



NOVEMBER 2025



VICAR'S NOTES

Grace, mercy and peace to you. Today, we are taking a look at how we experience peace. If we go to the beach and sit in a chair and just listen to the waves crashing on shore, some find peace. Guiding a sailboat in the Gulf on a reach for the Bahamas, in the evening seeing the water sparkle like a thousand flickering stars, some can find peace. Standing on the edge of a mountain lake and looking at the majesty of an eagle soaring above, some may find respite. Finding time for silence may be one way that we have been guided toward what the world thinks of peace. But we Christians know there is a deeper kind of peace we are craving.

That is peace with God. Peace, I leave with you, my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give you. (John 14:27) The peace that God gives goes beyond all understanding. The Hebrew word "Shalom" means completeness, wholeness. Shalom, the way things ought to be.

But, because of the entrance of sin into the world at the garden, human beings have not had peace with God. That is, we have not had a right relationship with God because our sins cuts us off from the peace with God and not make us one with him.

In fact, this is the way God originally created the world. He created the world to be a garden of delights, the very idea of Eden. It was a place of Shalom. Think about how Adam and Eve were banished from the perfection of the garden of Eden when they sinned and how sin kept them at a distance from God and made their lives difficult. It is called original sin. In addition, each of us has sinned in our thought, words, and deeds, apart from that original sin" for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" St Paul reminds us in Romans 3:23 Plain and simple.

We are sinners. God knows it, and we know it, and there is no peace in that. That is why God declared a plan to save us when He said to Satan in Genesis 3:15 "I will enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring, he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (the first Gospel) God made it clear that he would send a Savior born of a woman to reunite us to Himself and crush the power of sin, death and the devil in the process.

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Then into this broken and divided world, God sent his Son, Jesus, as a little baby, born of a woman, to take on our flesh and blood as a human being. But he was also fully God, He led a sinless life, and He and His father were one. Jesus spent his ministry telling his disciples, that he was the one who would bring the world peace. At the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth, the Lord would read these words from the prophet Isaiah “ The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the year of the Lords favor” (Isaiah 61:1-2) Then he said “ Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:21) But the people there did not believe him and drove him out of town, There seemed to be no peace.

The Jesus said to his disciple “the Son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priest and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised (Luke 9:22) But they did not listen or pay attention. Peter even took Jesus aside and said “Far be it from you, Lord? This shall never happen to you (Matthew 16:22) He did not want this to happen to his master. But Jesus turned to Peter and said, “get behind me satan, you do not have in mind the things of God, but of man”.

But Jesus knows the mission to bring peace to the world. To bring peace between us sinners and God, must include the cross. He did not turn away from His mission, even when he was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane and an angry mob, moved into that seemingly quiet place where the disciple were sleeping. Jesus said to his disciples “are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough, the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going, see, my betrayer is at hand (Mark 14:41-41)

At Jesus’ arrest, Peter did not want Jesus to go down this path of suffering. So, he pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of the roman soldier. But Jesus said” Put your sword back into its place. For all who draw the sword will die by the sword (Matthew 26:52). Jesus sought peace even then, even in the midst of turmoil.

Ultimately, it was the cross that peace between us and God came. When the crucified Jesus breathed His last, the bible says “and behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. What do these versus tell us? We can approach him in the most Holy of Holies. Tearing of the curtain signifies Christ making it possible for believers to go directly into Gods presence. The holy of holies was entered by the high priest only once a year on Yom Kippur (day of atonement). The high priest performed an elaborate sacrificial ceremony in the Temple, successively confessing his own sins, the sins of priests, and the sins of all Israel, clothed in white linen, he then entered the Holy of Holies to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice and to offer incense. Only the High priest was allowed to go to God. We also have the barrier of death destroyed. Death no longer separates us from God, we have new life in Christ, which will be soon revealed to us again on Easter, when we celebrate the empty

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tomb, and Christ's resurrection.

The cross has become a sign of peace for us in our church today. We often make the sign of the cross to acknowledge Christ's presence in worship. We make the sign of the cross on the forehead and on the heart of a baby being baptized to mark them as one redeemed by Christ the crucified, Pastor Mathew makes the sign of the cross when he speaks the benediction over the congregation "May the Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, May the Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace. (numbers 6:25-26)

Jesus reminds us of his peace. In John 20:19-23 On the evening of the first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed, when they say the Lord. Again, Jesus said "peace be with you! And with that he breathed on them and said "receive the Holy spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven: if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.

