



MARCH 2026



VICAR’S NOTES

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

As we enter the holy season of Lent, it once again calls us to a time of repentance, reflection, and renewal. Lent is not about self-improvement or denying favorite foods or activities to earn God’s favor, but about being drawn more deeply into the mercy already given to us in Christ. As the prophet Joel urges, “Yet even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and mourning, and rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful.” (Joel 2:12-13).

Lent centers on honest repentance and confident faith in the Gospel. We acknowledge our sin—not to despair—but to hear anew the comforting words of forgiveness won for us by Jesus at the cross. Our Lord sets His face toward Jerusalem, toward suffering and death, for us and for our salvation. Throughout these forty days, we walk with Him through His Word, gathering around His means of grace: the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments.

You are encouraged to use this season intentionally. Attend midweek Lenten services, spend time in Scripture and prayer, and reflect on Christ’s passion. Fasting and acts of love toward our neighbor can be helpful disciplines—not as works that save, but as responses of faith flowing from hearts already redeemed.

Above all, Lent prepares us for the great joy of Easter. The road is marked by ashes and the cross, but it leads to the empty tomb. In Christ, repentance gives way to forgiveness, sorrow to joy, and death to life.

May the Lord bless your Lenten journey, strengthen you through His Word, and keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Christ’s under-shepherd,
Vicar Collins Sita

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Bible Studies

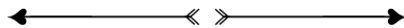


Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please join us after the morning service (and after a cup of coffee – approximately 10:30 a.m.). We are currently studying the Gospel of John.

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 Philippians and possibly Ephesians.. 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 --MAR 21st

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

President James Kruse

Vice President Vacant

Treasurer Perry Koslowski

Secretary Lori Wasson

BOARDS

Head Elder Mike Nagel

Christian Ed. Yvonne Brussel

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 April 2026 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!**





“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18.

Many Christians give something up during Lent as a reminder that Jesus gave up everything when He came down to earth to die and rise for us. Lent is a time where we remember our sin, repent and focus on Christ's suffering for us. In this time of reflection and repentance, instead of (or in addition to) giving something up, it can also be helpful to add something into our lives. These verses from 1 Thessalonians tell us to “pray without ceasing” and to “give thanks in all circumstances.” One habit that could be helpful to focus on is prayer. As a family, you can start developing this habit by finding times to pray together such as before meals, before bed or whenever works best in your family’s routine.

LCMS Stewardship

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz’ home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use *LSB 785* “We Praise You, O God.”

*We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.
We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

*We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o’ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.*

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God’s provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

(Continued on page 4)

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

*With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!*

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

Prayer Requests



Healing Prayers for members:

Wayne Buel, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Bernadine Edwards, Pat Finkenbine, 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, Paulette Gaines, Glenn Galway, Mikayla Hacksunda & family, Renee Hickman, Ann Ledesma, Esther Murphy, Helen Saterfield, 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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Easter Sunrise:

The church needs help setting up Easter Sunrise Service. This will include placing chairs outside and setting up for Communion before services as well as cleanup afterward.

(Vicar Collins Sita 941-830-6020 or vicar@redeemerfl.com or Church Office 941-475-2410 or church.secretary@redeemerfl.com)

Lenten Wednesdays – Soup at Redeemer – Volunteers Needed:

The Chair of Community Parish and Fellowship invites everyone to gather after Wednesday Evening Services for **SOUP**. A simple offering, a shared table, and Christian fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sign up to volunteer to host and make soup in the Narthex or contact Catalina. (Catalina 207-752-7797 or CatalinaBakas@gmail.com)

Altar Guild:

The Altar Guild needs volunteers – Training by Catalina. Please let us know if you are interested. (Catalina 207-752-7797 or CatalinaBakas@gmail.com).

Coffee Hour:

Thank you so much to everyone who helps! (Sign up sheet is hung by the kitchen door in the Narthex)

Wednesday Evening Services Car Pool:

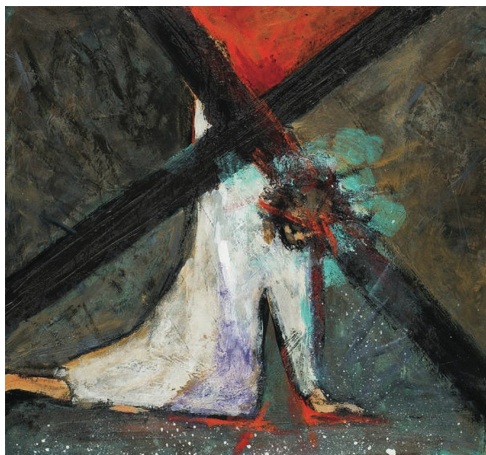
We need passengers *and* drivers, so whether you want a ride or want to drive, please let us know! (Church Office 941-475-2410 or church.secretary@redeemerfl.com)

MORE WAYS TO CONNECT WITH REDEEMER

Facebook: Our Sunday Services are broadcast live on Facebook every week!

