

January 2018

CONSEQUENCES FOR RETURNING A CHRISTMAS GIFT OR RE-GIFTING IT

Well, now that Christmas is over it's time to return those less than desirable gifts. You can exchange them for some huge post-Christmas sale or become crafty enough to re-gift those gifts to unsuspecting people you completely forgot about during the hustle and bustle of Christmas.

You shouldn't be embarrassed about it, everyone does it, right? It's become one of those traditions you've talked yourself into thinking that there's no harm involved. You're trying to do the right thing, aren't you? After all, you're not a self-centered, egotistical, hollow person. After all, you were on Santa's nice list again this year.

But before executing this yearly tradition of yours, perhaps you should pause for a moment, take notice of the following warning and consider the consequences for returning a Christmas gift or re-gifting it.

Of course, I'm not going to shovel out advice about what you should do with the gifts you received this year from loved ones or friends. In fact this article will have almost nothing to do with a material or monetary gift you may or may not have received this Christmas or ever. However, I will dish out some spiritual guidance regarding the gifts you received through Jesus Christ from your heavenly Father.

Perhaps the first gift you received from God was faith, which is the free gift of the Holy Spirit enabling you to believe His Word, the Holy Bible: "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). Can children hear? Can infants hear? Can the unborn child hear? Of course! Even as an unborn child you heard the Word of God as it was read to you by your mother or father or when they attended church. The Word is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

In His Word God the Father sets before you His plan of salvation for all mankind through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. In His Word, you read and hear the very Words of Jesus as He speaks to you eternal promises and truths. Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My



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Words will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35), and "The Word of the Lord remains forever. And this Word is the Good News that was preached to you" (1 Peter 1:25). Moreover, you hear His Word of absolution, that is, His Word forgiving you all you sins: "Your sins are forgiven you, go in peace."

The next gift you most likely received was Baptism. Included in God's command and combined with God's Word

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you are baptized into Jesus, that is, in His death and resurrection. In Baptism, God forgives you your sins, He rescues you from death and the devil, and He gives you eternal salvation. This is a most sacred gift God gives you. In Baptism, He gives you His name, He marks you as one redeemed in Christ Jesus, He makes you His child, you are a member of His family and a co-heir with Jesus Christ of His eternal kingdom.

Another gift He gives you, which is also according to the command of Jesus and combined with His Word, is the Sacrament of the Altar, also called the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Table of the Lord, the Breaking of the Bread, or the Eucharist. In, with, and under the bread and wine, Jesus gives you Himself. That is, He gives you His true body and true blood for specific purposes: to forgive you your sins and to strengthen your faith in Him.

Having knowledge of these precious gifts God gives you, why would you or anyone else for that matter exchange them for something else? The fact of the matter is you have, we all have. We have exchanged them for the things of the world, the temporal things, the things rust and moth can destroy.

The Word of God says to you, *"Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God"* (James 4:4). Jesus also says to you, *"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money"* (Matthew 6:24).

And yet, Jesus does say the following to you, *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness"* (Matthew 6:33). To be sure,

Jesus is the kingdom of God who comes to us and He is most certainly the righteousness of God. As the Apostle Paul writes for you, *"The righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith."* (Romans 3:21-25). In other words, the righteousness of Christ Jesus covers the sinner, covers you. You are no longer under the Law, but under grace – God's unconditional love.

In Holy Baptism you received His righteousness. In fact, your Christening gown or white garment shows that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. Therefore you shall stand, without fear, before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you from the foundation of the world. In Jesus' revelation to John, he sees and writes for you, *"I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"* (Revelation 7:9-10).

John must have beheld a glorious site. Well, to be honest, he sees it now and will forever. All who believe shall not perish, but have everlasting life. God's kingdom of heaven is a glorious and splendid place. Wouldn't you like to go there? How can you be sure

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you will? Jesus says, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"* (John 14:6), and *"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved"* (Mark 16:16).

