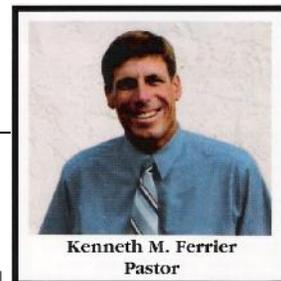


God with Us!!!



Kenneth M. Ferrier
Pastor

Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "BEHOLD THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

"*Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel...*" These words from the familiar Advent hymn remind us of a marvelous reality: God is *with* us. We often think of God as if He is far removed from the challenges and heartaches of this world, blissfully and remotely enthroned in the heavens. But at this time of year we are given the glad tidings of great joy that God has done just the opposite. He has chosen to COME and be with us. That's what the word "advent" means: "To come".

The eternal Son of God *came* to our world to be born as one of us so that He might fulfill the Law for us and redeem us from our sins. In our world - God is with us!

When we gather for worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we have our Lord's promise: "Wherever two or three of you gather together in My name, I am there in your midst." In our worship - God is with us!

In the regenerating waters of Holy Baptism, God is there, bestowing the new life of faith. In the bread and wine of Holy Communion, God is there, giving us His body and blood for the strengthening of our faith and for the forgiveness of sin. In our Sacraments - God is with us!

On the Last Day Jesus will return and take us to a glorious new home...His Father's house. For all eternity - God is with us!

So, now, I ask you...where is God right now?

Redeemer Lutheran Church and Child Care are in the midst of one of the most challenging periods of our more than 25 year history. We leave 2007 and enter 2008 with a galaxy of questions swirling around us:

- Will we be able to close out this year having successfully defeated (or at least significantly deflated) the current budget deficit?
- Will there be enough children enrolling in our Child Care to keep it financially viable as an outreach ministry?
- Will we be able to find adequate numbers of willing workers within the congregation to fill all the offices and carry out all the tasks that present themselves to us?
- What's going to become of our community...our economy...our church...you and me?

Obviously, and thankfully, God has answers to all our questions, just as He has blessings for all our needs. But there's one question that He has already answered for us in advance. We never have to wonder, "Where's God in all of this?" We can rest in the assurance that He is right where He's always been: God is with us!

May that assurance fill your holidays and coming New Year with the peace of Jesus, our Immanuel.

Pastor Ferrier



The President's Corner

President's Corner

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH	
Pastor	Rev. Kenneth Ferrier
Office Secretary	Pat Wilcoxon
Organist	Nancy Gunterman Lanette Schmidt
OFFICERS	
President	Joe Carlos
Vice Pres.	Glen Kraft
Treasurer	Byron Beaber
Secretary	Dorothy Sinowetski
BOARDS	
Assimilation	Laura Brooks
Building & Grounds	
Child Care Director	Brandi Bilhardt
Christian Ed.	Nancy Gunterman
Elders	Tim Byrne
Human Care	Marj Sterriker
Outreach	Carol Haupt
School Board	Stacey Depersia
Stewardship	Ray Altmann
Youth	Jim Wright
CLUBS/GUILDS	
Ladies Guild	Linda Rogers, VP
Men's Group	Bob Mortenson
Red Hat Society	Sandra Distasio
Christian Support Group	

The Church Council and I thank you for your continued prayers and support. We thank God daily for all the blessings he showers on us.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your president for the past two years. I consider it to have been a great personnel honor and privilege to be able to serve our congregation in that capacity. Much is owed to our council members, committee members and all of you that do what has to be done. What a blessing you have been to me and to our congregation.

Two years on the onset seems like a long time, but reflecting back one wonders where did the time go. One also reflects on the events that have taken place, the highs and the lows. The past two years for our congregation have been difficult years. I think part of the difficulty is due to our lack of our congregational understanding of at least three areas. I identify these as fluidity, identification, and stewardship.

