

## BETTER THAN LAST YEAR



Reflecting back on the year just ended I have to concede that 2005 was a very good year for my family and me. A few health concerns arose, but no major catastrophes. The cars still get us where we need to go...the bills get paid...and we have a lot of love (and a little fun) along the way! I'm sure that 2005 treated each person a bit differently. Maybe for you and yours it's been a tough year...or worse. Maybe, like my family, it's been a good year. In either case I'm sure that we'd all like the coming year to be better than last year.

But what can we DO about it? Obviously...sometimes even tragically...many things in life are beyond not only our control but even our slightest influence. Health, employment, personal security... Sure, we do what we can. But...

In the Holy Scriptures we are reminded again and again that the most important "thing" in our lives is something over which we can exercise considerable influence. Furthermore, this one "thing", in turn, then exercises considerable influence over every other area of our lives...a positive, beneficial, loving influence!!!

So...what is this "thing"??? It's the relationship we have with God through faith in Christ Jesus. It's forgiveness, salvation, eternal life, the kingdom of heaven. It's what Jesus was talking about in Matthew 13:44 when He said: *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."* Although there is much that could be said about various elements of this parable, its central truth comes through loud and clear: Nothing in all the world can even begin to compare with the "treasure" that God has graciously "dumped in our lap".

Think about that!!! As you consider the challenges, demands, and opportunities of the coming year, there is nothing on your personal or family agenda that is more important than the treasure of salvation by grace, through faith, in Jesus Christ...is there? **IS THERE?**

Don't misunderstand. We're not talking about sacrifice – we're talking about priorities...values...the question of "what really matters". Like the man in the parable, we find great JOY in being able to possess and enjoy a treasure that we never could have secured on our own. The things God asks us to give up along the way are really no more painful than being asked to give up the "old clunker" for a brand new Hummer...pulled by a brand new Winnebago...with a brand new waterfront home (and a few thousand acres of prime hunting land) thrown in as a bonus. You might call such a trade-off a lot of things, but "sacrifice" isn't one of them.

The challenge in all of this comes when faith requires us to make our "sacrifices" FIRST, and then wait for the "goodies". *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you."* (Matthew 6:33) Using the faith and the new life God has already given you, put God and His kingdom first during the coming year. You'll find the peace and joy of knowing that His hand of blessing extends over you, and your family, and your health, and finances, and everything else.

No, things may not always turn out "just the way we planned...or hoped". But we will have the assurance that we are walking in God's kingdom of grace. Can 2006 bring us anything "better" than that?

*God's richest blessings to you and yours in the New Year!*

*Pastor Ferrier*

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ferrier

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Dykhuizen

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Stewardship Ray Altmann

Youth

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Men's Group Bob Mortenson

Red Hat  
Society Sally Zeirdt

Christian  
Support  
Group Shay Thurow

# Elders Message



It doesn't seem possible, but in checking the Elder messages I have written that the first one was April, 1996. There comes a time that all good things end and this is the time that I will discontinue writing these. I will be leaving the Elder Board and someone on the Board will be writing the message.

I received a poem from one of my daughters that seems very appropriate to include in my final message. The poem follows:

Hello God. I called tonight  
To talk a little while  
I need a friend who'll listen  
To my anxiety and trial

You see, I can't quite make it  
Through a day just on my own  
I need your love to guide me,  
So I'll never feel alone.

Give me the faith, dear God, to face  
Each hour throughout the day  
And not to worry over things  
I can't change in any way.

I thank you God, for being home  
And listening for my call  
And giving me such good advice  
When I stumble and fall

Your number, God, is the only one  
that answers every time.  
I never get a busy signal,  
Never had to pay a dime.

So thank you, God, for listening  
To my troubles and my sorrow.  
Good night, God, I love You, too,  
And I'll call you again tomorrow!

I have benefited from the writing of the message. It has led me to a much more complete knowledge of the content of the Bible as well as a review of Luther's Small Catechism and other religious writings.

*Yours in Christ, Dallas Queck*

# Ladies Guild

We began this year with the Oct. 5th meeting with 24 ladies present. We are happy to report that 32 bags of items were collected for the "Refugee Kits" thanks to the members of our congregation.

