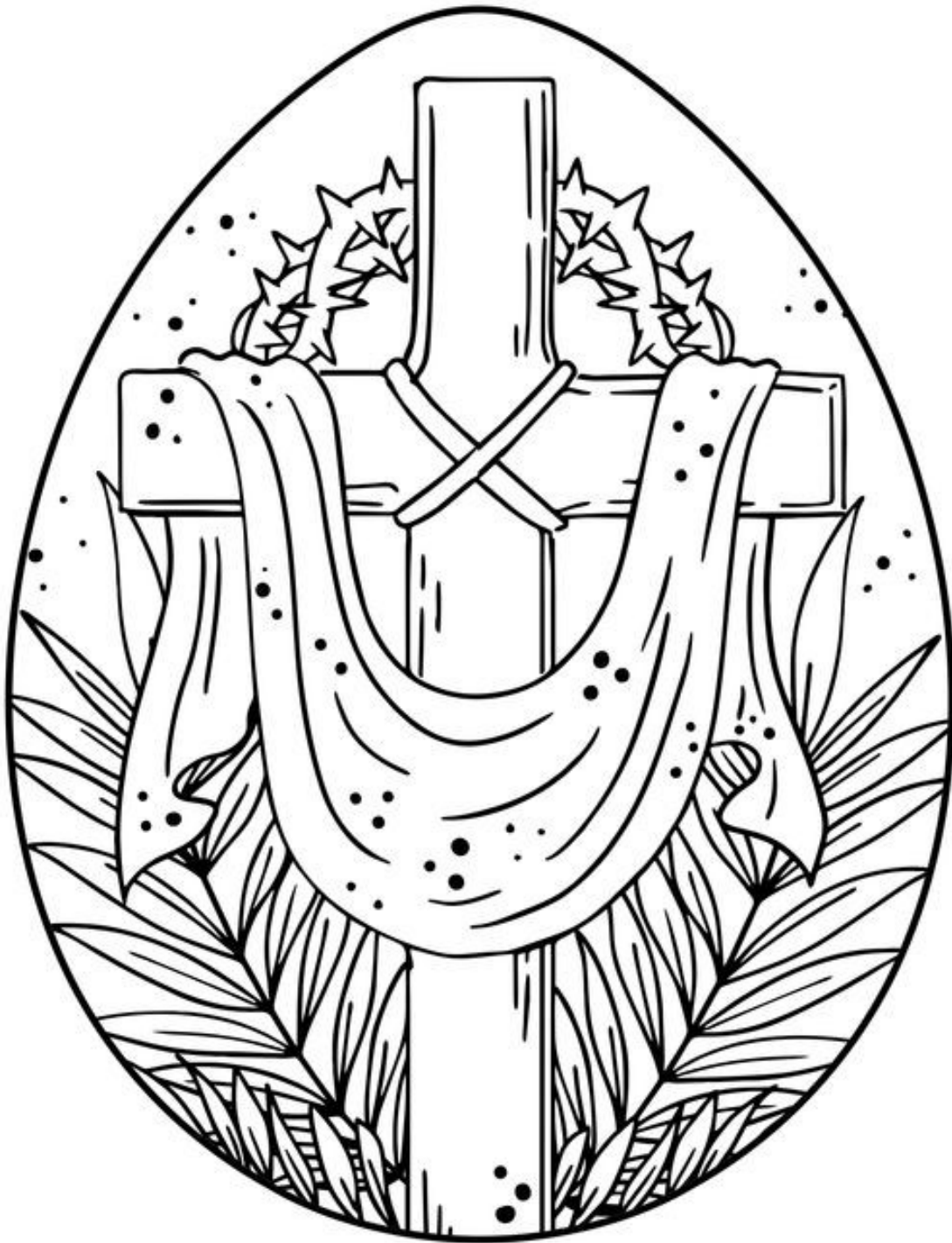
**A man, when saved or "born again"
His life to Christ will give,
And, as a new-born babe in Christ,
He's just begun to live.**

**"I am the resurrection and the life",
the Savior, one day, said:
"And he, believing in my Word,
Shall live, though he be dead."**

**And that well known Apostle, Paul,
In Philippi made plain:
"For me to live in Jesus Christ,
For me to die is gain."**

**So when the Blood of Christ, Our Lord,
Redeems a soul from sin;
Every day is Easter,
For Jesus lives within!**

--Carolyn Orr



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

6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED - OPTION 1



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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)*