



June 2021



**WHAT DOES THE GOSPEL MEAN?**

There is a teaching game that I, from time to time, will play with confirmation students. I ask the question, “What does it mean that your sins are forgiven?” The answer is usually offered as a definition of some sort of forgiveness. I then will ask, “And what does that mean?” This usually causes a certain amount of confusion, and the student tries to make the point clearer. Then I will ask something like, “So what? What difference does that make?”

Those of you who are reading this have already pondered the questions and perhaps in your own mind attempted to come up with an answer. If you’re like me, you probably stopped reading and imagined yourself in that confirmation class with your hand held high believing you have the correct answer. For now, put your hand down and read the remainder of this article. You will have the opportunity to raise your hand again at the end of your reading.

When I ask the question “What does it mean that your sins are forgiven?” I explain that I am asking what it means in terms of your thinking and living. Students seem to grow more and more frustrated with attempting to answer. The point of the exercise is to force the students to think about the question in the title of this newsletter article, **What Does the Gospel Mean?** I thought I myself would take a shot at the question, admitting right from the start that there is no one correct answer.

The Gospel means that my sins are forgiven. Theologically, that means that there isn’t anything that stands between myself and the love of God for me. It means that I am saved, that death has been overcome and I have been given the free gift of everlasting life. It means I will rise from my grave in far better shape than I enter it, and will never know sorrow, pain, sickness, or death - or any other consequence or symptom of sins – ever again. It means that I am now the beloved of God. Of course, any one of you may take these statements as true about you as well, I am simply using the first person in this answer because the two words that make all of the truths of the Gospel truly good news are the words, **“for me”**.

All that Jesus did and endured, He did and endured **for me** – and for you, of course. His life and death were done because of His great love for the Father – and **for me**. He died **for me**. He rose from the grave **for me**. He ascended into heaven **for me**. He instituted the Lord's Supper **for me** as a blessing and strengthening of faith and forgiveness of sins. He gave the gift of prayer **for me** to provide comfort. He has made wonderful promises of guidance and protection, **for me**. So, the question is, what does that mean? How does that change anything or affect life and so forth?

Since God loves me and since my sins are forgiven, the world is mine. I know the Bible says that all things are ours – **and we belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God**, (1 Corinthians 3:21-23), but that was not precisely the sense of what I was saying. The world is mine because I have nothing to lose. God is with me to protect me and keep me and guide me. As bad as things in life can get,

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and they can get pretty bad sometimes, nothing can take the love of God from me, and nothing can rob me of the eternal life which God has given me. Since I am under His care and protection, nothing can go wrong. I might not like the direction things go at times, but that is because I cannot see the end of the story from here, just the part I am playing out right now in the present. The present moment may be a delight or a real pain and struggle, but God is with me, and the final chapter is my sharing in the victory of Christ, in resurrection, and in everlasting life. When the worst thing that can happen in this life (which is what most people consider death to be) is also my entry to everlasting life in the glorious presence of my Lord, tell me, how much should I worry about it?

The hardest part of the Gospel is that we are called to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). It's not difficult just because we wish it were the other way, but it is also difficult because so many times life will tempt us to see the favor of God only in the outward blessings, and cause us to question how we truly stand in God's eyes when things get rough and life becomes painful – emotionally, physically, financially, and spiritually. There is something about the human experience that teaches us to measure things by how it seems to be going. God, on the other hand, tells us that we just have to take Him at His word. Listen, He loves us, we are forgiven, and He is for us (Romans 8:31).

The Gospel means that whatever sickness we have to endure, He is still with us, and the sickness is not a sickness unto death. The very worst it can be is a sickness unto life eternal. I can tell you that these words can be comforting even when you are shaking so hard you cannot pick things up (like the pills you need to take) and you are feeling nauseous. It doesn't make you shake less, or feel any more well-connected to your last meal, but it just silences the fear that naturally springs to one's mind as one wrestles with an illness. A difficult situation is only compounded by fear about what is happening or what may result. Without the fear, it is just a situation to be endured and observed, even though it cannot be enjoyed.

