



May 2023

State of the Parish

It is important that I recommunicate through the newsletter what was said in my report at the Congregational Meeting of April 16, 2023.

I have said before. We are an *ekklesia*. This is the Greek word used in the Bible that often is translated as church. It was used to describe a group of people living in a Greek city/state, that the leadership had called out from the community to do a special task, to accomplish special purpose.

It is a reminder for the fellowship known as Redeemer Lutheran Church that God has called us ***out of this world and its culture to be a part of His family, His team, to accomplish His purpose which is to enlarge His family, His team.***

God our Father, knows each of our skills, abilities, talents and resources because He created us and blesses us. However, He doesn't call us because of those skills, abilities, and/or resources. He calls us because He loves us and wants us to join His team.

And like any good coach, because He knows us so well, He can effectively plug us in to where we can be the most useful using those skills, abilities, and resources with which He has blessed us.

- ◇ He knows who we are.
- ◇ He knows what we can do.
- ◇ *He knows what His team can become when we use our skills, abilities, and talents to work **TOGETHER.***

But like all teams, we need to learn how to work together. And the coach knows what we need to work on.

- ◇ Sometimes this work is focused on developing skills.
- ◇ Sometimes this work is focused on how *"to have the back"* of other team Members.
- ◇ A lot of times, the work is focused on resolving and reconciling.

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STATE OF THE PARISH (CONTINUED)

A team that fights among themselves will never get far.

A team where members don't have the back of another team member won't get far.

Good teams, teams that go deep into the play offs, are teams that not only understand their goal, but also successfully implement the systems put into place to achieve those goals.

There are systems here at Redeemer that need to be analyzed and looked at including:

- ◇ How the church/school finances impact one another.
- ◇ How to effectively communicate the financial status of the church/school/day care so all understand the health and vitality of each.
- ◇ How to effectively structure the school so it is successful, not only in educating the children, but also reaching out and sharing God's love with the parents.
- ◇ How we govern ourselves through the Constitution and By-Laws.

Members of the team need to buy into the goals if they are going to be successful.

- ◇ The team goal needs to become their goal.
- ◇ The team needs to believe the goal is attainable.
- ◇ The team needs to dedicate themselves to the goal.

Right now for Redeemer your past coach is gone. You are waiting for another coach to come in and work **WITH YOU**. Hopefully the search for the new coach will continue soon. But in the meantime working with your current coach we can do those things that will have us better prepared as a team to work with the new coach God will give to us.

And while we wait we continue - to work, study, pray, and train (strengthen) ourselves.

We work harder and more diligently at

- ◇ Forgiving one another
- ◇ Supporting one another
- ◇ Encouraging one another
- ◇ Loving one another in the same way God loves us – generously, unconditionally, sacrificially.

Honestly, there are significant challenges before Redeemer right now. But it's not hopeless. It's going to take work.

- ◇ For some that means reconciliation
- ◇ For others that means recommitment
- ◇ For everyone it will mean rebuilding TRUST with others in the fellowship.

And that work starts NOW !!!

In Christ,
—Pastor Craig Mathews

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart”, as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

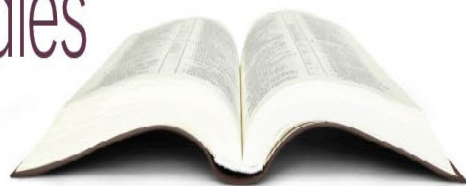
Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry



**THOSE WHO LEAVE EVERYTHING IN GOD’S HANDS
WILL EVENTUALLY SEE GOD’S HANDS IN EVERYTHING!**

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. If no one has a question to get the discussion started, we often look at the readings for the coming Sunday. 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 now leading the discussion; come and meet him.

- Respectfully submitted—Tim Matheny, Elder

SERVING THE LORD

Vacancy 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 Pam Dineen

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President Collins Sita

Vice President James Kruse

Treasurer Lucia Kruse

Secretary

BOARDS

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 June 2023 Newsletter is May 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!**

PRAYERS

Please pray for all those still recovering from Hurricane Ian

SHUT-INS: Rita Kaufmann and Dorothy Sinowetski

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

Friends and relatives: Michelle Bernard, Grace Blum, Tony Bozell, Mary Brissette, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Diane Carr, Pat Carroll, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Donna Connors, Lisa Copeman, Donald Cornish, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Tom Curry, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Stan Elenbaas, Lori Elliott, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Gerald & Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Sybil Fuchs, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Barbara George, Sandra Gettings, Wayne & Roberta Giannone, Ken & Sandry Gittings, Nancy Gleis, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Mikayla Hacksunda, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Haley Harris, Debbie Harrison, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Chelsea Hutchinson, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Daniel &

Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Esther Laird, Judy Larkin, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Joe Manson, Dave McMullan, Ray Mielke, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Ron Mullins, Esther Murphy, Bill & Jean Nesbitt, Linda Owen, Riley Emilia Paquette, Charles Pentecost Jr., Rob Powers, John Purdy, Mary Raines, Paul Rollo, Becky Rurade, Sandra Scheel, Ed Sheahan, Natasha Schock, Nancy Sly, Laurie Steinke, Juliette Renee, Charles Tolley, George Vespa, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gene & Donna Wensel, Gordan Winkel, and Wava Zeitlow.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Rev. Ross Engel, USN Chaplain, Lance Cpl. Joseph Garay USMC, Zeke Garrison, Brian Jackson, Jonathan Koen, and Charles D. Weishaar.

