



Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care June 2017

“THE WORST NEWSLETTER ARTICLE EVER”



LEADING BY EXAMPLE

When Jesus finished washing His disciples’ feet, He said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them” (John 13:12-17).

Jesus gives His disciples an example of true and faithful servant hood. As the Father sent His Son to accomplish the salvation for mankind, so Jesus prepares to send His disciples to spread the gospel message of that salvation. Jesus saves the world by His suffering, death, and resurrection. He pays the price for sin in His bloody death. He defeats sin, death, and hell by His bodily resurrection. This is the message the disciples, that is, the messengers are given to proclaim. They are to remain faithful servants to Christ Jesus, their Master, even in the face of their own death.

On the Day of Pentecost, 50 days

following the resurrection, Jesus establishes His Church through the Apostles’ preaching and teaching. And thus the New Testament Church receives the charge to follow the example of Christ – to be servant of all. Peter preached repentance. He commanded Baptism. He proclaimed forgiveness. He promised the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38) He, as well as the other Apostles, did all these things because this was the example Jesus gave them. These are the very things Jesus preached, promised, and delivered. “So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayer” (Acts 2:41-42).

And so whose example are we, Redeemer Lutheran Church, following? Who are we serving? Are we serving ourselves? No, I don’t believe we are. Are we serving our neighbor? No, I don’t believe we are. Well then, who does Redeemer serve? Truthfully, I believe Redeemer Lutheran Church serves her Master – Jesus. This is done as we gather around Word and Sacrament. This is done in the preaching of God’s Word in its truth and purity, and the

Inside this issue

Pastors Message 1
President’s Message..... 2
Serving the Lord..... 2
Stewardship 3
Treasurer’s Report..... 6
In Case You Missed It..... 7-10
Open Positions 11-13
Board of Human Care 13
Property Appreciation Day 13
Classifieds 13
Volunteer Spotlight..... 14
Prayer List..... 15
Altar Guild..... 16
Elder & Communion Asst..... 16
Acolyte Schedule 16
Information Classes 17
Bible Study..... 18
Redeemer Child Care..... 19
Vacation Bible School..... 20
Senior Fellowship..... 20
Puzzle Page..... 21

administration of the Sacraments according to Christ’s institution. This is also the example given us by Jesus and also the Apostles’. So Redeemer is following this example and serving her Master. Well done!

However, doesn’t Jesus also say, “You also ought to wash one another’s feet?” He says here that we should be servants to one another following His example. So, how do we serve one another?

Peter unpacks this for us when he writes, “As each has received a

(Continued on Page 4)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Now that we are starting the month of June, we already miss our seasonal members, who most of which have departed looking for cooler air! Those of us who live year round in the heat and humidity, actually get used to it. When it's below 70 degrees, most of us Floridians start to get cold! We miss you all and look forward to your safe return in the fall.

With Memorial Day at hand, we give thanks to God for all the Blessings he has bestowed upon us. We especially pray for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the freedom that we all enjoy and to our Military personnel who serve and protect us each day. We need to be humbly grateful.

On May 7th during our monthly fellowship breakfast, we hosted a "Town Hall" to discuss some of the various projects that the Church Council have been discussing over the past several months, and specifically how to fund those needed projects. It was very informative and we received some valuable input from the members present. Not to say that we also seriously enjoyed a wonderful breakfast. Again I would like to take this opportunity to thank Neva Aldene and her team for their dedication with the monthly breakfasts.

We pray that everyone enjoys a safe and happy summer.

Blessings to all,

Stephen Wurster

SERVING THE LORD

Pastor	Rev. James Kress
Child Care Director	Wendy Horvath
Office Secretary	Deb Anderson
Organist	Bill Bowers
Keyboardist	Elizabeth D'Amico
Choir Director	Collins Sita
Newsletter Editor	Pat Finkenbine

OFFICERS

President	Stephen Wurster
Vice President	Bill Bowers
Treasurer	
Secretary	June Brown

BOARDS

Head Elder	Paul Brown
Christian Ed.	
Human Care	Lisa Kress
Outreach	
Assimilation	
School Board	
Stewardship	
Youth	
Financial Secretary	Pam Replinger
Property Mgmt.	Jim Metzger

GROUPS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild	Sally Zierdt
Men's Group	
Altar Guild	
Coffee Hour	

STEWARDSHIP



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

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

How do we do this? We do it when we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving the gifts that He won for us on the cross, a violation of the First and Third Commandments. We do it when we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we think we don't know what the future will bring, even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters. We do it when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves, we do this because we have a mind set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We do this because we have stopped hearing the call of our shepherd, which comes through His Word.

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

And so, here's the good news: The Lord is your shepherd still, even, and especially, for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the shepherd that lays down his life for His sheep. The Lord is your shepherd. Let us live then as His sheep.



The Worst Newsletter Article Ever (continued)



gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). Okay, two things pop up here: 1) what is the received gift; and 2) what is a steward of God's varied grace? Well, the two actually go hand in hand. The received gift is the varied grace given from God. Our gifts and abilities are not to be treated as personal possessions, rather they are meant to be used according to God's will.

Outside the eternal gifts we receive through the means of grace in Word and Sacrament, we have all received gifts from God – talents, abilities, wealth. When I asked the question

above regarding “are we servants to ourselves,” I responded with the answer, “No”. That’s not good. According to the very word of Jesus, we are called to serve one another. “How?” you ask. Each of you has “received a gift,” an ability of sorts, for the purpose and use in God’s kingdom on earth. Certainly you use your gifts or abilities in the secular world to earn a living, to support your family, and to prepare your life in retirement (if you happen to be retired). These same gifts or abilities can also be used in the church as well. Perhaps there are some gifts or abilities God has given you that haven’t been revealed to you yet. Perhaps your involvement in the church on a board or committee, serving as usher or greeter, hosting a coffee hour or participating in a number of other projects can assist in unveiling these hidden gifts, talents, and abilities.

