

REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - NOVEMBER 2010

“The Growing Need for a DCE in a Declining Area”

Last month the Church Council presented a proposed budget for 2011 to the Voter's Assembly at the regularly scheduled October quarterly meeting. In the budget was a new line item, but, it wasn't just a new line item, it was a proposal for a full-time church worker, a Director of Christian Education (DCE). Never heard of one? Allow me to spend a few minutes introducing to you this commissioned position of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). Afterward, I would also like to present the rationale for this proposal from the Church Council as well as the Board of Elders

The DCE in the LCMS began in 1959 when, Synod in convention, encouraged congregations “to establish the office of ‘Director of Christian Education’ in order to provide additional leadership for the education program of the congregation.” In a second resolution, the convention granted eligible DCEs “all the rights and privileges” pertaining to teachers, stating that they should be considered as such.

In the beginning, DCEs often worked with pastors in churches that did not have day schools but needed leadership in Sunday School, youth, or music ministries. In 1999, an important definition of DCE ministry was offered at an annual DCE summit: “A Director of Christian Education is a synodically certified, called, and commissioned lifespan educational leader prepared for team ministry in a congregational setting.”

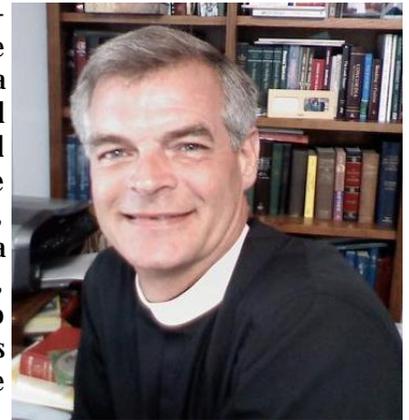
Defining a DCE as “a lifespan educational leader” captures well the work of the DCE today. While many DCEs generally work with children, youth, and adults, an increasing number of DCEs specialize in ministries focused specifically on early childhood, youth, or adult education.

These individuals coordinate with the pastor to focus on the vision and leadership of a congregation's various educational ministries. This can involve all ages, nourishing children, youth, adults, and family groups in Christian instruction and growth in personal faith through Bible classes, Sunday School, Midweek programs, Vacation Bible School, youth programs or outdoor ministry.

So the question is asked: “Why should Redeemer call a DCE?”

In the area of our youth programs, Redeemer congregation has enjoyed and benefited from the work of faithful laypeople. They have been given the responsibility to carry out the work in planning, cultivating, and promoting all the youth programs. At times the Lord has blessed their efforts, but overall very little

fruit has been produced. Don't get me wrong, even when a little fruit is produced we give thanks to God as well as to all the individuals, groups, and the church (as a whole or in part), whom God has used to serve our youth boards and programs in the past.



Today, we face an even greater concern for our youth than ever before. Our church services are nearly void of youth. Although our Child Care flourishes in number, their families rarely become members. Although we are surrounded by children in our community, they are seldom found in God's house. How is that our concern? Jesus says, “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. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Baptizing and teaching make disciples, that is, followers of Christ Jesus all the way into heaven. In Baptism, we become children of God. We are marked as one redeemed in the saving work of Christ. Baptism works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and grants eternal salvation to all who believe in Jesus.

Jesus also says, “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The Words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63). Just as our earthly bodies need spirit to have life, believers need the Holy Spirit to make them alive.

Where the Word of God is, there the Holy Spirit is at work. The Holy Spirit works saving faith in the heart of the hearer. The Apostle Paul proclaimed, “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ” (Romans 10:17).

The Lord has supplied our Child Care with an increasing number of children. We are surrounded by a community thick with children. Nearly all of these children are unbaptized and unchurched. Along with their families, they are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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	
Property Mgmt	Charlie Vovcsko
Christian Ed.	Pam Replinger
Human Care	Carol Sheahan
Outreach	
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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I can't believe I'm sitting here writing a NOVEMBER newsletter article. I am always amazed at how fast the time flies. I like to believe it's because I'm so busy. I don't get a lot of support for that belief. I mentioned last month that we are starting to see the return of our Northern friends and the pace is certainly picking up. I extend a WARM welcome as our associate members return and once again take an active role on the various boards and committees that contribute so much to the success of our church. It's a pleasure to have you back.

