

REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHILD CARE - JULY 2014

“THE CHURCH, THE CONGREGATION AND THE PASTOR”

This past season our Tuesday morning Bible Class offered a study entitled, “What Does God’s Word Say About ... ?” We studied many different topics ranging from what God’s Word says about Christmas trees, horoscopes, and tattoos to what God’s Word says about cohabitation, the Trinity, and repentance. (This 18 page study is available to you in electronic form or hard copy upon request.) This newsletter article will be used to help us understand and answer the question: What does God’s Word say about the Church, the Congregation, and the Pastor?

Perhaps the best format to accomplish this task is to place ourselves in the classroom where students ask questions and the teacher provides the answers. This dialogue between student and teacher will produce a number of questions and even questions you may have but aren’t asked here. If you should have a question that is not asked here, please feel free to call me at the church office or my cell phone, or even send your question via email. So, let us begin our classroom discussion.

THE CHURCH

TEACHER: In order to answer the question “what does God’s Word say about the church,” we might first need to ask: Why is the Christian church named after Christ? Jesus said, “I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). God’s Word also says: “For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11). God’s Word continues to say, “Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior ... the church submits to Christ ... Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:23-27).

STUDENT: Why is the church holy?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “The blood of Jesus [God’s] Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). God’s Word also says, “Be holy, for I am holy ... You are to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:16, 2:5).



STUDENT: Where is the holy Christian church to be found?

TEACHER: The holy Christian church is to be found where “the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel” (Augsburg Confession VII 1). The Gospel and the sacraments are called the marks of the church. God’s Word says, “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11).

STUDENT: In what other senses is the word church used?

TEACHER: The word church is also used to indicate (1) the visible church of God; (2) a denomination; (3) a local congregation; and (4) a house of worship.

STUDENT: Wait! What is the visible church?

TEACHER: The visible church is the whole number of those who use the Word of God and profess the Christian faith, but among whom, beside the true Christians, there are also unbelievers (more on that later).

Continued on page 3...

Pastor Rev. James Kress

Seasonal Pastor Rev. Mark Steinke

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STEWARDSHIP

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?”

As good Lutherans, we answer, No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by baptism into it. We are born into a family and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have are to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family.

But the one that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

Continued on page 3...

“THE CHURCH, THE CONGREGATION AND THE PASTOR”

Continued from page 1...

STUDENT: Are there then two churches, one visible and the other invisible?

TEACHER: There is only one church, all believers in Christ. The visible gathering is called church because of the believers gathered around the means of grace (Word and Sacrament), in an assembly in which there are also hypocrites.

STUDENT: Who then is a member of the invisible church?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved,” and “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved” (Acts 2:47, 16:31).

STUDENT: Do we know exactly who the members of the invisible church are?

TEACHER: Jesus says, “The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you” (Luke 17:20-21).

STUDENT: Who knows who is a member of the church?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “The Lord knows those who are His” (2 Timothy 2:19). Elijah said, “The people of Israel have forsaken [God’s] covenant ... and I, only I am left ... And the Lord said to him, ‘I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal’” (1 Kings 19:14-15, 18).

STUDENT: How many invisible churches are there?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “So we, though many, are one body in Christ” (Romans 12:5). God’s Word also says, “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

STUDENT: What other name does the church have in the Bible?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “The congregation of the righteous” (Psalm 1:5), “The body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12), “The temple of God” (2 Corinthians 6:16), “The flock of God” (1 Peter 5:2), “The kingdom of God” (Romans 14:17), “The kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 3:2), “The Israel of God” (Galatians 6:16), and “Zion ... and Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:3).

STUDENT: What is our first purpose as members of the church?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33).

STUDENT: What does the church bring to the world?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “The church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).

STUDENT: How do we pray for the church in the Lord’s Prayer?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “Your kingdom come” (Matthew 6:10). And Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Luke 10:2).

Continued on page 4...

STEWARDSHIP

...continued from page 2

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

Why? Because all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don’t let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even be an afterthought. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.

“THE CHURCH, THE CONGREGATION AND THE PASTOR”

Continued from page 3...

STUDENT: How does the kingdom of God come to people?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “Faith comes through hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). And Jesus says, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

STUDENT: How should we help build the church?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “Those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ” (Acts 8:4-5). As a result, local congregations were established as the Good News of Jesus spread throughout the towns and regions the disciples traveled.

THE CONGREGATION

STUDENT: So, when is a church the way Jesus wants it to be?