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!



LENT 2026

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday

- Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
(with the Imposition of Ashes).

Mid-Week Services (Followed by Soup & Fellowship)

- Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Holy Week

- Sunday, March 29, 2026, at 9:15 a.m.- Palm Sunday
- Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.- Maundy Thursday
- Friday, April 3, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.- Good Friday

The Resurrection of Our Lord

- Sunday, April 5, 2026, at 7:00 a.m.- Sunrise Service
- Sunday, April 5, 2026, at 9:15 a.m.- Easter Service

SCHOOL

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!"

Psalm 98:4

K & 1 This February has been filled with fun; we are celebrating heart month in K-1! Kids are exercising each day through dance or instructional fitness. We are also learning the importance of good nutrition and the five senses. On February 13th we celebrated Valentines, it went against the eating healthy lesson, but the kids had a great time playing candy bingo, graphing hearts, and eating pizza. This week we are learning about how Jesus walked on water, which will be the ending of the "Life of Christ" series. Next week we will prepare for the upcoming series "The Later Ministry of Jesus" where it will cover Transfiguration, Jesus and the Lepers, and Zacchaeus.

Mrs. Cataloni

2 & 3 Time has flown by this February, especially with the excitement of Valentine's Day and the many sweet treats the children enjoyed together. Having just wrapped up an immersive unit on the solar system, the students are still buzzing with curiosity and asking insightful questions about the wonders of the universe. In our Bible lessons, we have transitioned into a beautiful study of God's Love for Us, helping the children understand how much they are cherished. It is a joy to see them connecting these lessons of faith with their growing knowledge of the world around them. *Mrs. Awadallah*

4 & 5 What's up in 4/5th grade! Last week the 5th graders were able to see what it would be like in the 6th grade classroom and the 4th grade students were able to experience being the older students in the room with the step-up 3rd graders. In the classroom we have been researching famous explorers as well as reading chapter books and writing book reports on them. The class is continuing to learn how to manipulate fractions in various ways as well as how to construct a paragraph to make reports and share their projects on biomes and animals found in them. *Mrs. Hart*

6 We are excited to share all the wonderful learning happening in our sixth-grade classroom during this third quarter! Our students have been working hard, growing academically, and showing great effort in every subject area. In math, students are practicing how to calculate and find the perimeter and area of rectangles, triangles, and other polygons. In reading, students are diving deeper into story elements. They are identifying and analyzing the protagonist/antagonist, setting, plot, and conflict/resolution. Through class novels and short stories, students are learning how characters drive the story and how conflict shapes the plot. Our science lessons have taken us into outer space! Students are learning about asteroids and meteors! This includes what asteroids are and where they are found, and the difference between meteoroids, meteors, and meteorites. In history, students are studying western expansion and the role of evangelism during that time. They are learning about why settlers moved west, challenges faced during expansion, the impact on Native American populations, and the influence of religious movements and evangelism on communities. Students are gaining a deeper understanding of how these historical events shaped the growth and development of our nation. *Mrs. Longenecker*

7 & 8 Hello Redeemer Church from Coach Don's middle school class. So far, this past month both 7th and 8th grades have been working on a different Scientist in English class and have presented them to the class. They all did fantastic, some were nervous to stand in front of the class to do them, but they managed. In Math both classes have been working on Algebra 1 and different Equations to go along with their math. In Bible they have learned about the trial and crucifixion of our Lord and savior and the significance of Jesus's sacrifice for mankind. Most of my kids have never really delved into the trial of Jesus and the implications of what was happening. In History the class has been studying the details and lives of their personal favorite Historical Figures that they chose. Some have chosen Plato, Einstein, Amelia Erhardt to name a few. In Science we continue to work on STEM projects and hands on learning in class. This inspires the kids to learn and figure out how they need to work as a team instead of individuals. We also were able to finish our beautification project of putting down fresh mulch in the playground areas and in front of the daycare area. The class was very proud and a little dirty to work on this project. But they all jumped in and did an amazing job. As always God Bless and be well Love *Coach Don's Class*.

