



## YOU ARE SET FREE

"Give me liberty or give me death." Patrick Henry evidently placed a high value on freedom. Often, it is for "freedom" that soldiers fight on the battlefield, sometimes to take it away from others or to protect it, or to restore it to those who have lost it. In the United States, we generally think of July 4<sup>th</sup> and the celebration of Independence Day, however there are other such freedoms such as the freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly.

Still there is more to freedom than simply civil laws protecting such. There are some freedoms that civil law cannot give and armies cannot secure. We have to look elsewhere for certain freedoms, and they are extremely important ones: Freedom from sin, freedom from sin's eternal consequences, freedom from despair and hopelessness, and ultimately, freedom from death.

"Jesus was therefore saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free,'" (John 8:31-32).

When Christ came, it seemed the entire world was lying in the power of the Evil One. In the context of Jesus' promise to "know the truth and the truth shall make you free" is an objection of some who heard Him. They countered that they had never been enslaved to anyone. Besides being historically inaccurate (they had, indeed, served as slaves in Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and many Jews were slaves in Rome even as they spoke), bottom line, they were missing the point. Jesus explained He was talking about their being enslaved to sin (John 8:33-36).

There was pride and posturing; hypocrisy and greed; hatred and selfishness. They held to outward religious form and pageantry; self glory and human tradition, often setting aside God's commandment in favor of their traditions. They were self-righteous and often hard-hearted. Jesus came to free them and us as well. Sin is a cruel slave master which will always kill its faithful servants in the end (Romans 6:23; 5-7; 12-14).

While the Jews dealt with these things, the Gentiles were no better off. They were enslaved to false gods (Galatians 4:8). Their shame seemingly knew no limits (Romans 1:28-32).

Jesus came to set us all free. He was the only One who could do so. We could not free ourselves, neither could any other force in heaven or

on earth. It had to be Jesus. In Him we are set free as we are made new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Remember Jesus' own words about it; this freedom is related to and dependent upon "abiding in (His) word" (John 8:31).

Therefore, let us not be burdened by a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1b). The specific danger Paul addresses in the previous passage (*cf.* Galatians 5:1-15) is a return to or a dependence upon Judaism for salvation. Paul has many fine things to say about the Law of Moses. It is good; it is righteous; it spoke of the Christ to come; it is profitable for study and learning from its examples, and so forth. But it cannot justify, it cannot set us free, and returning to it for justification would only result in enslavement again.

False teachers were demanding the continuing observance of the Law; and even the Gentiles, to whom the Law was never given, made themselves subject to its ordinances. Paul writes, "Therefore, let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a New Moon or a Sabbath day ..." (Colossians 2:16).

Additionally, there were false teachers of other sorts trying to adulterate the gospel with human philosophy and human traditions (Colossians 2:8). Paul's answer: "But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed." (Galatians 1:8).

Let us be reminded with these words, "For sin shall not be the master over you, for you are not under Law, but under grace." (Romans 6:14).



(Continued on Page 4)

HEWLETT-PACKARD  
COMPANY

Pastor Rev. James Kress  
Office Secretary Jennifer Steele  
Organist Doris Dykhuizen

**OFFICERS**

President Ron Beaber  
Vice President  
Treasurer Leta Stender  
Secretary Dorothy Sinowetski

**BOARDS**

Assimilation Pam DeGourse  
Property Management Charlie Vovcsko

**Christian Ed.**

Elders Tim Byrne

**Human Care**

Outreach Carol Haupt

School Board Michelle Finley

Stewardship Joe Friess

Youth Jim Wright  
Lisa Vasallo

Finance Sec'y. Karen Kirkland

Newsletter Editor Leta Stender

**CLUBS/GUILDS**

Ladies Guild Carol Sheahan

Men's Group Bob Mortenson

Red Hat Society Sandra Distasio

Christian Support Group

# President's Corner



## The President's Corner

I had a family emergency and was not able to attend the Florida/Georgia District Convention. Thankfully all is well with my children but I regret missing the Convention. The new President is Pastor Walton from Georgia and is a little more liberal than we had hoped for our District leadership. This seems to be the trend of our Synod.

The Financial picture remains bright for the Church, with Year to Date giving being higher than expenses, and appears to be enough to tide us over this summer by a very safe cushion. Emergency savings remains enough to carry us through any major problems.