TEACHER: Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). God’s Word says, “Everything that I commanded you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it” (Deuteronomy 12:32). And when Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, He said, “Do this” (Luke 22:19).

STUDENT: Are all churches the way Jesus wants them to be?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “Many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

STUDENT: What is wrong in the false churches?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “I am against the false prophets, declares the Lord, who use their tongues and declare, ‘declares the Lord’” (Jeremiah 23:31). And God’s Word also says, “We are not, like so many, peddlers of God’s word” (2 Corinthians 2:17).

STUDENT: Why may false churches seem to be good?

TEACHER: Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the

one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then I will declare to them. ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness’” (Matthew 7:22-23).

STUDENT: So, which members of any church will go to heaven?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved” (Romans 10:9-10).

STUDENT: Why shouldn’t we help or join a church which teaches error?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “Those who guide this people have been leading astray, and those who are guided by them are swallowed up” (Isaiah 9:16). And Jesus said, “If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the pit” (Matthew 15:14).

STUDENT: What should we do to find out which church we want to belong to?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God” (1 John 4:1), and “watch out for those who cause divisions and creates obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them” (Romans 16:17), and “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ... Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord” (2 Corinthians 6:14, 17). And Jesus said, “If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31).

Continued on page 5...

“THE CHURCH, THE CONGREGATION AND THE PASTOR”

Continued from page 4...

STUDENT: What should members do for their local congregation?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “Let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10), “Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing” (Psalm 100:2), “We should be able to offer willingly. All things come from You, and of Your own have we given You” (1 Chronicles 29:14), and “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be not collecting when I come” (1 Corinthians 16:2).

STUDENT: What two kinds of people may be found in a local congregation?

TEACHER: In a parable, Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, ‘Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn’” (Matthew 13:24-30). And in speaking to the twelve disciples, Jesus further said, “‘Did I not choose you, the Twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.’ He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray Him” (John 6:70-71).

STUDENT: Then what are hypocrites?

TEACHER: Jesus said, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, so practice and observe whatever they tell you – but not what they do. For they preach, but do not practice” (Matthew 23:3). Jesus also said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will

of My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). And Jesus also said, “Hypocrites! Well did the Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me; in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men’” (Matthew 15:7-9).

STUDENT: Because sinners are members of the Christian church, who alone originally has the power to forgive and not to forgive sins?

TEACHER: Jesus said to a paralytic, “‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ‘Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?’” (Mark 2:5-7).

STUDENT: Through whom does Jesus act on earth?

TEACHER: Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them” (Matthew 18:20).

STUDENT: What special authority has Jesus given to His church on earth?

TEACHER: Christ Jesus has given to His church the authority to forgive sins or to withhold forgiveness as He clearly said, “Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 18:18).

STUDENT: Binding and loosing, what are these two powers called?

TEACHER: This power or special authority is called the Office of the Keys. This authority works like a key to open heaven by forgiving sins (loosing), or to close heaven by not forgiving them (binding). Jesus said, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19).

STUDENT: Is there a key that closes heaven?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written,

Continued on page 6...

“THE CHURCH, THE CONGREGATION AND THE PASTOR”

‘Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things

Continued from page 5...

written in the Book of the Law, and do them” (Galatians 3:10).

STUDENT: Is there a key that opens heaven?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “The Gospel ... is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).

STUDENT: How does the church publicly exercise the Office of the Keys?

TEACHER: The Christian congregation by the command of Christ calls pastors to carry out the Office of the Keys publicly in His name and on behalf of the congregation. The pastoral office is a divine institution as Jesus said to His disciples, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld” (John 20:21-23).

THE PASTOR

STUDENT: So then, congregations call the pastor?

TEACHER: Congregations are to call men who are well qualified personally and spiritually to be their pastors. “Our churches teach that nobody should preach publicly in the church or administer the sacraments unless he is regularly called” (Augsburg Confession XIV). God’s Word says, “God has appointed in the church ... preachers ... and teachers” (1 Corinthians 12:28). God’s Word also says, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’” (Romans 10:13-15).

STUDENT: Who does the called and sent pastor serve?

TEACHER: The Apostle Paul says of himself and of other pastors, “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and the stewards of the mysteries of

God” (1 Corinthians 4:1). Paul also says, “For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake” (2 Corinthians 4:5).

STUDENT: So the pastor serves both Christ and His church, that is, he serves the individual members?

TEACHER: Jesus said to Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Feed My lambs.’ He said to him a second time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love Me?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Tend My sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love Me?’ Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ and he said to Him, ‘Lord You know everything; You know that I love You.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.” (John 21:15-17).

