



December 2018



WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD NOTHING TO LOSE ... UNTIL YOU LOST EVERYTHING

As many of you know my younger brother and his wife completely lost everything when their home tragically burned to the ground in the early morning hours on November 10. Although they lost their worldly possessions, including three canine family animals, the lives of the entire human household were saved. Can you imagine such a loss?

We often take for granted all that we have, or may I properly say, "All that the Lord gives us." We are taught from Luther's Small Catechism: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

"He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life." (SC, First Article). It's difficult to argue against what Dr. Luther writes.

Losing material possessions is indeed a tragedy, but then again losing your salvation would be the most tragic of all losses, don't you think?

So, let's answer the question we would rather avoid: "Can I lose my salvation?"

First, from the LCMS website under "Frequently Asked Questions" Can you lose your salvation?

Q: Can you lose your salvation and if you can, what do you need to do to regain it again?

A: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod believes and teaches that it is possible for a true believer to fall from faith, as Scripture itself soberly and repeatedly warns us (1 Cor. 10:12; 1 Pet. 5:8; 2 Pet. 3:17; Heb. 2:1-3; 3:12-19; 6:4-8, etc.). Such warnings

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are intended for Christians who appear to be lacking a right understanding of the seriousness of their sin and of God's judgment against sin, and who, therefore, are in danger of developing a false and proud "security" based not on God's grace, but on their own works, self-righteousness, or freedom to "do as they please."

By the same token, the LCMS affirms and treasures all of the wonderful passages in Scrip-

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ture in which God promises that He will never forsake those who trust in Christ Jesus alone for salvation (John 10:27- 29; Romans 8; Heb. 13: 5-6, etc.). To those who are truly repentant and recognize their need for God’s grace and forgiveness, such passages are powerful reminders of the true security that is ours through sincere and humble faith in Christ alone for our salvation.

A person may be restored to faith in the same way he or she came to faith in the first place: by repenting of his or her sin and unbelief and trusting completely in the life, death and resurrection of Christ alone for forgiveness and salvation.

Whenever a person does repent and believe, this always takes place by the grace of God alone and by the power of the Holy Spirit working through God’s Word in a person’s heart. (<https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/doctrine#lose>).

The title of this article is: *When You Thought You Had Nothing to Lose ... Until You Lost Everything*. It probably never occurred to my brother and his wife in nearly 30 years of marriage that in one fiery moment they could lose their home, their possessions, their memories, and even their pets. Unfortunately it came to a devastating reality.

As Christians – Jesus believing, God fearing, Bible reading Christians – we probably don’t think about losing the salvation won for us through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The horrifying reality we can.

Consider what the Apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth: “Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.” (1 Cor. 10:12). This, of course, is a warning to those with a misplaced confidence in their own faith. The result is a fall into sin and away from the grace God.

Let us understand this warning well. The devil, the

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SERVING THE LORD

Pastor Rev. James Kress

Child Care Director Wendy Horvath

Office Admin Asst Caitlin Tilton

Organist Bill Bowers

Keyboardist Elizabeth D’Amico

Choir Director Collins Sita

Newsletter Editor Pat Finkenbine

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GROUPS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild Sally Zierdt

Men’s Group

Altar Guild

Coffee Hour

world, and even our own sinful flesh will use every trick in the book and will not stop until they finally wear us out, so that we either renounce our faith or throw up our hands and put up our feet, becoming unconcerned about our salvation.

Therefore, we should be aware of the truth in God's Word and remain on guard (2 Pet. 3:17); we must pay much closer attention to what God's Word says, so as not to drift away from it (Heb. 2:1).

The only sure and certain way to remain conscious in the stability of your salvation is to remain in all of God's Word. How is that done? Repent of your sins; go to confession and receive absolution; attend Divine Service faithfully; and receive Christ's true body and blood frequently.

The free gift of faith given you through the hearing of the word of Christ (Rom. 3:17), enables you, that is, makes you alive in faith, alive in Christ Jesus to believe in the words and promises of God and to live out your faith in Christ Jesus.

Again Paul writes these words of encouragement: "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you,

both to will and to work for His good pleasure." (Phil. 2:12-13).

Truly, God's action is the cause of your salvation, for He takes no pleasure in the death of anyone (Ezek. 18:32). Rather, He desires all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4).