November 2nd was our 2nd meeting with 18 ladies present. The topics of discussion were as follows:

Nov. 12th Bazaar. There were 12 tables with a large variety of items which the ladies had worked very hard on. \$1,105.31 was taken in from the sale. \$500.00 was given to us from Wal-Mart making the total \$1,605.31. The funds from Wal-Mart was given with regard to our bake sale. Thank you Wal-Mart of Englewood. A special thank you to all the men for setting up the tables and to all the ladies who helped with the Bazaar.

December 7th was the Christmas Lunch at Rotonda Country Club with 46 present. A good time was had by all with the delicious lunch and singing of Christmas carols.

January 4 is the regular meeting of the Ladies Guild. Bring a lunch and meet at noon to enjoy fellowship before the meeting. Dessert and drink will be provided. The meeting will start at 1:00 with a guest speaker from EMS of Port Charlotte County. Several items to be discussed is the budget for '05-'06 and the style show February 7th. This year "The Look" of Port Charlotte Mall will be doing our style show. Watch the bulletin for tickets which will go on sale in January. Plan on coming and inviting a friend. It will start at noon.

The Ladies Guild "Bakeless Bake Sale" will be held during the month of February. Envelopes will be distributed on Sunday, February 5 after both services and should be returned by Sunday, February 26. The recipient of this year's proceeds will be decided at the January meeting.

*Submitted by Lessie Kirch, VP*

## LWML

Redeemer Ladies Guild/LWML sponsored several fund raising events during the year—style show and luncheon, bakeless bake sale, Gift Corner, Scrip Sales and Bazaar. The proceeds of these events were given to various local and church charities—fifteen organizations received \$1,500, Stephen Ministry received \$1,000, \$500 was given for the 25th Anniversary celebration of Redeemer, \$1,000 was given toward the construction of Pastor's office. Bibles were purchased, marked and mailed to the Lutheran Prison Ministry. The quilters received funds and made numerous quilts, some sold and many were given to the migrant workers. The banner committee received funds and made new banners for the church. The Lenten Suppers are prepared by members of the Ladies Guild, also the Easter coffee hour. Bereavement luncheons are provided. The kitchen is supplied with paper products and equipment as needed.

Ladies of Redeemer who do not attend our meetings are encouraged to come and join in our worthwhile endeavors.

*Submitted by Sybil Grahl, Ladies Guild Secretary*

# Ladies Guild

## REDEEMER MEN ARE INVITED TO THE LADIES GUILD MEETING

The Ladies Guild meeting on January 4, 2006 has a special guest speaker, Dee Hawkins of the Charlotte County Fire and E.M.S.

In addition to other topics, I have asked if she would inform the group of the "Red Dot" program and the "Safety On Scene" or S.O.S. program.

The S.O.S. program is to assist the emergency crew when you have an vehicle accident. The small sticker on the back of your rear view mirror informs the crew that you have a emergency packet in the glove compartment with a photo I.D. that lists your name, address and other important information. Having this information on the accident scene can save precious seconds that could mean the difference of life or death to the victim.

At the meeting, Dee is prepared to take the I.D. photos and provide the information for the S.O.S.packet.

The Ladies Guild members are inviting the MEN of the congregation to attend the meeting and get this valuable life saving information.

If you have any questions, contact Margie Cypher.

## SCRIP

January Scrip orders will be taken Wednesday, January 4 at the Ladies Guild Meeting and Sunday, January 8 after both services. Your orders will be returned Sunday, January 15. See or call Sybil Grahl at 474-0263 if you have any questions.

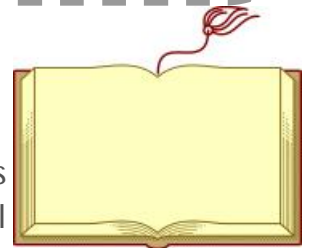
*Submitted by  
Sybil Grahl*

## The Old Family Bible

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it.

What he held in his hand was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found!" the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" asked his mother. The young boy answered in a voice hushed with awe, "I think it's Adam's underwear."



# Elders Message



*D e a r  
Brothers  
and Sisters  
in Christ*

It's that time of the year again, New Year!!! I'm sitting here wondering what is new under the sun that I can write about, that won't read like a lot of old New Year's resolutions.

