



November 2021



GIVING THANKS AND PREPARATIONS FOR ADVENT

It's November! The leaves have turned colors and fallen off trees. The first snow fall has already come and gone. Winter clothes have made their way into circulation. The thermostat has been changed from "cool" to "heat". Changes like these occur for those living north of the Mason-Dixon Line. Here in southwest Florida, changes mentioned above are rarely ever experienced. And yet, we do experience changes from one season to another. I am not referring to "Snow-bird" season. I am speaking of the fast approaching Season of Advent.

THANKSGIVING

Before we enter into the penitential season of Advent, we first celebrate the Day of Thanksgiving. It's a day in which we remember the long-told story of pilgrims and native American Indians gathering in peace for the first meal of thanksgiving in 1623.

The pilgrims had much to be thankful to God. They decided to have a feast of thanksgiving. They knew it was only right to invite their helpful Indian friends. Without the help of Squanto and the leadership of Chief Massasoit during the previous two winters, the pilgrims would have all died due to starvation and illness.

Massasoit and ninety of his men came to the Pilgrim's feast, but they did not come empty-handed. They brought five deer to share. The first feast of Thanksgiving lasted three days. The Pilgrims thanked God for His help and care. William Bradford, the governor of Plymouth, wrote about the settlement. He described Squanto as "as special instrument sent of God for their good beyond their expectation" (*Of Plymouth Plantation*).

God had been good to the Pilgrims. In America, they were free to worship God as they wanted to worship Him. And so, we too enjoy the freedoms we have been given. Let us give thanks to God for all He provides and all He promises, not only on Thanksgiving, but every day. "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*" (*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*).

ADVENT

The season of Advent has much in common with the season of Lent. Both are penitential as well as preparatory in character. While Lent prepares for the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Day), Advent prepares for the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day). The two great celebrations of the Christian Church, Christmas and Easter, are preceded by seasons of fasting.

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The season of Advent dates back to the sixth century. The sermons of Augustine and other earlier church fathers make no mention of this preparatory season. *“Unmistakable evidence for its observance in Rome is found for the first time in the homilies of Gregory the Great”* (Heinrich Kellner, *Heortology – A History of the Christian Festivals*, p. 159).

Whereas the Eastern Church makes the season of Advent as long as the season of Lent, the Western Church assigns Advent to four weeks and begins on the Sunday nearest St. Andrew’s Day (November 30). The Advent season closes on Christmas Eve. Some claim that the four Sundays in Advent represent the 4000 years of Old Testament times, during which the world awaited the arrival of the Messiah, that is, the Christ. This might be a novel gesture worth contemplating. Regardless, it seems that the First Sunday in Advent has marked the beginning of a new Church Year ever since the middle of the eighth century.

In the fullness of time God sent the forerunner of Christ, John the Baptist. The Gospels for the third and fourth Sundays in Advent gives attention to the work and activities of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was really the one who gave Advent its penitential character. He called upon the Jews to repent. It was indeed he who the Jews to *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (Matthew 3:2); and *“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance”* (Luke 3:7-8a).

The penitential character of this blessed season, though not as highly accentuated as in Lent, should remind us of the wretchedness of our natural condition and of sin and should point to our need for a Savior. Consider the pointed prayer of this season in the Introit for the Fourth Sunday in Advent: *“Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout”* (Isaiah 45:8).

During Advent we prepare ourselves for

SERVING THE LORD

Pastor Rev. James Kress

Child Care Director Wendy Horvath

Office Admin Asst Caitlin Tilton

Organist Bill Bowers

Choir Director Collins Sita

Newsletter Editor Pat Finkenbine

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Vice President Bill Bowers

Treasurer

Secretary Caitlin Tilton

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Christian Ed.

Human Care Lisa Kress

Outreach

Assimilation

School Board Tim Matheny

Stewardship

Youth

Financial Secretary Mindy Duncan

Property Mgmt. Bob Varone

GROUPS/GUILDS

Altar Guild Lisa Kress

Coffee Hour

Christ's more intimate coming into our hearts. For, "God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" (Galatians 4:6). In this season we should most certainly cut ourselves loose from all sin and from the world's enticing allurements. We should therefore center our desires in the coming Savior, and open our hearts to Him with the words: O Come, Lord Jesus, come.