And yet, not all are saved! Why? Because many reject the Word and resist the Holy Spirit; many become complacent and unconcerned with the Word of God, both the Law and the Gospel; and many have this false notion that God will forgive them regardless of the unrepentant sinful life they live. Don't get caught in the devil's trap.

Indeed, our loving Lord has given you everything, the temporal possessions here on earth, as well as, and most importantly, your eternal salvation through faith in the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

As we begin a new Church year with the season of Advent, may we all remain faithful to the One who has chosen us as a people of His own possession and who has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9).

A Blessed Adventide to All,
Pastor Jim Kress



Angel Tree

Once again, we look forward to the Angel Tree every year, as we spread the joy of Christmas with the children of the Child Care and Day School. The church will have the Angel Tree set up in the Narthex the first Sunday in Advent, December 2. Please pick a child's name (which will be numbered) off the tree and sign the corresponding clipboard number. Please plan on spending between \$20-\$25 per gift. The gifts will need to be delivered back to the tree no later than Sunday, December 16, 2018.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AND A WORDLY ANALOGY

Closed communion is the official practice of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. That does not mean every pastor or congregation faithfully practices closed communion, but the practice is not merely a preference or opinion of individual pastors and congregations.

Closed communion was the historic practice of the whole church throughout the world until relatively recently. Even today, the majority of Christians around the world belong to denominations which practice closed communion (at least on paper).

The early church practiced closed communion. So did Luther and the Lutheran Reformers, even when it would have been easier to gloss over differences with other Protestants in order to present a united front against the Roman Catholics. Some of our Lutheran ancestors left Germany for America because the government tried to force Lutherans and other Protestants into one denomination literally at gun point, intentionally omitting doctrinal differences over the Lord's Supper.

In our politically correct context, many people are uncomfortable with this historic, orthodox, confessional, Bible-based practice. Many pastors are uncomfortable with it too—at least on a secular level. Sometimes it can feel awkward to tell people “no,” especially in the unique circumstances of a vacation/retirement/snowbird retreat, where Redeemer Lutheran Church is situated. We are almost guaranteed to have visitors every single Sunday, many of whom arrive after the service has actually started. Worldly wisdom and personal feelings might tempt us to do away with a practice like closed communion. But let us have scripture for our guide—not worldly wisdom, nor our own preferences to be liked by people or to go the easy route.

God's word is clear: “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died, But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.” (1 Cor. 11:27-32, ESV).

So let us understand – according to scripture above – not every Christian ought to commune at our altar. In accordance with the Bible, the Small Catechism teaches us that worthy recipients of the Lord's Body and Blood are those “who have faith in these words: given and shed for you.” (Small Catechism, Sacrament of the Altar). Only those who discern the bodily presence of the Lord in the Supper, and are also able to examine their hearts and lives for sin and faith, receive this Supper worthily. As the Lord spoke by the pen of St. Paul, anyone else receives the Supper to their harm. We may not like this reality, we may not agree with this reality, but the fact of the matter is: this is God's inspired reality

Pastors are not motivational speakers, not social workers, not entrepreneurs or businessmen or civil servants. Yes, pastors are teachers, but God's word calls pastors to be spiritual leaders “keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account” (Heb. 13:17). Pastors are called to be watchmen over souls (Ez. 3:17ff). They are called to distinguish between true doctrine and false doctrine (Rom. 16:7; 2 Thessalonians 3:15); they are called to make judgements concerning people's conduct (1 Cor. 5). They are stewards who must carry out their ministry responsibly (1 Cor.4:1-3). Closed Communion is a necessary aspect of Pastoral care and oversight.

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Let's look at a worldly analogy shall we? People respect boundaries in many other contexts. Take for instance a country club. Country clubs have documented criteria for membership. I cannot expect, much less demand, the privileges reserved for members of a country club if I am not a member of that country club.

For another example, a pastor is analogous to a doctor, not a vending machine. You cannot go to a random doctor with whom you have no relationship and demand he give you a certain treatment or medicine. It would be irresponsible for a doctor to prescribe a drug to a stranger who walked in off the street, without so much as examining him, asking further questions, and giving him specific instructions. You need to take the medicine properly, or else you could end up in worse shape. And if the doctor prescribed the medication to you and it caused you harm then the doctor would held accountable most likely in court. So it is with the doctrines of our Lord, including the Sacrament of the Altar, the pastor is held accountable to an individual's spiritual harm, but not to a worldly court, but to a much higher court..

