

Farewell to "Alleluia" . . . Hello to "Hosanna"

Sunday, February 26--Transfiguration Day--marks one of the major shifts of the Church Year as we move from the Epiphany Season into Lent. The official beginning of Lent takes place on Ash Wednesday, March 1. But it is on Transfiguration Sunday that we sing our "alleluias" for the last time until we sing them again on Easter. During the Lenten Season the joyous alleluias are replaced with penitential cries of "Hosanna" which means (loosely translated) "Lord, save us."



You might recall that "Hosanna" was the cry of the crowds on Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem for the final time--just days before His crucifixion. As we follow Him on the path to Calvary throughout Lent, "Hosanna"--"Lord, save us"--is a fitting worship plea for us. Lord, save us--by softening our hard hearts with Your holy Law. Lord, save us--by leading us to true repentance. Lord, save us--by drawing us to a renewed and vibrant Faith in the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

This year our Midweek Lenten Worship Services will welcome Pastors from sister congregations throughout our circuit. Our Lenten midweek theme is "The Blood of Christ." We will focus on how Christ's blood cleanses, forgives, heals, and empowers us. I urge you to plan on attending each Wednesday. Services are at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm with a fellowship meal in between. May God bless us in our Lenten devotion.

Have You Had Your Heart Checked???

The other big emphasis coming up in March is our annual focus upon our personal responsibilities as members of God's Kingdom--the Church. It seems fitting that while we are focusing on Christ's sacrifice for us (Lent) we should also focus upon our sacrificial response (Stewardship). This year's Stewardship theme is "If the Heart Is Willing ..." It is my prayer that this will be a deeply personal and moving "heart check" for us all.

See ya' Wednesday -- and Sunday,

Pastor Ferrier

REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ferrier

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Secretary Pat Wilcoxon

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Men's Group Bob Mortenson

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Group Shay Thurow

Elders Message



This message continues last month's on learning more about the **Holy Spirit**. Once again, the information is taken from Issue #19 of the **Good News**, Concordia Mission Society, St. Louis, MO.

6. **The Holy Spirit Tests the Spirits:** To say, "I was led by the Spirit", God warns that there are also many other *evil* spirits, and He desires that you daily "test the spirits to see whether they are from God" (1 John 4: 1; 38).
7. **The Holy Spirit Reveals Truth:** God's word is as reliable as a plum line (Amos 7:7-9), always sure and true. The Holy Spirit, promised in Luke 1:35, was enabling Mary to confess not speculation or doubt, but *truth* based on God's Word. God's miracle of spiritual rebirth through Baptism for your salvation (1 Peter 3 : 21), and like Mary's miracle and her words, "Be it done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).
8. **The Holy Spirit Enables You to See:** 1,000 years ago a brilliant scientist discovered that as air brings odors to your nose, so light brings images to the eye to detect, enabling you to see. This simple discovery is helpful in understanding how you correctly see and understand God's Word through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit must illuminate your heart and mind so that you can understand the Holy Scriptures. He speaks "not in words taught by human wisdom, but those taught by the Spirit." (1 Corinthians 2:13).
9. **The Holy Spirit Intercedes for You** (Romans 8:26) If you feel shipwrecked, and you don't know how to pray, "the Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." The Lord's Prayer is the most powerful in the world! The Holy Spirit will also enable you to add new prayers using Jesus and the psalmist as the pattern for God-pleasing prayers.
10. **False Teachings About the Holy Spirit :** Other teachings include: Anglican/Episcopal; Reformed (Calvinist); Baptists; Methodists; Pentecostals; and Confessional Lutheran. Our belief is the Holy Spirit will speak to you only through the Word. 500 years ago Martin Luther opposed and condemned those who claimed direct revelation from the Spirit apart from the Word.
11. **Holy Spirit Convicts of Sin:** The Law of God is written in their hearts (Romans 2: 14-15). Christ also declares that one of the Holy Spirit's jobs is to "convict the world concerning sin" (John 16:8). When you violate God's Law by doing wrong, your conscience feels guilty. This is the Holy Spirit's work in you, condemning you through God's Word of Law that is written in your heart. **THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS YOU OF SIN SO THAT HE MAY BRING YOU TO JESUS. ALL YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN RIGHT NOW!**

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Elders Message *(continued)*



