

REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHILD CARE - MAY 2013

AGAIN, AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN...

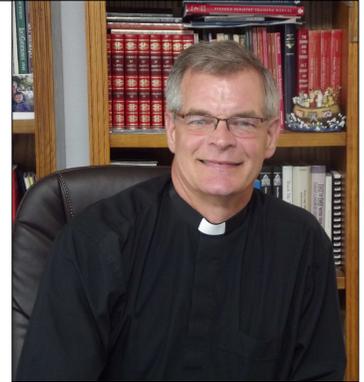
As many of you know, our grandson, Isaac is spending a great deal of time with Aga (Lisa) and Paw-Paw (me). Whenever I find myself doing something fun with him, that is, something he likes to do or have done to him, once the activity stops he will respond and say, "Again." This will go on for a long time; again, and again, and again. If I weren't so old, the obviously fun activity would go on for hours. Thanks for rescuing me Aga.

Some activities may not give the appearance of fun, but in them there is a great benefit received. Before every meal, we say prayers. Isaac will try to do what we do (make the sign of the holy cross and fold hands), and try to say what we say (the prayer before meals). The one part of the prayer he says well is "Amen." Our daily prayers are the things we do again, and again, and again. On Sundays, in the Divine Service you can almost hear Isaac say his "Amen."

The liturgy of the Divine Service is drawn from the Bible and it has been composed in a way that reflects the faith of the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. It is the Bible believed and understood correctly. The liturgy teaches us these things, and it does so by exposing us to these truths every week again, and again, and again. There is an old saying that "repetition is the mother of learning." The repetition of hearing and singing the words of the liturgy each week teaches us the Christian and apostolic faith, and shapes and forms the way we think about the faith. This is a process that begins with the smallest child and continues all throughout our life. It is not a process that ever ends or is finished because the words and phrases, the movements and actions of the liturgy invite an ever deeper understanding as we grow and mature as Christians.

The noted Lutheran church music historian and musician Carl Schalk who taught at Concordia University, Chicago has the following insightful reflections on this topic in his wonderful little book, *First Person Singular: Reflections on Worship, Liturgy and Children* (St. Louis: Morningstar Music Publishers, 1998, 13-14):

"Tell me again," children say, as we repeat a familiar story for the hundredth time, "Tell me again!" Some stories they know so well that they can say them right along with us. Changing even a word or two brings the instant response, "That's not how it goes."



How do children learn to throw a ball, to jump rope, to tie a knot? Repetition! Not mindless repetition, to be sure, but repetition which ultimately releases them from concentration on the mechanics and frees them to focus on the joy of doing whatever it is they are doing.

How do children learn to ride a bicycle? They learn by practicing over and over, again and again. Then suddenly – it all falls into place. They are riding! No longer consciously thinking about pumping their legs, keeping their balance, or watching where they are going, all at once it has come together – and they are riding! Free to enjoy the experience without thinking about the individual actions that make it possible.

This is how all of us – children and adults alike – learn to worship. Worship is best when the actions of worship are second nature, when we don't have to consciously be asking ourselves, "What do we do next?" As long as we are thinking, "What comes next?" or "Do we stand or sit or kneel" we are not necessarily worshipping. We are still learning to worship.

But what would happen if a child who has learned to move the pedals clockwise, suddenly encounters a bicycle where the pedals work counter-clockwise? Confusion and frustration would set in, not to mention the prospect of having to learn all over again how to ride that new bicycle. Which hand do you use to brush your teeth? Try

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Pastor Rev. James Kress
Seasonal Pastor Rev. Mark Steinke
LHM Ambassador
 Rev. Earl Schmidt
Child Care Director Wendy Horvath
Office Secretary Susan Moore
Organists Bill Bowers
 Lanette Schmidt
Choir Director Doris Dykhuizen
Newsletter Editor Susan Moore

OFFICERS

President Rich Kueker
Vice President
Treasurer Judy Murphy
Secretary Betty Clemens

BOARDS

Head Elder Tim Byrne
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Christian Ed. Pam Replinger
Human Care Carol Carlos
Outreach Ty Schulte
School Board Bill Bowers
Stewardship
Youth Dan & Rebecca Fernandez
Financial Secretary Karen Kirkland

CLUBS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild Sally Zierdt
Men's Group Bob Mortenson

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's that time of year when we locals look forward to reduced traffic, short lines at the restaurants, and generally a more "laid back" atmosphere in our community. Unfortunately, it also means no problems finding a seat at Redeemer on Sunday mornings.

