

REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHILD CARE - DECEMBER 2012

“SOMETHING UNPREDICTABLE”

There are times, believe it or not, that I am at a loss for words. Those times occur infrequently, but when they do and the deadline for the coming month's newsletter approaches I will occasionally look at what I wrote in previous years. Do you know what I noticed this year in looking back at past December Newsletter articles? They are all pretty much the same thing. How boring. So this year for my December Newsletter article I thought instead of explaining in a different way “What the Meaning of Advent Is About” (so predictable), I thought I would write something unpredictable.

As we close out one calendar year and open another, we all should consider or reconsider our participation and support in the work and ministry of Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care. We are not strangers to the strain in our local and national economies. Each of us has had to make sacrifices in order to keep the household operational. Therefore, allow me this opportunity to write to you about biblical stewardship.

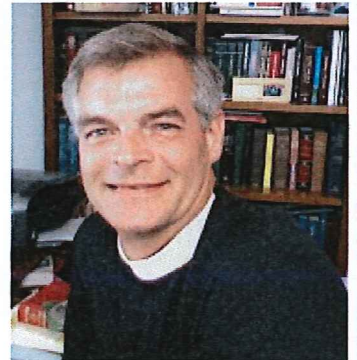
I realize just the sound of it doesn't make your mouth water or cause you to leap for joy. However, stewardship isn't just about money. Stewardship is also about the use of your time and the skills and talents the Lord has granted you. So please, take the time to read my unpredictable, but timely December Newsletter article.

You have probably heard it said a number of times, “Biblical stewardship is a way of life.” Yet for many, applying the principles of biblical stewardship can lead to a more peaceful, joyful life! Stewardship means God has called you as a manager or steward of not just the things He has given you, but also of all the people too. Are you a husband or wife; a father or mother; a grandparent or great-grandparent; an employer; or a teacher? Do you see all the loved ones God has placed into your hands to be a good manager and steward of His children?

So, when you truly believe that what you have is yours, in reality it all belongs to God. You and all that you have belong to God; your family; your house, your precious valuables; your time; your skills and talents; and yes, your monetary possessions all belong to God. But, let us remember what also belongs to Him: your pain and suffering, your sickness and disease, your heartbreak and disappointments, your sin and your death. These too belong to God. He took them from you and He gave them all to His Son Jesus. And He took what belonged to Jesus and He gave it to you. What did He give you that belonged to His Son? He gave you His righteousness, His

innocence, His blessedness. God loves you. Your sins are forgiven. You are His.

So then, what are you who belong to God to do? Should you allow God to rule your life? Should you put God in charge of everything, including your time and yes, even your money? All that may sound very threatening and even right, but He has put you in charge to manage, to be a good steward of all that He has given you. When you know and practice what the Bible teaches about stewardship, you will be a better person, and you will live peaceful, joyful lives. Would you like this for the coming year and every year thereafter? Well, this is what the leadership of Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care desires for you too! Let us take a look at Biblical Stewardship by answering a few questions.



Why does it seem so much of stewardship focuses on money?

When you focus only on money, you miss the bigger picture: God wants you. He wants you to call on Him in every circumstance. He doesn't want your money. From what I understand, currency isn't used in heaven. But there's a very legitimate reason that money gets so much attention: You and I are especially reluctant to give up control of OUR money. Martin Luther said that everyone needs to experience three conversions—heart, mind, and purse! So, you can love God and believe in God and still try to keep this one area free from the influence of faith.

Why should you give?

Giving is an act of honor and sacrifice to God as well as love of neighbor. You take something that you value and give it up as an act of devotion, love, and gratitude to God because of all that God has first done for you. What God has done for you (Gospel) motivates you to do for Him and your neighbor.

Jesus praised a woman for pouring out a bottle of costly perfume on Him (Matthew 26:6-13). She had given up something she valued as an act of love for Jesus, and that is what honor and sacrifice is all about. You are called to do the same; to give away a portion of your wealth, your time, and

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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
 Editors Jennifer Long
 & Susan Moore

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President Rich Kueker
 Vice President
 Treasurer Judy Murphy
 Secretary Dorothy Sinowetski

BOARDS

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

CLUBS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild Sally Zierdt
 Men's Group Bob Mortenson

Christmas, the "the most wonderful time of the year". How often do we hear that phrase, yet, for some of us, we just don't feel that way. The loss of a loved one, a severe illness, the 24/7 schedule of a caregiver, the commercialism, the results of a bitter divisive election, the chaos in the world around us, etc. I could go on and on. For many, "Bah Humbug", would seem more appropriate.

But we at Redeemer are truly blessed. It is Advent, the season of Hope. It is this knowledge that keeps us moving ever forward in the knowledge that the Father sent us His only Son to redeem us. We can look forward to the new year and all it brings without fear and we can accomplish much. We can fill the vacancies on our council, we can meet our budget needs, we can remember when we are to have our picture taken (smile), and most of all, we can continue our mission to bring the knowledge of our Lord's plan to more of His children.

Remember, during this Advent Season, there is no one who needs a smile as badly as the person who fails to give one.

May God bless all of you at "this wonderful time of the year"

Rich



“UNPREDICTABLE” - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

your talents as a sacrificial act of devotion to God. Even though the money in our offerings benefit others, remember that Jesus said that whenever you help “one of the least of My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me” (Matthew 25:40).

