



October 2018

**THE REFLECTION OF US IS VISIBLE IN WASHINGTON D.C.**

If you have spent anytime whatsoever watching or listening to any news media outlet over the past two months, you've probably developed a strong disliking to what is going on in Washington, D.C. You shouldn't be shocked by the immoral and unethical behavior of our national leaders, in the White house, the U.S. Capitol building, the Supreme Court, or any other government agency. The sinful behavior among politicians and lobbyists began well before the ink dried on the Declaration of Independence. It began with the fall of man.

Jesus said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness" (Mark 7:20-22).

There is hardly another Word of God that so clearly and completely turns the world and all its wisdom on its head, and so utterly contradicts the world and everything that it believes about itself, as does the Word above from our Lord Jesus.

He reveals the painful truth of what belongs to our fallen human nature, and to all the children of man, apart from the Word and Spirit of God. Consequently, He reveals what you are like apart from Him, and what you are capable of doing and accomplishing on your own. It is not a pretty picture.

From out of your heart — from within yourself — come evil thoughts, and sexual immorality; theft, murder, and adultery; sensuality and wickedness of every kind; envy and jealousy, coveting (which is idolatry), slander and deceit, and finally pride and foolishness. "All these evil things come from within" (Mark 7:23). That is what your heart does and accomplishes, to death and destruction.

You cannot save yourself from who and what you are. You cannot escape yourself and your sinful inheritance. For the wickedness of Adam's sons and daughters following the fall into sin is great upon the earth, and you also were conceived and born in the darkness of that legacy; from your mother's womb you were

Inside this issue

Pastors Message.....	1-5
Treasurer's Report.....	5
Update from President.....	6
District Presidents and Church Growth.....	7-8
John the Steadfast.....	9-10
Bible Study.....	10-11
Leave a Legacy .....	12
Fall Brunch .....	13
Stewardship .....	14
LCEF.....	15
Prayers .....	16
Schedules.....	17
Child Care .....	18
School.....	19
Teacher's Conference.....	20
Puzzle.....	21

dead in your trespasses and sin. And it remains the case that, of yourself, you are a poor, miserable sinner, for which you rightly deserve nothing else but punishment.

What the Lord speaks to you with these words is therefore a sobering but necessary Word. Yes! You need to hear it. Not only does His Word expose the truth of where you stand apart from Christ, but it also exposes the lies that you

(Continued on page 2)

otherwise cling to in your sinful ignorance, stubborn disobedience, and selfish pride.

For example, to begin with, the Lord Jesus contradicts the very common notion that most, if not all people, are basically good — the false idea that, given the right environment and opportunities, most people will naturally make good and right decisions. That is quite simply not the case.

The Lord consequently resolves the dilemma of where all wickedness comes from and how such evil things can happen in the world. It's not just a bad seed here and there, or a black sheep in the family, or the leaders in Washington D.C. The problem is deeply rooted in the heart of the old Adam, in the entire human race of sinners.

Jesus also contradicts the popular and trending notion that whatever seems good to a person is good for that person — the false belief, in other words, that everything is relative and subjective.

And Jesus pulls the rug out from under the idea that your actions are only bad or sinful if they hurt another person or affect another person's freedoms. You've all heard that excuse before; you've probably used that excuse for yourself from time to time. But the truth is that whatever proceeds from out of your heart of sin is sinful, even if it may not harm anyone other than your own self.

Consider that the Lord Jesus includes envy and coveting, foolishness and pride, in the same breath as theft, murder, and adultery. Those sins that eat away at your heart and mind on the inside — where you can hide them from others, but not from the Lord — may actually be more deadly to your Christian faith and life (and to your eternal salvation) than those sins that you and everyone else

can see on the outside, which you and everyone else know to be sinful and wrong.

Here's what I'm saying: The Lord Jesus is not just talking about those really evil people out there, as the world tends to measure things. He's not just pointing His finger at the serial killers, rapists, and pedophiles. Of course, He's not excusing any of those people, either. He's really taking aim at everyone. Yes everyone, including you and me. He's talking about your old Adam and your sinful human condition.

The real problem, then, is far deeper and more perverse than anything you can see with your eyes. By the same token, it is such a common and prevalent problem that even the evidence — within your flesh and all around you in the world — just looks like so much "normal," and maybe even good and right. That's the charade of temptation and sin, which masquerade as angels of light.

But again, the Word of the Lord Jesus contradicts all those lies and deceptions of Satan.

So does He also contradict the notion that people are capable of finding their own way to God. They cannot. *Decision Theology* is heretical. And Jesus contradicts the notion that people are capable of determining the truth for themselves, as though their experiences, feelings, perspectives, and logic were decisive. *Mysticism* is also heretical.

On the contrary, there is one true God, the Maker of the Heavens and the Earth, and not only does His Word reveal what is true and false, what is right and wrong; His Word determines everything that is and is to come. Furthermore, His Word exposes all that comes out of your heart as evil, wicked, mean, and nasty.

*(Continued on page 3)*

It is not possible for you to determine for yourself what you ought to be doing, not apart from the Word of the Lord and your God-given callings and stations in life (*vocation*). You have freedoms, to be sure, but all genuine righteousness is elusive and well beyond the grasp of your heart, mind, and spirit, until the Lord reveals Himself and gives Himself to you by His Word and Holy Spirit. Neither can you come to Him or believe in Him by your own reason or strength, but only as He breaks the hardness of your heart and makes of it a heart of flesh by His preaching of repentance and forgiveness.