STUDENT: What kind of man should the Christian congregation choose to be their pastor?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “He must hold firm to the trustworthy Word as taught so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also rebuke those who contradict it” (Titus 1:9). And God’s Word further says, “An overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone doesn’t know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church? He must not be a recent convert and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil” (1 Timothy 3:2-7).

STUDENT: Has God given any higher office than that of a pastor?

TEACHER: Jesus said, “You have one Teacher, and you are all brothers” (Matthew 23:8).

STUDENT: What does God want to do through

Continued on page 7...

“THE CHURCH, THE CONGREGATION AND THE PASTOR”

pastors?

Continued from page 6...

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21), and “I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22).

STUDENT: So, what is the pastor’s work?

TEACHER: The Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to instruct pastors to: “Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you (pastors), always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” (2 Timothy 4:2-5). Jesus said, “Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19), “And He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them saying, ‘This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.’ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.’” (Luke 22:19-20). God’s Word also says, “I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a Word from My mouth, you shall give them warning from Me” (Ezekiel 3:17).

STUDENT: Does Jesus speak through a pastor that preaches God’s Word?

TEACHER: Jesus said to the disciples He was sending out into every town, “The one who hears you hears Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me. And the one who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me” (Luke 10:16).

STUDENT: How then should a pastor be treated by the congregation?

TEACHER: God’s Word says, “We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13), “And though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus” (Galatians 4:14), “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you” (Hebrews 13:17). Jesus also said, “For the laborer deserves his wages” (Luke 10:7). And God’s Word continues to say, “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:14), “One who is taught the Word must share all good things with the one who teaches” (Galatians 6:6).

Unfortunately our time has come to a close during this time of study. I hope this has been helpful to you. Not every Holy Scripture reference was used to further explain, “What does God’s Word say about the Church, the Congregation, and the Pastor,” these were provided as a guide. I would like to conclude this newsletter article with these words from the Apostle Paul:

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it says,

‘When He ascended on high He led a host of
captives, and He gave gifts to men’

“Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no

Continued on page 8...

“THE CHURCH, THE CONGREGATION AND THE PASTOR”

opportunity to the devil. Let no corrupting talk come *Continued from page 7...*

out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:1-8, 25-27, 29-32).

In Service to Christ and His Church,

PRAYERS

SHUT-INS: Marjorie Boliere, Helen Perry, and Ruth Sutley.

HEALING: Members: Dolores Altmann, Gretchen Armstrong, Carl & Betty Bertka, Elma Cancellieri, Pat Finkenbine, Tony Grcevic, Arlene Harden, Bernice Heppner, Erwin Janke, Sandy McGrath, Carolyn Plesner, Sue Poyer, Steve Procuk, Ron Ratzlaff, Michael Sanders, Duwayne Schoeneck, Jerry Schreiner, Earl Stuck, Marie Talley, Fred Toth, Lois Webster, Arlene Wiley, and KC Wright.



Friends & Relatives: Anthony Abreu, Catherine Armstrong, Linny Aspery, Gioconda Barlow, Shirley Bloom, Grace Blum, Dennis Burchell, John Burtscher, Georgia Bush, Jack Carlos, Beverly Carper, Diane Carr, Debbie Carr, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Martin Cressman, Rick Cross, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, James Dodge, Barb Dumeah, Chuck & Barbara Ebert, Friends and Family of Dorothylyn Evans, Bruce Everson, Marla Flores, Manual Galan, Glenn Galway, Nancy Gleis, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Joel Heppner, Walter Heppner, Glory Herget, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Carol Holmes, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Carl Jennejahn, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, John Kearns, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Mary Krueger, Jim Lane, Ray Likowski, Denise Line, Sean Maki, Joe Manson, Pete Mogg, Linda Mohr, Mike Morrissey, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Rev. Dana Narring, Maureen Nesvacil, Charles Pentecost Jr., Pete Prior, Mary Raines, Ryan Sheahan, Don Shepherd, Nancy Sly, Debbie Speer Smith, Virginia Stanley, Gary Stokes, Sarah Sturzenbecker, Charles Tolley, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Steven Walker, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Reece Withers, Tim Wright, and Angel Zavala.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Brian Jackson, Joshua Jones, Brett Keck, David MacLeod, Michael Monson, Charles D. Weishaar.