Giving is a concrete way of expressing your faith, of acting on what you believe. When you give, you show that you really do believe that all things come from God and that He will provide for your every need in this life and in the life to come.

As a Christian, you claim that Jesus is Lord of all you have. He has placed you as His steward and manager over all He gives you. Your response is to use these gifts for the greater good of His kingdom; at home; at work; at school; at play; and at church.

Giving is a spiritual discipline that frees you from the strong pull of materialism that would draw your hearts away from God and from the things that matter most in your life. Possessions and money can easily control you (see Matthew 6:24; Mark 10:23-25).

Jesus speaks often about resisting the temptation of storing up treasure on earth (Matthew 6:19) because He knew that earthly possessions can easily possess you. Discovering the truth that life is “more than possessions” (Luke 12:15), requires you to put your treasures where you want your hearts to be (Matthew 6:21). The discipline of regularly taking a part of your money and giving it for the Lords use helps you to be a person whose heart is in the right place, whose value and commitment have not been messed up by anxiety, envy, or greed. And so, you give because you have a motivation (love) to give!

What are ways you can give to Christ’s mission and ministry at Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care?

God has given you so very much. He has given you your talents, finances and everything you own. In return, we give back a small amount. It is the amount that you give that enables Redeemer to change hearts and transform lives.

The General Fund - This is our primary fund and covers ministry and building expenses, staff salaries, mission support, benevolence and utilities. Gifts can be given by bringing your gift to church, mailing it to the office, giving electronically through a program offered by Thrivent called Simply Giving. This program allows you to support the church by automatically taking the gift from your account much like you may already do to pay your mortgage, car payments, insurance premiums, etc. To set up this program, contact Karen Kirkland our Financial Secretary.

Dedicated Gifts - Gifts can also be given to special dedicated funds such as outreach, choir music or instruments, education, special building needs, etc. A List of Dedicated Accounts already established is available by contacting Karen Kirkland.

Other ways to give - Leaving Redeemer in your Will during estate planning, or bequeathed on your life insurance policy, or donating stock are other ways to give.

Endowment Fund - Gifts to the Endowment Fund are invested and each year the interest earned is made available for distribution upon receipt and evaluation of application request. Through donations the fund continues to grow, becoming self-perpetuating, forever creating gifts of giving.

Angel Scholarship Fund – Redeemer Child Care established a scholarship program for qualified students. Making donations to this fund is vital to the continued care of Redeemer students.

Let us not forget the opportunities throughout the year in supporting the many fundraising programs. This provides income to various programs over and above your regular giving, e.g., Crop Walk, Board of Youth, Child Care, etc.

Prayerfully consider or reconsider how the Lord would use you to participate and support the work and ministry here at Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care in the up coming new year.

I realize this wasn’t much of a Christmas message, but you can certainly say that it was something unpredictable.

Friends in Christ, I leave you with the words from the Apostle Paul, “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ And the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’ On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be

"UNPREDICTABLE" - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year,
Pastor Kress

**MANY THANKS**

Thank you to all the Redeemer members for the many cards, phone calls, visits, food and especially your prayers since my accident. It is greatly appreciated!

God's Blessings and Love to all,
Jane Hoivik

THURSDAY SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

We would love to have you join us for a fun time of playing cards from 10:00 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!

CHOIR PRACTICE

The Redeemer Choir will be holding practice on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM until the beginning of the Midweek Advent Service during the Advent season. We will return to our normal time of 7:00 PM after the 1st of the year. If you are new to Redeemer and enjoy singing, please give the choir a try! For more information, please contact Doris Dykuizen at (941) 697-7634

VOW RENEWAL CEREMONY

Friends and Family of Redeemer Lutheran Church and Child Care:

As you have been a special part of our lives, please join Pastor and myself for a renewal of vows ceremony to commemorate our 25th Wedding Anniversary. We will be celebrating this renewal Friday, December 28 at 7:00 PM followed by a toast and cake reception in the fellowship hall! All are welcome! We look forward to seeing you there!

Lisa and Pastor

LOST AND FOUND

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

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

October 2012

Income
\$17,184.33

Expense
\$22,524.03

PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY

Please join us for our monthly "Property Appreciation" Day on the second Saturday of the month, December 8th!!! Join us in keeping our buildings and properties beautiful. There's a little something to do for anyone willing to help... For more information please contact Charlie Vovcsko at 941-266-5118. THANK YOU!-*Property Management*

ASSIMILATION

Our new Pictorial Directory Committee was officially launched on November 19th with eleven volunteers on board for the meeting. Pastor Kress, Bob and Marion Buie, Arlene Harden, Linda Rogers, Carol Carlos, Pam Replinger, Karen Kirkland, Susan Moore, Rich and Deb Kueker were in attendance, with Bob as our 'Fearless Captain'. The Board of Assimilation wishes to express our deepest gratitude for our committee members, especially during the already 'filled' Christmas Season.

Contained within this newsletter, you will find the new information form. This form needs to be filled out and returned to the church office or in the Narthex by no later than December 23rd. You will also find a sign up sheet in the Narthex for your personal photo time. Photos will be taken mostly on Sundays, but there are also a few Saturdays available. Please make certain that you consult you calendar and sign up for your photo session.

