

REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - JANUARY 2011

“A New Year, the Same Mission”

As we welcome a new year of God's grace, let us do so with Christ's mission for His church in mind. Our Lord Jesus Christ said to His disciples, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20a). Here Jesus gives us the tools to make disciples: Baptism and His teaching. There is by no others means in which Jesus mentions how one becomes a disciple, that is, a follower of Him. This is the mission Christ has given to His church: go, make, and teach.

Last month the voting assembly of Redeemer Lutheran Church spoke, by a majority vote, in support of a call to a Director of Christian Education (DCE). Unfortunately, the vote did not reach the required 2/3 majority to formally make such a call. I fully accept and support the voters' decision, but let's look at it just a little more carefully.

The majority of the voters present supported a call to a DCE. But, only 77 of the 161 eligible voting members were present, leaving the voice of 84 eligible voters unheard. Certainly President Sheahan and the Church Council did their very best to provide sufficient time to consider this important matter and they also did very well in their broadcast of the date when this item would be voted upon, announcing first in October that this would be voted upon in December. However, due to the importance of this subject, perhaps allowance for all eligible voting members to vote their conscience either in attendance or by absentee vote could have been permitted. After all, precedence for this action has already been established here at Redeemer when voting on the question to open Redeemer Child Care.

Furthermore, I understand many of those who did not vote in support of a call to a DCE, did so not on account of their lack of support to ultimately bring children and families into the church with the help of God, but primarily because of the limited knowledge they had in regards to the purpose and benefits of a DCE here at Redeemer. Perhaps I can answer some of their questions and concerns that they may have not been otherwise privileged to receive in the initial presentation for a DCE, or attend the Q & A session with Vicar Stephen Brummet (a former DCE), or read information provided via my newsletter articles or mailings.

Again, I respect the outcome of the voter's meeting, but I don't want to give the majority who voted in support of a call for a DCE the impression this is over. It's not! To be sure, this is God's will for now regarding this matter. But, opportunities to

address this will again arise. This message is also to those who (1) would like to learn more about the purpose and benefits of a DCE, or (2) who feel, at this time, they are unable to support the financial demands of a DCE.

That is why I would like the members of Redeemer to also consider over the coming days, weeks, and months Christ's mission for His church when re-considering the need for a DCE here at Redeemer.

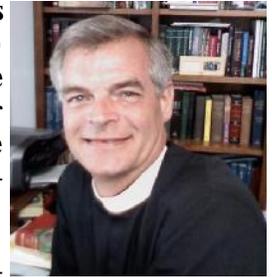
Jesus said: Go, make, and teach. I believe He said this to His disciples with the implication of the First Commandment in mind as taught by Luther: To fear, love, and trust in God above all things. Certainly one of our main concerns when deliberating the call of a church worker is a financial one. However, are the finances the *only* thing we consider?

The Psalmist writes, “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will act” (Psalm 37:5). This theme of “trusting in God” runs throughout all of sacred Scripture. In the context of His kingdom and salvation, Jesus said, “What is impossible with men is possible with God” (Luke 18:27). Truly, we already have the majority of the voting members in support of a DCE, financially and spiritually. Perhaps with continued prayer on our part, and wisdom which comes from above, Redeemer may be in a more unified position, having Christ's mission for His church in mind to reconsider a call for a DCE.

You see, isn't it wonderful to discuss and consider the idea of calling another specifically trained church worker into our midst for the extension, that is, the increase of God's kingdom here at Redeemer rather than discussing the matter of closing the doors of the Child Care as was the case a few years ago? The Lord has heard your prayers regarding that matter and has abundantly supplied the Child Care with so many children to the point that they're turning away children because they have reached capacity in most classrooms. This alone warrants discussion, but perhaps at a future time.

In conclusion, my prayer for all of us here at Redeemer is that we would continue in 2011, with the help of God, to fulfill the mission of Christ's church to go, make, and teach. And may also God's grace and peace be multiplied to you in this new year.