Fluidity: By that I mean we, for the most part, are a congregation composed of transient members. Our demographics are such that we have very few life time members. Other than our spouse we have no other fellow family members. Most of us are seasoned citizens and will stay in the area until health or other reasons force us to live closer to our children or other family members.

Identification: By that I believe we are at a cross road. At one time it was the feeling that we are here as a church for retired Lutherans coming down from the cold north. Well, that still might be the case, but many feel now the **HOLY SPIRIT'S** call is also to let our light shine to the community around us.

Stewardship: By that I just don't mean money. Here I am thinking of all the resources with which we have so richly been blessed. Primarily I am thinking of the job skills and knowledge we have in our congregation. We have hardly dented this resource.

Because of the events of the past three years, time has been somewhat compressed and I believe we as a congregation have started to take the steps to deal with the above through our Long Range Planning. With the **HOLY SPIRIT** to guide us and enough time and hard work, we will be a much stronger

(Continued on Page 3)

President's Corner

(Continued from Page 2)

congregation and a light in our community in the years to come. However, in order for this to happen we all have to understand that we are the church, we are the body. Each one of us is a part of the body. Each of us was given different gifts and we were called to this place we call Redeemer. So you might be a toe, an ear, or an eye, and I might be a finger. Whatever we are, we are needed to make the body whole. Therefore, pray, search your heart, look back on your life's experience's and see how you can apply what gift has been given to you.

This is the last time I will be writing to you in this column. Therefore, I wish to thank all of you that have given me words of encouragement in the past two years. Also, creative criticism was appreciated and I was thankful for a different insight. Along that area, if you have a gripe or see something that needs correction, please bring it to the attention of the chair of the board that might be responsible or an Elder. It is hard for your leaders to work on hearsay information, and by the way, creative criticism is always welcomed.

Please continue to pray for our congregation, Pastor, and our leadership. Pray that the **HOLY SPIRIT** will guide them.

Blessed Christmas to you all.

See you in church.

Joe Carlos

Scrip Orders

Scrip orders for December will be taken Sunday, December 2. See Sybil in the Narthex after both services. The orders will be returned Sunday, December 9.

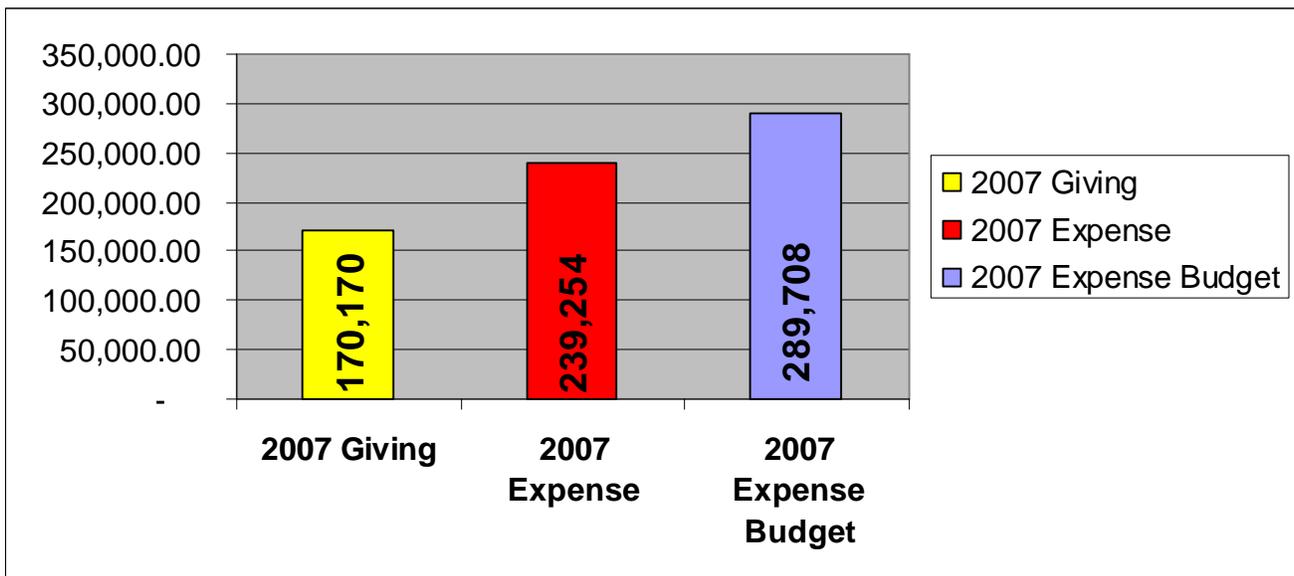
Scrip is gift cards--the same ones you purchase at various merchants. Gift cards make the perfect Christmas gift. The Ladies Guild receives a percentage of the amount purchased. This is used for our various mission endeavors.