As you know, we had our October voters meeting and it was an extremely important meeting. The October meeting and the upcoming December meeting will have a very significant impact on our church as we move ahead into the future. At our meeting, Pastor Kress announced to the congregation that following very intense discussions at the Board of Elders and the Church Council it was decided by both bodies that Redeemer Lutheran Church was not performing adequately in the area of attracting the youth of our community into our church family. Both bodies unanimously agreed that we need to do something to improve our performance in this area. Pastor Kress then suggested that the way to do this is to utilize the services of a DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. A DCE is a person who is educated and trained in strategies designed to bring youth into the church. They have a great record of success and after a very detailed explanation of what a DCE can do for our church it was decided to go forward and present this opportunity to the congregation. The process began at the October voters meeting and the concept was received in a positive tone. The next step in the process will be a visit from Vicar Brummett who is presently doing good work for Lutheran Church of The Cross located in Pt Charlotte. By the time you read this we will have hosted Vicar Brummett for a Q & A session and I hope we all glean enough positive information that our church family agrees to go forward with the addition of a DCE to our church staff. As you review the proposed budget and see the effect of the addition of a DCE please give prayerful consideration and support this worthy move for the long term benefit of our church.

Carol and I recently visited New Day Christian Church in Pt. Charlotte in order to learn about the sound absorption system in place in their Sanctuary/Auditorium. We were very impressed as they assured us that the system resulted in a significant improvement to the acoustics of the room. I will be meeting with the contractor to determine our needs and we will have the project completed in the near future. This project should greatly improve the acoustics of our Fellowship hall as it is much smaller than the huge Sanctuary/Auditorium at New Day.

That's all I have for now, so I will close by saying that I look forward to seeing you all in church.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Sheahan

CHRISTIAN SUPPORT GROUP

The group began by mentioning the members and friends for which we are concerned...

The lesson was Luke 14: 16-24. **THE PARABLE OF THE GREAT BANQUET** A man once gave a great banquet, and invite many; and of the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, "Come, for all is now ready." But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, "I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it, I pray you have me excused." Another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. I pray you have me excused, Another said, "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come." So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, "Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame." And the servant said, "Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room." And the master said to the servant, "Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste by banquet."

Matthew also includes this parable in his Gospel-Matt. 22:2-10. but gives it a different setting. He places it among the stories Jesus told to the scribes and Pharisees during Passion Week

In both settings, however, the parables have the same themes: the kingdom of God is a great banquet or feast, and those attending it include sinners and outcasts.

Once we understand its setting, the meaning of the parable is clear. The religious leaders of God's chosen people refuse to heed the good news of salvation offered through his Son. They have only themselves to blame when God's mercy is enjoyed primarily by those whom the

religious elite despise, the grace of God will not be denied. His all encompassing love cannot be limited. The good news of the gospel is that God receives into his family any and all who accept his invitation.

1. The kingdom of God is like a banquet. Youth are not alone in thinking religion is a serious business, but most view it as gloomy matter. Gospel literally means "good news." It is the message that God offers to renew all our broken relationships with him by granting us complete forgiveness and restoring us to his family. Certainly God did not work out our salvation without cost to himself, and we too are called to make sacrifices for the sake of our neighbor. This should not be a miserable, unhappy experience, but a thing of joy. Jesus tried time and again to make this point. Here he tries once more. God's kingdom is like a great feast. Matthew calls it a marriage feast. No one associates such an event with anything but joy.

2. God' invitation requires a response. Can you imagine anyone declining an invitation to share heaven with God? That is exactly what happened according to Jesus." One after another, the invited guests decline the banquet invitation. The first guest bought a piece of property. Do people buy land without looking at it? Was Jesus here describing the kind of person who couldn't wait to see one more thing he had bought and which now belongs to him – the kind of person who spends his life acquiring material things? For such a person a heavenly banquet would have no appeal. The second guest had to examine a purchase. The third guest had just gotten married, and so he would not come. Current jokes about men losing their freedom in marriage tempt us to read into Jesus' illustration that is not there. Could he be describing the kind of person, however, who gets so wrapped up with his home

and family that they are blind to the more profound sources of meaning for life?

