



JANUARY 2024



Focusing on the Future

The coming New Year reminds us that change should be a part of our everyday life. It’s during this time that we focus on the future by reflecting on the past.

What are our dreams, hopes, and goals for the new year? How do the actions, decisions, and the words we shared with others impact and influence what we hope, dream, and desire for the new year?

What are we wanting to change? What are we willing to change in order to have different outcomes, better outcomes? And in reality, how will our attitude be different towards the things we cannot change – for whatever reason?

As you dream and plan for the new year, remember that the success you will have is not dependent on the goals and dreams you chose to do, but on the systems you put into place to achieve those goals and dreams.

Six weeks from January 1, two teams will meet in the Super Bowl to determine the champion for the NFL. Which two teams will play will be determined by the choices made on the field, the impact of weather, the ability to deal with crisis (injuries), the ability to deal with situations beyond their control (poor or missed calls by the referees), and a host of other factors.

The point is this: All NFL teams have the same goal – *to win the Super Bowl*. Why do some teams make it, while others do not?

One factor is the “system” each team has in place to achieve those goals. And habits are the building blocks of systems. What are these teams doing well and doing consistently? What do these teams do to adjust – even on the fly – if the systems seem not to be working as well as before?

In addition, what is the mental mindset of each player? Have they “*bought into the system*”? Do they have the mental toughness to endure tough, pressure situations? Do they have the mental toughness to persevere when things aren’t going as planned?

As you look forward to the New Year, what are your plans? As Redeemer looks forward to the New Year, what are our plans?

What systems do we already have in place to achieve those plans and goals? Or, what systems do we need to have in place to achieve those goals if the current system is not up to the job?

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FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE (CONTINUED)

As we move forward, both as individuals and as a congregation, we need to remember who we are – 2 Corinthians 5:17:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

God sees each of us as individuals, and this fellowship called Redeemer as a team fully capable of carrying out the mission He has given to us by using and blessing the resources with which God has already bestowed upon us.

Working with our God we *pray, plan, and play the game*. That means:

- ◇ we gather for worship and study of His Word
- ◇ we support and encourage one another when we are challenged or facing difficult obstacles.
- ◇ when obstacles arise, we analyze quickly and execute confidently.
- ◇ when mistakes are made by other team members, we forgive and move on, assured that the offending person will continue to give their best and give their all.
- ◇ when adjustments are made, they are fully implemented.
- ◇ we serve with boldness and confidence.

God's blessings to each of you as individuals and as a team member of Redeemer Lutheran Ministries in the New Year to come.

In Christ,
Pastor Craig Mathews

Missional Circuit Convocation

All churches of Circuit 16 are invited to a Missional Circuit Convocation on Monday, January 22, 2024 at Concordia Lutheran Church in Sarasota. The focus is to be led by the Holy Spirit to discover the next church plant in our circuit. Two sites under consideration are Lakewood Ranch as well as North Port. The event will last from 9:00 am to 2:20 pm with lunch being provided. This is for all people in the circuit, not just those in leadership.

RSVP by Sunday, January 14 to Pastor Mathews (crgmthws@gmail.com) so he can pass this information on to Pastor David Dahlke of Lakeside Lutheran in Venice, who is spearheading this event.

If you are unable to come, pray for this event and the discussion that will take place. Use the following prayers:

Heavenly Father, give us eyes to see the spiritually dead and dying people around us in Sarasota, Port Charlotte, and Englewood. Move with our congregations to recognize ways that our circuit can reach out to the lost. Prepare individuals from around our circuit to answer the call and set aside January 22, 2024, as a day for prayerful consideration to a new mission start. AMEN.

Gracious Father, as many have paused to rejoice at the coming of a new year, may those of us who bear the name Christian pause to anticipate Your leading towards a new mission start or church plant in the Sarasota or Port Charlotte area. Move within our hearts to commit to attend and pray for our upcoming circuit missional convocation on January 22. May Your Kingdom come and may Your will be done more and more in our circuit as it is in heaven. AMEN.

