



‘THE NUMBERS JUST DON’T ADD UP’

There is an amazing Bible Story in the seventh chapter in the Book of Judges that reveals how the Lord defeated the Midianites with such a small number of men – 300 to be precise. Of course, their number didn’t begin with 300, rather Gideon’s army started at 32,000. However, the Lord said that amount of men were too many to use to defeat the enemy. So the number decreased to 10,000 when Gideon told the men who were fearful that they could go home.

Even with the remaining 10,000 men, the Lord said again that the number of men was still too large in order for Him to defeat the enemy. So the Lord told Gideon to take the men down to the water, and the men that lapped the water as a dog, using the hand to bring the water up to his mouth, shall be qualified to fight for the Lord. But the men who got down on their hands and knees to drink will be asked to return to their homes. And so, 300 men were left for battle, being outnumbered by the Midianites 450 to 1. And it is said that these men were the least fit to do battle with the Midianites. The numbers just

don’t add up, do they? But, with God, all things are possible.

During Jesus’ earthly ministry, He ran across a man with an unclean spirit who lived among the tombs. No one could bind him with chains or shackles anymore for he would pull the chains apart and break the shackles into pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. When Jesus asked him his name he replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” It is obvious to us Jesus is outnumbered. The numbers just don’t add up. The fight is unfair. Again, with God, all things are possible.

So what does Jesus do? Does He call His Father for help? Does He call upon heavenly angels to fight for Him? Does He turn around and run away? No, no and a thousand times, no.

With a single command from Jesus to “Come out of the man,” the Legion of evil spirits left the man and entered into a great herd of pigs that were feeding nearby on the hillside. When the evil spirits entered the herd of pigs, numbering

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STEWARDSHIP

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son” (John 3:16). “God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays his life down for the sheep” (John 10:11). Love means sacrifice. Sacrifice means a humbling of oneself for the good of another. And this is what the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us: Love means sacrifice.

We love our families. And we love them by sacrificing ourselves for them. We put their needs before our own. We sacrifice our own wants and desires for their good and for their needs.

We love our country. And we love it by pledging our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to defend her. We ask not what our country can do for us, but what we can do for our country. We make sacrifices for our country’s good and we do it because we love her.

We love our church. And we love our church by giving of ourselves, by sacrificing our time, talents, and treasures in service to it. We volunteer to teach Sunday School, VBS, and other various boards. We help out cleaning and fixing what needs to be cleaned and fixed at the church property. And we give a portion of the income God has given us, so that the lights will go on, and the heat and air conditioning may run; so that a pastor will preach to us both law and gospel and administer baptism and the Lord’s Supper; so that the Word will go forth into all the world through the missionaries we call and send out.

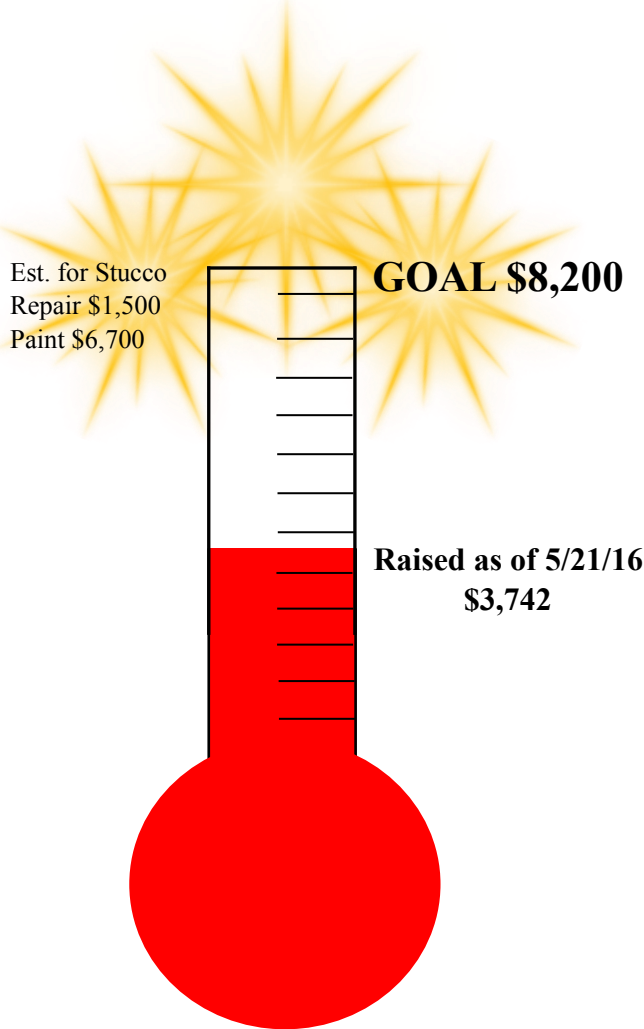
God has called us into these three spheres of family, country, and church. He puts the solitary into a home. No one is an island unto himself. Everyone is put into a family, a country, and a church. In these spheres, God cares for all our needs of body and soul. He employs other members of these spheres to ensure that we have everything we need for this body and life and for the next.

These callings place a claim upon us, a claim upon our presence, our prayers, our time, talents, and treasures. They give us a duty. That duty is to love. And love means sacrifice. And sacrifice means that we humble ourselves for the good of another.

So then, “let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:7–11). And love means sacrifice.



