



MAY 2026



VICAR’S NOTES

To all Mom’s, because motherhood isn’t easy.

Motherhood is a holy office. It has God’s blessing, plus a lot of sacrificial labor.

On Mother’s Day, I always find myself thinking about how lucky I am that life brought me to you. You didn’t just step into the role of a mother — you became my mother in every way that matters. After all, you’re the one who took care of me as only the mother can. You may not have given birth to me, but you were always there feeding, cleaning up after, and loving me from the start. You’ve had the constant task of cleaning up, whether I wandered off in in my Sunday best or rolled in the nearest muck, or projected something from the inside to the outside. You’ve taught me how to walk, how to talk and how not to use bad words. You’ve been all about training and discipline, about making sure I made good use of my time during the waking hours and that I was well rested. You helped put me on the path to who I am now.

It’s a calling that doesn’t end. Even when we are all grown up, you still prayed for me boldly and faithfully. I’ve never felt a pull toward the woman who gave birth to me, because my heart has always known who my mother really is. You. You’re the one who held me when I was hurting, guided me when I was lost, and celebrated me when I succeeded. You’re the one who taught me what family really means.

And with all that, you go under-appreciated a lot. And if my brother and I are like most, we probably took you do for granted — except maybe for a springtime Sunday and a birthday celebration. While you’re doing your best to raise us, you never seem to run out of people trying to tell you how to do it better.

I’m fairly certain that someone will take offense at what I’ve said above. Some will convince themselves that I believe that raising children (toxic diapers and all) is solely the mother’s job, to be done while the father is busy playing golf. Others may read this and think that I believe that all fathers are irresponsible people who won’t lift a finger to raise their children *because* they’re too busy playing golf.

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VICAR'S NOTES (CONTINUED)

Neither is true. I've written what I've written for two reasons. The first is that this month, we're celebrating Mother's Day, not Father's Day. Surprise, surprise, next month's letter will be a letter to my Dad, because I did have a loving and supportive Dad.

The second is that (surprise!) perhaps I'm not only talking about motherhood in the earthly sense of the word. Maybe, just maybe, I've also been writing about the Church, the Bride of Christ, "the mother of us all" (Gal. 4:26; 2 John 1).

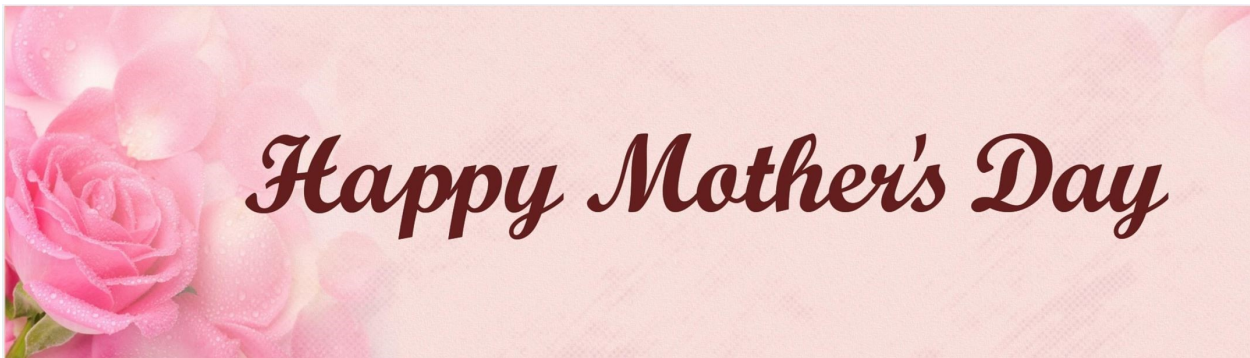
There's a reason why the work of moms and the work of the church have so many parallels — and why Martin Luther, in his Large Catechism, calls the church "the mother that conceives and bears every Christian through God's Word" (LC 2:42). See, since the office of "wife" is given by God to illustrate the Church in Her relationship to Christ (Ephesians 5:22-24, 31-32); and since, most properly, it is wives who bear children and are mothers; then the office of "mother" is given to illustrate the church as well. A mom's sacrificial love for her child thus reminds us of the Church's care for sinners, and the Church's care for sinners displays a maternal love that is both tender and firm.