Why would anyone exchange or reject God's gifts? To reject them is to reject the One who gives the eternal gifts. Let us understand, there is a consequence for rejecting or exchanging His gifts for something else. Jesus instructs us, *"If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned"* (John 15:6), and *"The one who rejects Me and does not receive My Words has a judge; the Word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day"* (John 12:48). Furthermore, Jesus teaches that rejecting the preaching of His servants is the same as rejecting Him. *"The one who hears you hears Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me, and the one who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."* (Luke 10:16).

Therefore, *"Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near"* (Isaiah 55:6).

Where might you find Him and how might you call upon Him before the Day of Judgment comes upon you like a thief in the night? Go where He promises to be! Go to His house, to His sanctuary, to His Church. Enter the body of Christ and there you will meet Him in both Word and Sacrament. Go again and again having your sins forgiven and your broken spirit healed. Be uplifted by those who share your woes and sorrows. You are not alone in your struggles and sins and griefs and pains. We are all sinners before God. However, it is He who calls us to Himself in order that we may receive grace upon grace and share with one another in His love and fellowship.

Wilhelm Loehe, an old German pastor from the 19th century writes:

In worship the congregation experiences its Lord most intimately. Here it lives in nearest proximity to its Groom in a heavenly life on earth, an earthy life in heaven. Worship is the most beautiful flower of earthly life. Just like land in the middle of the ocean, the Word and Sacraments stand in the inner life and worship of the congregation. You have one week behind you, a new week lies in front of you. Between these two weeks is the day of Communion Sunday. You desire to draw near to God with the congregation. What do you, whether you are a shepherd or a sheep, have to do first? You do what all religions say is necessary for the soul: you cleanse it like feet that have become dirty from the activity of daily life. In other words, you prepare yourself for worship by confessing you sins and receiving absolution. Being cleansed from sin, you enter into the joys of the particular festival day or Sunday. But the worshiper finds that earth still has other burdens and sorrows, both present and future. Life, death, and eternity, with all of their bitter fruits and consequences, threaten you as you journey to the heavenly kingdom. Worries burden you and keep burdening you. But no longer does sin torture you, no longer do you fear evil, no longer do you sigh longingly, but joyful confidence fills your soul. You sit beneath the face of the Lord. In the sermon you begin to experience the blessed communion of the saints who rejoice in the Lord. The worshiping congregation experiences itself as the Bride of the Lord, rich not only in and through Him but also in and through one another.

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CONSEQUENCES FOR RETURNING A CHRISTMAS GIFT (continued)

The congregation, in its fullness, thinks of the special needs and miseries upon the earth, delights in all good things, and goes before the altar of the Lord with intercessions, petitions, and prayers. All worshipers are blessed and approach the throne of blessing knowing they are worthy. The worshipers realize that the Church is one unit both here and everywhere. Pilgrims are one in their prayers and are cleansed with all of the blessed saints in heaven.

He gives us a wonderful way in which to view the church and especially worship, where we receive God's gifts through His Son Jesus Christ.

If you believe this newsletter message has benefited you and believe that it could possibly benefit someone you know (an indi-

vidual, a couple, or an entire family), but haven't seen them in God's house lately, I challenge you to do this: give them this article to read because most likely if they haven't taken the time to be in church they haven't taken the time to read a church newsletter article from the pastor.

In this article, I have only revealed to you the gifts God gives us through His Word and Sacraments. He also gives us gifts, temporal gifts, here on earth. Next month's newsletter I hope to reveal more of those gifts. In the meantime, see you in church for the purpose of receiving the abundance of His gifts, which are given to us free by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

In the Service of Our Lord Christ Jesus,
Pastor Jim Kress



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greeting brothers and sisters,

Thank you all for your tremendous turnout and support at our December Voters meeting. This being my first report to the congregation since my installation I would like everyone to know what a pleasure it has been to meet and serve the congregation. It is not my intention to express my opinions or wants in this report, but to share with you the main points that I discovered while working on the church budget. The Church Council is very much aware of their fiscal responsibilities and we are working hard to be good stewards. So as a matter of transparency I would like to share with you what we are dealing with.