FUND RAISING GOAL FOR REPAIRING & PAINTING STUCCO ON CHURCH



- ◆ Paint the exterior of Redeemer Lutheran Church
- ◆ Pressure clean to remove dirt, mildew and bug residue
- ◆ Patch cracks with textured elastomeric patching compound

- ◆ 1st Coat:
 - ◆ Masonry Conditioner
 - ◆ Prime all new stucco with Loxon Hot Stucco Primer

- ◆ 2nd Coat:
 - ◆ 100% Acrylic Super Paint Stain by Sherwin Williams

SERVING THE LORD

Pastor Rev. James Kress

Seasonal Pastor

LHM Ambassador

Child Care

Director

Wendy Horvath

Office Secretary

Deb Horner

Organist

Bill Bowers

Choir Director

Collins Sita

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Ladies Guild

Sally Zierdt

Men's Group

Altar Guild

Coffee Hour

'THE NUMBERS JUST DON'T ADD UP'



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about two thousand, they rushed down a steep bank into the sea and were all drowned. And the man, now set free from the evils spirits by the very Word of Jesus, was found by the people clothed and in his right mind.

From the very moment we are conceived we are attacked by evil – the evil in this world, our own evil nature, and the old evil foe. Yes, from the time we are conceived we are attacked by evil. Do you not understand my point here? Consider the millions and millions of unborn children who are murdered through the evil of abortion. Legalized or not, abortion – ending the life of an unborn human child – is murder. It is an evil against humanity, the sanctity of life, and the Author of Life.

Even if you have difficulty accepting the evil of abortion and supporting the Pro-Life position, which is a pro-biblical position, consider the evil upon the millions and millions of children who are abused physically, emotionally, psychologically, and sexually. Consider also the millions and millions of children abandoned by fathers and mothers – so-called. Consider the evil of human sex-trafficking, the evil of alcoholism, the evil of drug addiction, the evil of pornography, and the list of evil goes on.

There is also the evil within us: our evil thoughts, words, and deeds. Believe me, I'm not accusing you. I am merely stating how the Word of God describes you and me and all humanity. He says:

“Every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood.” – Genesis 8:21

“How can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. – Matthew 12:34

“The things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.” – Matthew 15:18-19

“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. ... For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” – Romans 3:10-12, 23

Yes, reading these passages from Holy Scripture stings. It stings like the sting of a saltwater catfish. It hurts and is painful. And left untreated it can cause the entire body to become infected with its poison and ultimately the sting becomes fatal.

The evil in this world continues and is even gathering strength. It is evident that you are outnumbered by the evils of the world, the evil within you, and the evil foe who carefully studies you in order to tempt you over and over again. The numbers just don't add up. To be sure, your enemies are many and by yourself there is no path toward victory over these evils that surround you and those that are within you. And so, in fear and desperation you cry out, “Why must I stand alone against so many evils? It's not fair! I am outnumbered. Where does my help come from?”

The God of all comfort and mercy gives us the following words through the Apostle Paul saying, “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:56-57).

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‘THE NUMBERS JUST DON’T ADD UP’

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The evil we face every day, the constant temptations we struggle against, the fiery arrows thrown in our direction, and the battles we must fight time and time again, we do not face them alone. Moreover, we have One who fights our battles for us and promises us great blessings. Listen to what the Lord says to you: “Thus says the Lord, He who created you, He who formed you: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.’” (Isaiah 43:1-3).

When you face evil and temptations and fiery arrows and battles, what does the Lord say to you? He says, “Fear not! Be not afraid. Do not let your heart be troubled. Trust in Me. I love you.” Who fought for Gideon? Who rescued the demon-possessed man? Who overcame every trial and temptation set before Him? Who was crucified, died and raised from the dead? Who defeated sin and death and hell and the power of the Evil One? Yes, yes, yes, and a thousand times yes, it is Jesus our Victor and Savior.

Where were you baptized into Christ Jesus? My intelligent guess is the church, right? Where did you learn of the great stories of the Bible? Probably Sunday School or Bible Class or listening to the readings in Church. Where were you confirmed? Again, the church. Where does Jesus promise to meet you in both Word and Sacrament? And yet again, the church. The church, in the Divine Service, Jesus comes to us – from heaven to earth – He is present with us. In His Word and Sacrament, you hear you are forgiven; you hear your wounds are healed; you hear He loves you; you hear He will never leave you nor forsake you; you hear He has

won the victory for you. In the Divine Service you also taste and see that the Lord is good. He washes you clean in the water of Holy Baptism; He gives you His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. He calls gathers and enlightens you with His Gospel, setting you free from the slavery of sin; the tyranny of the Evil One; and the bondage of your own guilt and shame. The Lord God Almighty said, “I have called you by name, and your name is ‘You are Mine. You are not your own. You belong to Me.’”

Two years ago, Redeemer congregation was in the midst of a great battle. And what happened? You came to support and defend what you believed to be right, but you also stood against what you also believed to be wrong. You stood strong. You battled hard. Every time a fiery arrow came your way, you held up the shield of faith. Every time the rules were changed you turned to the wisdom of the Word. You attended the Divine Service faithfully. You heard the Word and received the Sacrament frequently. You heard the Word, you received the Sacrament of the Altar, and Jesus was strengthening you. Don’t you see? Just like when the Lord used the 300 men to defeat the Midianites, He also used you to stand strong and remain united at Redeemer.

On that day in December of 2014, when God revealed to us His victory over evil, we thanked Him for restoring order in His church once again; we thanked Him for bringing about peace in His church once again; we thanked Him for watching over us and His church and for keeping us united in faith and in doctrine. We are blessed in so many ways.

What have we been doing during these last 18 months? Some of us have been busy keeping God’s buildings and grounds in good working

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order. Many projects have been completed with many more to go (this is a never ending duty). Some of us have also been busy getting our books in order. The Treasurer and Financial Secretary, with the help of an auditor have been able to reveal to us where we stand financially. The good news is: nothing remains hidden. The bad news is: our weekly offerings do not keep in line with our budgeted expenses. The numbers just don't add up. The Endowment Committee has been able to assist with many of our building repair projects. The Nominating Committee has helped us re-establish the Board of Elders. The Constitution & By-Law Committee has wisely placed all things in good order for the structure and governance of Redeemer. And most recently, the Church Council has called the Chair of the Vision Path Committee in order to re-visit the future vision for Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care. We are currently gathering a task force for each of the first three components for a possible building project. Each task force will be formed to research the areas of Location, Structure, and Funding. Their findings and possible recommendations will most likely be brought before the July Voters' Meeting.

