



April/May 2021



**THE BODY OF CHRIST AND YOU**

At the April Voters’ Assembly my State of the Parish Address focused not on the marks of the Church – Word and Sacrament – rather my address focused on the recipients, the beneficiaries of those gifts, the body of Christ, that is, the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church. In the past my address would clearly emphasize that the State – the condition – of the Parish is determined on the pure teaching and preaching of God’s Word and the administration of the Sacraments according to Christ’s institution. For more than 40 years this has been the case here at Redeemer. Faithful pastors have done this very thing in the stead and by the command of Christ Jesus.

The recipients of these gifts have benefited eternally. Members of Redeemer Lutheran Church faithfully come to worship to hear the pure Word of God taught in its truth and receive the Sacraments in faith according to Christ’s own Words. In receiving these gifts the individual members, in true repentant faith, receive the very thing that God in Christ bestows – forgiveness, life, and eternal salvation. What a joy it is to receive these gifts each time you worship at Redeemer.

The Apostle Paul writes to the Christian believers in Corinth, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ... and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many” (1 Corinthians 12:12-14). Redeemer Lutheran Church has many members and all the members, young and old, male and female, are united into the one body Jesus Christ through the miraculous power of Holy Baptism. In your Baptism you were grafted into Christ Jesus. In your Baptism you were sealed and made holy by the working of the Holy Spirit. In your Baptism the Holy Spirit marked you as God’s own child. In your Baptism the Holy Spirit placed you into God’s family and bestowed upon you His holy name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

No doubt, God has been at work in you, to lead you to faith in Christ Jesus your Lord. This continues through the ministry of the gospel, the good news of what God has done for us in and through our Savior, Jesus Christ. In your Baptism, the Holy Spirit created in you the gift of faith, and since then, the Holy Spirit has been nourishing your faith, through Law/Gospel preaching and teaching and receiving the Sacrament of the Altar. This is how the Spirit works, through the means of grace, to build you up in your most holy faith. The Holy Spirit didn’t work just once in you in your Baptism. The Holy Spirit continually works through the means of grace in you. This is called the work of sanctification: God the Holy Spirit making you holy again through the gifts of Christ’s Word and blessed Sacrament.

The Spirit gave us this faith and He continues to work this faith in us, so that we trust in Jesus for

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our salvation, and not in ourselves. The Holy Spirit works this saving faith when and where He pleases but never apart from the Word of God.

The Holy Spirit brings us into this community of faith called the Church. “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.” Yes, you were baptized into the body of Christ. This is the family of God, a family of mutual support and edification, called together to build up one another, to care for one another, to love one another. This is the people of God on a mission in the world, a mission from God, to shine forth the light of Christ into this sin-filled-darkened world, both here at home and around the world.

And in this body of Christ, the local congregation you are a member – Redeemer Lutheran Church – each of us has a part to play. That’s right, an active role. We are moving parts of the body. “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Cor. 12:27).

The Spirit has gifted each one of us in a way to serve the common good, to serve the purpose of the church as a whole. Everyone is needed. If one is missing or is not doing their part, the whole body suffers. But when each of us are engaged, involved, active and doing what God has equipped us to do, then the body is built up and strengthened and functions that much better.

Paul writes: “For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body.”

Everyone is needed – everyone. According to the Word of God no one is left out. Each of us has a part to play. Your pastor may be the mouth, at least up here in the chancel area – at the pulpit, at the lectern, at the Baptismal Font, and at the Altar – but you can use your mouth too, out there among your friends and neighbors and family. You can tell them of the love of Jesus, you can say, “Jesus loves you and He died for you, that you may have eternal life with Him.”

What about your feet and your hands? Is there a fellow church member who could use a hand? I mean literally? Is there someone who isn’t as able to get around and do things as they used to? Maybe they could use a ride somewhere (doctor’s office, grocery

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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

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Property Mgmt.

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Lisa Kress

Coffee Hour

store), or someone to run an errand for them? Or is there someone who would like a visit and have someone to talk to? Or perhaps someone could bring a meal over to someone?

The love of Christ, demonstrated in acts of kindness, that's what happens in the body of Christ, in our life together as members of the same body.

