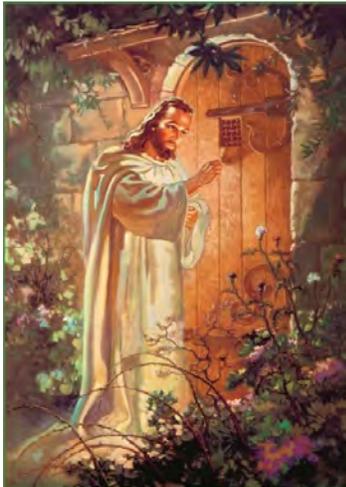


February 2019

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKING AT THE DOOR

Many of us are familiar with the picture shown on this page. It’s a painting depicting an image of Jesus from a verse from the Book of Revelation, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me” (Rev. 3:20). This verse is from the last of the seven letters to the churches the Apostle John was given to write through the revelation of Jesus. Some of you may know this verse by heart. But, do you know this might be one of the most misunderstood verses in all of scripture?



Admittedly, the picture is attractive. It appears to be telling us that Jesus stands outside the door of our heart knocking and He is waiting for us to respond by letting Him into our heart. Well, I don’t mean to ruin it for you, but that is flat out wrong! This verse – and the context surrounding this verse – isn’t about an individual’s own salvation. This verse is not about what we can and must do for Jesus, but about what He can and has already done for us.

In order to understand more clearly, let’s look at the footnotes the Lutheran Study Bible includes for this verse:

“the door” *In this particular case, the image of Christ standing and knocking at the door may be related to the parable about the servants whose master is at a wedding feast (Luke 12:35-40). They are expected to be ready and waiting for him when he appears, with the promise that those servants whom he finds ready will be blessed.*

“I will come...eat with him.” *Best understood as referring to both the Church’s weekly celebrations of the Eucharist and the eternal, messianic banquet in Heaven (Isaiah 25:6-9).*

Martin Luther on Revelation 3:20 said the following: *“The righteous always act [in fear] as if the Lord saw them. But the*



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ungodly walk along smugly, as if God had His eyelids closed and did not see them, even though He examines them, too, and knocks, warning their conscience, as Revelation 3:20 says.” (Luther’s Works 10:99)

And in our very own hymnbook we sing: *“Hasten as a bride to meet Him / And with loving rev’rence greet Him. / For with words of life immor-*

(Continued on page 2)

tal / He is knocking at your portal. Open wide the gates before Him, / Saying, as you there adore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, / That I nevermore will leave You. He who craves a precious treasure / Neither cost nor pain will measure; But the priceless gifts of Heaven / God to us has freely given. Though the wealth of earth were proffered / None could buy the gifts here offered: Christ's true body, for you riven / And His blood, for you once given." (Lutheran Service Book 636:2-3)

In short, rather than allowing for a common misinterpretation of Christ's knocking on a person's heart, the context of Revelation 3:20 demands that Christ was seeking to enter the Church of Laodicea that bore His name, but the church's faith in Jesus was lukewarm.

This alarming and poignant letter was Jesus' knocking. Even if one member of the church would recognize his own spiritual bankruptcy and respond in repentant saving faith, Jesus would enter the believer, restoring him to Himself.

As I addressed the Voters' Assembly on January 20 of the exciting times here at Redeemer Lutheran Church, I bring again to your attention in this newsletter the marvelous opportunities knocking at our doors.

1. Since its first academic school year beginning in 2016, Redeemer Lutheran School has increased enrollment from 2 students to 13. That's an increase of 650%. At this rate, in three years the School's enrollment could grow to as many as 84 or more.

We are currently making plans for the 2019-2020 School Year and have set a goal to meet or exceed an enrollment of 30 students. That's 30 children from kindergarten through third grade receiving a daily dose of Jesus. That's 30 students being taught the fundamental principles of the faith. That's 30 children and their families becoming exposed to the Redeemer Lutheran Church community.

However, this also means we will need to hire another certified school teacher and perhaps another teacher's aide. Moreover, we need more effective classrooms for teaching and learning!

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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

President Wade Duncan

Vice President Bill Bowers

Treasurer

Secretary Caitlin Tilton

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Christian Ed.

Human Care Lisa Kress

Outreach

Assimilation Anne Varone

School Board Laurie Steinke

Stewardship

Youth Alan Duburg

Financial Secretary Mindy Duncan

Property Mgmt. Jim Metzker

GROUPS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild Sally Zierdt

Men's Group

Altar Guild

Coffee Hour

It also means this: Parents of school age children are learning there is another option for education in the Englewood area for their children right here at Redeemer Lutheran School, and parents recognize the importance of a Christian education.

Redeemer Lutheran School teaches students the love of God in Christ Jesus. We provide quality education and academic achievement. We help each individual student achieve his or her highest potential.

