

# REDEEMER REPORTER

## REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - AUGUST 2010 "THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD FACING CHANGES"

The Synod's 64<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention in Houston convened last month and was faced to make some very important decisions regarding the structure and governance of the LCMS. Another order of business of the convention was to elect its officers. Perhaps the nearly 1200 delegates recognized the needed structure and governance changes that they also saw a need in a change in the leadership of the synod. The elected members of the Praesidium are as follows:



**Rev. Matthew C. Harrison**, executive director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care since 2001, is the president-elect of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Pastor Harrison was elected on the first ballot by the delegates.

Addressing delegates with a deep pastoral spirit, Harrison said, "If one member suffers, all suffer together.

If one rejoices, all rejoice together. Right now there are many rejoicing and there are many suffering." He called his election "a tumultuous change in the life of our Synod." He thanked current president, Rev. Gerald Kieschnick "for his heart for evangelism and his deep desire to move the Synod forward," and said there would be "challenging times" ahead.

Harrison told delegates "you have kept your perfect record of electing sinners as presidents of the Missouri Synod. I guarantee you I will sin and fail. I will fall short." He asked for prayers, and promised to "be as straight with you as I possibly can, to the best of my ability, guided by the spirit of God." He said he would "work as hard as I possibly can for unity around the clear and compelling Word of God and nothing else."

Of great benefit for the Synod will be the extensive contacts Harrison has made with confessional Lutheran groups and small and emerging Lutheran bodies around the world during his near decade of serving as director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care. He is also an excellent theologian whose writings have addressed vital matters of Christian mercy and the church's joy in Christ. He has also shown a thorough knowledge the history of the LCMS, having translated a volume of writing from previous Synod presidents. He and his wife, Kathy, have two sons.

As much as I may personally rejoice in this, I have some concerns. Within the Synod there are deep divisions. At every level within the synod there are those who have embraced ideas and practices which are not in keeping with the Scriptures and the

Confessions. I am concerned that they may not respond to President Elect Harrison's leadership. I am even more concerned that they may seek to undermine his call to return to our traditional theology and practice. As he has stated, his leadership will not be through coercion. If God does not grant us mercy and repentance we can expect these individuals and congregations to continue on a path that will lead them into doctrines and practices even further removed from orthodox Christianity.

Furthermore, I am concerned that the political world view is so entrenched in the synod on both sides of the issues that many will be incapable of hearing the Word of God when it rebukes our pride, our greed, our stubborn rebellion, and our hunger for control. Political thinking looks at everything pragmatically. It focuses on what promotes our agenda, our influence, our power. These things are contrary to God's purposes. We may find ourselves thinking that we are doing a service to God when in reality we are His enemies. If we continue to think that we are okay and that our agendas are God's will how can we see the need to repent?

I am truly concerned that this task is overwhelming. My only plea is that God have mercy upon us and that He strengthen us and president-elect Pastor Harrison! The Lord be with your spirit!



**Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr.**, president of the Southern Illinois District since 1995, is the First Vice-President-elect of the LC-MS. Pastor Mueller was also elected on the first ballot by the delegates.

Like Rev. Harrison, Mueller is a pastor's pastor. He is committed in keeping with the doctrines and practices of the Scriptures and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church. Mueller is a pastor who has a fervent desire to talk through the issues that cause division within the church in order to come to resolve.

First Vice-President-elect Mueller was my District President for seven years when I served as pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carmi. We worked together in various things. I learned a great deal from him as a pastor and as a friend. The SID will be losing a great district president. He and his wife, Faith, have three adult children.

## “THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD FACING CHANGES” - Continued from Page 1



**Rev. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr.**, pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church, Genesco, and currently the Synod's third vice-president, is the Second Vice-President-elect. He is a graduate of Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Mich., and received S.T.M. and Th.D. degrees from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy from 1987 to 2009. He served as assistant director of Concordia Historical Institute during 1986-87. From 1982 to 1984, he served as pastor at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Fort Lupton, Colo.



**Rev. Paul L. Maier**, professor of ancient history at Western Michigan University and currently serves the LCMS as second vice-president, is Third Vice-President-elect. He also served as pastor of University Lutheran Church, Kalamazoo, from 1958 to 1999. Previously, he served as the Synod's fourth vice-president (2001-2004). Maier has also served on the LCMS Commission on Church Literature; the Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; and the KFUE Radio Arts Board.



**Rev. Daniel Preus**, assistant pastor of Hope Lutheran Church, St. Louis MO, is Fourth Vice-President-elect. He served congregations in Hobart, Ind.; Truman, Minn.; Oak Park, Ill.; and Colorado Springs, Colo., from 1975 to 1995. Beginning in 1995, he served the LCMS as director of Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis. From 2001-2004, he served as the Synod's first vice-president. Since 2005, he has served as director of Luther Academy in St. Louis. Preus also has served on the LCMS Board for Parish Services, the LCMS Board of Directors and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.