FROM THE TREASURER’S DESK

CHURCH

Actual May 2014	Budget	Actual May 2013	Budget
Income: \$110,317.31	\$112,678.15	\$116,379.59	\$274,918.00
Expense: \$95,012.57	\$112,681.90	\$110,335.86	\$274,828.00

CHILD CARE

Actual May 2014	Budget	Actual May 2013	Budget
Income: \$122,662.79	\$128,920.50	\$136,372.66	\$128,920.50
Expense: \$108,100.64	\$124,933.08	\$124,273.08	\$128,920.75

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MAY 2014

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES May 5, 2014

PRESENT: Pastor Kress, Rich Kueker, Brian Abel, Todd Armstrong, Tim Byrne, Bill Bowers, Karen Kirkland, Carol Carlos, Pam Replinger and Betty Clemens

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Rich Kueker.

Pastor Kress opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES of the April 14, 2014 meeting were presented. BILL MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. PAM SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

CALENDAR for June was presented. The following changes were made: No Sunday School, No Human Care Meeting on the 4th, (They will resume in September) Board of Education Meeting on the 10th will be at 6:00 p.m.

REPORTS

PASTOR: Report attached.

Pastor discussed the Consecrated Stewards Program through LCEF Services as outlined in his report. If we pursue he will not use the sermon outlines because he does not believe the pulpit is intended for this purpose. Discussion included how to encourage the congregation to attend. Suggestions were Saturday mornings or after church on Sunday with meal. Pastor will contact Pastor Bartels to find out how to motivate the members to attend and if the sessions can be combined to lessen the 6-8 week period. Rich tabled the decision and asked the Council members to bring their thoughts and ideas as to when and how to accomplish the use of this program at the next meeting.

Pastor commented we need to assemble a committee for the Circuit Reformation Service on October 26th soon.

PRESIDENT: No Report

BOARD OF ELDERS: No Report

Tim thanked Pastor Kress for all his efforts with the extra services involved due to the Lord calling many of our members to their eternal home.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Report attached.

HUMAN CARE BOARD: No Report - They will continue serving, but no meetings until September.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: No Report

ASSIMILATION: No Report

COMMUNITY & PARISH FELLOWSHIP: No Report.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: No Report.

SCHOOL BOARD: No Report - Bill stated they are looking for ways to have a home study group here for the children who will no longer be attending Suncoast School due to their closing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Pest Control Hughes was called to settle the confusion about cancellation of service. We now have another field person and we will give them another chance to perform. Getting another company will be very costly because we will have to start over with first time applications, etc.

Steeple - Todd reported it has been re-fastened. It does need cleaning which he will take care of.

Continued on page 10

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND—LCEF

Has anyone considered how to help congregations across the US build, strengthen, and grow their ministries? Lutheran Church Extension Fund gives us the opportunity to help others while being good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. It doesn't take much—only a small portion of all the blessings we have received.

Churches who experience physical disasters, such as in Nebraska last month, are dedicated to continuing their ministry. They will need help from us. LCEF will be there for them if they so choose to use LCEF services. Help strengthen that opportunity by investing in Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Your investment will help provide capital to be used to build or rebuild their mission and ministry.

Let's put our money where our mouth is, so to speak. Let's get on with the mission of spreading God's Word to all nations. Opening an account with LCEF is one small way to get started. Information and account enrollment forms are on the table in the narthex. What's stopping you?

In the Lord's service,
Laurie Steinke
LCEF Congregation Advocate

OUR OLDEST FATHER'S ON FATHER'S DAY

June 15th was Father's Day, a day to honor our Father's that are present, that are already waiting for us in Heaven and for Father's to be. Here are pictures of the eldest Father's in our congregation.



Carl Bertka (91)



Ted Simis (89)



George Cancellieri (88)



Earl Stuck (88)



Duwayne Schoeneck (88)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR MAY 2014...Con't. from Page 9

LOTS ON ACCESS ROAD: Tim reported the seller owns 10 lots and will sell them in bundles of 3 for \$89,000; 7 for \$154,000 or all 10. Their asking price is 2 1/2 times higher than the going rate. This opportunity could be paid from our Endowment Fund as a gift or a loan or through LCEF. BILL MADE A MOTION TO ASK THE SELLERS TO HIRE A CERTIFIED GENERAL APPRAISER AT OUR COST UP TO \$1,000. PAM SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

The rugs in church are raveling. Todd asked if we have extra carpet to do a repair. He will take care of this.

