

“THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS AND NUMBERS”

We just replaced the 2016 calendar with a fresh new 2017 calendar. And on that new calendar we will quickly load it up with many activities, doctor's appointments, a trip or two, etc. as each day, week and month passes. We will count down days for special occasions. We will count how many days left for school, how many days before that vacation. This New Year, we may also decide to sit down and look at our wage or pension change for the year and compare it to the rate of inflation and see whether we've lost or gained in comparison to last year's numbers. We look at the numbers of our savings and investments; our taxes and our debts. When you think about it, we use numbers as a measuring stick of success or failure and to see where there are areas of concern that we should work on and improve.

To be sure, we live in a world obsessed with numbers. I mean, we count almost everything. And we count things in the church as well. We count members. We count attendance. We count offerings. We may even count how many pages Pastor's article will be this month. We pick up the annual report and compare last year's numbers to the numbers of the previous year and we ask ourselves the question, "Were we successful or did we fail?"

In the church, this should not be

the question we ask. In the church, numbers are *not* a measuring stick of success or failure. Numbers *don't* tell us if a church is doing what Christ has mandated her to do or not to do.

In His Church, Christ has mandated that His Word be taught in its truth and purity; that people would be brought into His kingdom by Baptism; and that they be strengthened in the faith through the Sacrament of the Altar.

If people don't like the truth of God's Word that is taught and numbers decline, well that isn't the failure of the church, is it? If people don't want their children to be baptized even though they've been taught what Baptism is, that isn't the failure of the church, is it?

On the other hand, *if the church ceases to teach the truth* and numbers increase, that is not success for the church. *If faithful teaching and preaching is replaced* with what itching ears want to hear so that people flock to hear it, that is, in fact, a failure of that church. Although numbers go up, all numbers, the success of the church isn't in the numbers but in the faithfulness of her teaching and administration. Churches that do not remain faithful are churches that are no longer churches of Christ, but churches of the antichrist.

Success for the church means



doing what Christ has given the church to do: forgive the sins of the repentant sinner and retain the sins of the unrepentant sinner so long as they do not repent; follow and teach God's Word; baptize; commune; and love of neighbor. So, the church doesn't need to be obsessed with numbers.

This doesn't mean we should ignore numbers. It is helpful to know how we are doing in relation to our budget so we know if we need to increase giving. It is valuable to know how many of our members attend church so we know how many we need to reach out to and invite to come back to receive the gifts of God with us. It's even useful to know how many visits the pastor is making on behalf of the congregation.

What we don't need to do is obsess with numbers. God gives growth to His Church when and where it pleases Him. God opens hearts to give generously as a gift of the Spirit when and where it pleases Him. Let's leave the numbers to God and focus on doing what He has mandated for us, His Church, to do.

Regarding the number of pages the Pastor used for his article this month, you didn't have to count past one. Sometimes less is more. Enjoy the remainder of the Newsletter.

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Jim Kren

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we, the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church and Child Care move into a new calendar and church year, I would first like to sincerely thank all of our members and Associate Members who tirelessly volunteer of their time and talents each and every day. I will not even try to mention individually all of the support we receive from many of you so as not to forget anyone.

However it does mean a lot and is vital to the ongoing mission of our congregation. We still have open positions on our boards and committees and I would ask everyone to consider becoming more involved in this ministry (as you can see by the column to the right.)

In 2016 we were able to complete many more of our projects and would not be able to do so without the help and support of our congregation. As we move into 2017 we look forward, with God's help, to continue his work here at Redeemer.

Although we have been able to complete many needed items of repair and maintenance, our Church and Child Care properties are starting to show their age and require much needed updating. I have asked the Chair of our Properties Committee Jim Metzker to update the Church Council at our February meeting and to recommend and prioritize items for consideration.

I personally look forward to 2017 and again want to sincerely thank all who make Redeemer what it is today.

Blessings,

Stephen Wurster

SERVING THE LORD

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

OFFICERS

President	Stephen Wurster
Vice President	Bill Bowers
Treasurer	Denise Fountain
Secretary	June Brown

BOARDS

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

GROUPS/GUILDS

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

FROM THE TREASURER

Treasurer's Report For the Year Ending December 31, 2016:

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/(UNDER)</u>
INCOME:	165,637	167,292	(1,655)
<u>EXPENSE:</u>	<u>179,022</u>	<u>206,906</u>	(27,884)
+/-	(13,385)	(39,614)	

This year was very busy financially. Some of the highlights included new flooring, tree trimming, steeple and cross renewal, stucco repair and paint on the exterior of the church, new exterior lights and organ repair. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the congregations's participation through free will offerings, fund raisers, and benevolent donations. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
Florence D. Fountain
Treasurer, Redeemer Lutheran Church



Stewardship

The psalmist begins the 24th psalm with,

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

In the beginning of Genesis, God creates everything and puts Adam in the Garden to work it and to take care of it. It is clear that man was created to work and that *work is the stewardship of all of the creation that God has given him.* This is the fundamental principle of biblical stewardship.

