

REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - JUNE 2011

“That’s the Way (uh huh, uh huh), I Like It (uh huh, uh huh)”

The title above is supposed to be read (or sung) with the music of the song from KC & the Sunshine Band running in your head. That’s the way it was written. It expresses the very human desire for things to make sense, and (*when possible*) work out in a manner that is pleasing to us. We like it when life makes sense, and things go according to plan, and we end up happy and successful and so forth.

Unfortunately, life doesn’t work that way most of the time for many of us, does it? God seems to have an entirely different agenda than we do, and His approach to accomplishing the things He does is radically quite different from that which we would choose. For that is at the heart of the Christian message – the Gospel. When we reflect on it with all our thoughts subject to the Word of God, we have to admit that what God does, and did, is wonderful, and in the end – we win! But even then, God does things in ways that we find difficult to come to grips with, or even understand.

We just celebrated the Easter season, for example. If one of us had been in charge of planning it, we would have tried to come up with something less bloody and gruesome for the way to work out the forgiveness of sins. Who knows? Maybe God tried to come up with something nicer and neater too. But this is what He did do: He sent His own Son to be made human just like us, and then do what we would and could not do – be perfectly holy and earn eternal life. Then He put Him to death in our place, bearing the sins and guilt of every human being and facing the justice of God again, in our place and bearing the wrath of God against all sin, and against the very concept (and reality) of sin. According to God’s plan of salvation for mankind, the payment had to be bloody and extreme and tremendously awful and painful. And it was!!

God figured out how to do what some men are still trying to say is not possible. He took on human flesh and human nature and became true God and true man in one unified whole person. He knew all along how to make one death pay for all sin. He knew all along out how to make it possible for God – who cannot die – die! In working out the Gospel, God proved the truth and substance of the Word He spoke through the prophet Isaiah, “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:9). God just doesn’t deal with things the way we would, does He? It is good, better than what we can do, but different, isn’t it?

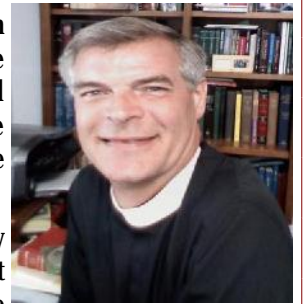
The result of His own way of dealing with things is that we have full and free forgiveness of sins and the promise of rising from our graves, just as Jesus rose from His, and living eternally with joy and peace and glory! These are all His gifts on the foundation of the work of Jesus Christ in His life and in His Passion, and on

the cross, and in rising again from the tomb on Easter morning. He pours these treasures out on us all to be received by faith, so that “He that believes and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).

Of course, there are those who say none of that is possible either, but Jesus proved that it is both possible and true by His own resurrection. Then He sent out His disciples (making them *Apostles*, i.e., “sent ones”) to proclaim this Good News. Naturally, men have made a mess of things, haven’t they? Because God did things in a way they would not, they have twisted the message and proclaimed false things. They proclaimed their own ideas about who God is and what He is like. They included their own rational (and irrational) ideas about what was possible and what simply could not be true because it didn’t make sense to them. They turned the simple proclamation of the Good News of the gifts of God into a sales presentation, assuming that men had to “buy” the story, or make a decision, or shape up and live right first before what God had accomplished could possibly apply to them. Some turned the gift of forgiveness and salvation into a prize to be earned – or bought!

You see, that is where it would seem that there had to be a better way! This year on June 2, for example, we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord, marking the end of His 40 days He spent with His disciples following His resurrection. It would seem that if Jesus had stuck around, visibly, He could have set people straight when they got off base doctrinally. Besides, there are so many questions I would like to ask Him as I’m sure you do too! But God had to go and do things *His* way! His ways are *always* different. God works in *mysterious* ways, they say. But when I think about it, God does seem to know what He is doing. He always gets results – in fact, He always gets the results He is aiming at, and I tend to mess things up now and then.

Okay, so it is an article of faith that God is right and I am wrong. RATS! The Apostle Paul seems to say the same in Romans 3, “Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: *‘That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged’*” (Romans 3:4). I realize that if Jesus were around, people would not necessarily agree with Him when they get off-track doctrinally unless He used His divine power to change their minds, and that doesn’t seem to be His way of working. Besides, if the Word



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of God was all that it took to straighten out the false teachers, the Bible would do the trick every time, wouldn’t it?