As St. John the Baptist was a forerunner of Christ, so should our purification precede the celebration of Christmas. In this season, we should particularly 1) Pray diligently; 2) Wage war against our failings and sinful desires; and 3) Perform acts of mercy. Let us not forget to pray for those without faith, that they too would repent, believe on the name of the Lord Jesus and celebrate Christmas with the whole Christian Church on earth.

So, as we make preparations for the celebration of Christmas, let us also make those preparations in the presence of God in His holy house during the Sundays in Advent and also in our Midweek Advent Divine Services. The joy and peace of Jesus be with you always.

Your Servant in Jesus,
Pastor Jim Kress



Our Church's Mobile App is Here! We're excited to announce that Redeemer Lutheran Church has upgraded our mobile app. Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called **Vanco Mobile** to replace GivePlus Mobile.

You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.

Online Giving Opportunity: We also offer our members an opportunity to give electronically through the Church website. Simply go to www.redeemerfl.com and click on the link entitled "Online Giving". You will then be taken to a page where you can make your gift electronically from your checking account.

You have the option of making a one-time gift without signing in, or, creating an account and setting up recurring payments

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, November 20th at 8:00 am.**



Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don't pay for all the stuff we need – and stuff we think we need – and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of *all nations*" (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor 9:14). So if 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving – that's how. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've outgiven God's goodness or that we've given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way, but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church when he wrote: "I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's Law, and the Law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance. The Law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. So if first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples' seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread.

But they need to give it. And what they give – however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so – He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them – the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.



Redeemer Lutheran Church, School, and Child Care
2021 Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas Schedule

Thursday	November 25	Thanksgiving Day Divine Service	9:15 a.m.
Sunday	November 28	1st Sunday in Advent	9:15 a.m.
Wednesday	December 1	Midweek Advent Services	4:30 & 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	December 5	2nd Sunday in Advent	9:15 a.m.
Wednesday	December 8	Midweek Advent Services	4:30 & 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	December 12	3rd Sunday in Advent	9:15 a.m.
Sunday	December 12	Children's Christmas Program	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	December 15	Midweek Advent Services	4:30 & 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	December 19	4th Sunday in Advent	9:15 a.m.
Wednesday	December 22	Midweek Advent Services	4:30 & 7:00 p.m.
Friday	December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Services <i>Service of Lessons and Carols</i>	4:30 & 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	December 25	Christmas Day Divine Service <i>The Nativity of Our Lord</i>	9:15 a.m.
Sunday	December 26	The First Sunday after Christmas	9:15 a.m.
Saturday	January 1	New Year's Day Divine Service <i>The Circumcision and Name of Jesus</i>	9:15 a.m.



A Thanksgiving Prayer

"I lift my heart to Thee, O God,
In gratitude and praise.
For all Thy blessings of the past,
And those of future days ...
For well I know if I shall live,
Thy blessings still shall flow
Across my soul in greater joy
Than I could ever know ...
I thank Thee for my faithful friends,
For sunshine and the rain,
And every blessing hid or seen
Though some may come through pain.
O God, accept my thanks to Thee
Each time I come to pray,
And grant each day that I shall live
Will be Thanksgiving Day."

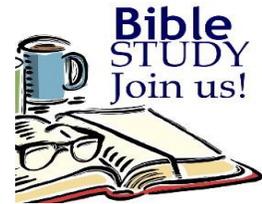
Author Unknown



ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

Date	Set-Up	Clean-Up
Sunday, Nov 21st	Mindy Duncan	Catalina Bakas/Joyce Schneider
Thurs, Nov 25th	Lisa Kress	Rob Tilton
Saturday, Nov 27th	Hanging of the Greens	ALL PLEASE
Sunday, Nov 28th	Steven Dannewitz	Mindy Duncan
Wed, Dec 1st	Lisa Kress	Tim & Kay Matheny
Sunday, Dec 5th	Rob Tilton	Janet Lemesis
Wed, Dec 8th	Lisa Kress	Catalina Bakas
Sunday, Dec 12th	Catalina Bakas	Mike & Colette Nagel