BECAUSE HE
BENDS DOWN AND LISTENS,
Pray
I WILL
AS LONG AS I BREATHE!
Psalm 116:2

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

Life

Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
To sweet eternity.

We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
But never meant to stay ...

Our destination is a place
Far greater than we know.
For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.

And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the Lord.

Author Unknown

ELDER MUSINGS

I am writing this just days after our April 16th Voters' Assembly. We received reports from our remaining board members. We received an update on the school building project. In addition to the regular treasurer's reports, we received a quarterly overview financial report showing our congregation to be in the black. After receiving the reports, the voters handled a lot of business. People were willing to step into many of our vacant positions.

Of course, this is all reason to be thankful to God, who has provided as we need. We rightly turn to Him in prayer, thanking Him for His gracious provision of funds and folks. We can also pray for those folks who have stepped into our leadership—

Collins Sita (Paulette), President
James Kruse, Vice-President
Lucia Kruse, Treasurer
Joyce Schneider, Board of Assimilation
Catalina Bakas (Michael), School Board
Steve Horvath (Wendy), Properties
Sherrie Keesee (Paul), Finance
Jean Cote, Human Care
Tim Matheny (Kay), Elder

Pray for us that the Holy Spirit will lead us with His gifts, particularly wisdom. Pray for us that we would show His fruits including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Pray for our spouses who are giving from their time with us that we may serve the congregation, that we might have peace and joy in our homes.

1 Corinthians 12, as Pastor Mathews has reminded us, describes the Church as the Body of Christ—each part with different gifts. Paul even addresses conflicts within the body. Parts are not the same. Parts do not have the same gifts. Parts may appear more important or less important, but all parts are necessary. When one part hurts, all hurt with it.

How does the body hold together? Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, continues in chapter 13—with love. Leaders can do a great job in their roles, but if they don't love, if they are bitter or angry, if they despise or reject others, their works are worthless. Love is patient, kind, not jealous and not arrogant. Pray that your leaders do not seek to be "in charge" or to rule over others rather seek to lead in love. Love doesn't consider a wrong suffered—it forgives. Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures. Pray that we may "put the best construction on everything" not gossiping or complaining as Dr. Luther teaches us in his explanation to the eighth commandment.

Consider reading these two chapters every day for a week, then pray for your congregation and its leaders. Allow the text to guide your thoughts and prayers.

How does the body heal? The body heals when individuals heal their relationship to other individuals. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:44 to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Pray for those who irritate or frustrate you. When you can, reconcile with them. I have learned that praying for others changes me as much as it changes them. This is the work of the Holy

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Spirit in me, producing His fruits in me so that I can treat others with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I become a better body part by the Holy Spirit's work in me.

Our congregation has much to be thankful for. It is a choice to see good rather than bad. It is a choice to be thankful. It is a choice to work toward a bright future rather than back to the past. Join your leadership in moving Redeemer forward. Start by praying for us.

Peace be with you.
Tim Matheny, Elder



DAY SCHOOL UPDATE

K-2 Update from, Miss Nicole and Miss Pam, K-2 Grade Teachers. We have been very busy since Spring Break! We ended our 3rd quarter at the end of March and we're now on the home stretch. Second graders started their health unit and we are learning all about the wonderful body has God given us. We learned that our body is like a house that the real you lives in. It is the house that God has made and He wants us to take care of it. God has a special plan for each of us and we need to take so we can fulfill it. We learned about good and bad habits. Good health habits help take care of our body that God has given us. We will continue to learn about a healthy me in the next month. On our recent field trip, we went to the Farmers Market in Englewood on Dearborn St. to get some healthy fresh vegetables. We walked around, found our vegetables, danced to the music, sampled popcorn and pickles, and were responsible for finding certain fruits or vegetables. The next day we read "Stone Soup" then we made Stone soup, salad, fruit salad, and bread for lunch. The kids love to cook. We love teaching life skills in the classroom. It makes learning fun.

Our Spring Concert was a success! The kids did awesome. Kindergarten through third grade memorized Psalm 23 and then Sang the song Psalm 23 by Keith Green. We had some parents in tears. Second through 6th grade girls also for the first time did a stick dance to the song "Arise my Love" by NewSong. They did an amazing job. Mr. Steve, our music teacher, did an amazing job preparing our students for the program.