In His Service, Pastor Kress



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Pastor	Rev. James Kress
Child Care Director	Wendy Horvath
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	Jane Hoivik
Property Mgmt	Charlie Vovcsko
Christian Ed.	Pam Replinger
Human Care	Carol Sheahan
Outreach	Carol Haupt
School Board	Bill Bowers
Stewardship	Sarah Watkins
Youth	Jim Wright
Financial Secretary	Karen Kirkland

CLUBS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild	Doris Dykhuizen
Men's Group	Bob Mortenson
Christian Support	Margie Cypher

I am going to dispense with my usual informative, fact-filled and entertaining newsletter this month so that I may wish each of you and your families here in sunny Florida, and those who are still in the snowy northlands, a blessed Christmas season! I hope the New Year brings you all health, wealth and much happiness.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who works so hard to make Redeemer such a wonderful place to be. There are far too many to name because every one of our members contributes in some way. Thank you all very much for what you do.

I do need to report on one item of business. The sound absorption project in the Fellowship Hall will commence at 0715 Monday, January 3, 2011. It will take all of that week and possibly extend into the following week. The Hula girls and the Tappers will not be able to use the hall during the first week and we will play the second by ear. Other groups can use the small room or move to the Narthex. Thanks for you cooperation

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Sheahan



STEWARDSHIP

Love, Hope, and Possibilities

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Possessing the ability to quote the contents of the Bible extensively is not among my accomplishments. However, there are many verses from its pages that bring me peace and reassurance in both good and bad times and a few I've either memorized or keep visible for easy reference. Among these are the verses from 1st Corinthians paraphrased at the beginning of this page. I keep this framed on a wall in my home and on a card on my desk at work. It means many things to me that vary with the ebb and flow of my life.

The love described by Paul is what we now call unconditional love. It is a love without end and without parameters. It is a love of hope and kindness; forbearance and generosity; joy and celebration. Wow! Sharing this kind of love is a challenge that we mere mortals can only aspire to, but

one that has the potential to provide rewards beyond comprehension. If you've read this far you may be wondering what point is to be made. Well, it is this: Love bears all, believes everything is possible, hopes for the future and is boundless. I am offering a suggestion of becoming or remaining hopeful as we focus on the immeasurable possibilities ahead of us in the New Year.



As individuals and as a congregation of loving and giving people we have faced many challenges in 2010 and we will undoubtedly face others in 2011. Nevertheless, we have the blessings of love to see us through. We have God's love. We have the love of our family and friends. We have the love of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have the love that we give to others and hopefully some for ourselves as well.

Love hopes all things and we can embrace this hope for 2011. If you are

among those who hope for assistance in bringing greater numbers of young people to our church you are encouraged to demonstrate the strength of that commitment through your offerings in support of our annual budget and also to consider designated gifts in support of a qualified individual to help us grow our congregation, work with our young people, and build our future.

Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful. None of us can predict what the best direction for us may be in the coming year. We may be cautious of change, highly optimistic, or even stubbornly obstinate—however; whatever direction our thinking may be taking us in, we need to remember (with loving hearts) what initially

brought us to Redeemer Lutheran Church and Child Care (RLCCC). It is important to ask ones self from time to time why are this church and community important to me? These are the reasons why it is essential for you to support RLCCC—personally and financially. We need your renewed and ongoing commitment.

Peace, love, and good health to you and yours for a Happy New Year!

Sarah Watkins



From the Treasurer's Desk

2010 Church Actual vs. Budget Through November 30, 2010x

Offerings Budget	Offerings Received	Expenses
\$219,500.38	\$203,202.65	\$212,564.41

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 NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,
We thank you for all your many blessings, especially the gift of your Son, our Savior. Fill our hearts with thanksgiving and love—love for you and love for our fellow man. Please make us constantly aware that many others do not know you or your saving grace, that we enjoy and treasure. Give us the desire, the need, to share you with other people in our lives. Give us the confidence to speak and invite. Help us to overcome our fear and move us to boldly speak, to share what Jesus means to each of us and how he has personally changed our lives. This is our fervent wish. In Jesus' name, Amen

ROTONDA CHRISTMAS PARADE

A very special thanks to the members of Redeemer who worked and volunteered



Gary Lute – for building the manger scene and Jesus' bed on the float.