Last chance to order before Christmas!

Submitted by Sybil Grahl

Finance

	<u>2007 Giving</u>	<u>2007 Expense</u>	<u>2007 Expense</u>
January	18,056	19,419	33,804
February	19,634	26,638	25,622
March	20,950	28,215	36,631
April	25,608	26,003	26,702
May	11,455	42,022	22,718
June	10,197	13,290	25,519
July	23,262	15,250	33,733
	(Includes \$10,000 Gift)		
August	11,413	21,549	27,859
September	14,627	21,104	24,729
October	14,968	25,764	32,391
Year to Date	170,170	239,254	289,708



Service Directory/Classified Ads

Services

Beautician/Manicurist Debbie Balogh Purple Palace 941-475-0731

Pressure Cleaning - Matt & Michelle Finley - Hoover Pressure Cleaning – 697-6886

Tell us you saw us in the Redeemer Newsletter & get a 10% discount.

Licensed & Insured – www.hooverpressure.com

Hoover Pressure Cleaning ~ “The Plant Friendly People”

For Sale

Fostoria American Dishes (large lot). The Youth are selling this online at eBay. However, if you are a collector or know someone who is and would like to buy it directly from them, please call Michelle Ferrier at 697-0502.

Tommy Hilfiger “tommy” cologne spray, 1.7 fl. Oz/50 ml. Brand new in box.

1 bottle available.

\$10.00 ea.

Call Michelle Ferrier — 697-0502

Beautiful Dining Set With Matching Curio Cabinet

54-inch diameter glass table top—Four comfortable chairs plus captain’s chair—Cocoa-colored suede upholstery—86” x 50” glass front curio cabinet with glass shelving & accent light—3 Years old—Excellent Condition—\$1,500



To see or for more information call Helen Wagner (941) 697-0807

Please be sure to pick up your 2008 Offering Envelopes located in the Narthex. Please do not use the 2007 envelopes after December. The numbers have been changed.



Human Care



Remember that the Blood Mobile will be at Redeemer on December 9th.

Stephen Ministry classes start in January. Please contact Carol Carlos (941) 255-3354 or Carol Haupt (941) 493-0399 if you are interested.

Be sure to call your Caring Network leader, or Lessie Kirch if you or anyone in your network group needs assistance—The Network is in the process of obtaining emergency information (other than spouses) from all members. Please provide this information when you are contacted—Keep Lessie in your prayers as she will have knee surgery this month.

The Messiah Migrant Mission Angel Tree has been a huge success! All gift tags (103) were selected and gifts purchased. Thank you to all of you who bought gifts and special thanks to the youth who also shopped and then wrapped the gifts which were under the tree. We still need a gift wrap team to wrap the remaining gifts. We also need more wrapping paper. We'll meet on December 2nd (last day to bring your gifts to the Narthex) after lunch to "wrap 'til we drop." If you can help, contact Marj at (941) 475-0553.

Remember to take a Heart Pillow from the basket in the Narthex to a friend who is ill or in need of comfort. Please sign the sheet so we don't give to those who already have one.

Many thanks to all who so generously gave to the Horvath Family Fund at our October door offering. Over \$4,000 was collected and partially matched by Thrivent. Mark is undergoing further treatments, so he and his family still need our prayers.

