



January 2022



HOW TO PREPARE FOR DEATH

The heading of this article may be the last thing you want to think about let alone prepare for. We naturally avoid such things: thinking about death; talking about death; preparing for death. However, the reality is that all of us will one day die. Furthermore, when you were conceived and given life, you were destined to die (Ecclesiastes 3:2). Consider Jesus, the Son of God. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary for the purpose of dying on the cross (John 12:27; 18:37).

The Good News is that all who are baptized are baptized into the death of Jesus (Romans 6:3). Furthermore, “If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His” (Romans 6:5). And because Jesus is risen and lives for all eternity, we too shall live. The Word of God is clear: “Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him” (Romans 6:8); “For [Jesus] was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but in dealing with you we will live with Him by the power of God.” (2 Corinthians 13:4); and “If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him” (2 Timothy 2:11).

On this very topic, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther writes:

“First, one must admonish the people to attend church and listen to the sermon so that they learn through God’s word how to live and how to die. It must be noted that those who are so uncouth and wicked as to despise God’s word while they are in good health should be left unattended when they are sick unless they demonstrate their remorse and repentance with great earnestness, tears, and lamentation ...”

“Second, everyone should prepare in time and get ready for death by going to confession and taking the sacrament once every week or fortnight. He should become reconciled with his neighbor and make his will so that if the Lord knocks and he departs before a pastor or chaplain can arrive, he has provided for his soul, has left nothing undone, and has committed himself to God. When there are many fatalities and only two or three pastors on duty, it is impossible to visit everyone, to give instruction, and to teach each one what a Christian ought to know in the anguish of death. Those who have been careless and negligent in these matters must account for themselves. That is their own fault. After all, we cannot set up a private pulpit and altar daily at their bedside simply because they have despised the public pulpit and altar to which God has summoned and called them.

“Third, if someone wants the chaplain or pastor to come, let the sick person send word in time to call him and let him do so early enough while he is still in his right mind before the illness overwhelms the patient.” (Writing from Martin Luther, “Whether One

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HOW TO PREPARE FOR DEATH (CONTINUED)

May Flee from a Deadly Plague," p. 134
vol. 43 of *Luther's Works*, American
Edition)

To the reader these words may seem harsh and insensitive. I believe Dr. Luther speaks the truth because his writing is supported by Holy Scripture. Jesus said, "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).

Rather than focus your thoughts and opinions on the words, focus on the warning. Turn from your selfish ideas; your self-destructing ways and turn to the Lord Jesus and receive His grace and promise of forgiveness, life, and everlasting salvation.

Your Sent Servant in Christ,
Pastor Jim Kress



Bible Studies



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

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

SERVING THE LORD

Pastor Rev. James Kress

Child Care Director Wendy Horvath

Office Admin Asst Caitlin Tilton

Organist Bill Bowers

Choir Director Collins Sita

Newsletter Editor Pat Finkenbine

OFFICERS

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Youth

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Property Mgmt. Bob Varone

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Lisa Kress

Coffee Hour

The Religion of the Screen

1. It isolates you.
2. Its channels are an input monopoly.
3. It demeans your outdatedness incessantly.
4. It breeds exhaustion.
5. It rules via FOMO (fear of missing out).
6. It bleeds just enough eye-candy to keep you coming back.
7. There is never anything you can do about it.
8. What you see is just the way it is.

One medium. Endless messages. All principles of coercion well-known since compilation as universal torture techniques by Albert Biderman in 1957.

Only now we are doing it to ourselves.

Telling the truth has never been easy. Acting on it in the face of retribution has always been hard. Failing to act in a time of need is not an option for good men.

Be one.

Not Fast, Not Furious

In recent weeks, the headlines have been filled with the news of several high-profile legal cases sparking much commentary on the judicial system and the nature of justice. After the vindication of Kyle Rittenhouse, the trial for the killers of Ahmaud Arbery and the case against Andrew Coffey also concluded, both defendants claiming self-defense. Though the details varied considerably, it seems both juries came to fair conclusions. There is no doubt that courts get things wrong but when due process is unhindered by threats or coercion, there can be good outcomes.

Watching the proceedings of the Rittenhouse case was an encouraging example of the system “working”, yet it is easy to see that meting out justice is not an exact science. Those who seek to reform the system can make things worse. A backlog of cases, lack of resources and prosecutors out for their own glory can push the accused into plea bargains, admitting to crimes they may not have committed, rather than face the uncertainty and stress of the trial they are entitled to. As was true in bygone eras, those who can afford a good defense, are more likely to do well. The justice system is fallible because it is filled with humans who are fallible.