All this effort and all this work and all this maintaining is all very good, but as I mentioned: some of us have been doing this work, but not all of us.

Each year we submit our congregation statistics to the District office. As of our last submission, Redeemer has a total of 166 members, including 28 children under confirmation age. This number does not

include our faithful Associate Members. Our attendance in church services have been, well, rather bleak. Two weeks ago there were 49 attending Divine Service. Last week only 61. The numbers just don't add up. Where are all the people? Where are all the children? Have you forgotten what the Lord has done for you?

"Return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey His voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and He will gather you again from all the peoples" (Deuteronomy 30:2-3).

The Law of God serves a purpose: to open our blind eyes to recognize and acknowledge our sin in order that we may desire the sweet sound of the Gospel saving message of Jesus. Therefore, "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13).

Just one concluding note: When Jesus was getting ready to depart to another region, the man who was demon-possessed begged Jesus that he might go with Him. But, Jesus would not permit him, yet said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you." See you in church where the Lord is always and ever present and where He supplies us with His gifts in both Word and Sacrament. These numbers always add up to great blessings for those who receive them.

In His Service,
Pastor Kress

A VOICE FROM THE PEWS

Hi,

May this Memorial Day help us to remember what it takes to be a free country and give thanks for those and their families who gave so much so we and others could enjoy freedom.

By the way it takes the same courage to hold on to those freedoms as our forefathers knew and did in their time. It is easy for us to moan and groan and point our forefingers at the music, movies, TV programming, video games, fatherless families, and a list that can go on. The thing though that we continue to reject and never mention is the truth. When you and I point at someone else to find fault we never even consider that on that same hand that has the pointing finger there are three fingers pointing back at us. And that as hard as it is to accept is where the real fault lies. It was us that raised the kids that raised the kids that are now being destroyed by values that started a long time ago. But the good news is that it's not too late to correct the problems.

Before a person can fix a problem they must first admit there is a problem and then define it correctly. We can do that if we are truly honest with ourselves. We can do as we have been told to do for millennia. We are even promised we will get help. It takes courage! It takes sacrifice! It takes a lifetime commitment! And it takes a lot more but it can be done just as it has been done in the past.

Where to start? The most obvious place of course. We've tried it on our own and we can look around and see how that worked out. So let us do what we always do when the job is bigger than we think we can handle. Let us turn to God. Didn't want to hear that right? How corny! I'm sure those people in battle never thought that. And we are in a battle and we're losing it for a number of self-inflicted reasons. So, let us turn to the only truth that exists which is called God's holy word. In (2 Chronicles 7:14) God says if my

people will repent and turn to Me I will help them (paraphrase). In (Psalm 50:15) God says in times of trouble to call on Him and He will help. Over and over again He calls to us. We reject Him and don't hear Him because we can do on our own. God also says we are to humble ourselves and ask His forgiveness. That means we've been doing it wrong.

We are to prayerfully read His word daily. If we don't where is the balance in our lives? We are to act upon His word as He would have us act on it. Knowledge without action is a waste. We can support those who are on the battle lines. People who are actively involved in Problem Pregnancy Centers and ministries that are fighting in our court systems to hold on to our religious freedoms. We can vote for people who have biblical values and we can stop voting for those who don't just because their in the party we always vote for. We can vote for those who have pro-biblical values. But most importantly we must pray to God for help for ourselves, our families, friends and neighbors, for those we like and those we don't like and those who don't like us. With God's help we can do it one day at a time.

So, please read the article below and take courage it doesn't have to be this way...and act.

US Barna survey: Goodbye absolutes, hello new morality

A major nationwide study has revealed that biblical morality in America is being escorted out of all facets of society, while a new moral code has been ushered in to take its place.

Research recently conducted by the Barna Group surveying 1,000 participants across the nation shows that the broader culture in the

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A VOICE FROM THE PEWS

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United States is confused between the difference of right and wrong, with many Americans showing an increasing concern over the declining moral condition witnessed in most demographic groups. Secularism and religious skepticism are on the rise as the divide between Bible-believing Christians and mainstream society continues to grow further apart.

Survey says ...

Regardless of what demographic one looks at — Millennials (born between 1984 and 2002), Gen-Xers (born from 1965 to 1983), Boomers (born from 1946 to 1964) and Elders (born in 1945 or before) — Americans 18 years of age and older are worried that moral behavior is becoming a thing of the past.

“A majority of American adults across age group, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status and political ideology expresses concern about the nation’s moral condition — eight in 10 overall (80 percent),” Barna reports. “The proportion is closer to nine in 10 among Elders (89 percent) and Boomers (87 percent), while about three-quarters of Gen-Xers (75 percent) and Millennials (74 percent) report concern.”

This concern naturally rises with those whose moral code derives from the Bible.

“Similarly, practicing Christians (90 percent) are more likely than adults of no faith (67 percent) or those who identify with a religious faith other than Christianity (72 percent) to say they are concerned about the moral condition of the nation,” the report continues. “Though measurable differences exist between population segments, moral concern is widespread across the demographic board.”

However, when it comes to the agreeing on what determines right and wrong, Americans are far from standing in unison.

“According to a majority of American adults (57 percent), knowing what is right or wrong is a matter of personal experience,” Barna researchers assert. “This view is much more prevalent among younger generations than among older adults, [as] three-quarters of Millennials (74 percent) agree strongly or somewhat with the statement, ‘Whatever is right for your life or works best for you is the only truth you can know,’ compared to only 38 percent of Elders. And Millennials (31 percent) are three times more likely than Elders (10 percent) and twice as likely as Boomers (16 percent) and Gen-Xers (16 percent) to strongly agree with the statement.”

Practicing Christians are much less likely to agree with the moral relativist statement.