**Rev. Scott R. Murray**, pastor of Memorial Lutheran in Houston, is Fifth Vice-President-elect. He has also served pastorates at St. Paul Lutheran, Cobourg, Ont., Canada and Salem Lutheran, Gretna, La. He served on the Commission on Theology and Church Relations—as a member from 1995 to 2001 and as vice chair from 1998 to 2001. He has also served as editorial associate for “Logia,” on the Board of Directors of Lutheran Education Association in Houston, and on the Board of Directors of Luther Academy.

Those elected are scheduled to be installed into office September 1<sup>st</sup>. Only Harrison and Mueller will have offices at the International Headquarters in St. Louis, MO. All others will remain at their current calls.

We should also all give thanks to God for the officers who have served during the previous triennial term(s). Especially should we thank the Lord for the faithful service of Rev. Gerald Kieschnick and Rev. William Diekelman who served as president and first vice-president respectively since 2001.

If you would like to read of results of elections of other officers and/or resolutions that have been adopted toward further changes in the LC-MS, please visit <http://www.lcms.org> and press the convention link to view all convention proceedings.

In the Service of Christ,  
Pastor Kress



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Pastor	Rev. James Kress
Office Secretary	Jennifer Steele
Organists	Doris Dykhuizen Bill Bowers Lanette Schmidt
Choir Director	Doris Dykhuizen

### OFFICERS

President	Ed Sheahan
Vice President	
Treasurer	Pat Luedtke
Secretary	Dorothy Sinowetski

### BOARDS

Head Elder	Tim Byrne
Assimilation	
Property Mgmt	Charlie Vovcsko
Christian Ed.	Pam Replinger
Human Care	
Outreach	
School Board	Bill Bowers
Stewardship	Sarah Watkins
Youth	Jim Wright Lisa Vassallo
Financial Secretary	Karen Kirkland

### CLUBS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild	
Men's Group	Bob Mortenson
Christian Support	

I am happy to report that I have good news. Two of the church council vacancies have been filled. Charlie Vovcsko has volunteered and was gratefully accepted and appointed as the chairman of the Building and Grounds committee. In order to ease the burden on Charlie I have reached out to Fred Fernald and Tim Frees and they have agreed to serve on the B & G committee and give Charlie whatever assistance needed. With the help of Fred and Tim along with Ray Jansen, Harold Hale, Doris Dykhuizen, Pat Petersen and so many others who have been doing so much for the church I believe our Building & Grounds committee will function very well with the added expertise that Charlie brings back to the job.

The other vacancy that has been filled is the Chairmanship of the Stewardship committee. Sarah Watkins has volunteered for the job and I couldn't be happier. Sarah is an extremely competent woman who brings many years of job related experience to this position. I am very confident that Sarah and her committee will be very successful in their mission. Let's make it a point to personally thank Charlie and Sarah for accepting these responsibilities.

As gratified as I am that these positions are filled I must keep in mind that we still have several vacancies. We currently need a Vice-President, Assimilation chairman, Human Care chairman and Outreach chairman. I would ask each of you to give prayerful consideration to the idea of volunteering for these positions. It is very gratifying to be able to give back to the church and at the same time be of help to your fellow Redeemer church members. The work is not hard and you will be given all the help you need in order to succeed. Please contact me or Pastor Kress.

Some say that I never run out of words and they are probably right but sometimes I do run out of thoughts and that is where I am now so I will cut this report short and start gathering my thoughts for next month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Sheahan

## The 2010 Higher Things™ Lutheran Youth Conference



*"Take, eat; this is My Body given for you.  
This is My Blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins."*

Jesus does the giving, we are the ones given-to. Jesus gives His life for us on the Cross and we are given His Cross-won forgiveness in the Divine Service—in the Word, in Holy Absolution, in Holy Baptism, and His Supper. As Jesus gives us His life and salvation in the Divine Service, so we are given to pray in His Name, to praise and to give thanks unto our Father in heaven. And just as we are given the gift of Jesus in the Divine Service, so also He gives us as a gift to our neighbors.

We rejoice in all that we are GIVEN in the Divine Service. Jesus gives us His Body to eat and His Blood to drink. His Word and Sacraments enliven us to give our lives in service to our neighbors. It's all given to us in the Divine Service—the Cross, forgiveness, eternal life, salvation, and service to others!

Chaperones and youth from Lutheran Church of the Cross traveled with us to the event too. For each church it was a first time experience. The kids as well as the adults all had a wonderful time at the conference. Written below are a few expressions of their experience. I hope you enjoy them.