However, the work of most committees and the mission work at Redeemer goes on even with the absence of our Northern friends. Financially, we are prepared for the lean months ahead. It may not be easy but we will get through the "slow" times.

Susan informs me that we still have many who have not picked up their new directory. Pictorial directories are available in the church office for those needing their copy.

Enjoy the slow time and have a blessed relaxed summer in the paradise God gave us. We have so much to be thankful for living in this area.

Rich

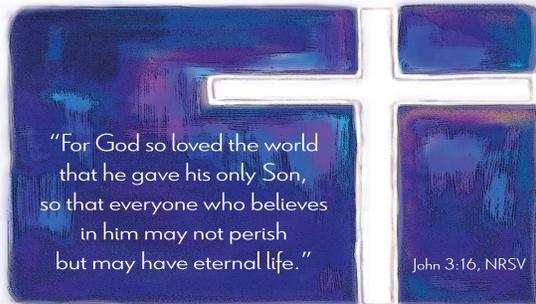
MOTHERS DAY

I want to wish all the Mothers of our wonderful congregation a blessed and Happy Mother's Day. May this day be as special to you as you are to your children.



Submitted by
 Susan Moore,
 Church Secretary

*May your father and mother be glad;
 may she who gave you birth rejoice!*
Proverbs 23:25



"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

John 3:16, NRSV

Continued from page 1 ... "AGAIN, AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN..."

using the other hand and see how uncomfortable it is. That is why the Church wisely uses the same basic forms and the same wording in its worship again and again. Once learned, they become the stable structure which both children and adults are set free to concentrate on what they are doing, saying, and singing.

When children – or adults – have learned that their response to the Kyrie bids is “Lord, have mercy,” or that they answer the petitions of the Prayer of the Church with “Hear our prayer,” they participate with confidence. When children – or adults – are confronted each Sunday with new and different forms, there is bound to be confusion and frustration. They may even feel uncomfortable, like you trying to brush your teeth with the opposite hand. Children – or adults – don’t know what to say or do, or whether they should stand, sit, or kneel. In the attempt to fashion liturgies that seem to adults to be more “interesting” or “meaningful,” we often place a significant stumbling block in the way of truly meaningful worship.

Children – and adults as well – need a structure for worship which is stable and unchanging. Many so-called “creative” liturgies only foster confusion and frustration by constantly changing what we do and how we do it.

What some promote as the way to greater participation in worship usually serves only to diminish or silence participation altogether. Even worse, they stop attending worship service altogether.

So let’s give three cheers for doing Divine Service in the same way week after week. Such repetition, week after week actually provides a structure which both children and adults are set free to give full attention to the content of the liturgy, and to catch its fuller impact, significance, meaning, and let’s not forget the benefit. Worship was never intended to be fun, like playing a game with a grandchild. Rather, worship is intended to receive the benefits which come to us from a loving heavenly Father through His Son Jesus Christ: forgiveness, life, and salvation – strength and comfort for today and the hope of eternal life tomorrow.

“Tell me a story,” children say. In the liturgy of the Church, in the Divine Service we do – the most important story they will ever hear or learn: the story of God’s love for them through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And we tell the story in the same way – again, and again, and again.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Kress

MYKALINA & ISABELLA’S BAPTISM

Mykalina Sabol and Isabella Fisher were baptized April 14, 2013.



THANK YOU.....

Many thanks to all for the prayers for our son, Michael Monson, who is returning home from Germany's Ramstein Air Force Base where has been the Mission Support Commander and appreciated many prayers. Also, many thanks to Mary Blakley for the lovely greetings she has sent them. His family will join him after he gets settled at the Pentagon.

