

REPORTER

April 2018

EASTER IS NOT JUST A BUNCH OF TRIVIA

You have to go back more than 60 years for the last time Easter and April Fool's Day were on the same day. For the first time since 1956, Easter Sunday fell on April 1st. Since 1900, Easter has fallen on April Fool's Day only four times – 1923, 1934, 1945 and 1956. And it will not happen again until 2029.

Why is this important? Well, it is not. It's just a little Easter trivia. It's like knowing that the earliest Easter could possibly happen on March 22nd, although it didn't occur that early in the last century nor will it again in this one. The earliest Easter actually occurred in either century is March 23rd back in 2008.

Why would I be focused on Easter trivia? Because Easter is the Christian faith! And the Christian faith is Easter! And, Easter never ends!

Easter has a number. Actually, it has several numbers. But, the most known number is that Easter is the third day. Jesus promised that He would rise from the grave on the third day. "And He took the twelve aside and said to them, 'Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again." (Luke 18:31-33)

Of course, Easter is the first day of the week. "But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb." (Luke 24:1)

One of my favorite numbers is the number eight. Did you know Easter is also called the eighth day, although I cannot quote a single Scripture verse supporting that. However, if you count the days from His Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem and His resurrection from the dead, you can count a total of eight days. This identification is also supported by the theologians who speak about the eighth day as the day of eternity because the seven days are of the creation – six days being used to create and the seventh day being the day of rest. Naturally, or so they say, the eighth day is the day of eternity – and I agree.

"But wait," you say, "You said, 'Easter never ends!' Easter is just one day a year, and this year it was April 1st." Yes, but then I remind you that we worship on Sundays because Jesus rose from the tomb on Sunday, and so every Sunday Divine Service is an Easter service! It doesn't really matter that we worship on Sun-



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day, though, we worship because Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week – Sunday!

You might wonder about that. Many churches worship because they think God wants them to, and this is part of their part in the bargain of salvation. Lutherans understand that salvation is not a bargain – not an agreement between God and man for God to do His part if we to do our part,

Continued on Page 2

EASTER IS NOT JUST A BUNCH OF TRIVIA (continued)

nor a bargain in that it is inexpensive. After all, your salvation and mine cost the life and death of the very Son of God, and that is no bargain, but a ransom beyond imagining.

As for being God's part of some agreement once we do our part, that is so wrong. Listen, salvation is a gift: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Far from being a contract or agreement with God, an idea shared by far too many who call themselves Christian, salvation is an undeserved kindness from God, poured out upon all so that all who take God at His Word and trust Him to be who He said He is and do what He has promised to do will be saved. The works that people think are their part of the "bargain" – so-called – are a response to the gift, not a thing done to earn, merit, or achieve salvation. Even at that, Paul reminds us in this well-known passage that our good works are God's works, prepared by Him and laid out in our path that we should walk in them. He plans them! He makes them possible! He sets them before us and then enables us to accomplish them. It is like we are doing something, but it is God at work in and through us making us do those things to His glory and then God rewards us for them as though we had done something by our "free" will.

Back to what I was saying, we worship on Sundays because Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week – Sunday. Other holidays are important too, but they are important because of Easter. Christmas, for example, is the celebration of the Incarnation of our Lord – God becoming flesh. God became one of us. He took on human flesh and blood and human nature and was born like any one of us, so that He might carry the burden of the Law, and having done it without sin, to die for us and to rise again.

God being human is nothing to marvel at

without the resurrection. Other religions have their gods taking on human form, but without the cosmic effect of the redemption of all men. If God merely became human, but it had no salvation in it for us, it would be unique and wonderful, but not Gospel because there would be nothing in it for me. Or for you.

If Jesus died on the cross (which He did) but did not rise from the dead, then we would have no knowledge or comfort in His death on our behalf because all it seemed to accomplish was His death. Paul wrote, "He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." (Romans 4:25)

His death was for our sins, but His resurrection was on account of our justification, that is our salvation. His resurrection declares in the most undeniable way that God's plan worked! He paid the debt! He effectively bore the burden, satisfied the justice of God and now has life eternal to give because He earned life by His righteous life and swallowed up death for us by dying in our place and paying the entire burden of sin for us.