In contrast to all of those false views and opinions that arise and emerge from within your sinful heart, the forgiveness of your sins, the righteousness of Christ, and His divine, eternal life and salvation, all come to you from outside of you. These good gifts of God, which are the remedy and solution to the problem, come to you from Christ the Crucified, and they are given to you by His Ministry of the Gospel, by His Word and Holy Sacraments, within His Holy Christian Church.

Not only does His Word expose and contradict the darkness of your sinful heart, but His Word of the Gospel shines the Light of the revelation of the Glory of God into your heart. By that free gift and divine good work of the Gospel, He recreates your heart and mind, your body, soul, and spirit, into His Image and Likeness. It comes from outside of you and makes all things new within you.

Apart from His Word, you are not capable of knowing or doing anything good. But you are not apart from His Word, because it is spoken to you from the Lord. Even now – as you read this – it is entering into your ears, and through your ears into your heart and into your mind, that you might have life instead of

death. That you might no longer be a slave to the sin you have inherited from Adam, which dwells within your fallen flesh, but that you would be ruled and guided by the mercies of the Lord your God in Christ Jesus.

His Word of the Gospel is your Light and your Salvation, by which He rescues and delivers you from that evil coalition of the devil, the world, and your own sinful heart. And His Word to you, both His Law and His Gospel, is also a Lamp for your feet and a Light for your path. So does the Lord call you daily to repentance, to faith and life in His forgiveness of all your sins. And by His love for you, in and with His Word, He teaches you to love and serve your neighbor in His Name.

Even so, although you are given such a life to be lived in Christ — and even though the Law of the Lord is to be feared and obeyed as the revelation of His good and acceptable will — nevertheless, it remains the case that your righteousness is found, not in yourself or in your works, but in Christ Jesus, in His good works on your behalf, in the Atonement of His Cross and the righteousness of His Resurrection, all of which is credited to you and given to you by the Ministry of His Gospel.

That Gospel of Christ is not found inside of you, neither in your heart nor in your head. It cannot be known instinctively, nor can it be obtained or held onto by any effort of your own. It is a divine Mystery, above and beyond all human wisdom, knowledge, intelligence, or experience.

As such, the Gospel is always being given to you — by the Lord your God through the Ministry of His Word within His Church. And it is received by faith alone, which is not your own work but is itself a gift of the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Word of Christ

*(Continued on page 4)*

Jesus. Consequently, you are always on the passive and receiving side of the Gospel, which comes to you from God in Christ. It comes from outside of you, from outside of your heart, your head, and your hands, and quite apart from your feelings, your intellect, and all of your own works and efforts.

The Gospel comes to you, and it is given to you — freely, by the grace of God, for Jesus' sake — by and with His Word of forgiveness: in the preaching of His Word and in the spoken Word of Holy Absolution. It has come to you, once and forever, by and with the washing of the water with His Word in your Holy Baptism. And even now, as you journey through the wilderness on your way to Paradise, as you live within the Church on earth in the hope and expectation of the Resurrection, the Gospel of Christ Jesus comes to you and feeds you by and with His holy Body and His precious Blood, which He gives to you again and again in the Liturgy of the Divine Service.

These means of grace are not the traditions of men or mere formalities, but the very gifts of God. They come to you from Him, from outside of yourself, in order to give you life in Christ, in body and soul, now and forever. It is in the hearing and receiving of the Gospel, in the remembrance of your Holy Baptism, and in the eating and drinking of the Body and Blood of Christ, that you are justified, forgiven, and reconciled to God through faith, to life everlasting.

To be and to live as a Christian is not an exercise or achievement of your thoughts and feelings, your own opinions or convictions, your own determination or sincerity, or your own sacrifices and contributions. It is certainly not a matter of merely being nice and polite. All of these things may well be a fruit of faith in Christ and an exercise of love for God and

your neighbor. But only after the fact, as a consequence of the life that is given to you in Christ Jesus. To be and to live as a Christian is to receive and trust the Gospel as it comes to you in preaching and the Sacraments.

It is in fact the Ministry of the Gospel of Christ that determines real Christianity and makes for real Christians, that is, disciples of Christ Jesus, who are the children of His God and Father, set apart by His Holy Spirit. It is not at all a do-it-yourself, go-it-alone, independent-contractor enterprise or operation, but the gracious activity and blessed gift of God Himself, who comes to you by these ways and means in order to pull you out of your own heart and head and to save you from your sinful self.

It is indeed true that, as a Christian, because you are given new life in Christ, you do live in faith and love toward God and in loving service toward your neighbors, all for the sake of Christ Jesus and to the glory of His holy Name. But that Christian faith and life are the fruits and the produce of all that God has done and given and accomplished by the means of His Gospel. It is only as Christ and His Spirit have thereby come from outside of you to live and abide within you, within your heart and mind, within your body and soul, that you now live and abide with God in Christ.

It is only as you are living by faith in the Gospel — which is to say, by hearing and relying on His Word, by returning daily to the significance of your Holy Baptism through sorrow, contrition and repentance, confession and Absolution, and by regularly receiving the Sacrament of the Altar — that the fruits of the Holy Spirit are brought forth in your body and life from a renewed and restored heart that

*(Continued on page 5)*

## THE REFLECTION OF US (continued)

rests and resides in the Body of Christ Jesus, in His flesh and blood and His forgiveness of sins.

Despite the fact that you so often fail to live as a child of God, as a Christian disciple of Christ, it is out of great love for you that He continues to come and do and give and accomplish what only He can do and give and accomplish. By continuing to serve you with His Gospel, that is, His Word and Sacraments, He daily and richly forgives you all of your sins, and thus He renews your faith and life in Him, until the Day of Resurrection, the Day your body is joined to your soul and raised incorruptible.