“The proportions of practicing Christians who disagree (59 percent) and agree (41 percent) that the only truth one can know is whatever is right for one’s own life are the inverse of the general population (44 percent disagree, 57 percent agree),” the study found. “The difference is even more pronounced when practicing Christians (41 percent) are compared with adults of no faith, two-thirds of whom agree (67 percent) that the only truth one can know is whatever is right for one’s own life.”

With multiculturalism being taught in schools, many Americans are led to believe that morals are determined by one’s cultural upbringing.

“About two-thirds of all American adults (65 percent) agree either strongly or somewhat (18 percent and 47 percent respectively) that ‘every culture must determine what is acceptable morality for its people,’” those conducting the study informed. “Again, Millennials (25 percent) are more likely than Elders (16 percent), Boomers (14 percent) or Gen-Xers (16 percent) to strongly agree with

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A VOICE FROM THE PEWS

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this view.”

Biblical foundation

Even though one’s culture is viewed by a large majority of Americans to be the basis of one’s moral code, most also give credit to the Bible for establishing right and wrong behavior.

“[A] majority also agrees ‘the Bible provides us with absolute moral truths which are the same for all people in all situations, without exception’ (59 percent),” Barna maintains. “There is broad agreement across age groups, which is surprising when one considers the notable generational differences on other questions related to morality. When it comes to faith groups, practicing Christians (83 percent), as one might expect, are much more likely to agree with the statement than others, especially those with no faith (28 percent). In fact, more than half of practicing Christians strongly agree (56 percent).”

However, most Americans rely on their own reasoning power — above God’s wisdom — to determine right from wrong.

“Two-thirds of American adults either believe moral truth is relative to circumstances (44 percent) or have not given it much thought (21 percent),” the survey divulged. “About one-third, on the other hand, believes moral truth is absolute (35 percent). Millennials are more likely than other age cohorts to say moral truth is relative — in fact, half of them say so (51 percent), compared to 44 percent of Gen-Xers, 41 percent of Boomers and 39 percent of Elders. Among the generations, Boomers are most likely to say moral truth is absolute (42 percent), while Elders are more likely than other age groups to admit they have never thought about it (28 percent).”

Those whose moral compass is grounded in the Bible view morality in a much different light.

“Practicing Christians (59 percent) are nearly four times more likely than adults with no faith (15 percent) to believe moral truth is absolute,” the statistics show. “Those with no faith (61 percent), meanwhile, are twice as likely as practicing Christians (28 percent) to say it is relative to circumstances. Americans who adhere to a faith other than Christianity are roughly on par with the national average on this question.”

Writing a new moral code

Barna President David Kinnaman contends that research indicates a new brand of morality has evolved in America. He insists that Christianity has for the most part been removed as the cultures’ moral norm and replaced with a new moral code, which he says consists of six tenets:

- The best way of finding yourself is by looking within yourself
- People should not criticize someone else’s life choices
- To be fulfilled in life, you should pursue the things you desire most
- The highest goal of life is to enjoy it as much as possible
- People can believe whatever they want, as long as those beliefs don’t affect society
- Any kind of sexual expression between two consenting adults is acceptable

Kinnaman asserts in *Good Faith: Being a Christian When Society Thinks You’re Irrelevant and Extreme* that more and more Americans — both inside and outside the Church — are pledging allegiance to the “morality of self-fulfillment.”

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A VOICE FROM THE PEWS

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"The highest good, according to our society, is 'finding yourself' and then living by 'what's right for you,'" the polling expert declares. "There is a tremendous amount of individualism in today's society, and that's reflected in the Church, too."

He credits the religion of godless secular humanism as a major influence that has diverted Americans from using the Bible as their spiritual and moral guide.

"Millions of Christians have grafted New Age dogma onto their spiritual person," Kinnaman continued. "When we peel back the layers, we find that many Christians are using the way of Jesus to pursue the way of self ... While we wring our hands about secularism spreading through culture, a majority of churchgoing Christians have embraced corrupt, me-centered theology."

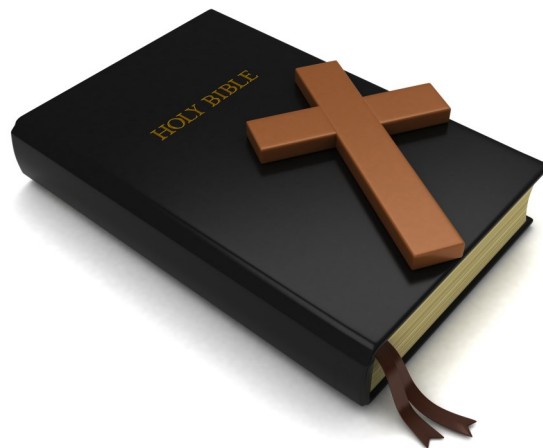
Even though the Bible is black and white in regards to laying out the moral path for man to take, it is argued that those who proclaim themselves to be Christians in the U.S. are as lost — when it comes to morality — as those

outside the Church.

"So, there appears to be a dichotomy at work among practicing Christians in America," Kinnaman contends. "Most believe that the Bible is the source of moral norms that transcend a person's culture, and that those moral truths are absolute rather than relative to circumstances. Yet, at the same time, solid majorities ascribe to five of the six tenets of the new moral code."

He says that this "new" morality is not really new and should not come as a surprise to Americans, yet he insists that the door is open for Christians in positions of influence to change this tide for the better.

"Such widespread cognitive dissonance — among both practicing Christians and Americans more generally — is another indicator of the cultural flux Barna has identified through the past two decades," Kinnaman concludes. "But it also represents an opportunity for leaders and mentors who are prepared to coach people — especially young people — toward deeper wisdom and greater discernment."



Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

TRAVELS OF AQUILA AND PRISCILLA

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we continue on our way north and have spent the last three days in Vancouver. Vancouver is very much like Seattle but somewhat smaller and appears to be somewhat more modern.