PAM MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. TIM SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED

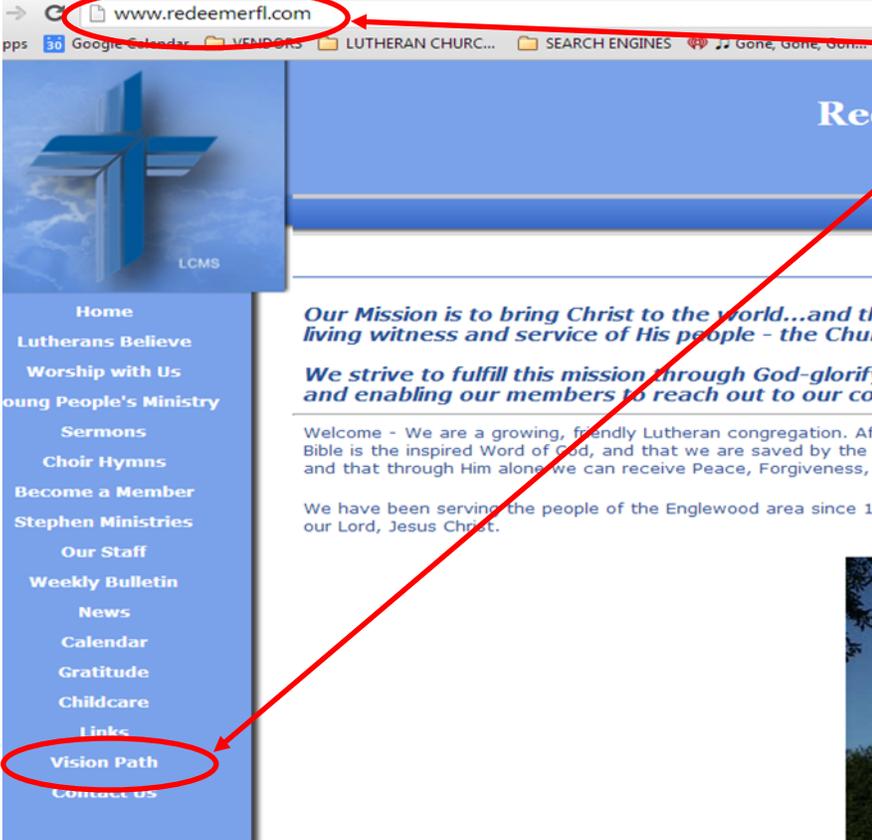
The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. with prayer by Pastor Kress and the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted, Betty Clemens, Cong. Sec.

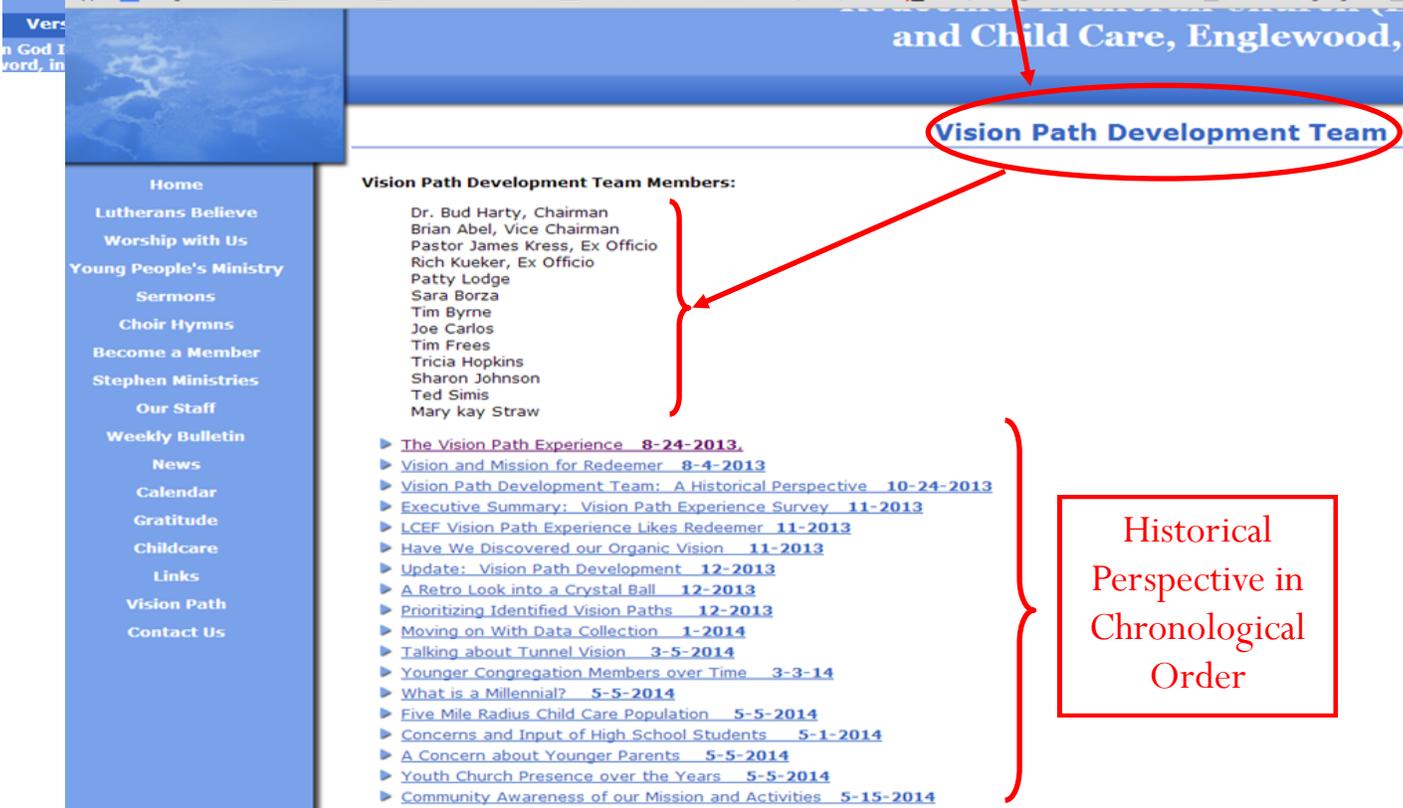
The deadline for the August Newsletter is July 16th