The work mothers do in raising children is indispensable. On Mother's Day especially, we acknowledge the truth of it. In addition, however, we as Christians also recognize that moms by their very labors are given the privilege of illustrating the love that Christ shows us through his bride, the Church. This reality adds even greater honor to the vocation of motherhood.

Thanks for all your service, moms. Thanks for your love for your kids and your gentle reminder of the Church. God grant you every good gift in your blessed, demanding calling.

And Happy Mother's Day.
(Sandra Lee Sita 11/5/33 – 3/18/2014)

Yours in Christ,
Vicar Collins



Bible Studies



Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please join us after the morning service (and after a cup of coffee – approximately 10:30 a.m.). We are currently studying the Gospel of John.

Table Talk: Table talk is a very informal Bible study held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, . 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. We are currently studying the book of Romans. All are welcome. Please consider joining us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School has resumed at Redeemer Lutheran Church. All of us here at Redeemer joyfully welcome all children every Sunday, during Divine Service.

If you have any questions, please contact Yvonne Brussel at 516-476-8241 or at yayabrussel@yahoo.com.



PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY --May 16th

We sure could use some help on our Property Appreciation Day every month. There is outside work to do and cleaning and dusting that needs to be done inside the Church. If you can help, please come by the Church and we will put you to work. Please search your heart to see if there is anything you can do to help maintain and beautify the Lord’s home and property.

Property Appreciation Day is the THIRD SATURDAY of every month

SERVING THE LORD

Vicar Collins Sita

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Organist

Choir Director

Newsletter Pat Finkenbine

School Admin Wendy Horvath

Child Care Director Brandi Fordham

School Admin Asst

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Financial Secretary Sherrie Keesee

Endowment Fund Sherrie Keesee

Property Mgmt.

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour



***The deadline for the June 2026 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!***

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

A mother is the truest friend we have. When trials heavy and sudden fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts.” == Anonymous

Prayer Requests



Healing Prayers for members:

Wayne Buel, Ed & Jan DeTrow, , Pat Finkenbine, Judy Guastella, Joyce Krug, Jerry Lindberg, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Tom & Sue Poyer, Randy Schaub, Jim & Bonnie Schluentz, and Pauline Vickey.

Prayers for Friends and relatives:

John Baldrige, Karen Bartram, Joseph Caivano, Michelle Cote, Carolyn Francis, Paulette Gaines, Glenn Galway, Mikayla Hacksunda & family, Ann Ledesma, Esther Murphy, and Karen Wasson-Geis, Basil & Debra Wetherington..



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



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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05/06/26	12:00pm	Wed	Elders' Meeting
05/10/26	9:15am	Sun	Divine Service - Easter VI - With Communion
05/13/26	12:00pm	Wed	School Board Meeting
05/14/26	12:00pm	Thurs	Church Council Meeting
05/16/26	10:00am	Sat	Property Appreciation Day
05/17/26	9:15am	Sun	Divine Service - Easter VII & Voters' Meeting
05/18/26		Mon	Articles for Church Newsletter Due
05/18/26	7:00pm	Mon	Gulf Coast Bead Society
05/19/26	12:00pm	Tue	Ladies' Luncheon
05/24/26	9:15am	Sun	Divine Service - Pentecost - With Communion
05/25/26		Mon	Memorial Day - No School
05/28/26		Thurs	Fifth Grade Graduation
05/29/26		Fri	Last Day for Students
05/31/26	9:15am	Sun	Divine Service - The Holy Trinity

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial information is available to
all members upon request.

MORE WAYS TO CONNECT WITH REDEEMER

Facebook: Our Sunday Services are broadcast live on Facebook every week!
The bulletin is available on the website.

Website: Check out our website at www.RedeemerFL.com

Monthly Email: Not receiving our monthly email? Let us
know at church.office@redeemerfl.com, or visit the office!

