



JULY 2023



Conflict and Spiritual Health in Regard to Redeemer Lutheran Church

—Pastor Craig Mathews

Today, June 19, is one day past the deadline for the July newsletter. I want to focus a bit and plant some ideas and thoughts concerning the Christian life (spiritual health) of the body that is called Redeemer Lutheran Church.

This exploration begins with the sermon on June 18 which focused on conflict and the spiritual health of different congregations. It was summarized that even spiritually healthy congregations experience conflict, but how they handle the conflict and how they recover from the conflict is different from spiritually unhealthy congregations.

The question was explored about what constitutes a spiritually healthy congregation and the answer was in regards to the depth and coverage of daily Bible reading and frequent group study of God’s Word by all congregation members and the leaders. The more people/leaders that were involved, the more spiritually healthy was the congregation.

Which, in my brief time as your Vacancy Pastor, and soon to be Intentional Interim Ministry Pastor, needs to be addressed. How to do that is a matter the Task Force and leadership need to discuss.

But for now, I want to focus on daily Bible reading – being in the Word of God each and every day.

God’s Word can transform our lives. God’s Word nourishes us as well in order to feed and water the growing faith we all desire. So how is it done? Pastor Rick Warren offers these simple points from the daily devotional he posted on June 15, 2023.

How do you continue in the Word? How do you stay connected with Jesus through the Bible long-term?

1. Make the decision to do it. *It starts with your commitment. Don’t wait for a better time to make God’s Word a regular part of your life. Start your commitment today.*

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2. Make a declaration. *Announce your intentions to others. Hold yourself accountable. If you keep your commitment to God a secret, it's easier to slip up.*

3. Make a determination. *Don't allow anything to knock you off your commitment. Be absolutely determined to make this a permanent habit in your life, particularly in the early months. If you start skipping days, it'll be much harder to stay committed to God's Word.*

4. Double up. *Get a spiritual partner to come alongside you for support and encouragement. This is someone with whom you can share what you learn in your quiet times. It could be someone in your small group, a friend, or a family member. The Bible says, "Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed" (Ecclesiastes 4:9 NLT).*

The August newsletter will focus on how to build and reinforce new habits (points 1 and 3 above) so they become effective and transforming.

God's blessings as we continue to work together to build a solid foundation for the new Pastor God will be bringing to Redeemer in the near future.




Go ... Sell All You Have?

"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 still 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).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: 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 excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

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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 our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that 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 own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought 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 we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

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, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station 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.

This requires forethought. 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.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

—LCMS Stewardship Ministry

You are ...

Beautiful ... Ecclesiastes 3:11

Victorious ... Romans 8:37

Enough ... 2 Corinthians 12:9

Created ... Genesis 1:31

Strong ... Phillipians 4:13

Amazing ... Psalms 139:14

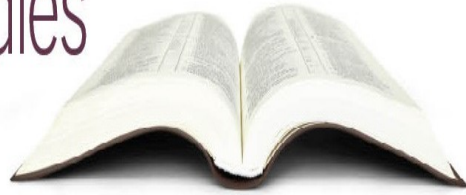
Capable ... Mark 10:27

Chosen ... 1 Thessalonians 1:4

Never Alone ... Matthew 28:20

Always Loved ... Romans 8:38

Bible Studies



Sunday Morning Bible Study: Bible study on Sunday mornings has resumed. Please join us after the morning service (and after a cup of coffee – approximately 10:30 a.m.). We will be using a study called “Exploring God’s Word: Old Testament.” Description below is from the CPH website:

Understanding God’s Word often means looking at it from a fresh perspective – getting “the big picture” as well as the important details. Exploring God’s Word includes 12 individual sessions, maps, charts, a glossary, and a section of intriguing Bible facts. Exploring God’s Word helps you gain a broader understanding of what the Bible means when viewed as a whole – not simply as a collection of individual books.

Table Talk: Table talk is a very informal Bible study now held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, immediately after the 8:45 school chapel service. Participants come with any sort of question. We work to answer those questions from God’s Word and from our Lutheran Confessions. In doing that we all learn more about God’s Word and its application in our lives. We are currently focusing on the book of Exodus. One way or another there is always friendly and interesting discussion.

All are welcome and encouraged to come early to attend the chapel service. Who can’t be cheered by the sound of the children’s voices? There is always coffee and usually doughnuts. Please consider joining us! **Pastor Mathews** is leading the discussion; come and meet him.