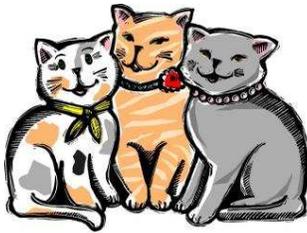


BOARD OF COMMUNITY & PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Anyone interested in exploring a very rewarding experience in giving back to the community and to the church, please prayerfully consider joining the Board of Community & Parish Fellowship. If you have any questions feel free to contact me via e-mail at JesusRocks01@yahoo.com or you can call me at (941) 286-4122. We have a meeting once a month on the last Thursday of each month @ 7 PM. Please feel free to attend.

Submitted by Ty Schulte, Chairman

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY



Friendship Sunday is approaching us on May 19th. This is a day when we invite all our friends and family to come and worship Our Lord And Savior Jesus Christ. The coffee hour will be sponsored by The Board Of Community And Parish Fellowship. The Ushers will be handing out the invitations after Sunday services on the few Sundays leading up to The 19th of May. Please feel free to invite anyone who would like to have an exciting and fulfilling experience.

Friendship Sunday *Submitted by The Board of Community & Parish Fellowship*



MANY THANKS.....



My most sincere and heartfelt thank you to Pastor Kress and to my Redeemer family for the many cards, phone calls, visits, flowers, memorials and especially your prayers in the loss of my sister, Gloria (Sis) Carlsen. The memorials will go to the purchase of a new cross in the Redeemer Lutheran Memorial Garden.—Jane Hoivik

*The deadline for the June Newsletter is May 19th.
Please have all your submissions sent to REDEEMERFL@VERIZON.NET
by the time indicated above.
Thank you.*

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

March 2013

<i>Income</i>	<i>Expense</i>
\$33,291.57	\$22,770.56

PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY

Please join us for our next monthly "Property Appreciation" Day on the second Saturday of the month, May 11th!!! We begin at 8:00 AM and continue until the last person has to go for the day. Join us in keeping our buildings and properties beautiful. There's a little something to do for anyone who is willing to help... We would like to thank everyone for all their hard work each month. THANK YOU!-Board of Property Management

LOST AND FOUND

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

LADIES GUILD

Due to the Zone Rally, as most of you know, we did not have a regular meeting. It was decided before we retire for the summer to meet May 1st, which will be our last meeting until the fall. We are having a SALAD LUNCH to finish up this season. We are sorry some of the Northern folk will miss this, since many had to leave already. Each person is being asked to bring a salad to share. We will meet at Noon for lunch, followed with a short business meeting to finalize the year. We will be choosing Officers for next year, beginning in the Fall. Please consider being an officer. If we can not secure officers to continue this group, who knows what will happen. LADIES do you want a group or not?

A special thanks is given to all the ladies who worked on the Spring Rally. It was a great success. Our ladies should be very proud. We now need to get more organized with our Officers, etc. Please consider. We will need President, Vice President and Secretary. What is your choice? By volunteering early you have your choice. If any one has any business to bring up prior to the meeting on May 1st, please call Sally Zierdt.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

SINGLES LUNCHEON

The Singles will lunch on the 14th of May at *Food Is Love*, 41 N. Indiana Ave, Englewood. This is in the same shopping center as Publix. SIGNING UP IS A MUST. EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT SURE, SIGN UP. This can always be cancelled later. We can always take out a chair, but it is difficult to add one when space is limited. The final day to sign up is May 12th. I will be calling in the attendance on Monday, May 13th. I am sorry for the mix up for April. See you at lunch. Bring a friend, or ask another single church member join us. SIGN UP SHEET IS PRESENTLY IN THE NARTHEX.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch



CHURCH DIRECTORY

There are many families who have not yet picked up their 'New' Redeemer Lutheran Church Directory. If you have not yet gotten yours, please see me in the Church Office to get your copy. I am in the office Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 3 PM.



If you are wanting an additional copy of the directory, they are available for a cost of \$10 for a copy with pictures, or free if you prefer just a list of the addresses/phone numbers.