I am becoming increasingly concerned by the fact that more and more Counsel and Board positions are being vacated and not filled. If our Church is to remain strong and continue to improve our ability to continue to serve our congregation, and our "Mission Field", we need some help. Please pray fully consider serving if you are asked to serve on the Counsel or one of our Boards, and call me if you have any questions about any of the positions, or just to let us know of your willingness to serve. While we have many members who do much more than their fair share and which the Church would have difficulty operating without, we need more folks to spread out the workload.

Mary and I had a great time at the Stone Crabs game even if we had to wait out the rain. The Crabs won, and I even managed to collect a foul ball to keep as a souvenir. There will be a cookout for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and an ice cream social for August, so I hope to see you all there.

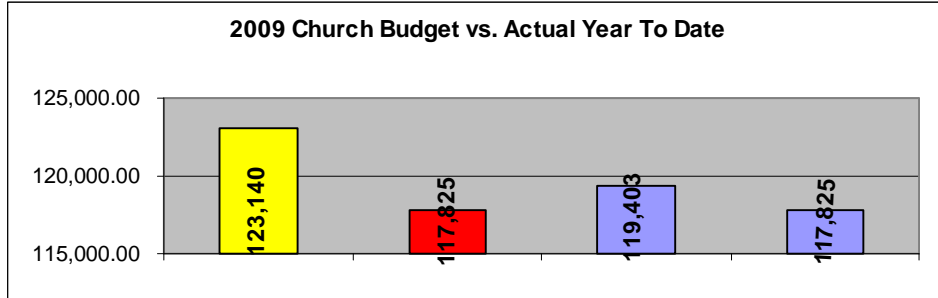
Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns..

*Ron Beaber, President*

# Finance

## 2009 Church Actual vs. Budget Year to Date Through June 20, 2009

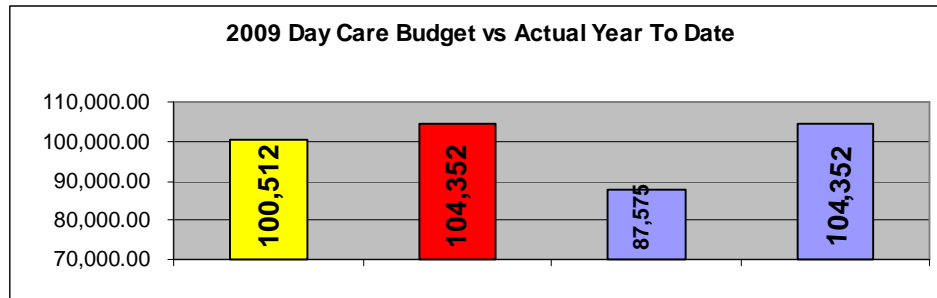
<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Income Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Expense Budget</u>
\$123,140	\$117,825	\$119,403	\$117,825



Income   Income Budget   Expense   Expense Budget

## 2009 Day Care Actual vs. Budget Year to Date Through June 20, 2009

<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Income Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Expense Budget</u>
\$100,512	\$104,352	\$87,575	\$104,352



Income   Income Budget   Expense   Expense Budget

I want to thank every one for their prayers and cards and phone calls during my bout with cancer. I especially want to thank both pastor Kress and Pastor Thomason for visiting me in the hospital in St. Petersburg. God works in mysterious ways and finding my cancer in the early stage was just another one of his miracles .

I am blessed to have you all as my family.

Ed Sita



# Newsletter Deadline



## NOTE NEW DEADLINE TIME!!

The deadline for submission of articles for September is **Sunday, August 23rd by 6 p.m.**

If you have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter, either e-mail it to [letastender@gmail.com](mailto:letastender@gmail.com) or place it in the newsletter box in the church office. Articles received after **August 23** will be held for the **October** newsletter.

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

Leta Stender

## YOU ARE SET FREE

*(Continued from Page 1)*

We must stand guard over our freedom in Christ, or else we may well find our liberty battered and ourselves enslaved again. Peter warns that the final state of enslavement can be even worse than the first so he encourages the faithful not to allow themselves to be led astray by false promises (2 Peter 2:18-22).

Even as Jesus referred to the Pharisees of His day as being enslaved, there are those today who think like the Pharisees thought. They are prideful and hypocritical. They look for a physical kingdom of silver and gold instead of a spiritual kingdom of truth and righteousness. They are steeped in human religious tradition, while setting aside the doctrine of Christ. Do not let the modern version of the Pharisee rob you of your freedom!