In fact, the plan of God was to leave His Word, and call men into the work of proclaiming the Good News, and place His power in the Word, that is His Word. So He caused it to be written down – just as He had done in the Old Testament. In spite of mankind’s appetite toward twisting and falsifying the great Good News of God’s Gospel, God has made it work so well that we can still find His Word, and it is still preached publicly by men throughout the world. If you want to find the truth, it is still out there, and being taught purely by some, but not by all. He put the power in His Word, not in men!

Then He took Jesus away, well sort of. He removed the visible presence of Jesus from the world so that we could walk by faith. You know, trusting in God above all things. Jesus promised that He would be with us always (Matthew 28:20), so He isn’t really gone, is He? We just cannot see Him or touch Him, or hear His natural voice. We have to listen to the voice He has chosen, and called into His service from place to place. We need to find Him where He has promised to be and receive Him in the ways He has instructed us to receive Him: by Word and Sacrament.

You know, if we could see Jesus as His disciples did while Jesus was teaching them, we would be paralyzed by the desire to see and touch and hear Him ALL THE TIME. I mean, we couldn’t be sure we were hearing Jesus’ word unless we could actually and visibly see Him speaking it. We would struggle with whether or not He was listening to our prayers, unless we could see Him listening and hear His answer to our prayers. Jesus took His physical, visible presence from us so that we could actually walk by faith and not demand to always see Him and at every moment. Since His Ascension, we have to trust His Word, and believe Him rather than trust ourselves and our own reason or senses.

You can observe the validity of what I write here by noticing how often people invent miracles and such things because they refuse to take God at His Word and demand to see a sign instead. In watching the *NEW* Luther movie, in his day, for Luther it was relics. Luther wrote that 22 of the twelve Apostles were buried in Germany alone, and that there were enough pieces of the “true crucifixion cross” floating about that they could build a cathedral with the wood. Obviously, some of their relics were not genuine. Today, we have holy places, and weeping statues, and people who claim to be in possession of special gifts that enable them to heal others, or predict the world’s end, or do other things that serve to take advantage of the desire of the flesh to see and touch rather than trust and believe the plain Word of God.

Faith is an active expectation that what is believed is true and

real. The writer to the Hebrews says that it is the “substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Those words have been translated a number of different ways, mostly to satisfy the uncertainty of the flesh, but the Greek words used here indicate that faith is a reality of sorts, almost tangible, and it is, for us, proof of the things about which we believe, teach, and confess. It is certainly powerful, because it is the power behind lasting hope and the patient endurance of things that simply don’t line up with how we would do things. By faith we understand things, and by faith we do things, and by faith – that is, under the power of faith – we please God, by grace through faith of course. The Ascension of Our Lord, that is, the departure of Jesus to heaven activates faith, or requires it and removes many of the stumbling blocks of the flesh from the path of faith in us.

We need that sort of faith today – a lot. Not the kind of faith that people often talk about, the kind that is a mere feeling, or an opinion with no power, not even the power to motivate the one who claims such “faith.” We need the Hebrews 11 kind of faith because we face lives of real substance and real pain, and real frustrations, at times. They are the sort of lives that challenge you to wonder why God can’t do things your way, because His way is difficult and sometimes unpleasant. Jesus even promised us that as His followers, it would be a difficult life; “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23).

See, once again, God is doing things differently than we would expect! I mean, if you want to sell something or convince people to join your cause, you don’t tell them it is going to be a burden and a pain every day! That’s not attractive. That would seem to be counterintuitive, that is, contrary to expectations! But God tends to like counterintuitive. He likes to go beyond our expectations and meet His own. Besides all this, He isn’t actually selling anything. He’s giving it away. It’s the gift of grace. And those who follow Jesus don’t actually choose to do so – Jesus chooses *them!* He says so: “You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit” (John 15:16). He was just explaining to those who followed Him that they were not called to a life of ease and comfort. It is precisely that reality about the life to which we are called in Christ, a life that requires that sturdy faith or at least a child-like one. Thank God that it’s His work and His gift in us and not the other way around.

But, being the unpredictable sort He is, God doesn’t just give it and let us ride along triumphantly. No, He gives it to us,

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“That’s the Way (uh huh, uh huh), I Like It (uh huh, uh huh)” --

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and makes us work *with it* in such a way that it *feels* as though we are making it happen and requires us to focus on it and do things which are helpful for it, like be in the Word, and attend to the preaching of the Word and sharing in the fellowship of the congregation, which is to say, attending to the Lord’s Supper frequently and faithfully. You cannot make yourself a Christian, or keep yourself a Christian by your own efforts, but you must pay attention to being a Christian.