Let us now deal with the “stewards of God’s varied grace.” Do you know the history of the word “steward?” The word originally was a combination of two old English words “sty” and “ward.” A sty-ward was a keeper of the pigsty. But in the course of centuries it graduated to a loftier position, the keeper of a lord’s estate. And finally, believe it or not, a derivation rose to be the name of a great and long line of English and Scottish Kings. From the pigsty to the throne. What a history, right?

God found men in grime and gutter and has elevated them in Christ to become His stewards. St. Paul writes, “*This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God*” (1 Corinthians 4:1). Okay, so through the Church, pastors are given the responsibility as stewards – managers – of the “mysteries,” that is, the hidden things of God (Word and Sacrament).

Then what is the Church, that is, her members, to be stewards – managers – of? Well, it seems clear, doesn’t it? Everything! That is, except for Word and Sacrament. That is left for the pastor.

The members of Redeemer Lutheran Church are therefore called by her Master to manage His stuff: from the administrative end, to keeping His buildings and grounds in order. How is this done? By the varied gifts God has given you. It kind of makes sense now, doesn’t it?

Pastors are called by Jesus to preach His Word and to administer His Sacraments; to comfort those who grieve; and to bring joy to those who mourn; to pray for those in need of prayers, and to pray with those whose faith is weak.

The members of the Church are called by Jesus to manage the household, to use their talents, abilities, and wealth in order that Christ’s work of making disciples of all nations is accomplished through the office of the ministry. The members of the Church are to pay the worker his wages and make payment for all the bills. They are to make every effort that the preaching and teaching of Christ’s Word is neither hindered nor falsely taught. The members of the Church are to worship God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit regularly and receive the gifts of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Altar frequently.

(Continued on Page 5)

The Worst Newsletter Article Ever (continued)

The work of both the pastor and the Church is ongoing and endless. The work is both difficult and challenging. Yet, the reward for the faithful steward is eternal. It is the hope of all believers to hear our Lord say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master”* (Matthew 25:21).

Do you remember what Jesus said at the very end of the reading above? He said, *“Blessed are you if you do them”* (John 13:17). Truth be told, and I can only speak for myself, I haven’t done them very well. I haven’t followed His example faithfully. I haven’t served my neighbor as Christ has served me. So, I pose the question to you: “Have you? Have you done them?” I cannot answer this question for you, only you can. How about Redeemer Lutheran Church? Has she done them? Is she following the example of our Lord?

FAILING BY EXPERIENCE

How often I have failed in life to live by His example. How often I have failed to serve my neighbor as I have been instructed. How often I have failed to serve the Church and her members as I have been called. How often, how often, how often? Even still, Holy Scripture is accurate in describing me and my personal and professional failures, *“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:10-12, 23). Not only is God’s Word accurate, but His Word is true.

Before God, there isn’t a single thing on earth I can hide behind. Before God, my failures, my sins, my shortcomings are exposed. I stand before God guilty.

Instead of being obedient to my sinful nature and satisfying its desire, I should have been more obedient to my father and mother honoring them. Instead of loving my work beyond the hours of the day, I should love my wife more during every minute of every hour, every day. Instead of satisfying my cravings to watch a ball game or other events on television, I should have spent more time playing ball with my children and attending more of their events. Instead of attempting to fulfill my fantasy on the golf course becoming the next Golden Bear, I should have been fulfilling my responsibilities as a called servant of Christ and His Church. Instead of foolishly spending money on things I really didn’t need, I should have wisely given more of my wealth to the Church. Instead of wasting my time daydreaming, I should have used more of my time, talents, and abilities for the good of God’s kingdom.

Because of the free gift of the Holy Spirit – the free gift of faith – in recognizing my failures, sins, and shortcomings I can, in true repentance, turn to God and ask for His forgiveness. *“For God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8).

Therefore, there is something I can stand behind here on earth! There is something I can place my sins and failures and shortcomings behind! It is Jesus and only Jesus. True, my sins were exposed by the Light – His Word of truth – but my sins were washed clean by His blood. The Lord says to you: *“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.”* (Isaiah 1:18). As this Good News has become known to me, so it is known to you. You are loved with an everlasting love. A love which surpasses our understanding.

RESTORED IN CHRIST JESUS

In the pit of my failures – and perhaps even for you too – I received comfort from the message of the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus and Him crucified. There is no other comfort on earth a

(Continued on Page 6)

FROM THE TREASURER

<i>Treasurer's Report</i>			
<i>As of April 30, 2017:</i>			
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/(UNDER)</u>
INCOME	15,762	11,563	4,199
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>14,619</u>	<u>15,804</u>	(1,185)
+/-	1,143	(4,241)	
YEAR TO DATE			
INCOME	65,579	52,147	13,432
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>53,018</u>	<u>67,542</u>	(14,524)
+/-	12,561	(15,395)	



Respectfully submitted,
Jean Clappe-Mixell
 North Star Bookkeeping LLC

The Worst Newsletter Article Ever (continued)

penitent sinner can receive. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort”* (2 Corinthians 1:3-7).

Being comforted, restored, renewed, and forgiven we can continue to follow the example of our Lord Jesus, His Apostles, and our fathers and mothers who have continued to build on that solid rock of foundation. Being restored, we are set free to worship our Triune God faithfully and receive the gifts of Jesus frequently. Furthermore, we are set free to use our received gifts of God’s varied grace in talents, abilities, and wealth for the good of His Church and for the sake of the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you” (2 Corinthians 13:11).

