



April 2023



Celebration of Victory

In the March newsletter, I concentrated on one of Jesus’ last words on the cross – *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani* – which means *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* Matthew says this in his Gospel account recounting Jesus’ crucifixion as he cries out these words – Matthew 27:47:

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

But for those familiar with the reading of Scripture in the synagogue/Temple, the reader of Scripture does not refer to the book, chapter and verse in reading like we do. Chapter and verse markings were not part of Scripture in Biblical times. The reader therefore would begin by referencing and quoting the first line, thereby getting everyone’s attention and to make sure everyone was listening. What Jesus says on the cross is the opening of Psalm 22 – which most Bible scholars agree is a prophetic Psalm regarding the Messiah.

Psalm 22 is considered to be a Messianic Psalm referencing the suffering/crucifixion of the Messiah in fulfillment of God’s plan of salvation. Robby Gallaty in his book – *The Forgotten Jesus* says this:

By reciting the first lines of Psalm 22, Jesus encourages His listeners to develop a deeper understanding of what is happening to Him as He hangs dying on the cross. Although the passage begins with agony and despair, it ultimately ends with triumph and victory.

Psalm 22 begins with suffering, but it ends in triumph. Here are the closing verses of Psalm 22:27-31:

²⁷ All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, ²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. ³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. ³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

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CELEBRATION OF VICTORY (CONTINUED)

The purple of Lent turns to the black of Friday, reminding us of the darkness, the separation. But the light is not snuffed out by the darkness. The light returns shining brighter and bolder three days later with the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Join us during Holy Week as we remember the meal Jesus instituted on Thursday, as we remember His suffering and death on Friday so that our sins could be atoned for. And join us as we gather on Sunday, April 9th in order to celebrate His glorious resurrection conquering death and the grave forever.

—Rev. Craig Mathews

Redeemer Lutheran Church Easter & Lenten Services



Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 2nd - 9:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 6th—5:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7th - 5:00 p.m.

Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunday, April 9th- 9:15 a.m.

Treasurer's Report

Financial information is available to all members upon request.

A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not *whether* a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, "How much should I give?" But this question really means, "Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?"

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no "Thus saith the Lord," or "should" concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians *should* tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

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So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry



Redeemer Food Pantry

Our Human Care Team food pantry is in the school office. A \$250 Thrivent Action team grant was used to purchase some initial supplies. Other supplies have been donated by Redeemer members.

Our pantry is primarily for the benefit of members of our congregation and families with students enrolled in our school and childcare. It has seen some use over the past month. We are blessed to be a blessing to those who are in need.

Redeemer members may leave donations any Sunday under the coat rack near the ladies' restroom. Following are some suggestions. There is a need for cream soups that might be used with pasta and canned meats to make a casserole.

- ⇒ Peanut Butter and Jelly
- ⇒ Macaroni and Cheese
- ⇒ Canned meat such as tuna or chicken
- ⇒ Soups
- ⇒ Oatmeal
- ⇒ Canned fruits and vegetables
- ⇒ Spaghetti or macaroni and spaghetti sauce
- ⇒ Breakfast cereals such as Cheerios, Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies—not “high sugar”

Elder Musings

Vacancies are difficult. Pastor Mathews is very challenged to shepherd us in but two days per week. We are used to having a pastor full-time. The spiritual leadership a pastor provides helps us to remember how what we do fulfills the mission of the church at large and of our congregation: to share the love of Jesus Christ with the lost. It helps us to not “sweat the small stuff,” as Richard Carlson famously said.

I was not here to be part of the planning, investing, and visionary leadership that led to the startup of Redeemer Lutheran Childcare and Redeemer Lutheran School, collectively our Educational Ministries. But I can see what we have. I can see the results and imagine a brighter future, not just for them but also for Redeemer Congregation. In our calling Congregational Assessment, we identified our Educational Ministries as Redeemer Lutheran Church’s outreach to our community. Our Educational Ministries are more than that. As a local pastor commented after touring our campus, they are a “goldmine.”

A goldmine of what? A goldmine of souls who will die eternally if they do not come to know the love of Jesus Christ. A goldmine to our Lord, who loves each and every one. A goldmine not just of students, but of parents and siblings. A goldmine of people for whom our Lord’s heart aches.

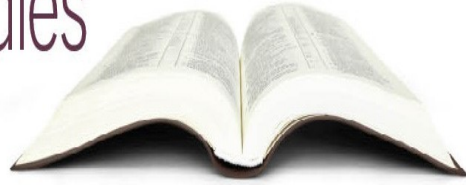
We don’t need to go looking for ways to follow our Lord’s command to love our neighbor. He has brought them to us. They are here, on our campus. They are the mission field that our Lord has brought to us. We serve Him by serving and loving them. We love them because He first loved us and because He loves them.