Submitted by Susan Moore, Church Secretary

LADIES GUILD/LWML

MITE BOX IN NARTHEX MAY 5, 2013

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me." There is an extremely high rate of unemployment and also a large population of elderly in the St. Petersburg, FL area. The community of believers at Grace Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg has the gifts, talents and heart to refurbish a minimum of six homes using a MITE grant of \$10,000.00 which will fund building materials & supplies to build porches, wheel chair ramps and painting and repairing the exterior of the homes of the needy. May God bless our endeavor as we strive to serve together in His Name.



The MITE BOX will not be out again until October, so please take a complimentary box and save those coins!

Submitted by Vicky Davis



REDEEMER T-SHIRTS

Our NEW Redeemer t-shirts are available for purchase. The cost of each shirt is \$8.00. If you don't already have a Redeemer T-Shirt, please think about purchasing one. You can wear them at any of our community events, such as our upcoming Charlotte Stone Crabs Faith Night baseball game. This is an easy method of advertising our church. If you would like to purchase one, you can see either Karen Kirkland or Susan Moore in the Church Office. Different sizes for male and female are available.



*Submitted by Board
of Community &
Parish Fellowship*

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
T-SHIRTS
FOR SALE!**

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

We would love to have you join us for a fun time of playing cards on Thursdays from 10 AM until Noon. We can use more players. There are several different games we play, take your choice. Followed by games, we break for lunch. Presently everyone is brown bagging. Dessert, coffee and tea are furnished. Tell your friends and join us!

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

It's that time of year again when we go to one service on Sunday Mornings.

The schedule is as follows:

- 8:30 AM Adult Bible Class
- 9:15 AM Divine Service
- 9:15 AM Sunday School



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING—MARCH 11, 2013

PRESENT: Tim Byrne, Bill Bowers, Carol Carlos, Karen Kirkland, Deb Kueker, Betty Clemens

Tim Byrne, acting President, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with prayer.

MINUTES of the February 11, 2013 meeting were reviewed. BILL MOVED, KAREN SECONDED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

CALENDAR for April was presented and accepted.

REPORTS

PASTOR: Report attached.

* Funeral Violet Panetta 2-18

* Removal of members: - Ermand & Mary Citrone, to Nashville; Alex Ruccatano, to New Jersey; Alyssa Eisele, to Tampa; Jason Schultz, attending another church

* Removal of Associate members - Barbara Steinwehe (Bishop), and Richard & Nancy Hall, to Lakeside;
Dave & Gayle DeBraccio, no longer attending;
Don Hagerman and Ruth Markwart, deceased

* New Members: 3-17

Transfer: Michael Currey, (son, Jackson) Resurrection Lutheran Church, Pensacola

Confirmation: Brian Abel, Rotonda West, FL

Associate Members: Ralph & Willa Bockstahler, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Calendia MI
Dorothy "Dotti" Massei, Grace Lutheran Church, Chester, VA
Jim & Bonne Schluentz, Grace Lutheran Church, Elk Rapids, MI
Shirley Wagner, St. Peter's Luther Church, Columbus, IN

* Quilters Dedication of Quilts, Dresses, and Shorts: 3-17

* Season of Lent Schedule: Midweek Services: Mar. 6th, 13th & 20th

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, Mar. 28th and Good Friday, Mar. 29th

* Easter Sunday: Preaching: Rev. Earl Schmidt; Lector: Rev. Mark Steinke;

Celebrant & Liturgist: Rev. James Kress

* Seasonal Pastor Schedule: March 10th and April 21st

* Small Group Study: Joe & Carol Carlos - Worry (4th Friday @ 7 PM)

Bob & Marion Buie-Heaven and Hell (2nd & 4th Thursday @ 1:30 PM)

Tim & Mary Ann Frees-God Esteem (2nd & 4th Thursday @ 7 PM)

Lisa Kress (women's study)-Bless These Lips (1st Tuesday @ 7 PM)

Dick & Betty Clemens-Decisions (1st & 3rd Monday @ 10:30 AM)

Rev. Earl & Lanette Schmidt-Bible Wisdom (Wednesday @ 7 PM)

PRESIDENT: Absent, No Report

ELDERS: Report attached.

* Approved removals, transfer, etc. in Pastor's report.

* Dale Whipple resigned as Elder (personal reasons)

* Pastor Schmidt will reorder LRM pamphlets

* Sub Committee: Kevin Hopkins, Tommy Kirkland, Gary Lute, Tim Byrne & Bob Buie was formed to look into Church and Facility's safety measures.