Then, of course, there is our life together right here within the workings of the congregation. The various offices and positions of leadership and responsibility that need to be taken care of. President, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, elders, stewardship, finance, etc. There are many positions that need people to fill them. And there are many tasks that need people to do them. There are bathrooms to be cleaned. Trash to be taken out. Altar paraments to be changed. Communion vessels to be prepared and set up, each week. All of these things I've just mentioned – clean-up, altar guild, finance, counting – the people who have been doing these could use some help. These things are not glamorous, but they are valuable avenues of service. How about you? Can you help? Call me, text me, send me an email telling me of your desire to be an active member of the body of Christ, and I'll point you in the right direction, the direction the Lord Jesus would have you help other members of the body of Christ here at Redeemer.

Let me be clear: all of this needs to be coated and saturated with love. Love is like the lubricant that keeps the parts of the body fluid and functioning smoothly. Otherwise, without love, at the joints, the bones will rub against one another and there will be friction. We don't need that. It's hard enough being a local Christian congregation in a world and a climate that is hostile to Christianity. We don't need the church fighting within itself, biting and devouring one another, and spreading negative talk. That only weighs us down and discourages us. It is not helpful. That is all contrary to the Word of God. Constructive criticism, yes, wrapped and cultivated in God's love, certainly. But tearing down one another and tearing down our congregation? May it never be. All of us must examine our hearts and the use of our tongues. We must confess our sins, repent, receive God's forgiveness, and ask God's help to do better.

I conclude with these inspired words again from the Apostle Paul: "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:19-22). There is no greater place to receive such grace than coming to worship at Redeemer Lutheran Church where God bestows His gifts upon you and in you, and to be with you wherever you go.

Your Beloved Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Jim Kress



## ALTAR GUILD

Upon receiving updated information on the spread of the Covid-19 via surface contact, the Board of Elders would like the Altar Guild to begin to prepare and clean up the altar for the Lord's Supper starting **Sunday, May 16, 2021**. To best implement this, we would like to initiate a training and retraining for all new and current Altar Guild members. This will allow the Elders and the Pastor the opportunity to guide us on the procedures to take to keep the distribution of communion sacred.

A brief Altar Guild workshop will take place after the first service on **Sunday, May 9, 2021**. Again, this will be brief, just to go over current procedures since the pandemic.

Note: the Altar Guild is **seeking new members**. ☺ Please contact Lisa Kress at 941-889-8938 for questions you may have and with your willingness to serve on the Altar Guild.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Today I would like to introduce a new matter to you, the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church. This was first brought up to the church leaders over 5 years ago and has since been thoughtfully considered by several different boards, always examined and never rejected. This consideration has not been entered into with haste, rather prayerful thought, meditation, and careful restraint. This consideration will take much time to accomplish and will be given all the time necessary in order to answer your questions. There will be no motion on this matter today, nor in the near future. Instead I will only introduce the consideration and the facts for you to review and contemplate over time. As has the current boards, the Elders and the Church Council, and previous boards before them, the congregation is invited to consider this request.

The request that was addressed in 2015 was a simple one, "Should Redeemer Lutheran Church change district affiliations?" Sounds simple enough, doesn't it? But in considering this request many other questions arose that needed answers. "Why would we need to?", "What choices do we have available to us?" "Can we even do this?" "How do we do it?" "Has it ever been done before?" "What would be the result if we do?" "What would be the result if we don't?" In the coming weeks and months we will examine these questions and other questions - questions you may have or may develop along the way - and we will examine, seek, and explore answers and ultimately share them with you.

First I must point out and stress to you this consideration is a district change only, not a synodical change. We are not considering leaving the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The past and current leadership of Redeemer Lutheran Church, along with her pastor are grateful to be a part of an orthodox church body such as the LCMS. Redeemer Lutheran Church and Pastor Kress are members of the Missouri Synod and desire to remain members of the Missouri Synod. We are only considering a change in district relationship, that is, districts within the Missouri Synod, which by the way, has 35 different districts.