The conference in TN was a great experience. I enjoyed chaperoning my youth as I always enjoy, even though I fell from the top bunk in my sleep. I enjoyed watching the children, as we walked endlessly on university campus, shared our meals and worshiped together several times a day. Watching all the youth interact with one another was speechless as

well as the services that were provided each day. The last service of the conference and each evening service were unbelievable. I did get goose bumps the last day. Listening to over 1,000 people singing and worshiping made the whole trip. I thank God and Pastor Kress for a wonderful trip and look forward to Georgia next year, if I am invited. —Lisa Vassallo

I enjoyed the in-depth session about Tiger Woods, Johnny Cash, and Michael Jackson because Pastor Kuhlman was very funny and my youth group will be coming next year wearing bow ties as he did. The services were very good. I enjoyed being in TN with my mom, brother and friends of Redeemer. The night at the Wildhorse Saloon was fun too. —Billy Ruccatano

Although I was not sure I wanted to go to the conference when my mother asked, I did have a good time even though everyone said I was very quiet. The in-depth session was very interesting and the night out to the Wildhorse Saloon was fun. We watched over 1,000 people line dance. It was fun staying in a dorm and being with pastor, my mom and the youth group again. I hope we get to see the other youth group from LCC again too. —Alex Ruccatano

I enjoyed the entire experience of the Higher Things conference. The worship services were awesome, the music was inspiring, and the kids were so good. ... I was proud of each and every one of them. But by far, my favorite part of the conference was the two day session led by Pastor Kind explaining the various parts of the liturgy. I've been a Lutheran since I was 18 years old, but I had never been taught why we do the things we do. So it was a fantastic learning experience for me and one I wish everyone could have access to. Being a chaperone for this conference was truly a blessing and an education. —Barbara Duff

I thought that the trip was really fun, I learned a lot from the in-depth session and the breakaways. I also learned a lot about the kids from Lutheran Church of the Cross, and about Vicar Wright. He and the kids were nice, and pretty good kids. So to end it off, it was a good experience, and I hope I can go next year. —Matthew Geist

It is easily observed that both youth and adult received many benefits from the conference.

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## CHRISTIAN SUPPORT GROUP

The support group met in the quiet room, off the narthex of the church, on the last Wednesday of the month.

The lesson was: Matthew 13: 24-30 – The parable of the tares.

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds appeared.

The owner’s servant came to him and said, “Sir didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from”.

“And enemy did this”, he replied.

The servants asked him, “Do you want us to go and pull them up?”

“No”, he answered, “because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters, “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.”

The story line is clear. A farmer’s enemy sowed the seed of the darnel weed in the farmer’s newly planted field. Wheat and darnel sprouts look identical. No one could tell the difference until too late. Then, to root out the weeds means pulling up some of the grain at the same time. The thing to do was to wait until harvest time to separate one from the other.

The problem to which the story speaks is more complex. It is the old bothersome question of why God allows evil and evildoers to continue in his world. Were the matter put in our hands, we would quickly root out the sinner and his sin once and for all. Jesus counsels

temperate action based on a realistic appraisal of the facts of the situation.

Evil is an inescapable reality that will always be with us. More over, since not even the person is always perfectly good, who is to decide which are the bad plants to be rooted out and which are the good to be allowed to remain?

Religious people have always found it hard to understand God’s attitude toward “sinners”. The Pharisees could not tolerate Jesus’ compassion for the outcasts of Jewish society. Even the disciples were often impatient with his gentle handling of obvious wrongdoers. But Jesus never lost patience or hope. In this parable he recognizes that judgment is inevitable. No person can divide his allegiance between right and wrong without paying for it. But judgment, says Jesus, will come in God’s time. Until then, we are to labor as faithful workers in his kingdom.

God’s kingdom comes into a world where evil exists and will continue to exist. Evil may be a mystery to us, but it is not a mystery to God. We can trust him to deal with it in his good time.

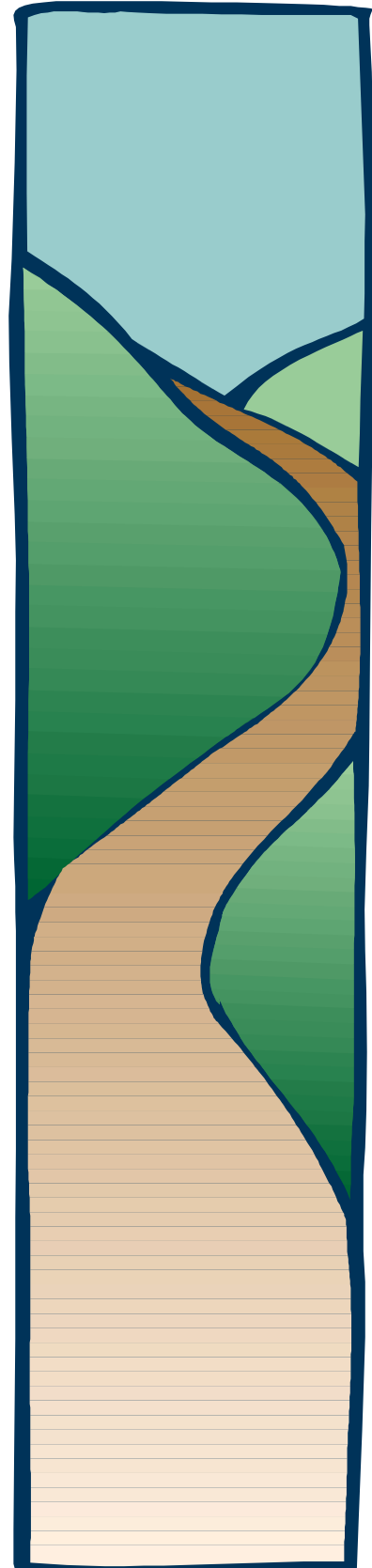
The members discussed the lesson and how our attitude affects our every day life. We know that we are not to judge others, but human nature often takes over. We reviewed the confession we use in our weekly worship.