We don't worship just because God became man in Jesus Christ. We don't worship just because He died. We worship because He rose from the dead, just as He promised He would, and shared that victory with us — **Because I live**, Jesus said, **You shall also live!** And He is giving salvation away like some sort of Reformation Day trick-or-treat prize. All of the other parts of the story are important too, but the essential part is the resurrection. So, we can proudly say, "The Christian faith is Easter and Easter is the Christian faith."

May you all live in the Easter proclamation today and every day: "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" And may each of us come to Divine Service to celebrate His resurrection and ours every Sunday.

Your Servant in our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jim Kress

BIBLE STUDY



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: Let's face it, we all love history. However, history is learned on so many levels – there's the history of a nation; the history of a movement; the history of your family; the history of what you did or didn't do yesterday. The Church also has a history. Join us every Sunday morning at 8 AM in the church sanctuary to learn more about the First Three Centuries of Christ's Church.

Church Directory

We are looking for volunteers to help update our Church Directory — proofing, assembly etc.. Pat Finkenbine and Lisa Kress will continue working on this task during the coming months.. Last September, during Hurricane Irma, we had a difficult time getting in touch with some members of Redeemer. So, in an effort to update our files and update the church directory, we ask all members and associate members to please fill out the information sheets available in the Narthex and see Lisa for your photo!





We need more sopranos and altos, but would also love to have more tenor and bass voices. You do NOT need to know how to read music. The choir rehearses at 6 pm on Wednesday evenings for less than an hour. We normally do not rehearse again until early fall. Contact Collins Sita or Bill Bowers.





Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our savior. His atoning sacrifice is the firstfruits of all

the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father – and ours – so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him.

He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood. As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word.

By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For "without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine" (Prov. 3:9-10).

How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving it generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support: your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that in so doing, you will never lack.

I can almost hear it now: "But that's from the Old Testament!" But our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents, "For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance" (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings.

It's no quid pro quo. It's all from God's grace, His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages just quoted do in fact say what they say! It's not the Old Testament's problem. It's ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need" (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don't give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. For "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things" (Rom. 8:32)?

FROM THE TREASURER

Treasurer's Report As of February 28, 2018

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
INCOME	14,754	13,442	1,312
EXPENSES	<u>16,620</u>	<u>15,995</u>	625
+/-	(1,866)	(2,553)	

YEAR TO DATE

INCOME	26,065	26,953	(888)
EXPENSES	<u>37,375</u>	32,227	5,148
+/-	(11,310)	(5,274)	



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

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, April 21st at 8:00 am.





- ♦ If you have a refrigerator you are not using and would like to donate it to the Child Care center, it would be much appreciated.
- ◆ Call Bill Bowers at (941) 416-5661 for real estate assistance.



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

Pastor: redeemerpastor1@gmail.com Church secretary: redeemerfl@gmail.com

Church treasurer: redeemertreasurer1@gmail.com

Child Care: redeemerchildcare@gmail.com

PRAYERS



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

HEALING: Members: Neva Aldene, Carl Bertka, Jean Cote, Jan Detrow, Charlie & Pat Finkenbine. Mike Guastella. Bernice Heppner, Wendy Horvath, Paul McDonald, Ken Mielke, Leslie Miles, Glenn & Marlene Mossner, Bob Payne, Tom Poyer, Joyce Schneider, Dorothy Sinowetski, Russ Spooner, Fred Toth, Robert Vickey, Larry Wiech, Sally Zierdt, and Artie Zipp.