That is the special beauty of the Gospel,

namely, that it never does depend on you; it is nothing that you could ever do or accomplish for yourself. The Gospel, which is the blessing of God and your Life and Salvation in Christ, does not come from inside of you, but only from outside of you. So does it remain forever sure and certain in Christ Jesus, and it continues to do what He does for you, graciously and freely bestowing upon you all of His righteousness, His forgiveness of sins, and His divine, eternal Life in body and soul, in the Divine Service within His Church on earth, and when He comes again in glory to judge the living and the dead in His own perfect righteousness.

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor Jim Kress

### ***Treasurer's Report As of August 31, 2018***

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
INCOME	14,141	13,450	691
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>14,827</u>	<u>15,997</u>	(1,170)
<b>+/-</b>	(686)	(2,547)	
<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>			
INCOME	99,483	107,622	(8,139)
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>132,730</u>	<u>128,245</u>	4,485
<b>+/-</b>	(33,247)	(20,623)	



Respectfully submitted,  
*Jean Clappe-Mixell*  
North Star Bookkeeping LLC

## Check out our Websites and Facebook pages

Church — [www.redeemerfl.com](http://www.redeemerfl.com)

Child Care — [www.redeemerfl-cc.com](http://www.redeemerfl-cc.com)

School — [www.redeemerfl-school.com](http://www.redeemerfl-school.com)

FACEBOOK: [Redeemer Lutheran Church](#) [Redeemer Lutheran Child Care](#)



## UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A quick update on what's happening at Redeemer Lutheran Church

The work on our asphalt parking lot which includes new signage, curb painting and resealing has been awarded and will begin as soon as the contractor can schedule it. The repairs to the concrete sidewalks is still awaiting the bid process, but it is expected to begin this fall.

All interior work on the Sanctuary and Narthex will be postponed until next June. This part of the Capital Improvement Project will include carpet replacement in the Church and Narthex, replacing church ceiling with drywall, interior painting, installing 8' interior doors into the Sanctuary, adding a hearing loop, and replacing the audio system. This is to avoid the inconvenience of moving our worship service to the Fellowship Hall for the entire winter.

We have a pressing need for a conscientious member to fill the position of Congregation Secretary on the Church Council. If that person would volunteer soon they could ghost our current Secretary now and receive training while in transition. The position requires attending two meetings each month for 2-3 hours recording the minutes of the Church Council and School Board and 4 Voters Meetings per year, plus maintaining and managing the Membership and Voters Lists. Anyone who may be interested please contact anyone on the Council. This is also a wonderful opportunity to influence what's happening at Redeemer and share in fellowship with your brothers and sisters here.

I look forward to welcoming all our returning members soon. And hope to see you all in church.

Sincerely,  
Wade Duncan

### SERVING THE LORD

Pastor Rev. James Kress

Child Care  
Director Wendy Horvath

Office Secretary

Organist Bill Bowers

Keyboardist Elizabeth D'Amico

Choir Director Collins Sita

Newsletter  
Editor Pat Finkenbine

### OFFICERS

President Wade Duncan

Vice President Bill Bowers

Treasurer

Secretary June Brown

### BOARDS

Head Elder Mike Nagel

Christian Ed.

Human Care Lisa Kress

Outreach

Assimilation Anne Varone

School Board Laurie Steinke

Stewardship

Youth Alan Duburg

Financial  
Secretary Mindy Duncan

Property Mgmt. Jim Metzker

### GROUPS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild Sally Zierdt

Men's Group

Altar Guild

Coffee Hour

I'm not a fan of our polity. I agree with the fathers of the Lutheran confessions that the church would be best served by sticking to the traditional polity of the church. Our sister church body in Siberia has done just that: having a bishop, elected by the pastors, consecrated into the episcopacy by other Lutheran bishops, and who serves for life. The congregations do not have boards of elders or voters' assemblies. They also don't have non-liturgical or entertainment-based worship or various liturgical innovations that are commonplace in our synod.



Having said all of that, polity is an adiaphoron, and our synod's polity reflects our American commitment to democracy - for good and for ill. And so, we are governed by our congregations with synod and district being advisory (whatever that means). We have a synod president (and other members of the Praesidium) and 35 district presidents (who form the Council of Presidents). Our presidents serve three-year terms and must stand for election.

One of the weaknesses of our system is that we often (though not exclusively) incentivize men to leave behind altars and pulpits in exchange for high salaries and full benefits (are there any DPs who work second jobs or lack health insurance?). We impel them to stand for election every three years under penalty of loss of "job." We create a synod culture that virtually assures that in conflicts between pastors and congregations, the district president and other officials will side with a congregation at the expense of a pastor. We do not incentivize that the brightest and best exegetes, liturgists, and seelsorgers become our presidents (of course, there are exceptions), but rather we incentivize the elevation of administrators to the role of oversight (*episkope*). There is also an inordinate amount of secrecy in the COP, in my opinion. I have been told that there is a secret addendum to pastors' forms that only DPs are permitted to see. I have also been told that there is a secret DP handbook or manual of some sort. If this is not true, I would appreciate being corrected by someone in a position to know. But if this is

true, I believe it to be bad policy that invites abuse.

Having said all of this, there are men serving as district presidents who are, if not still pastors, men who are pastoral in the literal meaning of that word. There are DPs who are able exegetes and notable scholars, men who are capable of walking into our seminaries and teaching classes, many of whom know their biblical languages and have a knowledge of the Bible that exceeds their knowledge of the bylaws of synod and Robert's Rules.

My critique is not directed to individuals but rather to the shortcomings of our system of incentives.