The “elephant in the room” is the obvious \$30,000 deficit proposed for next year. This is sizable, in spite of our efforts to cut expenditures in seven of the 15 budget line items. Most costs are fixed and can not be done away with, those that are not we are eliminating. Such as Chamber of Commerce dues, or reducing our Workers Compensation Insurance premiums for the church. The council is currently negotiating with our Fellowship Hall renters to increase the usage fee to a more appropriate amount to offset expenses. We do expect to see reductions in our electric bills thanks to the new more efficient AC units. Maintenance costs should be reduced for years due to the improvements to the roof and parking lots. On the other side of the room is the other glaring explanation for our deficit. Line items 4207 and 4209-Giving. Here we are dealing with a loss of over \$14,000 of operating income from previous years. The way we operate will have to change and Jim Metzker will report on one cost saving change next month.

Of course a large portion of our budget goes to our pastor. But not as much as it could be. The district has guideline formulas to calculate all church workers and staff. After completing these forms our pastor’s salary comes in several thousand dollars short of their recommendations. Additionally it needs to be noted here, Pastor Kress does not turn in any mileage reimbursements for the use of his personal vehicle, which he certainly is entitled to.

The encouraging item in all of this the Child Care/School portion. Thanks to Wendy Horvath and her staff and the Board for functioning profitably. This is encouraging to us because the Child Care pays into our church funds. Also, they have absorbed into their budget our entire fleet saving the church thousands per year. Wendy has reported many children of a certain age have had to be turned away because we do not have the classroom space for them.

It is not my wish to start a debate or anger anyone in sharing these points with you. But to enlighten you, as I was, to the realities the Church Council deals with. It is my wish that with a better understanding we all can come together to work toward a brighter future for Redeemer Lutheran Church. our new church home.

Wade Duncan

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless. But it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the Small Catechism informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and our questions arise in giving to the church.

So, what is our duty as members of the church with regard to giving? The Table of Duties, again, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, St. Paul taught: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor. 6:1-2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (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).

In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the

SERVING THE LORD

Pastor Rev. James Kress

Child Care Director Wendy Horvath

Office Secretary Deb Anderson

Organist Bill Bowers

Keyboardist Elizabeth D'Amico

Choir Director Collins Sita

Newsletter Editor Pat Finkenbine

OFFICERS

President Wade Duncan

Vice President Bill Bowers

Treasurer

Secretary June Brown

BOARDS

Head Elder Mike Nagel

Christian Ed.

Human Care Lisa Kress

Outreach

Assimilation Ann Varone

School Board Laurie Steinke

Stewardship Stephen Wurster

Youth Alan Duburg

Financial Secretary Mindy Duncan

Property Mgmt. Jim Metzker

GROUPS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild Sally Zierdt

Men's Group

Altar Guild

Coffee Hour

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STEWARDSHIP (CONTINUED)

Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

Church Directory

We are looking for shiny, happy people to help update our Church Directory. Pat Finkenbine and Lisa Kress will be working on this task during the month of January and February. During the month of September, many of you know that Hurricane Irma made an appearance and we had a difficult time getting ahold of some members of Redeemer. So, in an effort to update our files and update the church directory, we invite all members and associate members to take updated photographs and fill out updated information sheets. Updated information sheets will be in the Narthex as of January 7, 2018. Please fill them out and see Lisa for your photo!



Blood Drive



Human Care would like to invite you all to participate in the upcoming Blood Drive with the Big Red Bus! The Blood Drive will be Sunday, January 21, 2018 from 8:30AM-Noon. Please sign up on the schedule in the Narthex. We look forward to seeing you there!