FRIENDS & RELATIVES: Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Brynn Beenders, Bert Blackford, Grace Blum, Michelle Bernard. Bill Bowers. Dennis Jr.. Burchell, Georgia Bush, Jack Carlos, Diane Carr, Sally Chambers, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Dick Clemens, Joanne and Randy Clymo, Donna Connors, Martin Cressman, Molly Criely, Dempsey, Dale Trudy DesJardins, Ed Detrow, Rital Devine, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Chris Durner, Bruce Everson, Donna Fancher, Darla Finkenbine, Gerald and Mary Fischer, Marla Flores, Lou Fountain, Manual Galan, Liam Garland, Sandra Gettings, Nancy Gleis, Fran Grenon, Melisa Gustavus, Shelley Roedel Gutz, Marlene Hagen, Jake Harper, Debbie Harrison. Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Joel Heppner, Walter Heppner, Glory Herget, John Hill, Rick Hill, Robin Hincman, Roger Hinzmann, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Stanley and Lynne Jablonski, Deb Jacobson, Bill Jaquest, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Michelle Kalstrup, Steve Kallsen, John Kearns, Rev. Michael Kettner, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Erin Kress, Nancy Lake, Stacey Lampert, Family & Friends of Glenn Lewin, Ray Likowski, Janet Lixey, John Lockhart, Sean Maki, Joe Manson, The Maxson Family, Candace McGowan, Pete Mogg, Mike Morrissey, Trista Mosier, Esther Murphy, Audrey Nanni, Charles Pentecost Jr., Julie Pool, Robin Potts, John Purdy, George Raetzke, Mary Raines, Rev. Ronald Rock, Lois Skinner, Paul Sullivan, Nancy Sly, Luke Suski, Charles Tolley, Jim St. John, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Steven Walker, Christy Wallace, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Wava Zeitlow, and Mary Ann Zipp.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Nicholas Beltz, Michael Broughton, Brian Jackson, Jonathan Koen, David MacLeod, Steven Siegmundt, 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
Sun, Apr 8th	Mike Nagel	Steve Horvath
Sun, Apr 15th	Paul Brown	Dave Giroux
Sun, Apr 22nd	Collins Sita	Dennis Replinger
Sun, Apr 29th	Mike Nagel	Mark Horvath



Date	Crucifier	Acolyte
Sun, Apr 8th	Mykalina Sabol	Bella Fisher
Sun, Apr 15th	Mackenzie McDowall	Therin McDowall
Sun, Apr 22nd	Alyssa Hancock	Ava Tosto
Sun, Apr 29th	Kamrie Evanicki	Kyleigh Evanicki

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

Altar Guild

Date	Set-Up	Clean-Up
Sun, Apr 8th	Gretchen Armstrong	Sandi Libke
Sun, Apr 15th	Lisa Kress	Carolyn Francis
Sun, Apr 22nd	Gale Bakalik	Dottie LaMere
Sun, Apr 29th	Mindy Duncan	Neva Aldene/Jean Cote

WEBSITES: Church — <u>www.redeemerfl.com</u> Child Care — <u>www.redeemerfl-cc.com</u> School — www.redeemerfl-school.com FACEBOOK: Redeemer Lutheran Church

The deadline for the MAY Newsletter is April 20th
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!

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REDEEMER SCHOOL—February

February is the month of love. We have been learning about love all month. Pastor has been teaching us in Bible class how Jesus loves the children. Children were and are important to Jesus. He was displeased with the disciples for trying to keep the children from Him. I can't help but to think what a beautiful sight it must have been to see Jesus interacting and loving on the children. Children are needy and dependent on adults for all things. We are told in Matthew 18:3 "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." God wants us all to be His children and dependent on Him in all things.

In kindergarten, we learned how the letters Q and U go together. We planned a wedding for Mrs. Q and Mr. U and invited VPK to attend. It was such a great learning opportunity for our students. The students attended the wedding in wedding attire including hats and veils. Everyone had their own job during the wedding. We learned songs that they sang about their friends Q and U. Mrs. Q promised to keep Mr. U by her side and Mr. U promised to follow Mrs. Q always and forever. The wedding was followed by a reception in which we had wedding cake (made by the students) and some dancing. It was a great time and everyone had fun. Congratulations Mrs. Q and Mr. U.