It too is blessed with many parks. We enjoyed a horse drawn carriage drive as well as a nice long walk through Stanley Park. It's a 1000 acre urban forest with hiking and biking trails. It sits along the harbor so it is possible to see a variety of ships and other watercraft. The park contains many beautiful flower beds. It also has a rose garden which is world renowned. Unfortunately for us we are a little too early in the season to see any in bloom.

Vancouver has a structure akin to the Space Needle in Seattle where you can get great views of the city. It was interesting watching the ferries plying back and forth and watching the sea planes landing and taking off from the sea plane terminal near downtown.

We really enjoyed Granville Island Market, somewhat like Pike's Farmers Market in Seattle. Produce, meats, cheeses, bakery goods of all types, candies, chocolates, arts and crafts all for sale and everything picture perfect. A great food court with various international food choices.

We had planned on having lunch in China Town since Vancouver has the second largest in North America. But driving through the area we were not impressed and unable to find a parking place we decided to go back to Granville Island Market where we had a great lunch at a restaurant overlooking a marina and watched water taxis and small passenger ferry boats transporting people back and forth. We would be hard pressed to tell you how many sail boats were in the marina since it looked like a forest of masts.

We also found a shopping area that had shops with what might be household names in your home such as Prada,

Gucci, Armani, Ralph Lauren, Burberry, and similar others that you might be familiar with from reading about them in your fashion magazines. We generally stay away from shops that don't openly display price tags. We feel that if you have to ask how much something is, you don't belong there.

After a pleasant scenic 90 minute ferry boat ride to Victoria we visited the beautiful Butchart Gardens. What a wonderful site to see. All the spring flowers were in full bloom. Just in tulips alone they have almost 300,000 of hundreds of different varieties. We saw flowers, plants and trees that we never have seen before. We spoke with one of the gardeners and asked if they left the bulbs in the ground year round. He said no and in about a month they will be pulling all the bulbs out of their show beds and replace them with annuals for the summer and then replant the bulbs in the fall. Talk about a back breaking job. However, for a flower lover it probably is no problem since this truly is a flower lover's paradise.

We also took the opportunity to visit Miniature World. An amazing collection of highly detailed miniature scenes of world events, fairy tales, nursery rhymes, The Great Canadian Railway, novels of Charles Dickens, and even a miniature working saw mill. OOPs nearly forgot, and one of the world's largest doll houses. We thought of Betty Keller when we saw that display.

The walk around the city harbor is very scenic,

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TRAVELS OF AQUILA AND PRISCILLA

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great views of all the activity on the water including watching the seaplanes around the terminal.

It was very colorful around the fisherman's wharf. Including the shops on the floating docks and all the various shapes of house boats.

We also saw a pair of harper seals begging for food. They are sure cute looking animals.

Before leaving Victoria, we visited Craigdarroch Castle which is a mansion built by a Scottish immigrant, (in the late 1880's), who hit it big in coal and politics. It was interesting to see the display of wealth and that by the late 1880's they had indoor plumbing and electricity throughout the mansion.

The drive from Victoria to Port Hardy parallels the east coast of Vancouver Island. Unfortunately for us it rained just about all the way. Due to the poor visibility we didn't get to see much of the scenery but what we did see was pretty impressive.

In Port Hardy we boarded a ferry for a 19

hour ride to Prince Rupert. Unfortunately the rain stayed with us limiting our visibility but what we could see was really amazing. Snow covered mountains with streams cascading down their sides causing numerous waterfalls that plunged to the shoreline.

We had a two day layover in Prince Rupert. The first day it rained but by the afternoon of the second day it started to clear up and it gave us an opportunity to do some exploring.

While we were parked by the shoreline enjoying the view and talking to our son on the phone a bald eagle flew down and just plunked a nice size fish right out of the water.

We could see the fish trying to struggle out of the eagle's talons as another eagle came swooping down. We guess they were a mating pair with eaglets to feed since both flew into some nearby pine trees.

While riding the ferry through the inside passage one gets a different prospective about what pristine means. Miles and miles of wilderness that show no signs of man. Through some narrow points the ferry comes within 200 ft. of the shore line. Looking at the forest of Sitka Spruce is like looking at a very

(Continued on page 13)

FROM THE TREASURER

As of April 30, 2016:



<u>ACTUAL</u>		<u>BUDGET</u>		<u>OVER/(UNDER)</u>
INCOME:	\$11,463	INCOME:	\$13,819	(\$2,356)
EXPENSE:	\$15,287	EXPENSE:	\$16,031	(\$744)
<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>				
INCOME:	\$70,283	INCOME:	\$56,250	14,024
EXPENSE:	\$83,170	EXPENSE:	\$75,520	7,650

TRAVELS OF AQUILA AND PRISCILLA

(Continued from page 12)

thick hedge about 60 to 80 feet tall. What a sight GOD has created with just trees, mountains, snow, and water.

It is kind of funny watching the seals lift their heads out of the water to watch the ferry go by. We got excited thinking we saw a pod of baby orcas. Turns out they were Dall's porpoises. We had seen some porpoises earlier in the day but they were gray like those we have in Florida. But the Dall's have the same coloring as orcas.

In Sitka the ferry had a three hour stop so we took the opportunity to take a bus ride into town. It's a cute little town. Main Street is about 3 blocks long. During the time Russia owned Alaska, Sitka was a major trading post and there is still some remnants of that era including a very large Russian Orthodox Church.

About 3 hours from Haines we passed by a glacier which we guess was about a mile wide. Just think about how million gallons of water that must be in that river of ice very, very slowly making its way to the sea.

Although we enjoyed our 3 days and two nights on the ferry and met many wonderful people from various parts of the US and even one from Australia, it was nice to be back on land and return to our routine.

