



AUGUST 2024



PASTOR’S NOTES

It continues to be a joy to share with the people of Redeemer the foundation that has been and will continue to be laid regarding who you are as an *ekklesia* – that is – a body of people who have been called out by God from the culture of this world in order to work together to accomplish His mission of making disciples by being salt as well as a light to the world.

I feel it is important to lay this foundation of covering who you were before God called you as well as what God is doing in your lives now, through the power of His Spirit transforming you into His sons and daughters.

The following points were examined in Bible class during July.

The Greek word which has been translated with the English word *church* is *ekklesia*. It is a compound word that means **called out from in to something else**.

Therefore God has called out His *ekklesia* **FROM** the culture of the world in order to be His sons and daughters **TO** make disciples (Matthew 28:18-19) by being a light as well as salt. (Matthew 5:13-16) With that in mind then the following is true:

1. God knows that those He calls out are sinners. His Word reveals that fact.
Romans 3:23... *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
Ecclesiastes 7:20... *Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins.*

2. When God calls, He offers the gift of salvation, not based on what the person has done, but on what He has done.
Romans 3:24-25... *and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness*
Ephesians 2:8-9... *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Inside this issue

Pastor’s Notes 1-3
 Stewardship..... 4
 Treasurer’s Report 4
 Bible Studies..... 5
 Child Care 6
 Prayers..... 6
 Inspiration..... 7

(Continued on page 2)

John 3:16-17... *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

3. And in that process, after the gift is received, He begins a transformation with the giving of His Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:19... *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.*

Ephesians 4:22 and 24... Put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts ...²⁴ Put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.

4. And as part of that transformation, in order to do the work God has in mind for us to do, He bestows spiritual gifts in such a way, that in order to best accomplish the mission, the *ekklesia* needs to work together, each using their spiritual gifts.

If some in the *ekklesia* are not using their gifts, then the ability of the *ekklesia* is impacted and challenged. The *ekklesia* can still function, but not as effectively and efficiently as it could.

Yes, we have put off the old and put on the new. But we must also remember that our present is determined by the past.

You are who you are because of your past experiences, your past interactions with family members, neighbors, co-workers, friends, and even strangers. All of that impacts how you listen, how you view things, and how you process and interpret what is going on around you.

It makes you who you are. But if you have a scary past, even a shameful past, if there are things you are not proud of, remember, if you haven't already done so, confess it to God. Let Him begin the healing and restoration process with His forgiveness. Remember, God forgives and forgets. Which is important because – as you may already know and experienced – that the enemy will keep accusing you to create doubt about God's forgiving love.

That is why you need to remember this passage from **Romans 8:28:**
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

All of this groundwork is important because there are going to be some hard and difficult discussions regarding the future path of ministry for Redeemer. The discussions need to be honest and open.

(Continued on page 3)

These discussion will work when you acknowledge:

1. Who you were.
2. That God is changing you to become someone spiritually different.
3. That God is allowing this *ekklesia* to decide how to accomplish the mission that God is expecting you to do using the spiritual gifts with which He has blessed you.
4. That when you are a part of a group, a member of a body, a family, or part of a team, it's not always about what I want, but always about what is good for the whole.

Redeemer is a body composed of different parts that God challenges to work together. That means each person does what is required of them, but is also prepared to have the back of, that is to support, other members of the body who are struggling to fulfill their roles and duties.

Redeemer is NOT a club where people pay their dues, perform obligatory duties and then expect and sometimes even demand that things be done their way.

Also remember that as your Intentional Interim Pastor, I am here for a limited time. When this newsletter comes out, it is down to 11 months.

This is not my congregation. It is **YOURS** under the direction and supervision of God. I will consult with you and even offer suggestions. You may disagree with some of my statements and/or conclusions. I am not making them because I feel that is the way it needs to be done, but to offer possible alternatives in the task of "problem solving" in order to move forward with the best possible decision. ***But the final decisions that are made will be yours.***

Will they be fool-proof? Not likely.

Will you need to be prepared to adjust? Definitely.

But that is what ministry is all about. It is NEVER a top down structure with the Pastor deciding and sometimes demanding things to be decided and done a certain way. It is ALWAYS the Pastor and *ekklesia* working together – listening to one another, caring for one another, encouraging one another, forgiving one another, loving one another, and relying on the spiritual gift mix of one another.

May you all see the great blessings of God as you move into the future.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Craig Mathews

Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

“Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians’ joy filled Jerusalem’s need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it is God’s work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

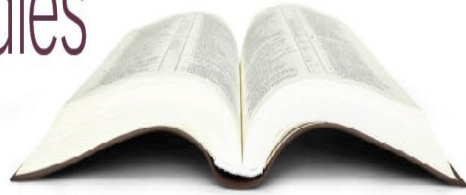
The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!



Treasurer's
Report

Financial information is available to all members upon request.

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 will cover various topics.

Table Talk: Table talk is a very informal Bible study now 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; come and meet him.

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

BOARDS

Head Elder

Christian Ed.

Human Care Jean Cote

Outreach

Assimilation Joyce Schneider

School Board

Stewardship

Youth Cherylann Galway

Financial

Secretary Sherrie Keesee

Property Mgmt. Steven Horvath

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Catalina Bakas

Coffee Hour Joyce Schneider

***The deadline for the September 2024 Newsletter is August 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!***



Letter of the month: S

Number of the month: 1-2

Shape of the month: Hexagon

Color of the month: Blue

Bible Lesson: Abraham's Call

Bible Words : God bless them. Genesis

This month we are learning about –Getting to know you!

VPK-Beginning the year! What names do we need to know in school/

Letters of the month; A,D,M,S

Prayer Requests

Shut-ins: Dorothy Sinowetski.

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

School & Child Care staff & families: Karis Russell (parent of a school student; she was recently diagnosed with breast cancer).

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



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

Kindness

A simple act of kindness
passed on from man to man;
Is but a touch of God's own love.
in a kind, extended hand.

Compassion, love and mercy,
passed down through all mankind;
Completing then the circle
that all men seek to find.

In reaching out and touching lives,
with your generosity;
It did not go unnoticed.
for the eyes of God can see.

The kindness and compassion,
that He's sown deep in your soul;
An instrument of His own love,
to make life's circle whole.

--Author Unknown

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



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

Church Phone: 941-475-2410

Church Fax: 941-475-9726

Email: Church.Office@redeemerfl.com

School Phone: 941-473-7998

Email: School.Office@redeemerfl.com

Child Care Phone: 941-475-2631

Email: redeemerchildcare@gmail.com

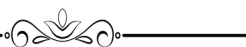
REDEEMER REPORTER

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)*