In first grade, we ae finishing our trip around the world. We have visited many countries and learned so much about different cultures. We have gone to Canada, Mexico, Peru, England, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Israel, Japan, and China. We have seen and learned about so many exciting places. We tied that in to how Jesus loves all the children of the world. It was a fun journey but now it is time to come home to America. Speaking of America, Flat Stanley has been visiting many places in the United States. We are receiving packages from his travels from all over America. It is the highlight of our day to open the letters and boxes that are coming in. We love to see and read about his Adventures.

It has been a great month!

Letter J verse: Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by Me. —John 14:6

REDEEMER SCHOOL—March

This week in Bible we have been learning about how Jesus is our Good Shepard. Jesus is the Shepherd and we are his sheep. A shepherd knows his sheep and will lay down his life for them. A shepherd cares for his sheep, he protects them, and keeps them from those that want to hurt them. We learned that sheep know the voice of their shepherd because they are with him. We need to spend time with Jesus so we know His voice and can listen and follow Him. He is our protector and keeps us from harm and danger. He loves us so much that He laid down His life for us. That is the God that we get to love and serve.

March 2nd is Dr. Seuss' birthday. We took time to celebrate all the wonderful and crazy books that he wrote. Dr. Seuss was great at rhyming words and even made up several of his own words. We wrote several pieces of poetry and worked with rhyming words a lot this month. Each student picked their favorite book and wrote why they liked the particular book. You can see their writings hanging on the outside wall of our classroom. On Dr. Seuss' actual birthday we read "Bartholomew and the Oobleck". We made some oobleck in our classroom. It gave us a chance to follow directions, measure, mix, and make a mess. This was a great week.

In first grade, we have been working hard on writing paragraphs. It was not long ago that our friends were only able to write a few words. We are now writing paragraphs! We are introducing a topic, giving examples and detail, and then wrapping up their thinking in an ending sentence. Next, we will be working on how to write a friendly letter.

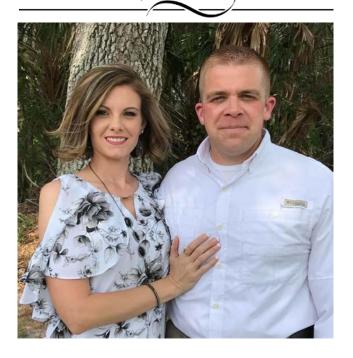
All of our students are doing amazing! I can't believe we just started the last quarter of the school year. I just wanted to say thank you for all the support and love the church members give our class regularly. My students definitely feel loved and that makes me smile. THANK YOU!

Psalms 23:1 The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.



TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Wendy Marker



Some of my favorites are:

Food: Fillet Mignon Movie: Twister

Book: A Land Remembered

Color: Green

Drink: Pumpkin Spice Coffee

Season: Fall

Sports: Gators Football Fast Food: Chik-Fil-A

Singer: Mac Powell (Third Day)

Hobby: Couponing Subject: History Store: Hobby Lobby Dessert: Pumpkin Pie

Candy: Reese's

Restaurant: Longhorn Flower: Gerber Daisy

You can contact me by:

Email: Redeemervpk18@yahoo.com

School phone: 941-475-2631 Also you can join us on ClassDojo

Meet The VPK Teacher! Hi! My name is Wendy Marker! I am 36 years young! I live in Rotonda West with my husband Doug, 6 daughters, a golden retriever and a cat. I enjoy going to church and spending time with my family. I will be Redeemer's VPK teacher for the 2017-2018 school year. I am very excited to make it an amazing year!! I grew up in Arcadia, Florida with two brothers and one sister. I have strong roots in the country and my family is big into farming, ranching, hunting, and fishing. We grew up with cows, horses and even owned an orange grove! I graduated from Desoto High School in 1998 where I had high expectations of becoming a nurse. In June of 2017, I finished my Florida Child Care Professional Credential Certificate. After that I decided to make it National. So, in August 2017 I earned my National CDA. At this time, I am pursuing my associate degree in Early Childhood Care Education.