Sunday Morning Bible Study: On Sunday, after the 9:15 a.m. service, (approximately 10:45 a.m.) we are studying the Book of Revelation. Let this study not frighten you as a believing Christian. In fact, as a believing Christian, you should be encouraged to attend to see God’s magnificent beauty now and will be at the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We look forward to seeing as many of you believing Christians attend this study of an amazing and revealing book of the Bible.



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.

Choir



We are looking for long or short term choir members. If you only want to commit to Christmas, give us a try. Come make a joyful noise to the Lord. If you enjoy it (which I bet you will) stay with us for a season. Come join us for Christian fellowship, to serve the Lord and give back the gift he gave you so freely. Contact Collins Sita for more info.

PRAYERS

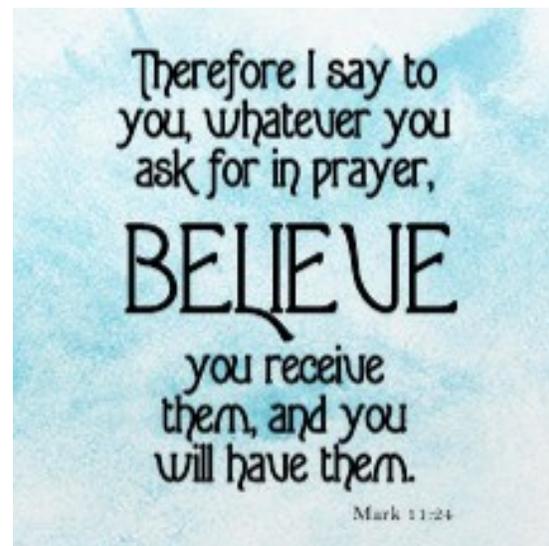
SHUT-INS: Susan Jahns, Rita Kaufmann, Dorothy Sinowetski, and Sally Zierdt.

HEALING for Members: Neva Aldene, Wila Bockstahler, 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, Enid Muhme, Tom & Sue Poyer, Caitlin Tilton, Bob Varone, and Pauline Vickey.

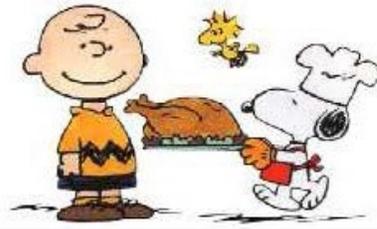
FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Michelle Bernard, Grace Blum, Don Borwick, Bill Bowers, Jr., Mary Brissette, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Diane Carr, Pat Carroll, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Donna Connors, Lisa Copeman, Donald Cornish, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Stan Elenbaas, Lori Elliott, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Sybil Fuchs, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Aeson Garrett, Zeke Garrison, Barbara George, Sandra Gettings, Vinnie Giannola, Ken & Sandry Gittings, Nancy Gleis, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Mikayla Hacksunda, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Haley Harris, Debbie Harrison, Dennis Hegarty, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, John Hill, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Linda Holt, Jim Honeycutt, 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 McMullan, Dominic Miretti, Pete Mogg, Jane Moore, Mike Morrissey, Philip Muhme, Ron Mullins, Esther Murphy, Bill & Jean Nesbitt, Riley Emilia Paquette, Charles Pentecost Jr., Topper Pfeiffer, Bill Pinkston, Rob Powers, John Purdy, Mary Raines, Joyce Redding, Elaine Reebe, Rod Rohrbach, Paul Rollo, Becky Rurade, Sandra Scheel, Ed Sheahan, Nancy Sly, 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!



Happy Thanksgiving!

