

REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHILD CARE - MAY 2014

"SOMETHING TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER"

This past week I attended Region 4 Spring Pastor's Conference at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Sarasota. The presentations given were mostly tools offered by Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). Some LCEF programs for congregations are free and others come with a minimal cost. Only God's grace is completely free and eternal. Anyway, our closing devotion focused on STEWARDSHIP. Usually that word sends the congregants running because we associate STEWARDSHIP with tithing, money, and budgets. Here's some food for thought: God is the owner of His entire creation and everything in it. We are managers of all that belongs to the Owner. We are accountable to the Owner and ALL He gives us to manage, such as our time, talents, gifts, money ... everything.



We have also learned in the Small Catechism under the first Article of the Creed:

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 also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house, home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily 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 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.

This is most certainly true.

Here is what was presented in our closing devotion:

BIBLICAL WISDOM TO GUIDE OUR GIVING

1. Let our giving BE AN ACT OF FAITH. God is the owner, we are the managers. We can manage what He has given us with confidence, for He has promised to provide.

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [food and clothing, the necessities of life] shall be yours as well. – Matthew 6:33

My God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:1

2. Since it is the Lord whom we seek to glorify with our gifts, let us give Him OUR FIRST AND BEST [first fruits].

Honor the Lord with your substance, and with the first fruits of all your produce. – Proverbs 3:9

3. May our offerings be made REGULARLY as AN ACT OF WORSHIP.

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as He may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come. – 1 Corinthians 16:2

(Continued on page 3)

Pastor	Rev. James Kress
Seasonal Pastor	Rev. Mark Steinke
LHM Ambassador	Rev. Earl Schmidt
Child Care Director	Wendy Horvath
Office Secretary	Deb Horner
Organists	Bill Bowers Lanette Schmidt
Choir Director	Collins Sita
Newsletter Editor	Deb Horner

OFFICERS

President	Rich Kueker
Vice President	Brian Abel
Treasurer	Judy Murphy
Secretary	Betty Clemens

BOARDS

Head Elder	Tim Byrne
Assimilation	Deb Kueker
Property Mgmt	Todd Armstrong
Christian Ed.	Pam Replinger
Human Care	Carol Carlos
Outreach	
School Board	Bill Bowers
Stewardship	
Youth	
Financial Secretary	Karen Kirkland

GROUPS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild	Sally Zierdt
Men's Group	Bob Mortenson
Altar Guild	Carol Sheahan
Coffee Hour	Lisa Kress

VISION PATH**Community Awareness of Our Mission and Activities:**

Are we physically isolated from the community? Have you ever asked a person who you just struck up a conversation with at the Rt. 776 Walmart: "Do you know about Redeemer Lutheran Church?" The response might be "Redeemer who!" The physical or geographical isolation has surfaced from time to time over the years as to how it has impeded the fulfillment of our community missions, and more relevant the attainment of our recently identified vision paths.

Over the last six months this generic need has surfaced more formally. For instance, several of the responses to the Synod-based LCEF Open-Ended Survey (August, 2014, pp. 2-7) included need statements such as: "that's the church off the highway"; "I am not sure many people even recognize our existence"; "I think the majority of the community doesn't know Redeemer is here"; "As a somewhat unknown entity"; and "nice little church if they ever heard of Redeemer". It appears that we really need to rebuild our image and create a visible entity for guiding our surrounding community as identified in our recently developing vision paths.

From another perspective emanating beyond the walls of Redeemer, it was expressed (LCEF Open-Ended Survey Executive Summary, September, 2013, pp. 1-2) that, "does a relationship really exist between the congregation and the surrounding community? A plurality of the respondents wondered if the community has much awareness of Redeemer. Still to be determined is the issue of making a difference in the community by engaging it as Christian citizens (p. 2)."

Also, recently from an external perspective, a report (March 2014, pp. 1-2) from a site visit by the LCEF Architectural Advisory Committee focused on possible expansion opportunities for the existing Church property and how they relate to the recently identified vision paths (January, 2014, pp. 5-11). This issue of community awareness of Redeemer, its mission and related vision paths has been addressed in the form of a recommendation:

The church owns 10-12 acres in a residential neighborhood with no immediate exposure to the main highway. Church does own a single residential parcel contiguous to its property but not immediately visible from the highway. A corner lot on the main highway and main road to the Church is potentially available for purchase. It is strongly recommended that inquiry into this property for potential purchase for use as signage and "community room" for large number of groups that currently use the Church facilities during the week. It is also suggested that this may want to become a high priority for the congregation. Fulfillment of the identified vision paths could all be met in the development of the corner lot.

Is this recommendation a "charge" for the Church Council and its ad hoc Vision Path Development Team to prepare a realistic strategic plan for the Voters Assembly consideration and prayerful deliberation? Do we need a symbolic locomotive (property acquisition and development) to move us to the fulfillment of our identified vision paths and the realization of our community mission? What do you think? Let us hear from you!!

Continued from page 1 ... **SOMETHING TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER**

4. Let our giving be done LIKE THE MACEDONIANS.

For they gave according to their means; as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, ... and this, not as we expected, but first they gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

— 2 Corinthians 8:3, 5

5. May our giving be done FREELY, CHEERFULLY.

Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. — 2 Corinthians 9:7

You received without paying, give without pay. — Matthew 10:8b

6. As in other aspects of Christian living, let us seek to GROW IN OUR GIVING.

Finally, our brothers, you learned from us how you should live in order to please God. This is, of course, The way you have been living. And now we beg and urge you in the Name of the Lord Jesus to do even more. — 1 Thessalonians 4:1

7. Let our giving be a RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that by His poverty you might become rich. — 2 Corinthians 8:9

We love because He first loved us. — 1 John 4:19

In His Service,
Pastor Kress

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND—LCEF

It's been almost one year since I became Redeemer's LCEF Congregational Advocate. You've read newsletter articles and bulletin announcements every month (for the most part!), experienced LCEF Sunday with Dan Reichard as special guest, and saw LCEF presence at our golf tournament in March. Information about LCEF has been in the church narthex, yours for the taking.