God owns everything, we are simply managers or administrators acting on his behalf. Therefore, stewardship expresses our obedience regarding the administration of everything God has placed under our control, which is all encompassing. Stewardship is the commitment of one's self and possessions to God's service, recognizing that we do not have the right of control over our property or ourselves.

Echoing Deuteronomy 8:17, we might say: "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But Deuteronomy 8:18 counsels us to think otherwise:

Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.

"This is the fundamental principle of biblical stewardship: God owns everything, we are simply managers or administrators acting on His behalf."

SERVING JESUS AND HIS CHURCH ACTIVELY

On Sunday, January 22nd we installed newly elected leaders of Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care into their respective positions of responsibility. You may also remember there was a list of leadership positions that remain vacant. Below you can read about these positions and some of the responsibility they carry. If you have ever had questions about what some of these Boards and Committees do, I hope this information will set you free to become actively involved in some of them, or at least one of them. Here are the Boards that are in need of a leader, that is, a chair. But remember, every Board can use additional members. The Board doesn't consist of just the chair.

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

Board of Stewardship – The Board Chair is responsible for the following: 1) Appointing and training one or more Board members to assure proper coverage in the absence of the Board Chair; 2) Oversee the Endowment Fund Committee and report fund activities to Council; 3) Initiate programs for the development of good stewardship attitudes in the membership of the congregation in regard to time, talent and treasures; 4) Determine the level of stewardship activities of the Congregation and plan programs and activities to improve the stewardship spirit of all; and 5) Provide for the training and utilization of members of the Congregation for the work of Christ's Kingdom, by the utilization of time, talent and treasure.

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

Board of Community and Parish Fellowship (BCPF) – The Board Chair is responsible for: 1) Appointing and training one or more Board members to assure proper coverage in the absence of the Board Chair; and 2) Shall serve on the School Board. The responsibilities of the BCPF members include: 1) Cultivate concern in the Congregation for people who do not yet believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord; 2) Assist the Pastor(s) in follow-up contact with church visitors and work with him in maintenance of good records of outreach/visitor calls; 3) Offer opportunities for witness training for members of the Congregation; 4) Conduct special visitations to witness for Christ and to invite prospective members to congregational activities; 5) Promote the invitation by members of unchurched friends, acquaintances, and relatives to Church services and activities; 6) Participate in community activities that help identify Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care; 7) Welcome visitors and extend hospitality and Congregation friendship; 8) Develop and maintain publicity for the

(Continued on Page 5)

SERVING JESUS (continued)

Church, School & Child Care; 9) Sponsor Church activities which promote parish fellowship and outreach to the community; and 10) Supervise 'Coffee Hour' table on Sunday morning for fellowship among members, visitors and guests before and after Church services.

Board of Christian Education – This Board shall establish Christian Education Programs and policies under the guidance of the Pastor(s), providing leadership personal for the following Christian Education Programs of Redeemer Church: 1) Sunday School Superintendent; 2) Cradle Roll Coordinator; 3) Vacation Bible School (VBS) Coordinator. With the assistance of Board members, the Board Chair shall also: 1) Assure an active expression of Christian love and concern in all programs; 2) Assure adequate membership on the Board to support all Christian Education Programs; 3) Assure required means, supplies and facilities to implement all Christians Education Programs; 4) Assure adequate trained staffing for all programs including Sunday School Superintendent, teachers, Cradle Roll Coordinator, and Vacation Bible School Coordinator; 5) Schedule utilization of Redeemer transportation with Property Management; and 6) The Chair shall serve on the School Board.