Max and Miranda Leksche – Mary and Joseph.

Tim Byrne, Ed Sheahan, and Tim Frees – Wisemen.

Bill Bowers and Mark Horvath – Shepherd and Shepherd Boy.

Lisa Kress – for providing Baby Jesus.

Sybil Grahl, Karen Kirkland, and Carol Haupt – for walking and handing out packets for 5 miles.

Dennis Replinger and Bernice Heppner

their time and talent to make Redeemer's participation in the Christmas Parade on 11-27-10 a great success.

– driver and copilot of the van.

Lisa Vassallo – for donating the dog food packets that the canine spectators so enjoyed.

SHARING STORY

Alice was dining at an Italian restaurant with her family. Her server, Caroline, had just lost her nephew, Scott, whom she had helped to raise. Alice prayed for her (she was tearing up too much to stay them for the prayer). She shared the Gospel and gave her an "LWML Master's Card," which reads, "And he said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life...)' and a Lutheran Hour Ministries business card sized tract which said, 'You can know God's peace now and His promise of eternal life.'

Submitted by Carol Haupt

STEPHEN MINISTRY

As I write this article, the holidays are upcoming and many of you are busy preparing for them. As you read this, the holidays, Christmas and New Years, are over and the decorations are all packed away. Our prayer is that YOU were able to "STOP and LISTEN to the Baby cry" for that baby was and is our Lord and Savior. As the saying goes, He, Jesus, is the real reason for the season that just passed. Yet, for some, even here at Redeemer, it was and continues to be a time of loneliness, sadness, and even despair. Now is the time of year, after the holidays, when depression and suicide are at their highest. It can be due to this being your first Christmas without your loved one, divorce, living miles away from your family and feeling all alone, having loved ones in harms way due to the wars our country continues to be involved in, unable to buy your child that certain toy/item they so wanted because of financial restraints, loss of a job or even a home, ongoing or newly diagnosed illness, surgery, and the list can go on and on.

Yet, know, there is HOPE, hope that comes from our Lord. There are also those that care through our Stephen Min-

istry Program. We cannot take any of these hurts away BUT we can walk beside you, caring in Christ's name! Hope is what makes Christian caring different from so many others who also offer help. Search out one of us or Pastor Kress. We may also reach out to you if we see that you are hurting or struggling with an issue in your life, asking if we can walk beside you, helping to share your sadness or burden. As we look around, there are so many hurting people. Some say, this is just part of life and while that may be true, you don't need to bear it alone. Christ is there for you for He has promised, "I will never leave you or forsake you." That means He is with you in Spirit but He also provides other ways, other means, other people here on earth to help you and guide you. Listen to His urging, accept His offer, and open the door to let others share your burden.

We care because Christ cares! We care in His name! May the peace that is beyond all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus!

Carol Carlos, Carol Haupt, Nancy Hall

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS to the members of the congregation who worked and volunteered their time and talent to make Redeemer's float in the Rotonda Christmas Parade on 11-27-10 a great success. They were:

- Gary Lute for his construction skills built the manger and Jesus' bed on the float.
- Max and Miranda Leksche were Mary and Joseph. Pam Replinger was an Angel.
- Tim Bryne, Ed Sheahan and Tim Frees were the 3 Wise Men.
- Bill Bowers was a Shepherd and Mark Horvath was the Shepherd boy.
- Baby Jesus was provided by Lisa Kress.
- Lisa Vassallo donated sample packets of dog food for the canine parade watchers.
- The walkers handing out Redeemer packets on the 5 mile parade route were Carol Haupt, Sybil Grahl and Karen Kirkland.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Away in the Manger was the Christmas program that the Sunday School shared along with the Child care on Wednesday December 16, 2010. All of the children worked very hard on this with the help of Mr. Bill Bowers and Ms. Wendy!! It was such a blessing to see the children share with their parents and the church members the gift received in Jesus, who humbled Himself to be a baby, for the sake of our salvation.....truly a miracle.