I do want to give credit where it is due, and support our presidents when they write and speak truthfully and articulately. My district has a new president, the Rev. Eric Johnson. I have disagreements with him, but in our district's latest newsletter for church workers ("This Ministry That We Share" - of which the current issue is not yet online, but when it is, I will provide a link) he wrote a column that should draw support by readers of *Gottesdienst*.

He opens by saying:

"Stop Church Growth. STOP! Take a breath. Relax, and let's talk about this. I got a call Tuesday afternoon, a pastor excited about an opportunity to start a new worship service to attract millennials to his church asking for my input and ideas. (Sigh) I don't want to be a wet blanket, or pour cold water on someone's enthusiasm to reach new people, but the old church growth movement stuff of starting worship services and trying to attract people to your new service just doesn't work for most of our Lutheran churches. If you are now, or are thinking about using your worship service to attract new people to your church in the future, let me encourage you to STOP! Take a breath. Relax, and let's talk about this."

President Johnson's remarks had me cheering. He continues...

(Continued on page 8)

“Experience, statistics, and common biblical sense indicate that most people, who are not already Christians, will not be attracted to our programs or services. There are some exceptions. If you have a School or Early Childhood Development Center, you can attract some parents and family to come to a program that feature their kids. But most people who have no connection to your congregation, who aren’t in relationship with you or your people, will not be enticed, attracted, marketed, or motivated to come to your church program. Relationships are the key! Most people won’t be attracted to come to your church where they can hear the Gospel, but those who have developed a relationship with you and/or your congregation members outside the church building are far more likely to come to your church building for a special service or event. Remember this one statement, “Relationships are key!”....

Relationships are key! Often, when a congregation decides to try and reach out to their community, they pour lots of energy, money, and talents into programmatic events that are mostly doomed to failure, then say see outreach doesn’t work. Outreach doesn’t work when by outreach you mean trying to attract people to come to your church building for worship.”

He also says bluntly:

“Attractional worship does not work.”

This is a refreshing perspective on Lutheran worship coming from a district headquarters, and from a district president, to boot.

One of the biggest gripes against traditional and authentically Lutheran worship, our Gottesdienst, is that it isn’t “relevant” and won’t “attract the youth.” Not only does this bait-and-switch marketing approach fail to achieve its own stated goals to “grow the church” - as President Johnson has stated - it is also disrespectful to young people. They see right through the

snake oil sales job. For all of their faults, millennials and their younger cohorts have a *bubulum stercus* detector, maybe not for all things, but they do pick up on when their elders are engaging in marketing for the sake of drawing them in. No generation in history has been so bombarded by ads and slick campaigns. We are foolish if we think having a Beyonce service is going to attract anyone other than white baby-boomer virtue-signalling leftists who are already arrayed against Christ, the Church, and Holy Scripture.

Our Lord said that we should let our Yes be Yes, and our No, No. We ought to lay our cards on the table and be authentic. We cannot win them over unless and until we earn their respect by not being deceptive. We should let our liturgical flag fly. We should see the Divine Service as pastoral care for the redeemed rather than outreach to the lost. There are other ways to proclaim the Gospel in a post-Christian world, ways that are more effective than tampering with our Holy Liturgy. We should stand once again with our fathers in not only confessing this, but confessing it without a hint of irony or deception:

“In our churches Mass is celebrated every Sunday and on other festivals when the sacrament is offered to those who wish for it after they have been examined and absolved. We keep traditional liturgical forms, such as the order of the lessons, prayers, vestments, etc.” — AP 24:1

I do hope to see more such wisdom from my own district president and from other presidents in our synod. I want to thank President Johnson for having the courage to write something that flies in the face of the lingering culture of Church Growthism that stubbornly refuses to go away. It really is long past time for this old nag to be sent to the Glue Factory.

Rev. Larry Beane,  
Salem Lutheran Church, Gretna, LA



Church email addresses have changed! Be sure to correct your email contact list to reflect the new addresses:

**Pastor:** redeempastor1@gmail.com

**Church secretary:** redeemerfl@gmail.com

**Church treasurer:** redeemertreasurer1@gmail.com

**Child Care:** redeemerchildcare@gmail.com



## **Who is John the Steadfast?**

*By Martin R. Noland*

Who was the first Protestant? If you guessed Martin Luther, you would be close, but not right. The word “Protestant” was first applied to the German rulers who opposed the imperial laws adopted at the second Diet of Speyer in 1529. Chief among the protesters was John “the Steadfast,” Elector of Saxony, who thereby gained a reputation as the first and foremost Protestant.

Although John the Steadfast is not well-known outside of Lutheran circles, he should be. Without his steadfast conviction that Luther’s teaching was true, and his steadfast actions in defense of the Reformation, there would no Protestant church today. Without John’s protection, Luther would have experienced the same fate as Jan Huss, who was burned at the stake at the Council of Constance. Without John’s wisdom in political affairs, the Lutherans in Germany would have been murdered like the 20,000 French Calvinists on Saint Bartholomew’s Day in 1572.

German Lutherans still remember the role that John the Steadfast played in defending their religion. The Wittenberg Castle Church has two prominent tombs today. These are not the graves of Luther and Melancthon, who are buried in front of the pulpit, but the graves of John and Elector Frederick “the Wise” (his older brother). The electors are buried in front of the altar under huge bronze memorial slabs. They are flanked by alabaster statues, depicting them kneeling in prayer, and by magnificent bronze sculptures of the two electors in ceremonial garb and sword.