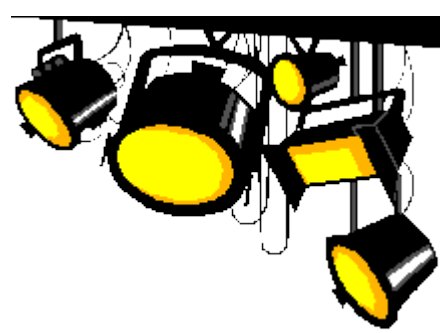
Board of Youth – The Board Chair and board members shall: 1) Share a genuine love and concern for youth along with a dedicated interest in providing and carrying out the opportunity for youth to grow spiritually, intellectually and socially; 2) Establish and implement programs which will encourage participation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

There is no doubt these Boards carry a tremendous amount of responsibility. However, before you eliminate yourself from being a participant on any of these Boards. What if you were to sit down with the President and Pastor and discuss what area or areas of responsibilities need to be addressed first. Rather than looking at the entire pie, perhaps taking one piece at a time just might be the method to rejuvenate the particular board you have interest in serving. Contact us (Steve Wurster, President: 954-328-5261; Pastor Kress: 941-979-2976).

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



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



This month we shine our Newsletter Volunteer Spotlight on Denise Fountain. As Treasurer, she dedicates so very much of her time in keeping the books of Redeemer Lutheran Church in good order. With you weekly offerings, she pays the bills, makes the phone calls, reconciles accounts. Many, many hours are dedicated toward this work, and this is an unpaid position. Thank you Denise for your steadfast commitment in this vital area of Redeemer! Denise also volunteers for a variety of other tasks as well. She assists in Property Appreciation Days, fundraisers, Hanging of the Greens, singing in the choir, just to name a few. It is so true, Denise, along with her husband, Terry, volunteer many hours of their time toward the life of the church. Denise & Terry have been members of Redeemer since 2013, transferring from Zion Lutheran Church, Brainerd, MN. No doubt they have taken great joy in giving of their time to the care, physically and administratively, to their church – Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care. Thank you Denise for loving Redeemer the only way you know how, with dedicated commitment to the Lord's Church.



PRAYERS

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

HEALING: Members: Wilma Adair, Bob Aldene, Madalen Campbell, Kathy Demma, Sharon Eisele, Pat Finkenbine, Bernice Heppner, Rita Kaufmann, Paula Maramonte, Ken Mielke, Leslie Miles, Marlene Mossner, Carolyn Plesner, Tom Poyer, Duwayne Schoeneck, Fred Toth, Bob Varone, Robert Vickey, and Artie Zipp

FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Bert Blackford, Grace Blum, Michelle Bernard, Bill Bowers, Jr., Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Jack Carlos, Diane Carr, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Dick Clemens, Joanne and Randy Clymo, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Renee Dempsey, Dale DesJardins, Ed Detrow, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, the Family & Friends of MaCall Dunn, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Marla Flores, James Fogt, Lou Fountain, Denver Fredett, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Sandra Gettings, Nancy Gleis, Mary Guilfoyle, Melisa Gustavus, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Jake Harper, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Joel Heppner, Walter Heppner, Glory Herget, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Carol

Holmes, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Stanley and Lynne Jablonski, Bill Jaquest, Chris Johnson, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, John Kearns, Rev. Michael Kettner, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Stacey Lampert, Ray Likowski, John Lockhart, Sean Maki, Joe Manson, Candace McGowan, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Trista Mosier, Irving & Esther Murphy, Charles Pentecost Jr., John Purdy, Mary Raines, Preston & Bryson Ricker, Rev. Ronald Rock, Sally Rodgers, Ashley Scudder, Nancy Sly, Charles Tolley, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, and Mary Ann Zipp.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Nicholas Beltz, Michael Broughton, Brian Jackson, Jonathan Koen, David MacLeod, and Charles D. Weishaar.



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

***The deadline for the MARCH Newsletter is February 19th
Please have all your submissions sent to patchas123@gmail.com
OR drop it off at the church office by the date indicated above.
Thank You!***

Those Who Serve

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE



Date	Set-up	Clean-up
Sunday, Feb. 5th	Gretchen Armstrong	Vicki Fernald
Sunday, Feb. 12th	Bob Varone	Jane Harty
Sunday, Feb. 19th	Gwen Wurster	Gale Bakalik
Sunday, Feb. 26th	Jane Harty	Sandi Libke



ELDER & COMMUNION ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

Date	Elder & Reader	Communion Asst
Sunday, Feb. 5th	Bob Varon	Mark Horvath
Sunday, Feb. 12th	Collins Sita	Jim Schluentz
Sunday, Feb. 19th	Larry Wiech	Steve Horvath
Sunday, Feb. 26th	Steve Wurster	Dennis Replinger