There is provision in our practice for responsibly making exceptions to closed communion in special or out-of-the-ordinary situations. However, the situations – as special as they might be – should not become regular or ordinary occurrences. Redeemer's pastor lovingly and compassionately speaks with individuals, couples, and family members from non-LCMS congregations for more in-depth discussions. But even in these cases, it is the intent of the pastor, and with God's help, to have individuals enter into official membership through catechetical instruction, affirmation of faith, or change of membership.

The closed communion discussion is never disrespectful. It is never a slammed door in someone's face. In fact, the pastor invites guests and visitors into deeper fellowship – not some shallow 30 second fellowship at the altar of our Lord; but the fellowship of learning doctrine and formally committing to membership. And this does in fact happen, even here in our situation. Consider this: if we had open communion, there would be less incentive for people to formally join our fellowship.

Closed communion doesn't deter membership growth, it strengthens it. The Lord's body and blood are truly present in the Lord's Supper, along with the bread and wine. The Lord has given us His sacraments, along with instructions and guidance about their proper administration. He promises to sustain His Church – even if His clear words run contrary to our preferences, wisdom, and comfort.

Lastly, it is one thing to support your pastor as your spiritual leader (which he is deeply grateful), but it is altogether encouraging to defend him with the scriptures, the confessions, and the grace of God in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

The Lord's Supper is a treasure from God Himself. Let us thank Him and take delight in it. Jesus offers forgiveness, life, and salvation to all who believe His words concerning the Supper, which tell us that He is truly present along with the bread and wine.

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, December 15th at 8:00 am.**



Throughout his epistles and his preaching recorded in the Book of Acts, St. Paul refers, in one way or another, to thanksgiving and thankfulness nearly 50 times. Whether vertically toward God, or horizontally toward the neighbor, thanksgiving is a major theme within St. Paul's body of work.

What does this mean? It means thankfulness is intrinsic to the life of those baptized into Christ. In other words, giving thanks is what Christians do as they live out their lives in this world.

The problem is that we often forget this. Consider your average, run-of-the-mill, normal day. When you get home, and your parents, your spouse or your children ask about your day, what first comes to your mind? After 99 percent of things went right, went exactly as planned, were enjoyable and blessings, we tend to focus on and remember the 1 percent of things that went poorly, that didn't go as planned, and that were nuisances.

We remember the bad things. We focus on discontent. And we fail to give thanks in all circumstances for everything (Eph. 5:20) and to rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4).

Thankfulness and contentment go together. We are content with things for which we are thankful. St. Paul could be content with having plenty or when in need because He gave thanks to the Lord for all things. He thanked the Lord for those who had prayed for him and listened to his proclamation of the Gospel. He gave thanks for their good works in and for the Church of Christ. He gave thanks for the grace of God in Christ Jesus and found that God's grace was sufficient for him.

So, give thanks for all things and in all circumstances dear brothers and sisters in Christ. For you have been saved from sin, death, and hell by the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You have been added to the very family of God in an adoption of grace through Holy Baptism. God is your Father. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is your brother.

But He not only provides for your spiritual well-being, He cares also for this body and life. Your Father in heaven provides food and clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children. He gives you reason and all your senses. He has given you the raw talents that you have developed into careers. Everything you are and everything that you have is a gift from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in you.

Give thanks for these things. Make a list – every morning if you must. Say them out loud. Sing about them within the congregation of the saints. And remember this: God has given you these things so that you may be of service to those around you – your family, your neighbors, your brothers and sisters in Christ. For to whom much is given; much shall be required (Luke 12:48).

The following was written by Rev. Robert Zagore, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Traverse City, Michigan. In these brief reflections, he reminds us of the very practical nature of the Church's liturgy and hymnody.

Sometimes the most valuable insights come from recognizing the genius of things which are always there.

When I was in my second year at seminary, a couple of friends asked me if I would help start an overnight chaplaincy program at a local inner city hospital. I thought of it as a great opportunity for mission work. The 11 pm to 7 am hours would guarantee time to study, even sleep. I just had to be on site. The nurses would call if there was a crisis. I'd run in, proclaim God's Word and allow the healing balm of the Gospel to bring relief-or so I thought.