I imagine that God could just give us faith and make us believe and leave us completely passive in the operation, but I suspect He knows that it would work out like those parents who give their children everything. Their children often have no sense of the value of anything they don’t work for, and they tend to misuse or waste so much of the wonderful things that they are given precisely because it cost *them* nothing. God intends for us to understand, appreciate, and enjoy the treasures He gives us because they come at such a tremendous price to Him. So, we suffer, we wrestle with the flesh, we do battle with the devil, and we learn very quickly how little power we have in these battles. We learn, rather, to call on Him, and give thanks for the gifts and blessings He freely gives because we can measure how completely dependent we are on Him. If we begin to think we are something, when we’re not, He allows us to stumble and frighten ourselves quite completely. But He never leaves us alone, does He? And He is always there to catch us and bring us through.

Human parents often try something of that sort, too, but they never have the nerve to really let go because they do not know, as God always does, how much we can bear and they don’t al-

ways have the power to rescue and save from the extremes to which we can put ourselves. So, sometimes parents don’t let their children learn the lessons, and sometimes they allow their children to destroy themselves, because they don’t have the power to save them when they need it. God can always save, and He does, regularly.

He also uses our misadventures and mistakes at different times to proclaim His grace in ways that others around us can see, or to do some work that He wanted done, but doing it in a way we would never even dare to think about. Great blessings come out of very difficult times in the hands of God. But we would not think of doing things God’s ways. Sometimes they are too scary, and sometimes we just don’t want to put ourselves out there like that, and so God works in those “mysterious ways” and allows us to face trials and temptations and sorrows and pains that we cannot understand until much later. Sometimes we never understand, at least not in this life. We simply have to fall back on trusting that God knows what He is doing, and what we are doing too – trusting in God above all things.

God is unexpected. That is, in part, because He is God and we are not. The Gospel is unexpected, but delightful! Looking forward, God is doing things in ways I cannot imagine in advance. Looking back, I could go on singing, “That’s the way (uh huh, uh huh) I like it (uh huh, uh huh)” – but, I’ll spare you.

In His Service,
Pastor Kress

Youth News

Because we are such great fans of baseball and we want to support our home minor league team, we have planned another Stone Crabs Baseball outing for Friday, June 24th. Again, all members and friends of Redeemer can purchase tickets for this event by calling Rich & Deb Kueker @ 941-698-0876. Tickets are again \$9 each. We will reserve the use of our bus and/or vans if you are in need of transportation to and from the game. The game is scheduled to start at 6:30 PM. We will plan to leave Redeemer approximately 5:15 PM. Redeemer Lutheran Church has again reserved 40 tickets for the game. Members of our Youth Group will have their ticket purchase waived, so call earlier to reserve your seat for the ballgame. PLAY BALL!

Submitted by Pastor Kress



Pastor Rev. James Kress
 Child Care Director Wendy Horvath
 Office Secretary Jennifer Steele
 Organists 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
 Financial Secretary Karen Kirkland

CLUBS/GUILDS

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

**2011 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!
 JULY 11TH - 15TH**



**Go wild on a faith journey
 with Jesus!**

Grab a vine, brave the rapids, and prepare for a BIG JUNGLE ADVENTURE! Kids (and volunteers!) won't want to miss a minute of this big adventure where they can go wild for Jesus! Complete with interactive and engaging activities, kids will learn about Jesus' amazing love all day, every day.

Volunteers are needed! Please contact wendy Horvath at 475-2631 if you are available! The following areas are offered:

- Kiki's Crazy Creations
- Bobo's Banana Hut Snacks
- Big Adventure Bible Challenge
- Faith Journey Bible Stories
- Jammin' Jungle Tunes

**It's a jungle
 in here!**

STEWARDSHIP

In June We Celebrate Father's Day

A good and godly father is one of the best earthly gifts that anyone can have. Those of us who have had good and godly fathers know this to be true. A good and godly father loves his children and shows that love by giving good things to them. In His Sermon on the Mount Jesus pointed out that that even evil fathers know how to give good gifts to their children, like giving bread instead of a stone or giving a fish instead of a snake (Matthew 7:9-10 NIV). Jesus went on to say that if earthly fathers know how to give good gifts to their children, then how much more will our Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!