Date	Crucifier	Acolyte
Sunday, Feb. 5th	Mackenzie McDowall	Jayden Anderson
Sunday, Feb. 12th	Toby Hancock	Alyssa Hancock
Sunday, Feb. 19th	Rylie Anderson	Ava Tosto
Sunday, Feb. 26th	Daniel Black	Mykalina Sabol

Websites: Church — www.redeemerfl.com Child Care — www.redeemerfl-cc.com
 FACEBOOK: [Redeemer Lutheran Church](https://www.facebook.com/RedeemerLutheranChurch)



ASH WEDNESDAY DIVINE SERVICE*
with the Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday, March 1st – 4:30 & 7:00 PM

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesday, March 8th – 4:30 & 7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 15th – 4:30 & 7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 22nd – 4:30 & 7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 29th – 4:30 & 7:00 PM
Wednesday, April 5th – 4:30 & 7:00 PM

SUPPER WILL BE SERVED
BETWEEN MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES
Between 5:30 – 6:30 PM



Lawn Care Services

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

Real Estate Services

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

Cleaning Services

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

Pet Sitting Services

Do you need someone to watch your four legged friend?
Call Michelle Kalstrup, Certified Vet Tech (CVT) at 941-705-1726
or email her at: pawfectsouls@yahoo.com or visit her at
www.pawfectsoulspeeting.com

Bible Studies



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: Our Sunday Morning Bible Class focuses on the Church's care for the needy through mercy. The study is called "Feed My Lambs." Jesus said, "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36). What do you suppose this verse means for Christians? Join us on Sunday mornings at 8:00 AM to explore the answers to this question and be fed. We class meets in the church sanctuary.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: On Tuesdays at 10 AM in the large meeting room of Fellowship Hall we dive into the Word of God and consider: **THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST: WHAT'S IN THE NAME?** Did you know that the name Jesus means "the Lord saves?" So, Jesus is His personal name. Did you know that the name Christ means "the Anointed?" So, Christ is His work. Furthermore, have you ever wondered if there is any significance when reading God's Word sometimes scripture will read "Jesus Christ" and other times scripture will read "Christ Jesus?"

LADIES BIBLE CLASS ON THURSDAY MORNINGS: The ladies of Redeemer Lutheran Church and all their lady friends gather to study God's Word with the aid of GOOD NEWS magazine on Thursdays at 10AM in the Church Narthex. This season we are discovering **CHRIST IN YOU.** This study directs us to key places in God's Word which repeatedly notes that Christ actually lives inside you and all His followers. What a blessed revelation this is from our gracious God! Yes, coffee is served.

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 18th at 8:00 am.**



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

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



Redeemer Child Care

Happy Valentine's Day

Bible Lessons

Children's Chapel is on
Mondays at 3:45 PM

2/6 Jesus Tells His
Children to Come

Mark 10:13-16

2/13 Jesus Says to
Show Mercy

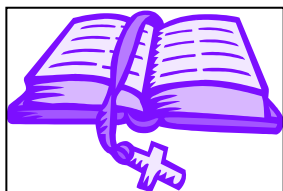
Luke 10:25-37

2/20 God Provides for
His Children

Luke 21:1-4

2/27 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

President's Day
**Closed February 20,
2017**

A Great Big Thank You!

Dear Ms. Vicky & Ms. Lisa,
As my teacher leaves and
goes away, I love her very
much is what I want to
say. As she explores a
whole new future I want
to say how much I'll
always miss her!

Love From The Four Year
Room, Reed, Rose,
Bentley, Alivia, Jackson,
Cali, Arabella, Jordan,
Mason, Samantha,
Braxton, Trent,
Lily & Tucker

We are going to miss you!



If you would like to have
your child give a
beautiful rose or
carnation to a loved one
for valentine's day
please be on the lookout
for more information.

Thank you for participating!

We had a fun week
celebrating National
Lutheran School's Week
Jan 23-27

The children were very
excited to wear different
clothes all week to fit the
theme and eating a pancake
breakfast. Yum!!!