The Gospel also means that whatever circumstance I am facing, I am not facing it alone –

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**SERVING THE LORD**

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even the temptation to sin. The good things in life that I enjoy are gifts and God is watching me enjoy them. The difficult things I am facing are also from the hand of God, so I know that they cannot be meant to destroy me. God has a reason, and a purpose for everything in my life.

This is where thinking about this becomes challenging. God does send difficult times into the lives of His people. These are not times of pretend trouble or only-seeming pain or sorrow. The history of the Church shows us that. The earliest Christians faced persecution and even death at the hands of people like Saul of Tarsus and the Temple leaders in Jerusalem. People really suffered and people really died under this persecution. Our perspective in time makes it easier to see that God was pushing His Church out into the world. God scattered them by means of their fear of the persecution and their flight from the immediate enemies. When they fled, they took their faith with them, and the Church grew.

So, the troubles of our lives may not end with a story-book ending. While death is not something we are to actively seek, it is not the end, nor a sign that God has abandoned us. When we die – and let's face it, everyone will die unless the Lord returns before their time has come – we do not face the unknown. We face the Lord and His final accounting. For us Christians, that means that we go to heaven and live in eternal bliss with the Lord. The Scripture says, "Just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). However God has that arranged, the first thing we shall know after closing our eyes in death, is the presence of the Lord.

There is speculation among some that we do not know anything between the time of our falling asleep and our resurrection before the Lord. Scripture appears to indicate that our bodies rest and our souls go to be with the Lord immediately upon our death. The human mind can conceive of a number of scenarios, and some people like one and other people like another. All I can say is that the Bible tells us that we finish our course here and then we go to be with the Lord. The mechanics of how God will handle all of that are fun to imagine and debate, but what we do not know, we do not know. We do know, however, that for the Christian, death is the door to eternal life, and there is no intermediate state. The reality of how this will work is one of the things I look forward to learning as I personally pass through that portal.

But I pass through that portal with confidence, knowing Jesus died **for me**. I know that my Redeemer lives, right along with Job. Death is neither the end nor a terror, but a step I will take in my turn, and I know that the Lord will be my Keeper from life through death and into life again. And I will get my body back, prepared for eternity and in the proper shape, the one that God intended if there had been no sin.

As we contemplate the variations of life, and wonder how this or that difficult thing could be a blessing, it is instructive to consider how we personally might never have existed if the world had not known sin, death, war, and so forth. Buried deep in our personal ancestry are often bitter consequences of human sin: people taken captive in times of war, intended marriages that never took place due to death, unintended marriages put in place as a result of circumstances someone somewhere at some time did not like and considered a terrible evil. This is not intended to justify those evils, but I do marvel that my ethnic background came together because God could take evil circumstances and bring something good out of it. Most of us have such terrors in our family history, but far enough back that we cannot remember even the stories of the pain. But God used those situations to work blessings and to bring us about as well.

God knew us from the foundation of the world (Psalm 139). The Bible clearly teaches that. He could see what was coming, and through it all, graciously choose us. Our being chosen by God is more than just picking names off of a list, but He also so ordered human history that our

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ancestors met and had children to lead up to us, and so brought us into being that we might enjoy His grace and favor. The Gospel makes me think about that, and then look at the situations of my life and wonder how I could question God's will or ability to see me through whatever He has set before me in life today?

The Gospel means that I've got nothing to worry about. Oh, I have plenty to think about, and pray about, and give thanks for. Worry is just one of those things that I do not have to do. "Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). I am not facing life without guidance, or under the influences of forces I cannot comprehend. God is in charge; of me and of the world and all of history. In every time, God gives all men their circumstances and invites them to live it in faith and trust in Him and do what is right and good. They don't, much of the time, but He is still there, fiddling with the mix and making things go just the right way. He has His eyes on the big picture, leading up to the Day of Christ's return and the resurrection of all flesh, and He has the divine skill, knowledge, and wisdom, to oversee history for each and every one of us that calls Him Father and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ. Actually, I think He manages for even those who do not know Him or trust Him, but I know that He is managing history **for me**.