All of these excuses have something in common. All involve experiences that are tied tightly to daily life. It is always easier to give priority to the present and close at hand than to the future and seemingly remote. What chance does God have when pitted against our desires for a car, success, money, popularity, good grades, nice clothes and looks?

3. The chance to be a part of God's kingdom can be lost. Repeatedly Jesus warned religious leaders that they were not to think that they owned a guaranteed access into God's kingdom. If a man makes light of God's gifts, he could soon lose them. "None of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet." Not because God excluded them but because they excluded themselves! People can get so busy with themselves and their own affairs that they lose all sense of God's love for them and the love for him they were created to show.

4. God's banquet hall gets filled. Matthew has the servant offering only one invitation. Perhaps Luke wanted to suggest that God's good news belong both to the outcast and sinner among the Jews and also to the Gentiles. The point is clear. The boundless hospitality of the host could not be contained. God's mercy knows no bounds. He will seek until he finds those who accept his invitation to trust and serve him through service to our neighbor. If one group of people refuses, another will accept.

The Support Group discussed excuses people give for ignoring God's call to trust and obedience? The session was closed with prayer, including friends and relations, and ended praying the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by *Margie Cypher*

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship: More Than Annual Giving

As we head into a new Florida *season* we are all faced with challenges—more traffic, longer lines, greater demands on ourselves and those around us. This is the time of the year when we are seeing the shortening of the daylight hours, the passing of summer into autumn, and a time of reflecting upon what we've accomplished while wondering what the next year may hold.

At our congregational business meeting on Sunday, October 17, 2010, we were challenged with a new opportunity: to consider hiring a Director of Christian Education (DCE). All members of the Stewardship Committee met on October 6th and unanimously agreed that we are in support of the concept of a DCE; someone who can be of great value in bringing youth and families into our fold and support our pastor as he leads us to embrace being the best we can be as a church and as stewards of Redeemer Lutheran Church and Child Care (RLCCC).

The Stewardship Committee discussed how we could be active participants in helping such a position become a reality at RLCCC and by consensus determined that we will do whatever we can to support the final decisions of the leadership of the elders and council. The Stewardship Committee also has agreed to meet on a monthly basis for the near future to continue planning and discussions on how we can best approach enhancing the finances of the church and be of benefit in working with the council, the elders, and the congregation to best serve all.

The Stewardship Committee will continue to work on a draft of our development plan for 2011,

one that will set attainable goals while simultaneously working to establish a quarterly plan that will enable us to consider our work effective with some level of increased giving to be shown for our efforts by this time in 2011. We will not overlook the other aspects of Stewardship and will be discussing enhancing/improving relationships within membership and reaching out as well.



Stewardship is far more than increasing the contributions and boosting the annual donations from our church family. Financial concerns are definitely a part of stewardship, but it is one third of the whole. It encompasses so many facets of what we are as people and as Christians. It's easy to feel as though stewardship requires more and more from us. It puts us in a position of competing with ourselves to become the best we can be in our efforts to support our church with more time, more participation, and more financial contributions.

With gratitude in our hearts and minds, with a renewed desire to build our church in size and commitment, with prayerful consideration and quiet dedication, we can all look toward a new season of sharing our personal gifts and our financial support. Let us work cooperatively to embrace stewardship, to define it in our own personal way, to let it be an integral part of our daily life.

“Let each man do according as he hath purposed in his heart: not grudgingly, or of necessity—for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9: 7)

Peace and best wishes to you – respectfully,
Sarah Watkins, Stewardship Committee

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

Jesus said, in John 3:16-18, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”* But how can one believe if he does not know about God’s son?

“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17.) In their day, the Apostles told everyone about Jesus and his message of grace. Throughout the ages, believers told nonbelievers, down to today, when it is now our turn to share the message. It is our act of love, it is our gift to others.

OUTREACH NEWS

Halloween Safewalk

Many thanks for the donations of candy for the Safewalk on Dearborn Street. The kids

really enjoyed the affair, and each of them took home a piece of Redeemer Lutheran Church and Child Care.

Rotonda Christmas Parade – HELP!