We are children of the Heavenly Father because of what Jesus has done for us through His suffering, death and resurrection. Our sins are taken away because Jesus took upon Himself the punishment that we deserved and paid our debt in full! What this means, among other things, is that we are now able to freely and joyfully live as God's redeemed stewards.

A steward is not a slave who has to do the master's bidding; but is instead a steward who has the privilege and responsibility to manage all that our Heavenly Father entrusts to each of us. We call that by the title of "all of life and life's resources." We confess with the Scriptures that *"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it."* (Psalm 24:1 NIV) When we acknowledge this truth then we can grow

in our understanding of the difference between being an owner or a manager.

Dr. Martin Luther said it so well in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul; eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses and still takes care of them.

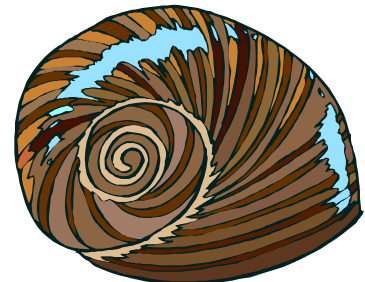
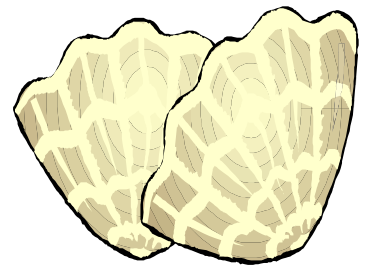
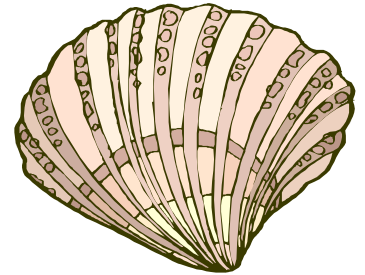
He has also given me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I need. He daily and richly provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

All that we do as children of the Heavenly Father is our stewardship—a response to His amazing grace and extravagant love.

THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE!



A Fresh Look at Pentecost

Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, on a day called Pentecost, the Christian church was born. Because Pentecost was a holiday celebrating the harvest (a bit like our Thanksgiving), the apostles and a large crowd had gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem. Many people had assembled near Peter and the other followers of Christ when "From heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind..." (Acts 2:2 ff, NRSV). Then tongues of fire descended on everyone in the crowd. After the wind and fire descended, all sorts of languages, known and unknown, came out of the crowd. Each person spoke "about God's deeds of power" (verse 11). No wonder Luke wrote, "All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'" (verse 12). The whole affair was mind-boggling and life-changing. The Holy Spirit had come upon many people; they knew God was powerfully at work in their midst. On Pentecost many years ago, some 3,000 people came to believe in Christ. That's why today Christians remember this powerful event as the birthday of the church.

PRAYERS

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

HEALING: Members: Marjorie Boliere, Fred Fernald, Cecil Grahl, Bernice Heppner, Dick & Lorraine Hughes, Bob Johnson, Cliff Larsen, Gary Lute, Sandy McGrath, Clara Mitchell, Leona Morrison, Don Plesner, Pam Replinger, Joe Scarangella, Duwayne Schoeneck, Ed Sita, Marie Talley, Barbara Wolgast, Ronald Woller, Eileen Zwick.

Friends & Relatives: Lorraine Agens, Linny Aspery, Grace Blum, Randy Bradshaw, Georgia Bush, Jack & Cathy Carlos, Julie Carroll, Shirley Chattin, Bobbett Clark, Carly DeFeos, Renee Dempsey, John Denick, Manual Galan, Glenn Galway, Malia Grayer, Ellen Hammerschlag, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, Bill Hillis, Robin Hincman, Jeff Hoivik, Tom Holt, Stanley Jablonski, Douglas Johnson, Heather Johnson, Betty Kabert, Rachel Kagay, Marinela Kandt, Julie Keck, Jim Lane, Denise Line, Sean Maki, Elsie Malecki, Dan Mason, Joe Manson, Patrick McCord, Vinnie Meli, Pete Mogg, Linda Mohr, John Molle, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Ann Nagel, Judy Nagel, Rev. Gary Nehring, Dan Niemann, Darwin Oliver, Charles Pentecost Jr., Mary Raines, Sherrie Rhoades, Delaney Saunders, Audrey Slusher, Nancy Sly, Michael Stio, Eva Tabbitas, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, Phyllis Tucker, Helen Weishaar, Cindy Whitaker, Gordan Winkel, Ida Wippich, Andrew Wolgast.