Reading reporting about these various trials shows that we, as a society, don't agree on what “justice” is. To some, no matter what the court decided, Kyle Rittenhouse is a “symbol” of “white supremacy”. A chorus of voices still say he's guilty of oppression. Somehow. Yet when a disturbed man with a criminal record and history of racist vitriol drives through a crowded Christmas parade, the initial reports from the biggest newspapers say that the “event” was “caused by an SUV.” The truth cannot get in the way of the story. While it is prudent to reserve judgement when facts are light on the ground,

SPECIAL ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

there is a palpable disdain for anyone who asks questions, anyone who concludes differently, anyone who recognizes that there are wicked people who do evil things.

This brought to mind what the prophet Isaiah wrote in his day:

*"Justice is turned back,
And righteousness stands afar off;
For truth is fallen in the street,
And equity cannot enter." – Isaiah 59:14 (NKJV)*

We don't pretend to know the motivations of everyone in positions of power, but Isaiah describes the plight of a people who will not accept what God says about them, who substitute his truth for lies. They are bound to "trust in empty words and speak lies" to try to explain why the world is how it is. Mad Christians know that God's hand is not shortened, nor is he deaf to the injustice done by men. As Isaiah goes on to say, God saw there was no justice and no intercessor, so he sent Jesus - "His own arm brought salvation for Him." We should pray for justice to be done in our land and do what we can to keep our lawmakers impartial. But the knowledge that the Righteous Judge, of the living and the dead, is coming soon gives us hope. He is risen, he won't be long anyway.

Til angels cry and trumpets sound,
The Mad Christian

<https://madpxm.com/2021/11/29/the-religion-of-the-screen/>



Choir

We are looking for long or short term choir members. Give us a try. Come make a joyful noise to the Lord. If you enjoy it (which I bet you will) stay with us for a season. Come join us for Christian fellowship, to serve the Lord and give back the gift he gave you so freely. Contact Collins Sita for more info.

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, February 19th at 8:00 am.**





'Tis More Blessed to Give Than to Receive

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " (Acts 20:35)

And indeed, it is. Does this not strike a chord that resonates in us all? Which of us can't recall the look of surprise and thanks for the Christmas gifts that we labored to give to those whom we love? And the joy written on their face when that gift is received with thanksgiving means more than all the gifts we have received. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our Lord knew this because He practiced it. He gave of Himself – sparing not even His life in death – in order to give us back to our Father in heaven. He knew that in giving you get more because joy is multiplied in giving. The one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. And, what is more, the one who receives only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously in thanksgiving.

So it is with our tithes and offerings in church. We want to give because we have received from God all that we are and all that we have. Our giving does not originate in what we must do to earn God's favor. We have God's favor because of His gift of His Son, given through Word and Sacrament. Thus, we are made free from the compulsion of giving so that our tithes and offering are freely given in thanksgiving for what God has so generously given to us.

Why then does the church struggle to make budgets? Why does the church always seem stretched so thin when it is the place where God continually gives us His forgiveness of sins? Why does the church struggle when God, out of love for us, generously pours out His grace and mercy?

It is because we are sinners. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it, too. Because of sin, we want God's grace and mercy; we want His blessings of body and soul. But we don't want to share it with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives – without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' " Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but to press His eternal and temporal blessings into service to your neighbor.

Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights, heat, and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism as well as bread and wine for Holy Communion. They even ensure that your pastor has food and clothing and presents for his own family. The gifts of God are immeasurable. They multiply and redound to everyone's good as the fish and loaves in the feeding of the five thousand.

So, remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." And remember the joy that attended the gifts you gave at Christmas. This same joy attends your gifts to the church.



**Financial information available to all
members upon request.**

Prayer for the New Year

Grant me the strength from day to day
To bear what burdens come my way.
Grant me throughout this bright New Year
More to endure and less to fear.
Help me live that I may be
From spite and petty malice free.
Let me not bitterly complain
When cherished hopes of mine prove vain,
Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage
Some fair tomorrow's spotless page.
Lord, as the days shall come and go
In courage let me stronger grow.

Lord as the New Year dawns today
Help me to put my faults away.
Let me be big in little things;
Grant me the joy which friendship brings.
Keep me from selfishness and spite;
Let me be wise in what is right.
A happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye.
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend.
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.