Blessed is he who is kind to the needy. *Proverbs 14:21b*

Submitted by Marj Sterriker

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for January is Sunday, December 16th by 12 noon.

If you have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter, either e-mail it to letastender@ewol.com or place it in the newsletter box in the church office. Articles received after December 16th will be held for the February newsletter.

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

Leta Stender



USHERS

THIS MONTH

Dec. 2	8:00	Chuck & Elaine Malecki Ron & Mary Beaber
	10:30	Ray & Leta Stender Cecil Grahl & Tony Grcevic
Dec. 5	4:30	Pat Wilcoxen & Pam DeGourse
Wed.	7:00	Patrick & Jackie Wall
Dec. 9	8:00	Chuck & Elaine Malecki Ron & Mary Beaber
	10:30	Ray & Leta Stender Cecil Grahl & Tony Grcevic
Dec. 12	4:30	Pat Wilcoxen & Pam DeGourse
Wed.	7:00	Patrick & Jackie Wall
Dec. 16	8:00	Joe & Phylis Lehner Chuck & Elaine Malecki
	10:30	Shirley Zatkalik, Tony Grcevic Cecil & Sybil Grahl
Dec. 19	7:00	Pat Wilcoxen & Pam DeGourse
Wed.		Patrick & Jackie Wall
Dec. 23	8:00	Chuck & Elaine Malecki
	10:30	Ray Janssen, Shirley Zatkalik Cecil & Sybil Grahl
Dec. 24	4:30	USHERS NEEDED
Mon.	7:00	USHERS NEEDED
Dec. 25	9:15	Earl & Avis Stuck Cecil & Sybil Grahl
Tues.		
Dec. 30	8:00	Chuck & Elaine Malecki
	10:30	Cecil & Sybil Grahl Pat Wilcoxen & Pam DeGourse

USHER CHARTS FOR JAN., FEB., & MARCH ARE ON THE WALL IN THE NARTHEX. PLEASE SIGN UP. ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT PAT WILCOXEN.

Submitted by Pat Wilcoxen

Assimilation

Dec. 2	Rusty Queck & Bob Mortensen
Dec. 9	Mary Beaber & Angie Ziegler
Dec. 16	Helena DeGourse & Jane Hoivik
Dec. 23	Dolores Altmann & Avis Stuck
Dec. 30	Youth

Submitted by Pam DeGourse



Acolytes

Dec. 2	8:00	Madeline Keller
	10:30	Hayley Smith
Dec. 5	Wed. 7:00	Alex Wall
Dec. 9	8:00	Courtney Thatcher
	10:30	Alex Wall
Dec. 12	Wed. 7:00	Nathan Gunterman
Dec. 16	8:00	Madeline Keller
		Courtney Thatcher
	10:30	McKenna Heldenbrand
Dec. 19	Wed. 7:00	Alex Wall
Dec. 23	8:00	Courtney Thatcher
	10:30	Hayley Smith
Dec. 24	Mon. 4:30	Anthony Bruno
	7:00	Alex Wall
Dec. 25	Tues. 9:15	Nathan Gunterman
Dec. 30	8:00	Courtney Thatcher
	10:30	Alex Wall

Submitted by Pat Wilcoxen



Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry could be called the Ministry of Listening. When someone focuses on what you are saying, is attentive to your needs, and listens to how you feel, you feel cared for. That is what a Stephen Minister does. We learned from God's example. Did you ever wonder what God does in heaven? I think one of his primary activities is listening to us. The Bible tells us that when the Israelites groaned in slavery and cried out for help God heard and delivered them from slavery. The psalmist wrote "God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer". Psalm 66:19 When Jesus was standing before Lazarus's tomb he looked up and said "Father, I thank you that you have heard me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me". John 11:41 James also recommended that we be listeners when he said "You must understand this, my beloved; let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak". James 1:19