Our new Human Care ministry is a great start. Our new food pantry is a great start. There will be more we can do. Perhaps you have an idea. Perhaps you can help.

And, you know what? When we follow God’s command to love Him with all our heart, mind and soul then love our neighbors as ourselves, our focus changes. The Holy Spirit focuses us on the good works that He has prepared in advance for us to do. We cease to be worried about our future. We stop blaming each other. We stop wanting to be the center of attention or to be “in charge.” We stop thinking that the work of the church can’t go on without us. We stop demanding to be served and we seek to serve others, even others outside of our congregation. We serve together with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are in our congregation as the Body of Christ. This is our daily work, with the Holy Spirit, to drown again that old Adam and live as the new creation that we are.

Peace be with you.
Tim Matheny, Elder

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

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 Pam Dineen

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Secretary

Property Mgmt. Bob Varone

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour Joyce Schneider

**The deadline for the May 2023 Newsletter is April 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!**

Please pray for all those still recovering from Hurricane Ian

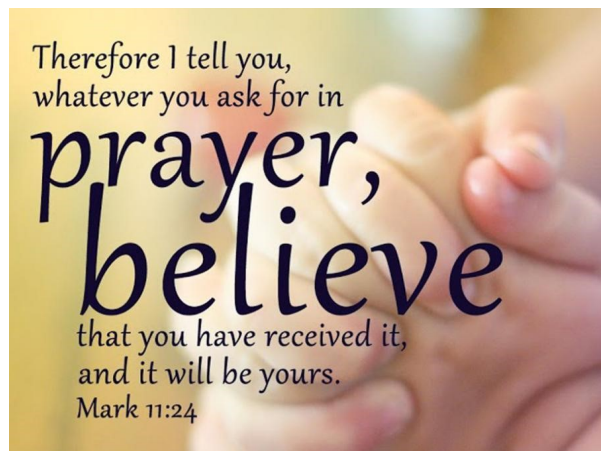
SHUT-INS: Rita Kaufmann and Dorothy Sinowetski

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

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, 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, John Hill, 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, Dominic Miretti, Pete Mogg, Jessica Morales, 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, Lance Cpl. Joseph Garay USMC, Zeke Garrison, 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!

They killed my Savior, or thought they had;
They resented the power He held.
The crowds stood in awe and the Pharisees feared,
For in all that He did He excelled.

A touch to the eyes and the blind man could see,
He spoke and the lame man could walk;
He called and a dead man came out of the grave,
Through Christ's power, the mute man could talk.

Some of the miracles Jesus performed
Were recorded to make us aware
That God's great plan was the one in control
As the marvels of nature declare.

Is it greed or jealousy that man displays
That he needs to be stronger than God?
He wants no directions that alter His course;
He's plotted the way he will trod.

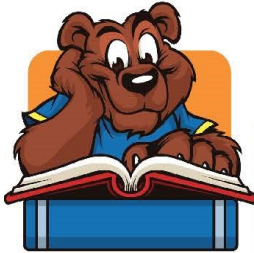
Nevermind the fact that it's future display
Of selfish and arrogant pride;
He will not acknowledge that Christ is supreme
And his own importance denied.

But God! Oh, the power of those two little words,
Steps in with His all-patient grace;
Forgives man's ideological faults
And willingly changes his place.

Christ, the sin-bearer, the Savior of man,
Transforms the heart that was cold.
New life has entered, there's hope for the soul,
Christ is alive! Death's sting has no hold!

Greta Zwaan

Redeemer Lutheran School †



The Bears are Roaring!

**NOW ENROLLING!
K - 8TH GRADE**

REGISTRATION IS OPEN
CALL TO ARRANGE A VISIT
TO OUR SCHOOL!

**JOIN OUR DEN for
the 2023-2024
school year!!**

Any child who is 5 years old on or before Sept 1, 2023 is eligible for kindergarten.

All incoming kindergarten students need a birth certificate, immunization record and physical exam before school starts in August.

**PLEASE HELP US PLAN
FOR NEXT YEAR AND
REGISTER EARLY!**

**SCHOOL.OFFICE@REDEEMERFL.COM
941-475-2410**



Redeemer Educational Ministries

By the time you read this, our school will have moved into the fourth quarter of our school year. Time flies when you are having fun! Teaching and caring for God's children in our educational ministries is a very rewarding service to our Lord Jesus. He blesses our efforts every day.

Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is open! Tell you friends, neighbors, and family about our great school. Request our flier from the school office and post it on your Facebook feed. Let's all pull together to get the word out about our school, where the love of Jesus is taught and shown every day.