We also celebrated Christmas on Sunday December 19, 2010 with a Christmas party, we read the Christmas story and had some treats, it was great fun!

The Sunday School is continuing on thru the life and ministry off Christ in the Winter quarter. We started in Advent with the foretelling of Christ to Mary through the Angel Gabriel and we wrap up the quarter with Jesus Sermon on the Mount.

In Christ's service, Lisa Kress



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Senior Fellowship

Volunteers are needed to bring a "hot dish" to the Thursday morning Senior Fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet in the office. We look forward to seeing you there and all your help is greatly appreciated! THANK YOU!

Newsletter

Monthly volunteers are needed for the folding of the newsletter. If you are able and willing, please contact the church office. Thank you so very much.

Nurses or medical personnel

please consider assisting with blood pressures on the last Sunday of every month. This is an inreach program of our human care ministry. This is one way of showing your loving care to our Redeemer congregation. Please contact Carol Carlos at 941-255-3354 or see you at church.

CHILD CARE NEWS

ENROLLMENT IS 84 CHILDREN

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays
at 3:45

1/3 Jesus Grows as a Child

Luke 2:40, 52

1/10 The Boy Jesus at the Temple

Luke 2:41-52

1/17 Jesus is Baptized

Matthew 3:13-17

1/24 Jesus Chooses 12 Disciples

Matthew 4:18-22

1/31 Jesus Blesses the Children

Mark 10:13-16



[Jesus said,] "Let the little children come to Me."

Mark 10:14

A Great Big Thank You!

A great big thank you to all who have donated items and time to the Child Care Children and Building this year! Everyone and everything was greatly appreciated by the Staff and the Children.

To all who picked a tag off the Angel Tree for each Child Care Child to receive a present from Santa.

To The Rotonda VFW for the Stockings filled with goodies for all the children

Thank you to the anonymous donor who packaged up Beanie Babies for all the children!

What We Are Learning...

Jan 3-14

Under the Big Top (Circus)

Jan 17-28

The Funny Farm (Farm)

Jan 31- Feb 11

Traditional Tales (Folk Stories)



Birthdays

Robby 1/4

Lauren 1/9

Reece 1/16

Welcome to Redeemer Child Care

Alexandria, Joey, Braden, Rylia & Nicholas

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

CHILD CARE CHRISTMAS PARTY- SANTA AND ANGEL TREE GIFTS!!!

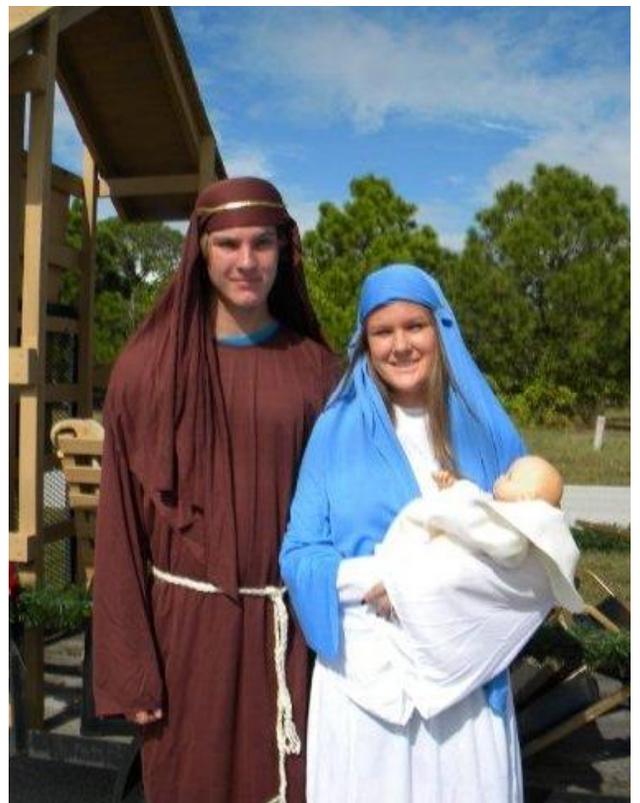


Lee ProcuK having fun during the week of Christmas!