* Next meeting April 2, 2013 @ 6:30 PM.

TREASURER: Report attached.

* Audit has been completed.

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(Continued from page 7)

HUMAN CARE BOARD: No report. Decision was made not to have a Health Fair.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: No Report.

ASSIMILATION: Report attached.

* Coffee Hour: Summer month coverage discussed to cover lack of committee members.

* Pictorial Directory is done and will be distributed this Sunday. Expression of Appreciation was discussed for everyone who worked on this project.

* New Members: Each person or couple will have a sponsor from our committee.

* April Luncheon: In gratitude for those who helped our committee meet its needs.

COMMUNITY & PARISH FELLOWSHIP: Report attached.

* All is going well and the BCPF Board is looking forward to the Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Report attached.

* Cradle roll is current & up to date.

* Children will be processing and singing on Palm Sunday. No Sunday School on Easter.

* VBS will be held from July 8 through 12. Karen will notify the press. Theme - Go Tell It on the Mountain. The children will be singing on July 14th.

* Rally Day will be August 4th and will include installation of Sunday School teachers and Child Care staff. No Sunday School on this day.

* Next meeting will be on April 9th at 6:00 PM.

YOUTH: No report.

SCHOOL BOARD: Report attached.

* Golf outing was a success with over \$2,600 raised. Next year Tim Byrne will Chair a committee.

* 81 students are enrolled. Thanks be to God.

* Someone tried to break into the building. They shut off the power and damaged the back door, but didn't get in. Preventive measures were discussed.

BILL MADE A MOTION TO REQUEST APPROVAL FROM THE CONGREGATION AT THE NEXT VOTER'S MEETING FOR USE OF THE FUNDS APPROVED BY THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE BIKE TRACK. KAREN SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank you note from Child Care signed by Wendy and Lisa was read thanking the Council for forgiveness of their debt.

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

The meeting closed at 7:25 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Clemens

Congregation Secretary

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS



Many scientists teach us that we have much evidence that the world was made millions of years ago. The Bible teaches us that we have much evidence that the world was made thousands of years ago. In an interview, Bill Nye the "Science Guy" told the world that anyone who would teach their child that the world is not billions of years old should be accused of child abuse. Who is right? Bill Nye and many other scientists or the Bible telling the account of someone who was actually present at creation? Come to Bible Study on Sundays at 8:30 AM as Rev. Steinke leads us in a study of Genesis 1-11, from Creation to Noah. *Submitted by Rev. Mark Steinke*

PRAYERS



SHUT-INS: Marjorie Boliere, Evelyn Etheridge, Erv Maki, Clara Mitchell, and Ruth Sutley.

HEALING: Members: Bob Aldene, Delores Altmann, Bill Balogh Jr., Stacy Bowers, Elma Cancellieri, Fred Fernald, Donna Hansen, Sharon Harris, Bernice Heppner, Peg Leverenz, Sandi McGrath, James Moore, Carolyn Plesner, Ron Ratzlaff, Bonnie Roussin, Michael Sanders, Duwayne Schoeneck, Sandy Sita, Edda Specht, Marie Talley, Arlene Wiley and Ronald Woller.

Friends & Relatives: Michael Aldene, Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Grace Blum, Georgia Bush, Jack & Cathy Carlos, Debbie Carr, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Family & Friends of Ute Daniels, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Manual Galan, Glenn Galway, Nancy Gleis, Lucas Hall, Debbie Harrison, John Haupt, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Joel Heppner, Walter Heppner, Glory Herget, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Tom Holt, Irvin Hopkins, Linda Hunter, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Carl Jennejahn, Douglas Johnson, Heather Johnson, Betty Kabert, Rachel Kagay, John Kearns, Family & Friends of Bill Keller, Jackie Klinger, Mary Krueger, Jim Lane, Family & Friends of Tom Leverenz, Harold Lowe, Don Luffingwell, Sean Maki, Elsie Malecki, Joe Manson, Pete Mogg, Linda Mohr, Mike Morrissey, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Maureen Nesvacil, Dan Niemann, Darwin & Noreen Oliver, Charles Pentecost Jr., Mary Raines, Ryan Sheahan, Nancy Sly, Debbie Speer Smith, Virginia Stanley, Marj Sterriker, Gary Stokes, Sarah Sturzenbecker, Eva Tabbitas, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Dick & Ann Voelker, Pat Vovcsko, Heath Weichmann, Tom Watkins, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Reece Withers, Angel Zavala.