My vision of meaningful, humorous, reasoned, dialogues with the distressed and dying was soon demolished. On my first night I received a call: "Code Blue." I ran down to the proper hospital wing and looked for the room. The bustle told me which it was. I stood in the doorway. The doctors and nurses worked furiously to revive an elderly man. I had decided to stand in the doorway, but a nurse grabbed me by the arm and moved me to the head of the bed. "We've been waiting for you," she announced.

I was speechless and overwhelmed. The sights and sounds flooded my senses. I had never seen someone dying before. I searched my brain for an appropriate response. I placed my hand on the man's head and said the only words which would come into my mind, "Our Father, who art in heaven. . ." As I spoke, I noticed others were praying too. As the "Amen" rang out, I continued the pattern I learned from praying the "suffrages" in church: "I believe in God, the Father almighty. . ."

Around the room, lips moved in unison. Only the occasional doctor's order broke the liturgy of the unscheduled evening prayer.

The room was no longer the valley of the shadow of death. It was the gate of heaven, through which, that night, a righteous man passed. "You did a nice job, thanks," someone said. At the time, I wasn't sure what I had done.

Time passed and my experience grew. I began to learn the importance of the Church's prayer. Before, I thought of it as a Lutheran family heirloom. The liturgy seemed to be like grandmother's china. It was set out for family gatherings and special occasions. It wasn't for everyday use. Besides, it was so old; no one except the family could appreciate its beauty.

I was wrong.

During those months of overnight chaplaincy, I would often be called to attend those who were in shock, unconscious, near death, critically injured. I was called in to speak to families enduring devastating trials. The work was always easier if they knew the liturgy-and surprisingly, many did.

For some, the words were only the vague shadows from a childhood ritual. But they still were true. With others, I saw the time-ripened fruit of an ongoing relationship with God. I didn't have to teach them the words. They didn't have to struggle through their tears to understand. They knew the words, and the words brought hope. Christ crashed through their darkness and pain. They weren't alone.

In the emergency room one night, a nurse watched as a family gathered around their stricken father. I had learned to ask if they went to church and where. With the answer, I knew how to proceed. "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." "Amen." "Lord have Mercy. . ." "Our Father. . ." Christ was there in the words they had spoken with him since

childhood. The Church was there, as they spoke the same words they learned in the pew. I told the nurse what it meant. "I thought the room seemed crowded," she smiled. She was in church the next Sunday, joining her prayer to theirs.

The scene was always much different with unbelievers. False hopes and worldly goals are little comfort when facing death or grave trauma. God's Word still brought hope, even created faith. But a deathbed is a hard place to teach the faith. It is much better learned day by day, week by week. In this way, the words of the liturgy make incremental deposits in our hearts and minds from which the fruits of hope are drawn in times of trial.

The structure and timeless nature of the Church's worship calls order out of the chaos of a crisis. It perfectly provides pastoral care at the end of life, because the peace and hope it gives have been accruing for a lifetime. It is familiar, easily recalled, and theologically solid. The words revive a thousand moments in the presence of a merciful and loving Father, and bring us there again.

In the parish, I have found that this same truth holds. I have been the pastor of an Alzheimer's patient who struggled to remember even her daughter's name. But she could speak every word of the Divine Service. I witnessed her blessed relief as hope, faith, and peace-giving words broke through the hellish torment of a languishing mind. Christ had come to her. It was a gift from my predecessors. Because they had taught her the liturgy, she had the words to greet her God.

When parishes cultivate a liturgical life, they arm their sons and daughters with words ingrained with the Gospel. They implant a resolute and joyous hope. Reinforced over a lifetime, they are unshakable, even by death.

Recently, a dear saint died. For thirty years she faithfully took her place behind the organ week after week. In her last decade, she couldn't leave her living room chair. During visits she recalled the church with the coal fired stove and a foot pumped organ that graced the German settlement. The prayers and litany we spoke, and sometimes sang, she had learned as a girl. We prayed them through continued illness. We spoke them through tears when her only son was murdered.

When I last saw her, she was in the hospital bed she would not leave alive. The last words I spoke to her were 3400 years older than she. Through three and a half millennia, these words had given what they promised. For nearly a century, they were the words with which her pastors had blessed her. "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance on you and give you peace."

