



July 2019



IT'S JUST A MATTER OF FAITH

In the First Article of the Creed we confess, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." And according to Dr. Luther's explanation this means that we believe, "God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason, and all my senses, and still takes care of them. **He also gives me** clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and **all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.** He defends me from all danger, and guards me and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. **For all this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.** This is most certainly true." (Luther's Small Catechism; The Creed, First Article; **emphasis mine**).

Recently at Child Care Chapel I taught the children and staff about the story of Elijah and the widow in Zarephath and her son (1 Kings 17:8-24). If you're not familiar with it, it's quite a story about God's immeasurable provisions and the courageous trust His people have in Him. It has inspired me to write this important and hopefully stimulating article. So, before continuing in this article, please read this Old Testament story from the Bible.

Did you read it? Good! Imagine what it was like for the widow, just her and her son. Her husband had died, and together, mother and son were starving to death, struggling to make ends meet.

They were victims of a widespread famine, and there was no place to go and nothing to do about their predicament. She had faced the reality of their coming demise. She would take her little pot of flour and the little bit of oil she had left in the jug, gather some sticks, make a little cake, eat this final meal with her son, wait and die.

What would you be thinking if it were you? What would you be thinking about God? What would you say to your son? And how would you respond if some stranger came to you and asked you to make him bread with the ingredients for your last meal on earth?

Sometimes I think we read the Bible without any emotional attachment to the story. Sometimes I think we forget that the characters in the stories embedded in the Old Testament were people just like you and me. Like us, they had hopes and dreams; they believed and they doubted; they felt joy and experienced despair; they suffered real pain; they didn't know what was going to happen next.

Inside this issue

- Pastors Message 1-4
- State of the Parish 5-6
- Treasurer's Report 6
- Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer 7-8
- Stewardship 9-10
- LCEF 10
- Bible Study 11
- Where are They 12-13
- Inspiration 13
- Prayer List 14
- Schedules 15
- Property Appreciation 15
- Child Care 16
- Puzzle 17

(Continued on page 2)

Now if you still hadn't read the story, I want you to stop here and read 1 Kings 17:8-24. Done? Great! Imagine that you're actually there witnessing this historical account or that you put yourself in the shoes of the woman.

Can you imagine the suffering this woman was enduring? Not only was she grieving the loss of her husband, but she was now forced to face the reality that she and her son would die too. There was no denying the dire state that was set before them. How could it get any worse? How could life be darker?

But what she didn't know was that God had prepared to shine the light of His grace upon her and her son. God had already called her to be part of something more wonderful than anything her broken heart could have ever imagined.

God had planned this weak and broken lady to be part of something that would influence people of faith throughout all the generations. God had intended not only to give her life, but to declare through her that He is the Resurrection and the Life.

The method of all of this would be an outrageous request, one that I honestly think I myself would have first laughed at and then outright refused. What about you? How would you have responded to the request from the stranger?

So it begins to unfold in verse 10 in our reading, when we meet the widow at the city gates, gathering sticks to make a fire for her last meal. A stranger, who we know as Elijah, asks her for a drink of water: "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink."

The widow's response to this first request amazes me. Why, you ask? Because she steps out of her own circumstance, her own suffering in order to provide this man, this stranger, with a drink. Remember: read the story as though you're there or that you're the widow.

Then Elijah takes his request even further. Shockingly, he asks this woman (who has nothing but a little jar of flour and a little jug of oil), to bring a morsel of bread with the water. Could you imagine the woman screaming,

(Continued on page 3)

SERVING THE LORD

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Coffee Hour

"Bread? Are you crazy?! I'm all by myself, there's a famine everywhere, and you're asking me for bread? Are you that selfish, looking out only for yourself?"

But the widow doesn't flip out or run away, does she? She responds, "As the Lord your God lives," so she obviously has faith, "I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die."