Military Personnel: Michael Canavan, Brian Jackson, Brett Keck, Michael Monson.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We would like to extend an invitation to all the children of Redeemer Lutheran Church and to all the children of the Child Care to join us on Sundays at 9:15 AM for Sunday School. The children will start and end with the Divine Service. This invitation also extends to all children in the area as well. If you know any children who would enjoy learning about the Lord, please invite them to attend. We look forward to seeing more and more children join us and experience the love of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, as we learn about the things he has done for us!



Submitted by Redeemer Lutheran Church Sunday School

DEAR REDEEMER FAMILY.....

Thanks so much for all the lovely gifts and kind words that you gave to me on the occasion of my retirement as Music Director. It was a job that I loved! I hope that the next director will enjoy the position as much as I have! Especially working with our fantastic choir. Thanks again!! Doris Dykhuizen

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 36” White Storm Door - \$75 OBO. Call Carolyn Plesner (941) 423-0586

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.

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 is preferred.

Submitted by Dale Whipple, Church Captain-Helping Hands



GREETERS	
May 5th:	Ed & Carol Sheahan
May 12th:	Carol & Susie Haupt
May 19th:	Lessie Kirch
May 26th:	Earl & Avis Stuck
<i>Submitted by Assimilation</i>	

COFFEE HOUR	
May 5th:	Jane Hoivik Linda Rogers
May 12th:	Carol Spooner Linda Rogers
May 19th:	Board of Community & Parish Fellowship
May 26th:	Karen Kirkland Elma Cancellieri
<i>Submitted by Assimilation</i>	

STEPHEN MINSITRY

The Call To Care, Cont.

Caring is expressing good intentions through loving, appropriate deeds. You can bring hope and encouragement to someone suffering through your loving deeds.

There are practical principles to aid you in caring effectively. This month we will begin with the first of the six caring actions.

You can write a personal note. Send a store bought card with some personal writing. Write a note on stationary or a blank card. Focus on the suffering person and their crisis. They may not feel very cared for if you write about news going on with the acquaintances you both know. Helpful messages may begin with---I'm sorry to hear about your--- You have been on my mind---This must be difficult---It hurts to know that you are going through this---My heart goes out to you--- _____ told me about your setback.

As you are writing imagine the other person is right there with you. Write with your heart and not just your head. Pour out your emotions to the individual. Let your message express how you feel inside when thinking about the person in crisis.

"Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Submitted by the Board of Stephen Ministry



CLASSES FOR INQUIRING MINDS

A number of you attending Divine Service here at Redeemer have inquired about membership to our church. Holy Scripture and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church show that fellowship is being one in spirit and one in doctrine (Ephesians 4:4-6). Jesus says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Therefore, Redeemer Lutheran Church will provide classes for instruction for both children as well as adults. Our next session of Instruction Classes for adults started **Tuesday, April 16th beginning at 7:00 pm**. These classes will run over a period of Tuesday's & Thursday's during the months of April and May. These classes will be conducted for a total of 10 required class periods according to the schedule below:

Thursday, May 2nd

Thursday, May 9th

Tuesday, May 14th

Thursday, May 16th

Tuesday, May 21st

Thursday, May 23rd

It is important that you attend all classes. In the event you are unable to make a class, please contact Pastor Kress at (941) 979-2976. At the completion of these classes you will have the opportunity to become a confirmed member of Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care through the Rite of Confirmation on **Sunday, May 26th at 9:15 AM**.

I look forward to seeing you not only during class time, but certainly during our worship services. If you have any questions, or if I can be of help with some specific need, please give me a call. These classes are also open to members, associate members, and those who simply have questions about what we believe, teach, and confess.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jim Kress

A MOTHER'S DAY POEM

WHEN GOD PLANTED HIS GARDEN

When the wise God planted His garden,
 Scattering the seeds from above,
 The choicest seed in His packet
 Was the flower of Mother-love.