The meeting was closed with prayer and we held hands as we prayed the Lord’s Prayer.

Because of Vacation Bible School during the last week of July, the support group will meet in the home of Margie Cypher.

Her address is in the church directory. If you need directions call Margie or the church office.

*Submitted by Margie Cypher*



## STEWARDSHIP

### *“Who needs August?”*

What do you do when you are in a *“waiting room?”* Browse through some magazines, read a book, day dream or do some people watching? We often find ourselves in *“waiting rooms”* of various kinds. We might be in a real *“waiting room”* or we might be in a *“waiting room”* of our own making. When we are in a *“waiting room”* our lives seem like they are put on hold. We have finished what we were doing and we’re waiting to get on to the next project or activity. So, *“waiting”* can be pretty boring.

August is perhaps the most boring month of the year. The early summer crops have been harvested. The crops planted in the spring are now growing and corn and soybean farmers are watching and waiting. Summer vacations are winding down. Even children are getting bored with summer and looking forward to the start of a new school year. Imagine that! Many people might be tempted to say *“let’s just get August over so we can go on to better and bigger things.”*

Life is sometimes like that. We often find ourselves *“in between.”* We may have just finished one project and are waiting to take on the next one. When someone asks us what we’re doing we may answer *“just waiting.”* In the Bible the terms *“wait or waiting”* can mean many things. Some of these include: *“wait quietly, wait and watch, wait patiently, wait impatiently or wait with hope and expectation.”*

The bottom line is that God has given us each day as an opportunity to rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24 NIV) and use it in the best way we can to bring honor to God and blessings to others. Since each day is a gift from God there is really no such thing as *“a useless, boring day”* unless we choose to make it that!

As God’s children by grace through faith in Jesus, we are also stewards or managers of all that God has entrusted to us—time, money, talents, skills, relationships, work and so much more. Good stewards seek to use all that they are and have according to the will of the Owner who is God. As St. Paul wrote to the Galatians: *“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to*

*the family of believers.”* (Galatians 6:10 NIV) In this way, *“we let our lights shine before men, so that they may see our good works and praise our Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16 NIV)

So, fellow redeemed, there is really no such thing as a boring hour, day, week or month for us. Time is God’s gift to us to use. With the Lord’s blessing let’s make the most of our time as well as all of life and life’s resources.

Faithfully submitted,  
Board of Stewardship



## OUTREACH NEWS

***“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19***

### **A Life of Peace, Harmony, and Love**

Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we are reconciled with God, and we can now live a life of personal peace, harmony, love of God and neighbors. Obviously it won't be perfect because we are still sinners. But, when troubles occur, the Holy Spirit will help us to trust in God, love our neighbors, and forgive their trespasses.

Living our lives in this manner is the best way the average Christian can show God to others. When troubled people see how we live our lives, they will want to know more about what we have. They may even ask us about it, and then we can tell them.

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Potluck

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July party was a great success. The over 60 people attending included a number of guests, who had an opportunity to enjoy some old-fashioned Christian fellowship. The food was great, the singing and Bingo were a lot of fun. Barb Duff even brought her karaoke equipment.

### Ice Cream Social

The Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, August 15, from 2-4:00 p.m. Child Care and the Board of Outreach will be hosting this event. Fun, singing, games and bingo (both for adults and children). Prizes for all. Join us in fellowship with the Child Care teachers and families, and don't forget to invite your friends. Sign up sheet in the Narthex.

### Pioneer Days Parade

Redeemer will again be participating in Englewood's Pioneer Days Parade, on Labor Day. The theme this year is "We're Going Green." Our float theme will be "God is Green." This will be another joint Outreach/Youth project.

### Witness Tip

**Be Prepared!** Take a few minutes now and write a brief summary of what Jesus means to you. Review it frequently so that when an opportunity presents itself you will be ready. It will just flow automatically.

*Submitted by Carol Haupt*

## The 2010 Higher Things™

### Lutheran Youth Conference - Continued from Page 3

So much is experienced throughout the week that not all can be written down nor remembered. But to be sure, what our youth experienced will have solid, long-lasting effects as they approach adulthood.

If you don't mind me saying, this was my fourth conference and I have enjoyed them all. I never tire of hearing Christ-centered sermons, studies of current relevance, participating in liturgical worship, and talking and interacting with the kids away from church and home. This isn't only a personal learning experience, but it's also a spiritual learning experience for the youth as well as for the adults. We at Redeemer have that opportunity for personal and spiritual experience every Sunday in Divine Service, every Sunday in Bible Class, every day when we open the Scriptures and read about the love that God has for His people

through the life and merit of His Son Jesus Christ.