The Gospel means that when I pray, God is actually listening to my prayer, and that He will answer it just as He has promised. While I sometimes wish that God would answer my prayers more like I think I would like – you know, do what I asked and give me what I want – I am comforted in the knowledge that He will measure my requests against His wisdom and only do **for me** what is right **for me**, and give me just what His will specifies. My will is too often selfish and self-centered, and short-sighted. I would have bungled things up a number of times already, and missed out on some great blessings, if I had simply had my way.

It is good to know that God is filtering my requests through His wisdom. But I find it good just to know that He listens. I have made it through a number of hard times simply because I could talk to Him (in prayer). I know He has strengthened me and blessed me over and over again – but just being able to pour out my heart to Him and know that He is listening and that He cares has made the burdens bearable. Time and time again, Christians have said, "What do people do who don't believe in God in times like these?" My only answer is, "Without. They do without knowing God and His love for them." I, too, cannot imagine how one bears the burdens alone, or carries the guilt over sins, or faces the prospect of the grave, or the loss of those they love without the comforts of the Gospel or the hope that God gives. I am simply thankful that I do not know that answer, and do not need to know.

The Gospel also means that I need to be patient and forgiving, just as God has been patient and forgiving with me. I know that I am far from perfect in that regard. As often as I try, I catch myself holding grudges and being angry when I should forgive, let go and let God. Like all of the other things the Gospel makes me want to do, this is a work in progress. I do not want to sin, but I find myself doing so anyhow in thought, word, and deed. I don't want to worry, but I have to keep reminding myself of the love of God **for me**, and His promises **for me**. I keep building up this feeling of guilt and shame that I am not more of what I should be, which makes me remember that I can repent and lay all my sins before the Lord, and be forgiven, and so I do.

The Gospel means that I can, plain and simple. I can come back to Him time and time again to confess that I am but a poor, miserable sinner, and He graciously forgives me. He feeds me with His body and gives me to drink of His blood, and refreshes me and tells me to go out there and do it, live for Him, and confess Him, and rejoice in the life He has given me. "Go then, eat your bread in happiness, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart; for God has already

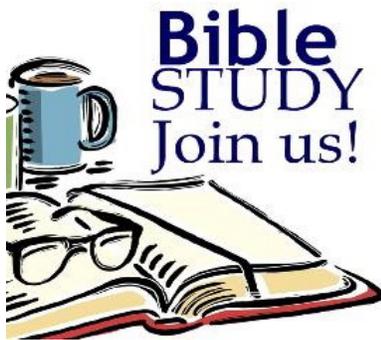
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## WHAT DOES THE GOSPEL MEAN? (CONT'D)

approved your works. Let your clothes be white all the time, and let not oil be lacking on your head. Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your fleeting life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:7-9).

So, that was my "not so short answer" to the question "What does the Gospel mean?" What's yours? You are free to raise your hand to give an answer.

Your Forgiven Servant in Jesus,  
Pastor Jim Kress



**Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Beginning Sunday, May 30, after the 9:15 a.m. service, (approximately 10:45 a.m.) Pastor Kress will be leading a Bible Study called, "God's Law and Gospel." Some of the goals and topics are:

- to refresh our understanding of the three purposes of the Law;
- to review how Law and Gospel relate to Christians as both sinners and saints;
- to appreciate the proper work of both the Law and the Gospel in the life of the believer.

Please indicate your intention to attend the Bible Class and sign up on the list on the Visitor's Desk in the narthex. We want to make sure to provide enough workbooks for all attendees. Even if you are not sure yet – we encourage you to try it out.

**Wednesday Morning Table Talk:** Join us in the Church Narthex on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., to gather with Pastor Kress around tables to talk theology, ask a wide range of interesting questions, and witness our own theology shaped by the Word of God. No one is required to know everything about anything. If you have questions or are interested in listening in on our Table Talk, you are welcome to join us in some engaging and thought-provoking conversations.