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

12. **The Holy Spirit Brings Eternal Life:** YOU NEED NOT DIE IN YOUR SIN. This is what the Holy Spirit does for you! "No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit" (Corinthians 12:3). Thus, when the Holy Spirit grants you the gift of faith, He enables you to see and believe that your salvation comes from Jesus Christ's death on the cross for your sins.
13. **The Holy Spirit Washes Away Your Sin:** God clearly teaches in His Word that Baptism is not something that *you do* for God; rather **THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS in Baptism to wash away your sins.** God is very direct in saying that his miracle of Baptism has the power to save you forever!
14. **The Holy Spirit Helps you to see Jesus:** When Jesus was only forty days old, a man named Simeon took Jesus in his arms and said "Now Lord, Thou dost let Thy bond-servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word; FOR MY EYES HAVE SEEN THY SALVATION. Luke 2:25 says, "The Holy Spirit was upon him" [Simeon]. In other words, God through His Word in the old Testament promises of the Messiah gave Simeon "eyes of faith."
15. **The Holy Spirit Seals You in the Faith:** God has sealed you for eternal spiritual life. God the Holy Spirit seals and preserves you in your Baptism for the day of your final redemption. "YOU WERE SEALED FOR THE DAY OF REDEMPTION: (Ephesians 4:30).

Submitted by Erv Maki

President's Corner

The Church Council and I thank you for your continued prayers and support.

We as a body of believers know what the task is for us as followers of Christ. From time to time we as a body of believers are going to be confronted with choices regarding how best to carry out our mission. As we carry out our mission, our congregation will have some needs. It is just natural that each of us will have our own opinion as to the importance of that need and what resources should be used to address that need. As good stewards we should examine and question the merits of the need and the justification of applying the resources to meet the need.

Once we as a body of believers decide on a course of action we all need to embrace the decision and work together in making it as effective as possible in our battle with Satan over souls.

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Ephesians 4:16

Submitted by Joe Carlos

Christian Support Group

Redeemer Lutheran Church Christian Support Group will meet on March 28, 10 A.M.; Always the last Tuesday of each month. This past Tuesday, we had a total of ten persons in attendance. A lively discussion ensued on various topics with much group interaction/sharing. Group also voted unanimously to bring in a new member by the name of Buck, the airedale, who shall serve as Group mascot. Please remember: all persons are welcome whatever your needs might be. You will receive blessings from visiting with this group beyond your expectations. We urge you to come and find out for yourselves. They are all very special persons.

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

*If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this.
If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.
If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!*

Why Go To Church?

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, and pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher.

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. BUT, I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals. I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church worship for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something.

Faith sees the Invisible, Believes the Incredible and Receives the Impossible. Thank our Triune God for our physical and our Spiritual nourishment. You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last." John 15:16

*Blessings from our Gracious Lord, in His Holy Name,
Shay and Rol Thurow*

Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild will meet March 1st at 1 PM. Opening devotions will be presented by Georgia Lang, followed with the Program. Gordon Baer with the Charlotte County Sheriff's Dept will conduct a presentation regarding "identity theft". Everyone, including men, is invited to attend. A nominating committee will be appointed for the election of officers in April. Please start praying about this. We hope YOU will consider having your name on the ballot if contacted.

Greeter for March is Ellie Ratzlaff. The hostesses are Joyce Redding and Janet Fasnacht.

Lenten Supper schedule is as follows:	March 8	Marje Sterriker
	March 15	Doris Dykuhuizen
	March 22	Georgia Lang
	March 29	Lorraine Hughes & Dottie LaMere
	April 5	Sybil Grahl

The LWML Zone Spring Rally will be March 25th at Faith Lutheran Church in Punta Gorda. Please refer to the Rally page in this newsletter. A sign up sheet is on the table in the Narthex for those who wish to attend. Prayerfully consider attending this function. You will be greatly inspired. We would like to have several ladies from our Church in attendance. We will meet at the Church to car-pool. Watch the bulletin for more information.

MARK your calendar now for April 5th Guild meeting. This will be a salad lunch starting at noon. Bring your favorite salad to share. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Redeemer Ladies Guild budgeted \$2,000 for scholarships for confirmed members of Redeemer Lutheran Church graduating June 2006. The amount of the scholarship will depend on the number of approved applications. Applications are available from the Church Secretary or Margie Cypher.

Submitted by Margie Cypher



Please do not leave tables or other items in the Quiet Room. This room is for the use of mothers with small children—some items that have been left there can be dangerous to the little ones. Your cooperation would be appreciated.

Submitted by Georgia Lang, Ladies Guild President

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry classes continue to be challenging, interesting and Christ filled. Those that we have studied since our last newsletter are, Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving, Crisis Theory and Practice: Danger versus Opportunity, Confidentiality, Telecare: The Next Best Thing To Being There and Using Mental Health Professionals and Other Community Resources.

In our confidentiality class we learned guidelines for maintaining confidentiality.