2. Since opening her doors in 1998, Redeemer Lutheran Child Care has grown to an enrollment of more than 125 children. These children range from infants to 4 years of age. This enrollment also includes our before and after school students up to the fifth grade.

Each year, more and more of our VPK students enroll at Redeemer Lutheran School. The Child Care's VPK Program provides a wonderful feeder system for the day school. This year we have 20 VPK students. Imagine if they all enrolled at our school?

3. If we consider the Child Care Center as the base and feeder system for our Day School, then we need to also meet the needs of the Center. What are some of the needs of the Center?
 - a. The Center needs a new building with the essentials for attracting more and more families.
 - b. For example, a kitchen and cafeteria allowing the opportunity for a Federal food service program. We currently don't have a kitchen or cafeteria.
 - c. The Center needs more rooms specifically designed for the caring, nurturing, and teaching of the children. Our current aging modular building was not

designed for efficient and effective care and teaching. Having more rooms will allow for the Center to meet the needs of parents in our community seeking quality child care. Currently we have reached maximum capacity. We are turning away parents and their children every week. That means children are not hearing and being touched by the words of Jesus. It also means the opportunity to reach out to these families with the Gospel of Jesus Christ is lost. These are just a few of the needs of the Child Care Center.

- d. The Center needs an indoor multi-purpose area. When inclement weather prevents children from playing outside, they currently are stuck in the confines of their small classroom. A multi-purpose area would allow children to do what children do best – run and play, releasing energy in a positive fashion. The multi-purpose area could also be used for other purposes for the Center but also for Church and Day School events.

In meeting the needs of the Child Care Center, the opportunity to feed the Day School with a healthy enrollment of students will continue to exist year after year.

4. As mentioned above, with the current rise in enrollment at the Day School we need to provide more effective classrooms for teaching and learning.
 - a. Currently, our school is comprised of a single classroom with 13 students ranging across three differing grades, K-2.
 - b. If the Lord provides us with an increased enrollment for the 2019-2020

(Continued on page 4)

School Year with 30 students, there is absolutely no way we can effectively teach them in that single classroom.

These opportunities also bring challenges. And yet, we learn from God's Word, "that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Rom. 15:4b).

So how can these opportunities and challenges be met and sustained for generations to come? "For nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).

Fellowship Hall hosts a number of events, functions, and meetings for the Redeemer community as well as for renters. We receive approximately \$950 in rent each month from those groups who rent out our hall. We could move the Day School in the large room of Fellowship Hall, but that would mean we would lose our income from the renters and the renters would be out of a place to meet.

Perhaps we could purchase a temporary 4-classroom modular structure to house our Day School. This might be an option for the Day School's use over the next two or three academic years until a more permanent structure could possibly be constructed. In doing this we would retain our income from renters and even increase availability for more income. Additionally, members of Redeemer Lutheran

Church will once again have access to both the small and large rooms in Fellowship Hall.

These opportunities do bring about exciting times here at Redeemer Lutheran Church, School, and Child Care! Consider this: these opportunities are also a wonderful opportunity for growth for Redeemer Lutheran Church. Many of our students and families do not have a church they call home. The Lord Jesus is bringing these families to our doors. Is that "Opportunity knocking at the Door?"

Following Divine Service on Sunday, February 17 a representative from LCEF Architectural Advisory Committee will meet with members of the Church Council and anyone else who would like to listen to what an expert might have to say regarding our opportunities and challenges.

Is Redeemer Lutheran Church like the lukewarm Church of Laodicea as described in chapter 3 in the Book of Revelation? Are the members of Redeemer indifferent to growing in faith and spreading the Word of God making disciples of all nations? Lord, may we never be. Guide us and lead us in order that the Gospel of Jesus Christ may continue to be proclaimed today, the next 40 years, and beyond.

In the Service of Christ Jesus who is
ever Faithful to His Church,

Pastor Jim Kress

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 16th at 8:00 am.**



PRESIDENT'S YEAR-END REPORT

2018 was my first complete year as President and there were many changes and a lot has happened. The first stage of our Capital Improvement Project (CIP) was completed in 2018 with the installation of the new A/C units. As expected, we are realizing a savings in our FPL bill from these higher efficiency units. Unfortunately, since the Day Care still has their original equipment, they lost two of their six units this year and since the remaining units are the same age we are expecting them to fail at anytime. The second stage of the CIP was started and completed this fall. Stage 2 included replacing the roof on the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, repairing and re-sealing the parking lots, replacing and adding curbs, and replacing sections of sidewalk that were cracked or unlevel. One section of sidewalk was moved to avoid future issues from an oak tree. Stage 3 will include all interior improvements and will begin this June after the school lets out for the summer. Our Final Improvement Committee met January 23 to initiate that work.