If you didn’t figure it out earlier in your reading of this article, the real message of this month’s Newsletter Article has little to do with the title. This article had much to do with our participation as servants in the body of Christ here in time and the preparation for life eternal with Christ Jesus in heaven. Yet, I suppose if your Old Adam resembles anything like my Old Adam, they would most likely sing in chorus, **“THIS WAS THE WORST NEWSLETTER ARTICLE EVER.”**

A Sinful, Yet Restored Steward,
 Pastor Kress

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ...

State of the Parish Address
April 23, 2017

Recently a question came across a Facebook post asking: “How would you describe a ‘healthy Lutheran congregation,’ as opposed to an ‘unhealthy’ one?” No surprise that there were many responses from both pastors and laypeople alike. I believe this is an appropriate platform to answer this question in my State of the Parish Address. After all, I am addressing the Voters’ Assembly with the State of the Parish. One response – from a pastor – commented: “Healthy = Where the Word of God is preached and taught in its truth and purity, and the Sacraments are administered correctly according to Christ’s institution. Unhealthy = Where that is not the case.” Another response – from a layperson – stated: “There will always be conflict. One difference between a healthy and an unhealthy congregation is in the way they handle conflict. In a sick congregation, mistrust and fear reign. There is fear of being marginalized if you say the wrong thing. It is more important to maintain power than to be about the Lord’s work.”

I point out these two comments because the first one identifies the healthiness of Redeemer Lutheran Church from the standpoint of the kingdom of the right – God’s kingdom of grace. The Word of God is preached in its truth and purity and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution. Although, and I will admit, not all sermons preached are “Homeruns.” There are times, perhaps many times, when the pastor is barely able to get a foul tip. And yet whether he hits a homerun or swings and misses, Law/Gospel sermons are prepared and delivered. It is true, you don’t always like what you hear, because that’s the Law you hear and by nature, you don’t want to admit falling short of God’s Law. Your ears perk up when you hear the Gospel. But, what is the Gospel? Sermons preached should always contain the merits of Jesus Christ; His life, suffering, death, and resurrection. You should also hear your sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake, that everlasting life is granted to all who believe in the Word and promises of God through His Son Jesus Christ. And you should almost always hear, “Jesus loves you.”

The Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s command, however, and again I will admit, it is not always administered perfectly. We baptize children, and sometimes adults, who are associated with our Child Care Center with the hope that the child’s parents would become members of Redeemer congregation. Some have, many have not. I have welcomed to the Table of our Lord with the hope that the individuals or couples would someday become members of Redeemer congregation. Some have, many have not. Baptizing all nations is crystal clear according to Holy Scripture, so we will continue to baptize children and adults with the hope that they will someday become members.

However, the practice of open communion is contrary to the teachings of Holy Scripture and the Book of Concord. The official teaching and practice of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is close communion. Unfortunately, as has happened, many local congregations throughout synod have completely abandoned this practice and have opened the communion table to just about anyone, or local congregations have watered down the practice of close communion and adopt practices that pretend to be in close communion. Allow me to be clear, the Lord’s

(Continued on Page 8)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT (continued)

Supper belongs to our Lord and not to those who think they deserve it or believe it is something between them and Jesus alone. First, no one is deserving of His gifts. They are given to those who believe what His Word and promises declare: “This is My body; this is My blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins.” Second, Holy Communion is a gathering around this Altar of a community of believers who teach and confess the articles of faith as contained in the Augsburg Confession. However, in certain extraordinary cases of pastoral care and in emergencies members of churches not in Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with us may be given communion. This is left for the pastor, the steward of the mysteries of God, to decide; not an Elder, not a Council or Church member. Should you ever have a question about this, please discuss it with the pastor. He has been given the charge to teach and to preach.

The second comment from the Facebook post is also important to discuss here because as much as we wish to guard ourselves from conflict of any nature, conflict will always occur. The important point of the layperson’s comment isn’t that there is conflict rather it is how a congregation handles conflict. That is what makes a Lutheran congregation healthy from the standpoint of God’s kingdom of the left – His kingdom of governance, order, and policies. I believe Redeemer experienced some of the worst kinds of conflict in the past, and if we’re honest, it wasn’t handled very well. As a result, the congregation could only be identified as unhealthy based on how the conflict was handled. The end result of the conflict was brokenness; brokenness between faithful Christians; and brokenness between pastor and parishioners.

So, a healthy Lutheran congregation is one that handles conflict well. Let God’s Word remind us who we battle against and who we don’t: “Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” (Ephesians 6:10-13).

From the standpoint of how we handle conflict within the congregation among the members of Christ’s church will determine the healthiness of the congregation. We will always have differing opinions with just about everything, but how we handle them will determine the state, that is, the condition, the health of the parish. No matter the circumstances, no matter who the conflict is with, we must – for the good of the Church and for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – work toward resolve in every conflict in a god-pleasing manner. The life of this congregation is dependent upon it. Let us, therefore, love one another as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her.

So what is the present State of the Parish? Redeemer Lutheran Church has many, many blessings. Redeemer is equipped with men and women who volunteer a great deal of their time. There are many who are voted into positions of leadership – leadership necessary for the kingdom of the left – the administrative part of the church. Many of them work visibly from the front and many, many more work behind the scenes doing God’s work. All this work is necessary for order in the church as well as upkeep with God’s buildings and grounds.

Apart from her members, one of the great blessings Redeemer doesn’t have is the fact that Redeemer doesn’t have a mortgage, a financial burden hanging over her head. Redeemer Lutheran

(Continued on Page 9)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT (continued)

Church is mortgage free! The Child Care Center is mortgage free! Each has been mortgage free since 2008! This is a wonderful blessing we don't have considering the thousands of congregations in our synod that do have this financial burden staring at them month after month, year after year. Let us acknowledge this wonderful blessing we don't have. Praise be to God, Redeemer doesn't have a mortgage.