The Bible dictionary lists "The Seventh New Moon" or "Feast of Trumpets" which signaled the start of the civil year. With horn blowing and drink offerings, it sounded like another New Year's party, but not really what I wanted.

The Bible, as always, provided the answer. There are many references to new, starting in Ps. 40:3 through Rev. 21:1.

Some of these we're familiar with; Jer. 31:31, the Lord's new covenant with Israel; Luke 22:20, the Lord's new covenant when instituting the Lord's Supper; John 13:34, the new commandment "Love One An-

other"; and Ro. 6:4, Baptism—New Life. This sounded like it went with New Year. We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead, through the glory of the Father, we too may have a new life.

New Life—is it time to examine our old one? Has it become a complacent, lazy, spiritual existence, a "Go Through the Motions" sort of thing?

Being a Christian is a constant daily battle, so perhaps you need to examine your daily spiritual life to see that it contains all the ingredients: morning and evening prayers, personal petitions and requests along with the perfect prayer, the Lord's Prayer?

Do you plan time for daily scripture reading and study? Start out easily. Get up 15 minutes earlier, and you'll find it a wonderful way to start the day.

Do you talk to God during the day? Do you call on him in time of need? Not only for yourself, but for others also, who have misfortune befall them: an accident scene, a rushing ambulance, a fire truck screaming to a fire.

Do you say Grace before every meal?

Do you thank God for the beautiful day? Even if it's raining, someone somewhere needs rain.

How much is Jesus part of your day?

Maybe this New Year would be a good time for not a resolution, but a new covenant with God:

- To promise to live a more Christ-like life;
- To make your Christian life a twenty-four/seven experience.

Make the effort; you will be pleased with the wonderful feeling it will produce.

*Happy New Year!  
God Bless You All!*

*Yours in Christ,  
George Cancellieri*

# Thrivent



*Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*

## THINKYARD SALE—JANUARY 27 & 28, 2006

Thrivent will be holding the 19th annual Yard Sale Fri. Jan. 27, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM and Sat. Jan. 26, 2006 from 8:00 AM to NOON. You may bring in your items beginning Tue., Jan 24, 2006 from 9:00AM to 1:00 PM. Volunteers will be needed to unpack, sort, and price items beginning Wed. Jan. 25, 2006 at 9:AM and also on Thurs.

Sign-up sheets will be available Jan. 8, 2006. You may sign up to work various hours, and also designate if you need items picked up. Posters will be available for distribution for bulletin boards in stores, clubhouses, hair salons, etc. If you have any questions contact one of the committee members. Sam Jollay (697-5905) Georgia Lang (474-4963) Wanda Nebelsiek (475-3335) or Ginny Doenges (697-2429).

*Submitted by, Wanda Nebelsiek*

## Outreach



### Next big exciting Outreach event!!

Coming on February 17th.  
The celebration of the century!  
Bohm's Ball!!

Lasagna dinner, live music (The Harriots) and a contest so wild you won't believe it! Fun, games, dancing and food! All for the low, low price of \$4.00 each (children under 15 are free)! Sign up and tickets coming soon.

You won't want to miss this occasion to honor Herb and the late Alice Bohm for all of the many ways they served our congregation for these many years!

*Submitted by Doris Dykhuizen*

# Assimilation



## January



January 1

*Elaine Malecki & Sybil Grahl*

January 8

*Shirley Peterson & Virginia Glotzhobor*

January 15

*Avis Stuck & Dee Baird*

January 22

*Ginney Doenges & Ada Hagerman*

January 30

*Youth*

*Submitted by Pam DeGourse*



January, 2006

8:00 A.M.

10:30 A.M.

Ray Janssen

Vern Speer

Tom Lang

Don Plesner

Don Cary

Shirley Zatkalik

Marian Cary

Jeremy Banister

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

### January

8:00 A.M.

January 1

Joseph & Phyllis Lehner

January 8

Charles & Elaine Malecki

January 15

Ray Janssen & Robert Mortenson

January 22

Raymond and Delores Altmann

January 29

Youth

10:30 A.M.