Our Day Care-Day School enrollment has grown. Last January 12th their numbers were 111 in the Day Care and 4 in the Day School. This January's report shows 129 in the Day Care and 13 students in the Day School. This growth has caused a minor crisis for us. The VPK (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten) enrollment had increased to the point an additional classroom was required. We are anticipating, of course, some of these kids will continue on into our Kindergarten class at the School. It is apparent that a need exists in our community for our type of services that also offers us the opportunity to increase our ministry to these kids. I have seen this in action in the previous year. These children are hearing the Word and are being touched by it. They are coming forward for a blessing or being Baptized. We have formed a Building Option Committee that will meet with a LCEF advisor February 17th after church to find a solution for anticipated growth with the problem of an aging building.

Also at the Day school, a new Headmaster position was created. The Elders, School Board and Council approached Pastor Kress to accept this responsibility. With his acceptance to deal with the everyday matters on campus, we thought it right the Day School and Day Care share in his compensation. So now the two ministries will contribute 10% each toward this.

The December Voters' Meeting dealt with the budget and elections. Some showed a concern when we approved a deficit budget for 2019. Of course, this is most certainly a valid concern. We could have presented a false, unrealistic budget and acted surprised at year end, but instead we presented our reality. In an effort to minimize that deficit we are still, even after a year, finding ways to contain costs whenever possible. You may have noticed we no longer have printed media advertising. This would include the local newspaper and phone book. We felt there wasn't much response to this old method in today's electronic realm. With the purchase of a new mower late last year we continue to benefit by the efforts of a few faithful volunteers who take upon themselves to provide lawn care each week.

We also elected new leaders at the meeting and I would like to welcome back all those who continue on in their capacities and to those new members joining us in our effort: Rob Tilton-Elder, Caitlin Tilton-Congregation Secretary, (she also accepted the Office Secretary position in the fall), Leah Payne-School Board (parent representative).

In an effort to keep this concise and easier to read I have left out details. If anyone should have questions or want more precise details please email me (wamiduncan@gmail.com) and I will provide you with more information. I assure everyone that anything stated above can be substantiated.

Sincerely, Your President,

Wade Duncan

2019 *Kantorei*



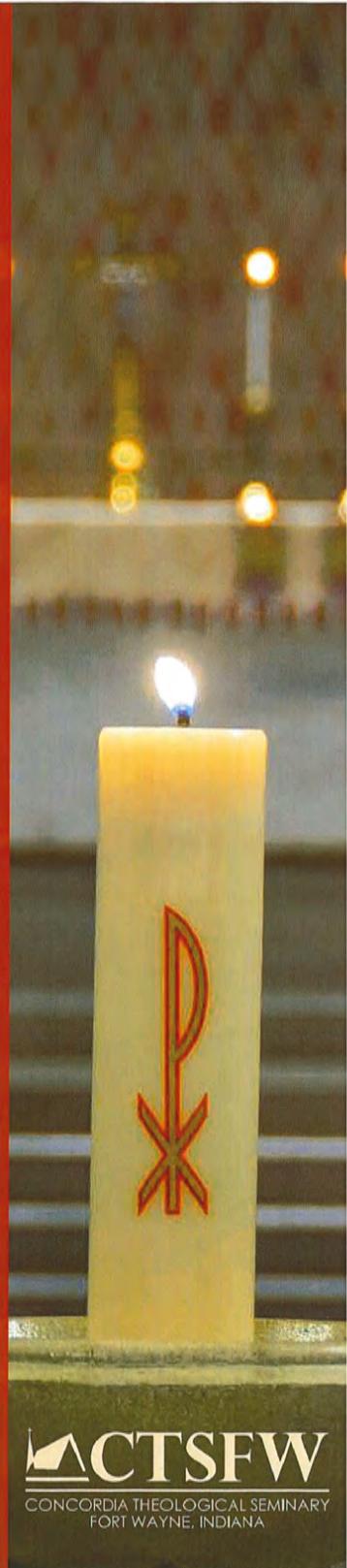
A service of
Evening Prayer
with music
led by the
Kantorei
of Concordia
Theological
Seminary,
Fort Wayne,
Indiana

Sunday, February 24

6:00 p.m.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

6465 Mayport St.
Englewood, FL 34224
(941) 475-2410
www.redeemerfl.com



ACTSFW
CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Evening Prayer & Music (continued)

Concordia Theological Seminary Choir: A service of Evening Prayer with music led by the Kantorei of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, will be conducted on Sunday, February 24 at 6:00 p.m. here at Redeemer Lutheran Church. This is a joyous occasion as 2019 marks the celebration of our congregation's 40th Anniversary in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our community. This service is open to all who desire to hear sacred music in near perfect pitch. We are in need of housing for one night for 16 male seminary students. If you have a spare bed or two in your home for one night prayerfully consider housing one or two students for one night (Sunday, March 24). For all who are providing housing for students, there is a housing meeting in the home of Pastor & Lisa on Friday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. Please look for the sign-up on the Visitor's Desk if you can provide housing and will be able to attend the meeting.