Please have all your submissions sent to redeemerfl@verizon.net OR drop it off at the church office to Deb by the time indicated above.

VISION PATH DEVELOPMENT TEAM WEBSITE



- ◆ From the home page of the church website:
<http://www.redeemerfl.com>
- ◆ Click on VISION PATH in the menu on the left
- ◆ Once on the Vision Path Development Team page, just click on any link to view or download the VPDT document



Historical
Perspective in
Chronological
Order

VISION PATH DEVELOPMENT TEAM WEBSITE

Have you missed anything? Are you looking for a historical overview or perspective of the workings of the Vision Path Development Team? If so...your needs have been addressed! The recently created Vision Path Website is now ready for your perusal and deliberation, updating your collective portfolio, or seeking one or several missing pieces.

Go to the Redeemer Lutheran Church webpage (www.redeemerfl.com). Then click on VISION PATH from the menu on the left. Once on the Vision Path Development Team page, just click on any article to view or download the Vision Path Development document you wish to read and/or print. All documents are for public information and further use. To print copies all or any of the documents, just follow the print instructions for your computer or your hand-held remote electronic device. Below is a list of the current documents.

The Vision Path Experience 8-24-2013
Vision and Mission for Redeemer 8-4-2013
Vision Path Development Team: A Historical Perspective 10-24-2013
Executive Summary: Vision Path Experience Survey 11-2013
LCEF Vision Plan Experience Likes Redeemer 11-2013
Have We Discovered our Organic Vision? 11-2013
Update: Vision Path Development 12-2013
A Retro Look into a Crystal ball 12-2013
Prioritizing Identified Vision Paths 12-2013
Moving on With Data Collection 1-2014
Talking About Tunnel Vision 3-5-2014
Younger Congregation Member over Time 3-3-14
What is a Millennial? 5-5-2014
Five Mile Radius Child Care Population 5-5-2014
Concerns and Input of High School Students 5-1-2014
A Concern about Younger Parents 5-5-2014
Youth Church Presence over the Years 5-5-2014
Community Awareness of our Mission and Activities 5-15-2014



ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND

Redeemer's week is Monday July 7th through Thursday July 11th to volunteer at Helping Hand. We need two people for each day. This is an excellent opportunity to obey our Lord's command to feed the hungry and help the needy. Please contact Dale Whipple at 941-786-6116 or Pat Whipple at 941-882-2725 if you would like to volunteer.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

The Senior Fellowship is going great. We have some new people attending. Any one who would like to play cards, come join us. Bring a brown bag lunch. Drinks and dessert provided. *Submitted by Lessie Kirch*

SINGLES LUNCHEON

WHEN: Mark your calendar for July 8th-11:30 AM.

WHERE: "Good Times Diner", located Merchants Crossing Shopping Center-1500 Placida Rd.--couple doors from Hallmark Store.