Listening is one of our most important tools in ministry. It shows caring about the other person. Everyone can become a caring listener through applying the six listening concepts:

1. **Listening is active.** Focus your attention on the person and let them know your listening to them by nodding from time to time. It takes energy and commitment to listen well.
2. **Listening takes patience.** Many times before someone will reveal their troubles they must come to trust the listener. Constant, patient listening is the key to someone opening up their heart to you.
3. **Listening involves more than just words.** Listen to not only the words coming from the persons mouth but also what they are not saying. What words are said with a smile, sigh, frown, etc.. What is their body language saying. Do they have their arms crossed in front of them, are they sitting on the edge of their chair or are they comfortably sitting.
4. **Good listeners aren't completely silent.** Sometimes restating a persons thoughts to be sure you have the correct concept or asking questions that will probe a little deeper into their thoughts aids the listener in a better understanding. Also, it lets the person know you are actively listening.
5. **Listening happens over time.** Conversations can build upon each other. Certain thoughts may be revealed in the beginning but as time goes on we may see recurring themes or patterns to what is being said. Are there any contradictions from other conversations. These are signs that there is more to explore.
6. **Listening is confidential.** Building trust and showing that you care is maintaining confidentiality. Never share what the other person has told you in a private conversation.

Listening is a great gift we can give to one another and one we can all use to make Redeemer a more caring place. To learn more about the art of listening and many other concepts used in caring for one another please join us in our Stephen Ministry classes beginning in January. There is no monetary cost involved, only some of your time which will enrich your spiritual life. Please contact Carol Carlos for further discussion of Stephen Ministry or anything else you may have on your mind. 941-255-3354.

The Stephen Ministers wish you all a Blessed Christmas.

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love" Ephesians 4:2

Submitted by Carol Carlos

Building & Grounds



A great big thank you to Jim and Becky Heichelbeck, Harvey Sterriker, Harold Hale, Larry Gunterman and Ray Janssen for helping plant 61 pots of plants and shrubs around the grounds of the Fellowship Hall. Thanks again to everyone that donated the money for this project. These plants and shrubs were purchased from the Oak Farms Nursery.

Submitted by Shirley Ferguson





Thanks so very much to everyone for all the help with the newsletter each month!!



Thanks,
Leta Stender

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Red poinsettias to help beautify our church for "Christmas" may be purchased for \$7.00 per plant. You may include the cost with your weekly contribution envelope. Write "plant" on the line below Child Care or make check payable to Redeemer Lutheran church and write Poinsettias in note field. Orders must be in by **December 19th**. You are welcome to take your plant home after the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service or the 9:15 a.m. Christmas Day Service to enjoy at home during the holidays.



FLOWER CALENDAR



The Flower Calendar for 2008 is in the Narthex on the wall next to the Quiet Room. Select the Sunday you would like to have flowers on the altar. Only one arrangement can be used on the first and third Sundays. The cost is \$25.00 and may be placed in your regular church envelope. Mark flowers on the line under Child Care. For special colors, please call Laura Brooks at (941) 474-7514.

Submitted by Laura Brooks

Outreach

"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." Matthew 28:19



St. Paul, the great evangelist, was just like us—just a frail, imperfect, scared human being when it came to telling others about Jesus. We never think of him that way—he's the great one. "I could never be like him," we think. And yet, look what he says to the Corinthians.

"When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power." (I Cor. 2:1-5)

WOW! Our message is simple. Christ crucified. Don't trust in yourself to "convert" people—let God do it. Trust in God. He will give you the courage to speak. He will give you the words to say. He will lead you to compassionate action. Our Helper will always be with us.

Magnetic Car Signs

Because we are barred from putting up our weekend signs all about town, the Outreach Board is making magnetic car signs available to help advertise our church and child care. Someone will be selling them in the Narthex for the next few weeks. They are attractive, bumper sticker size signs, and the cost is \$5.00. Please purchase one for your vehicle, and tell our community about Redeemer. Thank you.