So lets start there, with the 35 different districts. There are 33 geographical districts and 2 non-geographical districts. We are currently a member of the Florida-Georgia District. The geographical districts are drawn up by arbitrary geographical boundaries, such as state lines or congregations in proximity to districts of another state. For example, the panhandle of Florida is not in the FL-GA District, it is part of the Southern District. Here are some other facts you may find useful for comparison within the FL-GA District: there are 203 congregations; 22 circuits (a smaller division within the district, composed of 7-20 member congregations); with approximately 53,800 baptized members. The FL-GA District was formed in 1948 and is headquartered in Orlando.

There are two non-geographical districts, the English and the SELC (Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church) Districts. These two districts are not bound by borders or district lines. Historically the English was formed because most of the Lutheran Church spoke German and their services were in German, so the English speaking churches actually formed their own synod in the late 1800's. In 1911 the Missouri Synod accepted the English Synod as a separate district within the Missouri Synod.

The English District has 163 congregations in 17 different states and also in Ontario and Quebec, Canada. There are 25 circuits with 48,600 members. They are headquartered in

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Farmington, Michigan. Currently there are 4 congregations in Florida belonging to the English District - Celebration Lutheran Ch. in St. John's, Trinity Lutheran Ch. in Ocala, Faith Lutheran Church in Naples and Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Inverness. Interestingly one of our own members accepted a call at Tree of Life about 18 months ago, Rev. Mark Steinke. Another interesting side note; the Lutheran Witness which was originally published by the Cleveland District in 1882 was taken over by the English Synod in 1888 and became an LCMS publication upon the 1911 merger between the English and Missouri Synods.

The SELC District was formed in 1902 in Pennsylvania. They merged with the LCMS in 1971. They are located in 11 states with 52 congregations, 4 circuits and have 17,000 members. In my research I could only locate 3 of the four churches, St Luke's in Oviedo, Holy Cross at Lake Mary and Faith Vieira in Rockledge, Florida.

We know that the process of changing districts can be possible as other churches have done so before us. This procedure is not foreign in the Missouri Synod. We will give you an example of this and how it was recently done in another congregation. The process involves written requests to be accepted into a district and an accompanying request to leave a district.

The reason why a local congregation would seek to leave one district for another is complex. A congregation looks to the district and the circuit within that district for fellowship and ecclesial support. In the same way you would with your closest friends. You would want to have as much in common with them, to be like minded, and similar in purpose. You would expect their interests and practices to be similar to yours.

Such is the case with districts and circuits within the districts. Although congregations are represented at the District Convention with two voting delegates, at the National Convention, voting delegates are elected within each circuit - at the Circuit Forum - to represent their circuit of congregations at the National Synodical Convention. There they cast their votes on many important issues facing churches, schools, and auxiliaries within the LCMS. If a congregation is not of the same mind as the rest of the circuit, delegates from that congregation will most likely never have representation at the National Convention. The voting at the National Convention often affects the direction of the church.

We, as a congregation within the FL-GA District and our Circuit, are not always in agreement with regard to practice. In another example, if we were to be in need of a vacancy pastor, should we ever be without a pastor, that pastor, supplied at the request of district/circuit leadership, may not be in agreement with our current practices. So in trying to put the best possible construction on this we have more in common with the English District than we currently do with the FL-GA District. This isn't over theological issues but more on practices performed by many of the churches in the FL-GA District and our circuit. Furthermore, with sister churches in Naples and Inverness, pastoral fellowship would not be sacrificed with this change either.

It is at this point that the Board of Elders and the Church Council recommends consideration of changing from the Florida-Georgia District to becoming members of the English District. We will be considering questions and discussions of this matter throughout the year until all questions are answered. May the Lord grant us guidance as we consider this venture peaceably and in a godly order.

Wade Duncan



## UPDATED SERVICE PROCEDURES

A year has passed since entering into the time of COVID. For all of us, we have had to make changes to our lifestyle. For some, we endured contracting the virus and are grateful to have recovered. And still for others, we suffered the loss of loved ones to this hidden, infectious, deadly virus.