The school building project continues to move forward even if it doesn't seem that much is changing. We are ever closer to being ready to move in.

Moving into that beautiful, large, and very open school building will require furnishings, marker boards, technology and more. Walls will be decorated with cheerful reminders of Jesus' love for each child and with the grade-appropriate educational props our teachers need to be effective at their calling. Your school leadership is putting together lists of things we will need. Be thinking about how you can help your school be a great school.

Please reach out to me at any time with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Matheny
Tim.Matheny@RedeemerFL.com



Day School Update – March

A special thanks to all who helped make our Open House a success. It was a great family day for all!

K-2 Update from, *Miss Nicole and Miss Pam, K-2 Grade Teacher*. Most recently, 1st Grade and Kindergarten learned about China and Japan. We learned about how they celebrate Dragons and each child made a dragon from an egg carton. They learned all about the Great Wall and had Chinese food for our Q&U wedding to tie into the lesson. We currently are working on our last chapter in History and will begin Health when they come back from Spring Break.

3rd Grade Update from, *Miss Fran, 3rd Grade Teacher*. We are learning about being a child of God and what it means to be baptized. The students have been finding scriptures in the Bible by using the contents page in the front of the Bible. We have been reading in the Book of Acts about Paul and Silas. The students are beginning to learn about how God saves His people through miracles. Also, we have been working on writing our own stories with details for a setting, the main character, and the beginning. We are now working on the rough draft for the middle of our stories by establishing the conflict / problem, introducing the key character's thoughts, feelings and actions to attempt to solve the problem. Also, we are beginning our

science chapter on planets, teaching the wonderful works of our Creator one planet at a time. The students will be doing a report on the planet of their choice this month. In History we are learning about Daniel Boone; and how he was a pioneer who explored Kentucky and made the Wilderness Road. In Language this month we are diagramming sentences with compound nouns and verbs. Practicing our spelling words daily to improve our vocabulary, too. Their handwriting is improving in Cursive which is practically a lost art in other schools.

4th Grade Update from, *Miss Kathy, 4th Grade Teacher*. Fourth grade has been working on Spanish, they have learned to conjugate 7 verbs and make some easy conversations. I know it's getting into their heads because one of the kids decided to complain, "Tengo hambre!!" when she was still hungry after lunch! They are learning the all-important phrase, "Donde esta el bano?" which of course means, "Where's the bathroom?" :D

5th and 6th Grade Update from, *Miss Vicky, 5th and 6th Grade Teacher*. The 5th and 6th grade Bible Class have completed our study of all the books of the New and Old Testament. We are now focusing on the importance of prayer and the structure of the church service. We are also working on our psalm recitation for the Easter Service. Science lab has been focusing on heart anatomy. We calculated and graphed pulse rate and the factors that have an impact on it. We also conducted an experiment that produced data, as we measured and recorded muscle strength and fatigue. Solving geometric formulas is the primary focus of Math. In Science class we are reviewing and learning the major principles of Chemistry. We are going over the major Revolutionary events of History and Language the primary focus is the use of adverbial phrases to enhance the knowledge of the parts of speech.

Music Update from *Mr. Steve, Music Teacher* - Music class has been fun with the kindergarteners and first grade. I just need to make sure I keep them busy. No down time! They have been enjoying educational YouTube videos (count to 100, understanding money, phonics) as well as activity videos. They also enjoy singing scripture songs.

Second and third grades have been singing worship music, scripture songs and soundtracks from animated children's movies. They learn basic music theory and then apply that knowledge to YouTube music videos with their boom whackers (sound tubes). They can also play the C scale with their boom whackers.

Fourth through sixth grades also enjoy singing worship music, movie soundtracks and scripture songs. The music theory that I present to them is a little more advanced than second and third grades. They understand the C major, C minor and G major scales. They learned to play chords with their boom whackers (sound tubes) and learned multiple notation rhythms. They apply these rhythms with various YouTube music videos using their boom whackers.

I am presently preparing the students K through 6th for a spring concert on April 12 at 4:30pm at the school. Please be there for them. They all work very hard learning the songs being presented. It is a pleasure and a blessing teaching your students. Thank you for entrusting me with them. I hope to see you April 12th.

—Submitted by Pam Dineen

REDEEMER OPEN HOUSE



Child Care

Bloomin' Everywhere! Happy Spring!

Letter of the month: W & U

Number of the month: 10

Shape of the month: Rhombus

Color of the month: Purple

Bible Lesson:

This month we are learning about Springtime Showers, Rainbows, Gardens, and bugs.