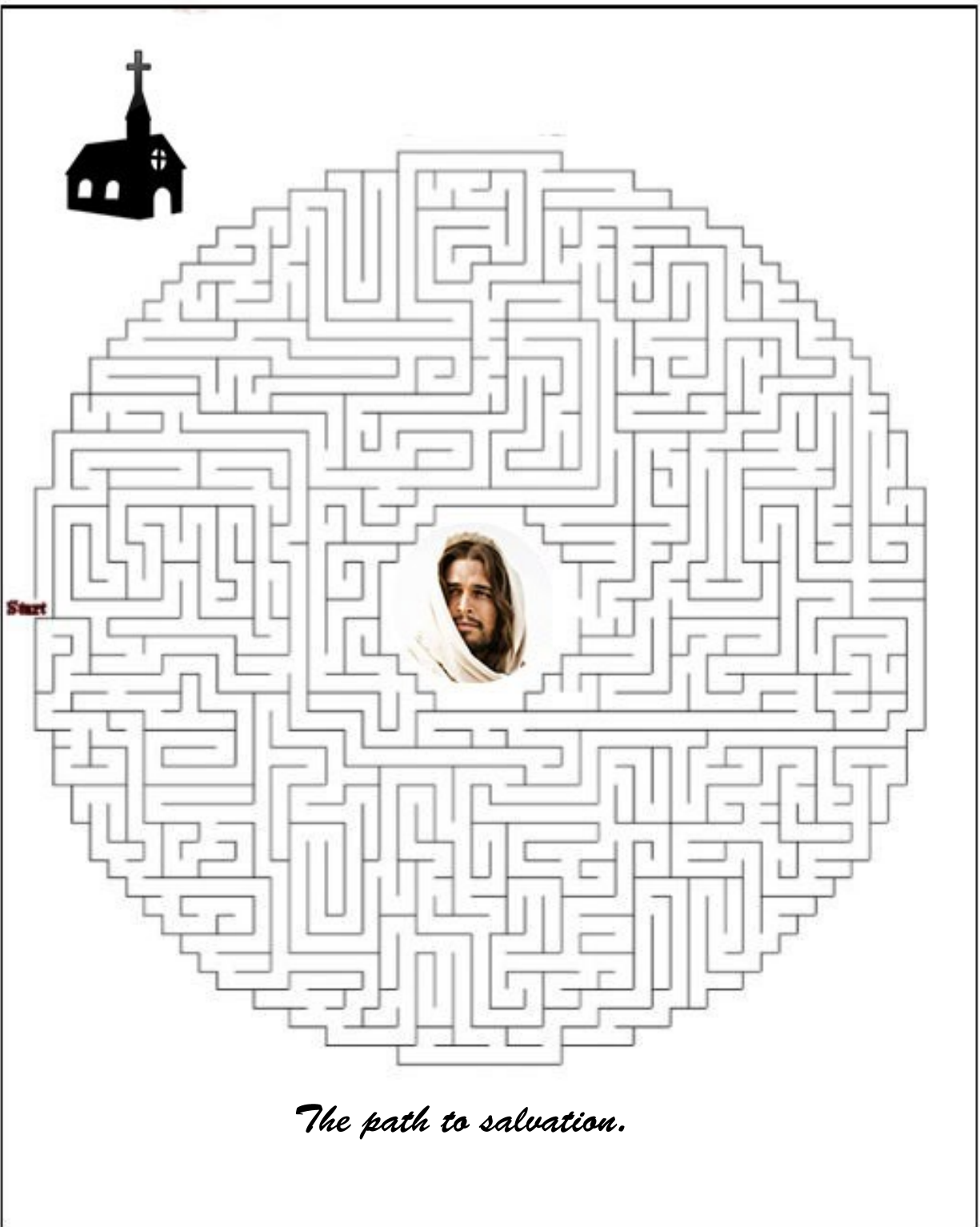
Each class will be
celebrating Valentine's
Day differently. Please
check with you child's
teacher for information.



Spring Photos will be
March 16 & 17

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

PUZZLE PAGE



Get out your colored pencils

And now these three remain:
faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is

Love

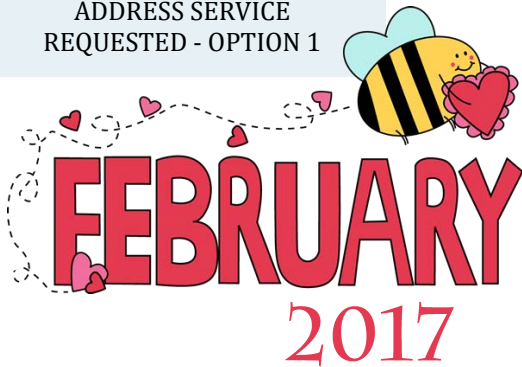
1 Corinthians 13:13



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

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED - OPTION 1

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PLACID, FL
PERMIT 774



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

REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.
Pastor

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

REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, Associate Members and Visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

WORSHIP SERVICES:

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

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 941-475-2410

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

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