Classifieds



- Refrigerator needed** If you have a refrigerator you are not using and would like to donate it to the Child Care center, it would be much appreciated.
- Real Estate Services** Call Bill Bowers at (941) 416-5661 for real estate assistance.
- Cleaning Services** Call Kristine Baltimore at (941) 681-6514 for residential cleaning.
- Pet Sitting Services** Do you need someone to watch your four legged friend?
Call Michelle Kalstrup, Certified Vet Tech (CVT) at 941-705-1726 or email her at: pawfectsouls@yahoo.com or visit her at www.pawfectsoulspeeting.com
- Plumbing Services** Babes Plumbing Englewood Office 941-475-8146; Main Office 941-488-2402

WHAT'S WITH THE UNUSUAL NAMES?

When looking at our January calendar, especially at the Sundays, you will notice some unusual names given for each Sunday. These are *Latin* terms given to the period before the season of Lent. So, this year we shall introduce an historic church custom – Pre-Lent. The origin of Pre-Lent is somewhat obscure. As Lent developed, the term *Quadragesima* (40 days) was applied to the entire forty day period of fasting and to the first Sunday in Lent. At least as early as the sixth century certain groups of monks were advised to prepare for Lent by additional periods of fasting, and by analogy the Sundays before Lent were given the names, *Quinquagesima*, *Sexagesima*, and *Septuagesima* (approximately 50, 60, and 70 days before Easter). Thus the period between Lent and the close of Epiphany was given over to fasting and preparation for Lent. Rome seems to be the origin of this development, and by the eleventh century Pre-Lent was quite common throughout the church.



Generally the themes of Lent (preparation, suffering, death) are stressed also during the period of Pre-Lent. However, some are advocating the view that Pre-Lent be observed as an extension of Epiphany with a mission emphasis, since the penitential character of Lent is sufficiently lengthy.

The last few days of Pre-Lent have been the occasion for much celebration in most countries. Particularly on Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday, the official first day of Lent), when confessions were heard and absolution given, joyous carnivals were held in the cities. In England they were called *Fasten's Eve*, in Germany *Fastnacht*, and in France, the *Mardi Gras*,

FAMILY BREAKFAST

Remember to attend our delicious Family Breakfast on the first Sunday of every month following Divine Service. If you would like to assist in any way, please contact Neva Aldene.



WEBSITES: Church — www.redeemerfl.com Child Care — www.redeemerfl-cc.com
School — www.redeemerfl-school.com FACEBOOK: [Redeemer Lutheran Church](https://www.facebook.com/RedeemerLutheranChurch)

FROM THE TREASURER

Treasurer's Report As of November 30, 2017:

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
INCOME	10,711	12,581	(1,870)
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>17,851</u>	<u>16,168</u>	1,683
+/-	(7,140)	(3,587)	
YEAR TO DATE			
INCOME	136,690	143,334	(6,644)
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>165,450</u>	<u>181,148</u>	(15,698)
+/-	(28,760)	(37,814)	



Respectfully submitted,
Jean Clappe-Mixell
North Star Bookkeeping LLC

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, Jan 20th at 8:00 am.**

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is invited to the Fellowship every Thursday, starting at 10:00AM. **The more people attending, the more FUN we can have!!!** The most popular things to play are: Pinochle, Phase 10, Skip BO, and Hand & Foot. We also have Dominoes or other games if they are requested. There must be something you would like to have fun with, so come on out. Once in a while we have a special homemade lunch but usually everyone brings a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert furnished.



Church email addresses have changed! Be sure to correct your email contact list to reflect the new addresses:

Pastor: redeempastor1@gmail.com
Church secretary: redeemerfl@gmail.com
Church treasurer: redeemertreasurer1@gmail.com
Child Care: redeemerchildcare@gmail.com

PRAYERS

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

HEALING: Members: Gretchen Armstrong, Neva Aldene, Jean Cote, Jan Detrow, Charlie & Pat Finkenbine, Terry Fountain, Dianne Frincke, Mike Guastella, Bernice Heppner, Wendy Horvath, Lisa Kress, Paul McDonald, Ken Mielke, Leslie Miles, Glenn & Marlene Mossner, Bob Payne, Tom Poyer, Pam Replinger, Duwayne Schoeneck, Russ Spooner, Fred Toth, Bob Varone, Robert Vickey, Larry Wiech, and Artie Zipp.

FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Keri Bishop, Bert Blackford, Grace Blum, Michelle Bernard, Bill Bowers, Jr., Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Kirsten Campbell, Jack Carlos, Diane Carr, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Dick Clemens, Joanne and Randy Clymo, Donna Connors, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Renee Dempsey, Dale & Trudy DesJardins, Ed Detrow, Rital Devine, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Lou Fountain, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Sandra Gettings, Nancy Gleis, Fran Grenon, Melisa Gustavus, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Joel Heppner, Walter Heppner, Glory Herget, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter,

Stanley and Lynne Jablonski, Bill Jaquest, Chris Johnson, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Steve Kallsen, John Kearns, Rev. Michael Kettner, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Erin Kress, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, John Lockhart, Sean Maki, Joe Manson, The Maxson Family, Candace McGowan, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Trista Mosier, Esther Murphy, Audrey Nanni, Charles Pentecost Jr., Julie Pool, Robin Potts, John Purdy, Mary Raines, Preston Ricker, Rev. Ronald Rock, Joyce Schneider, Nancy Sly, Luke Suski, Charles Tolley, Roger Salisbury, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Wava Zeitlow, and Mary Ann Zipp.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Nicholas Beltz, Michael Broughton, Brian Jackson, Jonathan Koen, David MacLeod, Steven Siegmundt, and Charles D. Weishaar.

Steven Siegmundt, 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!

Those who *Serve*



ELDER & COMMUNION ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

Date	Elder & Reader	Communion Asst
Sun, Jan 7th	Collins Sita	Rev. Greg Walton
Sun, Jan 14th	Paul Brown	Mark Horvath
Sun, Jan 21st	Bob Varone	Dennis Replinger
Sun, Jan 28th	Mike Nagel	Steve Horvath

acolyte and crucifier schedule

Date	Crucifier	Acolyte
Sun, Jan 7th	Toby Hancock	John Miller
Sun, Jan 14th	Mykalina Sabol	Bella Fisher
Sun, Jan 21st	Alyssa Hancock	Ariana Miller
Sun, Jan 28th	Kamrie Evanicki	Kyleigh Evanicki

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE



Date	Set-Up	Clean-up
Sun, Jan 7th	Gretchen Armstrong	Mindy Duncan
Sun, Jan 14th	Bob Varone	Carolyn Francis
Sun, Jan 21st	Gale Bakalik	Sandi Libke
Sun, Jan 28th	Lisa Kress	Neva Aldene/Jean Cote

The deadline for the JANUARY Newsletter is January 17th
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 consider a donation of your time and talents to the Altar Guild. We are in need of volunteers for the upcoming season. We generally set up on Saturdays and take down immediately after church on Sundays. This is a vital service to the life of the church. Please prayerfully consider helping in this way. Typically, you are needed no more than twice a month.

However, if we have more volunteers, it would be less. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please give me a call if you would be willing to volunteer and I would be happy to help train you!

Lisa Kress 941-889-8938



Some of the members of Redeemer's Choir on Sunday, December 24th. Choir Director, Collins Sita is sitting with the choir, while Bill Bowers, organist warms up.

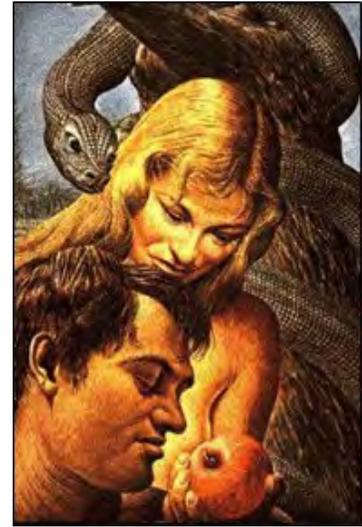


Notice the empty places in the choir pews. We need MORE sopranos and altos, but ESPECIALLY we'd love to have some tenor and bass voices. You do NOT need to know how to read music! The choir rehearses at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evenings for less than one hour. Bill is there to accompany us, and Collins directs, often playing recordings of other choirs performing the pieces we are learning. We not only praise Him, we enjoy it immensely! On Sunday in the Choir Room we spend about 15 minutes reviewing the music for that day. See Collins, Bill or any Choir member next Sunday! Blessings, June Brown