Scotlyn Steele enjoying the Christmas Lights Cruise!



ROTONDA CHRISTMAS PARADE



PRAYERS

SHUT-INS: Gloria Carlson, Evelyn Etheridge, Ruth Jansch, Jaye Nistendirck, Jim Prather, and Ruth Sutley.

HEALING: Members: Marjorie Boliere, Bob Johnson, Larry Kappauf, Cliff Larsen, Clara Mitchell, Leona Morrison, Don Plesner, Robert Payne, Steve Procuik, Donald Roussin, Joe Scarangella, Ed Sita, Mary Ann Sochacki, Ronald Woller.

Friends & Relatives: Lorraine Agens, Linny Aspery, Grace Blum, Georgia Bush, Raymond Carlos, Julie Carroll, Shirley Chattin, Bobbett Clark, Carly DeFeos, Renee Dempsey, John Denick, Bruce Gnatkowski II, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, Bill Hillis, Robin Hincman, Casey Hoivik, Tom Holt, Bob Janmey, Douglas Johnson, Heather Johnson, Betty Kabert, Rachel Kagay, Julie Keck, Rev. Howie Krienke, Denise Lines, Elsie Malecki, Dan Mason, Joe Manson, Jim McCord, Patrick McCord, Vinnie Meli, Pete Mogg, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Ann Nagel, Judy Nagel, Dan Niemann, Josh Niemann, Darwin Oliver, Charles Pentecost Jr., Mary Raines, Sherrie Rhoades, Donna Santora-Vovcsko, Audrey Slusher, Nancy Sly, Michael Stio, Eva Tabbitas, Phyllis Tucker, Helen Weishaar, Cindy Whitaker, Andrew Wolgast.

Military Personnel: Daniel Anderson, Matthew Anderson, Adam Buchner, Eric Byrne, Kevin Copeman, Christopher Dutch, Michael Garza, Courtney Gutenswager, Christopher Hankins, Jonathan Hudson, Nathan Hudson, Brian Jackson, Keith Janssen, Josh Johnson, Joshua Jones, Eric Kieselburg, Jesse Krone, Michael Monson, Christian Mosser, Jeremy Schaitz, Brandon Smith, Jeremy Twombly, Katherine Utroska, Matthew Walenta, and Charles Weishaar.

COFFEE HOUR

2nd: Barbara Monson & Mary Turner

9th: Vicky Davis & Loretta Grobe

16th: Mary Ann Frees & Jonti Lute

23rd: Angie Ziegler & Melissa Brew

30th: Youth

Provided by Assimilation

GREETERS

2nd: 8:00 AM - Maraline & Doug Meyerink
10:30 AM - Harvey Sterriker & Jim Turner

9th: 8:00 AM - Tom & Donna Kohn
10:30 AM - Bob & Zannie Scheel

16th: 8:00 AM - Jim & KC Wright
10:30 AM - Bob & Zannie Scheel

23rd: 8:00 AM - Jim & KC Wright
10:30 AM - Tony Grcevic & Shirley Peterson

30th: Youth

Provided by Assimilation

Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year

SCRIP

January SCRIP orders will be taken Wednesday, January 5 at the Ladies Guild/LWML meeting and Sunday, January 9 after both services and returned the following Sunday, January 16. These gift cards make great gifts any time of the year. February orders will be taken Wednesday, February 2 at the Ladies Guild/LWML meeting and Sunday, February 6 after both services. These orders will be returned Sunday, February 13. SCRIP is a substitute for money. They are gift cards for everything from fast food restaurants, grocery stores, department stores, gasoline, movies, office supply stores and many, many more. Each month an updated list is on the narthex desk. Anyone who is interested should pick up a copy and see what is available. The percentage the Ladies Guild/LWML earns is based on the amount of SCRIP orders for the month. These earnings are used for our mission projects. Your support is appreciated. If you have any question, call Sybil Grahl at 475-0263. Thank you.

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.		
Sales—Rentals	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		
For Sale	Norman Rockwell Painted China Plates (Registered) \$10.00 each. Magazine, dates back to WWII, black and white, up to recent dates, \$10.00 each. Please call 941-697-6577.		