We thank everyone for your thoughtful co-operation in this endeavor.
The Assimilation Board

LADIES GUILD/LWML

The Ladies Guild/LWML Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 7th, at 12:00 Noon at Rotonda Golf & Country Club. The cost of the lunch is \$15 which includes your drink and tip. You have a choice to select either grilled chicken or kiesch. Margie Cypher is taking reservations between our church services at the desk in the Narthex. We will be taking a collection at the luncheon for our Angel Scholarship Fund. Whether you are a member of our Guild or not, every lady is invited to join us. The more the merrier, so come and join us. We guarantee you will have a MERRY time!

Submitted by Betty Clemens, Secy.

ANGEL TREE

Once again the Angel Christmas Tree is decorated in the narthex with little Angels and on each Angel is the age of a child in our childcare. Please be so kind as to take an Angel from the tree and buy a Christmas present for the appropriate age. The cost would be from \$15.00 to \$20.00. Wrap the present. Attach the Angel tag and the receipt to the present and place under the tree. Your name and phone number should be recorded beside the appropriate age. You will find the recorder sheet under the tree. Presents should be under the tree by December 16, 2012. These presents will then be distributed to the little ones at their Christmas party on December 21, 2012. The children thank you for your ongoing support every year. They enjoy the party and the presents.



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - OCTOBER 8, 2012

PRESENT: Rich Kueker, Tim Byrne, Bill Bowers, Deb Kueker, Pam Replinger, Dorothy Sinowetski. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by President Rich Kueker. Elder Tim Byrne opened with prayer.

MINUTES of September 10th was presented. PAM MOVED, BILL SECONDED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

CALENDAR for November was presented and updated. TIM PRESENTED A MOTION THAT HE AND CATHERINE PRESENT A PROGRAM TO THE CONGREGATION TITLED "DON'T BE A VICTIM", ON NOVEMBER 10TH, 10 AM TILL 1 PM. DEB KUEKER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORTSPASTOR

- * Baptism: Rafael (Tito) Toribio 9/2
- *Wedding: Steele-Long 9/20 with rehearsal 9/19
- *Funerals: Ruth A. Stinson (mother of Lynda Christoffers) 9/30
- *Letter to the Church Council recommending removal of members & voters
- *New Members: 10/28
- *By Confirmation: Michael Borza (wife, Sarah and sons, Jayden & Michael members), Jackie Jose (with daughter, Jackie and son, Tito)
- *By Transfer: Don & Mary Blakely, Eric & Sharon Johnson, Judy Guastella (husband, Mike and great-grandchildren, Toby & Alyssa)
- *Youth Confirmation Class: Thursday 4-5:30 pm. 2 catechumens attending.
- *Rev. Mark Steinke preaching 11/11
- *Sarasota Circuit Forum 10/2 at Beautiful Savior, Sarasota. Elected Rev. James Kress as Pastoral Delegate and Rev. Dana Narring, Faith, Punta Gorda as Alternate Delegate to the 2013 Synod Convention in St. Louis next summer July 20-25. Also elected Mr. David Gruntman, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Port Charlotte as Lay Delegate and Mr. Dick Evers, Beautiful Savior, Sarasota as Alternate Delegate.
- *FL/GA District Pastor's Conference 10/8-10/10 in Lake Mary, FL
- *Circuit Reformation Service 10/28 at Concordia Lutheran Church, Sarasota 4 pm.
- *Sunday morning Bible Class (Nov.-Apr.) will be taught by Rev. Mark Steinke.
- *Thursday morning Ladies Bible Class will begin 11/1 at 10 am.
- *Tuesday morning Bible Class will begin 11/13 at 10 am.

PRESIDENT: Rich presented the Proposed 2013 Budget which included some changes. BILL BOWERS MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CORRECTED PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2013. TIM BYRNE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

ELDERS: Service change coming in November, 8AM & 10:30 AM. Pastor Schmidt will be our Lutheran Hour ministry ambassador. October is Pastor appreciation month, lets do something for our 3 dedicated Pastors serving us. BILL MOVED, PAM SECONDED TO GIVE THE PASTORS A GIFT CARD OF \$50 EACH. MOTION CARRIED. Elder budget is in place, copies will be given by our president. Elders will be improving contacts of assigned members. Daylight saving time change, Nov. 4th. The Long Range Planning Committee had some very good information and long term goals for the Child Care/Lutheran School plan. TIM MOVED, PAM SECONDED TO FORM A COMMITTEE TO STUDY "ANEW" THESE PLANS FOR FUTURE STUDY. MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER: Reports attached.

HUMAN CARE: will meet Nov. 7th at 10:30 AM in the Narthex.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: The Ladies Guild is willing to donate some funds to pay to replace the benches that were vandalized. The picnic table top has been replaced. New, plastic informational pamphlet racks have been installed in the Narthex by the telephone, as requested. Looney Electrical Contractor will be repairing the lighting issues in and around the Fellowship Hall parking lot area. The Memorial Garden work is progressing nicely. Plants have been ordered and the re-fit is almost complete. Thanks to all who have working on the project. Dale Whipple and Tom Kirkland will be handling any issues arise while I am gone, 10/5 thru 10/12.