John the Steadfast was born in 1468 at Meissen, known today for its famous porcelain. He received a scholarly education, was trained in the arts of the knight, and gained prestige in battles against the Ottoman Turks. John became an enthusiastic reader of Martin Luther’s writings. When the papal bull was published against Luther in 1520, John was responsible for making sure it was not enacted in Electoral Saxony. Through correspondence, he convinced his brother Frederick at Worms to be more bold in his defense of Luther, resulting in Luther’s protection at the Wartburg. In October 1522, John heard Luther preach sermons at the court of Weimar on the powers and limits of secular authority (German: Von weltlicher Obrigkeit). These sermons became John’s personal political philosophy.

Upon the death of Frederick in May 1525, John the Steadfast became the Elector of Saxony. In those days, the Saxon Elector was second only to the emperor in power and influence in the Holy Roman Empire. Upon his accession, John announced to the clergy of Saxony that, in the future, the pure Word of God should be preached without human addition and that all useless ceremonies were to be abolished. In February 1526, John ratified a treaty with the Landgrave Philip of Hesse, which was soon joined by other Lutheran states. This was the beginning of political organization in defense of the Lutheran church.

John the Steadfast also defended the Lutheran church from economic disaster. The Saxon aristocracy had been appropriating church lands, which had previously been used as capital assets to pay the salaries of clergy, teachers, janitors, maintenance, and capital improvements. John put a stop to this appropriation, ensuring that the church was properly endowed for the present and future. John also assisted Luther and Melancthon in the reform of the University of Wittenberg, which became the pattern for Lutheran universities until the present day!

The imperial laws adopted at the Second Diet of Speyer in 1529, if enacted, would have resulted in the eradication of the Lutheran religion in the Holy Roman Empire. Along with his allies, John the Steadfast protested these laws. Emperor Charles the Fifth then challenged the Protestants to defend their new religion and its practices, which they did at the Diet of Augsburg.

*(Continued on page 10)*

burg in 1530. Their defense is known as the Augsburg Confession, with its first signature being that of Elector John the Steadfast.

From this history, we learn that the first “confessors” and defenders of the Lutheran church were laymen. Their spiritual heirs should remember that the Lutheran church cannot survive without laymen who also confess and defend this faith. John the Steadfast met his Savior on August 10, 1532.



### **Origins of the Organization *The Brothers of John the Steadfast***

The group was conceived of around 2005 as an effort to rally Lutheran laymen to support sound teaching of the faith and as a financial backer of the largely popular radio and i-pod broadcast Issues, Etc. That year Pastor Rossow was visiting the Issues, Etc. studio and asked Pastor Wilken, the shows host, and Jeff Scwharz, the shows producer, what they thought of the idea of starting a men’s group to support Issues, Etc. and other confessional media causes. That idea just sort of steeped for a while until Holy Week, A.D. 2008. On Holy Tuesday of that week, the show was abruptly cancelled by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. The reason given for the cancellation was that it was a financial drain on the synod. Many have questioned if there was not more to it than “just finances.” The current leadership of the LCMS 2008 directs the synod to reject our grandfather’s church whereas Issues, Etc. is known for promoting our grandfather’s church and even more than that, Issues, Etc. promotes the ancient church of the apostles, even the church of our Lord Jesus Christ. We at BJS believe promoting things like Issues, Etc. is not a financial drain, but instead is just good stewardship of God’s gifts to us.

This sudden cancellation of the show spurred on the efforts to roll out the Brothers of John the Steadfast to make sure that such shows can be supported so that we can better equip men and women to know and defend the apostolic faith.

Visit the brothers at <https://steadfastlutherans.org/>

## **WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE**

**CLASS:** Come join us on Wednesday at 10 AM in the Narthex for an exciting Table Talk discussion. Ask Pastor just about any question. We will search the Scriptures. We will have open dialog in the study of the Holy Scripture. Again, your questions and our discussion may range from current events to ancient church history. This is your time to “ask the pastor.”



## **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS CONTINUES FOLLOWING DIVINE SERVICE**

### *STEWARDSHIP BASICS*

***This study is for everyone because everyone is a steward to God.  
What does He demand of you as a steward: faithfulness.***

This new eight-part Bible study from LCMS Stewardship Ministry, is given to help congregations start a discussion of whole-life stewardship. Like many congregations, Redeemer Lutheran Church struggles financially. Why? Although the members of Redeemer care very deeply for their church, perhaps some or even most are unfamiliar or uncertain about their role and responsibility God has called us into His vineyard as steward.

**This study is offered to all members, guests, and visitors of Redeemer. This basic study takes place at a convenient time in order for everyone to attend: following Divine Service on Sundays (approximately 10:30).**

Stewardship is a topic that rarely provokes a neutral reaction. It either brings disdain because it makes those who hear the message uncomfortable, or it promotes a legalism that is not true to the Scriptures. Neither reaction is godly. To arrive at the desired destination, one needs to begin at the proper place.

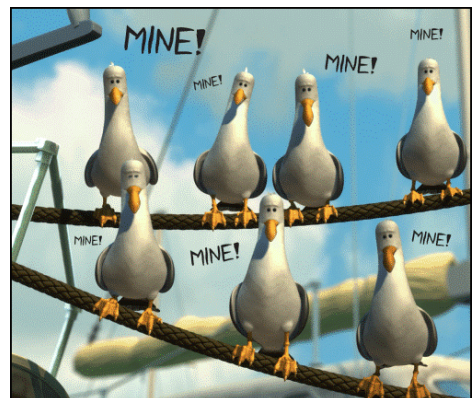
“Stewardship Basics” endeavors to do this. It starts with the Creator, not the steward, to show that stewardship is a journey that begins with identity. From creation, human beings were tasked with the stewardship of all that the Lord God made. But this stewardship was not left to the will and whim of man. Instead, being created in the image of God, the steward is to reflect the owner’s will in every aspect of his or her stewardship.