1. Do not share information about your care receiver or your caring visits with anyone, including your spouse and close friends.
2. Neither confirm or deny that you are someone's Stephen Minister.
3. Always ask your care receiver's permission before sharing confidential information, even if you want to help your care receiver by asking for prayer, care, or other support for him or her.
4. Even if information about your care receiver is public knowledge, treat it confidentially and exercise great care in talking about it with others.
5. Break confidentiality only if it is necessary to get immediate help for someone who is in danger of hurting him or herself or someone else.

After learning our guidelines we then practiced our skills regarding what and how to say the right words when we are faced with confidentiality challenges. Our understanding is increased and our skills are honed by role playing different situations that we may encounter.

When you receive this newsletter our Stephen Ministers will only have six more classes before being commissioned. Commissioning services of the Stephen Ministers will be March 26, 2006 at the 10:30 service. We would like to invite the entire congregation for our celebration luncheon after the late service. Sign up for the luncheon will be March 5th, 12th and 19th after both services. We hope you will seriously consider joining us for this special occasion of a new ministry in our congregation.

Please pray that god will enable the Stephen Ministers to maintain confidentiality. Also, that they will comfort with the comfort they themselves have received from God.
(2 Corinthians 1:4)

Submitted by Carol Carlos



March	
March 5	Vicky Davis, Lois Webster & Loretta Grove
March 12	Sue Poyer & Nancy Fandrick
March 19	Judy Scarangella & Lorraine Hughes
March 26	Jan Fasnacht & Dottie LaMere

Submitted by Pam DeGourse

GREETERS SCHEDULE

March

8:00 A.M.

March 5	Earl & Avis Stuck
March 12	Ken & Cathy Mielke
March 19	Don & Mary Blakley
March 26	Charles & Betty Keller

10:30 A.M.

March 5	Sheridan & June Markert
March 12	Paul & Vicky Davis
March 19	Ken & Betty Heimlich
March 26	Ken & Betty Heimlich

<h3>Church Housekeeping</h3>

March 4	Cathy Mielke Carolyn Jordan
March 11	Chuck & Elaine Malecki
March 18	Erwin & Maureen Nesvacil
March 25	Ed & Loretta Grobe Paul & Vicki Davis

March Birthdays

Betty Rowe	3/2
Elizabeth Maki	3/3
Ernest Ferguson	3/11
DeAnna Peterson	3/11
Barbara Vick	3/12
Leona Procuk	3/14
Georgia Lang	3/18
Dottie LaMere	3/20
Harold Notter	3/20
Angelika Ziegler	3/20
Helen Wagner	3/21
Norma Burgdorf	3/22
Christopher Boyd	3/23
Bob Johnson	3/23
Allan Webster	3/23
Louise Boyd	3/24
Donna Hansen	4/24
Harold Hale	3/28
Esther Notter	3/28
Ethel Abel	3/30
Norma Spaw	3/31

March Anniversaries

		Years
Erv & Betty Maki	3/3/2001	5
William & Dorothy Balogh Sr.	3/7/1953	53
Donald & Marian Cary	3/10/1962	44
Carl & Carolyn Jordan	3/20/1954	52
Ray & Dolores Altmann	3/22/1955	51

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

A very **BIG** Thank you to Ray Altmann and Don Blakley for moving my office around and to Gary Lute who installed a new door.

Thank you, Pat Wilcoxon, Church Secretary



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for April is Sunday, March 19th immediately after the 10:30 service.

If you have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter, either e-mail it to shortstack44@ewol.com or place them in the newsletter box in the church office. Articles received after March 19th will be held for the May 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

Please Note: Email address has been changed!!!
(The difference is the number 44 has been added)



Congratulations to Leslie Miles who was confirmed in her church in Sarasota on February 5th, 2006.



Address Changes

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

REMOVE

Bertha Picazio (moved to New Jersey)

Cathy Miles (transferred to Sarasota)

MOVED

Ruth Sutley
911 Bayberry Lane
Redbud, IL 62278
(618) 282-1958

If you find an error or know of anyone changing their address or telephone number, please contact the church office.

Submitted by Pat Wilcoxon, Church Secretary

Assimilation

The Assimilation Board is responsible for welcoming visitors and helping to integrate new members into the life of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Along with that primary objective, the Assimilation Board is responsible for the Coffee Hour, Sponsors for new members, Name tags, Time and talent sheets, Narthex guidelines, Greeters, Flowers for the Narthex, the Hanging of the greens and helping to assemble the church directory for the church secretary.

We truly appreciate the cooperation of all the members of Redeemer in helping us fulfill our responsibilities, and we eagerly look forward to serving our Lord in the year ahead.