This is when the story gets interesting. Elijah declares, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. *For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.'*" (emphasis mine)

Out of obedient faith, the widow, "went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, *according to the word of the Lord that He spoke by Elijah.*" (again, emphasis mine)

This is one of the many examples of faith that is revealed throughout the Bible, cover to cover. But we always have questions when reading these stories: Will the widow do what makes sense and keep the oil for herself and her son, or will she entrust the last thing that she has on earth to the care of the Maker of heaven and earth?

This dear widow, at the end of her rope, relies on her faith and trusts in God to make the prophet his requested cake. Would you or I have done the same thing? If we're honest with ourselves, many of us would have kept the ingredients to ourselves and shut the door in the face of Elijah. By responding in faith, the widow

not only made Elijah a cake, but she made a cake for her and her son, and she was able to make many more meals for all of them because the flour and oil didn't run out according to the Word and promise of God.

The blessing of the endless flour is a physical picture that the Giver of all that we need in this body and life had invaded her life with His grace. Long before she had eaten His provision, He had called her to not only experience life, but to be an instrument of the prophet Elijah's continuing life and ministry.

This story illustrates God's never-ending goodness. He daily and richly provides for all our needs, blessing us far beyond what we deserve or what we ask. With what God has already given us, He requires us to do with it greater things than our little minds could ever imagine.

This story would be amazing enough if it stopped at verse 16. But it doesn't, taking a more dramatic turn than you or I would expect. All of a sudden, the widow's son is stricken with what seems to be a terminal illness; the physical signs in this passage would tell us that the boy was dying.

Why in the world would God allow this to happen? Does it make any sense to provide endless provisions for the boy's sustenance, and then allow him to die immediately afterwards? Shouldn't God be rewarding the widow for her act of faithfulness? From a distance, it looks like a rather sick joke.

But this is no joke; no, it's a vocation, a holy station in life! What do I mean by that? God has called this poor widow and her only son to be included in a prophecy about the most significant event that would ever happen in history. God has prepared for her to be an actual living witness to death and resurrection.

(Continued on page 4)

Through the widow of Zarephath, God would declare Himself not only to be the Giver of all that we need in this body and life, but as the Giver of life who could do what no person could ever do – defeat death. What a picture this story brings, right?

The prophet Elijah lays himself on the body of the boy, cries out for God to give life to him, and the boy begins to breathe again so the prophet can deliver this son back to his mother. Again, put yourself on the scene of this story. How discouraging, then amazing, then depressing, then incredible must these moments have been for all involved! This all sounds all too familiar doesn't it?

I would guess that most of you reading this article have not experienced a famine of this magnitude, nor had a child raised back to life. So how does this story apply to our lives? It's vital to understand that this moment is not just a story in a book, but a prophetic moment for every child of God.

This moment of the death and life of the widow's son is a physical prophecy of another only Son who would die and who would rise again. Jesus would die, carrying our sins to the cross, paying the price we owe, but He would not stay dead. No, He would rise from the tomb conquering sin, death, and the devil, thus giving life to all who believe in Him. The resurrection of the son of the widow is a historical finger pointing to the future resurrection of the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus Christ.

When she went out to pick up sticks for her last meal, the widow of Zarephath had no idea of the incredible turn God had planned in her life. It would not be her last day because what was lurking over her wasn't the shadow of death, but the Giver of life, who would not only give her eternal life, but through her obedient faith and kindness to Elijah, enabled him to preach

life to all who listen to God's Word and believed.

God has plans for you and me and for all the ministries in His kingdom here at Redeemer. God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth has blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church over these 40 years with financial resources to maintain the Lord's vineyard and the spread of His Word.

Unfortunately, over the last four years we have been in a bit of a financial famine. We have used nearly all of the financial resources from the Dedicated Wind and Hail and Capital Reserve Funds. The grave concern is meeting our weekly general expenses. How will this be done? Is God preparing to use you and me through the resources He has provided, that is, given us?

In our Bible story God used the prophet Elijah, the widow, and her son to reveal His activity in and through their lives. Furthermore, He revealed His promise to not let the pot of flour to be spent or the jug of oil to run dry. God provided all they needed. They trusted in God. They believed in God. They responded to His Word. God did not disappoint.