Neither let empty human philosophy take your freedom away. The names of the philosophies may have changed (now we have humanism, modernism and so forth) but the effects are still the same. They cannot save nor will they ever. Only the gospel of Christ and Him crucified saves (1 Corinthians 1:18-22). The world is constantly bombarding us with words to entice us away from our salvation. Our answer: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1). Treasure your freedom as well as your independence. They were both given through sacrifice.

*In His Service, Pastor Jim Kress*

*July/August 2009*  
*Newsletter*

*Redeemer Lutheran*  
*Child Care & After-School*

*Enrollment is 61 Children*

**Bible Lessons**

Chapel is on Mondays at 3:30

Hannah Prays

1 Samuel 1:1-28;2:19

Samuel

1 Samuel 2:11, 26

David and Jonathan

1 Samuel 18:1-4;20:16-42

Elisha's Home

2 Kings 4:8-10



Pray to the Lord.

Jeremiah 29:7

**Birthdays**

Macy 7/2

Ethan 7/12

Mackenzie 7/23

Ms. Kali 7/28



**Thank You's**

**A BIG HUGE  
THANK YOU**

goes to Gerald Lute for the beautiful hand made benches and toy shelves for the Child Care classrooms.

**Needed Supplies**

D Batteries, Hand Soap, Snacks and Baby Wipes

**Special events**

After School Summer Camp started June 8. We have 23 children enrolled in the program and they are having lots of fun. The ice cream truck came to visit us on June 16. On June 18 Bob Ohoro from Fish-N-Wildlife came to visit us with 2 special guests, an alligator and a corn snack.

VBS is Aug.3-7 If you are interested in volunteering for VBS please contact Wendy at the Child Care. 475-2631. This year's theme is:

Gadget's Garage  
Jesus Makes All Things  
New!

Volunteers are needed for Storytelling, Build-A-Bot Bible Challenge, Craft and Game time.

*Submitted by Wendy Horvath*

# Stewardship

*Gratitude for God's Blessings, June, 2009*

**"Freed to Live"**



On July Fourth we pause as a nation to reflect on the meaning of "Independence Day." The Declaration of Independence was written to begin the process of gaining freedom from being a colony of England and chart our own course as a nation. But freedom is not something that you simply declare and it happens. Our freedom is something that was purchased at a high price. From the time of the Revolutionary War after July 4, 1776 to our war today in the Middle East many brave men and women have laid their lives on the line to fight for and defend our freedom as citizens of the United States of America. Thousands upon thousands of those brave soldiers shed their blood and gave up their tomorrows so that we can be freed to live our todays and tomorrows in the greatest country in the world and enjoy freedoms that millions of people in the world can only dream about.

As that old saying goes, "freedom is not free." It is fitting and proper for us to remember and honor those who have given their all not just on July Fourth but throughout the year. They made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can be free! We also do well to remember and honor our brave men and women who continue to put their lives on the line so that we may be free to live.

It is also fitting and proper for us to remember and appreciate our spiritual freedom from sin, death and eternal condemnation. That freedom is not something that the strongest army in the world could obtain. That freedom is not something that we can earn or even deserve. It is the free gift of God who loved the world so much that He gave up His one and only Son who shed His holy precious blood so that we might have a peace that passes all human understanding and freedom that will last for eternity.

Our fitting and proper response for all that God has done for us in Christ is to live our lives in ways that honor Him and bless others. We call that proper response to God's love **Christian stewardship**. As redeemed stewards we, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. God delights in loving and giving and sends us His Holy Spirit to empower us to also grow in our loving of God and others and our giving of time, talent, treasure and any of the other blessings God has entrusted to us.

*"Lord of glory, You have bought us with Your life blood as the price,  
Never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice.  
Give us faith to trust You boldly, hope to stay our souls on You;  
But, oh best of all Your graces, with Your love our love renew." (LSB 851)*

*Joseph Friess, Stewardship Chairman*

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU!!!

Thank You to each of my Redeemer family for your many prayers, visits, cards, phone calls and gifts, during the many months of my illness. A special thanks to Pastor Kress for all his concerns and visits. God's Blessings to all of you.

Pat Wilcoxon.