Many thanks go out to the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church who supported the Senior High Youth in their conference attendance. With excitement, continued support from the parish, and with the help of God, we look forward to going to next year's conference in Atlanta: *Coram Deo* (a *Latin* phrase meaning 'in the presence of God'). If you would like to learn about Higher Things, visit them on the web at [www.higherthings.org](http://www.higherthings.org) and Dare to be Lutheran.

Joyfully submitted,  
Pastor Kress



Redeemer Senior High Youth attending Higher Things GIVEN Youth Conference pictured from left to right: Chaperone Lisa Vassallo, Alex Ruccatano, Chaperone Barbara Duff, Naomi Sylvester, Maddy Keller, Billy Ruccatano, Pastor Kress, and Matt Geist.

## HOPE SEEDS

Several years ago, Mike Mueller, Executive Director of Hope Seed was driving across the mountainous roads to the town of Jacmel in southern Haiti. As he drove the two lane road, mostly paved, with its twists and switchbacks, the hillsides were terraced in many areas being farmed. Sweet potato, cabbage, carrots, beets, beans, other vegetables and even some coffee, citrus and bananas – were all being cultivated by the local farmers. It appeared that no one plot was very large, and not one of the plots was real close to the next. I realized the decisions as to what crevice or slope was to be terraced for farming was carefully made or at least opportunistically chosen, for its soil and/or path. The gardens were a nice sight to behold on those otherwise desolate rocky slopes.'

In the next days he was given the opportunity to meet many people who lived in the villages along that road, in the mountains, They were definitely subsistence farmers. No craftsmen among them, or any industry in the village. They survived off what was growing on those terraced hillsides that I had passed the days before. If the crops were good they would load up their donkey and take some to Jacmel to sell at the market, using the cash for much needed essentials, along with the few goats and chickens and an occasional cow or pig (which was rare since both of these large animals require grazing ground or corn to survive, as well as large amount of water - all scarce on the mountains.)

The farmers believe in the proverb; "follow in the footsteps of the farmer, my son, lest you fall out of the garden and die"/ What it is means is that when we walk the rocky path, which seems so difficult, and follow the counsel of experience of those before us, as well as the Biblical directions of the "First Gardener", we can have great hope and anticipation for the future.

Submitted By Margie Cypher

## CAN YOU GUESS THESE MEMBERS???

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAST MONTH'S WINNER - LORETTA GROBE!

*See if you can guess who the below Redeemer Church members are....the FIRST person to contact the office with the correct answers wins a special prize!!!!*



Any members who would like to submit a photo for upcoming contests please send submissions to the church office. Thank you!!!



## June Organist Primer at Concordia Theological Seminary

### June Organist Primer at Concordia Theological Seminary

I was privileged to attend the Primer organist workshop at our Seminary in Ft. Wayne. It is a beautiful facility and all LCMS members should be proud of the place that our future Pastors are trained.

The workshop consisted of studies in hymnody, liturgical history, pedal techniques and demonstrations in settings and registrations

Every morning started with Kantor Resch's class on how our Divine Service has evolved since the Reformation. We learned that Hymns were not available to most of the local churches until after the printing press was invented, just at the time of the Reformation. Luther began to feverishly write hymns to include in the service. Luther believed that the Hymns were a continuation of the preaching and should reflect The Gospel, what God does for us and the gifts He gives us in and through The Service. We were encouraged to utilize suggestions from the Lectionary so that our prelude, postlude and "music to collect money by" would all correspond with the day's readings. From now on when I serve, you will likely hear the Hymn of the Day right before the bells go off, just to have it fresh in everyone's mind and make the melody a little more familiar.

We learned that The Gloria and The Sanctus are the musical high points for the Service of the Word and the Service of the Alter, respectively. We were encouraged to have our playing and the organ registrations reflect the joyous and festive nature of these crucial pillars of the Liturgy. You may be hearing some trumpet sounds from time to time in the future.

The classroom study further emphasized how fortunate and blessed we are to have God's gift of music, which he gave to further serve us as an extension of The Gospel. I wish Kantor's class was required attendance for all Lutherans.



After Kantor's morning class, we met at Cramer chapel for worship. The Thursday service was the celebration of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, with Holy Communion and a choir made up of young high school men who are considering entering the Ministry and were attending "Christ Camp". The Thursday Service was one of the high points of the week.

We each had three half hour periods a day to practice our lessons and to begin to be familiar with using both feet. Utilizing the right foot allows the bass notes to be smoother and more connected. I will be practicing each week to apply the skills I was taught and hope to become more proficient each week.

We ended the week with a tour of

some of the historic pipe organs in Ft. Wayne, with the climax being "Big Bertha" at St Paul's. This organ was built in 1905 and has had several additions and technological updates in recent years. The main pipes are original and the sounds are truly heavenly.