2024

Thank you Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend.
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
So each new day is filled with joy
And the happiness it brings.
Amen

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, “Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land” (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37–39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of “you shall not murder”? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

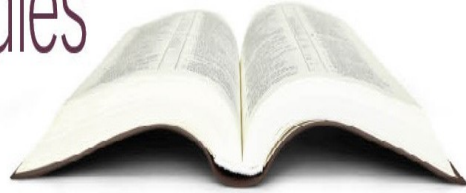
Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.



Treasurer's
Report

Financial information is 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

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 Cherylann Galway

Financial

Secretary Sherrie Keesee

Property Mgmt. Steven Horvath

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour Joyce Schneider

***The deadline for the February 2024 Newsletter is January 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!***

DAY SCHOOL

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

Fifth and Sixth Grade Happenings: 5th and 6th grade have been working diligently on the production of Stellar Christmas with the rest of the classes. They had an amazing performance on the 13th where everyone did a fantastic job. In class both 5th and 6th in history they have been learning about their country and how it is run—from the Constitution to Capitals and States. In Science Both classes have been learning about Geology and how the Earths layers and Gemstones. They are doing amazing. In language they have been doing Book reports on Billy Sunday and Trapped. They did awesome on these reports. In Math they have covered Temperature Conversions from Fahrenheit to Celsius and Back, they have also learned Fractions from adding all the way to dividing them. Both the classes are working extremely hard in all of their respective classes. I feel blessed to have them all in my class. *Coach Don.*

The **third and fourth graders** read a story together in reading. They learned how to make a summary from each chapter and then to write a summary for the beginning, middle and ending of the story. Their comprehension has made a great leap in improvement since we began this ready strategy. In History we have been following how our country made our laws at the First Continental Congress. Both classes have learned the value of our independence from England and why we are Americans in a democracy. Arithmetic has been quite a challenge this month with learning to estimate and divide double digit division for fourth grade and single digit division for third grade. The fourth graders have learned to keep their digestive system healthy while the third graders have been learning the value of respect and safety with their friendships and families. The Spelling grades have been increasing since the students are successfully passing their tests with 10 words a week and 3 vocabulary words. As the students kept up with their studies, we successfully made a Christmas program for the community. I hope you were able to come to the event. The students were very engaging. *Ms. Fran and Ms. Emily*

Kindergarten through Second grade students participated in many worthwhile activities during the month of December. Our school's Christmas Pageant was a huge success enjoyed by students and parents. We also are on a journey learning about the different European countries, exploring different lifestyles, languages, and customs. Our reading, math, and writing skills are improving and getting better every day! We enjoyed many festive holiday activities and are looking forward to the Christmas break. From our wonderful students, we wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year! *Ms. Gina And Ms. Pam*

Upcoming events:

January 15 — No School

January 16, 2024 — Awards night followed by a PTL Fundraiser Taco Dinner Starting at 5:00 pm

January 21-27, 2024 — National Lutheran Schools Week



Letter of the month: F,H,O

Number of the month: 7

Shape of the month: Rectangle

Color of the month: Blue

Bible Lesson: Boy Jesus studies in the Temple. Luke 2:41-52

This month we are learning about North and South Poles.

What we are learning in VPK A— This month's lesson study is Buildings, how they are built and what materials can be used to build them. Letters B, M, W.

VPK B is learning about different kinds of clothing. and where and how clothing is made. Letter C, P, S

Calendar days:

January 15 MLK Day- Child Care Closed

Prayer Requests

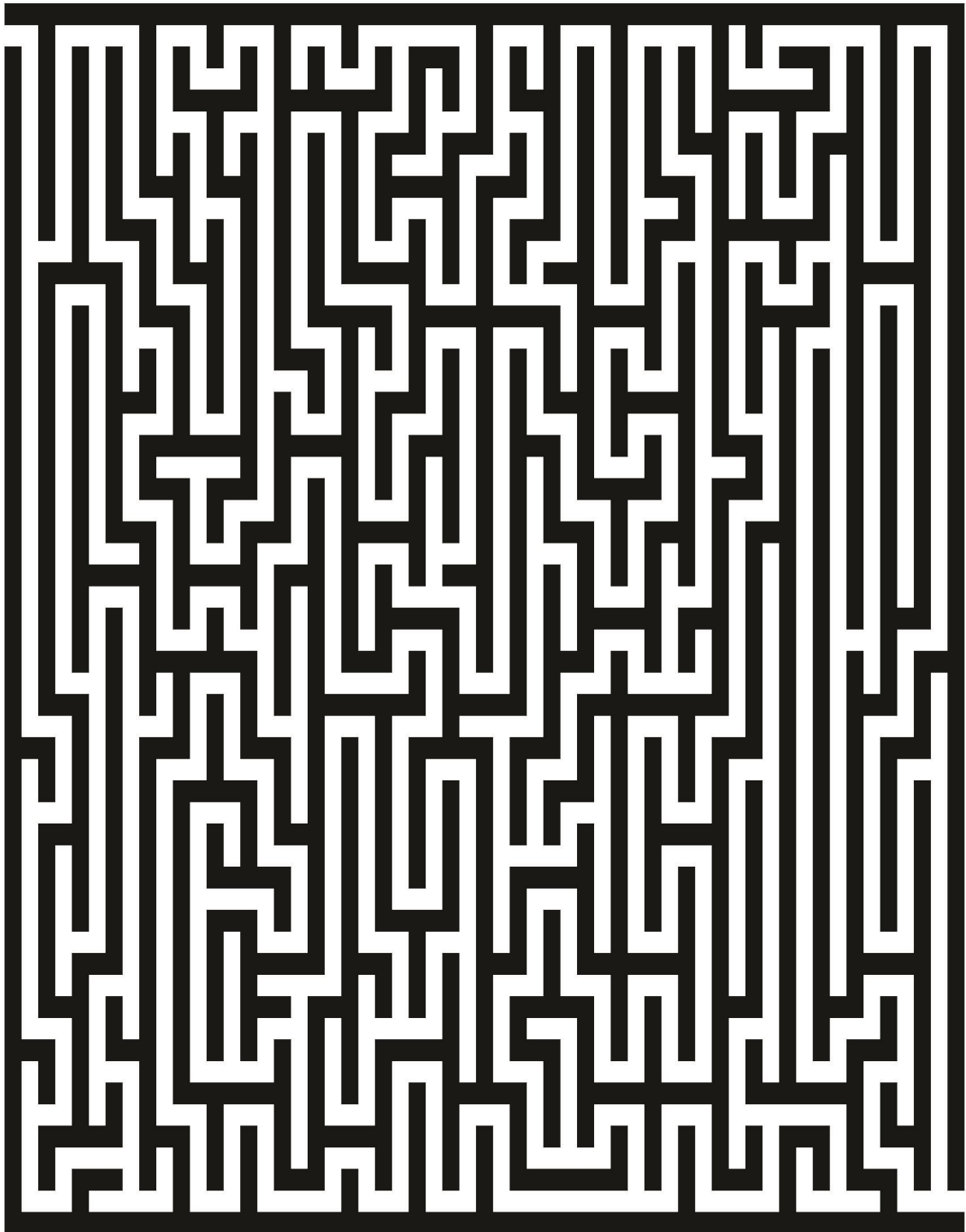
Please pray for:

Shut-ins: Rita Kaufman and Dorothy Sinowetski.

Healing for members: Ed & Jan DeTrow, Don Garay, Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Steven Horvath, Nancy Kozak, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Lillian Miles, Colette Nagel, Tom & Sue Poyer, Jim & Bonnie Schluentz, Joyce Schneider, Bob Varone, and Pauline Vickey.

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

MAZE



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

6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED - OPTION 1

January 2024

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

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Email: School.Office@redeemerfl.com

Child Care Phone: 941-475-2631

Email: redeemerchildcare@gmail.com

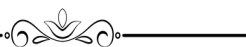
REDEEMER REPORTER

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

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Divine Service: 9:15 am

Bible Study: 10:30 am



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

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