



June 2020



Is It Safe to Come Out?

Perhaps a number of you have been wondering that very thing. I don't know what the answer is for you personally. Each of you have a different reason for remaining isolated and out of the public square. And from what I have observed, you all have made excellent decisions. There is only one Redeemer family member who has tested positive with COVID-19. The encouraging feature to her having the coronavirus is that she has not suffered any symptoms. In other words, she is asymptomatic, of which we have been told recently is rare. With this news, please keep Donna Weston in your prayers. She is in her mid-80's; the mother of Jim & Cheryl Weston; and a resident at Solaris HealthCare Charlotte Harbor in Port Charlotte.

We have a number of our Redeemer members who work in the healthcare industry and have been placed on the frontlines of this pandemic. Because the virus is still infecting some in our area, I ask that you continue to keep the following members in your prayers: Jenni Dolphin, Leah Payne, Angela Mannato, Stacy Neef, Cheryl Weston, and Caitlyn Thompson. If I have missed anyone, please call me to let me know who it is that I need to place onto my prayer list.

There are many more Redeemer members who are considered essential workers, who like the healthcare workers, continued to work all during this time. There's also our Day School teachers, Nicole Hopkins and Sarah Pierman, who showed up each day to distance teach our students. There was also our church office staff, Caitlin Tilton who, like the teachers, showed up each day to work her schedule and to do more work during this time of uncertainty. And after a brief six-week closing, the Child Care Center staff were brave to return to work and provide for the child care needs of our community. We especially thank Wendy Horvath, Debby Buel, Emily Byrkett, Paige van der Veken, Sara Belongia, Jazmyne Crady, Madison Kern, Kylie Taylor, Brandi Fordham, and Bianca Avilies.

But I must say, I am eternally grateful to Bill Bowers for his unceasing dedication to serve Redeemer as organist and to Rob & Caitlin Tilton for their services as videographer for our online services (Caitlin) and keeping the communion rail sanitary for communicants (Rob).

Truly, we give thanks and praise to God Almighty for keeping us and our entire family safe and virus-free during this unprecedented time. Although it appears the worst is behind us, let us not become too complacent and careless. Let us proceed intentionally cautious, respecting the decisions of others even when they differ from your own. As mentioned above, the virus is still active in our area. Certainly the virus isn't as active here as in other parts of the world, or in our own country for that matter, but it is still here. The question arises: At what rate is it active?

Personally, I have paid close attention to the coronavirus' activity during this entire time. After all, I have been busy and at work serving God's people here at Redeemer Lutheran Church, School and Child Care as well as among other Christians in our community. It was necessary for me to witness to the activity and trend of this novel virus. I have looked so closely, I pondered the idea of

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Is It Safe to Come Out? *(CONTINUED)*

the question above. This is what I have calculated. In looking at the zip codes of our members, I was able acquire data to help come up with an answer.

ZIP CODE	# INFECTED*	POPULATION	RATE OF INFEC-TION
34223	12	16,875	.0007
34224	11	15,394	.0007
33981	17	9,534	.0018
33947	14	8,180	.0017
33946	5	2,126	.0024
33953	11	5,522	.0020
33954	20	9,290	.0022
34293	40	33,001	.0012
34288	26	10,856	.0024
TOTAL	156	110,777	.0014
CHARLOTTE COUN-TY	499	188,910	.0026
SARASOTA COUNTY	673	433,742	.0016
STATE OF FLORIDA	66,000	21,480,000	.0031
*data as of June 8, 2020			

Of course, the RATE OF INFECTION is measured against the population and not against those who have been tested. However, for those who haven't been ill or have had no symptoms they wouldn't be able to be tested. And why should they? Then again, those who might be asymptomatic wouldn't even know they had the virus, as in the case with Donna Weston, unless they were tested. Donna was tested because she was taken to the hospital with an infection. While at the hospital they tested her even though she showed no symptoms. Therefore, in my calculations there is no true numerator or denominator to determine an accurate RATE OF INFECTION. What we can conclude from the data above is that over the last three months the population in our area (local, county, state) has a very low percentage of coronavirus infections when measured against the population.

As many of you know, my work didn't decrease during this chaotic time, rather it increased dramatically. The pandemic hit our area in the middle of Lent. Multiple Midweek Services were scheduled throughout the remainder of the Lenten Season. Multiple Sunday Divine Services were also offered in order to maintain CDC required social distancing. Of course, Holy Week is filled with services every day of the week with multiple services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We also began and continue to provide online services via Facebook Live. It has proven to be a wonderful ministry, but shouldn't be used as the ONLY option for worship.