Will you walk-a-mile for Jesus? The Board of Outreach is looking for volunteers to walk 1 mile in the 5-mile Rotonda Christmas Parade on Saturday, November 27, starting at 2:00 p.m. We would like walkers to take turns walking a mile, handing out small gift packets, pencils, etc. Volunteers will ride the rest of the parade in Redeemer’s van, which will be pulling our Nativity Scene float. We also need volunteers to ride on the float: Mary, Joseph, 3 Wise Men, a Shepherd and an Angel. Yes, you will be in costumes, which will be furnished. Please volunteer by contacting Karen Kirkland, Carol Haupt, Margie Cypher, or Pastor Kress.

FAITH-SHARING STORY

A Wisconsin lady got a call from a tele-

marketer. After declining his cable TV offer, she got involved in a conversation with the young man and found that they had several things in common. She mentioned in conversation that she was a Lutheran. He responded that he had recently gone to a Lutheran church with his grandparents. She inquired whether he regularly attended church. When he said that he did not, she shared the Gospel with him and told him what faith in Christ meant in her life. She encouraged him to think about his life, that many people die through accidents or illness and that we only have today. They shared a bit more and she encouraged him to speak to his grandparents about their conversation and ask them about their faith. Before they hung up, the young man said he would tell some of his co-workers about the unusual phone call with the woman who shared her faith in Christ. *The rest is up to the Holy Spirit!*

“The Growing Need for a DCE in a Declining Area”

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being led by the father of all lies, the devil, to perdition.

Redeemer has many lay men and women who would like to assist in reaching these children along with the opportunity to welcome their families into our Redeemer family. Unfortunately, they are not specifically trained, nor fully equipped to skillfully connect with our dying young community.

How can Redeemer supply the children of our congregation, the children connected to our Child Care, and the children of our community with the Spirit who gives life? Please prayerfully consider the call to a well-trained, certified, commissioned DCE.



In His Service,
Pastor Kress

STEPHEN MINISTRY

CHARACTERISTICS OF A STEPHEN MINISTER

Have you ever looked at the Stephen Ministry poster hanging on the wall in the Narthex? Stop and look at it next Sunday. The poster displays the Stephen Ministry Compass, which describes the *Characteristics of a Stephen Minister*. Instead of North, South, East and West, the points of the Stephen Ministry compass represent the characteristics of Stephen Ministry: *Compassion, Full of Faith, Skilled and Trustworthy*. This month we will discuss the first characteristic, compassion.

A Stephen Minister is *Compassionate*

What does it mean that a Stephen Minister is compassionate?

Stephen Ministers show compassion to their care receivers in the many, many ways:

They love unconditionally.
They really care.
They understand.
They are open and accepting.
They truly listen and pay attention.
They are sympathetic and empathetic.
They are personally involved.
They are kind and gentle.
They focus on the care receiver.
They speak truth in love.
They share burdens.
They respect boundaries.
They reach out and are there in time of need.
They are comforting and supportive.
These are some of the examples of how Stephen Ministers are compassionate.

If you, or someone you know, are having a life crisis, e.g., loss of loved one, chronic or terminal illness, marital difficulties, unemployment or financial difficulties, and need a compassionate "friend" to talk to—one who would listen, care, and help you get through the difficulty, please contact Carol Carlos,

Carol Haupt or Nancy Hall. We have several very *compassionate* Stephen Ministers able to assist you.



ANNOUNCEMENT: There will be a special Bible Class on Stephen Ministry Sunday, November 14.

We will be learning some very interesting things about the first martyr, Stephen, for whom Stephen Ministry is named. We also will be having a skit about Stephen Ministry, that will show how Stephen Ministry differs from other caring ministries. Please plan on joining us.



LADIES GUILD/LWML

Our Ladies Guild held the first meeting of this season on October 6th with 15 ladies in attendance.

The first order of business was electing a new Executive Board. The following members were voted into office unanimously: President, Doris Dykhuizen, V.P., Carol Sheahan, Secretary, Sybil Grahl and Treasurer, Avis Stuck. Many thanks were given to the out-going board. Also thanks to Jane Hoivik for tirelessly working to put a board together.

