



MARCH 2025



PASTOR'S NOTES

Psalm 96:3

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Psalm 78:4

We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.

For over 175 years, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has been proclaiming the truth of God's Word to the people of America. What started as a small presence of German Saxons settling in Perry County, south of St. Louis in 1839 began to grow. In 1847, 12 Pastors, representing 14 congregations from Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, New York, and Ohio, met at First St. Paul Lutheran Church in Chicago, IL. There they organized and signed the founding church body's first constitution on April 26. Originally calling their church body, The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, 100 years later in 1947 it was shortened to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Through the efforts of these pastors proclaiming the truth of God's Word, the new church body began growing and in 1853 established 4 different Districts – Central, Eastern, Northern, and Western.

The growth continued and was enhanced by the LCMS's willingness to embrace and use new technological advances of the time. In 1924, it created its own radio station – KFJO – and developed its own international radio program in 1930 called The Lutheran Hour. In 1952, the LCMS used the technological advancement of television and began broadcasting its own TV program called – This Is the Life.

Due to the changing times in which we live, the LCMS has continued to develop different means by which to train both men and women for service in His kingdom as teachers for their schools, Directors of Christian Education, Directors of Christian Outreach, as well as Parish Musicians, and Directors of Family Life Ministry for their churches. But different means have also been developed over the years to raise up men as Pastors in order to boldly proclaim the truth of God's Word.

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## PASTOR'S NOTES (CONTINUED)

Over the years, the LCMS has developed several different routes by which men can be certified as Pastors in the LCMS. One such route is being used by Collins Sita, a member of Redeemer, to be certified as a Pastor for Redeemer. It is called the *Specific Ministry Program (SMP)*.

The *Specific Ministry Program* is a 4-year synodical seminary program to train men as Pastors involving a mix of real time on campus class work, on-line classes, and an assigned veteran Pastor to serve as a mentor.

For their class work, either on campus or on-line, the men take a total of 16 classes over the 4 year period. The first 2 years – the pre-ordination years – the men serve their congregation as a Vicar, or in the terms of the world – an Intern. During this time, in addition to their class work, they are working in their congregation under the supervision of their Pastor/Mentor to begin the process of being comfortable performing many of the expected duties of a Pastor, which at Redeemer includes hospital – home bound visitations, leading chapel for the Child Care and School, leading Bible studies, assisting and leading worship, as well as preaching. During this time, the Vicar is not allowed to consecrate the elements for communion, conduct funerals or weddings.

After the first 2 years, the Vicar is evaluated by the seminary as to whether he is meeting the qualifications and standards of the Pastoral office. If so, the candidate is allowed to be ordained, thus allowing him to now add those pastoral duties that he was not allowed to perform as a Vicar, such as consecrating the elements for communion and conducting funerals and weddings. After ordination, there are still 2 more years of class work in order to have a well rounded and strong background in the teaching and preaching of God's Word.

Although my time as Redeemer's Intentional Interim Pastor will come to an end on June 30<sup>th</sup>, I will continue to be Vicar Collins' mentor the entire 4 year process. I will be checking in and talking with him on a consistent, if not weekly, basis. I will be mentoring him in regards to the practical work of a Pastor. I will also check in with him regarding his class work to tutor and coach him. I will also serve him in his development of being a Pastor by coaching him in his work with the congregation and its ministries. In this aspect my job as a coach will be to help him reflect and think ahead in order to gain a deeper insight and awareness regarding where he needs to grow, learn, and develop as he seeks to be the shepherd Redeemer needs.

As the congregational gathering to discuss the future of the ministry at Redeemer held on Sunday, February 16 indicated, there are some challenging tasks that each of the three ministries of church, child care, and school need to address. One of those tasks is being undertaken with Collins willingness to be trained as Redeemer's next pastor through the SMP program. There are however other tasks that need to be addressed. With prayer, dedicated work, commitment to the truth of God's Word, and responding to God's leading through the power of His Spirit, all things are possible and these challenges can be met.

In Christ,  
Pastor Craig Mathews

## LENT



The 40 days of preparation for the celebration of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5, with *Ash Wednesday*.

Below are listed the themes and service times for this Lenten season.

The themes for the Sunday service and sermon is *Hands of the Lord* from Concordia Publishing House.

