



January 2023



Christmas Peace, Joy and Hope All Year Long

For many people December 26 is the end of the Christmas celebration. But for the believers of Jesus Christ as the Savior and Messiah, the celebration of Christmas is year-long, as a matter of fact, it is life-long. That’s because the LOVE of God allows, encourages/motivates Him to take action and send His only Son into our messy, sinful world in order for Him to accomplish our redemption through His sacrificial, blood, death on the cross, and the conquering of death, so we can live with God forever without ever experiencing the pain and suffering of sin.

For those who believe and trust in the action that God took on our behalf, God invites us to be His sons and daughters. He welcomes us home as if nothing ever happened.

Because of His love we now have HOPE – that is, we are certain about the life we will experience after death. We are certain that death is not an end, but a new beginning. And it is that certainty, that HOPE, which allows us to experience PEACE and JOY as we await our eternal life.

But while we wait, we are not idle. We are busy. Busy accomplishing the work God has asked us to do as His sons and daughters, and that is to go and share His love with all in order to make disciples by inviting others to come, hear and see who Jesus is what He has to offer.

We are busy working. But before we work, we need to plan. And that is what January 1 and the New Year reminds us. What are your plans for 2023 and beyond? And not just for yourself, but for your role as a son and/or daughter in God’s Kingdom? What can you do with the gifts, talents, skills and passions with which God has blessed and given you, not just for yourself and your family, but for God and God’s family as well?

Luke 24:48 says:

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?”

And those plans we make need to include God as well. Listen to Jeremiah 29:11 which says:

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CHRISTMAS PEACE, JOY, AND HOPE (CONTINUED)

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Therefore we need to read His Word. Study His Word. Talk about your faith with other believers, the highs and the lows. Talk to God in prayer and then listen to God speak to you, through His Word, through songs and hymns, and through the words and actions of fellow believers.

Plan your future. Include the counsel of God in those plans and then implement those plans with boldness and confidence knowing that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him. Romans 8:28: *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

God’s blessings on the New Year as you celebrate Christmas all year long and experience God’s LOVE which brings HOPE, PEACE, and JOY.



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 to be done inside the Church. If you can help, please come to the church and we will put you to work. **Property Appreciate Day will be every Saturday for a while as cleanup from Hurricane Ian continues.**



Treasurer's Report

Financial information is available to all members upon request.



Church: www.redeemerfl.com
Child Care: www.redeemerfl-cc.com
School: www.redeemerfl-school.com

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Redeemer Lutheran Church of Englewood
Redeemer Lutheran Child Care
Redeemer Lutheran School

Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting

Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:

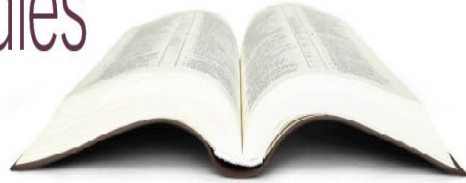
New Year's Prayer

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.
Each new day filled with joy
And the happiness it brings.

Amen

– Author Unknown

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

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GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour Joyce Schneider

**The deadline for the February 2023 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!**

PRAYERS

Please pray for all those still recovering from Hurricane Ian

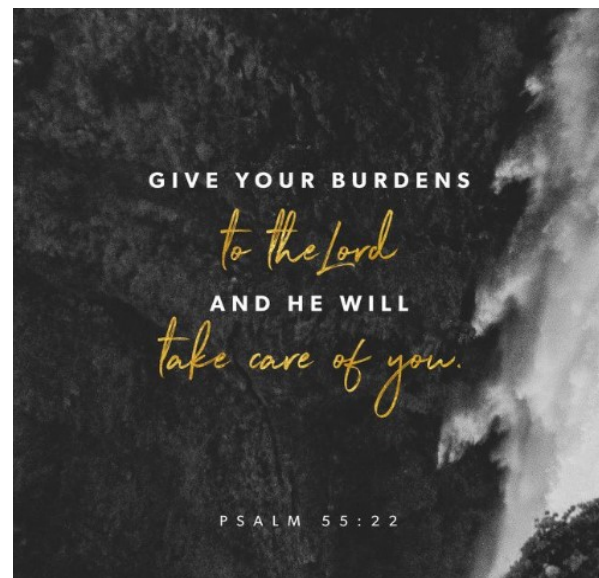
SHUT-INS: Rita Kaufmann and Dorothy Sinowetski

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FRIENDS & 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, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald & Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Sybil Fuchs, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Zeke Garrison, 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, John Hill, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Chelsea Hutchinson, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Family & Friends of Sylvia Jelinek, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Daniel & Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Nancy Lake,

Stacey Lampert, Esther Laird, Judy Larkin, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Joe Manson, Dave McMullan, Ray Mielke, Dominic Miretti, Pete Mogg, Jessica Morales, Mike Morrissey, Philip Muhme, 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, Wava Zeitlow, and Martha Zimpfer.