We could not ask for a better drive than we had from Haines to Beaver Creek. We started out at sea level and after 36 miles had climbed to about 3000 ft. driving through a mountain gap that put us on a road that varied in elevation by about 500 feet as it thread it's way between snow covered mountain peaks. It seemed as if we were driving through an elongated crater. For a fairly long stretch we drove through a treeless section of tundra. We

passed a very large snow field where a number of people were with their snowmobiles.

At Haines Junction we picked up the Alaskan Highway. This portion of the highway is about at 2500 feet. Portions of it is not paved just a gravel road. But what a view, the forest is a boreal forest primarily of black spruce with patches of birch and aspen, majestic snowcapped mountains, mountain springs, waterfalls, and huge lakes. The lakes were ice covered except along the shore line.

We saw several pairs of swans swimming in a creek near the highway. A herd of wild horses grazing along a river far below the highway and best of all a moose grazing in a pond. What a sight that it was for us since neither of us had ever seen a moose in the wild.

Our stay in a B&B in Tok turned out to be pretty interesting. Our hostess had a really interesting life story and was very interesting to talk with, in addition we met a young married couple who also had spent a night at the B&B, both actors, from the Quad Cities area in Illinois who were on their way to their summer acting gig at Denali. Since this was their second season they were able to provide us with some information that may become helpful to us when we get to Denali.

As we proceeded towards Fairbanks we saw 5 more moose two of which was a cow and her calf, another looked very much pregnant and Alaska's state bird the willow ptarmigan along with some awesome scenery.

We were somewhat disappointed with Fairbanks. We guess we expected something some more vibrant, with a number of things to do and see. But, we are a few weeks ahead of

(Continued on page 14)

TRAVELS OF AQUILA AND PRISCILLA

(Continued from page 13)

season and most things are shut down. The highlight for us is this is the farthest North we are going and from now on we will be heading toward the lower 48.

A couple things that we learned is that here ravens have replaced vultures as the road kill cleanup crew and that in the United States reindeer are called caribou except when it's on the menu, than it's called reindeer or if it's somehow attached to Santa. Our waitress, long time Alaskan, at Rose's Cafe in Healy put it this way. "One poops on the roof, the other on the ground."

We were fortunate enough to have three beautiful days at Denali National Park and Preserve. Denali, (used to be called Mount McKinley) the highest peak in North America 20,320 feet creates its own weather system and is usually cloud covered. We got to see the peak one day out of the three we were there. In addition we saw numerous caribou and Dall sheep. The squirrels here are about the same size as the ones in Florida but they are red instead of grey.

At Denali the park service uses Alaskan Huskies in order to pull sleds when they patrol the park in the winter. The kennel is open to the public and we got to meet some of the dogs. They are sure are nice looking dogs. Per

pound, dogs out pull any other draft animal.

The highlight of our visit to Denali is that we got to see a very large boar grizzly right on the park road. What a magnificent looking animal. We were happy to encounter him while we were in the car and not on a hiking trail.

The drive from Healy to Anchorage is very scenic. The drive follows the edge of Denali National Park and we got to see a moose just south of the park. It would have made a perfect picture if Aquilla would have been on the ball.

Just north of Talkeetna one gets a real good view of Denali. It sure is an impressive sight. We spent the night in Talkeetna. It is a quaint tourist trap but also is the town from which those that try to climb the mountain begin their trek. About 1200 people per year attempt the climb and just half will succeed in reaching the peak.

It is interesting to note that the forest is now composed mostly of white birch. At the higher elevations the trees are just starting to bud but as one descends towards Anchorage the trees begin to leaf out and in Anchorage they are almost in full foliage.

God Bless each and every one of you.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



If you attend a Voter's Meeting, School Board meeting, Church Council meeting or if you are a member of the Redeemer Choir, you will see June Brown. She is our Volunteer in the Spotlight for the month of June. 😊

June is the Congregation Secretary and has the responsibility of recording all the motions and seconds and all the information that is exchanged at Council, School Board and Voter's Meetings. She keeps the Church Register up-to-date with all the current information on our members. She volunteers in the Church office on Mondays, as well as other days as needed and she is a member of the choir.

Thank you June for all that your do!!!



PRAYERS

SHUT-INS: Carl & Betty Bertka, Alice Borowski, Susan Jahns, Betty Keller, Helen Perry, and Ruth Sutley.

HEALING: Mickie Abel, Wilma Adair, Bob Aldene, Madalen Campbell, Pat Finkenbine, Bernice Heppner, Mark Horvath, Allison Jolly, Rita Kaufmann, Family & Friends of Bob Mortenson, Bob Payne, Carolyn Plesner, Tom Poyer, Joyce Redding, Duwayne Schoeneck, Fred Toth, Robert Vickey and Artie Zipp.

FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Linny Aspery, Paul Badagliacca, Dick & Marilyn Bjornas, Bert Blackford, Grace Blum, Michelle Bernard, Bill Bowers, Jr., Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Jack Carlos, Diane Carr, Debbie Carr, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Joanne and Randy Clymo, Martin Cressman, Renee Dempsey, Dale DesJardins, Irene DiTommaso, James Dodge, Barb Dumeah, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Marla Flores, Lou Fountain, Denver Fredett, Manual Galan, Glenn Galway, Liam Garland, Sandra Gettings, Nancy Gleis, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Joel Heppner, Walter Heppner, Glory Herget, Joan Hillis, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Carol Holmes, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter,



Stanley & 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, John Montondo, Mike Morrissey, Trista Moeier, Charles Pentecost Jr., John Purdy, Mary Raines, Rev. Ronald Rock, Ashley Scudder, Nancy Sly, Denise Bjornas Smith, Peter & Linda Smith, Virginia Stanley, Charles Tolley, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, and Gordan Winkel.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Brian Jackson, Joshua Jones, Jonathan Koen, David MacLeod, Steven Seigmundt, 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 July Newsletter is June 16th
Please have all your submissions sent to redeemerfl@verizon.net OR drop it off at
the church office to Deb by the date indicated above.
Thank You!***