In Art, K-3 has been taking what they learn during the week and using that for their art project ideas. They learned about the Cherry Blossoms that bloom in Washington DC and were instructed to make a tree and paint the blossoms using a piece of broccoli. They learned how to blend colors and create backgrounds for their trees.

3rd Grade Update from, Miss Fran, 3rd Grade Teacher. The past month has been a very busy month for third graders. In science, they have learned about the Solar System, why there

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are inner and outer planets and phases of the moon. History has covered Daniel Boone making the Wilderness Trail and we are now going through the Lewis and Clark expedition. We are going around the world for our school project. The students are learning many new things about their country to present in May. In Language they have written a friendly letter with each part including the heading, greeting, body, and closing signature. In writing, they are learning to write a narrative facts story. They will be great reporters soon. In Bible, they have become better at locating scripture references and have learned about Holy Communion.

4th Grade Update from, Miss Kathy, 4th Grade Teacher. Fourth grade has been slogging through the intricacies of fractions. It seemed impossible at first but they've started figuring out how to make the math magic work for them! Also we just made a great little terrarium in science lab that the kids will be observing at home. They have been really improving in their Spanish, and are up to conjugating 12 verbs!

5th and 6th Grade Update from, Miss Vicky, 5th and 6th Grade Teacher. The 5th and 6th grades have been focusing on learning about the mission of the Church after Jesus ascended back into Heaven. We have discussed the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the lives of the Apostles. In Science, we have completed a unit on the Periodic Table, and learned about the characteristics of the different types of Elements and the impact of the atom. 5th grade History has reviewed the continent of Africa and the unique nature of its individual countries. 6th grade History analyzed the colonies road to Independence from England. 5th and 6th grade Math has just concluded a unit on Geometry. Language classes continue to focus on identifying and using the parts of speech effectively.

Music Update from Mr. Steve, Music Teacher - The spring musical on April 12th was a huge success. Pre-K through 6th grade rose to the occasion and really did a great job. Their dedication and hard work over the past seven weeks paid off. I want to sincerely thank the parents, grandparents, friends, relatives, guardians and whoever else for showing up and supporting the students.

Now that the concert is behind us it's time to get back to regular classroom activities. K and 1st grades will have fun acting out with activity videos, learning through musically backed education videos and singing scripture songs. Second through 6th will continue learning basic music theory and applying that theory to a variety of songs by singing and boom whacking with sound tubes. Scripture songs will also be incorporated into their learning experience. Please encourage your students to be attentive in class for the rest of the year. They were very attentive with the goal of preparing for the spring musical. Now that the musical is past their attentiveness has somewhat drifted.

Thank you again for entrusting me with your students. It is always a pleasure and a privilege having your children in my music classes.

Child Care

Dinosaurs!

Letter of the month: J & K

Number of the month: 11

Shape of the month: Trapezoid

Color of the month: Brown



Bible Lesson: Jesus Says Do Not Worry *Matthew 6:25-34*

This month we are learning about Springtime Showers, Rainbows, Gardens, and bugs.

What we are learning in VPK A... Starting off the spring with the start of a new lesson plan of recycling. The children will be learning why and how we reduce, reuse and recycle. In doing so we are making flower vases out of water bottles, bird feeders out of oranges and planting flowers for earth day! We are also preparing for the end of the year by reviewing letters and sounds and working on writing first and last names. —Submitted by: Jazmyne Crady

What we are learning in VPK B... We are learning the letter X and going over the alphabet we've learned already. We also have been practicing graduation. We had a great time learning about the true meaning of Easter. Both classes had a fun time on a field trip to the Assisted Living Facility handing out easter Eggs! We've done a lot of projects this month with leaves and tree bark since we are learning about nature. —Submitted by: Mallory Oliver

Calendar days:

- Teacher Appreciation week—May 8-12,
- Mother's Day May 14,
- VPK Graduation May 18 at 6:00 pm
- Memorial Day May 29 Closed



SUMMER SPORTS WORD SEARCH



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

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| Athlete | Cross Country | Playoffs | Stadium |
| Baseball | Goalie | Score | Swimming |
| Bicycle | Gymnastics | Scuba | Tennis |
| Boating | Halftime | Soccer | Volley Ball |

"Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules." 2 Timothy 2:5

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

6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

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REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, associate members and visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Redeemer is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. (LCMS).

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Divine Service: 9:15 am

Bible Study: 10:30 am

The Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care Family are called into the service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by His command (Matthew 28:18-20) to:

- ◆ *Disciple all nations, that is, all people;*
- ◆ *Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;*
- ◆ *Proclaim the Gospel and teach His Word in its truth and purity; and*
- ◆ *Never be ashamed of the Gospel—it is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).*