How many of you have considered opening an account with Lutheran Church Extension Fund? What's stopping you if you haven't done so yet? Parents and grandparents-do you have a Young Investor Club account set up for your special child?

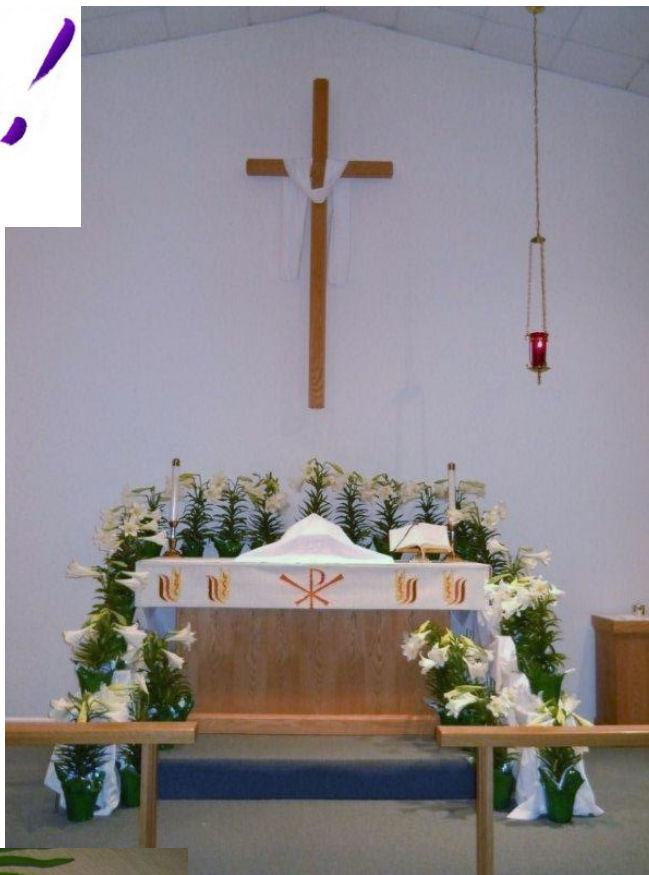
Redeemer has used the services of LCEF and also had loans from LCEF in the past. If the time comes again for us to take out another loan for moving ministry forward or for repairs/replacement of items at church and the child care center, LCEF will be there for us. Here's good stewardship news-the more investors we have with LCEF from our congregation, the bigger the rebate on the loan interest we will get. Over the course of the life of the loan, this is significant money returned to us to continue ministry.

Prayerfully consider becoming an investor with LCEF. We currently have 14 investor accounts from Redeemer. What's stopping us from having 20 or more accounts? As your congregational advocate, please let me know what I can do for you or what questions I can answer.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Steinke

EASTER SUNDAY 2014

Alleluia!
HE IS ALIVE!



UPDATE ON ANGEL



Beloved in Christ, many of you have asked me recently about our grandson Angel's progress with his leukemia. As many of you know Angel was diagnosed with leukemia 2 years ago this month after a bout with paralysis to the right side. The diagnosis was of course scary to the entire family but most especially to our dear Angel.

Although the path has been scary and has caused a great deal of family strife, Angel has been an exceptional example of bravery in the face of fear. He has undergone a myriad of chemotherapy treatments with the poise of a adult. Each month for yet another year he will continue to receive chemotherapy treatments. Every 3 months the treatment is administered through a spinal tap. Although most of these treatments his body has handled well, some have not. This past September he was hospitalized yet again with low blood counts and some minor TIA's. He was also recently diagnosed with hepatitis. The hepatitis appears to have been contracted through all of the blood transfusions he has received. This in my eyes is equally scary because unlike the cancer there is no cure for it. Although all of these experiences are difficult for a child to understand and deal with, he continues to be a child, he loves to read, play on his tablet, read to his brother and love his super heroes and his sports teams.

Even within the adversity of leukemia he has proven to grow exceptionally. Angel is now 8, physically he has gotten taller, his hair has grown back and he is maintaining weight. Prior to his diagnosis his grades were average, because of the diagnosis and the lack of energy to play the way he formally did, he has risen to an "A" student; this because of his new found love of reading. It is safe to say that even in the midst of trials God provides avenues of escape even for a little boy.

As you all know we do not know what the future holds for Angel but we are sure that our Lord is holding him in the palm of His hand. We pray for His continued mercies and protection for our dear Angel. We pray that Angel can maintain his wonderful attitude within this trial. We pray that our daughter and son in law maintain grace within this trial, remembering that God is gracious and merciful. Thank you to all of you for your thoughtfulness and prayers, and our request continues, please continue to keep Angel in your prayers as he finishes his chemotherapy in the next year.

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Jan. 2013 through Mar. 2014		As of Jan. 1 through March 31, 2014		Jan. 2013 through Mar. 2014	
Child Care Comparison Budget		Budget Expense	Budget Income	Church Comparison Budget	
2013	2014	\$45,072	\$44,796	2013	2014
Expense	Expense	Actual Expense	Actual Income	Expense	Expense
\$356,356	\$343,513	\$36,295	\$45,486	\$313,165	\$306,188
Income	Income			Income	Income
\$372,633	\$355,032			\$303,531	\$309,030

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - February 10, 2014

PRESENT: Pastor Kress, Rich Kueker, Tim Byrne, Karen Kirkland, Todd Armstrong, Pam Replinger, Bill Bowers, Betty Clemens

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by President Rich Kueker.