SERVING THE LORD

Vacancy Pastor Rev. Craig Mathews

Office Admin Asst Caitlin Tilton

Organist Bill Bowers

Choir Director

Newsletter Pat Finkenbine

School Admin Wendy Horvath

Child Care Director Debby Buel

School Admin Asst

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Property Mgmt. Steven Horvath

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour Joyce Schneider

***The deadline for the August 2023 Newsletter is July 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!***

PRAYERS

Please pray for all those still recovering from Hurricane Ian

SHUT-INS: Rita Kaufmann and Dorothy Sinowetski

HEALING for Members: Bill Bowers, Jean Cote, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Don Garay, Mike & Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Kitty Hill, Marva Jonas, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Cathy Mielke, Lillian Miles, Tom & Sue Poyer, Jim & Bonnie Schluentz, Bob Varone, and Pauline Vickey

Redeemer School & Child Care staff & their families: Brandi Fordham and Ashley Graham. (Both are facing recent medical/health issues. They appreciate your prayers!)

Friends and relatives: Michelle Bernard, Grace Blum, Tony Bozell, Mary Brissette, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Diane Carr, Pat Carroll, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Donna Connors, Lisa Copeman, Donald Cornish, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Tom Curry, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Stan Elenbaas, Lori Elliott, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Gerald & Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Sybil Fuchs, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Barbara George, Sandra Gettings, Wayne & Roberta Giannone, Ken & Sandry Gittings, Nancy Gleis, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Mikayla Hacksunda, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Haley Harris, Debbie

Harrison, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Chelsea Hutchinson, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Daniel & Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Esther Laird, Judy Larkin, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Joe Manson, Dave McMullan, Ray Mielke, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Ron Mullins, Esther Murphy, Bill & Jean Nesbitt, Linda Owen, Riley Emilia Paquette, Charles Pentecost Jr., Rob Powers, John Purdy, Mary Raines, Paul Rollo, Becky Rurade, Sandra Scheel, Ed Sheahan, Natasha Schock, Nancy Sly, Laurie Steinke, Juliette Renee, Charles Tolley, George Vespa, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gene & Donna Wensel, Gordan Winkel, and Wava Zeitlow.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky; Michael Broughton; Rev. Ross Engel, USN Chaplain; Zeke Garrison; Brian Jackson; Jonathan Koen; and Charles D. Weishaar.



Members of the church are always willing to pray for you, family members and friends. If a loved one appears on our prayer list above, please call the church office to give us a health update so that we may either keep or remove their name. Thank you!

Summer Fun Word Search

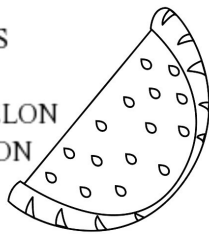
Find all the words!

G F I J R T I I P E C G R V G L Z P O C
 V L K E T T O R F V W C T I Q J N Q A W
 W A T T V Q K C C X O H I D S C M W K G
 E A I J S P R H V S B L K M K F G A I K
 W C C S L E N B A G C C L Y I E Z T S Z
 H P E K A P G N V L N U S E T I K E K A
 D O G M G I D H P X U G Y B Y R X R K Y
 O P F T F C F N B H C A E B A B X M E T
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 E E Y J B L L A B E S A B C Q B V J P E
 Q D T B F F I R E F L I E S I K W L M E
 M M V D Z N K U X I S N O T N I M D A B
 J T E Z I F B U T T E R F L I E S J R S
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 A P W M X N C O S X A Y B O V U A V C R
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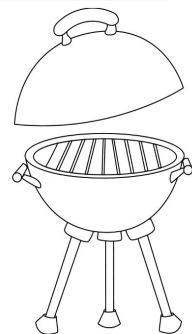
VOLLEYBALL
 WATER
 CREAM
 LEMONADE
 BUTTERFLIES
 MINI
 FIREFLIES
 POOL



FRISBEE
 BALLOONS
 BEACH
 WATERMELON
 BADMINTON
 GOLF
 POPSICLE



KITES
 ICE
 SANDCASTLE
 PICNIC
 PARK
 BASEBALL
 TRAMPOLINE



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

6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

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

6970 Mineola Rd.
Englewood, FL 34224

**Church/School Phone:
941-475-2410**

Church Fax: 941-475-9726

Email: Church.Office@redeemerfl.com

Email: School.Office@redeemerfl.com

Child Care Phone: 941-475-2631

Email: redeemerchildcare@gmail.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).*