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

JUNE COFFEE HOUR

<i>June 5th</i>	<i>Claire Kieselburg</i>
<i>June 12th</i>	<i>Carol Sheahan</i>
<i>June 19th</i>	<i>Arlene Harden</i>
<i>June 26th</i>	<i>Sharon Grcevic</i>

Provided by Assimilation

JUNE GREETERS

<i>June 5th</i>	<i>Inge Tringali Dee Baird</i>
<i>June 12th</i>	<i>Arlene Harden</i>
<i>June 19th</i>	<i>Ed & Carol Sheahan</i>
<i>June 26th</i>	<i>Dick & Betty Clemens</i>

Provided by Assimilation

REMINDER

The Newsletter deadline for next month is June 19th. Please have all your submissions to the church office by that time.



CONDOLENCES

Edna Lehnhardt, previous member of Redeemer has passed away in Indiana. Edna's niece and nephew's name are John & Nancy Beelke and located at 449 La Grange Rd West Lafayette, Indiana 47906 for any sympathy cards. 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.		
Wanted	Work any job from A-Z, nothing is too big or small; cleaning, cooking, babysitting, yard work! Please call Sheryl (Twombly) Holden at 941-928-5238.		
For Sale	Like new, excellent condition shuffle board (ten feet long) Original purchase price was \$375 and is being sold for \$75, a great deal. Please call Judy Scarangella at 460-9155 if interested.		
Personalized Cleaning Services	Free estimates! Please contact Sheila Murphy at 941-473-1747.		
Lawn Care	For your weeds and trees lawn care, please call Todd Armstrong at 941-961-7584.		
For Sale	White "Champion" juicer, sold for \$267, best offer over \$60. Beautiful chrome insulated ThermoVac ice bucket, \$25. Call Sam Jollay at 697-5905. Thank you!		

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild can place two flower arrangements at the altar on a Sunday when two individual requests are received from the congregation. Call the church office with details of the desired second arrangement.

HUMAN CARE

We are so happy to have KC Wright join our Human Care group. She has volunteered to keep the "Care Notes" up-to-date. Please help yourselves to these notes located on the desk right outside of the church entryway. They're a little hard to find but they have been very helpful to many.

We will begin our regular meetings in October when all of our board members are back. We are still communicating via phone and email so we are still active. Lessie's Senior Fellowship continues to meet every Thursday all summer and the Caring Network is always available.

Redeemer's Blood Draw will start again in October, but you still may give blood every 56 days.

CROP Walk was very successful again. We asked Thrivent to donate their "matching dollars" to the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. Human Care unanimously decided to donate the \$500 to CCHC after researching it in many ways. We've received a thank you letter from Ms Hogan, Executive Director. She has extended an invitation to anyone or any group who would want to take a tour of this facility and meet the staff.

We have a couple of thoughts to add:

June is the beginning of hurricane season, so we want to be prepared. It is important to have non-perishable food on hand and have our medications at arms reach if needed. It is important that medications taken routinely are refilled as soon as allowed so you will not be without them. Remember, as we approach very warm days, stay hydrated and limit the amount of time in the sun. Be sure to use sunscreen.

"Listen to your body". Our body does let us know when something is not working right. It can range from discomfort in the abdomen or chest, shortness of breath, aches and pains that we never experienced before or that have increased in intensity. The most important thing is that you know what is normal for you. When you experience something out of the norm, please let your primary doctor know. He has the knowledge and skills to help you.

Submitted by Human Care Committee

CHILD CARE NEWS

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays at
3:45

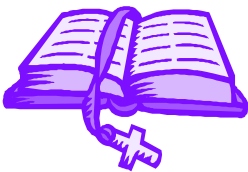
6/6 Jesus teaches us to Pray

Matthew 6:9-13

6/13 The First Pentecost
Acts 2

6/20 Nicodemus
John 3:1-21

6/27 The seeds that grew and grew
Matthew 13:1-9;18-23



[God says,] "I am with you always."
Matthew 28:20

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

Birthdays

Makayla 6/8

Scotlyn 6/9

Nevaeh 6/15

Ava Tosto 6/16

Kolton 6/26



Welcome to Redeemer Child Care

Cailey



Congratulations to our 2011 VPK Graduates!