As you know, since the spring of 2015, we have been making great strides with some repairs to our buildings. We have done well in raising money and using the interest earned from our Endowment Fund very wisely. But just like your own home is need of major repairs, so also does Redeemer Lutheran Church have some major repairs facing her. For a number of months, the Church Council has be deliberating over a number of projects, major projects, of which our President and Church Properties Chair will bring to your attention today and offer an opportunity for further discussion in a Town Hall type meeting during our next Family Breakfast on Sunday, May 7th.

But before that discussion, I would like to first put this before you regarding the number of projects – expensive projects – we will be discussing. Our parking lot needs to be completely repaired: resurfaced and lined. The cost to repair will be approximately \$45K. But do you know what? Redeemer can pay for it now and still not have a mortgage. The carpeting in our sanctuary and throughout the church building is in need of replacing. The cost to replace is around \$24K. And you know what? Redeemer can pay for it now and still be without a mortgage. The inside of the church also needs to be painted as well as an updated sound system and aid for the hearing impaired. This will cost approximately \$40K. Redeemer can pay for it now and yes, still be without a mortgage. The roof on both the church and fellowship hall buildings will need to be replaced in the next couple of years. Redeemer can pay for it now and yes, still be without a mortgage. Between the two buildings, there are 10 air conditioning units. Some may need to be replaced soon, others in the next couple of years. At about a cost of \$5-6K per unit, that will be a grand total of about \$50-60K to replace. And you know what? Redeemer can pay for them now and yes, still be without a mortgage.

Also since 2015, Redeemer has been having difficulty meeting the financial needs of her day to day expenses. The problem isn't so much that the members need to give more. Because of fixed incomes, I believe many or most of you are already giving generously. Certainly we can all prayerfully consider being more generous in our giving but we have been under a great weight over the last two years raising money for projects and meeting general fund expenses. So, the problem that we may be facing might be that there aren't enough people in the pew each Sunday. Is there a plan or vision to change that? Perhaps. With the purchase of property on the access road to 776 it would greatly improve our prospects for members. Purchasing those lots, constructing a building to house all of our renters and/or a Christian bookstore, and placing a state of the art marquee sign will certainly grab the attention of the passer-byer. This much needed visibility will raise the prospects of visitors and then potential members of Redeemer Lutheran Church who will be contributing with you and me to our general financial responsibilities as well as to the increase of God's kingdom here on earth. And do you know what? All of these projects can be paid for today, and yes, Redeemer would still be without a mortgage. How? Well, with the other great blessing Redeemer has been given a number of years ago – The Endowment Fund. My friends in Christ Jesus our Lord and King, we should not and cannot treat the Endowment Fund as some kind of 'Golden Calf.' I know that is not the intent of anyone here. But the Endowment was given for use in God's kingdom. It

(Continued on Page 10)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT (continued)

wasn't given to be neatly tucked into a handkerchief and placed it into a safe place. The Endowment is there for the use and good of Christ's Church; for repairs; for expansion; for construction; and above all for the spread of the Gospel. All these projects will not entirely deplete the Endowment Fund, but they would certainly use most of it. Even so, the Endowment Fund can grow again even after using so much of it. How? Over the next 10, 20, 30, 40 years or so most of us will not be here worshipping at Redeemer, rather we will be worshipping, by the grace of God, in His Church Triumphant in glory. Before your eternal transfer takes place, have you ever considered leaving something for your church here on earth? It can be any amount you desire: \$500 or \$1,000 or \$10,000 or more. Whatever the amount you leave to your church, know that your church on earth will always use it for the benefit of the Church and not the benefit of the world. As I spoke earlier of conflict and differing opinions in the church, I pray that we can all continue to work together for God's glory and not the glory of men. We have wonderful, brilliant leaders here at Redeemer. I admire them all but I respect and love them even more. You are all my brothers and sisters in Christ and together we share in the eternal inheritance which awaits us in heaven. So, let us be and remain a healthy Lutheran congregation that not only receives the Word of God in its truth and purity in Christ-centered sermons and in the Sacraments according to His institution, but let us also be a healthy Lutheran congregation in the way we conduct ourselves in the midst of conflict and differing opinions.

I conclude this address to the Voters with the encouraging words from the Apostle Paul: "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. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:12-24).

Yours in the Service of Our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ
Rev. James T. Kress, Sr.
Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care



Church email addresses have changed! Be sure to correct your email contact list to reflect the new addresses:

Pastor: redeempastor1@gmail.com
Church secretary: redemerfl@gmail.com
Church treasurer: redemertreasurer1@gmail.com
Child Care: redemerchildcare@gmail.com

SERVING JESUS AND HIS CHURCH ACTIVELY

It seems like a cry for volunteers has become a common call in every monthly Newsletter or weekly Bulletin you read. Well it is a serious matter demanding the attention of the entire membership of Redeemer Lutheran Church. We are blessed to have the volunteers and leaders we do. However, many positions of leadership and membership on all boards and committees are few.

Below you can read about these positions and some of the responsibility they carry. If you have ever had questions about what some of these Boards and Committees do, I hope this information will set you free to become actively involved in some of them, or at least one of them. Here are the Boards that are in need of a leader, that is, a chair. But remember, every Board can use as additional members. The Board doesn't consist of the chair alone. The chair is also in need of additional members to carry out the responsibilities. Where there is no leadership, there is no activity. Where there is no activity, there is no life.

School Board President – If possible, this position is filled by a person with a background in education. The President's responsibilities include: 1) Preparation of an orderly agenda and presiding at all scheduled and special Board meetings; 2) Assuring that Board members and Child Care Director are fulfilling their respective functions and responsibilities; 3) Signing required official documents; and 4) Overseeing solicitations and negotiations of grant funding.