On November 13th from 8am to 2pm we will have our "Treats and Treasures". Thanks to Karen Kirkland for having this advertised in the "Sun" and "Herald" newspapers several times. While we're all working on making this a success, we also want to add some fun too, so we thought a Nature Walk with Docent George Dykhuizen would be the ticket. We'll recap this "walk" at our next meeting.

We have several programs we think you'll enjoy. November 3rd is the Red Dot Medical Information Program given by Charlotte County Fire/EMS. We think this is such an important program that we are inviting our Redeemer gentlemen. Please come around 12:30 for dessert and the program will follow shortly after 1. Then you may be dismissed BEFORE we conduct our business.

Some of our many activities include our yearly Style Show presented by Patchington's in Venice, Christmas Party, possibly an off-Broadway show, "Second Helping" at the Broadway Palms in Ft. Myers...and anything else we can come up with. Ideas are welcome, so please join us. If you are new to our congregation, please give us a try. We sure look forward to seeing you at Redeemer's Ladies Guild/LWML!!

Respectfully submitted by,
Carol Sheahan

Thrivent Board Positions

Annual elections for Thrivent Board positions will be held on November 7 & 14 in the Narthex between and after service. The election is open to all Thrivent Financial members. Please contact Barbara Duff if you need additional information.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school has been learning a lot about the Book of Genesis this fall. We have been practicing our song "Have No Fear Little Flock" for the Oct. 31st 10:30 Divine Service. We hope that you enjoyed our singing! We are looking forward to singing for the church with our Christmas program Wednesday, December 15, 2010. We appreciate all the help that we have been given from Mr. Bowers to sing our song and the help that he continues to give us with the Christmas program! I also, want to thank all of our dedicated teachers and substitute Sunday School teachers, they serve our children at Redeemer with joy and the love of Christ. If you would have interest in serving in this vital capacity, please give me a call! As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1st Peter 4:10

In Christ's Service, Lisa Kress

SCRIP ORDERS RESUME

Orders for Scrip will be taken Wednesday, November 3 at the Ladies Guild meeting and Sunday, November 7 after both services. The orders will be returned Sunday, November 14 after both services. A list of retailers and order blanks are available on the narthex desk. Scrip is gift cards. These gift cards make great gifts any time of the year.

It is not too early to start Christmas shopping. Orders will be taken Sunday, December 5 and returned, Sunday December 12.

If you have questions call Sybil Grahl 475-0263 after October 31.

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

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays at
3:45

11/1 David & Goliath
1 Samuel 17

11/8 David & Jonathan
1 Samuel 18:1-4;20:16-42

11/15 Elisa's Home
2 Kings 4:8-10

11/22 Daniel & The Lions
Daniel 6

11/29 Jonah & The
Whale
Jonah 1-4

Love comes from God
1 John 4:7

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

Birthdays

Hunter 11/1 (6)

Xander 11/1 (5)

Jason S. 11/4 (6)

Aiden 11/7 (3)

Nolan 11/14 (2)

Allison 11/16 (7)

Devyn 11/16 (5)

Zachary D. 11/18 (1)

Donovan L. 11/20 (5)

Mykalina 11/26 (4)

Ms Wendy 11/28



Welcome to Redeemer Child Care

Kamrie, Kyleigh,

Scotlyn,

Olivia and Reagan

Important Dates

Closed November 25 & 26

What We Are Learning...

Nov 1-5 All about Fall

Nov 8-19 Way out west
(Cowboys etc.)

Nov 22-26 Thanksgiving

Nov 29-Dec13 Zoo Crew
(Zoo)

A Great Big Thank You!

Thank you for helping us
clean our playground...

Pastor Kress, Harold Hale,
Bill Bowers, Pam Replinger,
Steven Horvath, Shannon
Black (Child Care Parent),
Melinda Ireland (Child Care
Grandparent), Steve Moody
(Child Care Grandparent) and
Lemon Bay Youth: Colin, Mi-
kayla, Anthony, Mackenzie,
Kate and Emily

PRAYERS

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

HEALING: Members: Marjorie Boliere, Bob Johnson, Cliff Larsen, Clara Mitchell, Leona Morrison, Jaye Nistendirk, Helen Plank, Don Plesner, Tom Poyer, Joe Scarangella, Jerry Schriener, Ed Sita, Vern Speer, Arlene Twombly, Ronald Woller.