BIBLE STUDIES

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

On **Tuesday's at 10 AM**, in the large meeting room of Fellowship Hall, we dive into the Word of God. Currently we are looking at the teaching of Original Sin and Free Will. A correct understanding of sin is foundational to the understanding of the Gospel. The more we come to realize the severity of our condition, the more our appreciation of the Gospel's beauty grows. If our problem is only that we do bad things, then the solution is to do the right thing. If our problem is that we are "sick" or "weak", then salvation is a matter of healing and giving us spiritual strength. The Bible, though, tells us that we are "dead in trespasses and sins." This means that salvation must be God's work. In this series of Bible Studies we will let the Formula of Concord (1577) lead us into the Scripture's teaching on Original Sin and Free Will. When we see the depth of our sin we also see the height of God's great love for us in Christ. So, come join in on this study. You will be well entertained by our conversations through class participation.



WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE CLASS

Come Join Us Every Wednesday at 10:00 AM



In a most solemn and intimate setting with His disciples on the eve of His death, Jesus spoke fewer than fifty words to institute the Holy Supper. Yet, great controversy has occurred in the Church in more recent years about what Jesus meant when He said, "This is My body ... This is My blood." Drawing on the most obvious meaning of what Jesus said, the ladies will study, with the guidance of Good News magazine, and come to the true and complete teaching of Jesus concerning Holy Communion as well as the special blessing God offers to His Church through this Sacrament.

As we study God's revelation, may we always remember that God's Word is more than ink on a page or mere information, rather, Jesus says His Words "are Spirit and are life" (John 6:63). His Word is living and life-giving. Ladies Bible Class meets each **Wednesday at 10:00 AM** in the Narthex of the Church. All ladies are welcome to join us. You may also invite your girlfriend, sister, mother, or daughter.

The most important thing we can pray about for others is that they will know God better and that He will help them understand His will, grow in spiritual wisdom, and live lives that honor Him. We can pray that they will become more like Him and bear the fruit of His Spirit.

This Coming Year

Dear Master, for this coming year
Just one request I bring
I do not pray for happiness
Or any earthly thing
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou leadest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth thee.

I want to know Thy guiding voice,
To walk with Thee each day.
Dear Master, make me swift to hear
And ready to obey.
And thus the year I now begin
A happy year will be
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.



"So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Psalm 90:12

Happy New Year

REDEEMER SCHOOL

December sure went by quickly. It was a super busy month and we accomplished a lot in the little time that we had. Pastor taught about Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. He taught how God can do anything including allowing Himself to become a little baby. We learned that Jesus is the reason for Christmas. Santa, Elves, reindeer and presents are really fun but Jesus is the best gift to us. We learned that everything that we are, and everything that we will be should honor Him.

In Kindergarten Social Studies we started our unit on Children of the World. In this unit, we be will introduced to a few simple facts about geography of our world and the children that live there. It is my goal to develop an interest for learning about other people and places. In January, I will also introduce Flat Stanley. This is a book about a little boy that was flattened by a bulletin board. He traveled the world by being sent in the mail. We will make our own Flat Stanley's and send them to friends and family all over the world. They will then send us back information and pictures about where they live and the adventures they had with Flat Stanley. This is a fun project that lasts for months. The children love it and we normally learn a lot from the experience.