January 1

Virginia Doenges & Ellie Ratzlaff

January 8

Sheridon & June Markert

January 15

Barbara Bishop & Linda Rogers

January 22

Byron & Mary Beaber

January 29

Youth

### Church Housekeeping

January 7

Robert & Harriet Payne

January 14

Edward & Loretta Grobe

January 21

Ed & Ginny Doenges

January 28

Joe & Phyllis Lehner

## January Birthdays

Jeremy Banister	1/4
Doris Lehman	1/4
Sally Zierdt	1/4
Bernice Heppner	1/5
David Perry	1/5
Bill Jonas	1/6
Carolyn Jordan	1/8
Earl Stuck	1/9
Donald Blakley	1/10
Evelyn Zatkalik	1/10
Donna Bierlein	1/11
Harvey Sterriker	1/13
Helga Zumbahlen	1/16
Marlaine Keller	1/17
Lillian Miles	1/19
Joseph Scarangella	1/20
Henrietta Appold	1/21
Heather Euler	1/21
Rebekah Ferrier	1/22
Ron Ratzlaff	1/22
Clifford Larsen	1/23
Shirley Zatkalik	1/23
Cathy Balogh	1/24
Robert Wagenseil	1/25
Gerald Lute	1/26
Ray Appold	1/28

## January Anniversaries

		Years
Charles & Carol Vovcsko	1/4/2003	3
Erwin & Maureen Nesvacil	1/17/1970	36
Gerald & Baerbel Hooper	1/27/1967	39
Dallas & Rusty Queck	1/31/1948	58

Please notify the Church Secretary if you are left off the list or if there is an incorrect date. This way the records will be correct.



**Birthdays &  
Anniversaries  
This Month!**

## From the Office

Just a reminder that Bulletin articles must be in the office no later than 11:00 AM on Wednesday. The bulletin is printed on Thursday morning.

Northern Members When you return, remember to check in with the Church Secretary to let her know you are here.

**A Great Big Thank You** to the Ladies Guild for donating the following items to the Church Secretary's Office:

4-drawer legal size filing cabinet  
2 flat screen computer monitors  
Paper Shredder

These items will help with the organization and space of the office.

Again, thank you!

*Thank you, Pat Wilcoxon, Church Secretary*



## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for February is Sunday, January 22nd immediately after the 10:30 service.

If you have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter, either e-mail it to [shortstack@ewol.com](mailto:shortstack@ewol.com) or place them in the newsletter box in the church office. Articles received after January 22nd will be held for the March newsletter.

Please be sure to put your name on the article so I can contact you if there are any questions.

*Thank you, Leta Leimer*



# Address Changes

Please make the following changes to your bright pink 2005-2006  
Church Directory

Steve & Evelyn Zatkalik  
106 Elderberry Drive  
Winchester Virginia 22603

Cathy & Leslie Miles  
3229 Bee Ridge Road, #89  
Sarasota, FL 34239

Steve Schiro  
7391 Quarry Street  
Englewood, FL 34224

Evelyn Stieve  
5430 W. 133rd Place, #316  
Overland Park, KS 66209  
913-544-2893

Bertha Picazio  
Moved to New Jersey, no forwarding address

Clarence Mark  
Was called to his eternal home, Sept. 5th, 2005

*Submitted by Pat Wilcoxon, Church Secretary*



## THE HAND OF GOD

God's gentle Hand is guiding,  
But it doesn't push or shove,  
Instead it clasps our human hands  
And leads with Grace and Love.

We find within this Hand of God  
A heavenly Strength indeed,  
And as we follow, God provides  
For what we truly need.

*Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems*

# Helping Hands



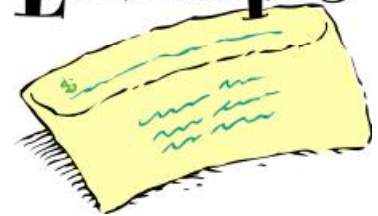
A great big thank you to all the ladies who contributed so generously to the "Adopt-a-Family" program. You helped make Christmas brighter for many local people. In January we will be providing volunteers at Helping Hand food pantry. If you would like to help one day, Monday—Thursday from 10-2:30, January 16th—31st, please call Helen Sturzenbecker at 475-3060.