Heartfelt Thanks

## Service Directory/Classified Ads

### Services

Beautician/Manicurist	Debbie Balogh	Purple Palace	941-475-0731
	Linda Pontello	Purple Palace	941-475-0731
Charlie's Barber Shop	3725 S. Access Road, Englewood, FL		941-474-9598

Pressure Cleaning - Matt & Michelle Finley - Hoover Pressure Cleaning – 697-6886 Tell us you saw us in the Redeemer Newsletter & get a 10% discount. Licensed & Insured – [www.hooverpressure.com](http://www.hooverpressure.com)

6" Seamless Gutters-Jim W. Gossett, Residential Const, Handyman Licensed & Insured  
Home: (941) 698-9940; Cell: (941) 445-2074

J & J Lawn Service—Quality service at an affordable price. Mowing, weed-eating, blowing, edging, and palm tree trimming. Call John at (941) 456-1163 for a free estimate.

John Toth Handyman. If it's broken, I can fix it. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Home: (941) 697-1670  
Cell: (910) 320-4987

Grandma's Domestic Service— Pet Sitting, Errands & Dr. Visits, Help with Elderly & Invalids, Cleaning & Cooking, House & Yard Work — Call Carol (941) 474-4926

House Watching - Watch your house while you are back home in the north. Weekly or monthly inspection with written report on findings. Minor repairs if needed included. Monthly - \$25.00 Weekly - \$12.00 If interested, call Ed Sita 475-8116

Sales—Rentals — Pineapple Gulf Properties—Glenda McDorman, Owner/Broker (Lessie Kirch's Daughter)  
880 S. McCall Rd., Englewood (941) 473-0300—Office (941) 330-7922—Cell

FOR SALE: Ford Focus, 2007, 30,000 miles, \$10,000. Beautiful, Runs Well. If interested contact Walter Mitchell at 941-661-2321.



HEALING:

Members

Henrietta Appold  
 Marie Elphick  
 Sharon Eisele  
 Roland Hansen  
 Tonyua Hollis  
 Bob Johnson  
 Joan Johnson  
 Charles Keller  
 Cliff Larsen  
 Leona Morrison  
 Harriet Payne  
 Carolyn Plesner  
 Don Plesner  
 Tom Poyer  
 Sharron Schultz  
 Ed Sita  
 Pastor Thomason  
 Arlene Twombly  
 John Wacker  
 Eileen Zwick

Friends & Relatives

Elaine Baron  
 Alice Borowski  
 Casimer Borowski  
 Georgia Bush  
 Carly DeFeos  
 Bruce Gnatkowski  
 Debbie Harrison  
 Larry Headun  
 Michelle Hickner  
 Aaron Hingos  
 Jeremy Hoivik  
 Howard Kagay  
 Rachel Kagay  
 Rev. Howie Krienke  
 Estella Lewis  
 John Lichty  
 Marie Liebl

Elsie Malecki  
 Dan Mason  
 Ann McCullough  
 Kaye Ann Nagel  
 Judy Nagel  
 Charles Pentecost, Jr.  
 Sherrie Rhoades  
 Paul Rosser  
 David Sinowetski  
 Audrey Slusher  
 Nancy Sly  
 Michael Stio  
 Marion Talley  
 Polly Tice  
 Phyllis Tucker  
 Kathy Walsh  
 Helen Weishaar  
 Andrew Wolgast



Ilse Berner  
 Gloria Carlson  
 Evelyn Etheridge  
 Earl Gossett  
 Ruth Jansch  
 Clara & Walter Mitchell  
 Ruth Sutley

PRAYERS OF COMFORT for family and friends of Herb Bohm who was called to his eternal home in June.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT for family and friends of Ione Comstock who was called to her eternal home in June.

Military Personnel

Daniel Anderson  
 Adam Buchner  
 Eric Byrne  
 Kevin Copeman  
 Christopher Dutch  
 Stephen Geib  
 Brian Hollis  
 Nathan Hudson

Brian Jackson  
 Jennie Janssen  
 Keith Janssen  
 Joshua Jones  
 Steven Siegmundt  
 Jeremy Twombly  
 Matthew Walenta  
 Charles Weishaar



# OUTREACH



## 4th of July Potluck

### 4TH Of July Pot Luck

Come and join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Pot Luck at the Fellowship Hall from 12:00 to 3:00 PM. Bring a covered dish.

BBQ Pork sandwiches, fried chicken and drinks will be furnished.  
Fun and games, meet and mingle and celebrate our Independence Day.



### EVERYONE LIKES AN ICE CREAM SUNDAE

There will be an ICE CREAM SOCIAL, on August 16 from 2 PM – 4 PM at the Fellowship Hall.