Edgar A. Guest

PRAYERS

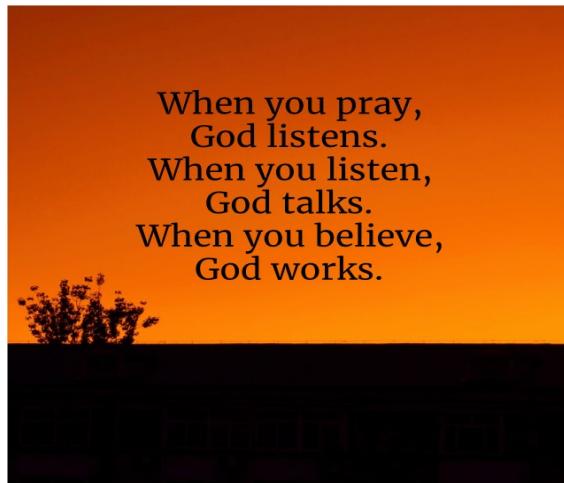
SHUT-INS: Susan Jahns, Rita Kaufmann, Dorothy Sinowetski, and Sally Zierdt.

HEALING for Members: Neva Aldene, Wila Bockstahler, Bill Bowers, Sr., Tom Curry, Kathryn Demma, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Charlie & Pat Finkenbine, Don Garay, Mike & Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Kitty Hill, Mark Horvath, Marva Jonas, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Ken Mielke, Lillian Miles, Glenn Mossner, Enid Muhme, Tom & Sue Poyer, Bob Varone, and Pauline Vickey

.FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Michelle Bernard, Grace Blum, Don Borwick, Bill Bowers, Jr., Mary Brissette, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Diane Carr, Pat Carroll, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Jean Clappe-Mixell, Bobbett Clark, Donna Connors, Lisa Copeman, Donald Cornish, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Stan Elenbaas, Lori Elliott, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Sybil Fuchs, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Aeson Garrett, Zeke Garrison, Barbara George, Sandra Gettings, Vinnie Giannola, Roberta Giannone, Ken & Sandry Gittings, Nancy Gleis, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Mikayla Hacksunda, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Haley Harris, Debbie Harrison, Dennis Hegarty, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, John Hill, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Linda Holt, Jim Honeycutt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Chelsea Hutchinson, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Bill Jaquest, Sylvia Jelinek, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay,

Daniel & Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Parker Kern, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Lucia Kruse, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Judy Larkin, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Liam Madden, Joe Manson, Dave McMullan, family & friends of Ellen Mickel, Dominic Miretti, Pete Mogg, Jane Moore, Mike Morrissey, Philip Muhme, Ron Mullins, Esther Murphy, Bill & Jean Nesbitt, Linda Owen, Riley Emilia Paquette, Charles Pentecost Jr., Topper Pfeiffer, Bill Pinkston, Rob Powers, John Purdy, Mary Raines, Joyce Redding, Elaine Reebe, Rod Rohrbach, Paul Rollo, Becky Rurade, Sandra Scheel, Ed Sheahan, Nancy Sly, Juliette Renee, Charles Tolley, Joy Trainor, George Vespa, Jim & Judy Wahl, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gene & Donna Wensel, Gordan Winkel, Wava Zeitlow, and Martha Zimpfer.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Joseph Garay, Brian Jackson, Jonathan Koen, 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!

CHILD CARE



Redeemer Child Care wishes you a Happy New Year!
January 2022

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays
at 4:00 pm

1/3 No School
1/10 God's Word Is
Important Luke 2:41-52
1/17 Jesus Is Our
Substitute Matthew 3:13-17
1/24 God Has Mercy on
His Children Luke 17:11-19
1/31 Jesus Is All
Powerful Luke 8:40-56



Dear Jesus, give me eyes
of faith to see that You
are God's beloved Son.
Amen

Tuition

Please make sure you are
up to date on tuition
after the holidays. If you
need a tax form please
ask the office.

Birthdays

Scarlet 1/1
Freyja 1/4
Brooklynn 1/7
Eva 1/9
Blake 1/11
Brayden N. 1/16
Ace 1/19
Eden 1/22
Nicholas 1/26
Richard 1/27



Health Checks

We will continue to have
morning health checks.
Please wash hands before
entering the school.