Yard Signs

Let's put our idle weekend signs to good use! We are appealing to you to place signs in your front yards, especially if you live on a main street or a busy street. Please contact Carol Haupt, 460-8830, to get a sign. Thanks.

Rotonda Christmas Parade

The next community event that we plan to participate in is Rotonda's *first* annual Christmas parade, on December 2, at 3:00. We plan to have a nativity float, with members and youth dressed in Bible costumes. We will pass out candy canes (with the story of how candy canes are a Christian invention—shepherd's crook as symbol of Jesus, the 3 red stripes representing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the large red stripe representing the life of Jesus, which he gave for us). We will also pass out our Redeemer brochures and our Christmas worship schedule. Hope to see you there.

LCMS Cross Lapel Pins

In witnessing about our faith, it often helps to wear something to get the conversation started, like our Redeemer T-shirts. Outreach will be selling LCMS cross lapel pins which we can wear daily to help get conversations started, i.e., people may ask about the significance of the design. Look for these pins in the Narthex also in coming weeks, on sale for \$3.00. They make nice gifts, too.

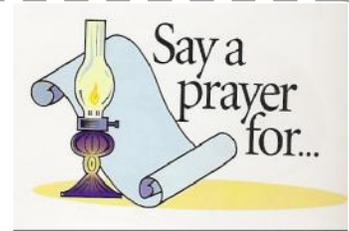
"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." St. Paul in I Cor. 3:6.

Submitted by Carol Haupt

HEALING:

Members
 Gene Eiler
 Mark Horvath
 Bob & Joan Johnson
 Lessie Kirch
 Cliff Larsen
 James Overmyer
 Helen Perry
 Lee Procuk
 Steve Procuk
 Rusty Queck
 Betty Rowe
 Katie Rudolph
 Jim turner
 Dorothy Waterhouse
 Lee Vandercook

Friends & Relatives
 Phil Alcantara
 Betty Best
 Jim Cleary
 Julia Earl
 Esther Gaskill
 Cheryl Harfst
 Debbie & Red Harrison
 Jack Haynes
 Jerry Hern
 Sandy Hubbard
 Estella Lewis
 Rev. David Maier
 Christine McCollough
 Tommy Palmer
 Gwyn Ramsey
 Nancy Panasiuk
 Marion Talley
 Ruth Turner
 Pat Vovcsko
 Cameron Wasiluk
 Charlie Welch



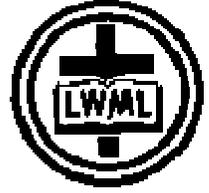
PRAYERS OF COMFORT FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF RUTH TURNER WHO WAS CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME.

MILITARY PERSONNEL & FAMILIES



Herb Bohm
 Gloria Carlson
 Ruth Jansch
 Tom McGrath
 Jaye Nistendirk
 Bertha Sandhusen
 Ruth Sutley
 Shirley Youngberg

Ladies Guild



Now that many of our friends are back from the north, we had a good turnout at our November meeting. Thanks to Jane Hoivik and Laura Brooks for being hostesses.

Vicky Davis presented the program based on the Good Samaritan Bible verses.

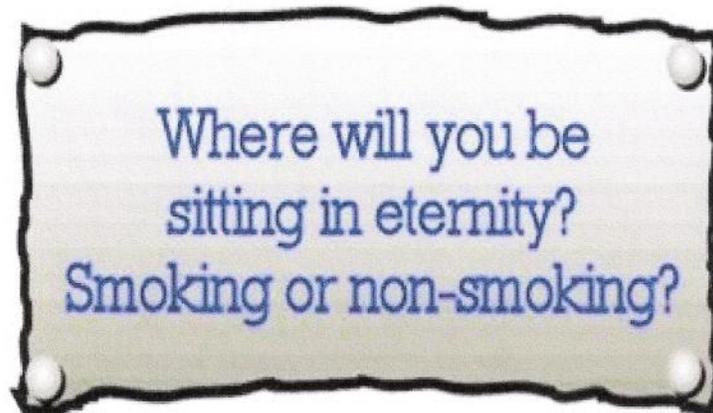
The Guild Christmas Party is December 14th at Rotonda Hills Country Club at noon. Laura Brooks is taking reservations in the Narthex following church services. Tickets are \$17.00 which includes entrée, beverage, dessert, tip and tax. All ladies of Redeemer are invited — bring a friend!