Pastor Kress opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES of the January 13, 2014 meeting were presented.

PAM MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. KAREN SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.
CALENDAR for March was presented. There were no corrections.

REPORTS

PASTOR: Report attached.

*After LCMS encouraged Thrivent to reconsider, they are taking a neutrality policy and will not support Planned Parenthood or Pro Life Agencies. Our Endowment Committee is meeting to decide if we will continue with them or remove our funds.

* Easter schedule will include additional services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Noon of Holy week and Saturday Evening, The Vigil of Easter at 8:00 PM. In the midst of troubled times we will increase opportunities for worship and prayer.

* 9 new members will be welcomed on February 16th.

PRESIDENT: No Report

VICE PRESIDENT: No Report

TREASURER: Report Attached. Rich thanked Judy and Karen for their good work. Karen said they are paying they possibly can on line.

BOARD OF ELDERS No Report

Letters were sent to delinquent members and following up with phone calls is now in process by Elders and Pastor.

Christmas cards were also sent to them. Keep them in your prayers. Pastor read the letter to the delinquents, "My Name is Church". All Council members agreed this should be put in the Newsletter.

FINANCE: Report attached.

HUMAN CARE BOARD: Report attached

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: No Report

Todd reported he got one estimate for the stucco repair on the north side of the church. He will go up and check into the steeple which is leaning. He added \$90 worth of mulch on the property. The Oak Trees need trimming. Rich said there is \$400 a month in the budget for Property Management.

ASSIMILATION: Report attached.

COMMUNITY & PARISH FELLOWSHIP: No Report.

YOUTH: No Report

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Report attached. There will be no Sunday School during the summer. The last day will be May 18th and it will resume on September 14th. Vacation Bible School will be the week of July 14th.

SCHOOL BOARD: Report attached. The Mission Sunday Program was received well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The portable speaker system the Ladies Guild would like to purchase for the Fellowship Hall was discussed. Bill Bowers will look into it and report at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter of thanks from Lutheran Church of the Cross was received for Redeemer providing bus transportation for the dedication of the Cross Monument Prayer Park. They included a check in the amount of \$200 as a token of appreciation. A note and picture was received from Elsa, one of the children at St. Johns Lutheran Community Child Development Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

TIM MADE A MOTION, AMENDED BY BILL, TO SEND \$100 TO ST. JOHNS LCCDC IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH AND GIVE \$100 TO REDEEMER'S ANGEL FUND. TODD SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL ... continued

Feb. 2014 continued

VISION PATH: Pastor read the demographics regarding our membership and a study of the number of children who joined our congregation since 2002. He explained reasons why Child Care needs a new structure and how we can use current one, increasing our opportunities. Tim said we need to get this information to our members. Karen said we need to show the people what a new structure would look like and how much it would cost. There will be a Special Voter's Meeting on March 2nd to be chaired by Brian Abel or Tim Byrne in Rich's absence, to give the congregation opportunity to ask questions and give opinions so that the Vision Path Team can move forward with a definite plan.

Pastor showed us the ad being placed in the Lemon Bay High School Year Book.

PAM MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. TIM SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm with a prayer given by Pastor Kress and the reciting of the Lord's Prayer and the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted, Betty Clemens, Cong. Sec.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING March 10, 2014

PRESENT: Pastor Kress, Rich Kueker, Tim Byrne, Karen Kirkland, Judy Murphy, Deb Kueker,

Pam Replinger, Bill Bowers, Betty Clemens

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Rich Kueker.

Pastor Kress opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES of the February 10, 2014 meeting were presented. BILL MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. PAM SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

CALENDAR for April was postponed.

REPORTS

PASTOR: Report attached.

- A nice Farewell was given to Ray Jansen in the early service with recognition and thanks for his service to our church and in the community.

- Our Lenten schedule of services is posted on our Web Site with the approval of the Elders. Wednesday evening services provide a meal between the services.

- LCMS has approved the change of the title of Circuit Counselor to Circuit Visitor so there is no misunderstanding that there may be something wrong when Pastor Rusty Levit visits our congregations.

- Our Regional Vice President, Rev. Robert Coon lost his wife this morning after battling Alzheimer Disease. He will be at our Reformation Service on October 26th.

PRESIDENT: No Report

BOARD OF ELDERS Report attached.

The use of the Narthex was discussed. The Elders have already taken care of the situation as posted in the March 9th bulletin and everything is under control.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Report attached. Discussion was held on how we can inform the congregation of what is actually going on in our congregation.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL ... continued

March 2014—continued

HUMAN CARE BOARD: No Report

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: No Report

Hand rails in the bathroom stalls are being looked into.

ASSIMILATION: Report attached.

COMMUNITY & PARISH FELLOWSHIP: No Report.

Meeting will be on March 13th at 7:00 to plan for the Easter Egg Hunt and Child Care Easter baskets. This is being advertised to get more recognition in the community.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: No Report. Mary Kay Straw is making phone calls to encourage the Sunday School children to attend. There are 2 class groups available every Sunday.

SCHOOL BOARD: Report attached.

Enrollment is up and everything is going well.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The portable speaker system the Ladies Guild wanted to purchase was purchased, is working well and is available for everyone's use. Thanks to Bill and Pastor Kress for their help.