Friends & Relatives: Lorraine Agens, Grace Blum, Georgia Bush, Raymond Carlos, Julie Carroll, Shirley Chattin, Lisa Clemens, 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, Patrick McCord, Pete Mogg, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Ann Nagel, Judy Nagel, Charles Pentecost Jr., Mary Raines, Sherrie Rhoades, Donna Santora-Vovcsko, Audrey Slusher, Nancy Sly, Michael Stio, Phyllis Tucker, Helen Weishaar, Cindy Whitaker, and Andrew Wolgast.

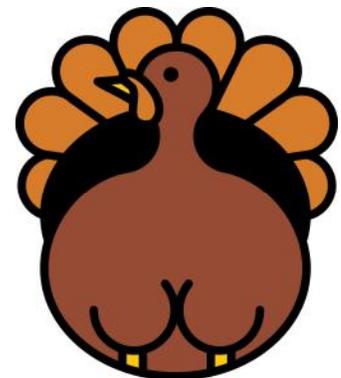
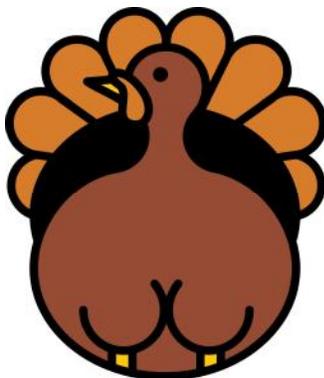
Military Personnel: Daniel Anderson, Matthew Anderson, Adam Buchner, Eric Byrne, Kevin Copeman, Christopher Dutch, Michael Garza, Courtney Gutenswager, Christopher Hankins, Brian Hollis, Jonathan Hudson, Nathan Hudson, Brian Jackson, Keith Janssen, Josh Johnson, Joshua Jones, Eric Kieselburg, Michael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

GREETERS

7th 8:00 AM Cathy & Ken Mielke
 10:30 AM Carol & Russ Spooner
 14th 8:00 AM Claire Kieselburg & Sybil Grahl
 10:30 AM Marion & Francis Zillins
 21st 8:00 AM Nancy & Richard Hall
 10:30 AM June & Sheridan Markert
 28th 8:00 AM Mayrie & Harry Dawson
 10:30 AM Vicky & Paul Davis

COFFEE HOUR

7th Sybil & Cecil Grahl
 14th Stephen Ministry
 21st Carol Spooner & Sybil Grahl
 28th Lorraine Hughes & Sandy Sita



TREATS & TREASURES

The Ladies Guild of Redeemer is having a fund raiser on Saturday, November 13th from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. The money raised is distributed among 13 organizations relating to Missouri Lutheran Programs and non-profit organizations such as Helping Hand of Englewood, Hope Seeds, Loveland, Bible Translators, Prison Ministry, and Braille Workers. Within the Redeemer congregation the guild supports the quilters, purchases the paper products used by the congregation, provides funeral lunches when requested, provides Bibles for the Confirmands. All the funds raised are distributed during the year.

The Ladies Guilds need items for the Treats & Treasures Fund Raisers such as:

CHRISTMAS ITEMS, ART WORK, KITCHEN ITEMS, OFFICE ITEMS, JEWELRY, TOYS, GLASSWARE, DISHES, LUGGAGE, PILLOWS, QUILTS, BOOKS, GAMES, PLANTS, BAKE SALE ITEMS SUCH AS CAKES, COOKING, CANDY AND PIES.

The pricing will be done on Friday, November 12th after 9:00 am. Items may be brought to the Social Hall and stored in the rear of the social room. If you have any questions contact the church office or Margie Cypher.

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 your 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	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.		

DON'T FORGET!!!!

BIG TALENT SHOW!!!! FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5th AT 7:00 PM!!!! Come and perform, or come and watch!!! You'll be a hit either way!!! No Charge! Goodies donated by church choir members!!!

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 November 21st. Please have all your submissions to the church office by that time.

LADIES GUILD/LWML

The ladies Guild meeting at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, November 3rd will have a special program All the women and the men of the congregation are invited to attend. It is the "RED DOT" program that can save valuable time when a 911 call is made or there is an accident. In an emergency every minute saved prior to treatment may save your life.