As an option for those who were uncertain about attending in-person church services, but desired for the sustenance of Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar, I supplied a

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Is It Safe to Come Out? *(CONTINUED)*

“Drive-up” Communion Service on Saturday mornings from 10 till noon. This service concludes on Saturday, June 13th. And if members weren’t even certain about coming out of their homes, I was always ready and available to visit them in their homes where they felt safe. And for those who declined a home visit, no offense was taken by this pastor. I completely respect your decision and your concern for your health and safety.

And yet, for those who have been going to work, staying at home, doing your part to “flatten the curve” the time has come to return to Redeemer Lutheran Church. It’s safe to come to church, to hear and receive the many gifts our Lord gives. And it is safe to come to church to give God thanks for keeping you and your family safe during this pandemonium.

In the midst of all of this pandemic mayhem, I also began a daily online devotion, also through our Facebook Page, which can be easily accessed through our website. As with the online services, this has shown to be a delightful ministry for daily nourishment for the soul. These daily devotions will continue for as long as the Lord permits me. The online services and devotions are reaching hundreds each week from as far as half-way around the world. It is truly amazing what God can do in the midst of chaos and trouble. Perhaps you’re familiar with the words from the Apostle Paul: “We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28). I look forward to seeing you all very soon. God bless you.

Your Healthy Servant in Christ,
Pastor Jim Kress



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, June 20 at 8:00 am.**

SERVING THE LORD

Pastor Rev. James Kress

Child Care Director Wendy Horvath

Office Admin Asst Caitlin Tilton

Organist Bill Bowers

Choir Director Collins Sita

Newsletter Editor Pat Finkenbine

OFFICERS

President Wade Duncan

Vice President Bill Bowers

Treasurer

Secretary Caitlin Tilton

BOARDS

Head Elder Mike Nagel

Christian Ed.

Human Care Lisa Kress

Outreach

Assimilation Anne Varone

School Board

Stewardship

Youth Alan Duburg

Financial Secretary Mindy Duncan

Property Mgmt. Bob Varone

GROUPS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild Sally Zierdt

Men's Group

Altar Guild

Coffee Hour

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Redeemer During the Pandemic

Greeting to all of you from Redeemer Lutheran Church.

My apologies for not writing this sooner but it is difficult to report to you when we are in a state of flux. Things are changing everyday, so by the time you receive this it will be outdated. But there is one thing that never changes, the Word of God—that is most constant. Also constant is the concern of our faithful shepherd for us, Pastor Kress. Even though churches were allowed to remain open during this pandemic, attendance was limited to the guidelines suggested by the White House and by governor DeSantis. Some churches chose to ignore those guidelines but here at Redeemer we decided to follow the safest path rather than debate the issues at the risk of our members. Pastor Kress and the Elders, in an effort to follow the “no more than 10 gathered together” criteria, provided two extra services with a maximum seating of ten. Social distancing was required at all times throughout the service unless you were family. Communion assistants, acolytes and elders did not perform their normal duties during these times. Currently the state mandate allows for no more than 25% of the building’s occupancy as long as proper social distancing is followed. We are following those guidelines and will do so until they change. With the increase in allowed numbers one service was eliminated leaving the 9:15 and 11 o’clock services. To accommodate those still uncomfortable with attending but missing the Word and Sacrament, a Saturday “drive-up” service was added, individually distributed to each vehicle. All of this during and after Holy Week; the church’s busiest time.

Redeemer Lutheran School has closed following Florida’s Department of Education mandate and will remain closed for the remainder of this school year. The teachers are continuously working with the students and the parents through long distance learning and tele-conferencing.

The Child Care also closed March 16th but reopened May 4th to those parents who were deemed essential and still working. The Child Care was always deemed a necessary service and not required to close, but we chose to do so for reasons of safety to our staff and children. Of course, the number of children has decreased but we expect as the state progresses with reopening so will the Child Care. The staff at the Child Care are following all state guidelines concerning child care facilities. The U.S. Treasury, through the Small Business Administration, has implemented a stop gap measure to assist small businesses during this crisis. The Payroll Protection Program gives small businesses low interest loans to pay employees while business revenues are impacted. We at the church applied for and were granted a loan for \$53,800. There is also a loan forgiveness process available and we will be seeking that in June.