When we share his peace, we are reminded of the words of Jesus shortly before his crucifixion "peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (John 14:27) There is great comfort in these words.

In closing I leave you with these final words. Please share them

Peace, be with you

Yours in Christ,
Vicar Collins Sita

Prayer Requests



Healing Prayers for members:

Wayne Buel, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Lana Garay, Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Wendy Horvath, Sherrie Keesee (*broken foot*), Jerry Lindberg, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Cathy Mielke, Tom & Sue Poyer, Randy Schaub, Jim & Bonnie Schluentz, Paulette Sita, Bob Varone, Pauline Vickey.

Prayers for Friends and relatives:

Karen Bartram (*niece of Bernadine*), Joseph Caivano (*Lucia's son, continued recovery*), Michelle Cote, Pat Finkenbine and family of Charles Finkenbine Jr. (*who passed away on 10/15/25*), Paulette Gaines (*Cherylann Galway's sister*), Glenn Galway, Mikayla Hacksunda (*Lana's granddaughter*), Friends and Family of Charles Keesee (*who passed away on 09/28/25*), Ron Dozer (*Sherrie Keesee's brother*), Renee Hickman (*Sherrie Keesee's sister*), Suzana Keesee, Ann Ledesma, Connor Morrell & Cerena Morrell, Esther Murphy, Merry Sammons, Desiree Schultz (*Lori Wasson's daughter, fractured ankle – surgery 10/29/25*), Karen Wasson-Geis.

Bible Studies



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

Table Talk: Table talk is a very informal Bible study held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, . Participants come with any sort of question. We work to answer those questions from God's Word and from our Lutheran Confessions. In doing that we all learn more about God's Word and its application in our lives. We are currently studying Philippians and possibly Ephesians.. All are welcome. Please consider joining us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: It is our pleasure to announce that Sunday School has resumed at Redeemer Lutheran Church. All of us here at Redeemer joyfully welcome all children every Sunday, during Divine Service.

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

**PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY --NOV 15th**

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

Property Appreciation Day is the **THIRD SATURDAY** of every month

SERVING THE LORD

Vicar Collins Sita

Secretary Michelle Kluver

Organist

Choir Director

Newsletter Pat Finkenbine

School Admin Wendy Horvath

Child Care Director Brandi Fordham

School Admin Asst

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Treasurer Lucia De Marco-Kruse

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Christian Ed. Catalina Bakas

Human Care Cathy Mielke

Outreach

Assimilation

School Board

Stewardship

Youth

Financial

Secretary Sherrie Keese

Property Mgmt.

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour

***The deadline for the December 2025 Newsletter is November 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!***



Pointing to the Rock of Ages

*Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone. (LSB 761:2)*

While the classic hymn "Rock of Ages" shows up in the *Lutheran Service Book* in the "Hope and Comfort" section, it can also teach us a valuable lesson about Christian stewardship. If that surprises you, stay with me on this one.

No Lutheran would ever dispute the fact that our work does not save us. Ephesians 2 makes it truly clear that we are dead in our trespasses and sins and would remain in that state until Christ raises us by grace. There is not a ladder on which we can climb out of the grave that our sins have dug for us. No blood, sweat nor tears will be able to rescue us. We all know this.

Our works do not save. Christ's work on the cross of Calvary does! He bore human flesh. He carried the burden of our sin to the cross. His body was beaten, bruised and bloodied for us. He has indeed atoned for us! This is more than enough reason for this hymn to be bouncing around in your head all day today!

But our work has a place. The place is in response to what the Father has done for us in Jesus. The Rock of Ages, who is Jesus, becomes the foundation on which our lives of faith are built. The Holy Spirit uses the means of grace to make us God's workmanship that Paul talks about in Ephesians 2:10.

Our workmanship does not display our power or prowess. Like the heavens declare the handiwork of the Creator, the works of a redeemed sinner point others to the salvation that is worked only by Jesus alone. Our work is a response to and reflection of a grace and glory that we ourselves could never accomplish or achieve.

