



June 2023

Pastoral Call Process

On Sunday, May 21, 2023, in the pre-service announcements, I let those in attendance know that my role as Vacancy Pastor here at Redeemer potentially will be changing on July 1st if the Voter’s Assembly called for in June approves the proposal/contract that I have submitted.

When I became your Vacancy Pastor on September 11, 2022, I also began training two weeks later for a pastoral ministry role endorsed by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod called **Intentional Interim Ministry**. My training for that role was completed April 21, 2023.

Intentional Interim Ministry trains Pastors for the specialized task of guiding and leading congregations through the transition between Pastors with the express purpose of helping them deal with the emotional issues and/or conflicts that arose when the former pastor left, resigned or died, in order to help them be prepared to welcome the new Pastor that God will bring to them.

For a variety of reasons, the current leadership of Redeemer, along with agreement from the leadership of the FL-GA District, agreed that it would be beneficial for Redeemer if my role shifted from that of Vacancy Pastor to Intentional Interim Pastor.

A proposal/contract is being submitted for approval by the Voter’s Body at the June congregational meeting. This proposal, when approved by the congregation, will also be signed by the appropriate FL-GA District officials.

The following lists some of the items mentioned in the proposal/contract.

- ◇ The amount of time I am spending at Redeemer will increase to 80% of full time.
- ◇ The length of the proposal/contract will be for 1 year.

There is a clause that says that upon mutual agreement the proposal/contract can be either shortened or extended depending on circumstances.

- ◇ I will not and cannot be considered as a candidate for the Pastoral position at Redeemer.

The following items are goals that I believe need to be addressed at Redeemer in order to be prepared for the next Pastor.

Goal 1: To conduct an assessment of the individual members of Redeemer regarding their views of:

- ◇ The overall spiritual, financial and relational health of the congregation

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PASTORAL CALL PROCESS (CONTINUED)

- ◇ The validity of the current Mission/Vision for Redeemer
- ◇ Their perception of the future Mission/Vision for Redeemer

Goal 2: To work with a market feasibility and management study group regarding the school and how the study's findings impact the current and future Mission/Vision Statement for Redeemer.

Goal 3: To work with Redeemer to help the fellowship deal with its grief regarding

- ◇ the sudden resignation of the former Pastor,
 - ◇ the impact and changes brought about by Hurricane Ian,
 - ◇ the resignation of many key leaders of the congregation since the new year
- by conducting a Bible study on the topic of grief.

Goal 4: To address the current culture of the congregation regarding interpersonal relationships in the fellowship using resources from the Ministry of Reconciliation.

Goal 5: To encourage more involvement in the life and leadership of the congregation by leading the membership into an understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus through sermons and Bible study.

Goal 6: To help the members explore their role in the body of Christ as a member of Redeemer and how they can use their gifts, talents, and skills in order to strengthen the fellowship and accomplish their joint Mission/Vision by using:

- ◇ Spiritual Gifts Assessment
- ◇ DISC Inventory

Goal 7: To work on updating the Constitution/By-Laws of Redeemer to better reflect the current size of the congregation as well as allowing it to be functional during the future growth of Redeemer.

I will be needing help prioritizing these goals as well as working on Goal #1 and I am looking for at least three (3) people to assist me in that process. (Currently not in a position of leadership at Redeemer). Because of Goal #1, the people who serve should also be those who can keep confidences.

This process is going to take work. It's going to take all hands on deck. People to help plan, implement, and most of all participate in the process of study and assessment. With that work, I know we will see and experience God's blessings.

Pray as if everything depends on God.

Work as if everything depends on you. ANON

Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and He gives us the hands and strength to do it. Elizabeth Elliot

God provides food for the birds, but He doesn't throw it in the nest for them. ANON

In Christ,
Pastor Craig Mathews

What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the “Shepherd Psalm.” There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we *actually* suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don’t know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord’s sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here’s the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

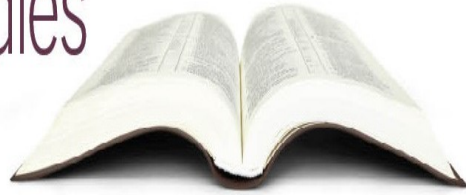
– LCMS Stewardship Ministry

A graphic with a light blue background featuring a pen, a calendar, and a \$50 bill. The text "Treasurer's Report" is centered, with "Treasurer's" in green and "Report" in red script. Below it, the text "Financial information is available to all members upon request." is written in black.

**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. 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.

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

OFFICERS

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 July 2023 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!**

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.

Redeemer School & Child Care staff & their families: Brandi Fordham and Ashley Graham. (Both are facing recent medical/health issues. They appreciate your prayers!)