Then and now, the Board of Elders prayerfully considered how to best provide a safe worship environment for servants, worshipers, and visitors. A list of procedures was produced, and with the help of God, has worked very well. Social distancing, discouragement of handshaking, wiping and disinfecting surfaces, availability of hand sanitizer, etc. were some of the procedures implemented for a safe worship experience. Even after our state began to open up a little bit and finally lifting all restrictions, the procedures the Elders put into practice have not changed.

Recently, the CDC has confirmed that there is no significant risk of catching the coronavirus from a surface or object. They clarified their position by stating that people generally contract COVID-19 through direct contact with a sick person or from airborne transmission. Also from the CDC: "There is little scientific support for routine use of disinfectants in community settings, whether indoor or outdoor," to prevent spread through surfaces. In most situations, cleaning surfaces using soap or detergent, and not disinfecting, is enough to reduce risk.

Case reports of COVID have shown that the virus can be transmitted when a person touches their nose, mouth or eyes, **after** touching something that an infected person has recently **coughed or sneezed on**. Studies have found, according to the CDC that the risk of catching the virus via a surface contact is generally **less than 1 in 10,000**.

With this updated information, the Board of Elders will begin to lift some of the original procedures employed to our services more than a year ago. As of now, the communion rail will no longer be sanitized following every use. However, cleaning the rail will still be done routinely. Additionally, any service bulletins left behind may be reused at the later service.

It is important that we all continue to follow social distancing practices and refrain from handshaking and the exchange of comforting hugs. Please remember to respect the practices of others. In addition, these ongoing procedures will remain in place:

- Service bulletins are located on the table inside the sanctuary (no ushers, and no hymnals needed);
- The offering plate is also located on the table just inside the sanctuary with the bulletins (no passing of offering plate);
- Available pews **do not** have hymnals on the cushions (using only every other row);
- During the distribution of Holy Communion, safe distancing measures still apply, with the exception of couples and families; or, if you prefer to receive Holy Communion in your pew, the pastor will come and distribute the gifts of Jesus to you (please notify the pastor beforehand);
- Masks are not required, but worshipers are free to wear them during worship service for personal safety and comfort.

Remember, we all come to worship to receive the gifts of our Lord in both Word and Sacrament. Let us come to worship in peace, and leave with the peace which surpasses all understanding, while also loving our neighbors, especially the members of the household of faith.

In Faithful Service to Our Lord Jesus,  
Board of Elders, Redeemer Lutheran Church

*Rob Tilton, Head Elder*  
*Michael Nagel, Elder*  
*Collins Sita, Elder*  
*Stephen Dannewitz, Elder*

*Ron Tandy, Elder*  
*Wade Duncan, Chairman of*  
*the Congregation*  
*Rev. Jim Kress, Pastor*



## A Financially Strong Lutheran Partner.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has served as the financial extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 1978, offering funding and resources in support of the church. Our investors make it possible for us to provide customized loans and support services to new and growing ministries as well as loans for Rostered Church Workers who dedicate their lives to sharing the Gospel.

**Invested in the LCMS community.** We wouldn't be able to help support Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries without the faithful support of 60,000 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) investors. This strong and stable base means the important role LCEF plays in supporting the LCMS will continue long into the future. You can learn about the powerful ways we do this through reading our Interest Time publication.

**Invested in your financial future.** Our generous investors and dedicated loan customers have made it possible for us to maintain a strong capital position. We offer competitive rates and ensure your invested funds remain accessible and in your control. With LCEF, you experience the benefits of working with an established financial institution while growing the LCMS.

**Invested in supporting you around the clock.** LCEF offers secure, 24/7 online access to investments and loans through MyAccount. View balances and statements, complete transactions and even receive alerts when payments are due. Communicate directly with dedicated LCEF staff members who share your faith and values to ensure your stewardship efforts are always well-informed and free of stress.

## Investing in LCEF is investing in the future of the church!

Begin with as little as \$25 by opening a Family Emergency or Young Investors StewardAccount®. For more information, visit [LCEF.org](https://www.lcef.org) or call 800-843-5233.

Yours in Christ,

Rob Tilton, LCEF Congregational Advocate  
603-209-0733 | [rob.tilton1016@gmail.com](mailto:rob.tilton1016@gmail.com)

***The deadline for the June Newsletter is May 18th  
PLEASE have all your submissions sent to [patchas123@gmail.com](mailto:patchas123@gmail.com)  
OR drop them off at the church office by the date indicated above. Thank You!***



St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always” (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).