2016 YPK GRADUATION!



Graduating Class of 2016

Hunter Anderson
Lachlan Carter
Khloe Cornish
Chloe Darrow
Kayden Hoerl
Violet Hopkins
Julie Pfaffendorf
Ella Tosto
Aubrie Young
Arabella Zickefoose



Date	Set-up	Take-down
Sunday, June 5th	Gretchen Armstrong	Lisa Kress
Sunday, June 12th	Gwen Wurster	Vicki Fernald Carolyn Francis
Sunday, June 19th	Lisa Kress	Gretchen Armstrong
Sunday, June 26th	Jane Harty Sandi Libke	Gwen Wurster

TO OUR NORTHERN MEMBERS, GUESTS, & VISITORS:

It is that time of year again when we again say good-bye to our northern brothers and sisters in Christ. We are so very sad to see you leave, but we are overjoyed in the number of weeks and months we shared together worshipping, working, and playing. Please contact the church office notifying us of the date of your departure and verification of your northern address in order that we may continue to correspond through our monthly newsletter and other publications. The Lord grant you safety while you travel.

PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY

We sure could use some help on our Property Appreciations 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 June 11th 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.

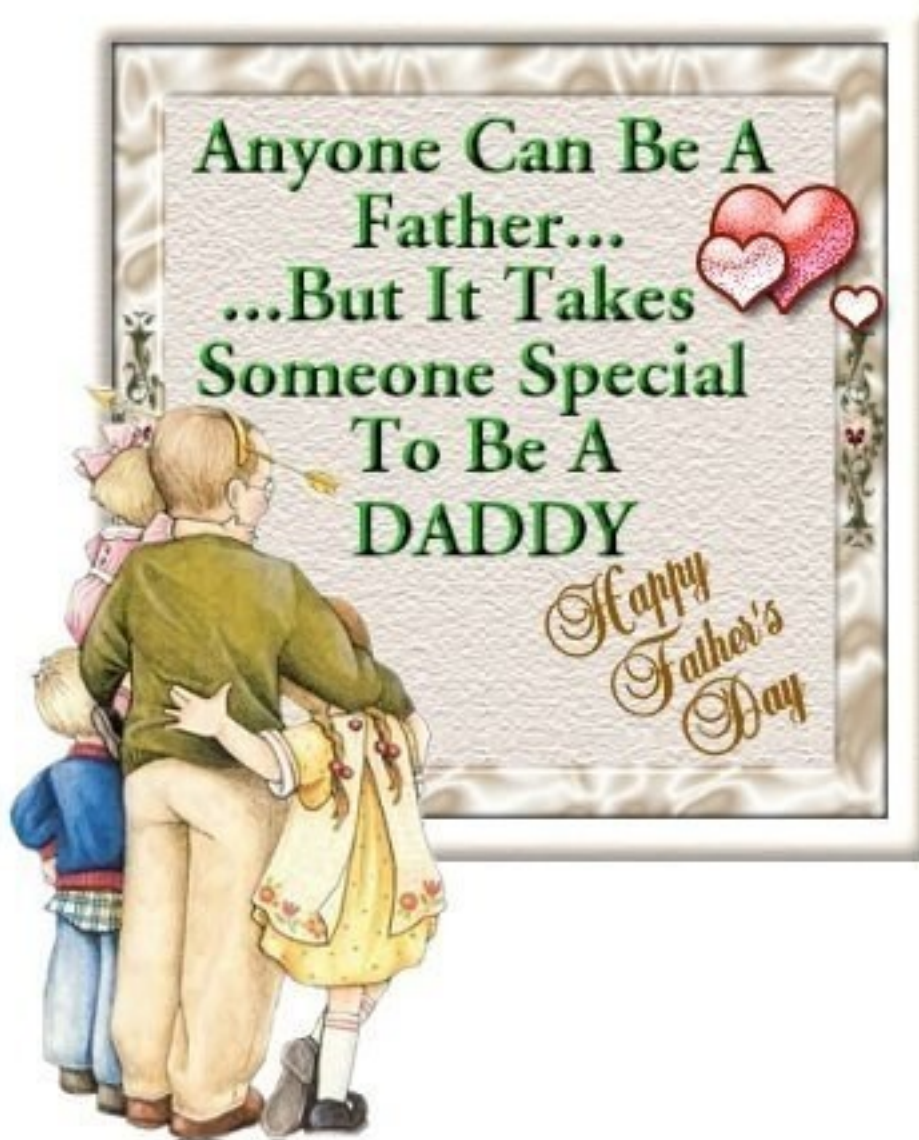
BIG RED BUS

June 5th, 8:30—NOON, the Big Red Bus will be here taking donations. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex. Donors will receive FREE t-shirt and special officer from Crayola Experience—Purchase one admission ticket and received a 2nd admission FREE.



HAPPY
FATHERS
DAY

CINCINTHIA3.CREATIONS



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



We believe . . . long after the craft glue dries and the snacks are just crumbs, the lasting treasure is that children leave Vacation Bible School knowing Jesus their REAL Savior. This year's theme is Barnyard Roundup – Jesus Gathers Us Together! VBS will be held beginning **July 18th through July 22nd**. Guess what? VBS will be here before we know it!

So that means ...