*Submitted by Helen Sturzenbecker*

## Offering Envelopes

Your 2006 Offering Envelopes have arrived and are located in the Narthex. Please be sure to take yours home!

## Offering Envelopes



It is very difficult for us to say good-bye to all of our family at Redeemer. For the past 16 years we have had the privilege of being a part of this congregation. We do feel as our move is the right thing to do and that GOD is blessing us with this adventure even though we have not sold our house. I will try to keep in touch with the many friends that we have made.

Our new address is 106 Elderberry Drive, Winchester, VA 22603; (540) 678-4613

We are right off I-81 in Winchester and have a guest bedroom

Yours in Christ,  
Steve & Evelyn Zatkalik



HEALING:

Members  
 Mary Green  
 Lessie Kirch  
 Cliff Larsen  
 Doris Lehman  
 Glenn Mossner  
 Irma Proehl  
 Katie Rudolph  
 Sandra Scheel  
 Shay Thurow  
 Joe Tringali  
 Arline Twombly  
 Bob Wagner  
 Pat Witz

Friends & Relatives  
 Audrey Bullock  
 Earleen Eitrem  
 Connie Garcia  
 Ester Gaskil  
 Andy Gojkov  
 Pamela Hackley  
 Margaret Hannegan  
 Caroline Knight  
 Karl Kosch  
 Elizabeth Linhardt  
 Dr. Mike Meeske  
 Vicki Plesner  
 Crystal Reynolds  
 Jack Schleede  
 Jeffrey Slusher  
 Buddy Weishaar

COMFORT

Dee Baird & Family whose uncle (Bud) Denton Littell was called to his eternal home on December 15th.

MILITARY PERSONNEL & FAMILIES



Herb Bohm  
 Richard Borchers  
 Bernice Heppner  
 Ruth Jansch  
 James and Henrietta Prather  
 Bertha Sandhusen  
 Norma Spaw



# Human Care

## Accomplishments & Blessings of 2005

2005 was a very busy year for the Human Care Ministry. While continuing our regular work of visiting shut-ins, blood pressure checks, blood drives, prayer chain, and cards to the sick and bereaved, we helped the migrant labor community through Messiah Migrant Mission, provided support to cancer patients and survivors and other troubled people through the Redeemer Christian Support Group, assisted hurricane victims, and started several new Human Care programs. Specifically, the following activities are of note.

### Messiah Migrant Mission



Redeemer has been a loyal supporter of this mission, providing several car-loads of beans and rice, underwear and shoes for school, and Christmas gifts

for the children (113 gifts were taken to the Mission on Dec. 10 by the Youth). On March 1, thirteen members took a tour of the mission and visited some of the migrant camps. Beans and rice collection was discontinued due to the high cost of transportation to the Mission; envelopes for donations were provided instead.



## Hurricane Assistance

We have participated in the Sarasota County Church Volunteers group, which works together to provide assistance in the event of a local hurricane. Charlotte County is trying to establish a similar program. Our members donated \$2,050 to assist Hurricane Katrina victims; funds were given to American Red Cross and Thrivent. Redeemer again responded generously to the call for help from the FL-GA District following Hurricane Wilma, with the donation of food and personal supplies; a Jeep-load of supplies was taken to Hope Lutheran Church in Bonita Springs for distribution in Immokalee.

## Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry program is being implemented at Redeemer. Several informational talks were made, Carol Haupt and Carol Carlos attended Leadership Training in June, Carol Carlos assumed leadership of this program, and a Spiritual Gifts Bible Class was held to help members assess their gifts for human care. Finally, on December 10, seven members began training to be Stephen Ministers: Mary Baeber, Sharon Grcevic, Eleanor (Sam) Jollay, Nancy Fandrck, Maureen and Erwin Nesvacil, and Sandy Sita.

The program will officially begin in late March when training is completed.

(continued on page 15)

# Human Care

*(continued from page 14)*

## Caring Network

Group leader volunteers have been lined up and this program is scheduled to get underway this month. With the Network, the congregation has been divided into geographic groups of 10-15 families in order to provide practical caring assistance to members in times of sickness, loss of family member, etc. If a member needs assistance, they will call their group leader who will arrange for necessary help.