And if that weren't enough, God also revealed His plan of salvation for all mankind through the raising of the widow's son from the dead, pointing us to His only-begotten Son's resurrection from the dead.

Nothing is impossible with God. What appears to be the grimmest of all circumstances, God sheds His Light in His Word. In our Bible story it all began with a stranger's seemingly outrageous request, followed by a response of faithful obedience.

Your Humble Servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Jim Kress

These are exciting times here at Redeemer Lutheran Church, School and Child Care. The sanctuary, narthex, and chancel area will soon undergo its renovation; the Day School will soon have ground cleared for the installation of a modular building containing four classrooms; and the Child Care will soon begin discussion with an architect regarding a permanent child care building. Indeed, these are exciting times at Redeemer Lutheran Church, School and Child Care.

Redeemer Lutheran Child Care, now in its twenty-first year of youth ministry serving our community with loving Christian care, continues to maintain enrollment well above 100 children since the summer of 2014. The Child Care continues to also remain in the black financially. Please review its financial reports. They remain faithful to their financial responsibilities. The Child Care has also completed another perfect inspection with DCF. This marks the fifth in a row dating back to 2017. The leadership of Director, Wendy Horvath and Assistant Director, Debby Buel is to be commended for the consistency and excellence for the management of the Child Care Center.

Redeemer Lutheran School is preparing to begin its fourth academic school year in August. Currently, the 2019-2020 school year will begin with an enrollment of 15 students from Kindergarten through the Third Grade. Mrs. Nicole Hopkins will continue to serve as our only teacher. With the growing numbers of grades and the potential enrollment growth, once the modular classrooms are installed, the School Board is exploring other options to maintain an atmosphere of learning and financial stability.

Redeemer Lutheran Church has, by the grace of God, received more new members this past quarter. I hope you have introduced yourself to them to make them feel welcome to the Redeemer family. Unfortunately, Redeemer has also lost a number of members and associate members. Please review the secretary's report for a more detailed list.

Redeemer Lutheran Church is blessed with strong teams of leadership. Although we lost the leadership of Laurie Steinke as Chair of the School Board due to her husband, Rev. Mark

Steinke, accepting a call to Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Inverness, we maintain an experienced leader with Mr. Bill Bowers acting as Chair. Our Church Council, Board of Elders, and Endowment Committee are served by very faithful and knowledgeable members of Redeemer. I am so very proud of them all and I am equally grateful for their sacrifices and leadership.

Redeemer is also blessed with a core of very devout volunteers. These men and women are to be praised and thanked for the many hours of service to our Lord and His Church. These volunteers are always ready with open arms to receive more such volunteers to assist in the needs of Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Redeemer is served with a very talented office administrative secretary. Caitlin Tilton is to me a godsend. At a time when we lost a valued worker, Deb Anderson, Caitlin and her husband, Rob, appeared out of the north (New Hampshire) to Redeemer's aide.

Where Redeemer Lutheran Church struggles – fails even – are in two important areas: church attendance and weekly offerings. Redeemer is blessed with 97 communicate members, 37 associate members, and 19 non-confirmed children.

Therefore, during the summer when associate members are not in residence, we can potentially enjoy a weekly attendance of 116 of our in-residence members – not including the number of visitors whom the Lord brings to worship with us. Over the last 10 weeks our weekly attendance average is 61 which include the visitors. Some may say, “50% member attendance is the norm.” Please let's not view this from a worldly standard. This is a spiritual crisis. Consider 50% of the members of Redeemer, your brothers and sisters in Christ, which include more than 50% of Redeemer's children, are not being spiritually fed and nourished. Who in their right mind, would believe that feeding yourself and your children with food and water only 50% of the time would be considered loving, responsible, and appropriate? When we became members of Redeemer Lutheran Church we confessed to attend divine services diligently and to

(Continued on page 6)

STATE OF THE PARISH ADDRESS (CONTINUED)

partake of the Lord's Supper frequently.