Stewards can be good. But because of the first stewardship crisis of Genesis 3, all stewardship is flawed. Usurping the role of the Creator, sinful stewards claimed ownership of what was not theirs. The result was judgment. This judgment did not excuse the steward from his or her created purpose; it only made stewardship an unpleasant labor. But in the blessing of the Gospel, the steward is redeemed and set free to reflect the image of the Creator and Redeemer.

Stewardship that begins in the right place can, by the leading of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, produce an understanding of stewardship that is liberating. The desired result is faithfulness, not the humorous meme to the right.

This study was the central piece to the Major Applied Project for the Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador’s Doctor of Ministry degree. It is presented here to help congregations find the correct starting point for a renewed discussion of who God has created and redeemed His stewards to be for Him. It is not intended to be a comprehensive study, but rather it is a starting point to frame an ongoing effort in stewardship.

Hopefully, those using it will find that it can be very helpful in starting a discussion of whole-life stewardship that seeks to promote faithfulness. To God be the glory!



## **AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE A LEGACY FOR REDEEMER**

Day after day, week after week, year after year the Lord Jesus supplies you with His gifts through the called minister at Redeemer Lutheran Church. The gifts you receive are a blessing during times of joy as well as during times of sadness; during times of prosperity as well as during times of need. The gifts you receive grant comfort and peace. The gifts you receive are also for an eternal benefit. He gives and you receive. He promises and He fulfills. He says, "Believe in Me and you shall live forever in My presence in heaven." In hearing the message of Christ Jesus, receiving the gift of faith, you are enabled to believe, trust and confess true saving faith in your Triune God.

In the time the Lord has blessed you without failure, never withholding His love for you, have you ever thought about leaving something behind for His Church?

The LCMS Foundation has decades of charitable expertise, helping to ensure that families are provided for and beloved ministries are supported.

The LCMS Foundation was established in 1958 by a group of Lutherans as a stewardship ministry of the Church, dedicated to the belief that this new organization would, "be a vehicle which can, and under the blessing of God's will, usher in a completely new era for our church." Their historic mission was articulated in their 1959 Report to the forty-fourth regular convention of the Synod:

*"... to do good, to be rich in good deeds and to be generous and willing to share ... so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."*

1 Timothy 6:18-19

Since that awe-filled beginning, thousands of inspired stewards, joyful in their thanks to God...people like you...have used the LCMS Foundation to plan and manage gifts that benefit their families, congregations and ministries worldwide!

Planned giving benefits are numerous when creating your gift plan. Above all is the opportunity to practice true generosity and Christian stewardship. This is done in joyful response to what the Lord has done for you. Also, it allows you to make the very best gifts to family and ministry. You can rest assured knowing that your wishes will be honored and that your earthly assets will be passed on in a way that makes sense and is helpful to those people and organizations you hold most dear. And third is that our expert gift planning counselors show you how to make best use of tax laws and wealth transfer principles that maximize what you share with others and minimize what is eaten up in taxes and probate fees.

Our team of professionals can help you begin your stewardship plan today. Let us know where to send more information, or call James Pennington your Florida Region representative at 863-370-0305.

Jim Pennington is a Gift Planning Counselor with the LCMS Foundation serving congregations and donors in Southern Florida and the Florida/Georgia District from his Lakeland, Fla. office. He also serves congregations implementing the Transfer the Blessings ministry through team development, endowment establishment, and member gift plan development through the Lifetime Plan for Giving process.

Prayerfully consider leaving a legacy behind for Redeemer Lutheran Church in order that the gifts of our Lord and Savior may continue to be given to others for months and years to come.





## FALL BRUNCH



The Fall Brunch was hosted by the Board of Assimilation under the leadership of Anne Varone, Assimilation Chair. She received an abundant amount of help from her board as well as members of Redeemer Lutheran Church. The Fall Brunch was well received by all who were in attendance following Divine Service on Sunday, September 23rd. Pictured from left to right: Jean Cote, Sally Zierdt, Nancy Kozak, June Brown, Cathy Mielke, Anne Varone, Chair.

At the conclusion of service on Sunday, September 23rd, Wendy Horvath, Director of Redeemer Lutheran Child Care, was recognized for her 10 years of service as Director. The inscription on the plaque reads: "In recognition of your 10 years of loyal and dedicated service as Director of the Child Care Center, we honor you today in assisting the church in carrying out her mission – bringing children to Jesus – as well as providing a safe, quality, Christ-centered environment for the children entrusted to your care. The proven leadership you provide your staff is also attributed to the success of the Center. The Lord continue to bless you in your work, your life, and your faith in Him."

In Christ our Savior,  
Pastor Jim Kress

***The deadline for the NOVEMBER Newsletter is October 24th.  
Please have all your submissions sent to [patchas123@gmail.com](mailto:patchas123@gmail.com)  
OR drop them off at the church office by the date indicated above.  
Thank You!***





Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the instruction and Word of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal 6:6).

But there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the Law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents, but there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, how they do and say most everything.

And children try to copy it, which can be quite humorous when parents wish they wouldn't. It can be uncomfortable and embarrassing if a child copies or repeats something less than polite that they learned from a parent. Sitcoms thrive on these situations. It only happens because children emulate their parents because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God, by grace, through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan: "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins, and in exchange He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit, by which we cry out, "Abba, Father."

We are born again, born from above, born of water and the Spirit, to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ, through Baptism. And since we are sons, we are heirs – heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace and mercy, His generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

And this is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the Church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received God our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. And His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As the Small Catechism teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

**"Give us this day our daily bread."** *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. *What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

In other words, God gives us everything we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds. Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week to set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the Church.

We don't do this simply because He has commanded us so to do; it is because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.



