



April/May 2022



**Living Sacrifices**

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: “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. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says:

*“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in*

*(Continued on page 2)*

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## LIVING SACRIFICES (CONTINUED)

*zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9–13)*

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry



**Redeemer Lutheran Church** is registered at Amazon Smile. Thank you to those who have signed up for this program – we have recently received \$35.00!



### What is Amazon Smile?

Shop at **smile.amazon.com** and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to Redeemer Lutheran Church—no fees, no extra cost.

### What do I need to do?

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and sign in with your Amazon credentials. Click “Get Started.” This will take you to a page asking for your favorite charity. Type in “Redeemer Lutheran Church” and click “Search.”
2. Scroll down the list and find **Redeemer Lutheran Church in Englewood, FL**. Please double-check because there are several Redeemers listed. Then click “Select.”
3. Follow the prompts and you are now registered.
4. From now on, when you shop with Amazon, you will need to go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) **FIRST** and then do your shopping, in order to receive the charitable donation to Redeemer.
5. Once you are registered, you may need to change your settings in the mobile app if you use the app to shop. Open your mobile app, go to Settings, and tap on “Amazon Smile” and follow the instructions. (You may need to install a different icon on your home screen, to shop with your mobile phone.)
6. Shopping at Amazon Smile will generate income for us at no cost to you! Thank you!

Please contact Mindy Duncan or call Caitlin in the church office if you need help with any of these steps.

# Bible Studies



**Sunday Morning Bible Study:** On Sunday, after the 9:15 a.m. service, (approximately 10:45 a.m.) we are studying the Book of Revelation. Let this study not frighten you as a believing Christian. In fact, as a believing Christian, you should be encouraged to attend to see God’s magnificent beauty now and will be at the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We look forward to seeing as many of you believing Christians attend this study of an amazing and revealing book of the Bible.

**Wednesday Morning Table Talk:** Join us in the Church Narthex on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., to gather with Pastor Kress around tables to talk theology, ask a wide range of interesting questions, and witness our own theology shaped by the Word of God. No one is required to know everything about anything. If you have questions or are interested in listening in on our Table Talk, you are welcome to join us in some engaging and thought-provoking conversations.



## Choir



We invite anyone who wishes to make a joyful noise to the Lord to join the choir for a non-committal trial. Christ has given His all, so show the love to your fellow parishioners by singing to our Lord on Sunday. See Collins Sita on Wednesday night at the church from 6-7 or call him at 941-830-6020.

## 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, May 21st 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

Treasurer

Secretary Caitlin Tilton

### BOARDS

Head Elder Collins Sita

Christian Ed.

Human Care

Outreach

Assimilation

School Board Tim Matheny

Stewardship

Youth

Financial Secretary Mindy Duncan

Property Mgmt. Bob Varone

### GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Lisa Kress

Coffee Hour

## Blessed Shall You Be

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.” (Deuteronomy 28:3-6)

This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground, their wombs, their flocks, or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.” (Deut. 28:2b) If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you.” (Deut. 28:2a). If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and “walk in his ways” (Deut. 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh and fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon his work, not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, and His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and it thereby becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him. This is not in order to receive the blessings but because in Christ we already have. With this in mind, we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry

The graphic features a light blue background with a faint image of a pen, a calculator, and a calendar. 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.

## How Do I Know?

How do I know that Christ is risen?  
What proof have I to give?  
He touched my life one blessed day,  
And I began to live.

How do I know He left the tomb  
That Easter long ago?  
I met Him just this morning, and  
My life is all aglow.

How do I know that endless life  
He gained that day for me?  
His life within is proof enough  
Of immortality.

How do I know that Christ still lives  
Rich blessings to impart?  
I know it's true because He lives  
And reigns within my heart.

Eugene M. Harrison

## PRAYERS

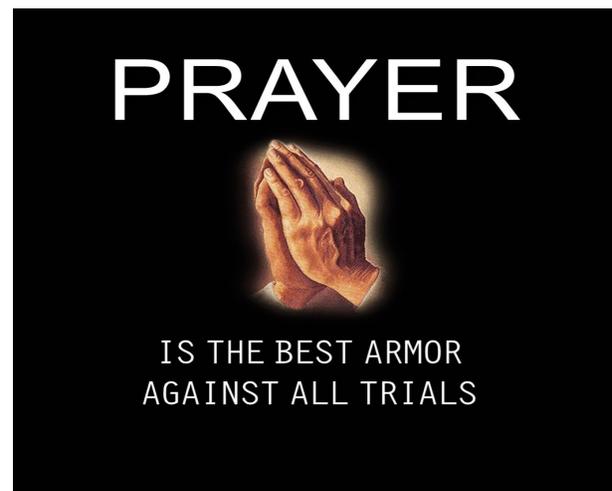
**SHUT-INS:** Rita Kaufmann and Dorothy Sinowetski

**HEALING for Members:** Wila Bockstahler, Jean Cote, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Charlie & Pat Finkenbine, Don Garay, Mike & Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Kitty Hill, Marva Jonas, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Ken Mielke, Lillian Miles, Glenn Mossner, Enid Muhme, Tom & Sue Poyer, Randy & Myra Schaub, Jim Schluentz, Bob Varone, and Pauline Vickey.