## June 2021 Altar Guild Schedule

Date	Set-up	Clean-up
<b>Sunday, June 6</b>	Lisa Kress	Mike and Colette Nagel
<b>Sunday, June 13</b>	Tim & Kay Matheny	Catalina Bakas
<b>Sunday, June 20</b>	Lisa Kress	Rob Tilton
<b>Sunday, June 27</b>	Mindy Duncan	Janet Lemesis

During the entire time of the pandemic, the Board of Elders and I (Pastor Kress), attempted to keep our worship, that is, the Divine Service as close to normal as we possibly could. We wanted worshippers to feel safe and still receive the things of God – Word and Sacrament – without compromise and without causing offense to God. With God’s help, I believe we accomplished this here at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Through an *Issues, Etc.* podcast (episode 1133 titled “A RELIGION NEWS SERVICE STORY, ‘WILL COVID-19 FINALLY BE THE END OF THE CHURCH COLLECTION PLATE?’” with guest Rev. Health Curtis on April 23, 2021), as well as a *Table Talk* discussion, it was brought to my attention that a significant part of the Church’s liturgy has become visibly absent: The Offering.

The liturgy of the Church is divided into two meaningful parts: the Service of the Word and the Service of the Sacrament. In order to make the transition from one service to the other service, a part of the liturgy was placed in the middle: The Offertory, the Offering, and the Prayer of the Church.

The Offertory should not to be thought of as our response to the sermon nor should it be considered our preparation to receive Holy Communion. The Offertory, the Offering, and the Prayers all go together. They constitute a single sacrificial act which is to be regarded as a response to the sacramental reading and preaching of the Word. It is a looking back, if you will, upon the message and meaning of the Gospel and it is also a looking forward to the celebration and reception of the Sacrament of the Altar, the Gospel of Christ’s true body and blood. As a result of the Gospel, we then offer to God ourselves (2 Corinthians 8:5), our substance (2 Corinthians 8:2-4), and our praise (Hebrews 13:15-16), in an act of corporate dedication and thanksgiving.

The Offering is an act of worship and an acknowledgment of our stewardship. We offer to God the gifts of substance, as the outward sign of its inner, spiritual dedication to the Lord. “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!” (Psalm 96:8) With songs and prayers, an offering gives glory to God.

We are not yet ready to return to passing the offering plate around, but we will return to presenting our offering visibly to God during the singing of the Offertory. A representative of the congregation will bring the offering plate to the chancel, give it to the attendant, the pastor will offer a prayer of thanksgiving, and the plate will be placed on the credence table as we once did before the start of the pandemic. Little by little we are returning to normal (smile).

So my friends in Christ Jesus, continue to place your offering in the offering plate as you enter the sanctuary and as you pick up a service bulletin. If you make your offerings on-line, thank you in advance for your continued support of the Lord’s ministry here at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Even as obstacle after obstacle is placed before Him, the Lord continues to do amazing things. All things are possible with God.

## UPDATED SERVICE PROCEDURES

A year has passed since entering into the time of COVID. For all of us, we have had to make changes to our lifestyle. For some, we endured contracting the virus and are grateful to have recovered. And still for others, we suffered the loss of loved ones to this hidden, infectious, deadly virus.

Then and now, the Board of Elders prayerfully considered how to best provide a safe worship environment for servants, worshipers, and visitors. A list of procedures was produced, and with the help of God, has worked very well. Social distancing, discouragement of handshaking, wiping and disinfecting surfaces, availability of hand sanitizer, etc. were some of the procedures implemented for a safe worship experience. Even after our state began to open up a little bit and finally lifting all restrictions, the procedures the Elders put into practice have not changed.

Recently, the CDC has confirmed that there is no significant risk of catching the coronavirus from a surface or object. They clarified their position by stating that people generally contract COVID-19 through direct contact with a sick person or from airborne transmission. Also from the CDC: “There is little scientific support for routine use of disinfectants in community settings, whether indoor or outdoor,” to prevent spread through surfaces. In most situations, cleaning surfaces using soap or detergent, and not disinfecting, is enough to reduce risk.