40th Anniversary Celebration

The theme of the 40th Anniversary Celebration is as follows:

The Lord has blessed you; He is with you.

"For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He knows your going through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you. You have lacked nothing." *Deuteronomy 2:7*



We are so excited that we were able to celebrate the ministry of the Gospel within the Englewood community for over 40 years. This is an amazing opportunity to share the love of Christ within our community with others!

The 40th Anniversary Vesper Service will take place on Sunday, March 24, 2019 at 4pm. The Reverend Dr. Peter J. Scaer of Concordia Theological Seminary is our special guest preacher. An anniversary dinner will follow the Vesper service at The Hills Country Club and will begin with a fellowship hour at 5:30 PM with dinner to follow at 6:30 PM. Tickets will be on sale as of February 15, 2019 at a price of \$26.00 each. All ticket sales will need to be complete by Sunday, March 18 to provide a count to the Country Club.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Anniversary Committee

SPECIAL MUSIC



Calling all voices.! If you want rejoice on Easter, come join the choir. They will be singing the Hallelujah chorus. Contact Collins Sita or come Wednesday at 6:00pm and sing to your Risen King.



The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, the signs and wonders, of Jesus in the world.

And this made plain to all that Jesus was who He said He was: He was the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only-begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking, enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts, but also to trust in God in word and deed.

As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only, but also in deed and in truth.

In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

“Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

“Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

“He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures.

“And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

“And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools.” (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor — in church, in the family, and society — with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

Sunday Morning Bible Class for the Life of the World

As the church journeys toward heaven, it teaches the Word of the LORD, it washes at the font, and it feeds according to the will of the LORD. As God's people, we gather in a place called church and we attend Divine Service because it is there that God gives us the gift of His Son Jesus Christ. This is a promise that He has given us as the people of God, and it is the greatest gift that God could give us.

This promise of the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ comes to us when we are gathered in His name, because He has bound Himself to the preaching of the gospel, and the giving of Himself in the sacraments.

Now, from the world's perspective these are not important gifts, and yet from God's perspective, they are the most important gifts that He could give. We believe, teach and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ is present within our church according to His flesh. And the fact that the eternal God could be present amongst us in His flesh, through simple Words, through simple water, and through simple bread and wine, is part of the "MYSTERY" that we call the Liturgy of the Church.

Come explore this mystery with us following Divine Service each Sunday. This 12 session series on our Lutheran Liturgy is presented by Dr. Arthur Just in DVD form. For each session, a study guide will be provided. Dr. Just, professor at Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN, leads viewers through a presentation of our liturgical heritage and its Scriptural origins.

The sessions include: An Introduction to the Lutheran Liturgy, The Structure of Liturgy, Jewish Origins in Christian Worship, the Table Fellowship of Jesus and Structure of Word and Sacrament, Liturgy in the Life of Jesus, The Liturgy of the Word, The Liturgy of the Sacrament, The Entrance, Preparation and Distribution, The Lutheran Liturgy: 1941, 182 and beyond, the Church Year and Sunday, the Lord's Day, The Services of Prayer, Catechesis, Baptism and the Liturgy of Life.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE

CLASS: Come join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Narthex for an exciting Table Talk discussion. Ask Pastor just about any question. We will search the Scriptures. We will have open dialog in the study of the Holy Scripture. Again, your questions and our discussion may range from current events to ancient church history. This is your time to "ask the pastor."



PASTOR'S STATE OF THE PARISH

State of the Parish Address, January 20, 2019

These are exciting times here at Redeemer Lutheran Church. This year marks the year we celebrate 40 years of Word and Sacrament ministry of bringing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to our community. Exciting plans are being made to joyfully celebrate this momentous event in the life of Redeemer Lutheran Church.

These are exciting times at Redeemer Lutheran Church. The Word of God continues to be preached in its truth and purity and the Sacraments administered according to Christ's institution. The Church Council and the School Board are working together toward the future of Redeemer. The members of the Board of Elders are becoming more knowledgeable in the doctrines of the church and more attentive to the spiritual welfare of every member of the church. More than 20 youth students are receiving Catechetical instruction. More and more of our youth are serving in the Divine Service and participating in an active Youth Group.

These are exciting times at Redeemer Lutheran Church. We are nearing the completion of a new church pictorial directory. So, if you haven't had a recent picture taken please contact a member of the Committee. For purchase, we have available a new church cookbook containing dozens and dozens of the most tasty and delicious dishes delivered to you in an organized format.