**..FRIENDS & RELATIVES:** Michelle Bernard, Grace Blum, Don Borwick, Bill Bowers, Jr., Mary Brissette, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Diane Carr, Pat Carroll, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Jean Clappe-Mixell, 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 and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Sybil Fuchs, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Zeke Garrison, Barbara George, Sandra Gettings, Vinnie Giannola, 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, Jim Honeycutt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Chelsea Hutchinson, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Bill Jaquest, Sylvia Jelinek, Heather Johnson,

Rachel Kagay, Daniel & Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Judy Larkin, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Liam Madden, Joe Manson, Dave McMullan, Ray Mielke, Dominic Miretti, Pete Mogg, 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, Joyce Redding, Elaine Reebe, Paul Rollo, Becky Rurade, Sandra Scheel, Ed Sheahan, Nancy Sly, Laurie Steinke, Juliette Renee, Charles Tolley, George Vespa, Jim & Judy Wahl, 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, Joseph Garay, Brian Jackson, Jonathan Koen, Steven Siegmundt, 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!**



## RUMBLES, GROWLS, & ROARS... IN THE AGE OF DINOSAURS!

This month in Chapel we will be learning from these Bible Lessons. The week of 5/2 Jesus Says Do Not Worry *Matthew 6:25-34* The week of 5/9 God's People Share His Word - Timothy's Mother & Grandmother *2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-17* The week of 5/16 God's People Share His Word - Lydia Believes *Acts 16:11-15, 40* The week of 5/23 God Saves His People *The Book of Esther* The week of 5/30 No Chapel



Dear Jesus, when I am afraid, remind me of Your power and love. Thank You for faithful Pastors and Teachers who tell me about Jesus, my Savior. Amen

What we are learning this month at Redeemer Child Care! Ages Infants thru 4 yrs. Theme: "Dinosaurs" Color: Brown Letter: D, E, and Q Number: 11 Shape: Trapezoid Literacy: Create a picture book about dinosaurs Science: Exploring different leaves, rocks, fossils, and magnifying glasses Art: Painting Dinosaurs! Character Development: Schedules A child's schedule is extremely important in determining how to interact with him/her. Communication is the key!



Sing "Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs"



Dinosaurs, dinosaurs, stomped around. Dinosaurs, dinosaurs, shook the ground. Dinosaurs, dinosaurs, some gave fear. Dinosaurs, dinosaurs, we wish you were here.

What we are learning in VPK A: For our last month of VPK, we will be doing a lot of reviewing. We will be going over every letter and the numbers 1-30. We will also be practicing our graduation songs. This month's curriculum is about the weather and how it changes. We've had a great VPK Year, can't believe it's almost over!

*Submitted by Mallory Oliver*

What we are learning in VPK B: During the month of April we talked about different sports and how they take all different children to make a team. Just like our classroom and future classrooms, they are made up of different children that all work together as a learning team. We have also been learning about what makes a ball bounce, which types bounce and why others do not and what is the difference if a ball is hollow or solid. A few fun words the children have learned are sphere and circumstances. As we continue our study going into May we will also be talking about our team players at home such as family. As Mother's Day is coming we will be working on projects for moms and/or grandmas to show appreciation for all they do.

*Submitted by Jazmyne Crady*



*Congratulation to the VPK Class of 2022!*

*Class A: Blayke, Michaela, Jaxon, Olivia,  
Xhaiden, Bailey, Findley, Logan & Daya*

*Class B: Amaya, Jaxon, Allyson, Sophie, Ariel,  
Aleeah, Skylar, Brayden, Ayla and Jacob*



