



OCTOBER 2024



PASTOR'S NOTES

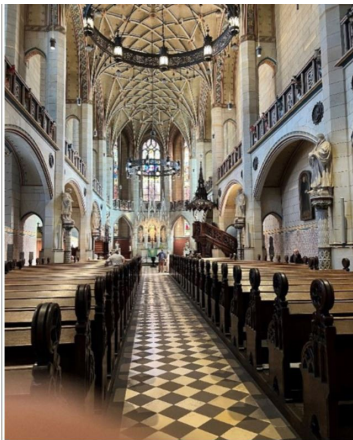
From August 26 through September 9, Eunice and I had an opportunity to spend time in Germany. It was a great trip for a variety of reasons. Part of the journey was stopping in Wittenberg, Germany, the "home of the Reformation." Below are some photos of our time in Wittenberg and some explanation of the two churches associated with Luther while he lived and served in Wittenberg.

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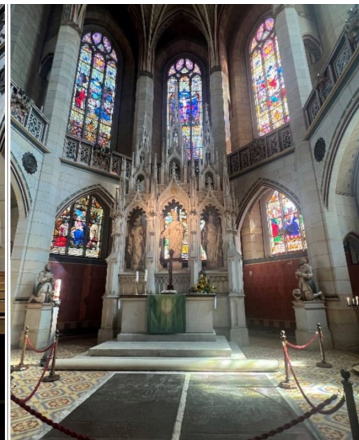
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Pulpit of Castle Church



Interior of Castle Church



Closer View of Altar



Organ of Castle Church



Doors of Castle Church



Town Church

PASTOR'S NOTES (CONTINUED)



Organ of Town Church



Front of Altar Piece -
Town Church



Back Side of Altar Piece -
Town Church

The Castle Church in Wittenberg is where the Reformation began when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the church doors. This was to be an academic disputation in order to establish whether the sale of indulgences truly coincided with Jesus' intentions.

The old wooden Theses Door was lost when All Saints' Church – popularly known as Castle Church – was destroyed by a large fire in 1760. In 1858, King Frederick William IV of Prussia funded the bronze door bearing the Latin theses which can be seen still today.

The Town Church – also known as St Marys' was Martin Luther's favorite place to preach. It is not certain when Martin Luther started to preach at the town church. When he took up the Professorship of the Bible at the University of Wittenberg, this also involved a commission to preach, so it is often assumed that he began to preach in the town church from 1512 onwards.

Historians have access to more than 2,000 sermons from the period between 1512 and 1546. That means Luther averaged about 70 sermons a year on average during his 14 years of preaching.

The huge altar piece is known as the *Reformation Altar* which was commissioned in 1547 and installed and put into service in 1548. The artist was Lucas Cranach who was a close friend of both Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon. The inspiration for the 4 panels of the altar come from the 7th Article of the Augsburg Confession which states – *Lutherans believe that there is only holy Christian church and it is found wherever the Gospel is preached in its truth and purity and the sacraments are administered according to the Gospel.* Each of the 3 panels on top feature Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Confession of Sins/ Proclamation of Forgiveness. The bottom panel depicts Luther declaring the Gospel of Jesus Christ dying for the forgiveness of sins for the salvation of all.

The back side of the Altar piece was done by Lucas Cranach the Younger – the 2nd son of Lucas Cranach. The central portion shows the risen Christ with His banner of victory. He has banished death and the devil to the grave. The left section shows Moses setting up the bronze serpent on a pole in the wilderness – Numbers 21:8 – and the right section shows the Old Testament story of the sacrifice of Isaac – Genesis 22. Both of these stories are linked to Jesus' sacrificial death. The lower painting, shows the place of the final judgment.

May the truth of the Gospel which Luther found and boldly proclaimed, continue to be a source of comfort for each of us. May the boldness of Luther's confession and his unwillingness to recant the truth of God's Word encourage us when we are challenged by others in regards to what we believe and confess regarding God and what He proclaims in His Word.