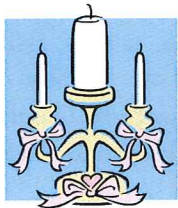
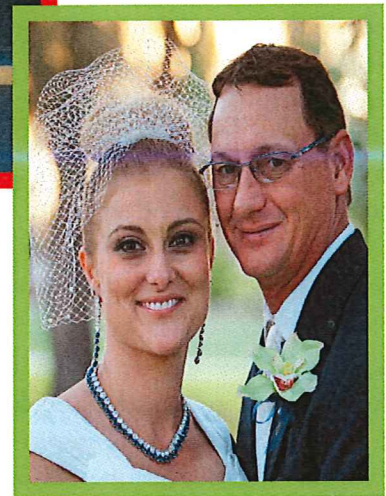
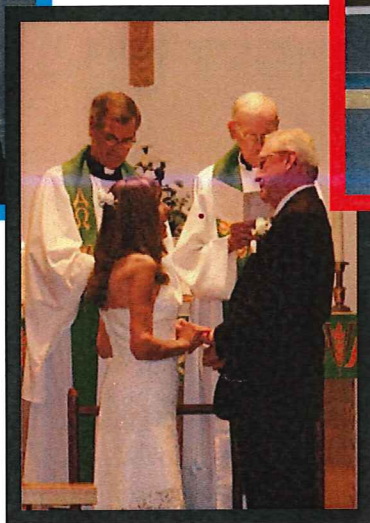
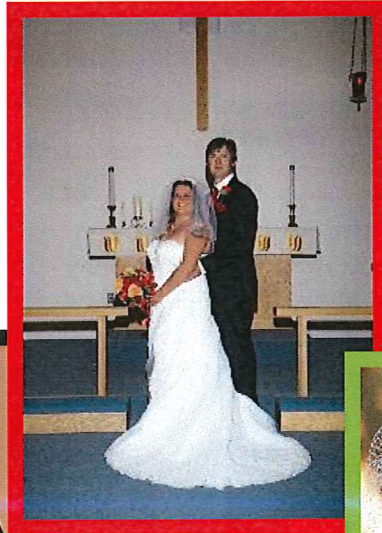
ASSIMILATION: Their meeting was postponed till 10/9

COMMUNITY & PARISH FELLOWSHIP: The Board met on Sept. 27th to review and make preparations for upcoming events. The Dearborn Street Parade on Sept 3rd was a success. Thanks to Ty Schulte for constructing the float. Rev. Mark Steinke provided idea and Ty did the rest. And the use of a crown was in keeping with the parade theme "Hats Off to Englewood". Thanks also to Kevin & Tricia Hopkins and their children Mackenzie & Aiden, Jim Straw and his sons Liam & Valen, and Susan Moore and her niece Reanna, Ty & Judy Schulte, Rev. Mark & Laurie Steinke and Pastor & Lisa Kress. The Ice Cream Social will be Oct. 7th. Oct. 31st is the annual Halloween Safe Walk on Dearborn St. The Rotonda Christmas Parade is 12/1.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Pam reported the children will sing in Church on Oct. 28th. The Children's Christmas Program will be Dec. 19th at 7PM

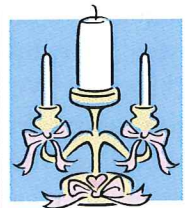
SCHOOL BOARD Bill reported the proposed budget for 2013 should be revised and approved in November. Enrollment is steady with 21 VPK students. Received a grant of \$2400 and must be used to benefit the children directly. The Golf outing is set for the first Saturday of March. It should be promoted now.

There being no other business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.
Dorothy Sinowetski, Congregation Secretary



Weddings of 2012

Todd & Gretchen Armstrong 2/4/12; Tim & Catherine Byrne 2/11/12;
Will & Kendra Wagner 3/18/12 (not pictured); James & Susan Moore 4/20/12;
Shawn & Mary Ann Henshaw, Sr. 7/20/12 (not pictured);
Brock & Megan Peters 8/11/12 (not pictured); Rob & Jennifer Long 10/20/12



Submitted by Susan Moore



STEWARDSHIP

*“God offered His best for us;
let us offer our best to Him.”*

“And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus...” is the way Luke’s account of the Christmas story begins in chapter two (KJV). That decree caused Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem, the city of David, where Jesus was born according to ancient prophecy. God’s timing is perfect as He carries out His will. Galatians 4:4-5 reads, *“But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.”* (NIV)

God’s promises are true and find their “amen” in Jesus. Throughout the Old Testament God inspired His prophets to write down many promises of a Savior. The faithful people of God believed His promises and were saved by that faith even though they had not seen the Savior with their own eyes. They lived before Christmas and we live after Christmas. We also have not seen Jesus with our own eyes and yet, by the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, we believe that on that first Christmas Christ took on Himself our human form, kept the law perfectly for us, preached the good news of salvation, performed

countless miracles and then offered Himself up as the precious Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, ours included!

Christmas is a very joyous occasion as we celebrate our Lord’s first coming into the world but we also know that the shadow of the cross already hovered over the manger where the baby Jesus was laid. He was born to die in our

place so that the door to heaven will be open to us and all who believe in Him as our only true Lord and Savior.

As Christian stewards we live in the light of the Gospel and freely and joyfully manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. God offered up His best for us and in response we strive to offer our best to Him.

During this joyful Christmas season we have many opportunities to show our love for God by showing love to all the neighbors He has placed around us, especially those who have special needs of body, soul and spirit. May God help us to use our gifts of time, talents, skills and financial resources to His glory and the welfare of those around us. May He especially help us to be like the shepherds and spread the good news of salvation in Christ alone!



