



Redeemer Lutheran Ministries
Church—Childcare— School

This December, Eunice and I will have been residents of Florida for 13 years. For both of us, what we miss the most is the change of season. Not so much winter with its cold and snow. For both of us, what we miss is the fall season, especially the changing of the leaves. There are so many beautiful colors in the fall – the reds, oranges and yellows. Hopefully we will get to see some of the changing colors when we are in Wisconsin for our great nephew’s wedding this month. What I don’t miss is the on-going raking and disposal of the leaves in the yard. However what I do miss is the smell of burning leaves in the trash barrel when I was growing up.

Things are different at Redeemer. Things have changed. That’s not new. We live in a world of constant change. And as things change, we are left with memories – some positive and some negative. Even some we wish to forget and others we wish we could re-create and re-live.

But what we need to remember and hang onto whenever the changes of life become unbearable or threatening is that God NEVER changes. We know that from His Word.

Psalm 102:27

You remain the same, and Your years will never end.

Malachi 3:6

I the Lord do not change.

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

He is the same today as He was yesterday. He will be the same tomorrow as He is today. Every day in my devotions I read the lessons listed for the day from the *Daily Lectionary* – pgs. 299-304 in the *Lutheran Service Book*. I write out my prayer of the day to a God who listens, a God who never slumbers or sleeps. And I also make a list of thank-you’s – a gratitude list. Every day I begin my list by thanking God for who He is and what He has done for me. It goes like this:

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I thank you God for your:

Pardon, patience, peace, presence, protection, provisions, mercy, grace, faithfulness and blessings.

I call this portion of my gratitude list my **P⁶⁺**.

And that is why we give our offering to God.

NOT because

He commands us

The church budget is behind

We are feeling guilty

We've made a deal with God – *God, if I give this to you, then please*

We give our offering to God because it's our way to acknowledge who God is, the great gift He has given to us, as well as acknowledging that what we have – **ALL** that we have – He gave to us in the first place. It's all His. *Does He want it all back? NO !!!* But He is pleased when we do give back a portion of those gifts. He is pleased with our consistent, sacrificial giving for it is our way to acknowledge the generous, sacrificial, and unconditional love He shows us each and every day.

It's our way of saying we trust that God will continue to provide.

What is the amount you should give? Look at these passages:

Leviticus 27:30

Honor the Lord with your wealth, the first fruits of your crops.

In **Genesis 14:19-20** Abram responds to God's blessings by giving a tenth of all of his possessions. In **Genesis 28:20-22** Jacob responds to God's forgiving and protective hand by also promising to return to God a tenth of the blessings He has and will receive.

The New Testament, outside of the Gospels, does not mention tithing. Instead it stresses intentional, generous, and joyful giving. (*NOTE: Intentional means it is not done as an after thought after all your other bills and obligations have been met, but as something that is planned.*)

As Redeemer moves into the future and change will continue – because life always means change – the challenge is to become more intentional, generous, and joyful with your giving trusting in God's on-going provision.

In Christ
Pastor Craig Mathews



Financial information available to all members upon request.

Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry

To know the will of God
is the greatest knowledge,

To find the will of God is
the greatest discovery

And to do the will of God is
the greatest achievement.

Whoever serves Me must follow me; and where I am, my servant
also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

--John 12:26

Prayer Requests

Please pray for:

Shut-ins: Rita Kaufman 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, Joyce Schneider, Bob Varone, and Pauline Vickey. Redeemer School & Child Care staff & their families: Brandi Fordham and Ashley Graham. (Both are facing recent medical/health issues. They appreciate your prayers!)

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

Bible Studies



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

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

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

All are welcome and encouraged to come early to attend the chapel service. Who can’t be cheered by the sound of the children’s voices? There is always coffee and usually doughnuts. Please consider joining us! **Pastor Mathews** is leading the discussion; come and meet him.

SERVING THE LORD

Interim Pastor Rev. Craig Mathews

Office Admin Asst Caitlin Tilton

Organist Bill Bowers

Choir Director

Newsletter Pat Finkenbine

School Admin Wendy Horvath

Child Care Director Debby Buel

School Admin Asst

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President Collins Sita

Vice President James Kruse

Treasurer Lucia Kruse

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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

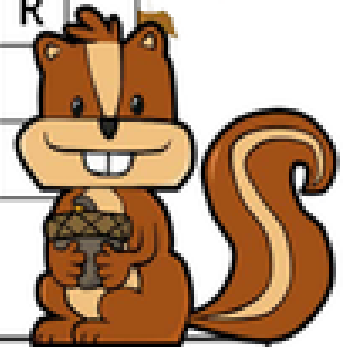
Coffee Hour Joyce Schneider

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

FALL

Directions: The words are hidden vertically and horizontally.

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



Word Box:

- | | | |
|-----------|--------|----------|
| October | leaves | acorn |
| autumn | tree | raking |
| scarecrow | red | school |
| harvest | yellow | apple |
| pumpkin | brown | corn |
| squirrel | orange | carnival |

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

6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED - OPTION 1



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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).*