Board of Stewardship – The Board Chair is responsible for the following: 1) Appointing and training one or more Board members to assure proper coverage in the absence of the Board Chair; 2) Oversee the Endowment Fund Committee and report fund activities to

Council; 3) Initiate programs for the development of good stewardship attitudes in the membership of the congregation in regard to time, talent and treasures; 4) Determine the level of stewardship activities of the Congregation and plan programs and activities to improve the stewardship spirit of all; and 5) Provide for the training and utilization of members of the Congregation for the work of Christ's Kingdom, by the utilization of time, talent and treasure.

Board of Assimilation – The Board Chair responsibilities include: 1) Appointing and training one or more Board members to assure proper coverage in the absence of the Board Chair; 2) Monitor guidelines for proper use of the Narthex; 3) Strengthen fellowship between Congregation members spiritually and socially; 4) Supply greeters for Church services in order to welcome visitors and extend hospitality and congregational friendship; 5) Provide 'visitor bags' for first time visitors to Redeemer during Sunday Services; 6) Integrate new members into the life of the Congregation; 7) Provide 'New Member' packets for incoming new members; and 8) Take pictures of new members and place in New Member showcase.

Board of Community and Parish Fellowship (BCPF) – The Board Chair is responsible for: 1) Appointing and training one or more Board members to assure proper coverage in the absence of the Board Chair; and 2) Shall serve on the School Board. The responsibilities of the BCPF members include: 1) Cultivate concern in the Congregation for people who do not yet believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord; 2) Assist the Pastor(s) in follow-up contact with church visitors and work with

(Continued on Page 12)



SERVING JESUS (continued)

him in maintenance of good records of outreach/visitor calls; 3) Offer opportunities for witness training for members of the Congregation; 4) Conduct special visitations to witness for Christ and to invite prospective members to congregational activities; 5) Promote the invitation by members of unchurched friends, acquaintances, and relatives to Church services and activities; 6) Participate in community activities that help identify Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care; 7) Welcome visitors and extend hospitality and Congregation friendship; 8) Develop and maintain publicity for the Church, School & Child Care; 9) Sponsor Church activities which promote parish fellowship and outreach to the community; and 10) Supervise 'Coffee Hour' table on Sunday morning for fellowship among members, visitors and guests before and after Church services.

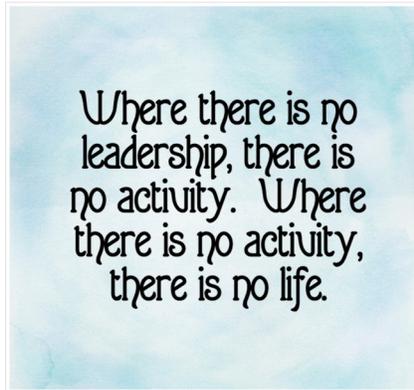
Board of Christian Education – This Board shall establish Christian Education Programs and policies under the guidance of the Pastor (s), providing leadership personal for the following Christian Education Programs of Redeemer Church: 1) Sunday School Superintendent; 2) Cradle Roll Coordinator; 3) Vacation Bible School (VBS) Coordinator. With the assistance of Board members, the Board Chair shall also: 1) Assure an active expression of Christian love and concern in all programs; 2) Assure adequate membership on the Board to support all Christian Education Programs; 3) Assure required means, supplies and facilities to implement all Christians Education Programs; 4) Assure adequate trained staffing for all programs

including Sunday School Superintendent, teachers, Cradle Roll Coordinator, and Vacation Bible School Coordinator; 5) Schedule utilization of Redeemer transportation with Property Management; and 6) The Chair shall serve on the School Board.

Board of Youth – The Board Chair and board members shall: 1) Share a genuine love and concern for youth along with a dedicated interest in providing and carrying out the opportunity for youth to grow spiritually, intellectually and socially; 2) Establish and implement programs which will encourage participation of our youth as members of the Congregation in the work of Christ; 3) Promote genuine Christian fellowship for the young people of the Congregation; 4) Promote attendance and involvement of the Congregation's youth in all youth activities; 5) Assure that properly signed parental/guardian approval forms are received for all group activities for every minor participant; 6) Ensure adequate supervision for the safety of youth and adult workers; 7) Assure that youth enrollment lists are kept current and programs are in effect to contact members when absent; 8) Plan and carry out, together with other concerned boards, a year-round program for the young people of the Congregation; and 9) Perform administrative supervision of the work of all youth and young adult groups in the Congregation.

There is no doubt these Boards carry a tremendous amount of responsibility. However, before you eliminate yourself from being a participant on any of these Boards, what if you were to sit down with the President

(Continued on Page 13)



SERVING JESUS (continued)

and Pastor and discuss what area or areas of responsibilities need to be addressed first. Rather than looking at the entire pie, perhaps taking one piece at a time just might be the method to rejuvenate the particular board you have interest in serving. Contact Steve Wurster, President: 954-328-5261; or Pastor Kress: 941-979-2976. We are here to serve the Lord and His people today and for the future.

The Apostle Paul writes: “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these

members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” (Romans 12:4-8)

The **Board of Human Care** is looking forward to the upcoming [OneBlood](#) Blood Drive on Sunday, July 16 beginning at 8:30. Please mark your calendars to donate!

I am currently seeking volunteers to help reinstate the blood pressure readings that were formerly held on the 4th Sundays. Please let me know if you would be available to help with this!

We have a wonderful congregation full of talented people and I am currently looking for those willing participants to help on the Board of Human Care so that we as a committee can determine other projects that could be helpful to the members of Redeemer.

Please give me a call: 941-889-8938 or email me at lisakress1968@gmail.com with any ideas or thoughts you have to help the members in our church and childcare. Happy Summer!

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, June 17th at 8:00 am.**



Classifieds



Lawn Care Services Real Estate Services Cleaning Services Pet Sitting Services

Call Todd Armstrong at (941)961-7584 for your lawn care needs.