## Wow! I Didn't Know That!-LCEF Pondering Points

Did you know that:

- ♦ LCEF was started over 100 years ago?
- ♦ less than 5% of LCMS members are investors with LCEF?
- ♦ LCEF benefits Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations, workers, and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) of the LCMS?
- ♦ LCEF offers many different investment options with competitive interest rates?
- ♦ LCEF has helped Redeemer Lutheran Church and Child Care grow and expand?
- ♦ even you can help expand ministry opportunities within our synod and congregation with just a small investment?

LCEF has a strong history of providing investment opportunities while providing services and loans to congregations and workers. Ministry is able to expand with the money that is loaned. With the many different investment options to choose from, you are not limited to a "one size fits all" investment.

We all have investments, or have thought about having them. When we choose to invest in companies other than LCEF, we never really know where our money is going. With LCEF, you can rest assured that your money will always be working to further mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, both near and far. Your investment will fund loans and services that are available to congregations, church workers, and RSOs of the LCMS.

Please see the LCEF display in the narthex or talk to me, your LCEF congregational representative. I will answer any questions you might have regarding investing in LCEF. Prayerfully consider becoming an investor with Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Steinke

## REDEEMER COOKBOOKS

*Hot off the presses! The Redeemer Lutheran Church, School & Child Care Cookbooks are **HERE!*** The FEEDING THE FLOCK cookbook is only \$12.00. They can be purchased in the Church Office or on Sunday mornings at the Visitor's Desk. If you are not yet in the Englewood area, we can mail the Cookbook to you up north. Contact the church office via email (redeemerfl@gmail.com) with the number of cookbooks you would like to order. The cost of each cookbook is \$12.00 (plus \$5.77 shipping).

## PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY

We sure could use some help on our Property Appreciation 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 Saturday, October 20th at 8:00 am.**



## PRAYERS

**SHUT-INS:** Judy Clasen, Susan Jahns, Rita Kaufman, Duwayne Schoeneck.

**HEALING: Members:** Ken Adair, Neva Aldene, Deb Anderson, Carl Bertka, Jean Cote, Jan Detrow, Mindy Duncan, George Dykhuizen, Charlie & Pat Finkenbine, Phil Frincke, Mike & Judy Guastella, Mark Horvath, Chuck Malecki, Angela Mannato, Paul McDonald, Ken Mielke, Leslie Miles, Glenn & Marlene Mossner, Karen Pantaleo, Bob Payne, Tom Poyer, Myra Schaub, Joyce Schneider, Russ Spooner, Caitlin Tilton, Bob Varone, Robert Vickey, Larry Wiech, Sally Zierdt, and Artie Zipp

**FRIENDS & RELATIVES:** Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Chris & Heather Bates, Michelle Bernard, Bert Blackford, Grace Blum, Gerry Borwick, Bill Bowers, Jr., Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Jack Carlos, Diane Carr, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Donna Connors, Colleen Conway, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Renee Dempsey, Dale & Trudy DesJardins, Ed Detrow, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Anton Durner, Chris Durner, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Lou Fountain, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Sandra Gettings, Nancy Gleis, Shakeisha Gray, Mary Ann Guilfoyle, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Dennis Hegarty, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, Donald, Sarah, & Catie Golding, John Hill, Rick Hill, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David

Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Chelsea Hutchinson, Stanley and Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Deb Jacobson, Bill Jaquest, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Family & Friends of Tom Kern, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Erin Kress, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Joe Manson, Family and Friends of Paul McDonald, Candace McGowan, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Ron Mullins, Esther Murphy, Mariana Murray, Randy & Bev. Parkinson, Charles Pentecost Jr., Julie Pool, Robin Potts, John Purdy, George & Yvonne Raetzke, Mary Raines, Rev. Ronald Rock, Paul Rollo, Lois Skinner, Brittney Smith and her unborn child, Don Stewart, Paul Sullivan, Nancy Sly, Charles Tolley, George Vespa, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Wava Zeitlow, and Mary Ann Zipp

**Military Personnel:** Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Thomas Francis Styns II, Brian Jackson, Jonathan Koen, 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!**



## ELDER & COMMUNION ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

Date	Elder & Reader	Communion Asst
<b>Sunday, Oct 7th</b>	Paul Brown	Steve Horvath
<b>Sunday, Oct 14th</b>	Collins Sita	Rev. Mark Steinke
<b>Sunday, Oct 21st</b>	Mike Nagel	Dave Giroux
<b>Sunday, Oct 28th</b>	Paul Brown	Dennis Replinger



Date	Crucifier	Acolyte
<b>Sunday, Oct 7th</b>	Kamrie Evanicki	Kyleigh Evanicki
<b>Sunday, Oct 14th</b>	Ariana Miller	John Miller
<b>Sunday, Oct 21st</b>	Toby Hancock	Braeden Dolphin
<b>Sunday, Oct 28th</b>	Mackenzie McDowall	Therin McDowall

## ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE



Date	Set-Up	Clean-Up
<b>Sunday, Oct 7th</b>	Lisa Kress	Jean-Cote/ Joyce Schneider
<b>Sunday, Oct 14th</b>	Bob Varone	Gretchen Armstrong
<b>Sunday, Oct 21st</b>	Lisa Kress	Carolyn Francis
<b>Sunday, Oct 28th</b>	Bob Varone	Sandi Libke

*"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be.  
My Father will honor the one who serves me." John 12:26*





Happy Fall Y'all

### Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays  
at 3:45

10/1 Abraham's Son Isaac  
Is Born

Genesis 21:1-7

10/8 Joseph's Father and  
Brothers

Genesis 37:1-11

10/15 Moses' Birth

Exodus 2:1-10

10/22 Crossing the Red  
Sea

Exodus 14

10/29 The Twelve Spies'  
Report

Numbers 13:1-14:38



Thank You God, for  
keeping Your promises. I  
know You will bless me. I  
know You know what is  
best for me. Amen.