I was amazed to find that out of 21 musicians present at our workshop, there were three that could play any music that was placed in front of them. The oldest of the three was 15. They all had their parents with them as they are too young to drive. Now that Doris and I may be approaching our 40's soon we are comforted to see gifted youth ready to step up and serve their Church and God by providing the music for worship.

I wish to thank Pastor Kress for finding out about the workshop, the Elders and the Council for approving the trip and a very special thanks to Doris and the "Doris Fund" for the encouragement and funding.

I pray for continued improvement and for all to be blessed by the gift of music the Lord has provided.

Submitted by Bill Bowers



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

### Why Do We Do What We Do?

Why do Stephen Ministers do what they do? Because God sent Jesus into the world to live, suffer, love, *care*, and die for us. Through his church Jesus continues to extend his ministry of love and care for people. The love of Christ is powerful and dynamic. It's not just a good feeling; it is the basic motivation for all Christian care giving. "We love because he first love us." 1 John 4:19.

The distinctiveness of Stephen Ministry lies not only in what we do, but in why we do it. With the message of God's love in our hearts, the Holy Spirit moves us to use our God-given gifts for others. He makes cared-for Christians into caring Christians.

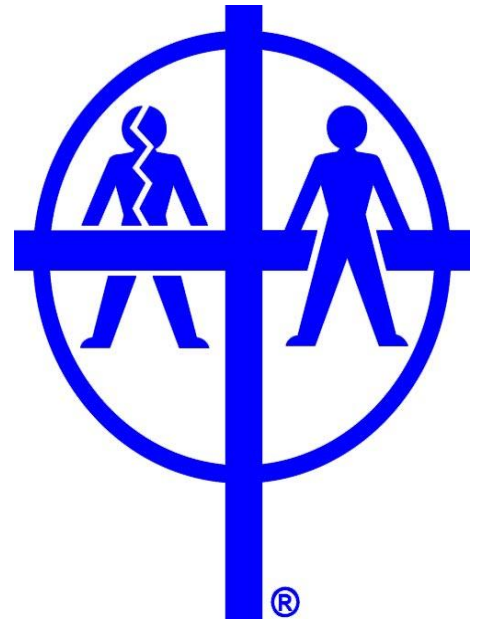
The care given by Stephen Ministry is distinctively Christian. Other care-

givers—doctors, therapists, support groups, etc.--provide care and support. But the care given by Stephen Ministers grows out of their knowledge of God's love for them and for their care receivers. God is with them and guides them.

While Stephen Ministers are trained in how to care for others, they trust that *God provides the healing*. They minister for the care receiver by walking with them in their crisis, by being a friend, by listening, and *by keeping God in their relationship*.

If you would like to have a Stephen Minister to help you through a time of crisis, please contact one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Carol Carlos, Carol Haupt, Nancy Hall.

Submitted by Carol Haupt

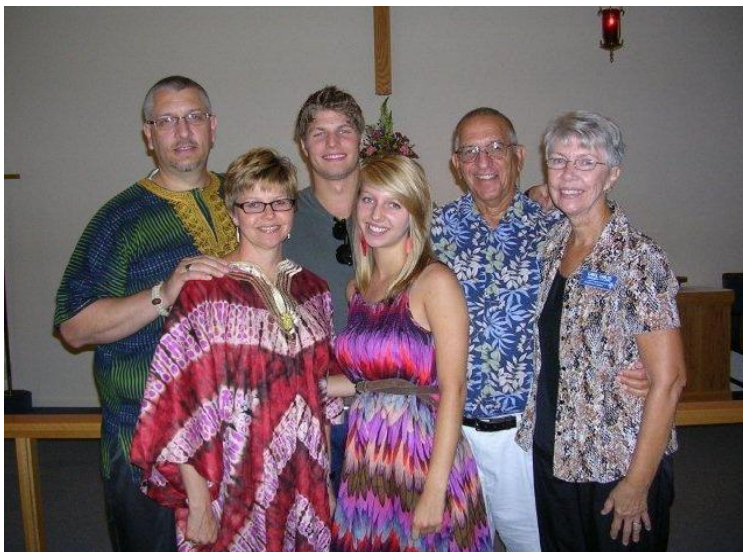


## ASSIMILATION

The Assimilation Board welcomes three new members! Donna Antonelli, Helen Plank and Vickie Fernald. They have been advised of all the Board's responsibilities and are anxious to join us. The Assimilation Board tries to get new members involved in congregation activities and to become and remain members of the Redeemer family. We will start the fall season with our meeting in October.

Submitted by Avis Stuck

## THE CARLOS FAMILY



Thank you so much for the warm welcome you extended to us when we visited Redeemer recently. It was great to meet everyone and share about God's mission in Guinea, West Africa. Thank you so much for your support and prayers - you are a blessing to us!

Living in the Love of Jesus,  
Jack, Cathy, Raymond, & Hannah Carlos

# HIGHER THINGS



## DANCE CLASSES AT REDEEMER!

# HULA

Tuesdays 9-10! Come join the fun!!