Thank you for being an
Awesome Teacher!
Ms. Emily - 7 Years
Ms. Jadilyn - 5 Years

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

Christmas Lunch



Thank you to all the
members of Redeemer
Lutheran Church who
donated to the Angel tree
for the Christmas Lunch!
The children had a
wonderful time and loved
their books!

National Lutheran Schools Week

January 23-January 29

We will be collecting
canned goods to donate to
Englewood Helping Hands

Monday 1/24 - Dress like a
superhero

Tuesday 1/25 - Dress in
your favorite sports attire

Wednesday 1/26 - Dress
like your favorite animal

Thursday 1/27 - Dress like
a Rock Star

Friday 1/28 - Opposite
day

REDEEMER SCHOOL

November is one of my favorite months. It's a month that we get to reflect on all the things and people that we have in our lives. A time that we set aside to focus on the good in our lives. We get to thank God for all the small and big blessings that He gives to us. We get to appreciate the people that bring us love. We get to care for those that are less fortunate than us. We put our focus more on God and who He is rather than on ourselves.

In P.E. this month we had a fun 80's workout day. The kids dressed like they were from the 80's and did workout videos. Some of them had a lot of fun with it, while others have declared that people from the 80's are kind of weird. I think the teachers laughed most of all.

We also had Bisque It pottery out of Port Charlotte come in to teach us how to work with pottery. Each student learned to process of painting and firing clay. They all picked out a Christmas piece and painted it. The piece will be fired at the studio and the kids can give it as a Christmas present.

In the month of November, our class worked very hard on their Thanksgiving program. We memorized songs, Bible verses, poems, and even plays. All reminding us about the things God has given us like a church, family, houses, parents, friends, and food. The students thanked God for their freedom, health, life, and many other blessings. After our program, we were able to eat lunch with our families. The students always get to help prepare the food. They are always so proud of the things they cook. Thank you Mrs. Melody and Mrs. Pam for spending hours in the kitchen helping prepare this feast. This year we were blessed to have VPK join us for our program and lunch. All the parents were very thankful and impressed with their children's performance. The performance made us laugh and cry. Listening to the students sing so beautifully about God's blessings like a children's choir brought tears to my eyes. It is such a blessing that they are able to go to a school where we can read the word of God openly, we can pray, where we can teach the love of God, and where Christ is proclaimed Lord of all. Thank you for providing such a place as this.

I hope you all had an amazing Christmas! We are looking forward to the new year!

"Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever." – Psalm 107:1

Nicole Hopkins

***The deadline for the February Newsletter is January 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!***



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

facebook

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Englewood
Redeemer Lutheran Child Care

REDEEMER SCHOOL



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Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care

PUZZLE

Bible Word Search: APOSTLES / DISCIPLES

B J N K F D E A Z T E T G D M
Y A T O S K L M W H D H K D S
M S R I O P S E X A I O F S K
S P M T H Z H P H D E M T F B
O O C A H T Y V X D E A N H W
N N E T T O D J I A D S S E P
S U R A R P L P R E E C U Y M
S A M B I H H O X U B U H A G
T O I R A C S I M S E L P T L
T T N H S O Z F L E Z N U S B
N L U M T P L I R I W A L A T
H R J Q T T Z I A D P Q B X P
N H O J G C A N D R E W R M W
U M W J F J W M R R D J D W F
H X Y S U S W L P K R O R E P

SIMON Peter

JOHN

THOMAS

THADDAEUS

MATTHIAS

ANDREW

PHILIP

MATTHEW

SIMON

PAUL

James ZEBEDEE

BARTHOLOMEW

James ALPHAEUS

Judas ISCARIOT

Instructions:

Find and circle the words shown in all **CAPITAL** letters.

After Judas betrayed Christ, Matthias was chosen by the disciples to take his place. Saul (who changed his name to Paul) was chosen by Jesus. (Acts 9:3-6).

The apostles are listed in Matthew 10:2-4.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED - OPTION 1

January
2022

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

REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.
Pastor

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941-475-2410

Church Fax: 941-475-9726
Email: [redeemerfl@gmail.com](mailto:redemerfl@gmail.com)

Child Care Phone: 941-475-2631
Email: redemerc childcare@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 Class: *Sunday, 10:45 a.m.*

Sunday School: *temporarily postponed*

The Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care Family are called into the service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by His command (Matthew 28:18-20) to:

- ♦*Disciple all nations, that is, all people;*
- ♦*Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;*
- ♦*Proclaim the Gospel and teach His Word in its truth and purity; and*
- ♦*Never be ashamed of the Gospel—it is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).*