Yours in Christ
Pastor Craig Mathews



Shut-ins: Dorothy Sinowetski.

Healing for Members: Ed & Jan DeTrow, Don & Lana Garay, Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Steven Horvath, Kitty Hill, Joyce Krug, Jerry Lindberg, Chuck & Elaine Malecki, Lillian Miles, Mike Nagel, Tom & Sue Poyer, Jim & Bonnie Schluentz, Bob Varone, and Pauline Vickey.

School & Child Care staff & families: Karis Russell.

Friends and relatives: Charlie Finkenbine, Barbara George, Mikayla Hacksunda, Michelle Cote, Joel Mathews, Dave McMullan, Esther Murphy, Becky Rurade, and Wava Zeitlow.

TREASURER'S REPORT	Financial information is available to all members upon request.
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“The Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.” Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB788*) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
that shows Your message ever new and near.

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren’t actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” God’s love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord’s House. At the Lord’s Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!

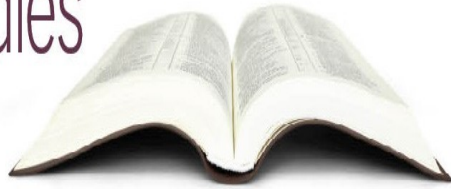


Church: www.redeemerfl.com
Child Care: www.redeemerfl-cc.com
School: www.redeemerfl-school.com



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

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 working through the book *Behavioral Covenants for Christian Communities* by Gilbert R. Rendle. As your Interim Pastor, I feel this is valuable for ALL members of Redeemer to participate in. Although it is not a Bible study as most people are familiar with, it will provide you with the understanding, skills, and abilities to confidently conduct this ministry entrusted to you from God as you move forward into the future. It will also help everyone learn how this community of believers is better able to live out: Romans 12:1-2; Proverbs 4:23; Proverbs 21:2; Ezekiel 11:17-19; Romans 12:4-18; Ephesians 5:21; and John 15:5.

There are study notes/packets available on the Coffee Table and Visitor's Desk in the narthex.

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 Collins Sita

Vice President James Kruse

Treasurer Lucia Kruse

Secretary Caitlin Tilton

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Head Elder Rob Tilton

Christian Ed.

Human Care Jean Cote

Outreach

Assimilation Joyce Krug

School Board

Stewardship

Youth Cherylann Galway

Financial

Secretary Sherrie Keesee

Property Mgmt. Steven Horvath

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour Joyce Krug

***The deadline for the November 2024 Newsletter is October 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 Kindergarten and 1st grade have had a very busy month. We currently have 8 kindergarteners and 4 first grade students that love to learn. We began the year with our Community Helpers book, we were able to visit Brookdale Senior Living in Rotonda and each child was paired up with a resident to make a wreath. This was a great way for our class to meet some members of our community and learn about what nurses, health aides, and activity directors do during the day. K-1 has also been learning about the book of Genesis, we have workbooks that the children follow along with and are currently learning about Jacob and Esau. They are also excited to have the new smart board in our room which enables us to find interactive activities that go along with our lessons. *Ms. Pam and Ms. Lacey*

2nd & 3rd Our students have been working hard to complete assignments on time, practice basic reading and math skills accurately while working as a team in order to create a positive classroom environment. The unique Abeka curriculum that integrates character-building with a Christian focus not only helps the students to think about others but how they interact with each other. The cross-subject integration is strengthening one the students' reading goals of building a larger reading vocabulary with such words as firmament, void, and testament in Genesis. Memorizing the first line of Genesis: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," reading Bible stories from the student text, experiencing a well-rounded literature program and presenting memorized Bible verses orally are strengthening speaking, listening, vocabulary and comprehension skills. Students are particularly excited to attend each of the special's classes of computer, music, art, P.E. and Bible. Many of the second and third graders are familiar with the Bible songs and corresponding movements. They sing and move with enthusiasm and confidence. Also, they have acquired a general knowledge of the Bible and can recall the most familiar stories such as Adam and Eve, Noah and the Ark, etc. Discussions, questions and wonderings developed as we read about each day of creation. The Abeka program's structure and spiral learning model are already preparing the students to make connections to self and to apply learning to personal goals. *Ms. Donna*