Our First Graders started their unit on Health, Safety, and Manners. We have been introduced to the importance of good health habits. We studied nutrition, exercise, proper sleep habits, and good posture. We learned how to take care of our skin, hair, eyes, ears, nose, and teeth. We will learn about good ways to think of others, showing good manners, and ways to help at home. It is my goal to show my students that they are part of their family unit and that everyone helps in a family. God gives us families and homes. He wants us to obey our parents, help our brothers and sisters, and help with work in our home. Part of our homework is doing different chores in the house to help our mom and dads. We have made our beds, set the table, helped with dishes, and cleaned our rooms. It is easier and healthier to live in a home that is neat and clean.

This month we also invited VPK over to learn what is like to be in kindergarten. Our theme for their visit was gingerbread men. We read the story of "Gingerbread Baby", organized gingerbread men from numbers 1-10, made our own gingerbread men and books, and even made a gingerbread house. The morning was very exciting and my students were so glad to show younger kids how to do different activities.

Letter C Verse: *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* Ephesians 6:1



TEACHER OF THE MONTH



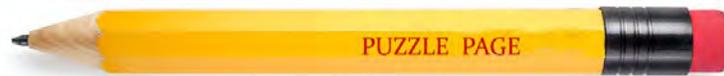
Emily Byrkett

Some of my favorites are:

Food: Steak
Movie: Minions
Color: Blue
Drink: Coke
Season: Winter
Sports: Football
Fast Food: McDonald's
Store: Wal-Mart
Dessert: Cheesecake
Candy: Smarties
Restaurant: Outback Steak House
Flower: Sunflower

You can contact me at:
redeemerchildcare@gmail.com
Phone: 941-475-2631
Also on Class Dojo

Meet The Teacher! Hi! My name is Emily and I am 23 years old. I have lived in Englewood Florida my whole life. I have 3 sisters and 1 brother. I have a 3 year old son and his name is Jonathan. He also attends Redeemer. We love going to the beach and visiting new places. I will be the VPK Aide & After School Teacher this year at Redeemer. I went to Myakka for Elementary School, LA Ainger for Middle School and Lemon Bay for high school. I started working for Redeemer in January 2015. Redeemer offered me a scholarship to go to school to get my CDA (Child Development Associate Degree). I received my CDA in October of 2016. Shortly after that, I finished my trainings to be in the VPK class.



ANAGRAM

Books of the Bible

Seesign
Hemwatt
Usedox
Visitclue
Nailed
Nominaltaste

Violentera
Lastagain
Hazephina
Asheepsin
Onmars
Moodytenure

Hobaida
Tileaccesses
Beshrew
Socialsons
Shipinpipal

Human
chairhaze
Ljeerham
Hemplion
Ashoe



Redeemer Child Care wishes you a Happy New Year

January 2018 Bible Lessons

Chapel is on
Mondays at 3:45

- 1/8 God's Word Is Important Luke 2:41-52
- 1/15 Jesus Is Our Substitute Matthew 3:13-17
- 1/22 God Has Mercy on His Children Luke 17:11-19
- 1/29 Jesus Is All Powerful Luke 8:40-56



Dear Jesus, give me eyes of faith to see that You are God's beloved Son. Amen



Come in and Visit the School and check out our amazing classrooms and all the fun activities the children are doing!

Birthdays

- Connor D. 1/3
- Ms. Brandy 1/5
- Brooklynn N. 1/7
- Eva 1/9
- Blake 1/11
- Isabella F. 1/15
- Brayden N. 1/16
- Gavin 1/19
- Nicholas G. 1/26



Congratulations Ms. Brittney & Ms. Brandy on graduating College with a Bachelor's Degree Good Work!



Congratulations on your years of Service at Redeemer!
Emily Byrkett - 3 Years

Santa Lunch



Thank you to all the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church and Child Care Families who gave a gift off of the Angel tree for the Santa Lunch! The children had a wonderful time and loved their gifts! A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO SANTA!

Needing a new Fridge



If you have a refrigerator you are not using and would like to donate it to the ChildCare we would be very grateful.

Submitted by Wendy Horwath

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

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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

REDEEMER REPORTER

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WORSHIP SERVICES:

Bible Class: 8:00 AM

Divine Service: 9:15 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*