

# REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - SEPTEMBER 2012

## All Relationships Find Success in these Words: "I Forgive You"

This year has been an exceptionally busy year for me especially in the area of conducting the rite of Holy Matrimony. This year alone I have officiated six wedding ceremonies with another one scheduled in October. Now I don't pretend to be an expert in the area of pre-marriage counseling or counseling in general. However, when looking at what the Apostle Paul tells us about what marriage is in Ephesians 5, there is no mistake in guiding a couple to these words, "I Forgive You." I believe these three words to be vital to the health and success of a marriage between husband and wife.

Any couple will say "I love you" uncountable times, as well they should. But with these words, "I forgive you" reveals that the husband or wife values the marriage more than him or her self. To say these words to your spouse requires a great deal of humility because it means that whatever you once had against the other, you now forget, it is covered in love. And when one forgives another, he or she promises that the matter is over and is able to move forward.

In Ephesians 5, St. Paul explains that marriage is a reflection of Christ and the Church. Christ gave all of Himself in forgiving our sins, and all of the great blessings He gives to us are ours because our sins are forgiven. The writer to the Hebrews says, "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Hebrews 9:22). Jesus shed His blood for the sin of the entire world on the cross. Martin Luther also taught this: "For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation" (Small Catechism, Sacrament of the Altar).

Recently I was brought to the attention of an article written by Mrs. Marie K. MacPherson of Mankato, MN. This article was written in October 2011 at The Hausvater Project ([www.hausvater.org](http://www.hausvater.org)), entitled "Return to Me": The Perfect Marriage Is Founded on Forgiveness in Christ." Here it is for your enjoyment.

*Their hands grip tightly. They gaze into each others' eyes. They faithfully promise, "I do." It is a match made in heaven—that almost wasn't made at all.*

*Several months earlier, the young man and woman were in love. They wanted to spend their lives together. Convinced that this was God's plan for their lives, they became engaged. As the plans for the wedding developed, for one sinful reason or another, the woman became nervous. Was he really "the one"? Did she really want to "settle down"? Had she made the "right" choice? Doubts*

*overwhelmed her, and rather than place them in God's hands, she worried and stewed. She no longer knew how to proceed. And then, she made the wrong choice.*

*Still engaged, but her heart confused, she found herself pregnant, by a man not her fiancé. By a man who had no love for her. By a man who*

*would show no commitment to her newly conceived child. Terrified and ashamed, she tried to distance herself from all those who loved her—her family, her friends, and her fiancé. She quickly broke off the engagement and ran away.*

*Those who held her dear, especially her husband-to-be, searched for her to no avail. She did not want to be found. She loathed herself and dreaded the wrath of the world, and of God.*

*He searched until he found her. He pledged that he had not given up his engagement promise, even if she had. He still loved her, regardless of her faults.*

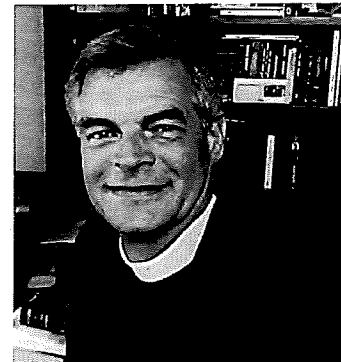
*After several months of anguish for both parties, word of her situation got back to her family and friends. All expected that the wedding would be called off. But this wouldn't be the case. The groom went after her. He searched until he found her. He pledged that he had not given up his engagement promise, even if she had. He still loved her, regardless of her faults. He would still marry her, and he would love her child as his own. Her guilt was forever in the past, with a glorious future awaiting her, though she deserved none of it.*

*As they reach around her growing belly to put rings on one another's fingers, Christ-like love abounds. The trial this couple has already endured was certainly difficult, but it is also certain not to be the last. Yet, Christ's example of His undying love for His church shines as an example for them—as for all spouses—to follow.*

*This story is true. I was honored to be a guest at that wedding.*

*Amazingly, the One against whom we have sinned longs to forgive us: "Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."*