She knew he would. The last word I heard her say, I overheard her say to God: "Amen."

Eternal Father, you alone make the decisions about life and death. Show mercy to your servants whose departure seem near. If it be your gracious will, restore them and lengthen their earthly life; if not, O Father, keep them in their baptismal grace and prepare them to commit themselves to your eternal care and keeping. Give them a truly repentant heart, firm faith, and a lively hope. Let not the pain or fear of death cause them to waiver in confidence and trust. Grant them a peaceful departure and a joyous entrance into everlasting life with the glorious company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



NEW SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS BEGINS DECEMBER 9TH

As the church journeys toward heaven, it teaches the Word of the LORD, it washes at the font, and it feeds according to the will of the LORD. As God's people, we gather in a place called church and we attend Divine Service because it is there that God gives us the gift of His Son Jesus Christ. This is a promise that He has given us as the people of God, and it is the greatest gift that God could give us.

This promise of the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ comes to us when we are gathered in His name, because He has bound Himself to the preaching of the gospel, and the giving of Himself in the sacraments.

Now, from the world's perspective these are not important gifts, and yet from God's perspective, they are the most important gifts that He could give. We believe, teach and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ is present within our church according to His flesh. And the fact that the eternal God could be present amongst us in His flesh, through simple Words, through simple water, and through simple bread and wine, is part of the "MYSTERY" that we call the Liturgy of the Church.

Come explore this mystery with us **beginning Dec. 9th** following Divine Service. This 12 session series on our Lutheran Liturgy is presented by Dr. Arthur Just in DVD form. For each session, a study guide will be provided. Dr. Just, professor at Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN, leads viewers through a presentation of our liturgical heritage and its Scriptural origins. The sessions include:

An Introduction to the Lutheran Liturgy, The Structure of Liturgy, Jewish Origins in Christian Worship, the Table Fellowship of Jesus and Structure of Word and Sacrament, Liturgy in the Life of Jesus, The Liturgy of the Word, The Liturgy of the Sacrament, The Entrance, Preparation and Distribution, The Lutheran Liturgy: 1941, 182 and beyond, the Church Year and Sunday, the Lord's Day, The Services of Prayer, Catechesis, Baptism and the Liturgy of Life.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE

CLASS: Come join us on Wednesdays 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."





God has most certainly blessed every one of us with spiritual and physical blessings. God’s amazing love for us has ensured that we have everything we need for this life and for our eternal life. He has not spared anything in order that we may have an abundant life.

With our physical blessings, we have the ability to be good stewards of all that has been entrusted to us. We can use our money to help other congregations expand their ministries through investments in Lutheran Church Extension Fund. We also earn interest at a higher rate than is given by our local banks and credit unions. Best of all, we know that our money is being used to further God’s Kingdom.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, School and Child Care has only 20 investors, or accounts, with Lutheran Church Extension Fund as of this writing. **Let’s work toward a goal of having 12 more by the end of 2019!** That’s an average of one a month.

Check out the Young Investor’s Account for your children or grandchildren under 18! What a great gift for children.....it never gets lost or broken and kids won’t outgrow it. It teaches them the value of saving and also grows ministry of other Lutheran churches.

In celebration of LCEF’s 40th Anniversary, they are offering a short term (40 month) note at a rate of 4%! They are offering this for a limited time-until they reach \$100 million dollars invested. They have \$48 million already invested. All that is required is a minimum \$500 investment. Go to lcef.org to download an application.

Please see the LCEF display in the narthex or talk to me, your LCEF congregational advocate. 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

Treasurer’s Report As of October 31, 2018

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
INCOME	9,231	13,442	(4,211)
EXPENSES	<u>14,053</u>	<u>15,995</u>	(1,942)
+/-	(4,822)	(2,553)	
YEAR TO DATE			
INCOME	123,765	134,526	(10,761)
EXPENSES	<u>161,877</u>	<u>160,228</u>	1,649
+/-	(38,112)	(25,702)	



Respectfully submitted,
Jean Clappe-Mixell
North Star Bookkeeping LLC

PRAYERS

SHUT-INS: Judy Clasen, Susan Jahns, and Rita Kaufman.