4th & 5th The majority of the students have been with me for 2 years. This made it much easier for me to adjust to a higher-grade curriculum because I knew their learning style. The Bible lessons have been amazing. The students have memorized Psalm 119: 103 105 as well as the first five books of the Old Testament. We read the bible daily. We are in the book of Genesis. In Arithmetic, the fourth graders are conquering their multiplication facts for division. The fifth graders are mastering the Metric system. In Language, both classes are learning nouns, verbs, and good sentence structure. Spelling has been a challenge with twenty words and five to ten vocabulary words to learn every week. They have learned to stretch their minds so they can grow. The fourth graders have been reading fictional stories. One of my favorites is Dr. Dolittle. The fifth graders have been reading about realistic fiction with morals in the stories. It has widened their horizon to think critically. In Science, we have learned about the Scientific method and how to use it during STEM activities. The fifth graders have been doing a study about flowers and insects. In History, the fourth graders are learning about map skills and who dis-

(Continued on page 7)

SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

covered the New World. The fifth graders are studying the ancient world with map skills of the ancient land. Cursive is still in the practice stage. Eighty percent of them can read it as well as write it. Do visit us when you have a chance. I am sure you will learn something from the students' adventures in Education. Thank you for all your prayers and support for Redeemer Lutheran Christian School to have a successful year. *Miss Fran*

6th & 7th Middle School update. We welcomed back 8 returning students and 2 new ones for the 2024/2025 school year. We are excited to have 3 7th graders this year. The classes have started by growing flowers in a science experiment. The plants will soon be flowers to be put outside to help the Bee Population and to spread pollination around. Both classes are working hard in Math. Both classes are into Fractions and Percentages. They have been doing daily reading assignments and filling in their respective Bible Journals. We have started daily Bible Classes as well we are currently working through Genesis. In Science 6th grade has been learning about Volcanos and Earthquakes, while the 7th graders are finishing up about the workings of the Heart. In Language both classes have been working on their respective Reading Comprehension and the proper ways of Sentence structures. Have a Blessed Day. *Coach Don*

Upcoming events:

October 11 - End of Quarter 1

October 14 - Teacher Workday – Students Non-Attendance Day

November 5 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 9 - Child Care and School Fall Festival



CHILD CARE



Letters of the month: Tt & Ii

Number of the month: 4

Shape of the month: Oval

Color of the month: Orange

Bible Lesson: God Keeps His Promises

Bible Words : Abraham's Son Isaac is Born. Genesis 21:1-7

This month we are learning about –Life on the Farm

VPK-What do Grow & Harvest in the fall

Letters of the month; Tt & Ii

Field trip to Hunsader Farms on October 22

Blessings

I knelt to pray when day was done
And prayed, "O Lord, bless everyone,
Lift from each saddened heart the pain
And let the sick be well again."

And then I woke another day
And carelessly went on my way,
The whole day long I did not try
To wipe a tear from any eye.

I did not try to share the load
Of any brother on the road.
I did not even go to see
The sick man just next door to me.

Yet once again when day was done
I prayed, "O Lord, bless everyone."
But as I prayed, into my ear
there came a voice that whispered clear,

"Pause now, my son, before you pray.
Who have you tried to bless today?
God's sweetest blessings always go
by hands that serve Him here below."

And then I hid my face and cried,
"Forgive me, Lord, I have not tried,
But let me live another day
and I will live the way I pray."

-Author Unknown

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,
SCHOOL & CHILD CARE
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ADDRESS SERVICE
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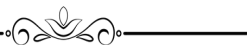
REDEEMER REPORTER

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)*