Up Coming Dates:

3/4 Early Release

3/7 Open House 11am-2pm

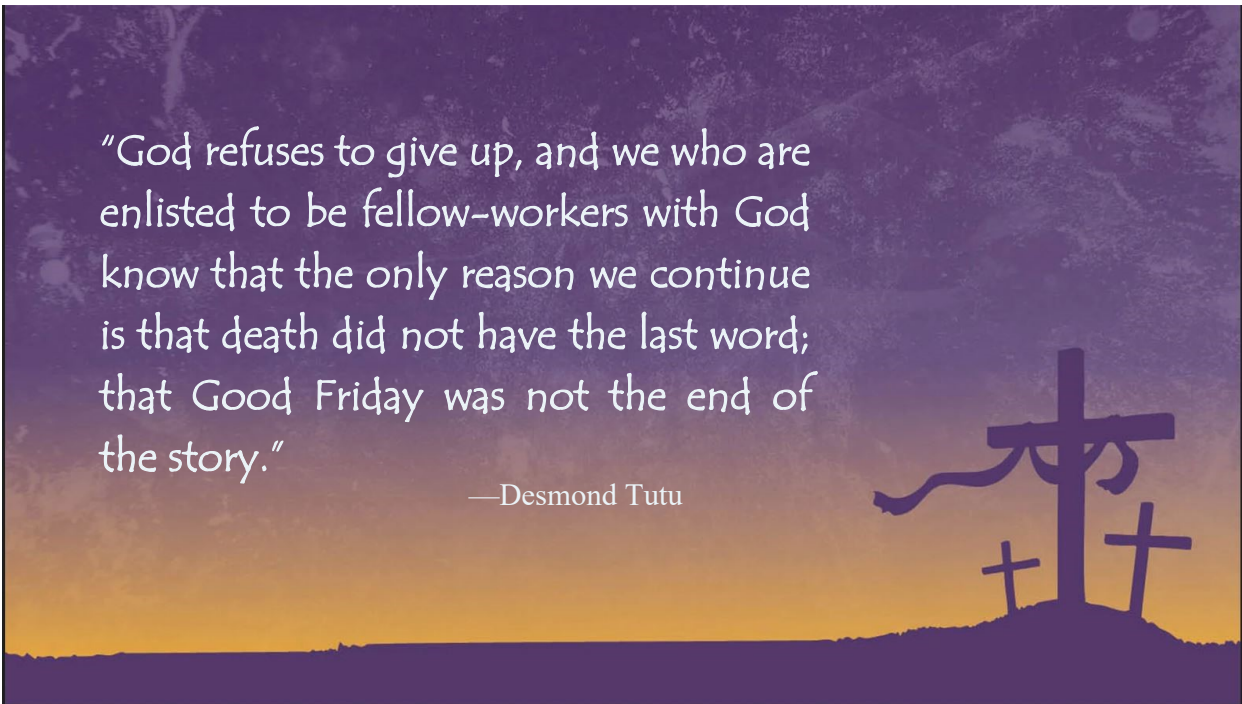
3/16-3/20 Spring Break

4/3 No School

4/6-4/10 State Testing



Inspiration



"God refuses to give up, and we who are enlisted to be fellow-workers with God know that the only reason we continue is that death did not have the last word; that Good Friday was not the end of the story."

—Desmond Tutu

BOOK SHARE BOX



We're gathered for something simple, yet very meaningful—a Book Share Box that represents generosity, learning, and community. This box is more than wood and paint; it is an invitation. An invitation for our children to discover new stories, for families to share resources, and for neighbors to give freely and receive with gratitude.