Bible Lessons
Chapel is on Mondays
at 4:00 pm

11/1 No School

11/8 The Tabernacle Is
Built
Exodus 35-36

11/15 Gideon Wins the
Battle
Judges 7

11/22 David, the Singing
Shepherd
1 Samuel 16; Psalm 23

11/29 God Loves Naomi and
Ruth
The Book of Ruth



Lord,
You helped Gideon lead
Your people to love and
trust in You. Forgive me
when I do wrong. Lead me
to love and trust in You
too. Amen

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

Birthdays

Ms. Jazmyne 11/2
Bailey F. 11/6
Hailey D. 11/17
Nathan 11/21
Norechy 11/28
Ms. Wendy 11/28



Christmas Lunch



December 17, 2021
Children's Christmas Lunch
will be held in the
Fellowship Hall from
11:00 to 1:00

Important Days



Lifetouch Photos
Christmas setting
November 4th

**Upcoming Holiday
Schedule**

November 25 & 26 Closed
December 24 Closed
December 31 Closed

Christmas Program



VPK, After School and
Day School children will
be telling and singing this
year's Christmas Program
"O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel" on
December 12, 2021 at
6:00 pm in the Church.
All ages and families are
welcome to join us.

Health Checks

We will continue to have
morning health checks.
Please wash hands before
entering the school.

October was a busy month here at Redeemer Lutheran School! We wrapped up the first quarter of the school year and had a month full of learning and celebrations. Our school continues to grow and we continue to welcome new students as well.

The month started off with our Kindergarten and First Grade students completing their ABC Bootcamp program. The first several weeks of school, they would go over a letter each day and learn how to write it neatly, come up with words to go with the letter, and make a headband for each letter. At the end of the program, we had an ABC Bootcamp Fashion Show. Each kid in our class took home a paper bag vest and was assigned a letter. They needed to decorate their vest with things that began with their letter. The students and their families came up with some great words! When we had our fashion show, we proudly wore our vests and paraded through the childcare showing off each letter. The students even got to hand out toys and treats that began with their letter to the VPK classes. Our class sure loved getting to show off each letter and parading through the childcare. This was such a fun program for our students to be a part of.

We also celebrated Apple and Pumpkin Week this month. Each student brought in two apples so that we could make applesauce and our very own personal apple pies. The students love when they get to do cooking class and their pies turned out delicious. We also did some apple activities – including 10 Apples on Top. Later in the month, we celebrated Pumpkin Week. We took a field trip to Springtime Farms. While we were there, we got to feed lots of animals, pick pumpkins to bring home, and do some other fall activities! We also did some fun pumpkin activities. The students got to help gut a pumpkin, do some pumpkin learning centers, and make their very own pumpkin bread loaf. The Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students learned how to use art chalks and blend their colors to make a pumpkin picture. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders got to learn and practice sewing to make their own stuffed pumpkin pillow in Art class!

October also had Pastor Appreciation Day! Our kids each made Pastor Kress a card and families brought in gift cards to help us make him a thank you gift. On Monday, October 11th we presented this to him with hearts of appreciation for all that he does for us. Pastor Kress not only leads our school, but he also teaches our children in Bible class, Chapel, and History. The kids love going to class and learning from Pastor! We are so grateful for all that he does and the way he teaches our children about Christ.

4th and 5th Grade students wrapped up their Personal Narrative writing unit. They wrote great stories about both big and little things: musicals, vacations, and even just fun adventures with friends. These stories took them a long time, but they did well with the writing process. It was a long process, but their stories turned out great and we are so proud of our students for working so hard!

