

STEPHEN MINISTRY: A Stephen Minister is a child of God who walks beside a hurting person, a caring Christian friend who really listens and a lay person who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care. **Classes begin in January and finish in March.** We learn and along the way have fun. Please contact **Carol Carlos 941-255-3354** for more information concerning this ministry.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS: Red poinsettia to help beautify our church for "Christmas" may be purchased for **\$7.00** per plant. You may include the cost with your weekly contribution envelope. Write "**plant**" on the line below Child Care, make check payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church and write Poinsettias in note field. **Sign up sheet is on the desk in the Narthex. Orders must be in by Dec. 17th.** You are welcome to take your plant home after the 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service or the 9:15am Christmas Day Service to enjoy at home during the holidays.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE -2008

ADVENT SERVICE

Wed. December 17, 2008 – 7:00PM ***"CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS SERVICE"***
(ONE SERVICE ONLY – NO SUPPER)

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Wed. December 24, 2008 – 4:30PM & 7:00PM (Candlelight)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

Thur. December 25, 2008 – 9:15AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Wed. December 31, 2008 – 7:00PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

NO SERVICE



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 14, 2008

**DIVINE SERVICE
SETTING THREE LSB**

Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care

6465 MAYPORT RD.

East Englewood, Florida 34224 PH: 475-2410

Child Care Phone: 475-2631

WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 AM

ADULT BIBLE CLASS: 9:15 AM

WEB SITE:<http://www.redeemerfl.com>

SECRETARY EMAIL: [redeemerfl@verizon.net](mailto:redemerfl@verizon.net)

PASTOR EMAIL: [redeemerpastor1@verizon.net](mailto:redemerpastor1@verizon.net)

Interim Pastor: Rev. Warren J. Thomason

Cell phone:(941) 350-5675 Home phone:(941) 697-8368



Prelude

Call to Worship Bells

Greeting and Announcements

Opening Hymn: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the **T** Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **T** Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

beyond our normal offerings. "Fan Into Flame" is a fund raising effort within Synod to provide extra money for new mission projects within congregations, circuits, districts and worldwide. May the Lord touch our hearts and bless our efforts to spread the precious Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ our Savior.

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS TODAY: Ed Sheahan (Carol Sheahan's husband) by Adult Confirmation, Spencer Heldenbrand (Michele Finley's son) by Adult Confirmation, and Fred Toth (Clara Jo's husband) by Affirmation of Faith.

CHRISTMAS CARD BOXES for **Pastor Thomason** and **Pastor Schmidt** are on the desk in the Narthex.

TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL we studied "An Angel Visits Joseph." Just as the angel proclaimed to Joseph that Mary would bear an infant who is the Son of God, the Savior, so God proclaimed to us in His Word that this same Jesus is our Savior from sin and death. *Parents could ask, "What important message did the angel give Joseph? What important message do we hear in God's Word?"*

TUESDAY (Dec 16) Bible Discussion will complete the topic "Can the Bible Help Your Budget" and start on the topic "What is the Difference between Worry and Wise Planning?" It is taught by Pastor Schmidt -- everyone welcome -- **Tues., 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.**

VOTER'S ASSEMBLY will be held **12/21/2008 in the Sanctuary**, to approve the **2009 Slate of officers** and the proposed **2009 budget**. There will be **no adult bible class**.

FLOWER CALENDAR for **2009** is in the Narthex on the wall next to the Quiet Room. Select the Sunday you would like to have flowers on the altar. Only one arrangement can be used on the first and third Sundays. The cost is **\$25.00** and may be placed in your regular church envelope; mark flowers on envelope. *If you do not want the flowers the Pastor will take them to a shut-in.*

THE GIVING PLUS PROGRAM: Thrivent Financial benefit members are eligible to participate in the *Giving Plus* program. This program adds \$1 for every \$2 contributed by a member to an eligible Lutheran organization (not including congregations) up to a maximum of \$300 per organization, per year. **For example, one could donate \$600 to Redeemer Lutheran Child Care and Thrivent will donate an additional \$300!** In order to receive these matching funds the *Giving Plus* program form must be submitted. The form is located on the Information desk in the narthex or may be obtained by calling or e-mailing the church office.

A "BIG THANK YOU" to all who participated in **last Saturday's Church Clean Up!** It was a fine day of hard work and fellowship. Just as our homes and yards need sprucing up, the church buildings and property's need constant attention. Through the service of willing volunteers our church and grounds look much nicer. Charlie Vovcsko – Property Management.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS: Redeemer Sunday School **is growing** and because of this we need some volunteers. We are looking for a teacher to help teach a growing Middle School and/or High School class. Please give these requests some prayerful consideration. For additional information please contact Christin Wacker @ 239-340-3953.

SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE TODAY:

8:00 Elder on Duty: Ray Janssen

Reader: Ray Janssen
Ushers: Harold Hale, Olga Nagel and Lee Vandercook
Greeters: Wilbur Bruce and Eleanor Jollay

10:30 Elder on Duty: Tim Byrne

Reader: Tim Byrne
Acolyte: Alex Ruccatano
Ushers: Sybil and Cecil Grahl, James and Tonyua Hollis
Greeters: Georgette Callahan and Ione Comstock
Coffee Hour: Elaine Malecki and Barbara Monson
Organist: Doris Dykhuizen

CHURCH SCHEDULE FOR DEC. 15TH THRU DEC. 21ST

MONDAY: 3:30 PM Child Care Chapel
5:30 PM Weight Watchers

TUESDAY: 10:00 AM Pastor Schmidt's Bible Class
7:00 PM Christian Board Meeting
7:00 PM AA Meeting

WEDNESDAY: 10:00 AM Outreach Meeting
7:00 PM Advent Service – **Children's Christmas Program**
8:00 PM Choir

THURSDAY: 10:00 AM Senior Fellowship
4:00 – 5:30 PM Confirmation Class
5:30 PM Youth Group
6:30 PM Stephen Ministers Supervision

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Service with Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
9:15 AM VOTERS MEETING
12:00 Noon Newsletter Deadline

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY IS A SPECIAL EVENT here at Redeemer. **During Bible class hour (9:15 AM)** President Michael from the FL/GA District will share with us the great opportunities locally and worldwide for spreading the Gospel. God has blessed us spiritually and materially. Out of love for our Savior we “freely give as we have freely received” Mt. 10:8. Members of our church body are “walking together” in an outreach mission effort called “Ablaze.” Its goal is to reach 100 million people with the gospel by the year 2017 -- (500th Anniversary of the Reformation.) To support this outreach effort, special funds are needed

Introit - Sung in Unison

Ps. 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: Ps. 85:7



Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.
Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.
Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.
Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
and our land will yield its | increase.
Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

Interlude – Countdown to Christmas

The Hymn (during which the “Joy” Candle is lit)

**0 come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem,
From every foe deliver them
That trust Thy mighty power to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, 0 Israel!**

A Note - The Christian has an advantage over the non-Christian; the person of faith is far better off than the person of non-faith. The faith-filled Christian knows Christ came; he knows Christ died for him; he knows that because Christ lives, he, too, will live. He knows God knows his humanness, his frailty, how tenuous his faith. So in his humanness he may weep at the death of a beloved one, but he rejoices with the saints in glory that a sinner has come home. He may cry for pain, physical and emotional, but he rejoices that God knows his predicament, and that He has sifted it through His fingers before ever it came to his life. The cross was certainly not of itself a joy to anticipate, but Christ, knowing He was obedient to His Father and the end result of His crucifixion for us, endured the cross “for the joy that was set before Him.” Joy in the midst of this valley where the shadows are is truly a gift born out of the Christmas event.

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:8

..... you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray together.

C Holy Spirit, in whose province is the application of the forgiveness won on the cross and with it the assurance of everlasting life, keep our eyes upon the wonder of Christ and the glorious mansion God has opened to us, that in the midst of the vicissitudes and trials which may be our lot in time, we may be filled with all joy in believing and so pass this way in triumph, standing in anticipation of the joy yet to be ours in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with You and the Father, one God, with dominion over us forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Receiving of New Members at the 10:30AM service.

Feeding of the Lambs - "Reflect The Light" John 1:6-8, 19-28

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
 because the LORD has anointed me
 to bring good news to the poor;
 he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
 to proclaim liberty to the captives,
 and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
 and the day of vengeance of our God;
 to comfort all who mourn;
 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
 to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,

His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.

 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354

Postlude

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WELCOME! It is our pleasure to worship with you this morning here in God's house. It is our sincere desire that the Holy Spirit will deepen the faith of each one of us through God's holy Word. **We ask All members and visitors to please PRINT their name; local address and phone number in our Record of Fellowship book in the pew**, please be sure to introduce yourself to our Pastor as you leave the Sanctuary.

A QUIET REMINDER – Worshipers are reminded that the “**quiet times**”...during the pre-service Prelude and the Offering ...are intended for personal meditation and prayer. **Please keep conversation to a minimum.** You are encouraged to make use of our beautiful Narthex for visiting. Thank you.

PRAY FOR

SHUT-INS: Ilse Berner, Herb Bohm, , Gloria Carlson, Evelyn Etheridge, Marie Gill, Earl Gossett, Clara & Walter Mitchell, Ruth Jansch, and Ruth Sutley.

HEALING: Members: Marian Cary, Ginny Doenges, Bob & Joan Johnson, Charles Keller, Cliff Larsen, Don Plesner, Morris Rieck, Henry Rudolph, Sharron Schultz, Edda Specht, and Alan Webster.

Friends & Relatives: Phil Alcantara, Elaine Baron, Georgia Bush, Kay Cypher, Dorothy Doenges, Elaine Entzian, Debbie Harrison, Lynn Harrison, Hal, Rachel Kagay, Howard Kagay, Rev. Howie Krienke, Estella Lewis, Marie Liebl, Kaye Ann Nagel, Judy Nagel, Sherrie Rhoades, Michael Stio, Marion Talley, Katie Taseff, Polly Tice, Phyllis Tucker, Helen Weishaar, Virgil Weldy, and Michael Zaffino .

Military Personnel: Daniel Anderson, Adam Buchner, Eric Byrne, Kevin Copeman, Christopher Dutch, Stephen Geib, Brian Hollis, Nathan Hudson, Brian Jackson, Joshua Jones, Chase Tremble, Jeremy Twombly, Matthew Walenta, and Charles Weishaar.

Gathering of our Tithes and Offerings : Choir - "The King Will Come"

Stand

Prayer of the Church - (If you are unable to stand for the prayers please feel free to sit)

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Salutation and Benedicamus

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .

For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

P The Holy Gospel according to **St. John**, the 1st chapter.



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life T everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Sermon Hymn: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341

Sermon - "The Spirit of Xmas" John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
C Amen.

Stand



Sit