These are exciting times at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Week after week, year after year, the Lord brings into our worship space visitors, guests, and potential members and associate members. At our most recent Church Council Meeting, the Council was presented with a list of potential members and associate members who have been attending services since the beginning of last month or have been attending for a number of years during seasonal period. More than 35 names are on that list. That's 35 souls who worship with us but are not currently members of this congregation; 35 souls you might see, but 35 souls you don't know their names. Imagine 35 or more souls worshipping with us week after week, year after year, receiving the gifts of our Lord and participating in the fellowship of Redeemer, the life of the Church.

As exciting as these times are for Redeemer Lutheran Church, we experience some serious challenges too. Although the church has a number of dedicated volunteers, this large campus and our numerous Boards and Committees are in need of more volunteers. Last week we installed leaders of various boards and committees. Their names are listed in our newsletter. One of two things needs to happen: leaders need to approach members and ask for assistance or members need to approach leaders and ask how they can be of more help to the body of Christ here at Redeemer.

And yet, the most serious challenge we face centers around the solvency of our treasury. Week after week the previous week's offerings are published in the weekly bulletin. And week after week the offerings fall short of the weekly budgetary needs. What happens when we fall short? The Church Council seeks the approval of the Voters' Assembly to withdraw funds from either the Wind & Hail or Capital Reserve LCEF accounts.

This financial challenge isn't my problem alone; it isn't the Board of Elders problem alone; it isn't even the Church Council or the Voters' Assembly's problem alone. This financial challenge is the responsibility of the entire community of Redeemer Lutheran Church, School and Child Care. What must the members of Redeemer do to overcome this challenge? The body of Christ here at Redeemer needs to focus more and more on the general, everyday expenses of Redeemer Lutheran Church. How? By the faithful giving in the weekly offerings. Every member is called by the Word of God to apply the simple biblical understanding of

STATE OF THE PARISH (continued)

stewardship. How is this done? Recognizing that all we have – the monetary, material, and spiritual wealth – is given and provided to us to manage by the mercy of God. In other words, He owns everything we have. We are entrusted as His stewards to be managers of His stuff. Our responsibility as stewards is to be faithful to Him with all He has given us. Therefore, we give to the church in the same way God has given to us – out of grace – according to the Gospel, not reluctantly or under compulsion, but what is decided from the heart, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor. 9:7)

These are exciting times here at Redeemer Lutheran Church and School. In its third full academic year, the Lord has granted growth to Redeemer Lutheran School. Since opening its doors in the fall of 2016 with 2 students the School now enjoys the enrollment of 13 students, with many parents making inquiries. Now growing from 2 to 13 students may not sound like large numbers, but when you do the math, that's a 650% increase in growth.

These are exciting times at Redeemer Lutheran School. Students daily hear and read the Word of God. The seed of faith is planted in their hearts. As each day and week passes, our teachers nurture that faith in both word and action. And as this planting and nurturing continues day after day, week after week, the Lord provides the increase. The Lord provides the growth through parents telling other parents of their child's intellectual growth as well as the growth of their child's faith in Jesus.

These are indeed exciting times at Redeemer Lutheran School. However, the school is met with some challenges. As we see the growth through the increased enrollment of students, the school shares space with groups within Redeemer Lutheran Church, the Child Care Center, and with numerous renters in our education building, also known as Fellowship Hall. This does not provide the best environment for teaching, learning, or growing. This challenge isn't a challenge for the school alone; it isn't a challenge for the administrators or teachers alone; it isn't a challenge for parents and students alone. This challenge is for the School Board, Church Council and the Voters' Assembly to supply a lucrative plan in order that the seed, that is, the Word of God may continue to be sown; that the teachers and administrators may continue to nurture that seed in the hearts and minds of the students as it extends to parents; and that the Lord may provide the growth, which appears to be His intention.

These are exciting times here at Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care. The Child Care Center continues to enjoy the leadership of its Director, Wendy Horvath. She has entered her 11th year in that role. She continues in leadership with the assistance of Debby Buel as the Center's Assistant Director. Combined these two talented woman bring more than 50 years of child care experience and leadership to the Center. Since opening its doors in its current building in 2002, the Child Care has grown exponentially. The Center provides care to 130 children; that's 88 families in our community seeking out a particular service. They have chosen Redeemer Lutheran Child Care and have entrusted the Center with the care of their children.

These are exciting times at Redeemer Lutheran Child Care. The Center is completely and independently solvent. Although the Center receives Angel Fund donations from Redeemer Members – this past year alone receiving nearly \$2,200 – the Child Care contributes nearly \$10,000 into the Wind & Hail and Capital Reserve Accounts of Redeemer Lutheran Church each year. The Center purchased a brand new bus in 2017 and is making all the payments. The Center cares for all of our fleet vehicles: the maintenance, the fuel, the insurance, registration and inspections.