*Moreover, this true account also is an allegory for a greater truth.*



**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 Editor	Jennifer Steele
<b>OFFICERS</b>	
President	Rich Kueker
Vice President	
Treasurer	Judy Murphy
Secretary	Dorothy Sinowetski
<b>BOARDS</b>	
Head Elder	Tim Byrne
Assimilation	Deb Kueker
Property Mgmt	Charlie Vovesko
Christian Ed.	Pam Replinger
Human Care	Carol Carlos
Outreach	
School Board	Bill Bowers
Stewardship	
Youth	
Financial Secretary	Karen Kirkland
<b>CLUBS/GUILDS</b>	
Ladies Guild	Sally Zierdt
Men's Group	Bob Mortenson

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over and soon our snowbird friends will be returning to their winter homes in our little slice of paradise. As we begin to approach our busiest time of the year, I urge all of us to prayerfully consider our stewardship and the needs of Redeemer Lutheran Church and Daycare. Not just whether we can afford to give another 1-5 dollars per week as we prepare our budget for 2013 but also are we able to volunteer some of our time and talent to serve in one of the open positions on your church council (vice-president, secretary, youth, fellowship) or on one of the various committees working at Redeemer. Please prayerfully consider both types of stewardship as we prepare for the new year.

Church council has approved the small revisions to the Endowment articles as recommended by the Endowment committee. The articles are available with the revisions in the narthex for your review and will be voted on at the October congregational meeting.

Thanks to all who have served during the past year and looking forward to working with perhaps some new faces in the coming year.

*Submitted by Rich Kueker*

## *"I Forgive You"- Continued from Page 1*

*You and I, the Church, have strayed from God and prostituted ourselves to the sins of this world. "You have played the harlot with many lovers; yet return to Me" (Jeremiah 3:1). Amazingly, the One against whom we have sinned longs to forgive us. "I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions. ... Return to Me, for I have redeemed you" (Isaiah 44:22). No sin is too great for God to forgive. Your Savior Jesus welcomes you back to His arms, as a bride whom He Himself has made holy and pure (Ephesians 5:26-27). Because His love knows no limits, He has returned you to Himself.*

You would agree this was a very touching story to say the least. Whether you are married or single we have all made poor choices, bad decisions in marriage and in life. Husbands, to be sure, it was God who brought to you your wife. And Wives, it was God who brought you to your husband. However, the poor choices, the bad decisions, the sins we have committed against one another in our relationships belong to us. The husband-to-be in the article above demonstrated courageous, forgiving love toward his wife-to-be. Again, the Apostle Paul strongly encourages you to "forgive one another, as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

Know this my friends: whatever sin you have ever committed, Christ has already paid the ransom. Repent. In Christ your sins are forgiven. You are clean. Jesus loves you and invites you to receive from Him the peace, comfort, and assurance only He can give.

In His Service,  
Pastor Kress

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Rally Day will be September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. There will be a water slide, a dunk tank, games with prizes and more! We are working with the Child Care and their ice cream social will be at the same time. Please come out in support of our youth. We look forward to seeing you there.



## **COMING SOON**

Care notes for Teens & Toddlers. They will appear in the narthex, the fellowship hall and Child Care building. Be sure to look for them!

## **PRISON MINISTRY**

The Human Care Board is starting a prison ministry and need your help. We are collecting materials that will be suitable for prisoners to read. If you have any materials such as out dated devotional books, Lutheran Witness or any other religious materials, save them for us. Look for materials where you might be shopping. Several places have devotional books on their counters--such as Hallmark stores etc. These are usually free. Check if you go to the library or a book store. If you have any religious books, no hard backs, these will be good. A box is placed in the narthex marked PRISON MINISTERIES, waiting to receive your materials.

Thank you--submitted by Lessie Kirch

## CHOIR IS STARTING A NEW SEASON!!!

Choir starts on Sept. 12th! 7:00 P.M.!!! Be thinking about it!!! New people are more than welcome to join us for a new season!! If you have questions, call Doris at 697-7634 or email her at [principal1@embarqmail.com](mailto:principal1@embarqmail.com). Hope to see a huge crowd there!!!!