We become stewards of the treasure that is the Gospel. When we faithfully support the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our financial support, we are doing the work which points to the One who alone atones. When we come alongside a struggling sister or brother for whom Christ died and we share the stewardship work of compassion and care, we enfold the treasure of God's love and redemption. When we make it a weekly priority to arrange our schedule to be in the Lord's House with other stewards of the Gospel to receive again and again the Gospel's precious gift, we are stewards of the Body of Christ in the congregation that points even more people to Jesus.

We cannot do this. Jesus does it through us. We are simply stewards of this precious treasure!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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For suggestions, information, or to lend a helping hand, please contact Yvonne Brussel at 516-476-8241, Catalina Bakas at 207-752-7797 or Wendy Horvath at 941-473-7998.

November 6 – 9:30am - Dedication of the flagpole – Public is be invited, we'll notify the Review and the Chamber. Cookies and water will be provided. The children will sing "God Bless the U.S.A" and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. *Contact Catalina*

November 8 – Annual School Fall Festival. More information will be coming. *Contact Wendy*

December 3 –The Hanging of the Greens is scheduled for 3p.m. *Contact Catalina*

December 6 – Rotonda West Holiday Parade. *Contact Catalina*

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING, DECEMBER 14, 2025

Officer Elections & Budget Approval

Redeemer Lutheran is having a Special Voters' Meeting on December 14, 2025. All voting Members are encouraged to attend. Please prayerfully consider joining us and how you might be of service.

Church Office Notes: If you have any updates, corrections, or additions for future Church Bulletins, please contact Michelle in the office, or email church.secretary@redeemerfl.com

Donations: If you are called to donate to any special cause or fund, please make a note on your check or donation envelope.



Financial information is available to
all members upon request.



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



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

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

K & 1 — During the month of October our class has been continuing our lesson in Genesis. This week we have been learning about Isaac and Rebekah's two sons; Esau and Jacob. They have been discussing what it means to "trade blessings" and how we must be content with the blessings the lord gives us. We all have a purpose and must be patient to see what we are given. We have begun American History this 2nd Quarter, over the next few weeks they will learn about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Our Kindergarten class follows along with their workbook and enjoys participating in classroom discussions. We look forward to the upcoming lessons and celebrating fun fall activities. Next week we will celebrate the fall by taking our class to the pumpkin patch and getting a tour of a working farm. *Mrs. Cataloni*

2 & 3—This month, our students have demonstrated exceptional diligence and academic growth, particularly in mathematics, where they have been working hard to achieve fluency in multiplication concepts. Their focused effort in this critical area will provide a strong foundation for future mathematical studies. We are also excited to announce our upcoming field trip to Hunsader Farms at the end of the month. This outing will coincide with our "Pumpkin Week" activities, providing students with a hands-on, experiential learning opportunity that includes fun, fall-themed arts and crafts and seasonal exploration. Students have been actively engaging with *David and Goliath*, exploring key literary themes such as courage, and character development through listening exercises. *Mrs. Awadallah*

4 & 5— What's 4th and 5th grade been up to? The students are drilling each other on multiplication facts. They have also learned force and motion which they used to make egg drop experiments to protect an egg from breaking. The students have continued taking care of their green bean seeds and put them in bigger pots. In the spirit of the Fall Season, the students have been working on a packet that has multiplication, division, ELA (writing skills) and allows them to use their imagination. The students will create a diorama or draw a poster of one of their hotel rooms or the diner. *Mrs. Garcia-Hart*

6 — Dear Families, we've had an exciting month of learning in 6th grade! Students have been diving deep into new concepts across all subjects and showing wonderful curiosity and engagement each day. Here's a peek at what we've been exploring in class: In math, we have been exploring and building our knowledge of factoring numbers and understanding the greatest common factor (GCF) between two numbers. Students are learning how these skills help build a strong foundation for more advanced math topics to come! In science, students have been developing a deeper understanding of how scientists classify living things based on their similarities. Through this process, called classification, we've been studying a variety of fascinating creatures — from insects to crustaceans — and learning how each fits into the scientific system of organization. Our history lessons have taken us on a journey through the Eastern United States, where we've explored the vast eastern forests, the Appalachian Mountains, and the coastal plains. Students have also been discovering the lives of woodland animals, the Indians of the Eastern Woodlands, and the missionaries to the American Indians. It has been inspiring

to see students connect these topics to one another and show excitement for learning. We're looking forward to another wonderful month of exploration and growth! Mrs. Longenecker