THE "GREAT WOMEN OF THE BIBLE" BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES ON JANUARY 13TH AT 6:00 PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL!

We begin the New Year with a study of Sarah, one of the most prominent women in the Old Testament. The New Testament points to Sarah as a shining example of faith and as a role model for Christian women. Between Eve and the Virgin Mary, Sarah is the only woman God promises to become a foremother of Christ.

Come join us as we begin our look at Sarah. Materials for this Study Series are available at the Church Office, and will also be available on January 13th.

REMINDERS

The Newsletter deadline for next month is February 20th. Please have all your submissions to the church office by that time.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the men and women who volunteered their time to be ushers in 2010 and look forward to working with you in 2011.

May you have a blessed and joyous new year.

Tom Kirkland

ASSIMILATION

Welcome! Welcome back! Welcome to Redeemer! Words spoken every Sunday by our greeters as they welcome all who enter Redeemer Lutheran Church. Important words for members, guests, visitors and family. THANK YOU GREETERS!!!

Also a HUGE THANK YOU to all who have hosted coffee hours this past year between and after all Sunday services. Drinking coffee and enjoying the wonderfully delicious goodies you supply provides a great time of fellowship for all.

Heartfelt thanks to the following:

- Dorothy Sinowetski for taking pictures of all the new members.
- Earl Stuck, Ed Sheahan, Cecil Grahl, Jim Wright and Charlie Vovcsko for helping with the Hanging of the Greens.
- Ray Janssen, who comes to church early every Sunday and plugs in the coffee pots.
- Last, but not least, a very sincere thank you to all committee members who enthusiastically served on the Assimilation Board.
- A Blessed and Happy New Year to all!

Jane Hoivik, Chairperson



Redeemer Ladies Guild/LWML Style Show and Luncheon

The annual style show and luncheon will be hosted by the Ladies Guild/LWML on Friday, January 21, 2011 at 12 noon. Patchington's of Venice will provide the fashions.

Chicken salad with trimmings, dessert and beverages will be served. Door prizes will be given. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend and bring your friends. The tickets are \$12.00 and will go on sale starting Sunday, January 2. Tickets will be available Sunday, January 2, 9 and 16 after the 8 am service and before and after the 10:30 am service. Ellie Ratzlaff (474-7869) and Sybil Grahl (475-0263) will handle ticket sales in the narthex.

Circle the date...tables of eight can be reserved. Last year we sold out, so get your tickets early.

If you would like to help with decorations, set up, food preparation, serving or clean up, call or see Ellie or Sybil. Lots of help is needed to make the event a success.

The proceeds will go to our "Love Gifts". The mission of the Ladies Guild/LWML is to provide funds for local and church missions, including Englewood Helping Hand, Englewood Meals on Wheels, Englewood FISH, SOLVE (Englewood home for unwed mothers), Loveland Center (Venice), Hope Seeds, Orphan Grain Train, Lutheran Prison Ministry, Lutheran Braille Workers and LCMS World Mission, etc.

Your support of this endeavor will be appreciated.

Ellie Ratzlaff and Sybil Grahl, Chairmen

HUMAN CARE

A very special thank you to all our Redeemer Family for all the gifts donated to the Child Care Angel Tree. Without your generosity, the party would not have been the wonderful success that it was. A special thank you to Ed Sheahan, AKA Santa Claus, for being such a good sport! Thank you to Kristine Baltimore for being the Elf. Also, thank you to Doris Dykhuizen and the tap class for being so helpful and at the last minute to make it possible to supply gifts to all the children!



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Englewood, FL 34224

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JANUARY

REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
6465 Mayport Road
Englewood, FL 34224

REV. JAMEST. KRESS, SR.

REDEEMER REPORTER

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

WORSHIP SERVICES:

October - April: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Adult Bible Study and Sunday School: 9:15 AM

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 941-475-2410

*We, the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church are called into the service of our Lord by
receiving His command (Matthew 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 compels us to serve our brothers and sisters as He served us