- Submitted by Doris Dykhuizen

## REDEEMER SINGLES LUNCHEON!

The Singles will be meeting for lunch on Tuesday, September 11th at Noon. Meeting Place: "The End Zone" 2411 S. McCall Road at 11:30 AM. The sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. There is a large selection on the menu. We had 10 signups in August, but we need more! Come on you singles, let's fellowship together. You men need to come so Ray Janssen doesn't have all the fun. The last day to sign up is Sunday, September 9th. We welcomed a new lady, Nancy Kozak, who recently moved to our area and will soon be moving her membership to Redeemer.

## KRAFT KORNER

We are still asking for small items to sell. A very few have responded. We will start the sale for items in the Kraft Korner the first of October. Please check around your house and put your items in the "korker" of the fellowship hall. The ladies of the church and I thank you.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

*The deadline for the October Newsletter is September 23rd.  
Please have all your submissions sent to [GRAMBUSHA@COMCAST.NET](mailto:GRAMBUSHA@COMCAST.NET)  
by the time indicated above. Thank you.*

## 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

July 2012

*Income*  
\$14,064.27

*Expense*  
\$12,654.99

### PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY

Please join us for our monthly "Property Appreciation" Day on the second Saturday of the month, September 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*

### HUMAN CARE

This article will acquaint our new members with the Human Care board. Our present endeavors consist of:

- Visiting members in long term care facilities.
- Crop walk which is in the spring.
- Angel tree at Christmas for our child care.
- Care notes that are found in the narthex.
- Caring network which reaches out and assists those in need.
- Senior fellowship which meets on Thursday mornings for games and light lunch.
- Redeemer Singles monthly luncheon.
- Stephen Ministry which helps those at a tough time in their life.
- Health advocacy takes blood pressures last Sunday of each month in the narthex. Blood drive, guest speakers on health care information, etc..
- Hurricane season preparation in the spring.
- Christmas boxes mailed to our Redeemer service men and women overseas.
- Food for Thanksgiving and Christmas of those in need.

Our board is quite expansive and all of these endeavors need help. Also, we are always open to new ideas so please share with us. If you have an interest in our board please contact Carol Carlos 941-255-3354 for further information .

*"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality" - Romans 12:13*

Submitted by Carol Carlos

### SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Our average attendance for the Thursday Fellowship for the summer is 14. Last Thursday we welcomed a new lady by the name of Norma Sadler who lives in this community. We have several non-church members who come to join us. We are very happy to have them. We are presently playing Pinochle, Skip BO and Phase 10. We are especially in need of Pinochle players. Anyone is welcome from the congregation and please bring a friend! We start playing at 10:00 am and go until about Noon, followed by lunch. Right now everyone is bringing a bag lunch. Tea, coffee and desser are furnished. See you on Thursday!

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING****JULY 9, 2012**

**PRESENT:** Rich Kueker, Pastor Kress, Bill Bowers, Judy Murphy, Karen Kirkland, Deb Kueker, Carol Haupt, Dorothy Sinowetski.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Rich Kueker. Pastor Kress opened with a prayer

**MINUTES** of June 11, 2012 was presented. KAREN MADE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. BILL SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

**CALENDAR** for August was presented and updated.

**REPORTS**

**PASTOR** reported on the FL/GA 31<sup>st</sup> District Convention which was held June 22-24.

He also presented a visual report "What's Happening"? The Convention stressed the Lutheran Malaria Mission.

\* Conducted 3 funerals: James Prather, Cliff Larsen, Robert Cocchianello.

\* There is still a need to get our Web Site updated.

\* A new book will be used at the Adult Bible Class on Sundays.

**ELDERS:** In Tim's absence, Pastor reported they will begin taking applications and will review them for the position of Office Secretary. Jennifer has agreed to be the Newsletter Editor. Items should be emailed to her. One Worship Service has been extended to include October. Two Services will be from Nov. to April.

**PRESIDENT:** Rich reminded that work will begin on the 2013 Budget.

**TREASURER:** Reports attached.

**ASSIMILATION:** Report attached. Deb reported welcoming new members: Jim & Arlene Wiley, Sarah Borza (Jayden & Michael). Their pictures will be posted on the wall.