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

If you are interested in volunteering this year for Vacation Bible School, please contact:

**Pam Replinger at 941-473-9018 or
Wendy Horvath at 941-475-2631**



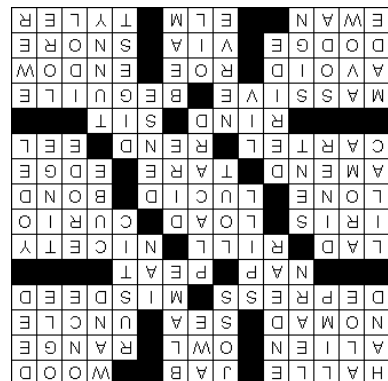
Redeemer Lutheran Church



Web—Church: www.redeemerfl.com



Web—Child Care: www.redeemerfl-cc.com



June



Summer at Redeemer Child Care

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays
at 3:45

6/6 The Good Shepherd

John 10:1-18

6/13 The Parable of the
Sower

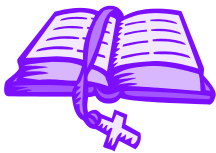
Matthew 13:1-23

6/20 Daniel in the lion's
Den

Daniel 6

6/27 The Three Men in
the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3



Dear God,
You gave us Jesus to die
on the cross. Thank you
for rescuing us!
We love You!
Amen

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

Birthdays

Hunter 6/1

Logan 6/4

Lilyana S. 6/14

Ava 6/16

Lilyana R. 6/20

Ms. Keri 6/24



VBS

July 18-22

9:00-12:00



Volunteers needed!
Please call Ms. Wendy at
475-2631

Ice Cream Truck Coming



June 13 & 27

Bring in a dollar or two for a
treat



Summer is here for After
School Children and we
will be very busy with pool
days, field trips, the ice
cream truck, and much,
much more.

Special Days in June

6/3 National Doughnut Day
(Doughnut's for morning
snack)



6/17 Eat Your Vegetables
Day (Veggies for afternoon
snack)

6/19 Father's Day



6/24 Take Your Dog To
Work Day (Bring your
stuffed dog to school)

CLASSIFIEDS

- Lawn Care** Call Todd Armstrong at (941)961-7584 for your lawn care needs.
- Cleaning Services** CK-Clean LLC—Residential cleaning service—Kristine Bowers Baltimore (941) 681-6514
- Car for Sale** 1993 Ford Crown Victoria – Gray 4 Door. Mileage – 98,680. New battery, two new tires. A/C works. \$1400 OBO. Joyce Redding – 585-880-4783.

LOST AND FOUND

If anyone is missing any items, namely eyeglasses, gloves, umbrellas, etc., please check the Lost & Found box located in the narthex.

ELDER & COMMUNION ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

DATE	ELDER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
June 5th	Mike Nagel	Bob Varone
June 12th	Collins Sita	Dave Giroux
June 19th	Stephen Wurster	Mark Horvath
June 26th	Paul Brown	Bob Varone

GREETERS

<i>JUNE 5TH</i>	<i>Lisa Kress, & Peyton, Brooklyn, Emelyn Anderson</i>
<i>JUNE 12TH</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>JUNE 19TH</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>JUNE 26TH</i>	<i>TBA</i>

*Submitted by
Assimilation*



COFFEE HOUR

<i>JUNE 5TH</i>	<i>Carol Spooner Neva Aldene</i>
<i>JUNE 12TH</i>	<i>The Giroux Family</i>
<i>JUNE 19TH</i>	<i>Neva Aldene</i>
<i>JUNE 26TH</i>	<i>TBA</i>

*Submitted by Brd. of
Community &
Parish Fellowship*



PUZZLE PAGE

- 1. Actress, ___ Berry
- 6. Prod
- 9. Golf club
- 13. Movie starring Sigourney Weaver
- 14. Nocturnal creature
- 15. Ambit
- 16. Wanderer
- 17. Body of water
- 18. Relative
- 19. Push down
- 21. Wrongdoing
- 23. Forty winks
- 24. Used as fuel
- 25. Man or boy
- 28. Small stream
- 30. Nuance
- 35. Part of the eye
- 37. Burden
- 39. Oddity
- 40. Solitary
- 41. Coherent
- 43. Secret agent, James
- 44. Remedy
- 46. Used to calculate net weight
- 47. Rim

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12		
13						14				15					
16						17				18					
19					20			21	22						
			23				24								
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34	
35			36		37			38		39					
40					41			42		43					
44				45		46					47				
48					49		50			51		52			
					53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60						61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68					
69						70				71					
72						73				74					

- 48. Consortium
- 50. Rip
- 52. Long fish
- 53. Peel
- 55. Be seated
- 57. Monolithic
- 61. Enchant
- 65. Obviate
- 66. Fish eggs
- 68. Empower
- 69. Circumvent
- 70. By way of
- 71. Rhonchus
- 72. Actor, ___ McGregor
- 73. Tree
- 74. Surname of actress who played Arwen in *The Lord of the Rings*

- Down
- 1. Part of a clock
 - 2. Succulent, ___ vera
 - 3. Hobble
 - 4. Gain knowledge
 - 5. Make attractive or lovable
 - 6. Chinese god
 - 7. Wonder
 - 8. Incrimination
 - 9. Magician's baton
 - 10. One time only
 - 11. Stare at
 - 12. Action
 - 15. Pastoral
 - 20. Tumble
 - 22. First name of actor who played Gandalf in *The Lord of the Rings*
 - 24. Notice
 - 25. Fragrant plant
 - 26. Perfume
 - 27. Buffet car
 - 29. Oaf
 - 31. Regular hexahedron
 - 32. Wear away
 - 33. Undertone
 - 34. Alpine call
 - 36. Transported
 - 38. Desperate
 - 42. Impenetrable
 - 45. Mock
 - 49. First name of actress in 74 across
 - 51. Compilation
 - 54. Effrontery
 - 56. Large marine food
 - 57. Manufactured
 - 58. Affirm
 - 59. Soft drink
 - 60. Part of the zodiac
 - 61. Ray
 - 62. Object of worship
 - 63. Traditional knowledge
 - 64. Pitcher
 - 67. Fuel

[Solution on Page 20](#)

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

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June
2016

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

REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.

Church Phone: 941-475-2410
Church Fax: 941-475-9726
School/Child Care Phone:
941-475-2631

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 Study: 8:00 AM
Divine Service: 9:15 AM
Sunday School: 9:15 AM

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 941-475-2410

The Redeemer Lutheran Church & School 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.*