Submitted by Pam DeGourse, Assimilation Board Secretary

Human Care Ministry

Caring Network

Starting March 1, the new Caring Network will be implemented. Your group leader will be calling you to get acquainted and to see if you have any caring needs. Also, if you would like to help with the Caring network, sign up in the Narthex or call Lessie Kirch at 475-3689 or Carol Haupt at 493-0399. Types of help we are looking for: Group Leaders, meals, driving, light housekeeping, sitting with a person, etc.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

(Matthew 25:35-36)

Messiah Migrant Mission

Just a reminder — Because we are no longer collecting beans and rice, there are envelopes in the Narthex for the purpose of making cash donations. You may place the envelope in the offering plate or mail it directly to the Mission. Thank you.

Submitted by Carol Haupt

Stephen Ministry

The Stephens Ministry would like to thank you, the congregation, for providing us with the opportunity to study and prepare for this ministry. We now are asking for your help. Part of our mission, is to complete a list of Christian referrals that may be used, if needed, for our care receivers. If you have a profession or know of a Christian professional, who would be willing to help in specific instances, please call either Carol Carlos (941-255-3354) or Nancy Fandrick (941-473-5547). Professional fees are optional. Examples would be: lawyers, real estate agents, repairman, doctor, nurse, etc. Thank you in advance for your help.

Submitted by Nancy Fandrick

What is Prayer?

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye
When none but God is near.

—James Montgomery



HEALING:

Members

Ray Appold
 Bill Balogh, Sr.
 Betty Bertka
 Sarah Bruno
 Marian Cary
 Marlaine Keller
 Clare Kieselburg
 Cliff Larsen
 Doris Lehman
 Jaye Nistendirk
 Irma Proehl
 Sandra Scheel
 Shay Thurow
 Arline Twombly
 Bob Wagner

Friends & Relatives

Mary Ann Budnick
 Valerie Buie
 Audrey Bullock
 Earleen Eitrem
 Connie Garcia
 Ester Gaskil
 Andy Gojkov
 Tracey Grandia
 Judy Griffith
 Barbara Hentch
 Karl Kosch
 Elizabeth Linhardt
 Ben Maloney
 Karl Manning
 Dr. Mike Meeske
 Crystal Reynolds
 Kathy Rosidivito
 Mary Sue Schatz
 Jeffrey Slusher
 Buddy Weishaar

MILITARY PERSONNEL & FAMILIES

Remember
Our
Shut-ins



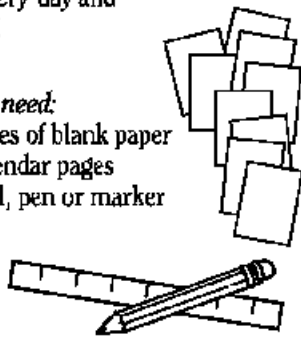
Herb Bohm
 Richard Borchers
 Bernice Heppner
 Ruth Jansch
 James and Henrietta Prather
 Bertha Sandhusen
 Norma Spaw
 Ruth Sutley
 Shirley Youngberg

Make a Prayer Calendar

We should pray everyday. There are so many people and so many things to pray about in our lives. "Make a date" to pray every day and stick to it!

What you need:

- 12 pieces of blank paper for calendar pages
- a pencil, pen or marker
- a ruler



What you do:

1. Write the name of the month on the top of a sheet of paper.
2. With your ruler and pencil, draw vertical (up and down) lines to divide the page into 7 columns.
3. Draw horizontal (left to right) lines to make 5 rows.
4. You should have 35 boxes.
5. Number the boxes to match the dates of the month. (Tip: Use another calendar to look at, so you put the numbers in the correct boxes.)
6. Repeat the steps to make a calendar page for each month of the year.
7. On this month's calendar, fill in the spaces with people, events and things you need to pray for. They can repeat.
8. When each day comes, pray about what's on that day's space.
9. Before the end of the month take time to fill in next month's calendar. You may be able to see God's answering your prayers, so be sure to add "thankfulness" to your list.