Come and bring a friend and/or neighbor and make your own sundae. Enjoy fellowship, fun and games and get to know one another.



### Ice Cream Social



### FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY!

Mark your calendar and invite a friend and/or neighbor to join you for worship service at 9:15 AM, AUGUST 31, 2009

*Submitted by Karen Kirkland*

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

July 5	Linda Rogers
July 12	Betty Maki
July 19	Diana Collins
July 26	Gudrun Janke
Aug. 2	Joe & Connie Friess
Aug. 9	Claire Kieselburg & Helen Plank
Aug. 16	Margie Cypher & Barbara Wolgast
Aug. 23	Georgette Callahan
Aug. 31	Youth



*Submitted by Pam DeGourse*

July & August Greeters  
Assimilation Committee  
*Submitted by Pam DeGourse*

# Stephen Ministry



Lanette Ruth Schmidt is our Stephen Minister of the month. Lanette was born in Texas and then with her family moved to Missouri. There she met her husband Earl and they have been together 45 years. Lanette taught in parochial schools in Iowa and Missouri while her husband was on vicarage. His last year at the seminary she taught in St Louis, MO. Pastor and Lanette spent their entire ministry in Minnesota. (except for being Redeemers winter Pastor the last few years). She gave private piano and organ lessons full time and was full time organist and choir director for 40 years. (remember Lanette's beautiful organ music when she was organist for Redeemer). She also worked part time for a government office as secretary along with being a homemaker and raising 3 children, Daniel, Devonian and David. Let's include being a Pastor's wife which comes with many responsibilities. WHEW , THAT WAS A FULL SCHEDULED LIFE. Lanette and Earl have retired 7 months in Florida at The Village of Holiday Lake and 5 months in Minnesota on White Earth Lake. Her hobbies, interests and talents of course is first the love of music, especially the organ, followed by the piano and the dulcimer. Lanette and Pastor are also faithful members of Redeemer's choir. She loves to travel, read, do crafts, knit, feed the birds at the lake in MN, fish occasionally on calm waters. She also enjoys pets, the furry ones. Sounds like the full scheduled life is still in high gear.

Lanette has had an inner feeling to be a Stephen Minister ever since she heard about the program and feels that so many people are needing a sensitive ear to listen to their hurts, loneliness and other feelings that she wants to be that listener. Lanette feels the Lord has led her to become a caring soul for others

Redeemer is blessed that the Holy Spirit has led Lanette to offer her gifts of love and compassion to our Stephen Ministry program as well as the other gifts she has shared with us. Thank you and God bless you Lanette for all you do for everyone.

" Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms " 1 Peter 4:10

*Submitted by Carol Carlos*



# Scrip

**JULY** orders for Scrip will be taken **Sunday, July 12**, in the church narthex and returned Sunday, July 19. **AUGUST** orders for Scrip will be taken **Sunday, August 9**, in the church narthex and returned Sunday, Aug 16. Thank you to everyone who placed orders in June.



Scrip is a substitute for money. They are gift cards for every thing from fast food restaurants, food stores, department stores, gasoline, office product stores and even hotels, cruises and many more. Every month we have an updated [list on the desk in the Narthex](#). Everyone who is interested should pick up a copy and at least see what is available.

The percentage the Ladies Guild makes is based on the scrip orders for the month. This percentage is then applied to our [mission projects](#). Your support is appreciated.

*Assistant Scrip taker  
Pat Wilcoxon*



Elizabeth, Alexandria, Naomi, McKenna, Vena, Lisa Billy, James, Jackie, Nicole, and Matt



## Youth News

Youth Outing at Sun Coast Humane Society & Oyster Creek Pool





A big Thank You to all who supported Englewood Helping Hand by buying tickets to the Faith Night/Stone Crab Baseball Game. Helping Hand received approximately \$1000.00 from tickets sold by area Churches Thank you Ed & Carol Sheahan and Arlene Harden for helping with the ticket sales and to Lisa Vassallo for making the food donation boxes. Redeemer collected 61 pounds of food and Lisa delivered it to the game to be weighted. Total amount of food given to Helping Hand from this event was 2000 pounds.

*Submitted by Jane Hoivik*

### Faith Night at Stonecrabs baseball game



Pastor Kress twisting on the home dugout singing "Do You Love Me?"

# Congratulations Confirmands!!



Alex Ruccatano



Naomi Sylvester



McKenna Heldenbrand