Advent suppers will be after the 4:30 services December 5th and 12th. Jane Hoivik, Pat Peterson, and Sybil Grahl will do the December 5th supper. Someone is needed for December 12th.

Door offering of \$4,000 was received October 28th for the Horvath family. Lessie Kirch made a motion that the Ladies Guild donate \$500. Vicky Davis seconded. Motion was carried. Thrivent yard sale proceeds in January will also be donated to the Horvath family.

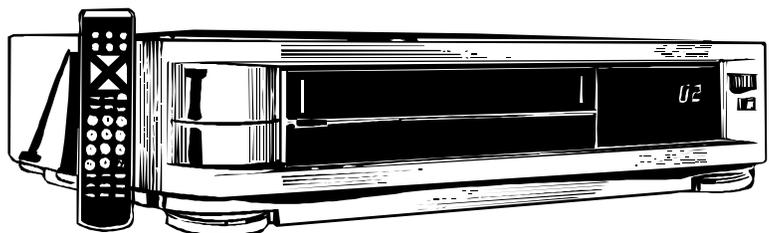
Bibles will be purchased to be marked and sent to the Prison Ministry.

Submitted by Linda Rogers



If anyone has an extra VCR they could donate for a shut-in, contact Sharon Grcevic at (941) 625-8107

Thank You!



GREETERS SCHEDULE

	8:00	10:30
Dec. 2	Ken & Cathy Mielke	Richard & Nancy Hall
Dec. 9	Joe & Phylis Lehner	Ray Janssen & Arlene Harden
Dec. 16	Clare Kieselburg & Leona Morrison	Bud & Marion Zillians
Dec. 23	Clare Kieselburg & Ray Janssen	Pat & Herb Petersen & Herb Bohm
Dec. 30	Joe & Phylis Lehner	Pat & Herb Petersen & Herb Bohm

Submitted by Ellie Ratzlaff



***Defeat the
Deficit Fund***

\$15,000 GOAL

\$3,045 YTD

MATCHING GIFT

On November 6, 2007, our President Joe Carlos was called by a member wishing to remain anonymous, making the very generous and Godly offer of matching dollar for dollar up to \$15,000.00 contributions our congregation members make to a special "Defeat the Deficit" fund.

Contributions are to be in addition to your normal tithing, and must be made between now and December 23, 2007.

To This end we have created a special fund "Defeat the Deficit" and will report the balance of this special fund in each Sunday Bulletin until the end of the year. Please mark your contributions envelopes "Defeat the Deficit" or note on the memo line of your check "Defeat the Deficit."

We thank God for His inspiration and guidance to all our members in creating this opportunity for participation in such thank offerings to our church and the Lord.

From the Office

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

Submitted by Pat Wilcoxon





HOLIDAY SCHEDULE -2007

ADVENT SERVICES

Wed. December 05, 2007 – 4:30PM & 7:00PM

Wed. December 12, 2007 – 4:30PM & 7:00PM

SUPPER WILL BE SERVED BETWEEN ADVENT SERVICES

Wed. December 19, 2007 – 7:00PM “*CHILDRENS’ CHRISTMAS SERVICE*”
(*ONE SERVICE ONLY – NO SUPPER*)

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Mon. December 24, 2007 – 4:30PM & 7:00PM (Candlelight)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

Tue. December 25, 2007 – 9:15AM

NEW YEAR’S EVE

Mon. December 31, 2007 – 7:00PM

NEW YEAR’S DAY

NO SERVICE