Pest Control Another vendor has been contacted for an estimate.

NEW BUSINESS

Vision Path update: Bud Hardy made plans to meet with all the Boards. He will be meeting with Christian Education tomorrow. He also plans to meet with the parents of the Child Care children. The committee will be meeting with Greg Veste of the LCEF Architect and Design committee at no cost. His opinions for our continuation are highly valued. Bill said we can get reduced prices for engineering services for this project through Weiler Engineering.

Pastor sent email of a schedule for Classroom Opportunities given at the LCMS Foundation in St. Louis on Stewardship to see if this might be beneficial for our congregation to send a member to learn about these things.

Golf Tournament Tim said we are looking for more golfers, people for lunch, donations, etc. We have ads for this event posted at 3 local restaurants.

CORRESPONDENCE A thank you note was read from Rev. Mark DeLassus of Concordia Theological Seminary for our recent donation.

BILL MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. TIM SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer given by Pastor Kress and the reciting of the Lord's Prayer and the singing of the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted, Betty Clemens, Cong. Sec.

REDEEMER RED HAT LUNCHEON

The Red Hat Ladies will be having lunch at The Elks Club in Englewood on May 27th at 12:00 PM. If you plan on attending, please sign the sign up sheet in the Narthex of the Church. If you have any questions, please contact Lessie Kirch.

PRAYERS



SHUT-INS: Marjorie Boliere, Helen Perry, and Ruth Sutley.

HEALING: Members: Dolores Altmann, Carl & Betty Bertka, Elma Cancellieri, Sharon Eisele, Pat Finkenbine, Tony Grcevic, Arlene Harden, Bernice Heppner, Erwin Janke, Sandy McGrath, Helen Perry, Carolyn Plesner, Sue Poyer, Ron Ratzlaff, Michael Sanders, Duwayne Schoeneck, Earl Stuck, Clarence Sturzenbecker, Marie Talley, Fred Toth, Lois Webster, Arlene Wiley, KC Wright, and Friends and Family of Warren Wright.

Friends & Relatives: Anthony Abreu, Catherine Armstrong, Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Gioconda Barlow, Shirley Bloom, Grace Blum, Dennis Burchell, John Burtscher, Georgia Bush, Jack & Cathy Carlos, Beverly Carper, Diane Carr, Debbie Carr, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Martin Cressman, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, James Dodge, Barb Dumeah, Chuck & Barbara Ebert, Marla Flores, Manual Galan, Glenn Galway, Nancy Gleis, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Joel Heppner, Walter Heppner, Glory Herget, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Carol Holmes, Linda Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Carl Jennejahn, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, John Kearns, Jackie Klinger, Elizabeth Lynn Klopfenstein, Mary Krueger, Jim Lane, Ray Likowski, Denise Line, Sean Maki, Joe Manson, Pete Mogg, Linda Mohr, Mike Morrissey, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Rev. Dana Narring, Maureen Nesvacil, Charles Pentecost Jr., Pete Prior, Mary Raines, Ryan Sheahan, Nancy Sly, Debbie Speer Smith, Virginia Stanley, Gary Stokes, Sarah Sturzenbecker, Charles Tolley, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Steven Walker, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Reece Withers, Tim Wright, Angel Zavala.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Brian Jackson, Brett Keck, David MacLeod, Michael Monson, and Charles D. Weishaar.

Pastor and members of the church are always willing to pray for you, family members and friends. If a loved one appears on our prayer list above, please call pastor or the church office to give us a health update so that we may either keep or remove their name. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2014

We congratulate our Class of 2014 Confirmands: Alexis Demma and Mark Horvath.

The rite of confirmation provides an opportunity for the individual Christian, relying on God's promise given in Holy Baptism, to make a personal public confession of the faith and a lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ.

Matt. 10:32-33 Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before My father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I will disown him before My Father in heaven.



KRAFT KORNER

The KRAFT KORNER is located in the Fellowship Hall, around to the right of the Church office. This is operated by the Ladies Guild. We are in need of items that we may sell. If you are cleaning out, or have small items, please bring them to us. Put them on the floor in the corner of the shelves. Your "throw away" may be someone else's treasure! We now have some books for sale and welcome any books you may like to donate. With the Easter season starting with dinners, it is a good time to shop. Come check it out!

Submitted by: Lessie Kirch

GOLF TOURNAMENT REPORT



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHILD CARE GOLF TOURNAMENT FUND RAISER

The big winner of our 4th annual fund raising Golf Tournament is the children of the Child Care; your participation and support raised \$4,315.74.

Your support will make it possible for children such as **Daniele, Caleb, Isabella, Therin, & Brianna** to be nurtured in the Christian faith. Your contributions, donations, sponsorships and participation both in the Golf Tournament and the Luncheon have made this possible. Our thanks also extend to those who gave so generously of their time and talents to plan, organize and implement this mission endeavor of our church.

Philippians 1:3 "Every time I think of you I thank God for you"

RELAY FOR LIFE REPORT

Thanks to the generous members of Redeemer we made quite an impact on Relay For Life. All of you gave so generously with your gifts of money, your talents of crafts for the silent auction and showing your support by walking in the Relay itself. We may be small in numbers compared to other organizations involved but we are mighty in Spirit, thanks be to God. We are a silver team which means we made over \$3500, to be exact \$3818 to this date and more is coming in. Know that because of what you have done the American Cancer Society will be able to increase its programs which means more birthdays for more people. Their programs include research,



SINGLES LUNCHEON

Redeemer Singles Luncheon will be held Tuesday, May 13th at 11:30 AM. Where: Bay Point Grill – 3502 N. Access Rd., Englewood, 34224. This is located in the Tringali Library area on the left side of the road going toward Port Charlotte. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex no later than May 11th.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

THANK FOR SUPPORTING LHM

THANK YOU to Redeemer Congregation for supporting Lutheran Hour Ministry (LHM). Our donation of \$1698.77 helps spread the saving Gospel both here in the USA and around the world using various communication methods God has provided.