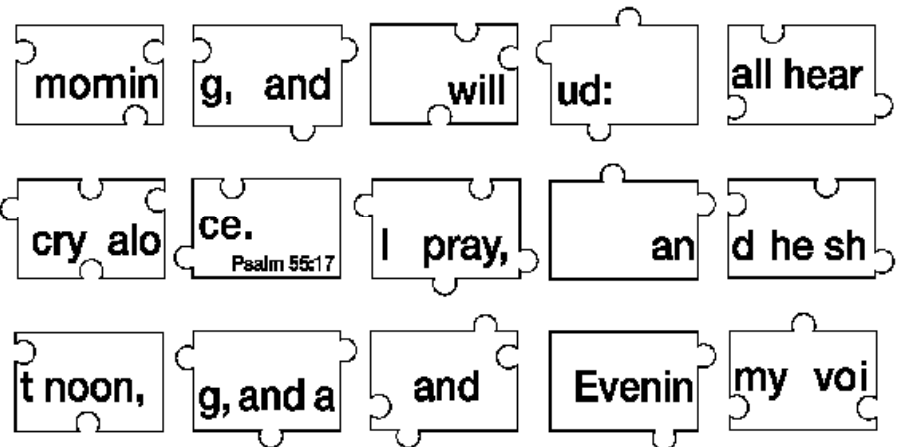
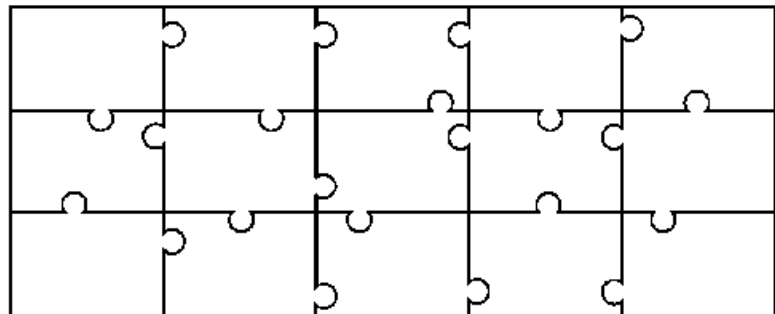
**"Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth."
—Psalm 54:2, NIV**

Just for KIDS

Pray Today!

The first Friday in March is World Day of Prayer. God wants us to pray to Him everyday. So start today and never stop!

Write the words from the scrambled jigsaw pieces onto the blank puzzle to discover when Psalm 55:17 (KJV) says we should pray.



Answer: Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud; and he shall hear my voice.

Senior Fellowship

Don't Forget! Mark Your Calendars!

The 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month at 10 AM. We play cards, dominoes, other games and have lunch together in the Fellowship Hall. It's a lot of fun.

Come on out and join us. Call Carol Haupt if you need a ride. (493-0399)

Submitted by Carol Haupt



According to John's gospel, after the Resurrection, Jesus asked one of his followers if he loved him. In fact, three times Jesus asked the man the same question. The man was hurt because he felt Jesus did not trust him or could not count on him. Who was that man?

- A. James
- B. (Simon) Peter
- C. Philip
- D. John

The answer can be found in John 21:17.



Youth News

Thanks to all who supported the Youth by attending the Spaghetti Supper last month! We have a car wash coming up April 8 at the Englewood Super Wal-Mart by the Murphy gas station. Tickets will be available soon!

The Youth still have several bottles of men's "tommy" cologne spray, 1.75 fl. oz., available for purchase. The price is \$15. See Michelle Ferrier or Lea Wonsey.

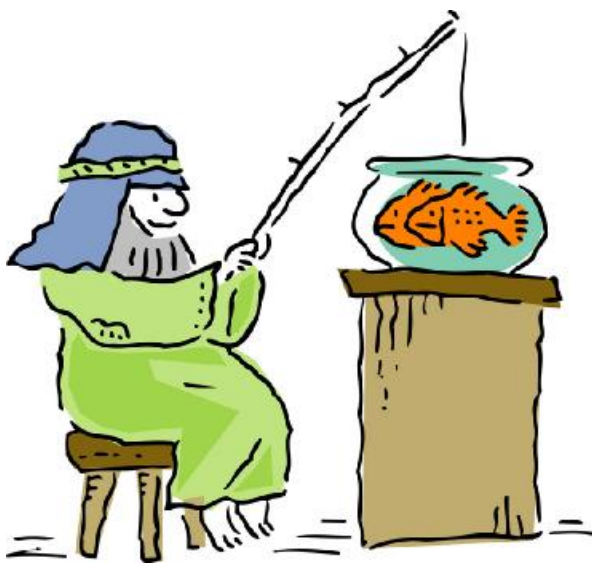
Submitted by Michelle Ferrier

Counters Needed

I am still in need of counters for the Month of May. If you are interested, please contact Leta at (941) 697-1244.



**OFFERING
COUNTERS**



A boy was asked by his Sunday school teacher if he thought Noah did much fishing off the ark?

"How could he?" replied the lad. "He only had two worms and there were only two fish."



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, Guinness. 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 Cyanide 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 oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
- Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.