REDEEMER RED HATS



The Redeemer Red Hats will have their Christmas Party on December 18th at 12 Noon at Boca Royale Country Club.

Must bring a \$10 swap gift.

Reminder: The Red Hats Mini Convention at the VFW will be on Thursday February 21st at 12 Noon. This years theme is Country & Western. Cost is \$20 per person payable to Sandy DiStasio by January 15, 2013.

PRAYERS

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

HEALING: Members: Bill Balogh Jr., Ginny Doenges, Fred Fernald, Bernice Heppner, Jane Hoivik, Sandi McGrath, Ron Ratzlaff, Don Roussin, Michael Sanders, Duwayne Schoeneck, Sandy Sita, Edda Specht, Avis Stuck, Marie Talley, Clara Jo Toth, and Ronald Woller.

Friends & Relatives: Lorraine Agens, Connie Armbruster, Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Geoffrey Baum, Grace Blum, Georgia Bush, Jack & Cathy Carlos, Debbie Carr, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Harry Dahlburg, Ute Daniels, Carly DeFeos, Renee Dempsey, John and Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Nick Frees, Manual Galan, Glenn Galway, Nancy Gleis, Malia Grayer, Lucas Hall, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Walter Heppner, Glory Herget, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Tom Holt, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Douglas Johnson, Heather Johnson, Ashley Johnston, Rachel Kagay, John Kearns, Mary Krueger, Jim Lane, Denise Lines, Sean Maki, Elsie Malecki, Joe Manson, Pete Mogg, Linda Mohr, Mike Morrissey, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Ann Nagel, Judy Nagel, Dan Niemann, Darwin & Noreen Oliver, Charles Pentecost Jr., Mary Raines, Beth Richter, Delaney Saunders, Ryan Sheahan, Joey Sigfrid, Nancy Sly, Debbie Speer Smith, Virginia Stanley, Gary Stokes, Eva Tabbitas, Teresa Tormala, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Reece Withers, Dick Voelker, Angel Zavala.

Military Personnel: Daniel Anderson, Matthew Anderson, Adam Buchner, Eric Byrne, Michael Canavan, Kevin Copeman, Christopher Dutch, Michael Garza, Joshua Gooding, Roger Hammond, Christopher Hankins, Jonathan Hibbard, Brian Jackson, Katherine Janssen, Keith Janssen, Josh Johnson, Joshua Jones, Jesse Krone, Michael Monson, Jesse Morse, Scott Senna, Brandon Smith, Jeremy Twombly, Matthew Walenta, and Charles 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.

AROUND THE WORLD

One of the fastest growing groups is young people aged 15-25. Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has made it a priority to reach them. Two LHM centers, one in Russia and one in Kazakhstan, emphasize three aspects: Outdoor activities, Acts of Service and Study of God's Word. LHM is also reaching out to younger people not only in Europe, but India, Kenya, Panama and Nicaragua as well. These centers offer the Gospel as a unique Christmas gift to young people in other countries.

Submitted by Rev. Earl Schmidt, LHM Ambassador at Redeemer

ALTAR GUILD

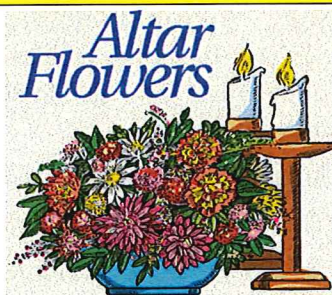
Sign your name next to your chosen date and the reason for placement: Birthday, Anniversary, In Memory Of, Glory to God, etc.

You may include the \$25.00 payment in your offering envelope.

Call the office with any special wording for the Bulletin listing.

You may take the flowers home or leave them for pastor to take to a shut-in.

Submitted by Carol Sheahan



LADIES GUILD TREATS & TREASURES SALE!

THE TREATS & TREASURE SALE

IT'S OVER. Yes, after much advertizing, planning, collecting, baking, sorting, pricing and all, it's over. A huge thank you from The Ladies Guild/LWML to all the helpers and people who worked, baked and/or donated their treats and "treasures". I wanted to list names, but changed my mind. There were so many and I didn't want to miss anyone. A VERY SPECIAL THANKS to you men who gave up your time to give us a hand. It was a lot of work but also lots of fun. You're really missing something if you've never heard Marie's "plant stories" - they're priceless. One funny incident - I picked up a box of jewelry from the office to take home and price only to find out it was filled with candy. Those candies really looked a lot like beads to me! Doris and Pat kept us well nourished. (Can't work on an empty stomach you know.) We had coffee and donuts for breakfast and hot dogs, beans and sauerkraut for lunch. So delicious! We made a profit of \$548.36. These funds will be distributed as love gifts next spring to various needy organizations which will be voted on by our Ladies Guild. The leftover treasures were taken to the recycling center store and I was told they were very happy to receive them. More people have been helped with our Treats and Treasure Sale than we will ever realize.

Submitted by Betty Clemens

THRIVENT ANNUAL YARD SALE

It's that time again! Friday, January 25th from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM and Saturday, January 26th from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Please start saving your paper grocery sacks for Saturday's \$1 per bag clothing sale.

Let's get those closets, cabinets and cupboards re-organized. Redecorating or buying new furniture before the holidays? We'll take the old stuff. Please, no computers, printers or large appliances. Almost everything else will be welcome, except live animals.

For more information, please call Diane McGrath (Thrivent Advocate) at 414-305-4581.