God's Spirit turns hearts to Christ as LHM centers in many countries touch multitudes with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Earl Schmidt (Redeemer's LHM ambassador)



LADIES GUILD/LWML NEWS



Our final meeting this spring was March 5th. We used our new speaker system and it's working well. Pastor Kress appropriately started off our Lenten season with a slide presentation about his trip to the holy land. So interesting to see all those places where Jesus lived and all the churches there are so beautiful. Now, on a sad note: Avis Stuck announced her resignation as Treasurer. We are so thankful for all the years she has served. She will continue until June, at which time an audit will be done. **WE NEED HELP - ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN SERVING IN THIS POSITION, PLEASE LET US KNOW.** If you have any questions concerning the duties, call Avis at 475-7862. *Thank you, Betty Clemens, Secretary, 941-662-5704.*



ATTENTION: ALL Redeemer Women It's Lutheran Women's Missionary League Spring Rally time on Saturday, May 10 at Faith Lutheran, Parrish, FL beginning at 9 am. Remember the big crowd that came to Redeemer last spring? This spring, let's support the women at Parrish with a big group from Redeemer. Registration \$7.00, make checks payable to "Faith Lutheran Church" and give to Betty Clemens 941-662-5704 by April 28. Time of carpooling from the church to be determined. "Gifts from the Heart" ingathering will be Health Kit supplies for homeless children in Manatee County and will be gathered at the Rally. As a small love gift please bring any of the following: hand towels, wash cloths, tooth brushes, tooth paste, shampoo or deodorant. Bethany Matzke, employed by Hope Seeds, Inc. helps to spread the Word by "Plant a Seed! Feed A Soul"! Her inspirational message will be educational and informative. Plan NOW to attend the LWML Spring Rally on May 10.

Submitted by Vicky Davis



A BIG Thank You to all that donated to the Bakeless Bake Sale this year!

Submitted by Sybil Grah

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HANDS

Redeemer Lutheran Church does not have a food pantry. If we did, we would have to run it properly. We would need personnel to interview applicants, keep records as to their situation, and how often they apply, and have a computer available and instruct them on how to apply for food stamps and what other help is available.

Fortunately, we have Helping Hands, and they do all these things and more, and they do it very well. Once again it is Redeemer's turn to furnish volunteers to work at Helping Hands, Monday April 28th – May 1st. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to obey our Lords demand to feed the hungry and help the needy. If you would like to serve, please contact Dale or Pat Whipple at 941-786-6116 or 941-882-2725.

I would like us at Redeemer to have a steady flow of food for Helping Hands. There is a basket in the Narthex on the right side of the Information Desk. There is a sheet with a list of items most needed on the desk. The list is updated often. There is also a box for money, but checks made out to Helping Hands are preferred.

Submitted by Dale Whipple, Church Captain—Helping Hands

The deadline for the June Newsletter is May 18th

Please have all your submissions sent to redeemerfl@verizon.net OR drop it off at the church office to Deb by the time indicated above.

Thank You!

ENDOWMENT FUND MOVES...

Endowment Fund Moves to LCMS Foundation

As some of you may know our Endowment Fund has for several years been under the management of Thrivent, through the Thrivent Trust Company. Earlier concerns were expressed by our LCMS President and other Lutheran Synod officials concerning Thrivent support of abortion providers through its Choice Dollar program.

Thrivent reaction to LCMS and other Synods expressed concerns, was to stop providing such support to both pro-choice and pro-life organizations. This promoted the Endowment Committee to question our continued relationship with Thrivent and to review what our alternatives were for Custodial and Investment services for our Endowment Fund, which would better reflect our Christian beliefs.

During our review of alternatives we found the required services in and through a totally LCMS Lutheran organization the LCMS Foundation. As a bonus to us at a fee structure less than ½ of the fees at Thrivent. Also there was some concern for our recent investment performance at Thrivent. All this encouraged us to make a change. As a result we have established a Custodial Account with LCMS Foundation. Recently we instructed Thrivent Trust to liquidate our Endowment Fund Account there and to wire the proceeds of that liquidation to our newly established account at LCMS Foundation.

In late March 2014, a wire transfer for \$502,000.00 has been received by the Foundation which will be invested as we have indicated in our Custodial Account Investment instructions we completed in establishing our Custody account with the Foundation. The new account carries the name of "Redeemer Lutheran Church Endowment Fund" and has the account number of CUI900027384.

Should you have any question concerning this change or any questions about the Endowment Fund in general, please contact any of our Committee members. They are:

Pastor Kress, Rich Kueker, Tim Byrne, Karen Kirkland, Earl Stuck & myself.

For the Committee
Ray Altmann

YOUR ENDOWMENT FUND

On page 13 is a chart presentation of your Endowment fund values over time since it was established in May of 1996. The Fund values are presented for the time of the initial deposit, the time of the first estate gift, and each year end thereafter.

The chart also indicates the significant events along the time line. This includes the Gifts received, the Grants and the loan the fund has made along the way.

In the upper right hand corner we have listed the current Endowment Fund Committee members. We encourage you to speak to these members concerning any questions you may have about the Fund and the ways in which you might participate.

The Committee wishes you to know of this important Fund, and how it supports our ministry. The Endowment Fund is a growing, active and lasting part of Redeemer's financial resources which will support of our many ministries, and services far into the future.