Case reports of COVID have shown that the virus can be transmitted when a person touches their nose, mouth or eyes, **after** touching something that an infected person has recently **coughed or sneezed on**. Studies have found, according to the CDC that the risk of catching the virus via a surface contact is generally **less than 1 in 10,000**.

With this updated information, the Board of Elders will begin to lift some of the original procedures employed to our services more than a year ago. As of now, the communion rail will no longer be sanitized following every use. However, cleaning the rail will still be done routinely. Additionally, any service bulletins left behind may be reused at the later service.

It is important that we all continue to follow social distancing practices and refrain from handshaking and the exchange of comforting hugs. Please remember to respect the practices of others. In addition, these ongoing procedures will remain in place:

- Service bulletins are located on the table inside the sanctuary (no ushers, and no hymnals needed);
- The offering plate is also located on the table just inside the sanctuary with the bulletins (no passing of offering plate);
- Available pews **do not** have hymnals on the cushions (using only every other row);
- During the distribution of Holy Communion, safe distancing measures still apply, with the exception of couples and families; or, if you prefer to receive Holy Communion in your pew, the pastor will come and distribute the gifts of Jesus to you (please notify the pastor beforehand);
- Masks are not required, but worshipers are free to wear them during worship service for personal safety and comfort.

Remember, we all come to worship to receive the gifts of our Lord in both Word and Sacrament. Let us come to worship in peace, and leave with the peace which surpasses all understanding, while also loving our neighbors, especially the members of the household of faith.

In Faithful Service to Our Lord Jesus,  
Board of Elders, Redeemer Lutheran Church

*Rob Tilton, Head Elder*  
*Michael Nagel, Elder*  
*Collins Sita, Elder*  
*Stephen Dannewitz, Elder*

*Ron Tandy, Elder*  
*Wade Duncan, Chairman of*  
*the Congregation*  
*Rev. Jim Kress, Pastor*

There is NO STORM that God  
won't carry you through.

NO BRIDGE that God won't  
help you cross.

NO BATTLE that God won't  
help you win.

*Trust* God

and Never give up.



There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse." Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let's explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. And so, He doesn't just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that "it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:24) "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance – a conversion of the heart – and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live – think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) – a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

***The deadline for the July Newsletter is June 18th  
PLEASE have all your submissions sent to patchas123@gmail.com  
OR drop them off at the church office by the date indicated above. Thank You!***

## PRAYERS

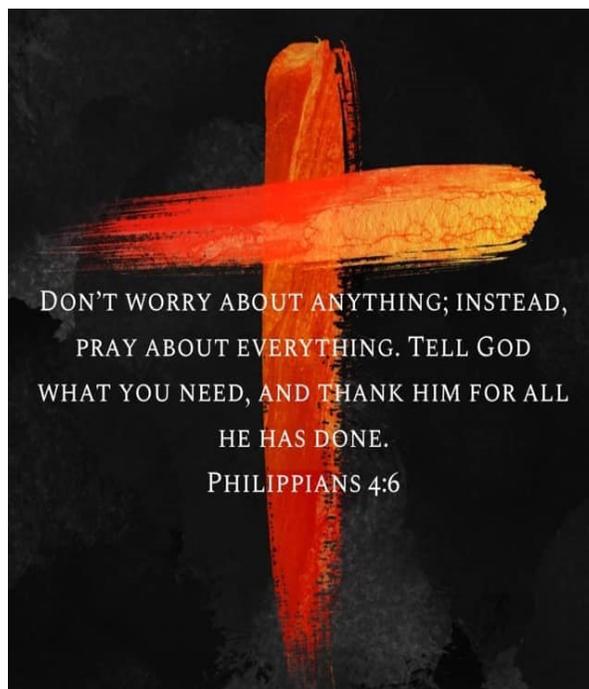
**SHUT-INS:** Susan Jahns, Rita Kaufmann,

**HEALING for Members:** Neva Aldene, Carl Bertka, Bill Bowers, Sr., Tom Curry, Kathryn Demma, Ed & Jan DeTrow, Charlie & Pat Finkenbine, Don Garay, Mike & Judy Guastella, Jane Harty, Kitty Hill, Mark Horvath, Marva Jonas, Chuck Malecki, Ken Mielke, Lillian Miles, Glenn Mossner, Chuck Muhme, Tom & Sue Poyer, Joyce Schneider, Dorothy Sinowetski, Jim Straub, Caitlin Tilton, Bob Varone, Robert Vickey, and Sally Zierdt.