What we are learning in VPK A... This month we are learning about Clothing and how they are made. We are also going to try making our own shirt designs. We are starting to refresh on past skills to prepare for the end of the year testing which is only 3 months away. Submitted by: Jazmyne Crady

What we are learning in VPK B... This month we are learning about the true meaning of Easter. We are also continuing to work on numbers 1-40 and letters T & U. With graduation next month, we are also working on our graduation songs and program. Submitted by: Mallory Oliver

Our Family fun day was fun! We had several families join us for food, games, bounce house jumping and more!

Calendar days:

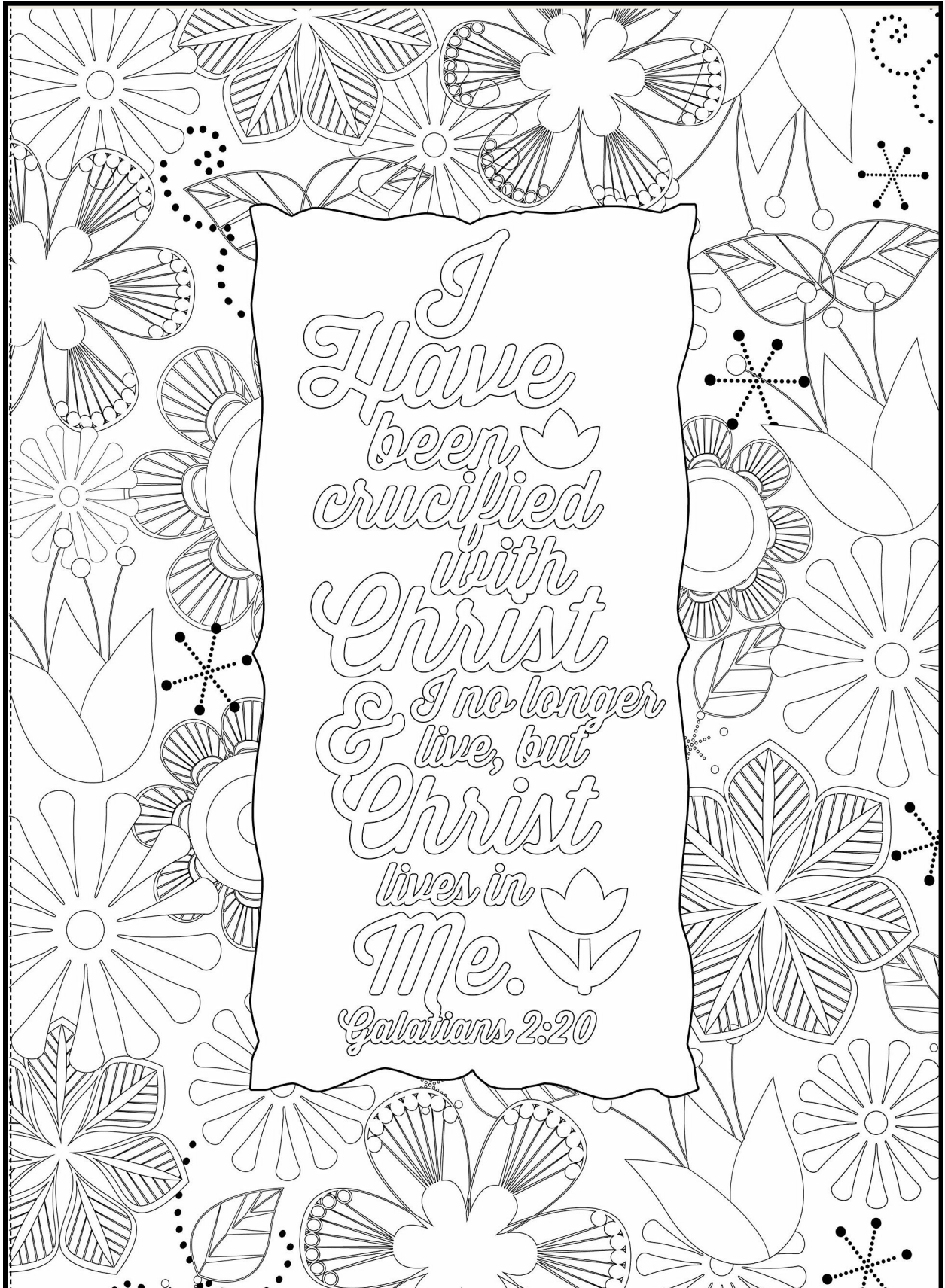
Palm Sunday April 2, 2023

Good Friday April 7, 2023 - Child Care Closed

Easter Sunday April 9, 2023

Earth Day April 22, 2023





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