HEALING for Members: Ken Adair, Neva Aldene, Deb Anderson, Carl Bertka, Jean Cote, Jan Detrow, Charlie & Pat Finkenbine, Mike & Judy Guastella, Mark Horvath, Angela Mannato, Ken Mielke, Leslie Miles, Glenn & Marlene Mossner, Karen Pantaleo, Bob Payne, Tom & Sue Poyer, Joyce Schneider, Russ Spooner, Caitlin Tilton, Bob Varone, Robert Vickey, Sally Zierdt, and Artie Zipp

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Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Deb Jacobson, Bill Jaquest, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Erin Kress, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Joe Manson, Candace McGowan, Rev. Paul Mier, 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, Brittney Smith and her **unborn child**, Don Stewart, Paul Sullivan, Nancy Sly, Charles Tolley, George Vespa, Jim & Judy Wahl, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Family & Friends of Larry Wiech, 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
Sunday, Dec 2nd	Paul Brown	Rev. Mark Steinke
Sunday, Dec 9th	Collins Sita	Dennis Replinger
Sunday, Dec 16th	Rev. Mark Steinke	Steve Horvath
Sunday, Dec 23rd	Bob Varone	Rev. Mark Steinke
Monday, Dec 24th	4:30—Mike Nagel 7:00—Bob Varone	Paul Brown Collins Sita
Tuesday, Dec 25th	Collins Sita	Steve Horvath
Sunday, Dec 30th	Paul Brown	Rev. Mark Steinke
Tuesday, Jan 1st	Mike Nagel	Dave Giroux



Date	Crucifier	Acolyte
Sunday, Dec 2nd	Ariana Miller	John Miller
Wed, Dec 5th		Jayden Bishop
Sunday, Dec 9th	Mackenzie McDowall	Therin McDowall
Wed, Dec 12th		Alyssa Hancock
Sunday, Dec 16th	9:15—Toby Hancock 6:00 — n/a	Brianna Neef Jayden Bishop
Wed, Dec 19th	n/a	Kylee Payne
Sunday, Dec 23rd	Ariana Miller	John Miller
Monday, Dec 24th	4:30—n/a 7:00—n/a	Brianna Neef Therin McDowall
Tuesday, Dec 25th	Mykalina Sabol	Bella Fisher
Sunday, Dec 30th	Alyssa Hancock	Braeden Dolphin
Tuesday, Jan 1st	Kamrie Evanicki	Kyleigh Evanicki

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE



Date	Set-Up	Clean-Up
Sunday, Dec 2nd	Lisa Kress	Gretchen Armstrong
Sunday, Dec 9th	Bob Varone	Sandi Libke
Sunday, Dec 16th	Gretchen Armstrong	Jean Cote Joyce Schneider
Sunday, Dec 23rd	Mindy Duncan	Caroline Francis
Tuesday, Dec 25th	Bob Varone	Mindy Duncan
Sunday, Dec 30th	Lisa Kress	Gale Bakalik
Monday, Jan 1st	Lisa Kress	Sandi Libke



All are welcome to join Pastor and Lisa for appetizers and fellowship on Christmas Eve. Please bring a snack to share and join us to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

When: Immediately following the 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service.

Where: 14118 Appleton Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Lisa: 941-889-8938

REDEEMER SCHOOL

November has been a busy month for us at Redeemer Lutheran School. Our students love their new Bibles. Pastor has been teaching us how to use them and we have been using them in our Bible class. We have been studying the book of Joshua and how God gave Israel the Promise land by defeating the enemies. We saw how God was faithful and kept His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We learned that God fights for His people and that we need to stay faithful in what He has taught us. Jesus promises to be with us in all that we do.

Our Thanksgiving Program went great. We have been learning about how the Indians helped the Pilgrims when they came to America. We learned that we need to give Thanks to God in all situations, and we learned many scripture verses about giving thanks. Our students did great performing in song, acting in a short play, and reciting memory verses. Mrs. Angela and I could not be more proud of them. Thank you to all that took the time to come out and watch our performance.

In November, we also visited Crestwood Circus Ranch. We learned about many different types of animals and how to take care of them. Mrs. Leslie, the owner of the ranch, used to be in the circus. She taught us about the circus and we were able to try many different things that they use in the circus. Our students loved the ranch and fell in love with many of the animals there. Our favorite was Alfredo the chicken. Alfredo just let the kids carry him all over the ranch. He is like a baby that wants and needs to be held.