SCHOOL

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" Psalm 98:4*

K & 1 K-1 has begun learning about all the wonderful Plants and Animals that God has created. Last week they completed their chapter on the root system of plants and had fun making greenhouses to grow beans, peas, and okra. Once the plants were big enough, they were transplanted outside into pots. Our class also participated in Culture Day on April 15th. Our class chose Greece and we made pita with tzatziki sauce, cucumbers, and olives. Each class chose a different country, and each student was able to travel to each location and experience different foods and customs. For our Bible Class we are learning about the Life of Paul and have invited Vicar Collins to join our discussion and answer any questions the children have. This discussion covers Paul's first Missionary journey and the Stoning of Stephen. *Mrs. Cataloni*

2 & 3 During the month of April, students enjoyed a vibrant and immersive experience as they participated in Culture Day. The hallways turned into a global journey, allowing them to "travel" between classrooms to explore and celebrate the diverse traditions of others. Alongside these cultural festivities, the students also spent time understanding the profound meaning of Easter, specifically listening to the story of the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem to reflect on the season's significance. *Mrs. Awadallah*

4 & 5 What's happening in 4th and 5th grade! It's been a busy month in the room.... 4th and 5th grade finished the whole Science textbook!!!! We have moved into our health books. Our history books are almost done, and we will be doing research on famous explorers. The students have been practicing their multiplication facts and have been able to stop using their multiplication charts to do math. Though they are anxiously awaiting summer, they are still eager to learn during the school day. *Mrs. Hart*

6 Our 6th grade students have been working hard and engaging in many exciting lessons across all subject areas. We are proud of their effort and growth each day! Here is a look at what we are learning in class: In Math, Students are being introduced to algebraic expressions. They are learning how to write, read, and solve algebraic expressions. This important skill helps students prepare for higher-level math by teaching them how numbers and variables work together. In Language class, students are working on using nouns as indirect objects. They are practic-

(Continued on page 8)

ing identifying indirect objects in sentences and understanding how these nouns receive the action indirectly. In reading, students are developing deeper comprehension skills by analyzing character confrontations and examining how conflicts help shape a story. They are also learning to analyze the theme of a text and identify the important message the author wants readers to understand. In Health, students are learning about important precautions for personal, recreational, and environmental safety. These lessons help students make wise decisions and stay safe in everyday situations. In history, Students are learning about life between the World Wars. Topics include the Roaring Twenties, challenges to Christianity, the Great Depression, and the plans for peace that failed. Students are gaining a better understanding of how these events shaped the modern world. In Bible, students have begun establishing the importance of Jesus's resurrection. They are discussing reasons we should love the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the need to surrender control of our lives to Jesus, and the importance of each person making the decision to receive the gift of salvation that Jesus offers. *Mrs. Longenecker*

7 & 8 Greetings Redeemer Church Family. My class and I hope you all had an amazing Easter, yes He has Risen. 7th and 8th grades just completed the 3rd quarter of school, the year has flown by. In History both classes sat in on a live webinar on the effects of the Holocaust on children of their own age. In Science we continue to work with STEM building exercises using 2 robots we have in class and also a few Kinex sets that have been donated to my class. In ELA both the classes have been working on writing Poems and Plays, it is interesting to see their perspective on Poems and plays written over 100 years ago. In Math they have been working on review for the class Star testing. But both classes have worked in different strategies on Integers and different concepts in Algebra. For Bible the class finished up the Easter season learning and discussing the trials and resurrection of Jesus through this troubling time. We also have been putting books together for the school library and are currently trying to come up with a proper name for it. So, if anyone has a suggestion, please let me know. As always God Bless you all from *Coach Don's 7th and 8th grade class.*

Up Coming Dates:

5/7 ---Spring Concert 6:00 pm

5/15 —Talent Show 10:00 am

5/22 —Field Day

5/25 —No School for Memorial Day

5/28 —5th & 8th Graduation Lunch

5/29 —Last Day of school



MOTHER'S DAY

Word Search



- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------------|------------|
| BOUQUET | CHILDREN | FLOWERS | ORCHID |
| BREAKFAST | CHOCOLATES | GIFTS | PHONE CALL |
| BRUNCH | CORSAGE | GREETING CARD | PRESENTS |
| CANDY | DEVOTION | HONOR | SPECIAL |
| CELEBRATE | DINNER | JEWELRY | SPRING |
| CHERISH | FAMILY | MEMORIES | SUNDAY |

Proverbs 31:28 (NIV): "Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

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

6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

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**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,
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School Phone: 941-473-7998

Email: School.Office@redeemerfl.com

Child Care Phone: 941-475-2631

Email: childcare@redeemerfl.com

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)*