# TAP

Mondays & Wednesdays, 9-11 AM. See you there!!!!



## YOUTH GROUP

Hello everyone, I hope you are all enjoying your summer. The youth group has been quiet this summer. However, the senior youth group just returned from Higher Things conference in Nashville, TN- "Given". The youth and chaperones enjoyed their stay at Vanderbilt University. The grounds were beautiful and the conference was a great and rewarding experience. We shared our experience with other youth from a Lutheran Church in Port Charlotte. Our road trip was 13 hours and our stay in Nashville was 4 days. Our youth attending were Madeline Keller, Naomi Sylvester, Alex & Billy Ruccatano and Matt Geist. Chaperones were Barbara Duff and Lisa Vassallo and we were all escorted by Pastor Jim Kress.

The youth have all been busy this summer visiting family and just enjoying their summer. We will resume our meetings in August and our get togethers will follow there after. The youth group and myself would like to wish our director Jim Wright a speedy recovery from his surgery he will be having. We send you much love and prayers.

We welcome all youth to invite their friends to be a part of our family here at Redeemer Lutheran Church. I/we will see you all soon. Enjoy the rest of your summer as I will while visiting again in New Jersey with my family & friends.

Blessings to you, Lisa Vassallo

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

As our summer vacations wind down and the children go back to school, we look forward to a fresh new year with the Sunday School. Our official Sunday School kick off is Sunday August 29, 2010 with Rally Day. Once again, we will see how many children and adults will be able to dunk the Pastor!!!! The fun of Rally Day will begin after the 9:15 AM service, with a dunk tank, bounce house, games, face painting, prizes, hot dogs, popcorn, snow cones, and the opportunity to meet the Sunday School teachers. There will be a planning meeting, open to all who have ideas and input on Tuesday, August 10, 2010 which is the August Board of Christian Education meeting at 6 PM. We look forward to Rally Day every year as it gives us the opportunity to share with the little ones the love of Jesus through our Sunday School program. Please invite all children you may know; neighbors, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, day care children, etc. The Sunday School will remain on the current schedule following the 9:15 AM service until the church times change in October. Additionally, please be reminded that we are

looking for Sunday School teachers for the next school year as Miss Miranda is going away to college!! Please see Pam Replinger (941) 473-9018 or Lisa Kress (941) 889-8938 with any questions. In Christ, Lisa Kress



## LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS

You may recall that one of the bigger news stories in April was the volcanic eruption in Iceland. It was a spectacular event. It was especially newsworthy because of how the ash cloud affected air traffic. Who would have thought that ash, a small fine, innocuous substance, could bring so many people and planes, and so much cargo, to a virtual standstill?

The ash cloud was a countless quantity of particulates combined to create one gigantic mass. Small things added together can make a huge impact.

We see this same phenomenon, with more positive results, at LBT!

Think of the difference you have already helped make in the lives of people who are learning about Jesus Christ for the first time. With your support, languages are studied, alphabets created, symbols combined to make words, words to make a sentences, and so forth. Small things combine, culminating in a translated New Testament, the Word of God. No force of nature can have more impact than the Good News about Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life!

Submitted by Margie Cypher

# CHILD CARE NEWS

## Bible Lessons

*Chapel is on Mondays at 3:45*

Walking on Water

Matthew 14:22-33

God Made the World and Plants

Genesis 1:1-31

God Made Animals and People

Genesis 1:24-31;2:7-3:15

God Calls Abraham

Genesis 12:1-5

Abraham Is Blessed

Genesis 1:14-19;15:1-6



Give thanks to the Lord.

Psalm 136:3

## Birthdays

Jason S. 8/3

Alexander 8/8

Seth 8/10

Maya 8/13

Matthew S. 8/16

Mark 8/18

Ms. Jackie 8/19

Gavin S. 8/20



## What We Are Learning.

Aug. 2-6 End of Summer Fun

Aug. 9-13 School Bells Ring

Aug. 16-20 Gotta Be Me

Aug. 23-27 Gotta Be Me

Aug. 30- Sept.3 The More We Get Together

## Summer Fun

We had lots of fun this summer with water days, field trips, the ice cream truck and crafts.

## Important Dates

- August 10<sup>th</sup> VPK and Public Schools Start
- August 15<sup>th</sup> Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care Ice Cream Social 2:00pm - 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO MS. MIRANDA FOR ALL THE TENDER LOVING CARE GIVEN TO THE CHILDREN!**

**BEST WISHES AND SUCCESS AT COLLEGE!**

We will miss you!

*Submitted by Wendy Horvath*

## PRAYERS

**SHUT-INS:** Gloria Carlson, Evelyn Etheridge, Ruth Jansch, James Prather, Laura Simis and Ruth Sutley.

**HEALING: Members:** Doris Dykhuizen, Dick Hughes, Bob Johnson, Cliff Larsen, Clara Mitchell, Leona Morrison, Jaye Nistendirk, Herb Petersen, Don Plesner, Tom Poyer, Henry Rudolph, Jerry Schriener, Sam Simonson, Ed Sita, Arlene Twombly, Lee Vandercook, Ronald Woller.