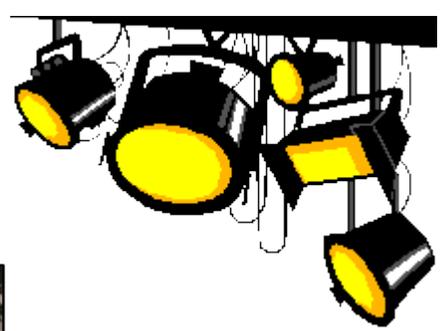
Call Bill Bowers at (941) 416-5661 for real estate assistance.

Call Kristine Baltimore at (941) 681-6514 for residential cleaning.

Do you need someone to watch your four legged friend?

Call Michelle Kalstrup, Certified Vet Tech (CVT) at 941-705-1726 or email her at: pawfectsouls@yahoo.com or visit her at www.pawfectsoulspetting.com

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



THE MEN AND WOMEN OF PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY

Pictured above from left to right: Lee Anderson, Terry Fountain, Bob Varone, Pastor Kress, Jim Metzker - Chair, Paul Brown, and Mike Nagel. Not pictured are: Harold Hale, Denise Fountain, Cathy Mielke, Joe & Paula Maramonte, Alan Duburg, Jim Schluentz, and our newcomers: Wade Duncan and Dennis Dunn.

Many, many thanks are due to the faithful men and women who participate in our monthly Property Appreciation Day clean-up. They dedicate one Saturday out of them month to the maintenance and care of God's buildings and grounds at Redeemer Lutheran Church, School, and Child Care. Our campus is situated on 10 acres of land with three large buildings: the church sanctuary, the Fellowship Hall, and the Child Care Center. As these buildings age, maintenance, repairs, upgrades, and at times replacement of equipment become necessary. Jim Metzker, Chair of the Board of Church Properties, attempts to have these things done by members of the church, but when the work demands certified professional assistance he contacts a local professional contractor. Our spacious campus has lots and lots of trees and other shrubbery. Almost every month, when other projects are not in demand, this work is always required. Entering into our wet-season, we can look forward to more and more of this work being done. This happy but hard working group is always looking to add members to their fellowship. Please consider spending an hour or two or more on the third Saturday of each month. The work usually begins at 8 AM.

**Our next Property Appreciation Day is Saturday, June 17th
Join us afterwards for some brats, beans, and a Lutheran beverage.**



PRAYERS

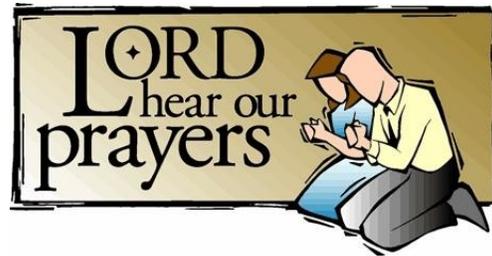
SHUT-INS: Carl Bertka, Susan Jahns, Betty Keller.

HEALING: Members: Neva Aldene, Pat Finkenbine, Bernice Heppner, Cindy Johnson, Rita Kaufmann, Larry Wiech, Paula Maramonte, Doug Meyerink, Ken Mielke, Leslie Miles, Marlene Mossner, Tom Poyer, Duwayne Schoeneck, Russ Spooner, Fred Toth, Bob Varone, Robert Vickey, and Artie Zipp

FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Bert Blackford, Grace Blum, Michelle Bernard, Gerry Borwick, Bill Bowers, Jr., Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Kirsten Campbell, Jack Carlos, Diane Carr, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Jean Clappe-Mixell, Bobbett Clark, Dick Clemens, Joanne and Randy Clymo, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Renee Dempsey, Dale DesJardins, Ed Detrow, Rital Devine, Irene DiTommaso, Alan Duburg, Barb Dumeah, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Lou Fountain, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Sandra Gettings, Nancy Gleis, Fran Grenon, Mary Guilfoyle, Melisa Gustavus, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Joel Heppner, Walter

Heppner, Glory Herget, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Stanley and Lynne Jablonski, Bill Jaquest, Chris Johnson, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Family & friends of Robert Kaufmann, John Kearns, Rev. Michael Kettner, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Erin Kress, Stacey Lampert, Ray Likowski, John Lockhart, Sean Maki, Joe Manson, The Maxson Family, Candace McGowan, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Trista Mosier, Friends & family of Irving Murphy, Esther Murphy, Charles Pentecost Jr., John Purdy, Mary Raines, Preston & Bryson Ricker, Rev. Ronald Rock, Sally Rodgers, Nancy Sly, Luke Suski, Charles Tolley, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Denise Williamee, Gordan Winkel, and Mary Ann Zipp.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Nicholas Beltz, Michael Broughton, Brian Jackson, Jonathan Koen, David MacLeod, 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!

***The deadline for the JULY Newsletter is June 20th
Please have all your submissions sent to patchas123@gmail.com
OR drop it off at the church office by the date indicated above.
Thank You!***

Those Who Serve



ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

Date	Set-up	Clean-up
Sun, June 4th	Bob Varone	Gwen Wurster
Sun, June 11th	Lisa Kress	Jane Harty
Sun, June 18th	Gwen Wurster	Vicki Fernald
Sun, June 25th	Bob Varone	Gretchen Armstrong



ELDER & COMMUNION ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

Date	Elder & Reader	Communion Asst
Sun, June 4th	Collins Sita	Steve Wurster
Sun, June 11th	Mike Nagel	Mark Horvath
Sun, June 18th	Mike Nagel	Steve Wurster
Sun, June 25th	Bob Varone	Mark Horvath



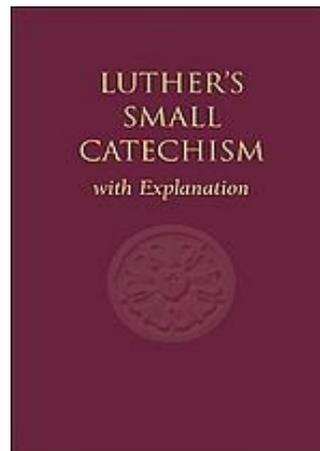
Date	Crucifier	Acolyte
Sun, June 4th	Jenna Belch	Mykalina Sabol
Sun, June 11th	Daniel Black	Kamrie Evanicki
Sun, June 18th	Toby Hancock	Alyssa Hancock
Sun, June 25th	Mackenzie McDowall	Ava Tosto

WEBSITES: Church — www.redeemerfl.com Child Care — www.redeemerfl-cc.com
 School — www.redeemerfl-school.com FACEBOOK: [Redeemer Lutheran Church](#)

UPCOMING INFORMATION CLASSES ...