- March 9 - Creates and Saves
- March 16 - Casts Out Demons
- March 23 - Heals the Sick
- March 30 - Raises the Dead
- April 6 - Holds All Things
- April 13 - The King                      Palm Sunday

The theme for the Wednesday evening services is *Savior, Servant, Friend* from Creative Communication for the Parish.

- March 5 - Forgiver
- March 12 - Healer
- March 19 - Listener
- March 26 - Encourager
- April 2 - Protector
- April 9 - Comforter
- April 17 - Serves and Feeds - Maundy Thursday
- April 18 - Tenebrae Service - Good Friday

Please take careful note of the worship times for the special, non-Sunday worship.

**Ash Wednesday** will be held at **3:30 pm**.

This time is selected in order to include the After School students. We will be encouraging parents, if possible, to come and join their children in this worship service.

**All other worship times** on Wednesdays, as well as for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be held at **5:00 pm**.

# Prayer Requests



**Healing for members:** Wayne Buel, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Don & Lana Garay, Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Steven Horvath, Sherrie Keesee, Nancy Koslowski, Jerry Lindberg, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Mike Nagel, Tom & Sue Poyer, Jim & Bonnie Schluentz, Bob Varone, and Pauline Vickey.

**School & Child Care staff & families:** Donna Bartkowski (2nd & 3rd grade teacher at school, recent health issues), Brandi Fordham (Child Care staff), Rob Lewis (father of student in After School program, bike accident in January, unable to breathe on his own), Karis Russell.

**Friends and relatives:** Joseph Caivano (Lucia's son, continued recovery), Michelle Cote, Charlie Finkenbine, Glenn Galway, Mikayla Hacksunda and her infant son, Lukas, Peter Hanson (nephew of Kitty Hill, recovering from surgery), Major William (Bill) Lindberg, USAF(son of Jerry & Jan Lindberg, deployed in January to Middle East), Jesus Mathews, Dave McMullan, Esther Murphy, and

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**Giving Statements for 2024:** We will gladly provide your 2024 Giving Statements upon request. Please notify Sherrie Keesee by email at [lvdbby@yahoo.com](mailto:lvdbby@yahoo.com) or call the church office and we will forward your request to Sherrie.

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)

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



## ***God's Instruments, God's Stewards***

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)*

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

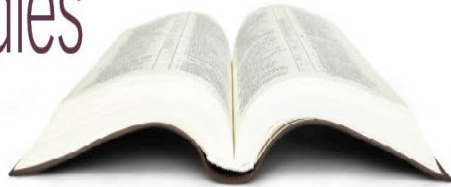
The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!

# 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 Book of John.

**Table Talk:** Table talk is a very informal Bible study held on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM, immediately after the 8:45 school chapel service. 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 focusing on the book of Acts. One way or another there is always friendly and interesting discussion. All are welcome and encouraged to come early to attend the chapel service. Who can’t be cheered by the sound of the children’s voices? There is always coffee and usually doughnuts.

Please consider joining us! **Pastor Mathews** is leading the discussion.

## SERVING THE LORD

Interim Pastor	Rev. Craig Mathews
Office Admin Asst	Caitlin Tilton
Organist	
Choir Director	
Newsletter	Pat Finkenbine
School Admin	Wendy Horvath
Child Care Director	Debby Buel
School Admin Asst	

### OFFICERS

President	James Kruse
Vice President	Mike Nagel
Treasurer	Lucia De Marco-Kruse
Secretary	Caitlin Tilton

### BOARDS

Head Elder	Rob Tilton
Christian Ed.	Catalina Bakas
Human Care	Jean Cote
Outreach	
Assimilation	Joyce Krug
School Board	

Stewardship	
Youth	Cherylann Galway
Financial Secretary	Sherrie Keesee
Property Mgmt.	

### GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild	Catalina Bakas
Coffee Hour	Joyce Krug

***The deadline for the April 2025 Newsletter is March 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!***

## SCHOOL

*Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus.*

### Hebrews 12:1-3

**K-1** During the month of February our class began to learn about how Jesus Heals and Helps. They had seven lessons that began with the "Woman at the Well" and ended with how "Jesus Walks on Water". Throughout the month we also learned about safety in the home, safety during storms, and bicycle safety. During our math time we have fun doing graphing and pie charts. For Valentines they were each given a box of conversation hearts and graphed the colors. We also took those hearts and did an experiment to see how they dissolve in vinegar, water, and soda. The children of K-1 love doing hands on activities, next month we will look forward to doing more fun hands on activities for Dr. Seuss Week and get the children outside to read for "Read Across America". *Ms. Pam and Ms. Leslie*

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>** Our class has been following the introduction to nocturnal animals illustrated throughout student's text books. Many students are quite knowledgeable about mammals such as the black bear and polar bear. The discussion even led to the black snake because one slithered across the playground. Students ran screaming in fright. Several students reassured the class that the black snake was harmless and helpful to the environment. Students are being assigned a nocturnal animal about which to do a report. Last week, students sang "The Fruits of the Spirit" song. There was a discussion about each one. They will be part of our memory verses. *Ms. Donna*

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>** The class enjoyed a Valentine's Day party with loads of goodies and spreading love all over the classroom. We are studying the Life of Jesus in the Bible class. The students are full of questions. What is the Kingdom of God? What kind of water is living? We are having great discussions. They are eager to know more about our Lord. In Arithmetic the fourth graders are beginning to learn about fractions. The fifth graders are learning their divisibility rules. Language is now working with modifiers for nouns and proofreader marks for errors in sentence structure. We have split the Spelling words to 10 a week and scores are going up. The class is fervently reading the readers. This class enjoys reading and comprehension skills. In health we are learning about our circulatory and digestive systems. We are also taking on a jump rope challenge. This is their third week. They are seeing an improvement in their physical endurance. History for the fifth graders is now on the continent of Asia. The fourth graders are learning about the Great Move West in American History. Cursive is going well. Some students are new, and it will take daily practice, but they are making beautiful signatures. *Ms. Fran*

**6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>** Hello Redeemer Lutheran Parishioners. So far in February in 6th and 7th grades in Math they have been doing different temperature conversions and learning the

*(Continued on page 8)*

difference of each one. In Language both classes have been re-writing their respective Scientists Papers for the end of the month. They have been diligently working in the Computer Lab to research each scientist and to find as much information as possible for them. In Health, they have been learning about the Brain and Spinal Column and how it controls your body. In History class the 7th grade has been finishing World War I and 6th grade has just completed the Civil War. They will be looking for one person from History to do a paper on in the 4th quarter. Both classes will begin to work on remote control cars as part of STEM class in a week. In Bible, both classes have been writing their own mini bible stories and letters. We pray you all are well and healthy, with blessings *Coach Don's Middle school students.*

**Upcoming events:**

March 1 – School Open House 11-2

March 17-21 Spring Break no school

*Happy Spring!*



**Redeemer Lutheran Child Care**



Letters of the month: R, E

Number of the month: 9

Shape of the month: Star

Color of the month: Black

Bible Lesson: Jesus Rides into Jerusalem Matthew 21:1

Studying: Going to the moon!

What we are learning in VPK A... We are learning how the spherical shape of balls are used in our day to day lives and in the classroom.

The letters for the month are Bb, Cc, Rr, Pp.



# NEW TESTAMENT

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

## WORD LIST

APOSTLE	HEROD	LUKE	ROMANS
BETHLEHEM	JAMES	MARK	SALVATION
CHRIST	JESUS	MATTHEW	SAMARITAN
CROSS	JOHN	MIRACLES	SERMON
CRUCIFIXION	KINGDOM	PAUL	SPIRIT
DISCIPLE	LAMB	PETER	TEMPLE
GOSPEL	LASTSUPPER	RESURRECTION	TITUS
GRACE	LAZARUS		

Lord, our troubles Are so great,  
We don't know what to do;  
The price for our Iniquity  
Is finally coming due.

The world is crumbling All about;  
No safe place can be found.  
Right is wrong, Wrong is right;  
The change is quite profound.

Lord, we need Your guiding light  
To lead us out of here;  
We'll focus on Your Word, and prayer,  
To take away our fear.

Temptations of This dying world  
We'll rule out and let go;  
Give our burdens All to you,  
Shed all worldly woe.

That's how we'll get through this, Lord,  
Fixed on heaven above,  
Assured of your protection, help,  
And everlasting love.

J Fuchs

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
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6970 Mineola Rd.  
Englewood, FL 34224

ADDRESS SERVICE  
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**School Phone: 941-473-7998**

Email: School.Office@redeemerfl.com

**Child Care Phone: 941-475-2631**

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 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)*