**FRIENDS & RELATIVES:** Michelle Bernard, Grace Blum, Bill Bowers, Jr., Mary Brissette, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Diane Carr, Pat Carroll, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Donna Connors, Lisa Copeman, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Stan Elenbaas, Lori Elliott, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Zeke Garrison, Barbara George, Sandra Gettings, Vinnie Giannola, Ken & Sandry Gittings, Nancy Gleis, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Haley Harris, Debbie Harrison, family & friends of Bud Harty, Dennis Hegarty, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, John Hill, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Chelsea Hutchinson, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Larry Jackson, Bill Jaquest, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Daniel & Michelle Kalstrup, John Kearns, Parker Kern, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, Liam Madden, Joe Manson, Dave & Roberta McMullan, Dominic

Miretti, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Mike Moyer, Philip Muhme, Ron Mullins, Esther Murphy, Bill & Jean Nesbitt, Riley Emilia Paquette, Charles Pentecost Jr., Bill Pinkston, family & friends of Robin Potts, Rob Powers, John Purdy, Mary Raines, Joyce Redding, Elaine Reebe, Paul Rollo, Becky Rurade, Sandra Scheel, Ed Sheahan, Nancy Sly, Don Stewart, Juliette Renee, Charles Tolley, George Vespa, Jim & Judy Wahl, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gene & Donna Wensel, Gordan Winkel, Wava Zeitlow, and Martha Zimpfer.

**Military Personnel:** Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Joseph Garay, 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!**

May 27<sup>th</sup> was our last day of school this year. The year has gone by so fast and we have accomplished so much. I sat in amazement today listening to our kindergarteners read. They came to us nine months ago learning letters and sounds and now they are reading paragraphs without a problem. They have learned and grown so fast this year and we are so proud of them!

In May, we were busy as always. Third and Fourth Grade took their year-end standardized tests. To celebrate finishing testing week, the kids had a Water Day for PE. They played water kickball using slip-and-slides to run from base to base and using pools for the bases. Our kids sure loved having PE with Coach Cat and the help of Coach Kitty this year. We are really proud of their hard work during standardized testing week! Mrs. Nicole also taught our class about cardio desk drumming. The kids were given pool noodles and we found some songs with desk drumming instruction to help us learn these drumming routines. The class loved this new way of taking a brain break or having a fun end of the day dance party before dismissal.

We finished our curriculum and had some fun days as well. Kindergarten and First Grade have been doing lots of Science exploration with Mrs. Pam. They have learned about ramps, sink and float, baby animals, and other living things. Second Grade spent the last few weeks learning about manners and table etiquette. Third Grade learned about how they are fearfully and wonderfully made in Christ. They have also learned all locations of the states in United States History. Fourth Grade learned about the wonderful bodies that God has given them and all of the bones and muscles in their body. They have also started to learn all of their states and capitals in History.

In May, we went to Cedar Point Environmental Park to go on a nature walk with Mr. B. He took us into a classroom to teach and review the groups of animals such as Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, Mammals, and Birds. The students learned about different ecosystems and habitats as well. We also went on a walk in nature to observe and learn more about different plants and animals. Some of our kids also spotted two woodpeckers, a rare moth, and a butterfly garden with plants native to the area. We even got to use binoculars from our class to see an eagle's nest up in a tree!

We have enjoyed music class this year! There were two classes on Friday afternoons: Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and then the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. The first song that we sing nearly every week for both classes is *The Star-Spangled Banner*. We also had a brief history lesson on the origin of our national anthem. Students also participated in a Thanksgiving program and our Christmas/Epiphany program with the Child Care students. They also sang at a Sunday church service for Lutheran Schools Week in January, and sang "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" and the Gloria In Excelsis from Divine Setting 4 in the Lutheran Service Book (hymnal).