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



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!

December Day School Update

For the month of December, Miss Pam and Miss Nicole made a life size gingerbread house for their room for the kids to decorate and play in. The kids loved it!

Kindergarten and 1st grade have been working on their Phonemic Awareness skills. They work daily on their phonemic awareness lessons to make them better readers. They learn how to blend sounds together as well as chop words apart. They take part of a word and change it to another sound to make a new word. For example, if Miss Nicole says, "My word is 'puck' change the 'p' to a 'd' what is my new word?" They are also learning to rhyme words and delete phonemes. They are well on their way to becoming excellent readers!

Second grade history class is learning how America grew quickly. They learned about how America is considered the land of milk and honey. They also learned how immigrants had dreams of being free to worship God, of finding a good job, of the importance that children get a good education, and of owning your own home. Second grade has also learned the importance of a good work ethic and how it's important to always do the right thing even when no one is looking. Psalms 128:1 Blessed is every one that fears the Lord; that walks in His ways.

Third graders helped the kindergarteners learn the Christmas Carols for the Christmas program. Singing the verses to the kindergarteners really helped everyone sing well. In History, 3rd grade learned about Patrick Henry and his quote, "Give me liberty or give me death!" He wanted the government to serve the people instead of controlling them. He demanded the Bill of Rights be added to the Constitution so that each citizen would have the freedoms they had fought for. The first Bill of Rights states that Congress cannot make laws to take away the freedom of religion. In Science, they made a daily weather chart and plotted the chart to see how the temperature changes. In Language, the students have been writing declarative, imperative, exclamatory and interrogative sentences in their journals. They are using correct punctuation marks for each kind of sentence.

In Bible, 3rd grade has learned about absolution, that our Lord is always loving and forgiving. When we tell others we are sorry for doing something wrong we can be loving like Jesus and tell them we forgive them.

The 4th, 5th and 6th grades have been studying Spanish two days a week. They just finished a test on colors, numbers ABC's, months, days and the verbs estar and tener. They love studying Spanish with songs! In Bible Class they have been studying the Major and Minor Prophets. They have been discussing how Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah. They also learned about the relationship between the writings of Jeremiah and how Lamentations followed based on the exile of Israel.

The 6th graders have been learning about Business Math. They have been working on calculating percentages and learning how to apply them to the retail industry. They are figuring how to apply percentages in calculating cost reduction.

It's been a busy December! We had our Christmas program with the Day School, VPK and After School. Everyone worked hard on this program and it was absolutely adorable! Students and staff are looking forward to the upcoming winter break!

Submitted by Pam Dineen, School Secretary



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Redeemer Lutheran Child Care enrollment is: 113 children
Number of Staff is: 17

December's Bible Study was on "Christmas". Merry Christmas! Those words bring joy to our hearts and minds. The excitement of the children in our classrooms grows each day as we anticipate and count down the days to Christmas, the day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus that occurred long ago. During December we focused on the sights and sounds of the joyous day, long ago, in a little stable. We imagined ourselves at the scene, pretending to hear the angel songs, see the sights, and smell the stable as we read the Christmas story.



*Dear Jesus, I love to hear the story of Your birth. Glory to God!
You came to be my Savior. Amen.*

What we are learning this month at Redeemer Child Care! Ages Infants thru 4 yrs. **Theme:** Celebrations Around the World **Color:** Green **Letter:** G, N & D **Number:** 6 **Shape:** Square **Literacy:** Reading our favorite Holiday stories **Science:** Observing rotten food and how it happens. **Art:** Making Holiday decorations **Reading Workshop:** Writing letters to Santa

What we are learning in VPK: In VPK Class A We are finishing up learning about trees just in time for the Christmas tree. We have practiced for the Christmas program and the children did amazing! VPK took a field trip to Lemon Bay High School for the Elf Party. We learned about Christmas and why we celebrate it. Submitted by: Ms. Jazmyne. In VPK Class B we are learning the true meaning of Christmas, which is the birth of Jesus. We are also learning the letter J and K. We are doing the numbers 1-30. Submitted by: Ms. Mallory.

Building updates: We are almost finished with repairs to the building from the hurricane. We are still in need of repair to the playgrounds. We had a volunteer Dad come over and help us with the fence but it is only a temporary fix and we need sunshades.

Thank you to all that gave to the Angel Tree this year. We greatly appreciate you and your gift.



Submitted by Wendy Horwath



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

SPARKLERS FIREWORKS MIDNIGHT COUNTDOWN
CONFETTI PARTY RESOLUTIONS CELEBRATE
HAPPY NEW YEAR KISS TOAST BALL

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,
SCHOOL & CHILD CARE
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Englewood, FL 34224

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2023
January

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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).*