ENDOWMENT FUND MOVES... *Continued from page 12*

REDEEMER LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT FUND

Fund value over time, with significant events highlighted
Inception through 12/31/2013

	May 1996	May 2005	12/31/2005	12/31/2006	12/31/2007	12/31/2008	12/31/2009	12/31/2010	12/31/2011	12/31/2012	12/31/2013
FUND VALUE	\$720.00	\$192,559.49	\$200,171.60	\$222,042.24	\$233,029.61	\$188,982.10	\$185,267.75	\$490,682.48	\$451,395.79	\$479,042.20	\$493,751.00

Initial
deposit
Schilling

Anderson
Trust

Bohem Trust

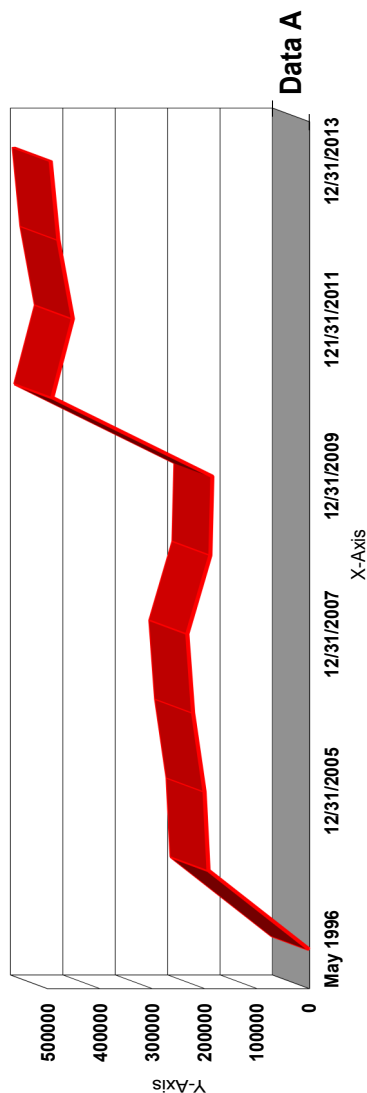
Grant 1
4/3/2007

Grant 2
4/25/08

Grant 3 & 4
Loan 1

Grant 5
Tricycle path
& equipment

Endowment Fund Over Time



Income Grants

- Grant 1 - Initial purchase of new Lutheran Worship Books \$3,600.00
- Grant 2 - Purchase and installation of Storage shed \$4,800.00
- Grant 3 - Support the New Playground and equipment \$6,000.00
- Grant 4 - Complete soundproofing of Fellowship Hall \$3,000.00
- Grant 5 - Tricycle path installation and equipment purchase \$6,000.00

Principal Loans

- Loan 1 - Purchase and installation of Playground equipment and creation of a state of the art playground \$35,000.00
- Loan is being repaid over 48 months with an interest rate of 2%

- Loan 1 - First extension approved in 2013. New payment schedule starts January 1, 2014 consist of 60 payments of \$287.27 with interest rate remaining at 2%. Final payment scheduled for 12/1/2018.

CAN YOU READ THIS???

i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uestdnatnrd waht I was rdnrieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdnrig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oerdr the ltteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt!

This mind boggling article was inserted to see if people actually read the monthly Newsletter. If you have read this please contact the church office and let Deb know you appreciate reading the monthly Newsletter. Thank you for calling and letting us know of your interest.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND NEWS

Wow! I Didn't Know That!-LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund) Pondering Points Part II

Did you know:

- *that the Young Investor Account has a **3.5% interest rate**? (0-18 years old)
- *that **less than 5%** of LCMS members are investors with LCEF?
- *that LCEF has many services to offer congregations
- *that LCEF has many types of investment opportunities for individuals and congregations?
- *that Redeemer has **only 13 accounts** that are credited to our congregation?
- *that even if you have an account with your church/district "up north", you can open one here in Florida?
- *that your money really is safe? LCEF has to have **twice the amount of money available** to back its accounts that banks and other investment agencies in Florida have. Otherwise, LCEF is not given authority to operate in Florida.
- *that even you can help expand ministry opportunities within our synod and congregation with just a small investment?

I was given the opportunity to attend the LCEF congregational representative meeting at the FL-GA District office in Orlando on January 10-11 to learn more about LCEF and meet other congregational reps. I was honored to represent Redeemer and meet the District "behind the scenes" people with LCEF. I learned more about the services that Lutheran Church Extension Fund has to offer, besides the numerous savings products that it offers.

Why do we keep letting you know about LCEF? What's the point? We all have investments, or have thought about having them. When we choose to invest in companies other than LCEF, we never really know where our money is going. A bank can choose to use your money anyway it wants. With LCEF, you can rest assured that your money will always be working to further mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, both near and far. Your investment will fund loans and services that are available to congregations, church workers, and RSOs of the LCMS.

When we invest with LCEF, we extend God's church. Hence the "Extension" in Lutheran Church Extension Fund. For the price of a dinner out, we can extend God's Kingdom and start to fulfill His mission command to bring the lost to the saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

Please see the LCEF display in the narthex or talk to me, your LCEF congregational representative. I will answer any questions you might have regarding investing in LCEF. Prayerfully consider becoming an investor with Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Respectfully submitted Laurie Steinke



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

CHRISTIANS KILLED FOR FAITH NEARLY DOUBLED IN 2013

Rev. Faye Pama Musa knew immediately why suspected Boko Haram militants burst into his home last year as his wife prepared dinner in the family's northeastern Nigeria home. His stance against Christian persecution in the divided African nation had long made him a target.