Carefully watched o'er and tended,
 Nurtured by sunshine and shower,
 Ever growing sturdy and stronger,
 It blooms- a beautiful flower.

A flower so sweet and entrancing,
 Dazzling and shining and white,
 A love that guards us and guides us
 Through life ~ our beacon light.

A love that steadies our footsteps,
 That stretches a helpful hand,
 That comforts our sorrows and heartaches,
 That always will understand.

Mother-love, God's gift to His children,
 With heavenly fragrance fraught;
 The brightest flower in God's garden,
 His truest forget-me-not.

~ Author unknown

YOUTH GROUP

The Board of Youth would like to thank the many members of the church and child care who helped with our Youth Car Wash Fundraiser on Saturday, April 20th. We had a lot of fun working together cleaning cars and other vehicles, and also getting a little wet. We also would like to thank all the members of the church and child care who supported the car wash by making donations when getting your car washed.

Although we are not professionals, we do hope you were satisfied with the cleanliness of your car. Again, the money raised will be going to Sandra Jahns, who is doing mission work at a Bible School in Slovakia. — Dan & Rebecca Fernandez, Youth Directors



CHILDREN'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday--March 31, 2013

What a beautiful morning it was for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. We started off with juice and light snacks as the children awaited the reading of the Easter Story from Kevin Hopkins. After story time, all the children gathered outside where 1000 toy filled Easter Eggs awaited them. With approximately 30 children, it did not take very long to find all of the hidden eggs. After the Easter Egg Hunt, the children went back into the Fellowship Hall where they were greeted by the Sunday School teachers. They were given little Easter baskets and a surprise! Judy Murphy brought in Beanie Babies for each of the children in attendance. The smiles on the children's faces spoke volumes on the fun they were having. Many thanks go to all those that helped to make this day possible...Karen Kirkland, Tricia Hopkins, Kevin Hopkins, Ty Schulte, Susan Moore, James Moore, Judy Murphy, Pam Replinger, Bill Bowers, & and to all who donated candy. And of course we can not forget Pastor Kress for the guidance and support as both the Board of Christian Education and the Board of Community & Parish Fellowship worked together to make this all possible. We can't forget the squirrel who had some fun too! Until next year.....

Submitted by Board of Christian Education & Board of Community & Parish Fellowship.



EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday--March 31, 2013 Continued

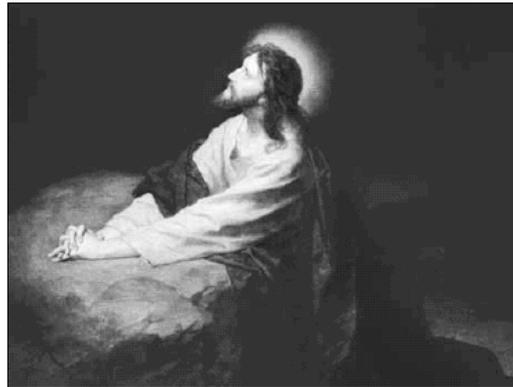


STEWARDSHIP

“Reaping What You Sow”

In 2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV) St. Paul wrote: “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” In many parts of our country during this month of May gardens will be turning green as new plants spring from the ground and begin the process of producing fruits, vegetables and flowers. If you have ever planted hills of seeds, like beans or cucumbers, you probably know how true these words of St. Paul are. Plant only one or perhaps two seeds in each hill and you will not have the same results that you would have if you had planted four or more seeds in each hill. Of course, St. Paul was not writing about gardening but rather about a special offering to help the saints in Jerusalem and Judea who were suffering from a severe famine. Some may take this passage to mean that it is our motivation for giving. Those folks might even be so bold as to say that if you are stingy in your giving, you will be poorer for it, but if you are generous in your giving you will be even wealthier. But this verse does not state the motivation for giving but simply refers to information and instruction that we know to be true from experience and observation.