Submitted by Diane McGrath



HUMAN CARE

The Human Care Board would like to thank the congregation for supporting the endeavors we have completed this year. Without the assistance of all of you, we would be able to do nothing. The members of our church work together to get things done in "His name" and that is why we have success. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" Hebrew 10:24. This is what we have done in the past and will continue into the future.

May the blessings and peace brought by the Christ child on the first Christmas be with you throughout the new year.

The Human Care Board

"Dear Children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" - 1 John 3:18

SEA PRAYERS

We sail between Nowhere and Somewhere!
 Deep into the churning of North Atlantic seas.

As sailors, we accepted the knowledge
 of frigid seas we must know, respect but fear.

Always frozen, we gulped salt bitten breath.

A wind whip flogged us
 cut from Iceland's crusted shores.

A silent iceberg lurked near,
 a wallowing Goliath, drifting southward.

Our ship quivers and flinches.

Beaten by black ocean hammer fists.

We twist, we dive, we leap
 through crests of icy spray, God protects us from
 North Atlantic demons demanding their fragile prey!

"Oh Father God, continue to protect us
 from the terrors of this devils deep!

Save us from our enemies above, below!

Let us embrace Dover's chalky cliffs
 then to harbor, a voyage ending gift."

"Almighty God once again protect us that someday we might sail
 in waters blue and warm.

Oh Lord, deliver us,

Protect us from The Devils winds and savage storms!"

- Robert C. Boliere



DEARBORN STREET SAFE WALK



This year Redeemer again participated in Englewood's Dearborn Street Safe Walk. Many thanks go out to everyone who helped out with contributions of candy for this event. Thanks goes out to Tom & Karen Kirkland for not only securing the spot and setting up, but for the use of the costumes as well. In attendance were Rev. Mark Steinke and James & Susan Moore. We had a blast!!

Submitted by Board of Community & Parish Fellowship

CLASSIFIEDS

- Beautician/Manicurist** Debbie Balogh Purple Palace 941-416-4688
Linda Pontello Purple Palace 941-475-0731
- 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.
- Avon-Sales** Anyone interested in purchasing any Avon products, please see Susan Moore in the Church Office or call 941-254-0497 to order or to get a catalogue.
- Handyman** Work any handyman job from A-Z, nothing is too big or small. Please call John Toth at 941-697-1670!
- 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** Sears Chest Freezer - 22 cubic feet - \$250.00 Like New.
2 Twin Adjust. (head & foot) Beds w/ Vibrator. All Bedding included - \$400.00. Like New.
Lowrey Carnival Organ with Bench. All Pedals & Accompaniments - \$6,000.00 Like New.
For further information please contact SANDY SITA 941-475-8116.
Pull golf cart---\$30
100 misc. LP records in jackets, 50s--70s, excellent condition, best offer over \$30
20"H, round hammered brass lamp---\$80
For more information, please contact Sammy Jolley at 697-5905

GREETERS

- 2nd: Ken & Cathy Mielke
June Markert
- 9th: Roger & Pat Luedtke
Bob & Marion Buie
- 16th: Earl & Avis Stuck
Russ & Carol Spooner
- 23rd: Ray & Delores Altmann
Cecil & Sybil Grahl
- 25th: Leslie & Lillian Miles
- 30th: Mike & Anne Sander
Todd & Gretchen Armstrong
- Submitted by Assimilation*

COFFEE HOUR

- Dec. 2nd: Gudrun Janke
Sybil Grahl
- Dec. 9th: Mary Blakely
Lisa Vassallo
- Dec. 16th: Tim & Catherine Byrne
- Dec. 23rd: James & Susan Moore
- Dec. 30th: Joan & Stacy Bowers
- Submitted by Assimilation*

VOTERS MEETING

The Annual December Voter's Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 16th between services beginning approximately at 9:30 AM. The sole purpose of the meeting is for the approval of the 2013 Budget and the presentation and election of Officers, Board Chairmen, and other positions requiring election by the Voter's Assembly. If you have any questions, please contact President Rich Kueker.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

The Sermon Series of our Midweek Advent and Christmas Eve Services this year will be "Unbelievable Bible Stories." The first Midweek Advent Bible Story will come from Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist. He finally has something to say. The second Midweek Advent Bible Story will come from Mary, the mother of our Lord. The third Midweek Advent Bible Story will come from Joseph, the husband of Mary. And the final Bible Story, which will be told on Christmas Eve, will be the story the Angel of the Lord tells to the shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock. It is truly GOOD NEWS for you.

ADVENT DINNERS

Between our Midweek Advent Services we offer an Advent Dinner. All are welcome to attend. We begin serving approximately around 5:30 PM. We only ask that you please sign your name along with the number of guests attending the dinner on the sign up sheet located on the Visitor's Desk in the Narthex. Please contact Doris Dykhuizen at 941-769-2343 if you would also enjoy helping with set up or clean up. Thank you!

ALTAR GUILD

We will be accepting orders for the placement of red Poinsettia plants around our altar for the Christmas services. They may be purchased for \$7.00 per plant and you may include your payment with your weekly contribution envelope. Write "Poinsettia" on the line below Child Care, show the \$7.00 amount and include this amount with your normal pledge check. To order your plant, a sign up sheet will be on the activity desk in the narthex beginning December 2nd. You are welcome to take your plant home after the 7 PM Christmas Eve service or the 10 AM Christmas Day Service.