Printed in our service bulletin every week is an amount that is needed to meet Redeemer's weekly budget, that is, the general operating expenses of Redeemer Lutheran Church. This year \$4,243.65 is needed each week to meet these weekly expenses. These are expenses of Redeemer Lutheran Church and only the church. Please review Redeemer Lutheran Church's financial reports. These reports are provided for you at each Voter's Meeting. This financial responsibility falls upon the membership and associate membership of Redeemer. No one is exempt.

The financial wells of the Wind & Hail and Capital Reserve accounts are drying up quickly. Redeemer cannot continue to operate financially as she has by relying upon the assets of these accounts. When these accounts no longer have money in them, where will you go to make up the deficiencies from the weekly offering? Again, when becoming members of Redeemer we all made a public confession to share faithfully in time, talent and treasure, according to the ability God has given us.

The State of the Parish is founded and established upon the Law/Gospel preaching of God's Word in its truth and purity as well as the

administration of the Sacraments of our Lord according to His institution. No doubt this is being done here at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Unfortunately, many are refusing to hear and receive these eternal gifts. Many have squandered the gifts God freely gives. They do not give unto Caesar what is Caesar's nor do they give to God what is God's. Rather they give unto themselves without concern or consideration for the life of the Church.

We, including this pastor, need to re-focus, re-evaluate, re-new, and re-commit to the way of God and depart from our old selfish and sinful ways. Wherever you happen to be at the present time emotionally, physically, financially, and spiritually the time has come for us to gather faithfully and frequently in worship in order to receive the eternal gifts of our Lord. And our response in receiving such gracious gifts is to return thanks in praise and in time and in talent and in tithe. The most exciting times here at Redeemer begin in worship and in returning thanks here so that we can be a part of the exciting times out there.

In the Service of Christ Jesus and His Church,
 Rev. James T. Kress, Sr., Pastor
 Redeemer Lutheran Church, School &
 Child Care

Treasurer's May 31, 2019

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
INCOME	12,188	14,548	(2,360)
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>18,068</u>	<u>18,223</u>	(155)
+/-	(5,880)	(3,675)	
YEAR TO DATE			
INCOME	82,677	72,726	(2,360)
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>86,441</u>	<u>91,084</u>	(4,933)
+/-	(5,880)	(3,675)	



Respectfully submitted,
Jean Clappe-Mixell
 North Star Bookkeeping LLC

REV. DR. PETER J. SCAER

The following article on the Rev. Dr. Peter J. Scaer was printed in the *For the Life of the World* magazine, Summer 2019 issue and is reprinted with permission.

FACULTY FOCUS



Tell us a little about yourself.

Though born in Connecticut, I've spent much of my life around the Seminary. My father was called to Springfield in 1966, the year I was born. In 1976, it was off to Fort Wayne. Since then it's been Concordia Grade School and High School, back to the Seminary for study, and Notre Dame. Most importantly, I met my wife, Amy, on vicarage, and we have three kids, all grown up.

How did you serve before becoming a CTSFW faculty member?

I was a pastor at Emanuel in Arcadia, Indiana. Dear people—some farmers, some tradesmen, a postal worker here, a teacher there. I think of them so often. What a joy. What a privilege to be part of their lives, members together of Christ's body.

In addition to serving as Professor of Exegetical Theology, in what other roles have you served at CTSFW?

The Seminary is an exciting place where so many people use their talents for the sake of Christ and His church. As for me, I am the supervisor of the MA Program and help with our academic journal, the *Concordia Theological Quarterly*. I also do my best to keep the community up to speed with the challenges of being a Christian in our quickly changing culture.

How has seminary education changed in the years you have been on the faculty?

I think we are much more intentional. We recognize that we have just a few years to prepare our men and women, and we want to do the best we can to provide them with a solid foundation. This means getting to the sources, spending more and more time in the Scriptures, and becoming grounded in the Lutheran Confessions. More than ever, the world needs a strong and vibrant Christian witness, so we aim to get it right.

How has the student body changed in the years you have been on the faculty?