... JUST FOR YOU

- Have you been attending worship services here at Redeemer and have wondered how to become a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church? This is the opportunity for you!
- Have you been attending worship services at Redeemer, but are not sure what it is Lutherans believe, teach, and confess? This is the opportunity for you!
- Do you have a child in our School or Child Care Center and would like to further establish yourself and your child in a Christian congregation? This is the opportunity for you.
- Are you a member of Redeemer, but haven't brushed the dust off the old catechism in some time and would like to be refreshed in the teachings of the Christian faith? This is the opportunity for you!



An opportunity to attend information classes will begin very soon (a full schedule of classes is provided below). We will meet in the Narthex of the Church building and classes will begin at 6 PM and run for about an hour and a half. This is a wonderful opportunity to understand more clearly what God's Words says and how His Word is relevant in your life today. The atmosphere of the classroom is relaxed, interactive, and yet, the teachings throughout remain faithful to Holy Scripture and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church.

If you are interested in attending, contact the church office to reserve your seat. You may have received a personal invitation from Pastor Kress. Please call the church office a let him know of your intentions. He really does care about your spirituality and your eternal salvation. Pastor also believes these classes are great for couples to attend.

Information classes will begin on **Thursday, June 8th** and conclude on **Thursday, July 13th**. There are a total of 10 classes scheduled with a total of 15 hours of instruction from the pastor. Upon completion of these classes, it is our hope to welcome new members into our fellowship on **Sunday, July 16th** by way of either confirmation, transfer, affirmation of faith, or association. Should you ever have a question about the classes or the Christian faith, please ask the Pastor. See you in class!

Thursday, June 8th
Wednesday, June 14th
Thursday, June 15th
Wednesday, June 21st
Thursday, June 22nd

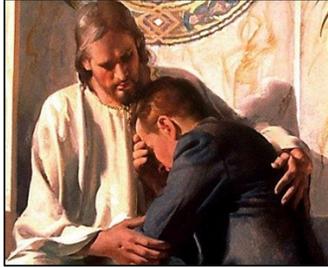
Wednesday, June 28th
Thursday, June 29th
Thursday, July 6th
Wednesday, July 12th
Thursday, July 13th

BIBLE STUDY

NEW SUMMER SERIES BIBLE CLASS

This summer in the church Narthex, a number of Bible Class Series are being offered to all members and friends of the Redeemer family each **Wednesday at 10 AM**. The first series is called *Comfort for Christians*.

In this series, you will learn how through God's Word He comforts you, builds you up, and equips you to reach out to others, who are lost, lonely, troubled, or grieving. This particular study consists of short 4-session Bible studies with life-application suggestions. Session One focuses on Comfort for Troubled



Sinner; Session Two, Comfort for Troubled Marriages and Families; Session Three, Comfort for the Despondent; and Session Four, Comfort for the Grieving.

If you find any interest in one or all of these sessions come join us this Wednesday. Use this Summer Series of Bible Classes to gain insight into the Scriptures. Learn what God is saying about Himself, about you, and about His Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

Never has a Bible Class been so important to attend. The future of the Church and our freedom is at stake. Although we will always be free in Christ Jesus, the entire world is rapidly under siege and held in fear of a violent ideology. Therefore, I call upon all members of Redeemer Lutheran Church to attend this eye opening and mind awakening class beginning **Sunday, June 4th at 8 AM** in our sanctuary.

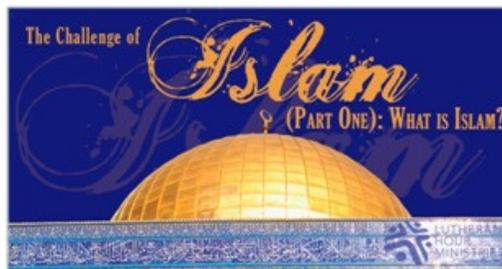
To the Western mind, the faith and practice of Islam are often a profound mystery. In recent years, this religion has emerged as a prominent – yet misunderstood – belief system. Listen as Sam Shamoun, an Arab-Christian, unveils some of the mystique surrounding this religion first preached by Muhammad and today practiced by more than one billion people worldwide.

In Part One of this two-part Bible Class the teachings of Islam are brought into focus. In addition to learning about the “Five Pillars of Islam,” participants will examine what the Quran says about the role of Abraham, the Trinity, angels and jinn (genies), the attributes

of Jesus Christ, the character of Muhammad, Judgment Day, and paradise.

The Quran is the premier Muslim holy book. As such, its 114 chapters are the faith-guide for Muslims everywhere. For instance, did you know the Quran claims Jesus is not God, nor is He the Son of God? Were you aware Quranic teaching says the religion of the patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as well as all the prophets – is Islam? Shamoun asks, “Christians, do you see the challenge of Islam, and are you prepared to deal with this challenge?”

While Islam is a religious force to be reckoned with, it already has been dealt its deathblow through the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Armed with love and an attitude that considers Muslims – like everyone else – those for whom Christ died, Christians can share the same Good News that gives them salvation. As Shamoun says, “The only thing that can defeat Islam is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.