**COMMUNITY & PARISH FELLOWSHIP:** Report attached. Carol reported more than 140 attended the July 4<sup>th</sup> Potluck, sang patriotic songs, played Bingo and enjoyed the performance of the Tringali Tappers. A good time was had by all. The Ice Cream Social will be August 12<sup>th</sup>. Co-sponsored by Child Care staff. Hope to be able to put up a sign on the corner of SR776 & Mayport. Pioneer Days Parade's theme for this year is "Hats Off to Englewood". Our float theme will be "Hats Off to Jesus". Kevin & Tricia Hopkins will chair this activity. New Redeemer T-shirts will be designed and ordered. There is a painted bench, advertising the Child Care, on the corner of SR776 & San Casa.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Sunday School has had good attendance. VBS had 48 children the first day

**SCHOOL BOARD:** Bill reported on VBS also and reported VPK has enough students for two classes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Changes to the Articles of the Endowment Fund was presented for approval of the changes. After discussion of the changes BILL MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHANGES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE. JUDY SECONDED. After discussion, it was stated that with the absence of Tim Byrne, Carol Carlos, Pam Replinger and Charlie Vovcsko, it was suggested to inform these members of the changes and take action on the changes with a full Council if possible. And in agreement, BILL WITHDREW HIS MOTION AND JUDY SECONDED.

**BASEBALL:** A soft ball team (men and women) is being organized. They will play on Sunday afternoon at the Englewood Sports Complex. The team will need to pay an entrance fee of \$400 which covers field rental, umpires, shirts, plus equipment.

CAROL HAUPT MADE A MOTION TO TAKE THE \$400 OUT OF THE OUTREACH DEDICATED FUND. KAREN SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Carol Haupt reported expenses of \$325 for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Picnic. CAROL MADE A MOTION TO TAKE \$325 OUT OF THE DEDICATED OUTREACH FUND TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> PICNIC. JUDY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

**CORRESPONDANCE:**

A Thank you card was received from the Cocchianello Family thanking Pastor for the beautiful Funeral Service for their son, Robby.

An Email was sent to Pastor from a visitor from New Jersey who said he was so impressed with the friendliness and loving hospitality extended to him and his family.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm with the singing of the Doxology.

*Submitted by Dorothy Sinowetski*

## STEWARDSHIP

In September we observe Labor Day, a legal holiday in honor of labor. The Bible deals with labor in a variety of ways. In Genesis 2:15 we read that *"The Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."* (NIV) It was part of God's plan of creation to make human beings for work and provide work for them.

Work is important for us. It is important enough that we often answer questions like who or what we are by referring to our work. We may answer in a number of different ways like I'm a teacher, or a plumber, or a carpenter, or an office manager, or a business owner, or a pastor, or a doctor, or one of many other vocations. No wonder people get depressed when they are without jobs and meaningful work to do. Much of our self esteem is tied in closely with our work.

As God's redeemed stewards we recognize that God has entrusted to us many things to manage and work with according to His will and plan. To not be willing to work and still expect to receive good things is like stealing. Ephesians 4:28 says, *"He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need."* (NIV)

Honest labor provides us with a sense of fulfillment and provides for our own needs and something extra to share with others who are in need. The book of Ecclesiastes includes a number of passages like 2:24; 3:12-13; 22; 5:18-20 that encourage us to find joy in our work. Work is a blessing from God and He gives us the time, talent and resources to do our work in a way that honors God and blesses others as well as ourselves. The words of Hebrews 13:20-21 affirm this truth: *"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."* (NIV)

So this September as many things like vacations are over and new things start up again—school, mission and ministry efforts in our congregations as well as other September activities—let's remember that with the power of the Holy Spirit we can live and work as God's redeemed stewards who freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for His purposes. May we always be encouraged to give our very best when it comes to our financial gifts of love, our use of time and talents, and our willing service at home, in the workplace, in our communities and in our congregations.