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

### Birthdays

10/3 Julianna

10/7 Abigail

10/8 Therin

10/8 Isaac

10/11 Jaxon

10/13 Gabrielle

10/14 Cailynn

10/16 Kolton

10/18 Jace

10/18 Audrey

10/21 Aubrie

10/21 Kayden G

10/22 Jonathan T

10/23 Phineas

10/23 Erin

10/28 Karter



**Congratulations!**  
**Thank you for being**  
**dedicated Teachers.**

Ms. Jazmyne 2 year

Ms. Nicole P. 1 year

### Special Days in October

10/8-10/12 Fire Safety  
Week

10/8 Columbus Day

10/16 Bosses Day

10/31 Halloween - Join us  
for a Parade at 10:00 am



### Fall Festival



November 10<sup>th</sup> will be  
Redeemers 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chili  
Cook-Off

With Basket Raffle and

Silent Auction for

Homemade desserts

Get your recipes out for  
your famous chili and

desserts and enter them  
into the cook-off and

Auction!

More to follow.



## Redeemer School

Happy October! We have been in school for almost two months now. It's hard to believe how fast time has flown by. We have been keeping busy and learning a lot. Pastor has been teaching out of the book of Genesis. We have learned about creation, Adam and Eve, Noah, the tower of Babel, and how we all need to do the work God has placed before us with a selfless love. If you have ever been around a group of kids they tend to worry about themselves. We have been working on thinking about others first and how we can bring peace into situations that could become tense. This is not always an easy thing for young kids or for anyone really. We all need to remember to put God first. We are learning that IT IS TIME TO BE KIND!



Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade have been learning about their community. We are learning about all the different kinds of people it takes to make a community work. One person cannot do every job but we can help others do their jobs. We can help by praying for people, by following rules, and by making right and safe decisions. We will be visiting some of our community members in the month of October.

In science, we have been learning about apples. We have read apple stories, learned the parts of apples, weighed apples, counted

apples, made a graph of our favorite apples, and we tested to see if apples would sink or float. We even learned about how an apple core can remind us to be meek. Our favorite was cooking with apples. We made applesauce and apple pies. September has been an amazing month.

Redeemer Lutheran School would like to welcome Mrs. Angela to our class. Mrs. Angela will be working part-time helping our busy class, as well as substituting for Mrs. Nicole. Mrs. Angela is a much needed asset to our class. She has fit right in and the students (and Mrs. Nicole) love her already! Welcome Mrs. Angela!

*Submitted by Nicole Hopkins*



## Teacher's Conference 2018

Orlando, FL.

**Infant Room.** At conference I learned that it's ok for children to be children! Not everyone can do what you expect of all children and it's our job to accommodate all children and their individual needs. All children learn through play and exploration. Let them play and do things they want to do. I also learned the importance of our role as teachers. We do matter very much to our children's lives and what we do has a huge impact on their lives and how they grow. Have fun and give love and individual attention.

I learned at conference how to incorporate yoga in story telling as a way to keep children interested and a way to be active indoors. I also learned that free play is important because it lets children express their creative side and builds their confidence in what they do. Another thing was the motivational speaker made me realize that we must always continue learning new things no matter how long we have been doing what we do because learning methods change as our youth grows.

**Ones.** I learned that the toddlers would rather play with items that are not toys, so I started gluing the lids on water bottles once I am done drinking them I then put them in dramatic play and around the room. The kids love it! Using everyday items are sometimes more fun than store-bought toys. This gives the toddlers time to explore their world.

**Twos.** At this conference I learned how music can be used in the classroom to help the children's development and quality of life at school. It can help build a sense of security and confidence. In a separate class I learned how to handle the stress that may come with working in child care. I created a "Sun Shine Folder" to remind me why I started to help children grow and give them a bright future.

**Threes.** At conference I learned that creating a positive classroom environment contributes to successful teaching and learning. I also learned that it takes support from the whole center to create a stress free classroom. Being a teacher of small children can be challenging, but with these new skills I can be less stressed.

**Fours/VPK.** I learned about how to incorporate music and movement into every aspect of my day.

I learned about how you can handle conflict by having the child try to problem solve with your help. I also learned that you can incorporate dramatic play into every center; you just have to provide the materials and they will use it.



Thank you for sending us  
to conference!

We had a great time and  
learned a lot!



# Columbus Day

## WORD SEARCH



AMERICA	CREW	LATITUDE	SAIL
ATLANTIC	DISCOVERY	LONGITUDE	SANTA CLARA
BAHAMAS	EUROPE	MAP	SANTA MARIA
CAPTAIN	FERDINAND	NAVIGATE	SHIP
CARIBBEAN	GOLD	NEW WORLD	SPAIN
CHRISTOPHER	INDIANS	OCEAN	TRADE ROUTE
COLUMBUS	ISABELLA	PINTA	VOYAGE
COMPASS	LAND	PORTUGAL	WEST INDES



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

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED - OPTION 1

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PLACID, FL  
PERMIT 774



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
SCHOOL & CHILD CARE  
6465 Mayport Street  
Englewood, FL 34224  
**REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.**  
*Pastor*

**Church Phone: 941-475-2410**  
Church Fax: 941-475-9726  
**School/Child Care Phone:**  
**941-475-2631**  
email: redeemerfl@gmail.com

**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:**

Divine Service: 9:15 AM  
Bible Class: 10:30 AM  
Sunday School: 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).*