The true motivation for Christian giving is found in 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV): “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” God’s grace in Jesus Christ is the motivation for



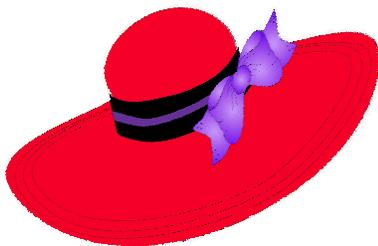
our Christian giving. Jesus has done for us what we could never do for ourselves, that is, save us from sin, death and everlasting condemnation. Our spiritual needs are fully taken care of in Christ, but what about our physical needs? This passage speaks to that as well when it indicates that God also takes care of our physical needs so that in all things at all times we will have all that we need so that we can abound in every good work.

St. Paul stated this so eloquently in Romans 8:32 (NIV): “He (God) who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? This question begs for the answer “yes.” God does provide all that we need for our spiritual and physical welfare and he does it lavishly so that we can abound in every good work.

Finally St. Paul brought the truth of Christian giving home when he wrote in 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV): “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (hilarious) giver.” Christian giving is primarily a spiritual issue, not a financial one. When we children of God answer the question of what do I believe God is calling me to give then we respond freely and generously not because the church or any other Christian cause needs our money, but because we believe in our hearts that our giving is a consecrated response. The joy that we reap from such free and generous giving is something that brings a special sweetness to our lives that no one can ever take away from us.

The Board of Stewardship

REDEEMER RED HATS



The Redeemer Red Hats will have their luncheon on Tuesday, May 28th at 12:00 Noon. Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex for more information.

LWML SPRING RALLY

LWML Sarasota Zone Spring Rally

"Come to the Living Water"

From the Opening Prayer, the awesome Power Point presentation and the Food Ingathering to the Birthday Song and all "Living Water" hymns in between it was a great day! We listened, laughed, were inspired and yes, even cried a little as Jan Struck led us through Bible Time scripture verses in learning more about the "Living Water" and as her life's story unfolded before our very eyes. Our day was truly blessed --- to God be the Glory!



Food Ingathering--For Helping Hands



Leslie Kirch & Helen Plank
Preparing of the desserts



Preparing of Lunch (pictured left to right)
Sybil Grahl, Helen Sturzenbecker, Leslie Kirch,
Arlene Harden, & Linda Rogers



Judy Murphy & Lee Procuk
Setting up of the tables



Jan Struck



Lee Procuk putting on the finishing
touches on decorations



The Beautifully Decorated Tables



(pictured left to right) Jan Struck, Laurie Steinke, Lanette
Schmidt, & Vicky Davis



Vicky Davis





Redeemer Lutheran Child Care

May 2013

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Tuesdays
at 3:45 PM

5/7 God's Servant

Stephen

Acts 6-7

5/14 Philip and the

Ethiopian

Acts 8

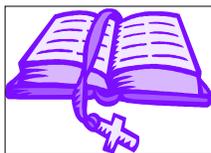
5/21 The Conversion of
Saul

Acts 9

5/28 Peter and

Cornelius

Acts 10



Dear Jesus, I am sad
when I sin. I am happy
that You love me and
forgive me. Thank You
for my home in heaven
where there will be no
more sad times.
Amen.

Birthdays

5/9 Alyssa

5/14 Kyleigh

5/15 Brianna

5/23 Ava W.

5/25 Daniel

5/27 Amy

5/27 Devin F.



VPK Graduation



Congratulations to the
VPK Class of 2013!
Lily, Brinnan, Aiden,
Gabriella, Jordan, Tyler,
Ian, Brandon, Nadir,
Danielle, Nevaeh,
Clayton, Cora, Vincent,
Aaden, Mya, Ava T.,
Emma and Ava W.

What We Are Learning

5/6 Mother's Day

5/13-5/23 Review of the
year

Special Days in May

5/6 Teacher

Appreciation week

5/12 Mother's Day

5/18 VPK Graduation @

1:00 pm in the Fellowship
Hall

5/23 Last day of school
for the Summer ☺

5/27 Memorial Day



Welcome to Redeemer

Zoe and Rylan

*Submitted by Wendy
Harvath*

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

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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:

May—October: 9:15 AM

Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Bible Study: 8:30 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.