## PRAYERS

**SHUT-INS:** Susan Jahns, Rita Kaufmann,

**HEALING for Members:** Neva Aldene, Carl Bertka, Bill Bowers, Sr., Jean Cote, Tom Curry, Kathryn Demma, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Charlie & Pat Finkenbine, Don Garay, Mike & Judy Guastella, Bud & Jane Harty, Kitty Hill, Mark Horvath, Marva Jonas, Jan Lindberg, Chuck Malecki, Ken Mielke, Lillian Miles, Glenn Mossner, Chuck Muhme, Tom & Sue Poyer, Myra Schaub, Dorothy Sinowetski, Carol Spooner, Jim Straub, Caitlin Tilton, Bob Varone, Robert Vickey, and Sally Zierdt

**FRIENDS & RELATIVES:** Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer, Michelle Bernard, Grace Blum, Bill Bowers, Jr., Mary Brissette, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Diane Carr, Pat Carroll, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, family & friends of Barb Conner, Donna Connors, Lisa Copeman, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Stan Elenbaas, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Zeke Garrison, Barbara George, Sandra Gettings, Vinnie Giannola, Ken & Sandry Gittings, Nancy Gleis, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Debbie Harrison, Dennis Hegarty, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, John Hill, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Chelsea Hutchinson, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Bill Jaquest, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Daniel & Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Parker Kern, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Ray Likowski,

Janet Lixey, Joe Manson, Dave & Roberta McMullan, Dominic Miretti, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Mike Moyer, Ron Mullins, Esther Murphy, Bill & Jean Nesbitt, Riley Emilia Paquette, Charles Pentecost Jr., Bill Pinkston, Robin Potts, Rob Powers, John Purdy, Mary Raines, Joyce Redding, Elaine Reebe, Paul Rollo, Sandra Scheel, Ed Sheahan, Nancy Sly, Don Stewart, Charles Tolley, George Vespa, Jim & Judy Wahl, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gene & Donna Wensel, family & friends of Donna Weston, Gordan Winkel, Wava Zeitlow, and Martha Zimpfer.

**..Military Personnel:** Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Joseph Garay, Brian Jackson, Jonathan Koen, and Charles D. Weishaar



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

## Treasurer's Report

*As of March 31, 2021*

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
INCOME	24,855	18,611	6,244
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>17,488</u>	<u>18,998</u>	(1,510)
<b>+/-</b>	7,367	(387)	
<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>			
INCOME	67,212	55,764	11,448
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>61,905</u>	<u>57,016</u>	4,889
<b>+/-</b>	5,307	(1,252)	



Respectfully submitted,  
*Jean Clappe-Mixell*  
 North Star Bookkeeping LLC



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

### 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, May 15th at 8:00 am.**



The first week of March was Read across America Week. We celebrate reading in many different ways during the week. Dr. Seuss's birthday was March 2 so many of our reading activities have to do with one of his books. This year we focused on his books: "The Tooth Book", "Ice is Nice", "Fox in Socks", "Wacky Wednesday", "I Can Read with My Eyes Shut". Each day we focused on one book. After reading the book, we did many learning and fun activities around the theme. We learned about our teeth, made and played in snow, had sock day, did everything wacky, and took time to read outside. We also learned and wrote a report about Theodore Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss). He was a man that learned how to rhyme from his mom. He was a magazine editor and professor before becoming book author. His first book, "To Think What I Saw on Mulberry St." was rejected 27 times before it was published. Dr. Seuss wrote over 60 children's books that are still loved today. We also finished reading the chapter book "The One and Only Ivan". This book is about a gorilla that was raised by a circus owner. When he grew up he became an act in the circus inside of a mall. He did not step outside for 27 years. He lived in a cage with a dog named Bob and had a friend elephant next to him. A little girl named Julia taught him to color and paint. The circus would sell Ivan's paintings for a profit. People protested about Ivan's living conditions and at the end of the book Ivan was transported to a zoo where he lived out the rest of his life (true story). The students loved this book and looked forward to reading it every day. The whole week was a success and the kids had so much fun reading.