Redeemer Child Care had
15 Children Graduate
VPK on May 14, 2011

Redeemer Child Care has a Facebook Page

If you are a facebook
user please find our page
and "LIKE" us!



Summer is here and we will be very busy with water days, field trips, the ice cream man, special activities and more.

VBS

Volunteers needed!

July 11-15

Big Jungle Adventure
A Faith Journey with Jesus



We are wild for Jesus!
And kids won't want to miss a minute of this Big Jungle Adventure. Children learn important lessons about Jesus' amazing love for them through interactive and engaging activities all day, every day.

Ladies of Redeemer Lutheran Church:



Hello from West Africa!

Thanks so much for your recent generous gift to support our work in Guinea - it is because of you and your partnership commitment to us, that we can be here serving the Lord. You are a blessing to us!



We have had a busy couple of months - it was filled with travel as we attended a retreat in Kenya and travelled to and from Conakry, the capital of Guinea twice and Bamako, the capital of Mali twice. We are now happy to report that we have moved into our own home here in Siguiri and have our vehicle now as well. It is good to have all that behind us. Our number one priority right now is our Maninka language study, and although it is difficult, we are learning. All of our friends and neighbors are so happy when we are able to speak with them in their own language even if it is just a little bit. We have also been able to continue working with people who have health problems or are in need of eyeglasses. We are feeling at home and have made some very good relationships. We have also been healthy - which is a great blessing. It has been very hot - the hottest time of the year - and that is a bit of a struggle, but that too is coming to an end as the rains should start soon - bringing cooler temperatures.



We pray that you are all well and had a Blessed Easter! We will be in touch as we are able - our internet service is very unreliable here. You are in our prayers as well.



Living in the love of Jesus,
Jack & Cathy Carlos

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School is taking an amazing journey through God's Word with Journey with Jesus Growing in Christ Sunday School. As we travel through each lesson, we will encounter Jesus on His journeys, and the journeys of His people in the Old and New Testaments. All of these journeys have the same purpose—they lead God's people to our Savior and our home in heaven.

As a reminder the Sunday School meets in the Narthex for the 9:15 AM service and opens with "Feeding of the Lambs" in church. We then walk over to the Fellowship Hall and come back to church during Communion. As always, we welcome volunteers to help teach and substitute especially through the summer months!

Submitted by Lisa Kress



U LWML U

2011 Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) National Convention will convene in Peoria, IL on June 23 at 6:45 pm under the theme "Being with Jesus -- Living on the Edge". No registration or badge are required to attend this opening inspirational communion service led by Dr. Kenneth Klaus, speaker emeritus of "The Lutheran Hour". The National Convention is held every two years and this year it is hosted by the Central IL District LWML. All attendees will be inspired and informed from hearing mission speakers, worship services, Bible Studies, selections of mission-grant recipients, the 2009 Miss America, and Kristine Stout, a hand bell soloist who tours the country delighting audiences with her joy-filled performance, plus many more presenters, exhibitors, joy-filled singing, making new friends and renewing old friendships. Peoria is expecting upwards of 6,000 attendees and many women & men from Central IL will be working the 4 days of this convention to welcome and serve all the attendees. Associate members, Paul & Vicky Davis, live in Springfield, IL and will be hotel greeters, ushers, and wheel chair assignees. Questions -- call or email Vicky at 217-698-4021. Thanks!

Submitted by Vicky Davis

Recently I received this and wanted to share it with you:

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside. "Your son is here," she said to the old man. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient's eyes opened. Heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed Marine standing outside the oxygen tent. He reached out his hand. The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man's limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night, the young Marine sat there in the poorly lighted ward, holding the old man's hand and offering him words of love and strength. Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the Marine move away and rest awhile. He refused. Whenever the nurse came into the ward, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital - the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients. Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words. The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Towards dawn, the old man died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she finished what she was doing, he waited. Finally she turned to him. She started to offer words of sympathy but the Marine interrupted her. "Who was that man?" he asked. The nurse was startled, "He was your father," she answered. "No he wasn't," the Marine replied. "I never saw him before in my life." "Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?" "I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just wasn't there. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed. I came tonight to find a Mr. William Grey. His son was killed in Iraq today and I was sent to inform him. What was this gentleman's name?"