These are exciting times at Redeemer Lutheran Child Care. The Center is staffed with certified workers. Many have acquired their CDA. Others are working toward that

STATE OF THE PARISH (continued)

accomplishment. These hard working women are caring, loving staffers who provide the best for their students. Under the direction of Wendy and Debby, the Center has been consistently receiving perfect or near perfect inspections.

These are indeed exciting times at Redeemer Lutheran Child Care. However, the Center is met some challenges too. The current modular structures are filled to capacity and have overflowed into the use of the education building. This challenge also means that the Center turns away many parents seeking care for their children. Moreover, this challenge means the children of parents being turned away are not receiving the seed of God's Word. The great commission is to make disciples of all nations. How can we make disciples when we can't welcome those children into our Center to teach them about Jesus?

The current structure of the Child Care Center continues to be in demand of costly repairs. As Redeemer Lutheran Church experienced similar demands with the Church and Fellowship Hall buildings, both the exterior and interior, the Church Council addressed the Voters' to approve the Capital Improvement campaign in order to rectify the buildings issues. The Child Care is at a critical moment to address these same issues. And yet again, this challenge isn't a challenge for Wendy, Debby and Pastor alone; it's not a challenge for the teachers and staff alone; it's not a challenge for the children and their parents alone. This challenge is a challenge for the School Board, the Church Council and the Voters' Assembly of Redeemer Lutheran Church to provide an effective plan for the future of the Child Care Center in order to raise the possibility for the Lord to provide the growth at the Center, which again appears to be His plan. The real question is, "Is the Lord's plan, the plan of Redeemer Lutheran Church?"

These are indeed exciting times here at Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care, but 2019 is also a pivotal time, an important time, a crucial and critical time for our church, our school, and our child care. Obviously, the Lord continues to be working in and through you and me, the leaders and teachers, the students and their parents to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ and Him crucified to the nations here in the Englewood and surrounding communities.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Voters' Assembly, there is no denying it ... something joyfully wonderful is happening on this campus of Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care. The Apostle Paul encourages the Christian Church in Ephesus, "Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." (Eph. 4:15-16) Let us therefore be united not only in doctrine and practice, but also in the work of our Lord Jesus and the future of His Church. These are indeed exciting times at Redeemer Church, School & Child Care.

In the Service of Christ Jesus and His Church,

Rev. James T. Kress, Sr.

Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care
The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
January 20, 2019



*Baptized into Your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly, Among Your saints, Your chosen host,
Buried with Christ and dead to sin, Your Spirit now shall live within.*

*All that I am and love most dearly, Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely, Help me Your faithful child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own, Serve any will but Yours alone.*

These verses are from the hymn “Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy” (LSB 590). They tell of our baptismal life in Christ. The first verse tells of what God has done for us. God reached out to us and made us His own. The second verse tells of our response to that great love that was shown to us. Why am I starting with this for this article???

We need to move beyond our church and out into the world, bringing the Gospel message to those who have not yet heard. Lutheran Church Extension Fund’s mission is to support the church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel. With funds that are available through investors, LCEF is able to support congregations and its workers through loans and services that will further the mission of Christ.

And now let me share some great news for our congregation! Redeemer increased its number of investors **by 6 at the end of 2018!** Thank you to all the investors in LCEF! You will see a benefit at the same time the mission of the church is furthered. Let’s keep this going into 2019!

LCEF has given us a way to reach out and serve the Lord. Prayerfully consider becoming an investor, if even in a small way. It’s a safe way to make resources available for congregations fulfilling their Gospel mission and making ministry happen. Let me know if you have any questions about LCEF. If I cannot answer them, I know people who can!

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Steinke
LCEF Congregational Advocate

Treasurer’s Report As of December 31, 2018

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
INCOME	20,395	13,442	6,953
EXPENSES	<u>16,225</u>	<u>15,995</u>	230
+/-	4,170	(2,553)	
YEAR TO DATE			
INCOME	155,020	161,410	(6,390)
EXPENSES	<u>195,396</u>	<u>192,209</u>	3,187
+/-	(40,376)	(30,799)	



Respectfully submitted,
Jean Clappe-Mixell
North Star Bookkeeping LLC

PRAYERS



SHUT-INS: Judy Clasen, Susan Jahns, and Rita Kaufman.

