



SEPTEMBER 2024



PASTOR’S NOTES

Beginning Sunday, September 15h, the Sunday morning Bible study period will focus on working through the book – *Behavioral Covenants for Christian Communities* by Gilbert R. Rendle.

This will be a 5 week process that I, as your Interim Pastor, feel 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 are better able to live out ***Romans 12:1-2, Proverbs 4:23, Proverbs 21:2, and Ezekiel 11:17-19, Romans 12:4-18, Ephesians 5:21 and John 15:5.***

What has been going on in American churches for a long time is that the Church has defaulted to worldly practices instead of remembering the Godly principles from which we should be operating when it comes to solving the disagreements and conflicts that arise in the Church.

At the end of the 5 week process, Redeemer will have developed a behavioral covenant that will serve as a guide as you continue to engage and work through various issues, questions, problems, and opportunities that await you in the future. This process is not just for the leaders, the people who are board chairs, or Council members. This process is valuable for all the members of Redeemer. That is why this process is being done during the Sunday morning Bible study time.

Beginning Sept. 15 and extending through Sept. 22, Sept. 29, Oct. 6 and Oct. 13 ***clear 2 hours every Sunday morning.*** The first hour is for praise and worship of our loving God. The second hour is one of work as we begin to lay a Godly foundation for how this community of faith will interact with one another in its discussions and decisions on how best to move forward into the future with confidence, faith, and love.

In the meantime, on Sept. 1st and 8th look for these hard copies to pick up at the church. These are valuable pieces to read before the first session on Sept. 15th.

- Introduction to Behavioral Guidelines**
- Biblical Basis for Behavioral Guidelines**
- Can You Really Tell the Difference Between Christians and Non-Christians?**
- Don’t Let Your Culture Keep You From Christlikeness**

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Yours in Christ,
Pastor Craig Mathews



Stewards, Called to Forgiveness

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the *Lutheran Service Book* has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (*LSB* 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We re-think our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.



**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.). Starting September 15th, we will be working through the book *Behavioral Covenants for Christian Communities* by Gilbert R. Rendle.

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

BOARDS

Head Elder Rob Tilton

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 October 2024 Newsletter is September 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!***

September 2024 Newsletter from the Day School

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus. Hebrews 12:1-2

Welcome Back to School!

As we begin this new academic year, Redeemer Lutheran School wants to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to our returning students and a special greeting to all our new students and their families. We are thrilled to open our doors once again and create a nurturing environment that fosters academic excellence, personal growth, and a strong sense of community. We have 54 students this year and have opened all 4 classrooms in our building. Redeemer welcomed back all its teachers from last year and welcomed 2 new teachers for this year. We are very excited about the new school year and all that we have planned. We hope to see you at our events!

Upcoming Dates:

August 15, Parent Orientation 6:00 pm

August 19, PTL Meeting 6:00 pm

August 20, NO SCHOOL

September 2, NO SCHOOL

September 13, Midterm Progress reports sent home

September 18, Early release at 1:00 pm

FAITH

Faith doesn't always take you out of the problem.
Faith takes you through the problem.

Faith doesn't always take away the pain.
Faith gives you the ability to handle the pain.

Faith doesn't always take you out of the storm.
Faith calms you in the middle of the storm.

--Author Unknown

CHILD CARE / PRAYERS



Letters of the month: Mm, Aa

Number of the month: 3

Shape of the month: Circle

Color of the month: Red

Bible Lesson: God Made Me

Bible Words: God formed man of dust from the ground. Genesis 2:7

This month we are learning about: Apples in the Fall

VPK-What makes a good friend?

Letters of the month: Aa, Ss

Field trip to a nursing home for Grandparents Day on September 8th

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.

Friends and relatives: Charlie Finkenbine, Barbara George, Mikayla Hacksunda, Michelle Cote, Joel Mathews, 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

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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)*