The nurse, with tears in her eyes answered, "Mr. William Grey....."

Our prayer is that we, too, will be there when some one needs us. It is only with God's strength and help that we can do this. We are God's servants here on earth, to reach out to those in need and there are times in ALL of our lives, when we need someone to care. Stephen Ministry, here at Redeemer, is here to care for you, to listen when your heart is heavy, to walk with you during difficult times, and to even hold your hand. Our prayer is that if you believe we can be of help, you will contact a Stephen Minister or Pastor. This is our service to God and to you!

Submitted by Carol Carlos, Carol Haupt, Nancy Hall

LADIES GUILD

Dear Redeemer Lutheran Church Ladies Guild Quilters,

On behalf of the students at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, we express our sincere gratitude for the beautiful quilts that you made, and sent us. What a beautiful gift for the students. It is such a blessing to have items such as these made available to us through the campus co-op. We are so grateful for the countless hours and love that you put into making them for us.

The co-op is a blessing for students on campus. Whether it is food, clothing, kitchen supplies, quilts, baby items, books, cosmetics, coats or something else.... you name it, and the co-op probably has it! This is such a gift while we are in school, and can't always afford to spend a lot on items such as these. Yours donations mean so much, and touch our lives in ways that we can't express. Thank you!

We are a 4th year couple who were just married on March 4, 2011. Matt just received a call to be the Principal and Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Nashville, IL. It is small town about an hour east of St. Louis.

- Matthew and Jenna Wiefeldt, 4th year Seminarians

Submitted by Margie Cypher

Lutheran Bible Translators

The Canar Quichua Bible in Ecuador was dedicated on March 19, 2011. The bibles are needed to teach the young people about God, in their very own language! The occasion marked the first time the Canari people had both the old and new testaments, the entire Bible in their heart language.

Submitted by Margie Cypher

2011 VPK GRADUATION!



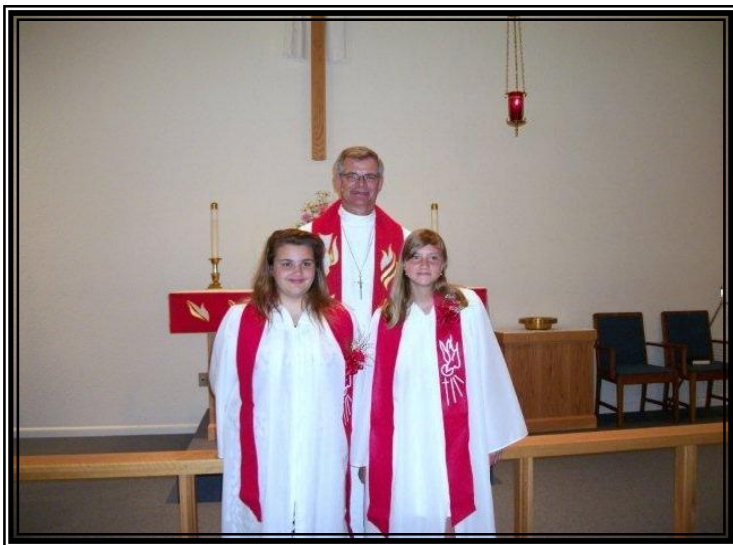
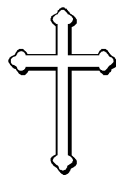
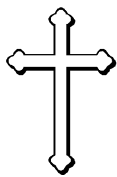
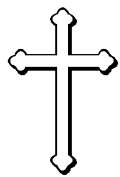
PLEASE WELCOME OUR 2011 CONFIRMANDS!

Please keep our Confirmands in your prayers as they live a life in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.

Alexandria Mur phy



Mar issa Demma

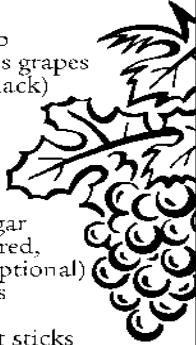


FROSTY FRESH GRAPE POPS

Jesus is our vine, and we are to be his fruitful branches. Have "bunches" of fun making this refreshing grape snack.