Teacher Appreciation Week 5/2-5/6/2022



Mother's Day May 8, 2022



VPK Graduation will be held on May 20, 2022 at 6:30 pm



CLOSED May 30, 2022

*Submitted by Wendy Horvath*



## SCHOOL

The first week of March was Read across America Week. We celebrate reading in many different ways during the week. Dr. Seuss's birthday was March 2, so many of our reading activities have to do with one of his books. This year we focused on his books: "Green Eggs and Ham", "Happy Birthday", "I am Not Going to Get Up Today", and "Oh the places you'll go". Each day we focused on one book. After reading the book, we did many learning and fun activities around the theme. We made green eggs and ham for breakfast, had a birthday party, read in our pajamas, and dressed like a community member we would like to become. We also finished our read aloud book "Freckle Juice" by Judy Blume. This book is about a boy that really wanted freckles. His classmate had freckles that covered his face, ears, and neck. One of his classmates, Sharon, offered him a secret recipe for freckle juice. It only cost him 50 cents. A simple recipe turns into a disaster. He had to come up with a perfect solution to not let Sharon have the last laugh. Our students loved this book and looked forward to reading it every day. The whole week was a success and the kids had so much fun reading.

On March 11, we cooked a rainbow lunch. Each grade was given a color and they had to make something for lunch that was that color. We had red meatballs, oranges, mac and cheese, salad, blue juice, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade made a rainbow cake. Cooking class is always a favorite.

Fifth graders have just finished their health unit. We learned about our circulatory system, digestive system, healthy eating, the real you, and physical fitness in action. They learned the importance of maintaining a healthy mind and body their whole lives. They started running a mile with pastor three times a week and tracking their level of aerobic endurance. They are recording their times to try and improve their personal best. They were not real fond of the idea when it started, but now they secretly enjoy it. Thank you Pastor for your encouragement! The real you chapter taught the students how to have a healthy relationship with friends and others. How to take care of themselves both physically and spiritually. It taught them that they have to establish right attitudes in life. It taught them that a friendly smile and common courtesy will help them make friends, and they should be looking for ways to make someone's day a little more special. It also taught them how to choose the right friends and how not to become close to those that are doing things that are against their parent's wishes or against the Bible. Most importantly it taught them how to guard their hearts and minds by being careful what goes in their head. It taught them the importance of putting on the full armor of God and being ready to stand on their beliefs when the time comes.

In P.E., we have been learning how to play kickball. We had three teams and a coach for each team. The teams learned new skills each week and the 5<sup>th</sup> graders had to coach their team. We practiced and played several times. Our field trip at the end of the month was to Englewood sports complex. We had a kickball tournament. Nathans team "The Geckos" came in 1<sup>st</sup> place. Everyone had a great time. We ended our trip with a picnic lunch and some time to play on the playground. Thank you Mrs. Pam and Coach Kay for making P.E. so fun.

Happy Easter! I pray that you have a blessed month.

Verse of the week:

*"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."* John 15:7

Submitted by Nicole Hopkins

SCHOOL



## SCHOOL

We are in the last month of school again. Where has time gone? We have students finishing up their 6<sup>th</sup> year of school here. One of the students has been here since VPK and another that left and came back. Redeemer has been their main source of education for most of their lives. They have learned their letters, numbers, and how to read right here on our campus. Not only have they gotten an education here, but they have learned so much about Jesus and who He is. They have learned about the Bible and the importance of prayer. They have matured in so many ways. It makes me so proud to look at the people they have become. We have a blessed community of people between the church, child care and school. We all should be so proud of what is going on here, and how we are impacting the lives of others.

This month we have been working hard on our historical research projects. Each student picked out a person in history with the intent of creating a living museum. Each student was required to research and write a report, make a visual display, and memorize a speech about their person. On the day of the wax museum they will be dressing up like their character and pose like a wax figure. When a visitor comes by they then will come alive and say their speech. We all are very excited about this day and can't wait to share what we have learned with others. Our Wax Museum will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm if you would like to come by.

Fourth and Fifth Grade students are heading to St. Augustine on May 12-14<sup>th</sup>. We have studied and wrote a report about St. Augustine and all the history that comes with it. Now we are going to experience it firsthand. Our students (and teachers) are very excited about this trip. We are confident that we will learn many things and remember this trip with our good friends for years to come. We will share how things went next month.

We will have a special closing of the school year Chapel service on the last day of school May 26 at 8:45 am. All families are welcome. Our fifth graders will be recognized at this time as they advance from elementary to middle school, again, all here on the campus of Redeemer Lutheran Church, School and Child Care.

Have a great month!

Mrs. Nicole

Verse of the Week-

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! Know that the Lord, He is God!” – Psalms 100:1-3a*

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

SCHOOL





REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
SCHOOL & CHILD CARE  
6970 Mineola Rd.  
Englewood, FL 34224

ADDRESS SERVICE  
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**REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.**  
*Pastor*

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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 Class: *Sunday, 10:45 a.m.*

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).*