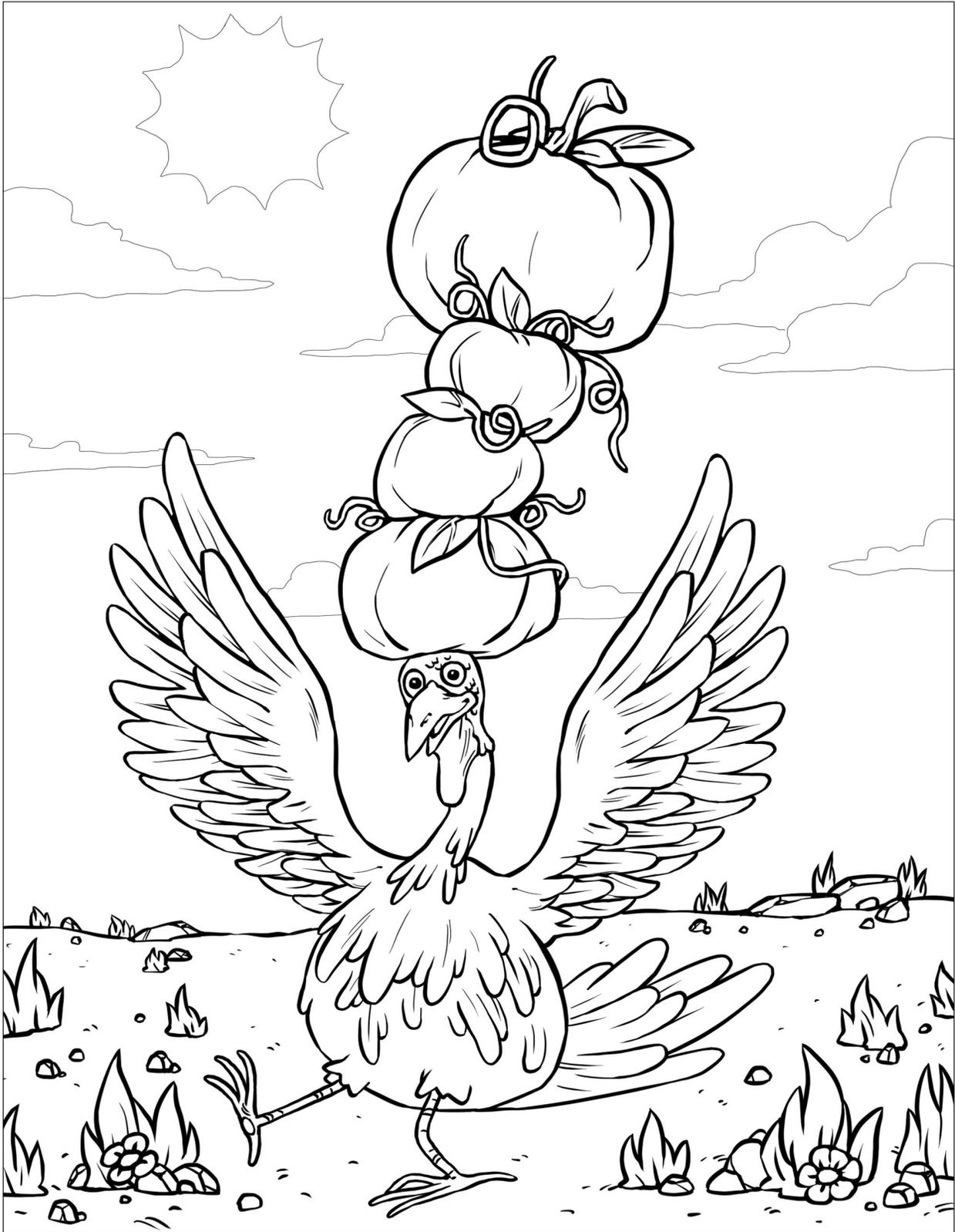
Music with Mrs. Caitlin has been so fun this year. The students have been learning new songs and even getting to make music with a new instrument called Boomwhackers. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders learned a song to sing in our weekly Chapel and sang for us on Thursday, October 14th. Boomwhackers have been a huge hit with the students. A Boomwhacker is a hollow, color-coded plastic instrument that is tuned to different pitches based on their length. The students have been able to learn about rhythm, tempo, and pitch through these instruments. It's so great to hear them making music and having fun! We appreciate Mrs. Caitlin for taking the time to teach our kids Music class.

Like I said, we have been very busy learning here at Redeemer School. Have a great month!

Nicole Hopkins

COLORING PAGE

Get out your crayons and colored pencils ...



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 am

Bible Class: *Sunday, 10:45 a.m.*

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).*