What you need:

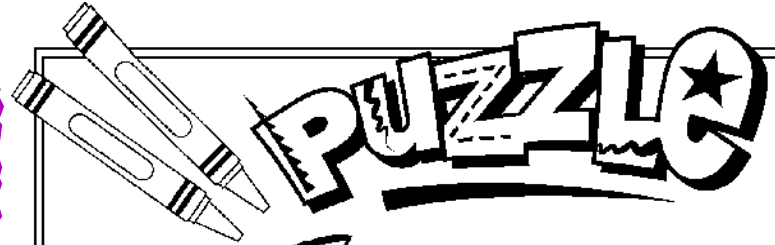
- An adult to help
- 4½ cups seedless grapes (red, green or black)
- Food processor
- Plastic spatula
- Strainer
- Mixing bowl
- Whisk
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Food coloring (red, green or blue; optional)
- 5 oz. paper cups
- Aluminum foil
- Popsicle or craft sticks
- Another 2 cups grapes, halved (optional)



What you do:

1. Blend grapes in a food processor until smooth.
2. With a plastic spatula, press mixture through a strainer into a mixing bowl. Discard skins and skim foam off the top.
3. Whisk sugar into juice until dissolved. Add a few drops of food coloring, if desired.
4. Fill cups with juice, spooning most of the foam off the top. (If using additional grapes, put ¼-cup halved grapes into each cup.)
5. Cover each cup with foil and insert a wooden stick into the center of the foil.
6. Place cups in freezer.
7. To remove pops, take off foil and tear away cup. Enjoy!

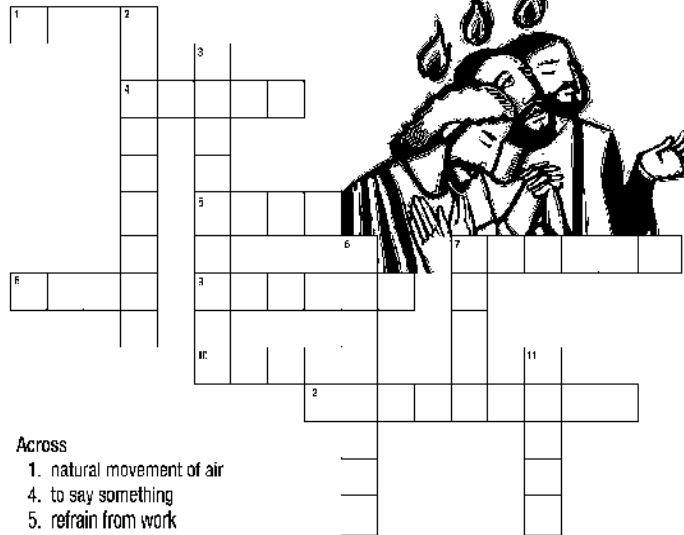
Variation: To make layered juice pops, make two batches of mix from different-colored grapes. Fill cups half full with one color, cover and then insert the stick and freeze. Then fill with the remaining color and freeze again.



The Spirit Comes

ACTS 2 TELLS ABOUT A SPECIAL DAY WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO THE DISCIPLES.

Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.



Across

1. natural movement of air
4. to say something
5. refrain from work
7. place where God is
8. a combustion or burning that gives light, heat and smoke
9. part of mouth that can taste and lick
10. the time between sunrise and sunset
12. the day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples

Down

2. followers of Christ
3. moved apart
6. quickly and unexpectedly
7. a building where people live
11. vibrations that travel through the air

Answers: Across 1. wind, 4. speak, 5. rest, 7. heaven, 8. fire, 9. tongue, 10. day, 12. Pentecost; Down 2. disciples, 3. separated, 6. suddenly, 7. house, 11. sound

Focusing on the trinity

Christians are monotheists, meaning we believe in only one God. Yet we talk about the doctrine of the Trinity. In the church year, the Sunday after Pentecost is known as Trinity Sunday. It's a day for focusing on what theologians call the Triune God — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Someone said about the concept of the Trinity, "You will lose your soul if you don't believe it, and you will lose your mind if you try to explain it." The bottom line is this: God (one Essence) has been revealed to mankind in three distinct ways. He is our Creator, our Redeemer and our Sanctifier; God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. On Trinity Sunday, we praise our Triune God for meeting all our needs.



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REV. JAMEST. KRESS, SR.

REDEEMER REPORTER

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WORSHIP SERVICES:

May - September: 9:15 AM

Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Bible Study: 10:30 AM

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 941-475-2410

We, the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church are called into the service of our Lord by 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