## Senior Fellowship

This new program started November 10 as a get-together for fun and fellowship. The meeting is held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. After playing cards, dominoes, other games, we have lunch and dessert. We've been having a good time and all are welcome.

## Crop Walk

Last year we had 26 walkers and \$1677 was donated for the February 26 walk. 75% was earmarked for Hurricane Charley relief, and 25% was given to Englewood Helping Hand.

## Defensive Driving Class

Marge Cypher conducted an AARP Defensive Driving class in October.

We thank all of you for your loving generosity in helping to care for people in need. Our Redeemer Family is truly blessed with a heart of gold.

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

Matthew 25:40

Thank you.

*Submitted by Carol Haupt*

# Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is going very well with our seven trainees and two leaders. Our trainees have worked extremely hard in the three classes we have had which are The Person of the Caregiver, Feelings: Yours, Mine and Ours and The Art of Listening. The course has involved pre-class reading assignments and in class lecture, discussion, and role playing. Our trainees are already showing some real growth in knowledge and skills. Skill practicing is a valuable component in the training. It takes what you're learning out of the realm of theory and turns it into something you have to apply. It can be very challenging to role play. It can bring out real emotions and tears but it is extremely helpful because it prepares you for actual care giving situations. There also can be genuine issues from your own life. When this happens the trainees find themselves ministering to each other. All of that will help the trainees to be better caregivers later on. Sandy Sita said it best in the December 11 church bulletin, "I think we all realized we were going to get as much out of this commitment as we are giving." Stephen Ministry is distinctively Christian so it is imperative that the Stephen Ministers stay close to Jesus at all times. Please pray that they will find their greatest fulfillment in having a more intimate relationship with the Lord, rather than in ministry accomplishments. That they make ministry to the Lord a priority.

*Submitted by Carol Carlos*

# Assimilation

The Assimilation Board would like to thank Avis and Earl Stuck for all their work and direction in the "Hanging of the Greens" this Christmas season. Thankfully, they have agreed to continue guiding the Assimilation group in this decoration endeavor.

As we begin the year of 2006, we look forward with renewed anticipation in the work of our Lord here at Redeemer Lutheran Church. When asked to help with being a Greeter on Sunday morning, a Host or Hostess for Coffee Hour or a Sponsor for a New Member, please continue to respond with a resounding "YES"-- we know you will!

Thank you again for all your support.

Yours in Christ,

*Pam DeGourse,  
Assimilation Secretary*



King David wanted to build a glorious temple for worshipping God and for housing the Ark of the Covenant. God, however, did not permit him to build it. Instead, God chose Solomon, David's son, to head up the building program. Why wasn't David allowed the honor of building the temple?

- A. David was getting too old to supervise such an undertaking.
- B. David had been a warrior and had shed blood.
- C. David had stopped taking God seriously
- D. David's attention was required elsewhere.

The answer is in 1 Chronicles 28:3.

## Special Dates

January 1	New Year's Day
January 6	Epiphany
January 8	Baptism of the Lord
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



## Ha Ha! Corner

### Did You Hear This One?

If you know the Bible even a little, you'll find this hilarious! It comes from a Catholic elementary school test. Kids were asked questions about the old and new testaments. The following statements about the Bible were written by children. Pay special attention to the wording and spelling. They have not been retouched or corrected (other than capitalizing the word, "Bible.")

- The first book of the Bible, Guinnessis. God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.
- Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built and ark and the animals came on in pears.
- Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but was a ball of fire during the night.
- Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
- Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
- Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
- The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cya-nide to get the ten commandments.
- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.
- The greatest miricle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
- David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
- Solomon, one of Davids Sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
- It was a miricle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
- The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 Decibels.
- The Epistels were the wives of the Apostles.
- One of the opposums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
- Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.



# Wilma's Wallop

Responding to weary after Wilma's wallop  
By Kim Krull

Florida's eighth hurricane in the past 15 months transformed one LCMS church into a refuge for "absolutely weary" evacuees the same day it turned another storm-battered church into a pile of rubble.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, in Lake Worth, collapsed in the 125-mph winds of Hurricane Wilma, the Category 3 storm that darkened the Sunshine State on Oct. 24.