STEPHEN MINSITRY

Stephen Ministry classes will begin Monday, January 14 at 9:00am in the narthex. These classes prepare members of the congregation to provide high quality Christian care to individuals experiencing a crisis or challenge in their life. We meet from 9:00am to approximately 2:00pm every Monday for 50 weeks. At the completion of their training they are commissioned as Stephen Ministers. Besides learning a lot about care-giving, each person also experiences personal and spiritual growth. If you would like more information please contact Carol Carlos, 941-255-3354, Nancy Hall, 941-473-5547 or Carol Haupt, 941-460-8830.

The Stephen Ministers greet you all, in the name of Jesus, with blessings and peace at Christmas and in the new year.

CHRISTMAS EVE FELLOWSHIP

Merry Christmas Redeemer Family:

Please join us for Christmas fellowship after the 7:00 PM Christmas Eve service! We will have some appetizers and some drinks supplied. If you have a specialty we would love to taste it!! God's Blessings during this Advent and Christmas Season and we look forward to seeing you Christmas Eve!

Pastor and Lisa



LADIES THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS CONTINUES

Notice the picture of this adorable baby. If money or time or age were not an issue, would you consider adopting him? Of course you would. Now can you picture in your mind what sin would look like? If you're like me, you would probably picture the most disgusting thing you could possibly imagine. So how do suppose God sees sin? Does He see sin the way we pictured sin in our minds?

God's Word clearly states, 'all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23). So if you're a sinner, do you think God sees you as an adorable little child like the one pictured here? Or do you suppose He sees you as a disgusting little creature? Fear not! God has called you out of darkness and brought you into His marvelous light. He has adopted you as His own adorable child. He loves you.

Ladies of Redeemer: Come hear and see more about how God has adopted you as His own child. Come also to hear and see how He revealed His great love for all mankind through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ.

We will once again use *GOOD NEWS* magazine as our guide through this amazing study of God's love for you and all humanity through 'ADOPTION'. Class continues on **Thursday Mornings at 10:00 AM** in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome to join us. You may also invite your girlfriend, sister, mother, and daughter.



ROTONDA CHRISTMAS PARADE



Ty & Judy Schulte drive the van pulling the float in the parade.



Kevin Hopkins admiring the contents in the float while Susan Moore hands out Christmas packages to spectators.

The Board of Community & Parish Fellowship represented Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care in the Annual Rotonda Christmas Parade. The float contained an opened Christmas gift revealing God's greatest gift to His creation, His Son Jesus. The ribbon on the gift is in the form of a cross with a Christ the King emblem on it. The Christmas gift was displayed underneath a Christmas tree. The float design was that of Rev. Mark Stienke, Ty Schulte, Kevin & Tricia Hopkins. Ty constructed the Christmas gift on his own. The walkers handed out packages containing three golf tees with Redeemer Lutheran printed on them along with a Holiday mint. Pastor Kress handed out Christmas pencils. We would like to thank all who participated in the parade and the design of the float and the packaging of gifts. Special thanks to Judy Murphy, Karen & Tom Kirkland, Rev. Mark Steinke, Ty & Judy Schulte, Kevin, Tricia, Mackenzie, & Aiden Hopkins, Susan Moore, Lisa & Pastor Kress.



A rearview of the Redeemer float with Mackenzie & Aiden handing out Christmas packages to parade spectators.



*The deadline for the January Newsletter is December 16th.
Please have all your submissions sent to GRAMBUSH@COMCAST.NET
by the time indicated above. Thank you.*

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERMON SERIES

It isn't always done and it's been a while since I have done a sermon series. So this Advent and Christmas Season I will present a Sermon Series during our Midweek Advent and Christmas Eve Services this year entitled, "Unbelievable Bible Stories." The First Midweek Advent Unbelievable Bible Story will come from Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist. Following the birth and name of his son, John, He finally has something to say. The Second Midweek Advent Unbelievable Bible Story will come from Mary, the mother of our Lord. The Third Midweek Advent Unbelievable Bible Story will come from Joseph, the husband of Mary. And the Final Unbelievable Bible Story, which will be told on Christmas Eve, will be the story the Angel of the Lord tells to the shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock. It is truly GOOD NEWS for you.



MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 5th – 4:30 PM & 7:00 PM
 Wednesday, December 12th – 4:30 PM & 7:00 PM
 Wednesday, December 19th – 4:30 PM ONLY

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Children's Christmas Program
 Wednesday, December 19th – 7:00 PM
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
 Monday, December 24th – 4:30 PM & 7:00 PM
 Christmas Day, The Nativity of Our Lord
 Tuesday, December 25th – 10:00 AM



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

You are all very familiar with the phrase 'The Gospel in a Nutshell' right? Well, do you know where in Scripture that summarization is located? Of course! John 3:16! "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." Do you know how many Books of the Bible have a 3:16? Of the 66 Canonical Books, 17 do not have a 3:16. That means that 49 of them do. We will discover from Genesis to Revelation what God speaks to us through these 3:16 verses. But, let the reader understand, we will not take these scripture verses and let them stand alone. Some of them can't. Context is an important tool in interpreting God's holy Word. So join us on **Tuesdays, at 10:00 AM** in Fellowship Hall for this very interesting, yet out of the ordinary Bible Class.