**Friends & Relatives:** Lorraine Agens, Grace Blum, Froilan Bonilla, Georgia Bush, Julie Carroll, Shirley Chattin, Lisa Clemens, Carly DeFeos, John Denick, Don Francis, Bruce Gnatkowski II, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, Bill Hillis, Robin Hincman, Casey Hoivik, Tom Holt, Douglas Johnson, Heather Johnson, Betty Kabert, Rachel Kagay, Howard Kagay, Julie Keck, Rev. Howie Krienke, Elsie Malecki, Dan Mason, Joe Manson, Patrick McCord, Linda Merisko, Pete Mogg, Kaye Ann Nagel, Judy Nagel, Charles Pentecost Jr., Sherrie Rhoades, Donna Santora-Vovcsko, Audrey Slusher, Nancy Sly, Michael Stio, the family and friends of Marion Talley, Phyllis Tucker, Helen Weishaar, and Andrew Wolgast.

**Military Personnel:** Daniel Anderson, Matthew Anderson, Col. Dennis Beatty, Adam Buchner, Eric Byrne, Kevin Copeman, Christopher Dutch, Michael Garza, Stephen Geib, Christopher Hankins, Brian Hollis, Jonathan Hudson, Nathan Hudson, Brian Jackson, Keith Janssen, Josh Johnson, Joshua Jones, Eric Kieselburg, Michael Monson, Christian Mosser, Luis Oquendo, Jeremy Schaitz, Jeremy Twombly, Katherine Utroska, Matthew Walenta, and Charles Weishaar.

### GREETERS

**AUGUST 1**

Steve & Lee Procuk

**AUGUST 8**

Ed & Carol Sheahan

**AUGUST 15**

Barbara Wolgast

Dolores Altmann

**AUGUST 22**

Tom & Karen Kirkland

**AUGUST 29**

YOUTH

### COFFEE HOUR

**AUGUST 1**

Donna Antonelli, Jane Hoivik

**AUGUST 8**

Claire Kieselburg

Helen Plank

**AUGUST 15**

Earl & Avis Stuck

**AUGUST 22**

Margie Cypher, Diana Collins

**AUGUST 29**

YOUTH





## DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Ed & Ginny Doenges: Northern Phone # - 574-267-4119
- Earl & Avis Stuck: [ervis@comcast.net](mailto:ervis@comcast.net)
- Dieter & Heather Euler: Canadian phone #: 519-885-2202  
Florida phone #: 863-494-1124

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Beautician/Manicurist

Debbie Balogh  
Linda Pontello

Purple Palace  
Purple Palace

941-475-0731  
941-475-0731

### Painter/Handyman

If it's broken, I can fix it. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Please call John Toth - Home: 941-697-1670, Cell: 941- 875-6191.

### House Watching

Watch you house while you are back home in the north. Weekly or monthly inspection with written report on findings. Minor repairs if needed included. Monthly—\$25.00, Weekly—\$12.00. If interested, call Ed Sita at 475-8116.

### Sales—Rentals

For Sale/For Rent/ For Rent w/option to buy: House in Port Charlotte. Built in 2006. 3 Bedroom, den, possible 4<sup>th</sup> bedroom, 2 baths, 2 car garage. Screened lanai. Rent \$850.00. Contact Roger or Pat Luedtke 941-421-9443 or 941-421-9339.

Pineapple Gulf Properties—Glenda McDorman, Owner/Broker (Lessie Kirch's Daughter) 880 S. McCall Road Englewood, FL 34223 . Office: 941-473-0300, Cell: 941-330-7922.

### Insurance

For all your insurance needs, contact Lisa Kress at State Farm! 941-548-2205



## REMINDERS

**Email vs. Mailing**—As mentioned last month, if you would like to receive your newsletter via email, please email or call the church office. Thank you.

The Newsletter deadline for next month is August 22nd. Please have all your submissions to the church office by that time.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you for the prayers for our son-in-law, Dennis Beatty, who recently returned from Iraq. God Bless all our military and all of you. Earl and Arlene Harden



# ICE CREAM SOCIAL



**AUGUST 15TH**  
**2:00 PM to 4:00 PM**  
**IN THE**  
**FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
**BRING FAMILY**  
**AND FRIENDS**  
**PLEASE SIGN-UP**  
**SO WE HAVE PLENTY**  
**OF ICE CREAM**  
**THANK YOU.**



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*REV. JAMEST. KRESS*

REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, Associate Members  
and Visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church (LCMS).

WORSHIP SERVICES:

May—September: 9:15 AM

Adult Bible Study and Sunday School: 10:30 AM

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 941-475-2410

*We, the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church are called into the service of our Lord by  
accepting His command (Matt 28: 18-20):*

- Making disciples of all nations/peoples*
- Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*
- Proclaiming the Gospel and teaching the Word.*

*Christ's love for us, and our love for Christ compels us to serve our Sisters and Brothers as He  
served us*