Musa, who served as the general overseer of the Rhema Assembly International Church and secretary of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Borno, saw the intruders near the front door of his home in Maiduguri as his wife, Mercy, prepped food. One of the couple's daughters, Zion, had spotted the armed men just seconds earlier jumping a fence.

'Today you are a dead man,' one of the gunmen reported said on May 14 as he dragged Musa to the porch. 'Call your Jesus to help you, Mr. CAN man!'

Zion Musa then begged the attackers to spare her father, a request met with a misfired bullet that caused her to faint. She survived but her 52-year-old father — a man who worked closely with Open Doors, a nondenominational group tracking persecuted Christians worldwide — did not.

Musa, according to the group, was one of 2,123 Christians killed last year due to their faith, compared to 1,201 in 2012. More than half of those reported killings (1,213) occurred in Syria, followed by Nigeria (612) and Pakistan (88).

But North Korea — a country of more than 24 million, with an estimated 300,000 Christians — remained the most dangerous country worldwide for Christians for the 12th consecutive year, followed by Somalia, Syria and Iraq.

"Like others in that country, Christians have to survive under one of the most oppressive regimes in contemporary times," according to a release on the report issued Wednesday. "They have to deal with corrupt officials, bad policies, natural disasters, diseases and hunger. On top of that, they must hide their decision to follow Christ. Being caught with a Bible is grounds for execution or a life-long political prison sentence. An estimated 50,000 to 70,000 Christians live in concentration camps, prisons and prison-like circumstances under the regime of leader Kim Jong-Un."

A sub-Saharan African country — Somalia — was ranked second on the organization's list for the first time. Islamic extremism is the primary source of Christian persecution in the country of more than 10 million and while the capital of Mogadishu is under more moderate Muslim control recently, converts from Islam are threatened with execution, sometimes by the al-Shabaab militant rebels.

"In Somalia, a Christian cannot trust anyone," one Christian reportedly told an Open Doors researcher. "One false confidence and you literally lose your head."

Syria, meanwhile, which had not previously cracked the group's list of top ten most oppressive places for Christians, ranked third last year. Like in Somalia, Islamic extremism powered the prosecution, according to Open Door officials, and many towns that previously had large populations of Christians have become ghost towns.

'The face of persecution in Syria has changed,' the group's World Watch List reads, adding that nearly half of rebels in Syria have a jihadist background. 'The influence of these groups that are linked to Al Qaeda and other extremist factions has risen considerably in the past year.'

More than 80 percent of people worldwide identify with a religious group, according to 2011 survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. Of those, 2.2 billion, or 32 percent, identified themselves as Christians, followed by 1.6 billion Muslims (23 percent) and 1 billion Hindus (15 percent).

The survey also found that roughly 1.1 billion people, or 16 percent worldwide, have no religious affiliation, making that segment the third-largest religious group globally and roughly equal in size to the world's Catholic population."

Author: Joshua Rhett Miller, published January 10, 2014

cont. from page 15... **LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

In spite of persecution, it is hard to suppress information in this digital age of communication. It is another critical reason members of Redeemer can support the outreach efforts of LHM (Lutheran Hour Ministry) as they penetrate this world of darkness with the Gospel. LHM Sunday was Feb. 2 -- yet, if anyone wants to contribute toward LHM, do so by the end of February. Put your donation in the offering plate anytime during the month of Feb. In addition, pray for persecuted Christians worldwide and for enemies. Also, "thank the Lord" He gives religious freedom in our country. Let us use this freedom to His glory.

Rev. Earl Schmidt, LHM Ambassador for Redeemer

CARE NOTES & NEW PRAYER NOTES



Don't forget to check out the Care Notes booklets in the Narthex. There are many helpful booklets to choose from. There are also **new** Prayer Notes. These booklets offer practical and inspiring ways to bring prayer into the lives of those you serve. You'll also find Prayer Notes that celebrate special occasions like the religious seasons of Advent and Lent, times when people tend to be reflective and rely on uplifting messages to look inward.

CARING NETWORK

Presently, I am working on the Caring Network. I will be calling all the leaders to up-date information. Some of our leaders can no longer do this due to illness, etc. We are in need of some new leaders. There is not a lot involved with being a leader nor does it take a lot of time. The congregation is divided into 19 groups which consist of 8-12 people. There are many people who live alone and have no one to check on them, etc. We are trying to see that they are taken care of with this regard. A leader is asked to keep in touch with each person on their list just to say Hi and see if there is a need. This is a great help to the Pastor since people will not call when they need assistance or even want to go on the Prayer List. If you can help, or want/need information, please call me.

Lessie Kirch at 475-3689.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

We meet every Thursday from 10 AM until Noon, followed by lunch. At present, bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert coffee or tea are furnished. We have around 20 people who come to play card. We also have other games for anyone interested. We are happy to have several attending who are non-church members. All are welcome. Come and enjoy the fellowship, bring a friend.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

REDEEMER CHILDCARE



Thank you Ms. Kitty for the AWESOME new "Story of Creation" mural you painted for the childcare after school care room.



MEMBERS THAT HAVE LEFT US...

These are the members that have left us; whether they have been called home to Our Lord, or they have moved to an address that is no longer in our Church.

MOVED:

Ray Janssen
2700 Indiana Ave.
Lansing, IL 60438

Helen Sturzenbecker
(Will update address when received)

CALLED HOME TO OUR LORD:

Sandy Sita
Carolyn Jordan
Robert Boliere
Evr Maki
Evelyn Ethridge



DIRECTORY UPDATES

This is a list of the most recent updates/additions to the directory. Please make the changes in your personal directory. Continue to contact the church office with any future changes.