3:16



Seasons Greetings

REDEEMER CHILD CARE WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A VERY

December 2012

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays at 3:45

12/3 Mary Visits Elizabeth
Luke 1

12/10 An Angel Visits Joseph
Matthew 1

12/17 The Birth of Jesus
Luke 2

12/24 - 1/1 No School

1/2 The Visit of the Wise Men
Matthew 2



Dear Jesus, I love to hear the story of Your birth. Glory to God! You came to be my Savior. Amen.

Closed

December 24, 25, & 26
December 31 & January 1

Birthdays

Alexa 12/6

Kylee 12/16

Zachary V. 12/19

Zachary M. 12/20

Emma S. 12/21

Corbin 12/24

Addison 12/26

Tyler 12/27



Christmas Program

Come and join us for the 2012 Children's Christmas Program. This year's theme is:

"Christmas Jubilee"

December 19, 2012

7:00 pm

Needed Supplies

Snacks, Batteries, Paper Towels, Bleach, Baby Wipes & craft supplies. Thank you.

What We Are Learning

12/3 How do objects move?

12/10 What are animals like?

12/17 Christmas



12/24 Winter

Santa Lunch



Please join us on December 21, 2012 at 11:00 am for a Pot Luck Lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Santa will arrive at 12:00 to bring Child Care Children a gift donated by

Members of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Angel Tree is in the Narthex.

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHILD CARE
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Englewood, FL 34224

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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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
MON. — FRI. 8:00 AM — 3:00 PM

DECEMBER

CHURCH OFFICE 941-475-2410
6465 Mayport St., Englewood, FL 34224

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<p>2 The 1st Sunday in Advent 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service</p>	<p>3 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 3:45 PM Child Care Chapel 4 & 6:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:00 PM School Board</p>	<p>4 9:00 AM Hula 10:00 AM Bible Class 10:00 AM Assimilation 6:00 PM Elder's Mtg 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>5 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 10:30 AM Human Care 4:30 PM Advent Service 5:30 PM Advent Dinner 6:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00 PM Advent Service</p>	<p>6 10:00 AM Sr. Fellowship 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Class 4-5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>7 12:00 PM Ladies Guild/LWML Christmas Party @ Rotonda Golf & Country Club</p>	<p>1 9:00 AM Board of Church Properties Meeting 9:00 AM Hangng of the Greens 2:00 PM Rotonda Christmas Parade</p>
<p>9 The 2nd Sunday in Advent 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service</p>	<p>10 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 3:45 PM Child Care Chapel 4 & 6:00 PM Weight Watchers 7:00 PM Council Mtg</p>	<p>11 9:00 AM Hula 10:00 AM Bible Class 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>12 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 4:30 PM Advent Service 5:30 PM Advent Dinner 6:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00 PM Advent Service</p>	<p>13 10:00 AM Sr. Fellowship 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Class 4-5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Class</p>	<p>14 St. Thomas, Apostle 7:30 PM Movie Night "The Nativity Story"</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 The 3rd Sunday in Advent 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Voter's Assembly 10:30 AM Divine Service 12:00 PM Christmas Caroling NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>17 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 3:45 PM Child Care Chapel 4 & 6:00 PM Weight Watchers</p>	<p>18 9:00 AM Hula Class 10:00 AM Bible Class 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>19 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 4:30 PM Advent Service 5:30 PM Advent Dinner 6:00 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg. 7:00 PM Children's Christmas Program</p>	<p>20 10:00 AM Sr. Fellowship 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Class 4-5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry 6:30 PM Outreach</p>	<p>21 St. Thomas, Apostle 7:30 PM Movie Night "The Nativity Story"</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 The 4th Sunday in Advent 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Child Care & Church Office Closed 4:30 & 7:00 PM Candlelight Service of</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Child Care & Church Office Closed 10:00 AM Divine Service Merry Christmas! ✠</p>	<p>26 St. Stephen, Martyr Child Care & Church Office Closed 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.</p>	<p>27 St. John, Apostle 10:00 AM Sr. Fellowship</p>	<p>28 Holy Innocents, Martyrs</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 1st Sunday after Christmas 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve Child Care & Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Circumcision and Name of Jesus</p>					

Birthdays – December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Cliff Kraft
2	3	4	5 Don Hagerman	6 Jason Schaitz	7 Dale Whipple	8 Kathryn Demma Susan Haupt
9	10 Paul Davis	11	12	13	14 Karen Kirkland	15
16 Tim Byrne Jim Wiley Nancy Hall	17 James Straub	18	19 Sarah Cooper Gina Scott Zachary Vovcsko	20 Sandra Scheel	21 Lorraine Hughes Eric Johnson Clara Mitchell Audrey Thurow Patricia Finkenbine	22 Joe Carlos
23 Kaylee Mosser	24 Enid Muhme	25	26 Lorraine Wright	27 Bonnie Roussin Marie Talley	28	29 Jane Harty Carol Sheahan
30	31					

Anniversaries – December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Bill & Eileen Zwick (45 Years)	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Richard & Mary Ann Sochacki (14 Years)	13	14	15 Richard & Sharon Harris (45 Years)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Robert & Pauline Vickey (35 Years)	24 Duane & Patricia Vance (43 Years) Francis & Marion Zillins (57 Years)	25	26 George & Elma Cancellieri (36 Years)	27 Corky & Wanda Eckman (54 Years)	28	29 Don & Ada Hagerman (64 Years)
30	31					