All scheduled April meetings were cancelled, including the Voters’ Assembly Meeting. As of now, we hope to have the regular July Voters’ meeting. The May meetings of the School Board, Elders and Council were held. We are still waiting on the new school building permits, but the final

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

fees have been paid. The next step will be the tortoise relocation and then ground clearing. The interior renovations, which include new flooring in the high traffic areas and painting, will begin this summer. Repairs to the carillon system will also be done.

Support for the church has been remarkable throughout this time. Thank you all so very much. Those who chose to stay safe at home have mailed in their support and others chose to utilize the on-line giving service that was added to assist our members. It is a safe and reliable resource called Vanco and the link can be found on our website. We currently have 15 members using this service. If you have any questions about signing up for it, just email the church or call the office.

I pray to see you all again soon. May the Peace of the Lord be with you always.

Wade Duncan



CONNECTING THE PIECES—IT STARTS WITH YOU!

The needs of the church are great, and your investment with Lutheran Church Extension Fund makes it possible for these needs to be met now and in the future.

Your investment connects loans and ministry support services to the church. Supporting the bigger purpose, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

What does it mean to be connected? As Lutherans, we are connected by our shared confession and faith in Jesus and we each have a part to play in this community. Like a puzzle, each piece connects together, creating the bigger picture. At Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), it starts with you, our investor. Your investment connects loans and ministry support services to the church. You are supporting a bigger purpose, the needs of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Investments play an important role in your overall financial plan—but what if they could do more? When you invest with LCEF, you not only earn a competitive interest rate—but you also bless LCMS ministries and give them an opportunity to grow and connect more people in their communities to Jesus. This way, your investment, which earns interest, works twice for you.

Visit LCEF.org to explore investment opportunities!

Questions can be directed to LCEF at 800-843-5233 or info@lcef.org.

Yours in Christ,
Rob Tilton
LCEF Congregational Advocate

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report

As of April 30, 2020

	<i>ACTUAL</i>	<i>BUDGET</i>	<i>OVER/UNDER</i>
INCOME	20,677	14,653	6,024
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>17,864</u>	<u>17,655</u>	209
+/-	2,813	(3,002)	

YEAR TO DATE

INCOME	92,191	58,475	33,716
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>77,469</u>	<u>70,649</u>	6,820
+/-	14,722	(12,174)	



Respectfully submitted,
Jean Clappe-Mixell
North Star Bookkeeping LLC

A Time to Reflect

During these trying times,
we need to appreciate what we have.

What we've had all along
and took for granted.

The small things that make our lives better.
The things we never stop to cherish
because we are too focused on something else.

At the end of the day,
what matters most is right here
with us all the time:

Our family,
Our health,
OUR LORD



The sin of the world is paid for. God's Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf.

The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation. Since Jesus has finished all these things in His self-sacrifice, we can be fully certain our sins are forgiven, and we have everlasting life!

St. Paul wrote: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1)

We hear the same teaching in 1 Peter. "As you come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

It's the very thing Malachi foretold of the Lord, that He would come and purify His priestly people, that they may offer to Him an offering in righteousness. (Mal. 3:3)

So, what does this mean? In view of God's mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part. So, we do not give back to Him in part.

We don't offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us. Yes, it means we devote to our Savior all our time. Otherwise we are not sacrificing our whole lives.

You see, God both teaches us, and has graciously qualified us, to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices – to live as His holy priests, who offer Him acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ, all day, every day, in our various callings.

In the passages from Romans and 1 Peter, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and those over us in the workplace, wives submitting to husbands, husbands honoring wives, showing compassion, and suffering patiently in doing good.

In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also and especially for the well-being of others. Work time, school time, exercise time, study time, mealtime, chore time, recreation and relaxation time, even sleep time – it's all God's gift to us to use for purposes that please and honor Him.

This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I'm doing, am I doing it "for the Lord"? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice? Am I conducting myself as a holy priest, whose sacrifice is acceptable to God?

Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus' finished work, God is pleased with us.

PRAYERS

SHUT-INS: Judy Clasen, Susan Jahns, Rita Kaufmann, and Donna Weston

HEALING for Members: Neva Aldene, Carl Bertka, Jean Cote, Kathryn Demma, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Charlie & Pat Finkenbine, Don Garay, Mike & Judy Guastella, Bud & Jane Harty, Mark Horvath, Marva Jonas, Chuck Malecki, Angela Mannato, Ken & Cathy Mielke, Lillian Miles, Glenn Mossner, Mariana Murray, Bob Payne, Tom & Sue Poyer, Dorothy Sinowetski, Russ & Carol Spooner, Ron Tandy, Caitlin Tilton, Bob Varone, Robert Vickey, and Sally Zierdt.

FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Michelle Bernard, Grace Blum, Bill Bowers, Jr., Mary Brissette, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Diane Carr, Pat Carroll, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Donna Connors, Lisa Copeman, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Joe Fountain, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Barbara George, Sandra Gettings, Vinnie Giannola, Nancy Gleis, Mary Ann Guilfoyle, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Mikayla Hacksunda & her baby girl, Lily, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Debbie Harrison, Dennis Hegarty, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, John Hill, Rick Hill, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Linda Holt, Gretchen Hull & her unborn child, John

Hunter, Linda Hunter, Chelsea Hutchinson, Stanley and Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Bill Jaquest, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Daniel & Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Parker Kern, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Joe Manson, Candace McGowan, Dave McMullen, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Ron Mullins, Esther Murphy, Louis Nanni, Bill & Jean Nesbitt, Riley Emilia Paquette, Charles Pentecost Jr., Robin Potts, Rob Powers, John Purdy, Mary Raines, Elaine Reebe, Paul Rollo, Sandra Scheel, Ed Sheahan, Nancy Sly, Don Stewart, Charles Tolley, Gwyneth Tolman, George Vespa, Jim & Judy Wahl, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gene & Donna Wensel, Gordan Winkel, family & friends of Mary Agnes Wright, 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!

REDEEMER SCHOOL

So it's June already. No one would have ever imagined that when we left school on March 13 for spring break that it would be the last day in our classroom this year. We have continued to learn by distance learning. We have had Zoom calls every day. We have talked with students and parents. We have tried to make sure the kids know that we still love and care for them by sending notes and small prizes. We have showed up to students houses for birthdays and special occasions. We have sent fun projects home that we do together on Zoom. I feel this year we are ending without much closure to the end of the year. Even though we did all we could, I still feel like the kids were cheated out of the end of their year. All of our students worked hard and finished their academic year at home. I am proud of all they accomplished and pray that they feel proud of themselves. This is not a normal situation and every one of our students stepped up to the plate and succeeded.

Redeemer School has just completed its fourth year. I am proud to work in a school that teaches our kids about Jesus. I am proud to work in this community of people. I love that my own child gets to go to a school that teaches her about the saving love of Jesus Christ. Each one of our students has a seed that has been planted in them that they take back to their family and friends. They learn how to be a blessing in others' lives. We not only teach them about reading and writing but we teach them how to love and serve others like Jesus does. What an awesome blessing this school has been to our community. Thank you for allowing and trusting Ms. Sarah and I to be your school teachers. We are very blessed!

This time of year is always hard for me. I don't like saying goodbye to my students. They are not only my students but they have become my kids. They have become part of my school family. We laugh, learn, cry, and pray together. When they leave they take a little piece of my heart with them. I pray that God blesses them this summer and that we are able to reconnect in August. Please pray for our students and school.

Mrs. Nicole



Church: www.redeemerfl.com

Child Care: www.redeemerfl-cc.com

School: www.redeemerfl-school.com

facebook

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Englewood
Redeemer Lutheran Child Care

***The deadline for the July Newsletter is June 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!***

REDEEMER SCHOOL



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Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care

Summer Fun Word Search

Find all the words!

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

VOLLEYBALL

WATER

CREAM

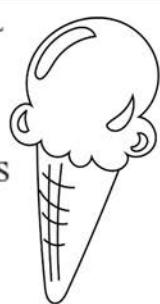
LEMONADE

BUTTERFLIES

MINI

FIREFLIES

POOL



FRISBEE

BALLOONS

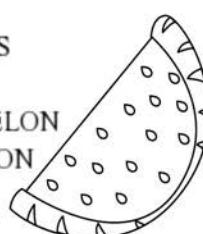
BEACH

WATERMELON

BADMINTON

GOLF

POPSICLE



KITES

ICE

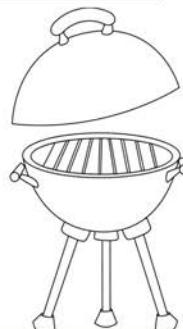
SANDCASTLE

PICNIC

PARK

BASEBALL

TRAMPOLINE



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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 and 11:00 am

Bible Class: *temporarily postponed*

Sunday School: *temporarily postponed*

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).*