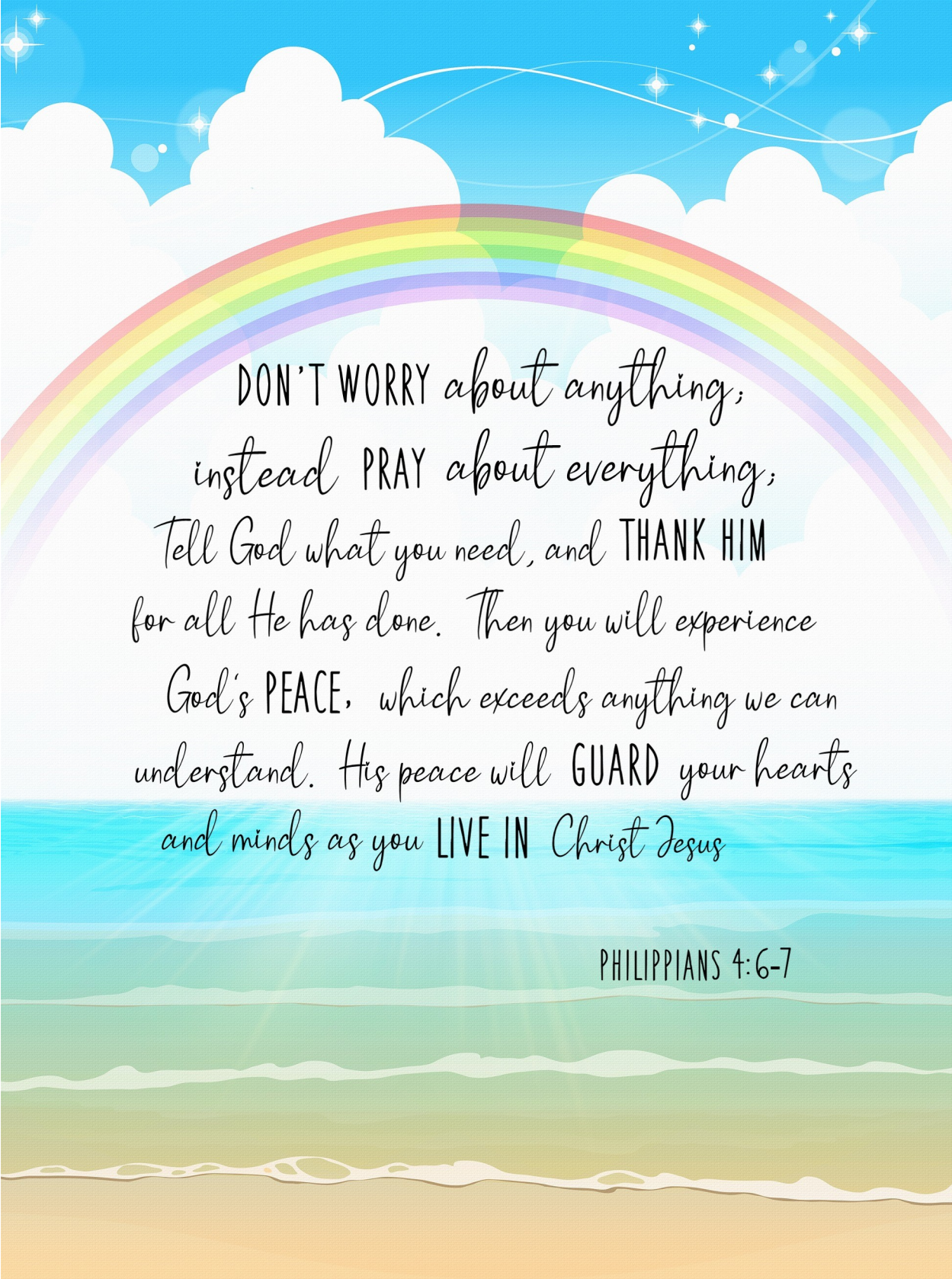
Friends and relatives: Michelle Bernard, Grace Blum, Tony Bozell, Mary Brissette, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Diane Carr, Pat Carroll, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Donna Connors, Lisa Copeman, Donald Cornish, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Tom Curry, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, 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; Zeke Garrison; Brian Jackson; Jonathan Koen; and Charles D. Weishaar.

Prayers answered: Don & Lana Garay and family “are happy to announce that their grandson, Lance Corporal Joseph Garay, completed his 4 years in the USMC on May 27, 2023. He is receiving his honorable discharge along with receiving 4 medals for expert marksmanship.”

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!



DON'T WORRY about anything;
instead PRAY about everything;
Tell God what you need, and THANK HIM
for all He has done. Then you will experience
God's PEACE, which exceeds anything we can
understand. His peace will GUARD your hearts
and minds as you LIVE IN Christ Jesus

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Child Care

Living Creatures!

Letters of the month: Z & X

Number of the month: 12

Shape of the month: Octagon

Color of the month: Grey

Bible Lesson: The Good Shepherd *John 10:1-18*

*Dear God, You gave us Jesus to die on the cross.
Thank you for rescuing us!
We love You! Amen*

This month we are learning about all kinds of living creatures. We will be making our classrooms come alive! We will be focusing on art, sand and water play and science.

What we are learning in VPK A & B... We finished up the last month of VPK for the school year. Graduation was on May 18, 2023. We worked on recycling and what we as a class can do to help our community and we did a lesson on the waste around us. We finished by reviewing old information from the year to refresh our minds. We are excited for a fun filled summer before heading to kindergarten. --Submitted by:
Jazmyne Crady

Congratulations to the VPK Class of 2023!

Class A: *Emerson, Chase, Emberly, Wednesday, Ezra & Landon*

Class B: *Sophie, Calisi, Gauge, Anya, Ace & Oslo*

June Calendar days:

June 18th - Father's Day

June 21st - first day of summer.





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).*