ANNOUNCING! NEW EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WOMEN OF REDEEMER

The Board of Education is pleased to announce the formation of a new monthly Bible Study class for the women of Redeemer. Open to all women of Redeemer, the class is specifically designed to accommodate those women who are normally unable to attend daytime Bible Studies due to work and time conflicts.

This new class will meet on the second Thursday of each month at 6pm, beginning November 11th. Please mark your calendars and join us for a lively discussion on "*Great Women of the Bible*", beginning with the Old Testament. By examining the lives and contributions of these women, we can also learn much about ourselves, our faith and our role as Christian women in today's world.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for the beginning of this exciting new Bible Study! Our first session will be a discussion on Eve. Those attending are encouraged to review the material prior to November 11th, if possible. The study material is available by contacting the Church Office, and will also be available at the November 11th class. This class is being led by Pamela Replinger.

Lonely? No need to feel that way

By PATTIE MIHALIK
Correspondent

Not everything a church does involves a worship service. And, for some churches, service to the community is just as important.

Under its Human Care ministry, Englewood's Redeemer Lutheran Church sponsors Senior Fellowship, where people are welcome to come to meet new friends and enjoy a social get together.

Another important part of the ministry is the Christian Support Group that meets the last Wednesday of every month. The group started off as a cancer support group, but expanded to include support for those facing a crisis of any kind.

"Some come because of loneliness. Some have lost a spouse while others have different kinds of problems," said Margie Cypher, who heads the ministry. "What we have in common is a willingness to listen and offer support."

Lessie Kirch, who is in charge of the Senior Fellowship, said the gathering is simply an opportunity for people to get together for games and lunch. At least half of those who attend the weekly fellowship are not members of the church.

"Some people sit home with nothing to do," Kirch said. "Some feel lonely after the death of a spouse. The Senior Fellowship is really a solution. Our main purpose is just to get people out of the house. We come together



Margie Cypher, left, and Lessie Kirch put finishing touches on lunch.

INTERESTED?

Senior Fellowship and a Christian Support Group are offered at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 5465 Mayport St., Englewood. For more information, call the church office, 475-2410, or visit redeemer.com.

from all walks of life and we always have a nice time together."

After Kirch's husband died, she found she had a lot of empty hours.

"I wasn't getting invited anywhere and the more I thought about it, the more I realized there are a lot of people in that same boat," she said.

Because Kirch understands what it is like to be alone, her experience motivated her to approach the church with her idea to reach out to the community. Everyone agreed Senior Fellowship would be an excellent outreach for the Human Care ministry, and Kirch as put in charge.



George Hamaalar and Florence Mell, foreground, are among those who play cards at the Senior Fellowship. CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS/PATTIE MIHALIK

Senior Fellowship meets from 10 a.m. to noon Thursdays in the church hall. Kirch and other church volunteers provided a homemade lunch.

Playing cards is a favorite activity and organizers select easy-to-learn games, such as Phase 10, Skip Bo, pinochle and dominos.

"We bond over cards," Cypher said. "It's an easy way to get to know people and it's not intimidating for anyone."

If someone does not know how to play cards, that is OK because Kirch is always willing to teach beginners.

Florence Mell, who attends the fellowship with her husband, Vincenzo, said they have met a lot of people and now have new friends.

Making new friends is exactly the reason why Phillip Riggio and Ida Liberta attended recently for the first time.

"There's not too much to do around here at this time of year," Riggio said. "Ida left her friends behind in Buffalo and when we heard about the fellowship, we

thought it would be a perfect way to meet new people."

The pair found out it was easy to fit in.

"It's not hard to feel at home," he said.

According to organizers, they "don't talk religion" at the Thursday fellowship meetings, and there is no pressure on those who are not church members.

"At our Christian Support Group, we always have a short Bible study and everyone shares what is going on in their lives," Cypher said. "We care about each other and everything is based on faith. We do encourage people to go to their church. Or, if they don't have a church, we tell them Redeemer Lutheran Church is a warm and welcoming congregation."

"There many success stories of those who came to the support group broken and hurting and found the help they needed," she said.

"Now, they are doing well and are reaching out to help others," Cypher said.

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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
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*