What I see is a student body that has counted the cost of discipleship. Our students know that the ministry is not a way to establish a career or obtain any kind of earthly prestige. They look out at the world and they get it, often times better than those of us who are older. They see the rise of paganism, but are undaunted. They are ready and willing to put it all on the line for the sake of Christ, knowing that in Him their future is secure.

What has been your favorite course to teach and why?

Oh, I love the Gospels, all four of them. But perhaps my favorite is Mark. He speaks to a Church undergoing persecution. Mark knows that it's going to be a bumpy ride, that the winds and waves mean that we can hardly expect smooth sailing. And yet, knowing that Christ is with us in the boat, in the ark of salvation, we are going to be okay. The Christ who saved us, who died for us, is with us still. Every time the bread is broken, every time we eat His body in the Holy Supper, we are reminded that we are never alone, that Christ is with us all the way. With Him, we will make it through safely to the other side.

What has been most challenging to you as a professor?

I suppose many of us feel tugged in different directions. There are so many opportunities it's hard to

(Continued on page 8)

say no, but it's easy to be overwhelmed. Every once in a while, I have to step back and ask, "What's important?" Sometimes, this has to do with living a balanced life of family, health, church, work, and friendship. Other times, it is about keeping your eyes on the prize.

What has been most rewarding to you as a professor?

At the top of my list is the honor of teaching such wonderful men and women. Our students are the best. They sacrifice so much, and so also do they love the Lord. They are a pleasure to be around. And, on top of that, ours is a truly international seminary. I've loved my trips to Russia and Tanzania. It's great to see the Word of God having such impact throughout the world. Their love for the Lord is palpable, as is their hunger for the Gospel. To have such opportunities leaves me only with gratitude.



What is your best advice to your students who will be heading out to serve as pastors and deaconesses?

What is required of God's servants? Simply that they be faithful. In the end, the success belongs to God, as does the glory. The world right now is against us in a way that we have not experienced it, at least in our own land. So immerse yourself in the Scriptures, read them daily and often. Take your faith to heart by singing the hymns and liturgy with your people. Take the Gospel to all people, but surround yourselves with Christians that you might encourage one another in the truth that is both ancient and eternal.

The general theme for this issue is "The Future Is Bright: Learning from the Past/Prepared for Tomorrow." What hope do our pastors and congregational members have in spite of a culture that is increasingly hostile to Christianity? Why is the Seminary and the study of theology important as we look to the future? What can a small congregation in the middle of America do to stem the tide and hold firm?

As the darkness descends, the light shines all the more brightly. As Christians, you are the salt and light. Do not lose your saltiness. Be all things to all people, but do not accommodate your faith to a world that rejects it. Be who you are. Claim your identity in Christ. Sing from the hymnal and drink from deeper wells of wisdom. Turn off the chatter and listen to God's Word, all of it, even and especially the parts that the world denies. And confess the truth, especially that truth which is mocked and ridiculed. Return to Genesis and the truth of male and female and true marriage. Return to the Lord who proclaimed the truth of creation and marriage and who is the bridegroom who gave His life for His bride, the Church. And then speak boldly about the sure hope of Christ who will come again to make all things right.

To draw from the famed British Prime Minister: never, never, never give up. Or, better yet, be thou faithful unto death, and you will receive the crown of life. It matters not whether your church is small or large. What matters is that Christ is with you, that His name is proclaimed, that we trust Him solely, turning off the chatter of the world, thankful for a Word we can trust and build upon. Do not be distracted by those who say you are on the wrong side of history. Stick with Christ, our Alpha and Omega, and you will be on the right side of eternity.

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Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: “How much should I give?” Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions also vary.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though, as Lutherans, we know we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus’ substitutionary atonement, the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God’s favor by what we do.

Take, for example, the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all he has and give it to the poor and then follow Him.

This rich young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions. Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God’s favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know their duty as Christians in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been “breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16–17).

So, we begin to answer the question, “What should I give?” with the question, “What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?”

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe – 10 percent – of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

“And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire – oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves.