In Social Studies, Kindergarten and First grade are finishing up learning about America. We have learned how people have come from all over the world to live here. We learned about our flag, the Declaration of Independence, the freedoms we have, and the symbols of America. We learned what each part of the pledge of allegiance means and how we need to think about the words we are saying. We have learned about George Washington and how he led our army in a war that won us freedom from England. We learned how America has grown over the past 200 years and how we can be proud citizens.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

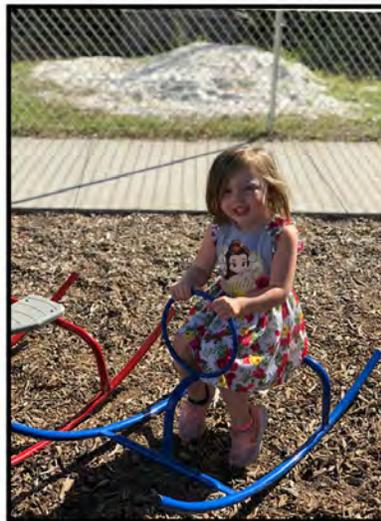
***The deadline for the JANUARY Newsletter is December 19th.
Please have all your submissions sent to patchas123@gmail.com
OR drop them off at the church office by the date indicated above.
Thank You!***



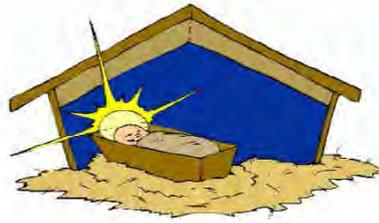
FALL FESTIVAL



New Playground Equipment



DECEMBER
2018



Merry Christmas
FROM REDEEMER CHILD CARE

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Tuesdays
at 3:45

12/3 The Good News Is
Spread

Luke 2:8-21

12/10 God Keeps his
promises

Luke 2:22-38

12/17 God Leads Us to
Worship

Matthew 2:1-12

12/24 Christmas Week



Dear Jesus, I love to hear
the story of Your birth.
Glory to God! You came to
be my Savior. Amen.

Closed

We will be closed on
December 24, 25, 26, 31
and January 1, 2019

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

Birthdays

Ms. Amanda 12/5

Ms. Kylie 12/7

Kolton B 12/7

Brayden R 12/15

Kylee 12/16

Sagan 12/16

Lailani 12/16

Isabelle 12/19

Aliyas 12/19

Ms. Nicole P 12/22

Ms. Rebecca 12/25

Weston 12/28

Rosemarie A 12/31



Christmas Program

Come and join us for the
2018 Children's Christmas
Program. This year's theme
is: "What Child is This"

December 16, 2018

6:00 pm

**No School Days for VPK &
After School Children
Sign up in the Office**

**Special Days This
Month!**

Dress up week to celebrate
Christmas!

12/17 Christmas Sweater

12/18 Christmas Socks

12/19 Christmas Hats

12/20 Christmas Pajamas

12/21 Dress like an Elf for
the Santa Lunch

Santa Lunch



Please join us on December
21, 2018 at 11:00 am for a
Pot Luck Lunch in the
Fellowship Hall. Santa will
arrive at 12:00 to bring
Child Care Children a gift.

The After Santa Party for
the After School children
will be at 3:15 with
Pizza and a gift that
Santa left earlier.

INSPIRATION



On Christmas Eve the other night
I saw the most amazing sight,
For there beneath the Christmas tree
Was Santa kneeling on his knee.

His countenance was different than
That all-familiar, jolly grin:
His head was bowed,
with hand to breast,
And slightly tucked into his vest.

For there in a nativity
Was Jesus and His family.
And as I heard him start to pray
I listened close to what he'd say.

“Lord, You know that You're the reason
I take pleasure in this season.
I don't want to take Your place,
But just reflect Your wonderous grace.

I hope You'll help them understand
I'm just an ordinary man
Who found a way to do Your will
By finding kids with needs to fill.

But all those centuries ago,
There was no way for me to know
That they would make so much of me
And all the gifts beneath the tree.

They think I have some hidden power
Granted at the midnight hour,
But it is my love for You
Inspiring the things I do.

And so when they begin to open
Gifts for which they have been hopin'
May they give You all the glory
For You're the
One True Christmas Story.”



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

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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).*