To the west in Port Charlotte, 17 members and neighbors of Lutheran Church of the Cross rode out Wilma in that church's new Fellowship and Ministry Center. Many of those evacuees suffered major property damage in last year's Hurricane Charley and "were terrified about what might happen this time," Pastor Kenneth Redmann said.

"Our people are absolutely weary of all these hurricanes and on the edge emotionally," Redmann said. "We gathered together because there is strength in numbers; we could pray and call upon the Lord. You never know for sure, but this is a brand-new structure that was built to be safe."

As this *Reporter* went to press, Wilma was blamed for six deaths and an estimated \$6 billion in devastation. Massive power outages and limited cellular phone service hampered early damage reports from many LCMS churches and schools.

The state's southeastern coast was among the hardest-hit areas, according to Rev. Carlos Hernandez, director, Districts and Congregations, with LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Hernandez arrived in Florida on Oct. 24 to offer pastoral care and begin needs assessments.

"These people have been through so much, it is important to get on the ground right away and offer our support," said Hernandez, who planned to visit affected LCMS congregations with David Weidner, executive director for Congregational Services and coordinator of Disaster Response for the Synod's Florida-Georgia district. "We want to bring some immediate relief to our hardest-hit churches."

At press time, one such church was Our Savior in Lake Worth. Three previous hurricanes had compromised the facility structurally, Weidner said, although it continued to be used by the congregation. "There was a problem with the beams, and the church was working with engineers," he said. "They had been warned that (winds) over 75 mph would be a danger."



*Rev. Stephen K. Wipperman stands in front of the rubble of what had been the church where he is pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lake Worth, Fla. The building was the only Synod church completely destroyed by Hurricane Wilma.*

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# Wilma's Wallop

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According to a published report, a pulpit and a cross were among the few objects left in the demolished church, built in 1962. "My life is gone," Barbara McCrorie, 70, a church choir member told the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*. "I just love this church. This is heartbreaking."

No injuries were reported in connection with the church collapse.

Other early reports of Wilma-related damage, supplied by Weidner, included:

- In Key West, Rev. Mike Heidle and his family huddled behind newly installed hurricane shutters in the Grace Lutheran Church parsonage as the storm brought six inches of water into the home—twice. The church lost windows; the school had some flooding.
- In Delray Beach, Trinity Lutheran School lost most of its roof shingles; high winds blew out windows in the second-story church sanctuary.
- Water blew into Shepherd of the Coast Lutheran Church, Fort Lauderdale, after a large stained-glass window was destroyed.

"The members of the Florida-Georgia District are determined to help one another in this time of need and to use this disaster as an opportunity to witness to that love which nothing can overcome," said Dr. Gerhard Michael, president of the Florida-Georgia District, as he prepared to begin damage assessments in southeastern Florida on Oct. 25.

Along with LCMS World Relief/Human Care, other partners in the hurricane response effort include Lutheran Services Florida, Lutheran disaster Response, and Lutheran Counseling Services of Orlando. The latter organization has been providing ongoing counseling to hurricane victims since last summer.

David Weidner agreed that many Floridians have grown hurricane weary. "We know that in spite of these natural disasters, our God remains faithful to us, and he will provide all that we need to recover and rebuild our churches, homes, and communities," Weidner said. "Over and over again, we are the recipients of His grace and mercy in Jesus Christ as manifested through the loving response and help of his people across the country."

Rev. Matthew Harrison, executive director, LCMS World Relief/Human Care, said that this unprecedented hurricane season has created unprecedented needs for LCMS congregations, church workers and their communities.

"The generosity of our people also has been unprecedented," Harrison said. "We thank our supporters and our partners and ask that they, please, continue to support recovery and rebuilding which will continue for months, even years, to come."

Because support for disaster relief work tends to reduce gifts to important ongoing programs, Harrison also urged congregations to consider including LCMS World Relief/Human Care in their annual budgets.

Gifts for hurricane relief can be made out to LCMS World Relief and Human Care and sent to LCMS World Relief/Human Care, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-9810; designate checks for "Hurricane Relief 2005" or call the Credit Card Gift Line, (888) 930-4438, or visit the LCMS World Relief/Human Care Web Site and click the "Give Now" button.