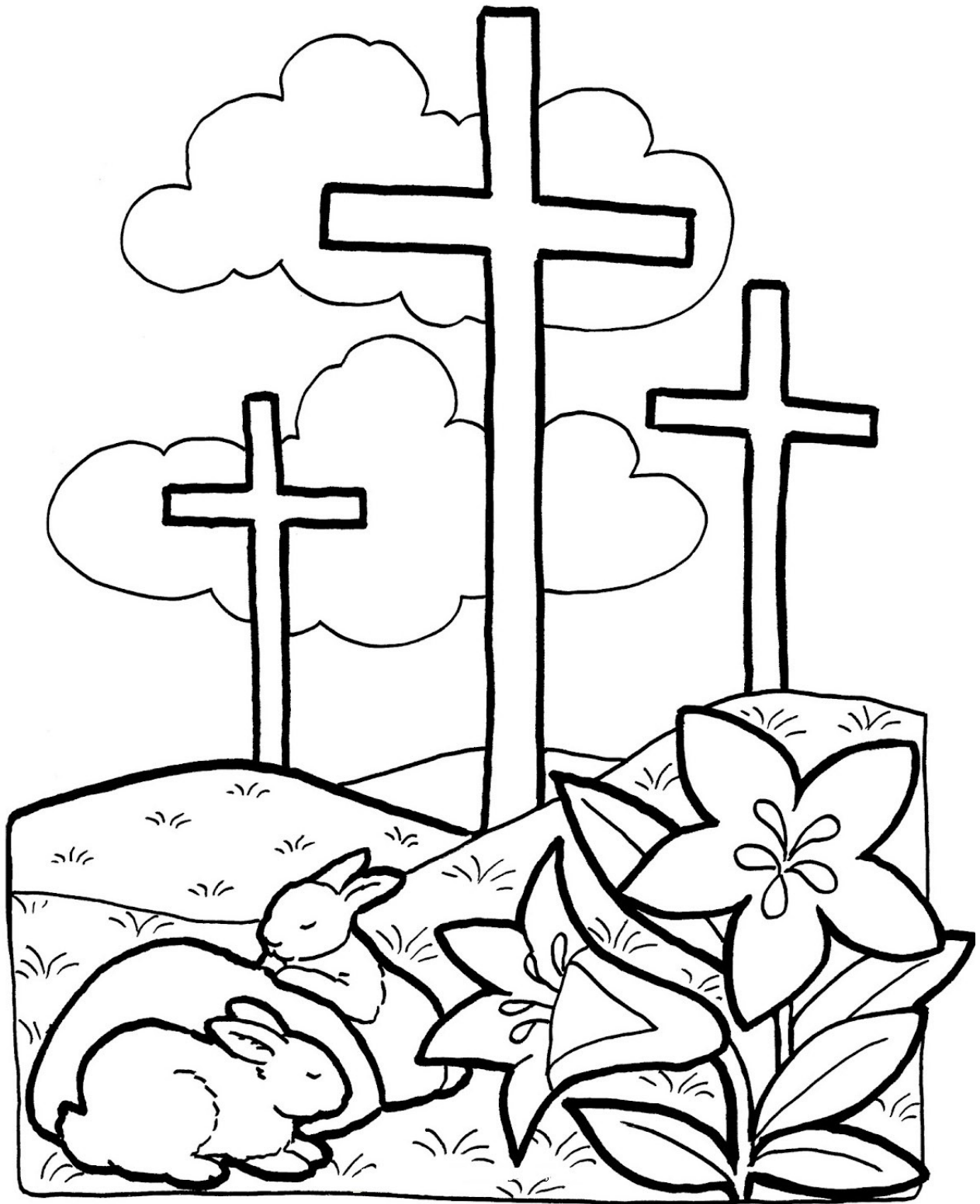
We want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to Jerry Lindberg, who so generously donated his time, talent, and heart to create this beautiful Book Share Box for Redeemer Lutheran School and Child Care. Jerry's craftsmanship and kindness will bless countless children and families for years to come.

At Redeemer, we believe that nurturing young minds goes hand in hand with nurturing young hearts. God's Word reminds us in Proverbs 22:6:

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Books open doors to imagination, understanding, and faith—and this box reflects our mission to serve, teach, and share God's love in practical ways. It's not just a new addition to our campus, but a spirit of sharing. Take a book, leave a book, and most importantly—share the joy of reading.

 <p>TREASURER'S REPORT</p>	<p>Financial information is available to all members upon request.</p>
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”For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” Romans 10:13

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



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Church Fax: 941-475-9726

Email: Church.Office@redeemerfl.com

School Phone: 941-473-7998

Email: School.Office@redeemerfl.com

Child Care Phone: 941-475-2631

Email: redeemerchildcare@gmail.com

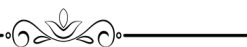
REDEEMER REPORTER

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)*