FAMILY BREAKFAST

Remember to attend our delicious Family Breakfast on the first Sunday of every month following Divine Service. If you would like to assist in any way, please contact Neva Aldene.

CLASS OF THE MONTH







In VPK during February the children have been learning about Growing and Changing.





Week 1's focus question was "How do animals grow and change"? During the week the children learned about animal life cycles. We compared adult and baby animals and how animals care for their young. We watched as our baby caterpillars turned into beautiful butterflies.

Week 2's focus question was "How do plants grow and

change"? During the week the children learned about the needs and life cycles of plants. We planted beans, recorded plant observations, and retold the sequence of a plant's life cycle. We labeled plant parts, measured plants and read books about gardens. We took a field trip to Dearborn Street to the Farmers Market and saw all the different fruits, vegetables and plants.

Week 3's focus question was "How do people grow and change"? During the week the children learned about the human life cycle. We identified what people need to grow; we labeled our bodies, matched family members with growth stages, and compared babies and adults.

Week 4's focus question was "How do living things grow and change?" During the week the children compared and contrasted the growth stages of plants, animals, and people. We counted living things, observed seed sprouts, built a habitat (Bear Cave) and observed our classroom butterflies before letting them go in the flower garden.



Redeemer Lutheran School and Child Care

Bible Lessons

Chapelis on Mondays at 3:45

4/2 Jesus Is Alive
John 21:1-14
4/9 Jesus Goes to Heaven
Plets 1:6-11
4/16 God Gives the Gift of
the Holy Spirit
Plets 2:1-13
4/23 Disciples Give God's Gift
of Mercy



Dear Jesus,

Thank You for going to prepare a wonderful home for me in heaven. Help me to listen to your word while I wait for You to come again. Amen.

VPK Events!

VPK Graduation will be on May 24 at 6:30 pm

Sign up to attend in the summer. Please see Ms. Wendy in the Office

<u>Birthdays</u>

Myah 4/1
Alexander 4/2
Ms. Debbie 4/9
Emilee 4/12
Felipe 4/14
Kiera 4/19
Logan M.4/20
Connor 4/23



Congratulations on your years of service!



Ms. Keri 2 year Ms. Paige 2 year

Summer Camp K-5 After School Registration

Sign up for Summer Camp 2018. Sign up early, space is limited! Pick up an application from the Office. Registration fees are \$35.00 Redeemer School
Kindergarten thru 3rd
Home of the Bears!



Registration

It's Beary Important to Register Early! Now enrolling for the school year of 2018-2019

VPK Registration



Open enrollment for VPK for the school year 2018-2019. Register early space is limited. Check your child/children's mailbox for important information.

Photo Day

April 23-24

Teddy Bear Spring Portraits.
Sign up for your scheduled
time. Pictures are taken and
purchased on the same day!

Submitted by Wendy Horvoth

INSPIRATION

Be Still

Sometimes I ask the question, "My Lord, is this your will?" It's then I hear you answer me, "My Precious Child... be still."

Sometimes I feel frustrated, cause I think I know what's best. It's then I hear you say to me, "My Busy Child... just rest"

"I know the plans I have for you, the wondrous things you'll see; If you can just be patient, Child, and put your trust in me.

I've plans to draw you closer. I've plans to help you grow. There's much I do you cannot see, and much you do not know.

But know this, Child I LOVE YOU. You are Precious unto Me. Before I formed you in the womb, I planned your destiny.

I've something very special I hope for you to learn. The gifts I wish to give to you are gifts you cannot earn.

They come without a price tag, but not without a cost; At Calvary, I gave Myself, so You would not be lost.

Rest, Child, and do not weary, of doing what is good. I promise I'll come back for you, just like I said I would.

Your name is written on my palm, I never could forget; Therefore, do not be discouraged when My answer is... "Not Yet"



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

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REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR. Pastor

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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:

Bible Class: 8:00 AM

Divine Service: 9:15 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).