“And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.” (Deut. 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth the following:

Stewardship (continued)

We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This is our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we have also been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us, like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame, likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us.

And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us – with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love – to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.



LCEF Difference

LCEF has served as the financial extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 1978, offering funding and resources in support of the Church. When you invest with LCEF, you're providing for the creation and growth of congregations and ministries across the country.

Mission Statement

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.

LCEF fulfills its mission by:

- Investing in a strong LCMS community;
- Securing your financial future; and
- Supporting you around the clock.

Please consider opening an account with LCEF today. For more information, visit LCEF.org.

Yours in Christ,
Rob Tilton
LCEF Congregational Advocate

***The deadline for the August Newsletter is July 19th.
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!***

Sunday Morning Bible Class for the Life of the World

As the church journeys toward heaven, it teaches the Word of the LORD, it washes at the font, and it feeds according to the will of the LORD. As God's people, we gather in a place called church and we attend Divine Service because it is there that God gives us the gift of His Son Jesus Christ. This is a promise that He has given us as the people of God, and it is the greatest gift that God could give us.

This promise of the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ comes to us when we are gathered in His name, because He has bound Himself to the preaching of the gospel, and the giving of Himself in the sacraments.

Now, from the world's perspective these are not important gifts, and yet from God's perspective, they are the most important gifts that He could give. We believe, teach and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ is present within our church according to His flesh. And the fact that the eternal God could be present amongst us in His flesh, through simple Words, through simple water, and through simple bread and wine, is part of the "MYSTERY" that we call the Liturgy of the Church.

Come explore this mystery with us following Divine Service each Sunday. This 12 session series on our Lutheran Liturgy is presented by Dr. Arthur Just in DVD form. For each session, a study guide will be provided. Dr. Just, professor at Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN, leads viewers through a presentation of our liturgical heritage and its Scriptural origins.

The sessions include: An Introduction to the Lutheran Liturgy, The Structure of Liturgy, Jewish Origins in Christian Worship, the Table Fellowship of Jesus and Structure of Word and Sacrament, Liturgy in the Life of Jesus, The Liturgy of the Word, The Liturgy of the Sacrament, The Entrance, Preparation and Distribution, The Lutheran Liturgy: 1941, 182 and beyond, the Church Year and Sunday, the Lord's Day, The Services of Prayer, Catechesis, Baptism and the Liturgy of Life.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE

CLASS: Come join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Narthex for an exciting Table Talk discussion. Ask Pastor just about any question. We will search the Scriptures. We will have open dialog in the study of the Holy Scripture. Again, your questions and our discussion may range from current events to ancient church history. This is your time to "ask the pastor."



Back in February of this year Redeemer Lutheran Church hosted and enjoyed the sacred sounds from the members of the Fort Wayne Seminary Kantorei. Furthermore, members of Redeemer hosted these men preparing for the office of the holy ministry in their homes for an evening before leaving the following day to the next church where they were performing.

Sometimes we witness these things thinking their lives continue on much the same as ours. Well, that's just not true. The seminary life is a temporary life. Before receiving their first call, students experience 3 years of classroom studies at the seminary and a 1 year vicarage at an assigned Lutheran parish. Traditionally the student spends the first 2 years at the seminary, then are assigned vicarage. Following a full year of vicarage, they return to the seminary for their final year of study. Upon completion of their studies, as well as theological certification from the seminary faculty, students then receive their first call. A student can also decide to apply for a Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) instead of receiving a first call. This is only one more year of theological study, but does generate another theological degree.

In April of every year, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN announces the vicarage assignments and first call in the form of a service for students, faculty, family, and the entire seminary community to attend. Many of the members of the Kantorie received such assignments and calls. Below is a list of where these men will be serving our Lord and His Church in a year of vicarage or their first call in the office of the ministry. Please keep these devout and talented men in your prayers.