Bring a friend!! The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.



Submitted by Lessie Kirch

VBS SEASHORE BEACH PARTY!



Join us for the **VBS kickoff beach party** on July 12th, 11AM - 2PM at Englewood Beach under the pavilion. There will be GAMES, FOOD AND FUN! You can also pre-register your child for Vacation Bible School. Join us for this VBS kickoff beach party!!

KRAFT KORNER

The Kraft Korner is in the fellowship hall right around the corner from the office, in case you have missed it. We have lots of good books on our shelves. Come over and have a look. It would be great to sit on the beach or by the pool and read. We also have plenty of room for you to drop off any items you would like to donate for our shelves. Who knows, if you have a look, you might find something to purchase that you just can't do without. All monies go to the Ladies Guild/LWML for a good cause. Thanks for checking us out.

Submitted by: Lessie Kirch

CARE NOTES

Check out the new sign above the Care Notes in the Narthex. Dorothy Sinowiski did a WONDERFUL job on this. Thanks so much!



CLASSIFIEDS

Sales—Rentals Pineapple Gulf Properties—Glenda McDorman, Owner/Broker (Lessie Kirch's Daughter), 350 S. Indiana Road Englewood, FL 34223. Office: 941-473-0300, Cell: 941-330-7922.

Cleaning Services Free estimates! Please contact Sheila Murphy at 941-473-1747.

Lawn Care Call Todd Armstrong at 941-961-7584 for your lawn care needs.

Construction Call Rob Long! A.C.S., Inc. - Licensed General Contractor - Anything from full remodels, full lanai's, window and door installation and ALL phases of construction. State certified licensed and insured. Please call for a free estimate at 941-475-5008

For Sale Electric wheelchair/scooter—only used for two months. In brand new condition. Has battery and charger. You will need to a way to transport the chair. Please contact Deb Horner @ 941-468-3923, if you are interested.

LOST AND FOUND

If anyone is missing any items, namely eyeglasses, gloves, umbrellas, etc., please check the Lost & Found box located in the narthex.

GREETERS

July 6th

July 13th

July 20th

July 27th

Submitted by
Assimilation



COFFEE HOUR

July 6th Karen Kirkland

July 13th Mary Ann Frees

July 20th Mickie Abel

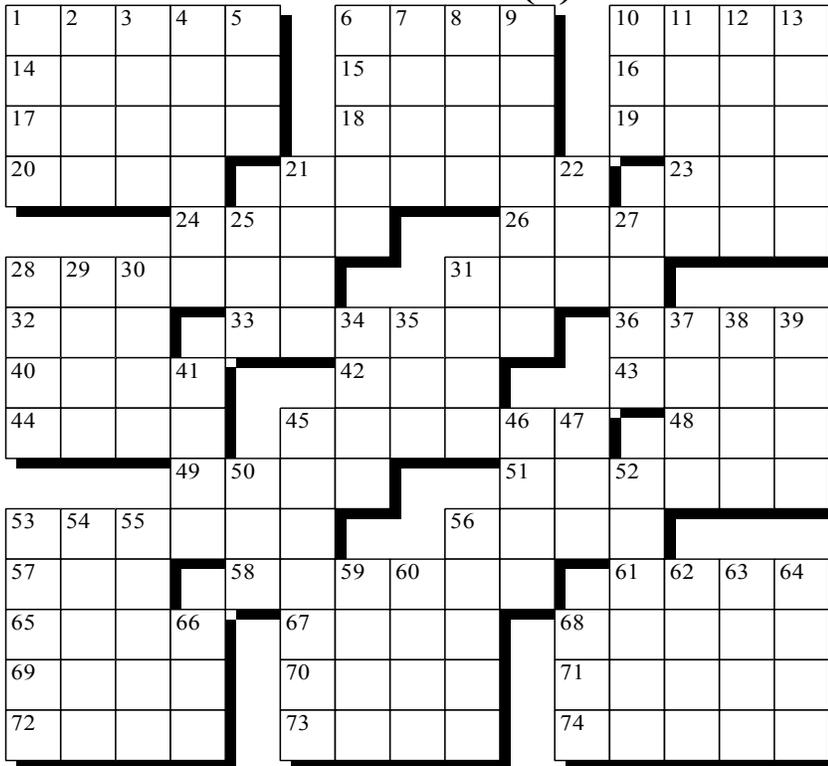
July 27th

Submitted by Brd. of Comm.
& Parish Fellowship



PUZZLE PAGE

Matthew 13 (1)