We ended Read across America week with our school open house. We had two bounce houses, horse rides, games, a food truck, flower planting, and lots of rain. Despite all the rain many people came out for the fun and food. We had more than ever new parents come and ask about the school. Thank you to all the church and staff members that came out and supported us. And a huge thank you to Coach Cat and Kitty for organizing and helping the kids make the mural and garden. It looks so great! Please continue to pray for the school and students. It's exciting to see the school develop and grow!

Third and Fourth grade just finished learning about Wonders of the Sea in science. Not only did we learn about all the different animals, but we learned about a man named Matthew Maury. Maury studied the Bible and used it to learn about Ocean and its currents. Although the Bible is not a "science book" it is always true when it talks about scientific things, just as it is true when it talks about other things. Believing this truth helped Maury to make important discoveries. In 1853, Maury represented the United States in the first international marine conference. In 1855, he wrote and published the first textbook in the new science of oceanography. His work, based off of the Bible, helped make sea travel safer and quicker.

At the end of our oceanography unit, we visited the Mote Aquarium in Sarasota. All the students enjoyed the hands on learning. We learned about many different sea animals and even got to touch sting rays and a shark. Learning field trips always bring on so much excitement. We love that we get to add them in our curriculum. We love to look at nature and see how amazing our God is.

Verse of the week:

*"Jesus bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have healed". 1 Peter 2:24*





**Bible Lessons**

Chapel is on Mondays  
at 4:00

5/3 Jesus Says Do Not  
Worry

Matthew 6:25-34

5/10 God's People Share  
His Word

2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-17

5/17 God's People Share  
His Word

Acts 16:11-15, 40

5/24 God Saves His  
People

The Book of Esther

5/31 No Chapel



Lord,

Dear Jesus, when I am  
afraid, remind me of Your  
power and love. Thank You  
for faithful pastors and  
teachers who tell me about  
Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

**Birthdays**

Olivia 5/1

Hyla 5/4

Violet H. 5/5

Jacob M 5/7

Anthony G. 5/8

Robert 5/10

Layna 5/14

Rylee 5/15

Madison B. 5/17

Adonis 5/20

Riley E. 5/21

Ms. Pam 5/22



**Special Days in May**

5/3-5/7 Teacher  
Appreciation Week

5/9 Mother's Day

5/31 Memorial Day

**CLOSED**



**VPK Graduation**



***Congratulations to the  
VPK Class of 2021!***

*Logan, Cane, Jelena,  
Denver, Evelyn, Bryce,  
Lucas, Tallulah, Ayla,  
Gabrielle, Brooke,  
Brooklynn, Isabella,  
Karter and Jordan*

***Graduation will be on  
May 20, 2021  
6:30 pm***



**It's Hot Outside!**

Send plenty of drinks and  
wear cool clothes! We will  
be playing at the water  
tables a lot!



Church: [www.redeemerfl.com](http://www.redeemerfl.com)  
Child Care: [www.redeemerfl-cc.com](http://www.redeemerfl-cc.com)  
School: [www.redeemerfl-school.com](http://www.redeemerfl-school.com)

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Redeemer Lutheran Church of Englewood  
Redeemer Lutheran Child Care



**Bible Word Search:  
TRUST IN THE LORD  
(PROVERBS 3:5-6 NIV)**

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

ACKNOWLEDGE

HEART

LEAN

LORD

PATHS

STRAIGHT

TRUST

UNDERSTANDING

WAYS

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding: in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."



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

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SCHOOL & CHILD CARE  
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Englewood, FL 34224

**REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.**  
*Pastor*

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Email: redeemerchildcare@gmail.com

### REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, associate members and visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Redeemer is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. (LCMS).

### WORSHIP SERVICES:

Divine Service: 9:15 and 11:00 am

Bible Class: *temporarily postponed*

Sunday School: *temporarily postponed*

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

*◆Disciple all nations, that is, all people;*

*◆Baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;*

*◆Proclaim the Gospel and teach His Word in its truth and purity; and*

*◆Never be ashamed of the Gospel—it is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).*