Students receiving Pastoral Calls:

Garrett Buvinghausen of
Richmond, TX
Resurrection Lutheran Church
Fredericksburg, TX
Texas District

Paul Gaschler of Imperial, NE
Concordia Ev. Lutheran Church
Greenwood, IN
Indiana District

Zac Patterson of Houston, TX
Faith Lutheran Church
The Dalles, OR
Northwest District

Joshua Ralston of Maumelle, AK
Zion Lutheran Church
London AK
Mid-South District

Students receiving Vicarage Assignments:

Zachariah Burgdorf of St. Charles, MO
Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries
Philadelphia, PA
English District

Tim Schmeisser of St. Joseph, MO
Trinity Lutheran Church
St. Joseph, MI
Michigan District

Andrew Keller of Brownstown, IN
Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church
Terre Haute, IN
Indiana District

Cory Kroonblawd of Eagon, MN
Trinity Lutheran Church
Hampton, IA
Iowa District East

(continued on Page 14)

Students receiving Vicarage Assignments:

Stanley Lacey of Fairhope, AL
Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
Imperial NE
Nebraska District

Joe Muench of Hermantown, MN
Faith Lutheran Church
Capistrano Beach, CA
Pacific Southwest District

Martin Hill of Westmoreland, NH
Memorial Lutheran Church
Houston, TX
Texas District

*Student remaining at the Seminary
enrolled in the S.T.M. Program:*

Keith Kettner, Jacob, IL

Inspiration

A simple act of kindness,
Passed on from man to man;
Is but a touch of God's own love,
In a kind, extended hand.
Compassion, love and mercy,
Passed down through all mankind;
Completing then the circle,
That all men seek to find.
In reaching out and touching lives,
With your generosity;
It did not go unnoticed,
For the eyes of God can see.
The kindness and compassion,
That He's sown deep in your soul;
An instrument of His own love,
To make life's circle whole.



Pastor: redeempastor1@gmail.com
Church secretary: redemerfl@gmail.com
Church treasurer: redemertreasurer1@gmail.com
Child Care: [redeemerchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:redemerchildcare@gmail.com)

PRAYERS

SHUT-INS: Judy Clasen, Susan Jahns, and Rita Kaufman.

HEALING for Members: Neva Aldene, Deb Anderson, Carl Bertka, June Brown, Jean Cote, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Charlie & Pat Finkenbine, Mike & Judy Guastella, Bud & Jane Harty, Chuck Malecki, Angela Mannato, Ken Mielke, Lillian Miles, Glenn Mossner, Mariana Murray, Bob Payne, Tom & Sue Poyer, Dorothy Sinowetski, Russ & Carol Spooner, Caitlin Tilton, Bob Varone, Robert Vickey, and Artie Zipp

FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Michelle Bernard, Grace Blum, Gerry Borwick, Bill Bowers, Jr., Mary Brissette, Holly Burch, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Emily Byrkett and her unborn child, Diane Carr, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Donna Connors, Lisa Copeman, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Renee Dempsey, Dale & Trudy DesJardins, Irene DiTommaso, the family of little Marceline Neva May Duburg, Barb Dumeah, Anton Durner, Chris Durner, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Barbara George, Sandra Gettings, Nancy Gleis, Mary Ann Guilfoyle, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Dennis Hegarty, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, John Hill, Rick Hill, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Chelsea

Hutchinson, Stanley and Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Deb Jacobsen, Bill Jaquest, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Barb Kern, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Erin Kress, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Rev. Rusty Leavitt, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Joe Manson, Candace McGowan, Rev. Paul Mier, the family & friends of Leslie Miles, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Rev. Herbert Mueller, Ron Mullins, Esther Murphy, Bev Parkinson, Charles Pentecost Jr., Julie Pool, Robin Potts, John Purdy, Mary Raines, family and friends of Lisa Riley, Rev. Ronald Rock, Paul Rollo, Ed Sheahan, Nancy Sly, Don Stewart, Paul Sullivan, Charles Tolley, Richard Traversa, George Vespa, Jim & Judy Wahl, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Donna Weston, Gordan Winkel, Isaac Zavala, Wava Zeitlow, and Martha Zimpfer