The younger class has done numerous counting songs and songs with many verses that develop their memory skills, and the older class has begun learning about rhythm. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders listened to Peter and the Wolf as a beginning introduction to various instruments in an orchestra. Some of the silly songs we all learned this year include: "Shoo-Fly Pie & Apple Pan Dowdy" (and they all had an opportunity in cooking class to help bake and taste these desserts), and "On Top of Spaghetti." A favorite activity of both classes is Quiet Listening. They are allowed to draw and color, quietly, (this is the challenge!) and listen to different styles of music for 5-10 minutes at the end of class. Music class is always a favorite with our students and Mrs. Caitlin does an awesome job with them.

It's June again and we have just finished our fifth year at Redeemer Lutheran School. I often look at our older students and remember what babies they used to be five years ago. They have grown so much over the last five years. Our school has also grown over the last five years. We have had so many students walk through our doors. These students have not only learned about Math and Reading, but they have also learned about the saving love of Jesus. We are so blessed to be able to

teach them in an environment that is Christ centered. When the world is going crazy, we have been able to teach them the truth. So thank you Redeemer Church for providing a place that these children have been able to grow up in the truth of Jesus. As a parent and teacher, this means everything to me. Next year we will be a school with Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This is so exciting to the staff and parents of our school. We have had several people in the public call and inquire about the school, as well as, had several families tour. What an exciting time for us!

Until Next Year,

*Mrs. Nicole, Miss Sarah and Mrs. Pam*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17*

### 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, June 19th at 8:00 am.**



### Treasurer's Report

<i>As of April 30, 2021</i>			
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
INCOME	18,251	18,588	(337)
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>19,433</u>	<u>18,998</u>	435
<b>+/-</b>	(1,182)	(410)	
<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>			
INCOME	85,464	74,352	11,112
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>81,338</u>	<u>76,014</u>	5,324
<b>+/-</b>	4,126	(1,662)	



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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL





## Summer at Redeemer Child Care

June 2021

### Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays  
at 4:00

6/7 The Good Shepherd

John 10:1-18

6/14 The Parable of the  
Sower

Matthew 13:1-23

6/21 Daniel in the lion's  
Den

Daniel 6

6/28 The Three Men in  
the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3



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

*Submitted by Wendy Horvath*

### Birthdays

Sebastian 6/7

Abigail S. 6/8

Masen 6/12

Yoan 6/13

Michaela 6/16

Lily R. 6/20



### Just for Fun!

Q: Why does a seagull fly  
over the sea?

A: Because if it flew over  
the bay, it would be a  
baygull!



Summer is here!

### Summer Days

Please make sure your child  
has enough to drink. It is  
Hot outside!



### 6/20 Father's Day

Happy Father's Day!



### Congratulations!

Ms. Debra Buel - 7 years

Nicole H - 6 years

Ms. Brandi - 2 years

Ms. Paige - 5 years

### Ice Cream Truck

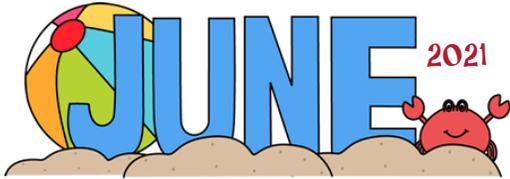
June 14 & 28  
Please send a  
few dollars  
for a treat!





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

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED - OPTION 1



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

**REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.**  
*Pastor*

**Church/School Phone:**  
**941-475-2410**

Church Fax: 941-475-9726

Email: redeemerfl@gmail.com

**Child Care Phone: 941-475-2631**

Email: redeemerchildcare@gmail.com

### REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, associate members and visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Redeemer is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. (LCMS).

### WORSHIP SERVICES:

Divine Service: 9:15 and 11:00 am

Bible Class: *temporarily postponed*

Sunday School: *temporarily postponed*

*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).*