7 & 8 Greeting Redeemer family my 7th and 8th grade classes are praying that you are all well. These past few weeks have been exciting in class. The biggest news is we were able to move back into our classroom again. Thank you all for the prayers and helping out my classes while we were in the church. Both classes have been learning to solve Linear equations in math class. In science they have been going over Comets and Meteors, due to 31 Atlas coming through our Solar System. They are excited to see what we have learned from this Comet. In history 8th grade is learning about WW 1 and its effect on the world. The 7th grade is learning about the Reconstruction after the Civil War. We had our first-class trip to Hunsader Farm this past Thursday; the kids had a great time. In English both classes have been working on different kinds of essays. Again, I wish to thank you all for helping out my classes while we were in the Church. We pray that you all have a blessed month and stay safe. Love *Coach Don*.

Upcoming Dates

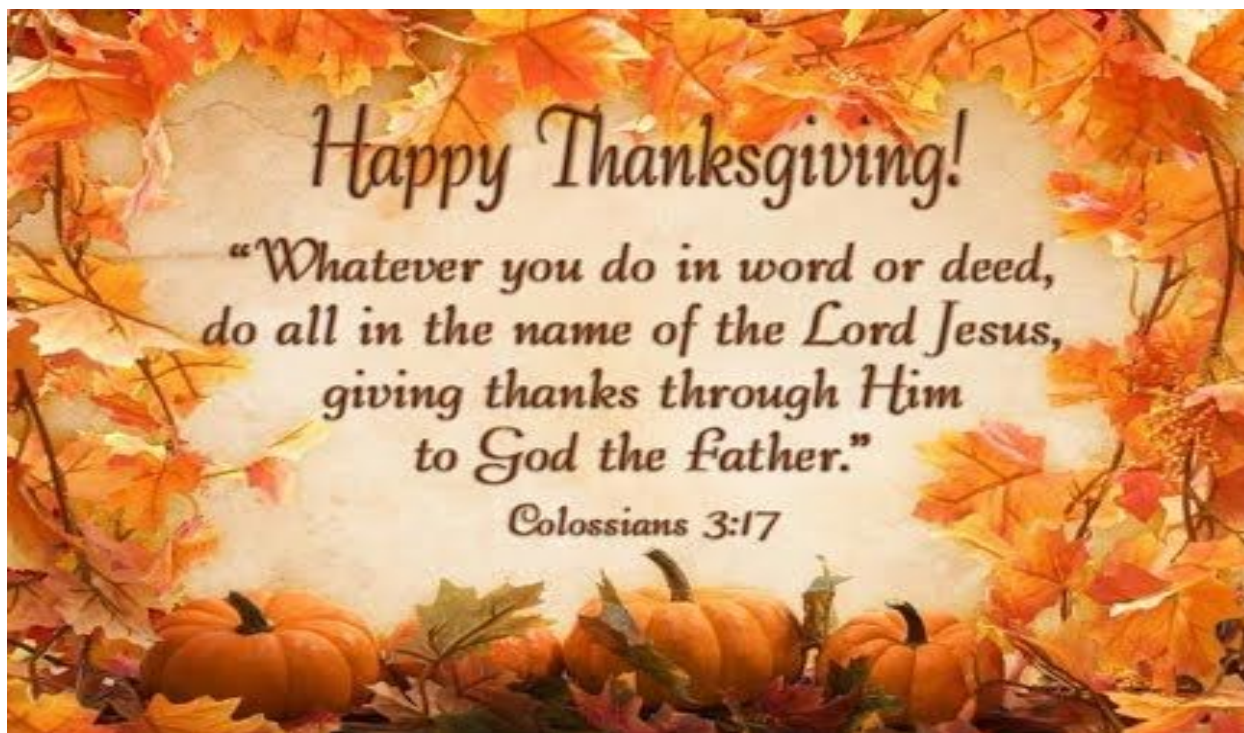
November 7 – Fall Dance 5-7 pm

November 8 – Fall Festival and Scholastic Book Fair 10-1 pm

November 12 – Early Release Day at 1:00 pm

November 24-28 – No School for Thanksgiving Break

Inspiration





HAPPY THANKSGIVING !!

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

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REDEEMER REPORTER

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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)*