John Kapteyn 40117
 Created by The Word Puzzles (www.thewordpuzzles.com) using Crossword Express (www.crauswords.com)

ACROSS

- 1 Only a ___ time
- 6 Secondhand
- 10 Inquires
- 14 Enthusiastic
- 15 Periodic movement of the sea
- 16 Fellow
- 17 Mournful poem
- 18 Streetcar
- 19 Authentic
- 20 Animal
- 21 Judged
- 23 Vase
- 24 Pitcher
- 26 Delicate morsel of food
- 28 ___ then to
- 31 They will ___ out
- 32 Very skilled person
- 33 Person in debt
- 36 Breezy
- 40 Thin rope

- 42 Lever for rowing
- 43 Spoollike toy
- 44 Leg joint
- 45 They ___ hear
- 48 Rocky pinnacle
- 49 Adjoin
- 51 Salt of iodic acid
- 53 Largest of ___ plants
- 56 Old Indian coin
- 57 Regret
- 58 Border
- 61 Produced a ___
- 65 Toward the mouth
- 67 Admirable
- 68 New Zealand aboriginal
- 69 Swell
- 70 Dash
- 71 With speed
- 72 Killed
- 73 Depression in a surface
- 74 Wanderer

DOWN

- 1 Scattering the ___
- 2 Robust
- 3 Double curve
- 4 Sense of loss
- 5 Attempt
- 6 I will ___ things
- 7 Male parent
- 8 Yellow cheese coated with red wax
- 9 Greek goddess of agriculture
- 10 Statute
- 11 Small tree
- 12 New Zealand evergreen tree
- 13 Used up
- 21 Sandy tract
- 22 Decease
- 25 Marry
- 27 June 6, 1944
- 28 Their ___ of faith
- 29 Image
- 30 Withered
- 31 Hears the ___
- 34 He got into a ___
- 35 Sailor
- 37 Very small quantity
- 38 Peasant
- 39 Long ago
- 41 No longer living
- 45 A __, sixty
- 46 Burbot
- 47 Yonder
- 50 Honey insect
- 52 Repeated from the beginning
- 53 When it ___
- 54 Pertaining to the ear
- 55 Rob
- 56 Concerning
- 59 Very strong wind
- 60 Republic in SW Asia
- 62 Wander
- 63 Killer whale
- 64 Piebald
- 66 Condensed moisture
- 68 Is like a ___



Happy 4th of July from Redeemer Child Care!



July 2014

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Tuesdays at 3:45

7/1 Jonah and the Big Fish

The Book of Jonah

7/8 Food for Elijah and the Widow

1 Kings 17:1-16

7/15 VBS

7/22 Jesus Calls His Disciples

Luke 5:1-11

7/29 Jesus Calms the Storm

Matthew 8:23-27



Dear Jesus,
Thank You for being our Savior. Help us follow You and tell others about You. Amen.

Birthdays

7/1 Ms. Jadilyn

7/3 Amelia

7/3 Ms. Kari

7/7 Kamrie

7/10 Arabella

7/22 Landen

7/27 Isaiah

7/31 Lola



Closings

Child Care will be Closed July 4th



Congratulations on your years of service!

Ms. Kristy 2 years on 6/6



Summer is here and we will be very busy with pool days, field trips, the ice cream truck, special activities and more.

Special Days in July

7/4 Independence Day

7/10 Teddy Bear Picnic Day

7/14-7/18 VBS

7/20 National Ice Cream Day



VBS

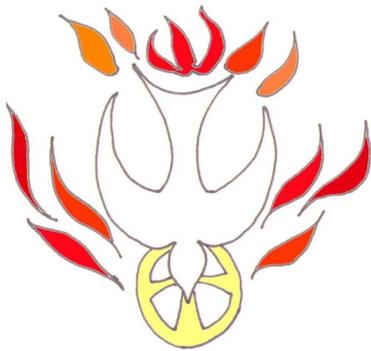
July 14-18



Submitted by Wendy Horwath

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHILD CARE
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REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.

REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, Associate Members and Visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

WORSHIP SERVICES:

November - April: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

May - October 9:15 AM

Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Bible Study: 9:15 AM

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 941-475-2410

We, the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church are called into the service of our Lord by accepting His command (Matthew 28:18-20):

- *Making disciples of all nations / peoples*
- *Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*
- *Proclaiming the Gospel and teaching the Word.*

Christ's love for us compels us to serve our neighbors as He served us.