Ray & Dolores Altman
722 Watersedge
Englewood, FL 34223
Cell: 941-830-1132

Mike & Sarah Borza
1884 Coconut Palm Circle
North Port, FL 34288

Dick & Betty Clemens
Dick Cell: 941-662-0027
Betty Cell: 941-662-5704
clemensbetty@yahoo.com

Betty Foster
btfoster41@gmail.com

Cherylann Galway
149 Sportsman Rd.
Rotonda West, FL 33947

Cecil & Sybil Grahl
Northern Address:
881 Woodcreek Blvd.
Traverse City, MI 49686

Eleanor "Sammy" Jollay
sammyjo42@comcast.net

Helen Perry
hperry124@centurylink.net

Betty Maki
6699 San Casa Dr. Unit L3
Englewood, FL 34224
Home: 941-460-6940
Cell: 941-626-2713

Joyce Redding
585-507-1656

Linda Rogers
linda8077@aol.com
Cell: 941-830-0011

John & Debbie Toth
2086 Placida Rd. Apt. #2
Englewood, FL 34224
941-662-8192

Charlie & Carol Vavcsko
Northern Address:
6731 Lytle Rd.
Corunna, MI 48817

Dale Whipple
Cell: 941-786-6116

Lisa Kress
lisakress1968@gmail.com

Cecil & Sybil Grahl
231-421-3471

Georgette Callahan
11042 Deerwood Ave.
Englewood, FL 34224
Home: 334-672-1877
Cell: 941-928-3149

Mike & Kim Horn
2356 Belvidere St.
North Port, FL 34286
941-716-0408

Dick & Ann Voelker
4530 Turnberry Circle
North Port, FL 34288
941-429-7930

Sabrina Boles
163 Cedar St.
Englewood, FL 34223
941-474-3169
Cell: 214-576-8075
bolessabrina595@yahoo.com

Robert & Lora Laurain
10421 Gulfstream Blvd.
Englewood, FL 34224
941-460-8992
Cell: 231-690-9137

CLASSIFIEDS

Sales—Rentals

Pineapple Gulf Properties—Glenda McDorman, Owner/Broker (Lessie Kirch's Daughter), 350 S. Indiana Road Englewood, FL 34223.
Office: 941-473-0300, Cell: 941-330-7922.

Cleaning Services

Free estimates! Please contact Sheila Murphy at 941-473-1747.

Lawn Care

Call Todd Armstrong at 941-961-7584 for your lawn care needs.

Construction

Call Rob Long! A.C.S., Inc. - Licensed General Contractor - Anything from full remodels, full lanai's, window and door installation and ALL phases of construction. State certified licensed and insured. Please call for a free estimate at 941-475-5008 or 941-232-6606!

Real Estate

SURF & SAND REALTY - Pat Whipple, Realtor 2350 N. Beach Road, Unit 3B, Englewood, 34223. I'd love to help you find your perfect home or sell it, because I really care. Please contact me at 941-882-2725 or 941-474-7755!

For Sale

Electric wheelchair/scooter—only used for two months. In brand new condition. Has battery and charger. You will need to a way to transport the chair. Please contact Deb Horner @ 941-468-3923, if you are interested.

LOST AND FOUND

If anyone is missing any items, namely eyeglasses, gloves, umbrellas, etc., please check the Lost & Found box located in the narthex.

GREETERS

May 4th *Deb & Rich Kueker*
May 11th *Donna Wolf*
May 18th *Linda Rogers*
May 25th *Carol & Russ Spooner, Linda Rogers*

Submitted by Assimilation



COFFEE HOUR

May 4th *Dottie LaMere*
May 11th *Laurie Steinke*
May 18th *Lessie Kirch*
May 25th *Clare Kieselburg*

Submitted by Lisa Kress





Redeemer Child Care



Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Tuesdays
at 3:45

5/6 Jesus Says Do Not
Worry

Matthew 6:25-34

5/13 God's People Share
His Word

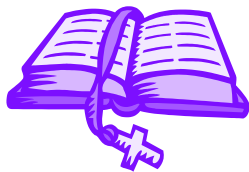
2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-17

5/20 God's People Share
His Word

Acts 16:11-15, 40

5/27 God Saves His
People

The Book of Esther



Dear Jesus, when I am
afraid, remind me of
Your power and love.
Thank You for faithful
pastors and teachers
who tell me about
Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

Birthdays

Alyssa H 5/9

Kyleigh 5/14

Brianna 5/15

Daniel 5/25

Nazareth 5/30



VPK Graduation



Congratulations to the
VPK Class of 2014!

Kyleigh, Jacob, Brianna,
Owen, Racanha,
Isabella, Grayson,
Nolan, Kellen, Therin &
Matthew

What We Are Learning

5/5 God Cares for the
Birds and Flowers

5/12 Timothy's Mother and
Grandmother

5/19 Lydia Believes

5/26 Queen Esther

Special Days in May

5/5 Teacher Appreciation
week

5/11 Mother's Day

5/22 VPK Graduation @
6:00 pm in the Fellowship
Hall

5/23 Last day of school for
the SummerJ

5/26 Memorial Day



Submitted by Wendy Horvath

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHILD CARE
6970 Mineola Road
Englewood, FL 34224

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED-OPTION 1



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PLACIDA, FL
PERMIT 774

REDEEMER LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILD CARE
6465 Mayport Street
Englewood, FL 34224

REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.

REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, Associate Members and Visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church a member congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

WORSHIP SERVICES:

November—April: 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Bible Study: 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 (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 neighbors as He served us.