



OCTOBER 2023



Saved by God’s Grace Through Faith

On my Facebook feed I will periodically receive posts from a group called *Visual Faith Ministry*. This is a Facebook page that encourages people to journal their daily devotions through coloring graphics as well as drawings.

Inspired by that group, I encourage you to use the graphic below and color it as you read the associated passages.

In addition, at the end is a brief summary of *Luther’s Rose* from Wikipedia as well as Martin Luther’s own explanation of why this graphic came to be his seal.

I encourage you to print the larger one on the next page, then color and post it as a reminder to you of God’s love and the love He wants you to continually share with others.

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Colors to choose from:

- ⇒ White
- ⇒ Yellow (Gold)
- ⇒ Blue
- ⇒ Black
- ⇒ Green
- ⇒ Red

(Instructions: Choose one color to represent each of the following segments.)

Jesus carried the sins of the whole world when He died on the cross.

- Colossians 2:13-14
- 1 Peter 2:24
- Isaiah 64:6

He did this because of His unconditional, generous, and sacrificial love for the world.

- John 3:15
- 1 John 4:10
- Romans 1:17

For those who believe and trust this, we are different

- John 14:27
- Ephesians 4:22-24
- Mark 9:2-3

God wants our new faith to daily grow and increase

2 Peter 3:18
1 Peter 2:2
Ephesians 4:15

With a growing faith there is increasing JOY in our lives

Philippians 1:21-26
Psalm 73:24-26

Our JOY comes from our heavenly treasures

Matthew 6:19-20
Ephesians 1:3



From Wikipedia

The **Luther seal** or **Luther rose** is a widely recognized symbol for Lutheranism. It was the seal that was designed for Martin Luther at the behest of John Frederick of Saxony in 1530, while Luther was staying at the Coburg Fortress during the Diet of Augsburg. Lazarus Spengler, to whom Luther wrote his interpretation below, sent Luther a drawing of this seal. Luther saw it as a compendium or expression of his theology and faith, which he used to authorize his correspondence. Luther informed Philipp Melancthon on 15 September 1530, that the Prince had personally visited him in the Coburg fortress and presented him with a signet ring, presumably displaying the seal.

Luther's Interpretation of His Seal

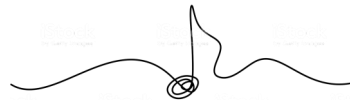
In an 8 July 1530 letter to Lazarus Spengler, Luther interprets his seal:

Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology. The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. "For one who believes from the heart will be justified" (**Romans 10:10**). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. "The just shall live by faith" (**Romans 1:17**) but by faith in the crucified. Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (**John 14:27**). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. **Matthew 28:3**; **John 20:12**). Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my compendium theologiae [summary of theology]. I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Craig Mathews

Reformation Hymn Festival

Sunday, October 29 at 4 p.m.



All circuit churches are invited to join together in celebrating the Reformation with a Hymn Festival at Trinity Lutheran Church in Englewood.

It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

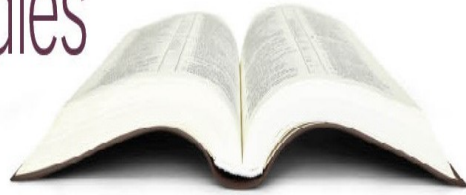
It's all in the way that you use it!

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry



Financial information available to all members upon request.

Bible Studies



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

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

Table Talk: Table talk is a very informal Bible study now held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, immediately after the 8:45 school chapel service. Participants come with any sort of question. We work to answer those questions from God’s Word and from our Lutheran Confessions. In doing that we all learn more about God’s Word and its application in our lives. We are currently focusing on the book of Exodus. 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 leading the discussion; come and meet him.

SERVING THE LORD

Interim 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

OFFICERS

President Collins Sita

Vice President James Kruse

Treasurer Lucia Kruse

Secretary

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Head Elder

Christian Ed.

Human Care Jean Cote

Outreach

Assimilation Joyce Schneider

School Board Catalina Bakas

Stewardship

Youth

Financial Secretary Sherrie Keesee

Property Mgmt. Steven Horvath

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour Joyce Schneider

***The deadline for the November 2023 Newsletter is October 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!***

Emergency Numbers

When in sorrow	John 14
When men fail you	Psalm 27
If you want to be fruitful	John 15
When you have sinned.....	Psalm 51
When you worry	Matthew 6:19-34
When you are in danger.....	Psalm 91
When God seems far away.....	Psalm 139
When your faith needs stirring.....	Hebrews 11
When you are lonely and fearful	Psalm 23
When you grow bitter and critical	1 Corinthians 13
For Paul's secret to happiness	Col. 3:12-17
For idea of Christianity	2 Corinthians 5:5-19
When you feel down and out.....	Romans 8:1-30
When you leave home for labor or travel	Psalm 121
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish.....	Psalm 67
For a great invention/opportunity	Isaiah 55
When you want courage for a task.....	Joshua 1
How to get along with fellow men.....	Roman 12
When you think of investments/returns	Mark 10
If you are depressed	Psalm 27
If your pocketbook is empty	Psalm 37

SCHOOL NEWS

THIS MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2023

Morning arrival and School Dismissal has been a huge success with the way we are dropping off and picking up. At drop off and pick up we have introduced a new Safety Patrol program with the 5th and 6th graders to assist students in and out of cars supervised by staff.

THIS YEAR AT SCHOOL A NEW PTL

This year we would like to start a new Parent Teacher League and with your help we feel it will be a success! We invite motivated parents and teachers to attend our meetings each month at 6:00 pm. Our first meeting will be on September 26 at 6:00 pm in the Church. Upcoming events will be discussed as well as a meeting day and time for all future meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 13 End of Quarter 1
October 16 No School
November 6 Parent Teacher Conferences

FALL EVENTS

Saturday November 11, 2023
from 11:00-2:00 Fall Festival
November 21 Thanksgiving Program

🔔 Reminders!

Please remember to visit the office to sign the attendance book if you are dropping off late or picking up early. Also please call the office or email if children are going to be absent. Thank you.

Life on the Farm



Letter of the month T & J

Number of the Month 4

Shape of the month Oval

Color of the month Orange

Bible Lesson : Abraham's son Isaac is born genesis 21:7

This month we are leaning about what you see and do on a farm.

What we are leaning in **VPK A...** This month's lesson study is Trees and will be working with the letters E, F, and G.

What we are doing in **VPK B...** This month's lesson study is Balls and will be working with the letters P, F and C.

Together this month we will celebrating Community helpers week and going on a field trip to Hunsader Farms. Additionally, we will be doing fun fall activities, a black, orange, and purple glow party, and Halloween.

Calendar days :

Fire Truck October 10,

Hunsader Farms October 17

Prayer Requests

Shut-ins: Rita Kaufman and Dorothy Sinowetski.

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

Redeemer School & Child Care staff & their families: Brandi Fordham and Ashley Graham. (Both are facing recent medical/health issues. They appreciate your prayers!)

Friends and relatives: Barbara George, Mikayla Hacksunda, Daniel & Michelle Kalstrup, Dave McMullan, Esther Murphy, Rob Powers, Becky Rurade, Laurie Steinke, and Wava Zeitlow.

HAPPY
Halloween



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

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED - OPTION 1



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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).*