HEALING for Members: Neva Aldene, Deb Anderson, Carl Bertka, June Brown, Jean Cote, Jan Detrow, Charlie & Pat Finkenbine, Mike & Judy Guastella, Mark Horvath, Chuck Malecki, Angela Mannato, Ken Mielke, Leslie Miles, Lillian Miles, Glenn & Marlene Mossner, Mariana Murray, Bob Payne, Tom & Sue Poyer, Jim Schluentz, Dorothy Sinowetski, Collins Sita, Russ Spooner, Caitlin Tilton, Bob Varone, Robert Vickey, Sally Zierdt, and Artie Zipp

FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Michelle Bernard, Grace Blum, family & friends of Jamie Boliere, Gerry Borwick, Bill Bowers, Jr., Holly Burch, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Emily Byrkett and her unborn child, Diane Carr, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Donna Connors, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Renee Dempsey, Dale & Trudy DesJardins, Ed

Detrow, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Anton Durner, Chris Durner, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Lou Fountain, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Sandra Gettings, Nancy Gleis, Mary Ann Guilfoyle, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, John Hill, Rick Hill, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Chelsea Hutchinson, Stanley and Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Deb Jacobson, Bill Jaquest, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Barb Kern, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Alan Kraus, Erin Kress, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Joe Manson, family & friends of Elsie McGorman-Larsen, Candace McGowan, Rev. Paul Mier, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Ron Mullins, Esther Murphy, Randy & Bev Parkinson, Charles Pentecost Jr., Julie Pool, Robin Potts, John Purdy, Mary Raines, Rev. Ronald Rock, Paul Rollo, Ed Sheahan, Brittney Smith and her unborn child, Don Stewart, Paul Sullivan, Nancy Sly, Charles Tolley, Richard Traversa, George Vespa, Jim & Judy Wahl, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Wava Zeitlow, and Mary Ann Zipp

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Thomas Francis Stynes II, 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!



ELDER & COMMUNION ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

Date	Elder & Reader	Communion Asst
Sunday, Feb 3rd	Bob Varone	Dave Giroux
Sunday, Feb 10th	Rev. Mark Steinke	Dennis Replinger
Sunday, Feb 17th	Paul Brown	Steve Horvath
Sunday, Feb 24th	Mike Nagel	Dave Giroux

Acolyte

Gospel Bearer & Crucifier

Date	Crucifier	Gospel Bearer	Acolyte
Feb 3rd	Mackenzie McDowall	Jayden Bishop	Therin McDowall
Feb 10th	Alyssa Hancock	Bella Fisher	Rylie Giroux
Feb 17th	Ariana Miller	John Miller	Braeden Dolphin
Feb 24th	Mykalina Sabol	Bella Fisher	Kylee Payne

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE



Date	Set-Up	Clean-Up
Sunday, Feb 3rd	Lisa Kress	Gretchen Armstrong
Sunday, Feb 10th	Bob Varone	Sandi Libke and Carolyn Francis
Sunday, Feb 17th	Mindy Duncan	Jean Cote Joyce Schneider
Sunday, Feb 24th	Bob Varone	Gale Bakalik

Directory Update:

We are still planning to produce a new directory. Please fill out a form (available on the Visitor's Desk in the narthex) and update your contact information ASAP. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this project or are still needing your photo taken, please call or email Lisa Kress at 941-889-8938/ lisakress1968@gmail.com. Also, we will need signed permission to use your photo in the directory.

REDEEMER SCHOOL

I can't believe it is February already. January seemed to come and go so fast. We are now in our third quarter at school and the students are back in the swing of things. We have welcomed a new second grader to our class. Arabella has fit right in and is a great addition. She tells her mom every day she loves school again and it was the best day of her life. I am glad that she feels at home and our hope is that she is continually blessed and filled with the love of Christ every day.

Pastor began teaching our students about the life of Jesus as a boy, His trip to the Temple, how John the Baptist baptized him in the Jordan River, and how God sent him into the wilderness where He fasted and prayed for 40 days. We learned that instead of giving into temptation Jesus resisted Satan. Matthew 4:4 says "Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." We learned that we need God more than anything else in this world because it is God who sustains us.

Lutherans schools week was January 27-February 3. As your day school teacher I can say how blessed I am to be able to teach in this environment. Teaching is not only my job, but it is my calling. I am called by God to teach not only academics but also teach the love of Christ to our students. This is not something I take lightly. I thank you for entrusting me with my position. I love this church, school, and the people and students I get to work with daily. We together are raising up a generation of students that will experience and know the love God has for them. It is my prayer that they will be transformed by the hearing of the Word and then share that love with our community and world. During Lutherans school week we celebrated by sharing love for our school, staff, parents, and community. We sang at church, collected food for the food pantry, delivered flowers to the community businesses, made muffins for Redeemer staff, had breakfast with our parents, and shared with VPK students why we love our school.

Registration for school year 2019-2020 as well as Step up for Students will be open in February. Help us spread the word.