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Joseph Garay, Thomas Francis Stynes II, Brian Jackson, Jonathan Koen, and Charles D. Weishaar



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



ELDER & COMMUNION ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

Date	Elder & Reader	Communion Asst
Sun, July 7th	Rob Tilton	Steve Horvath
Sun, July 14th	Bob Varone	Michael Nagel
Sun, July 21st	Paul Brown	Mark Horvath
Sun, July 28th	Collins Sita	Dave Giroux

Acolyte

Gospel Bearer & Crucifier

Date	Crucifier	Gospel Bearer	Acolyte
July 7	Toby Hancock	Alyssa Hancock	Brianna Neef
July 14	Mykalina Sabol	Bella Fisher	Kylee Payne
July 21	Alyssa Hancock	Jayden Bishop	Brianna Neef
July 28	John Miller	Ariana Miller	Rylie Giroux

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE



Date	Set-Up	Clean-Up
Sun, July 7th	Mindy Duncan	Jean Cote
Sun, July 14th	Lisa Kress	Joyce Schneider
Sun, July 21st	Gretchen Armstrong	Bob Varone
Sun, July 28th	Lisa Kress	Mindy Duncan

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 done inside the Church. If you can help, please come to the church and we will put you to work. **Our next Property Appreciation Day is Saturday, July 20th at 8:00 am.**





Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Tuesdays
at 3:45

7/2 Jonah and the Big
Fish

The Book of Jonah

7/9 Food for Elijah and
the Widow

1 Kings 17:1-16

7/16 Elisha & Naaman

Luke 5:1-11

7/23 Jesus Calls His
Disciples

Luke 5:1-11

7/30 Jesus Calms the
Storm

Matthew 8:23-27



Dear Jesus,
Thank You for being our
Savior. Help us follow You
and tell others about You.
Amen.

Ice Cream Truck

July 9th & 23rd

Birthdays

7/1 Ms. Jadilyn

7/1 Kaliyah

7/1 Taylor

7/3 Natalie Y

7/3 Violet C

7/8 Alexa G.

7/13 Ariel

7/14 Hunter

7/30 Melvin

7/31 Lola

7/31 Ms. Nicole



Congratulations!

Thank you for making a
difference at Redeemer
Child Care!

Ms. Brandy - 2 year

Ms. Kimberly - 2 year

Ms. Debra M. - 2 Year

Ms. Kylie - 1 Year



Submitted by Wendy Horvath

**Important
Information**

Now Accepting VPK
certificates for the
2019-2020 school year.

8/1 Yearly \$50.00 supply
fee per child will be
charged to your account
and flu forms will be
passed out for you to
sign. This is also a good
time to update your
child's application with
new contact information.

Closings

CLOSED - July 4th



CLOSED - August 9th

We will be preparing the
classrooms and building for
the new school year.

CLOSED - September 6th
for a Teacher Conference
in Orlando



Summer Search

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

August

beach

bikini

boat

camping

fan

fishing



hat

hot

ice cream

July

June

lotion

mosquito

shorts

sunburn

sunglasses

suntan

swimming

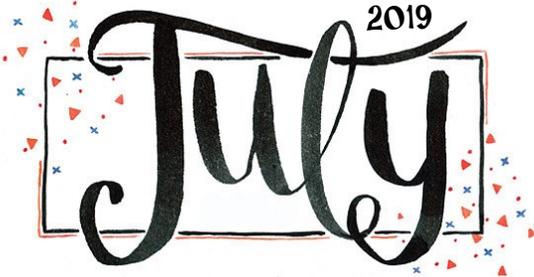
tent

vacation



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

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED - OPTION 1



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,
SCHOOL & CHILD CARE
6465 Mayport Street
Englewood, FL 34224
REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.
Pastor

Church Phone: 941-475-2410
Church Fax: 941-475-9726
School/Child Care Phone:
941-475-2631
email: redeemerfl@gmail.com

REDEEMER REPORTER

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WORSHIP SERVICES:

Divine Service: 9:15 AM
Bible Class: 10:30 AM
Sunday School: 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).*