Summer at Redeemer Child Care

June 2017

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays at
3:45

6/5 The Good Shepherd

John 10:1-18

6/12 The Parable of the

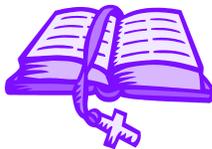
Sower Matthew 13:1-23

6/19 Daniel in the lion's

Den Daniel 6

6/26 The Three Men in
the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3



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

We love You!

Amen

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

Birthdays

Jacob C. 6/8

Joseph C. 6/8

Ashton 6/9

Aram 6/11

Lilyana S. 6/14

Ava 6/16

Ms. Keri 6/24



VBS

July 17-21

9:00-12:00



Volunteers needed!

Please call Ms. Wendy at

475-2631

Ice Cream Truck Coming



June 5 & 19

Bring in a dollar or two
for a treat.



Summer is here!

Summer Days

Please make sure your child
has enough to drink. It is

Hot outside!



6/18 Father's Day



Girl Scouts Bake Sale

June 26

3:00-5:30 pm in the
cafeteria



If you are craving some-
thing sweet stop by
and purchase a treat!

YUMMY!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

We're getting ready for a great VBS! This year, we are using Concordia Publishing House's *Mighty Fortress*. VBS children will learn that in Jesus, the victory is won! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where Jesus is victorious over sin, death, and Satan. He protects and saves us—now in this world and forever too!

VBS will be held Monday, July 17th through Friday, July 21st from 9 AM - Noon.

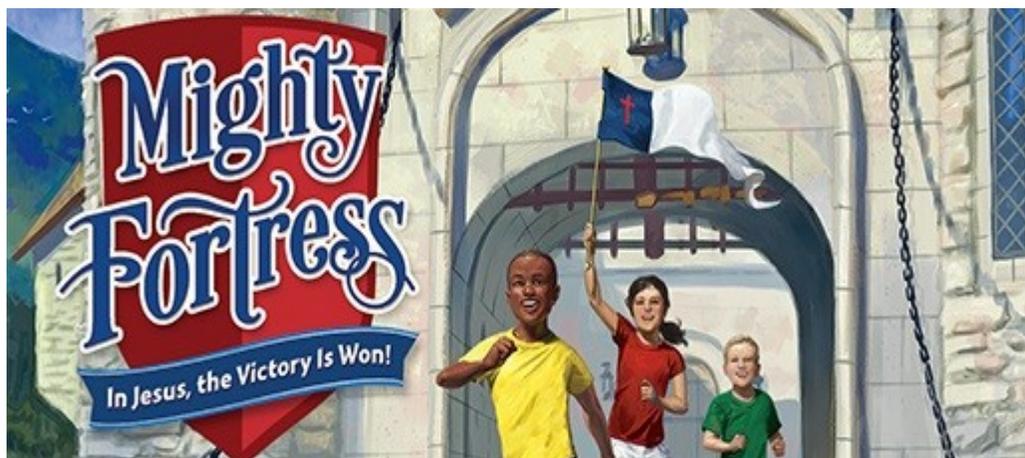
It is our prayer that God has VBS in His plan for your life this year! We know Jesus will work through YOU at VBS. The VBS leadership team identifies you as a person who has the energy, the creativity, and a commitment to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with God's children in our congregation and our community. Would you prayerfully consider serving at VBS? The areas where your help will be valuable for a successful VBS are: Helping children make Crafts; Distributing themed snacks; Decorating our main set and classrooms; Making costumes for leaders and children; or Assist with the set-up and clean-up crews.

Thanks for taking to time to pray and consider this request. We hope to hear from you soon. Please contact either Wendy or Pam and explore this mighty opportunity.

We hope you'll join us as we celebrate the victory of Jesus' saving love at *Mighty Fortress* VBS!

Wendy Horvath (941) 662-6629

Pam Replinger (941) 875-4547



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is invited to the Fellowship every Thursday, starting at 10:00AM. **The more people attending, the more FUN we can have!!!** The most popular things to play are: Pinochle, Phase 10, SkipBO, and Hand & Foot. We also have Dominoes or other games if they are requested. There must be something you would like to have fun with, so come on out. Once in awhile we have a special home made lunch but usually everyone brings a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert furnished.

PUZZLE PAGE

THE CROSS

Y T A E C I F I R C A S F O S S O R C M
 R R S W W H U P Z V F D Z Z K Y E L R Q
 E B A S G L E D B I F B N A L P S D O G
 W P U G O Q O A M E D I T A T I O N S I
 O H R B L R C M L T W H D R P T A E S M
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 K J A F C G E G Q F F M W R E A E A L Q
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APOSTLES CREED
 ASH WEDNESDAY
 ATONEMENT
 BEACON
 BENEDICTION
 BOW
 CALGARY
 CELTIC
 COMFORT

CROSS
 CROSS OF ALL NATIONS
 CROSS OF SACRIFICE
 CROSS TO BEAR
 CRUCIFIX
 EUCHARIST
 EXCRUCIATING
 EXECUTION
 GOD'S PLAN

HEALING
 KING OF THE JEWS
 MEDITATION
 MILLENNIUM CROSS
 NICENE CREED
 PERFECTION
 PETER
 POWER
 PROPHECY

PROTECTION
 RESURRECTION
 SACRED
 SACRIFICE
 SALVATION
 SIGN OF THE CROSS
 STAUROGRAM
 SUFFERING
 SYMBOL

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

ADDRESS SERVICE
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PERMIT 774



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,
SCHOOL & CHILD CARE
6465 Mayport Street
Englewood, FL 34224

REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.
Pastor

Church Phone: 941-475-2410
Church Fax: 941-475-9726
School/Child Care Phone:
941-475-2631
email: redeemerfl@gmail.com

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:

Bible Class: 8:00 AM
Divine Service: 9:15 AM
Sunday School: 10:45 AM

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 941-475-2410

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).*