Submitted by Nicole Hopkins



***The deadline for the MARCH Newsletter is February 17th.
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!***



Happy Valentine's Day

FEBRUARY 2019

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Tuesdays
at 3:45

2/5 Jesus Tells His
Children to Come

Mark 10:13-16

2/12 Jesus Says to Show
Mercy

Luke 10:25-37

2/19 God Provides for His
Children

Luke 21:1-4

2/26 Jesus Came to Save
Sinners

Luke 19:1-10



Dear Jesus, Thank You for
pastors and teachers who
tell me of Your love. I
rejoice that my name is
written in heaven.

Amen



DCF Inspection was a
Perfect Inspection!

Birthdays

Lily F 2/17

Miah 2/20

Bailey N. 2/21

Ms. Paige 2/24



**National Lutheran
School's Week**

January 27-February 2

Monday-we will be collecting
can goods for the "Englewood
Helping Hands"

Tuesday-we will be doing yard
cleanup for the Church and
having ice cream

Wednesday-VPK will recognize
the Church volunteers and
have donuts and treats

Thursday-we will be having a
Spaghetti Dinner in the
Fellowship Hall at 5:30

Friday-we will be making a
"Praise Wall" and filling it with
crafts made by all the
children

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

**Valentine's Day
Flowers!**



If you would like to have
your child give a beautiful
rose or carnation to
someone special please sign
the order form by the
check-in computer

Pizza For Lunch

All classes will have pizza
for lunch to celebrate
National Pizza Day on
February 8, 2019



President's Day

Closed February 18, 2019

Super Bowl



Wear your favorite Football
Jersey or tee on Feb. 2,
2019

God So Loved the World

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

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

LOVED	GOD	SON	CONDEMN	BELIEVES
THROUGH	SEND	WHOEVER	LIFE	SAVE
PERISH	ETERNAL	GAVE	HIM	WORLD



John 3:16

We may not all understand it, yet...

In the city of Chicago, one cold, dark night, a blizzard was setting in. A little boy was selling newspapers on the corner, the people were in and out of the cold. The little boy was so cold that he wasn't trying to sell many papers. He walked up to a policeman and said, "Mister, you wouldn't happen to know where a poor boy could find a warm place to sleep tonight, would you? You see, I sleep in a box up around the corner there and down the alley and it's awful cold in there, especially at night. Sure would be nice to have a warm place to stay." The policeman looked down at the little boy and said, "You go down the street to that big white house and you knock on the door. When they come to the door you just say 'John 3:16' and they will let you in."

So he did; he walked up the steps to the door, and knocked on the door and a lady answered. He looked up and said, "John 3:16." The lady said "Come on in, son." She took him in and she sat him down in a split bottom rocker in front of a great big old fireplace and she went off. He sat there for a while, and thought to himself, "John 3:16... I don't understand it, but it sure makes a cold boy warm."

Later she came back and asked him "Are you hungry?" He said, "Well, just a little. I have not eaten in a couple of days and I guess I could stand a little bit of food." The lady took him in the kitchen and sat him down to a table full of wonderful food. He ate and ate until he couldn't eat any more. Then he thought to himself, "John 3:16... Boy, I sure don't understand it, but it sure makes a hungry boy full."

She took him upstairs to a bathroom to a huge bathtub filled with warm water and he sat there and soaked for a while. You know, I've not had a bath, a real bath, in my whole life. The only bath I ever had was when I stood in front of that big old fire hydrant as they flushed it out." As he soaked, he thought to himself, "John 3:16... I sure don't understand it, but it sure makes a dirty boy clean."

The lady came in and got him, and took him to a room and tucked him into a big old feather bed and pulled the covers up around his neck and kissed him goodnight and turned out the lights. As he laid in the darkness and looked out the window at the snow coming down on that cold night, he thought to himself, "John 3:16... I don't understand it, but it sure makes a tired boy rested."

The next morning she came back up and took him down again to that same big table full of food. After he ate, she took him back to that same big old split bottom rocker in front of the fireplace and she took a big old Bible and sat down in front of him and she looked up at and she asked, "Do you understand John 3:16?" He said, "No, Ma'am, I don't. The first time I ever heard it was last night when the policeman told me to use it." She opened the Bible to John 3:16, and she began to explain to him about Jesus. Right there in front of that big old fireplace he gave his heart and life to Jesus. He sat there and thought, "John 3:16... I don't understand it, but it sure makes a lost boy feel safe."

You know, I have to confess I don't understand it either, how God would be willing to send His Son to die for me, and how Jesus would agree to do such a thing. I don't understand it either, but it sure does make life worth living.

Author Unknown

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED - OPTION 1



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:

Divine Service: 9:15 AM
Bible Class: 10:30 AM
Sunday School: 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).*