## REDEEMER RED HATS



We welcome any one who would like to join the Redeemer Red Hats. We will meet Tuesday, September 25th at NOON at "Farlow's On the Water" - 2080 S. McCall Road for lunch. Marie Tally will be the hostess. We welcome new people to join us.

Please signup for lunch no later than September 23rd. The signup sheet is located in narthex. Thank you!

*Submitted by Lessie Kirch*

## PRAYERS

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

**HEALING: Members:** Heather Brew, Tim Byrne, Kathryn Demma, Ed Doenges, Donna Hansen, Bernice Heppner, Dick Hughes, Jim Libke, Bob Mortenson, Bob Payne, Herb Petersen, Ron Ratzlaff, Michael Sanders, Duwayne Schoeneck, Sandy Sita, Edda Specht, Marie Talley, Cheryl Thatcher, Fred Toth, Ronald Woller and Bill Zwick.

**Friends & Relatives:** Lorraine Agens, Carol Asher, Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Grace Blum, Georgia Bush, Jack & Cathy Carlos, Debbie Carr, Bobbett Clark, Harry Dahlburg, Ute Daniels, Carly DeFeos, Renee Dempsey, John and Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, the family and friends of Eric Englehart, 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, Herman Janssen, Douglas Johnson, Heather Johnson, Ashley Johnston, Rachel Kagay, Marinela Kandt, Julie Keck, Mary Krueger, Jim Lane, Joshua Leone, Denise Lines, Sean Maki, Elsie Malecki, Joe Manson, Ed Mills, Pete Mogg, Linda Mohr, Mike Morrissey, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Ann Nagel, Judy Nagel, Dan Niemann, Darwin & Noreen Oliver, Charles Pentecost Jr., Mary Raines, Delaney Saunders, Ryan Sheahan, Nancy Sly, Debbie Speer Smith, Virginia Stanley, Michael Stio, Eva Tabbitas, Fred Thomas, Teresa Tormala, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Reece Withers, 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, Jonathan Hudson, Nathan Hudson, Brian Jackson, Katherine Janssen, Keith Janssen, Josh Johnson, Joshua Jones, Jesse Krone, Michael Monson, Jesse Morse, Christian Mosser, 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. Thank you.

## GREETERS

2nd John & Judy Scarangella

9th Linda Rogers

16th Ed & Carol Sheahan

23rd Arlene Harden

30th Earl & Avis Stuck

*Provided by Assimilation*

## PLAN AHEAD AND BE PREPARED

*It has been 8 years since hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne slammed the sunshine state and it is a good reminder of why we need to plan ahead and be prepared by donating blood before a storm strikes. As we head into the heart of hurricane season, many Floridians are stocking up on bottled water, canned food and flashlights, but it is important to add that DONATING BLOOD to your hurricane checklist because our hospitals will still be running, whether there's a storm hitting the state or not. Surgeries will still be performed and the emergency room will still be operating during and after the storm. The BIG RED BUS will be at Redeemer on Sunday, October 7th, 2012 from 8:30am to 11:30am.*

Our last blood draw was June 17th. Only 4 units were collected but this still means that 12 local lives will be saved. Please call Carol Sheahan at 941-875-6312 for more information!



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



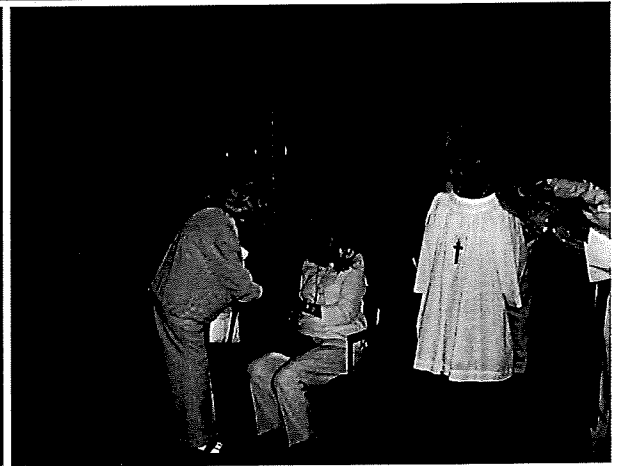
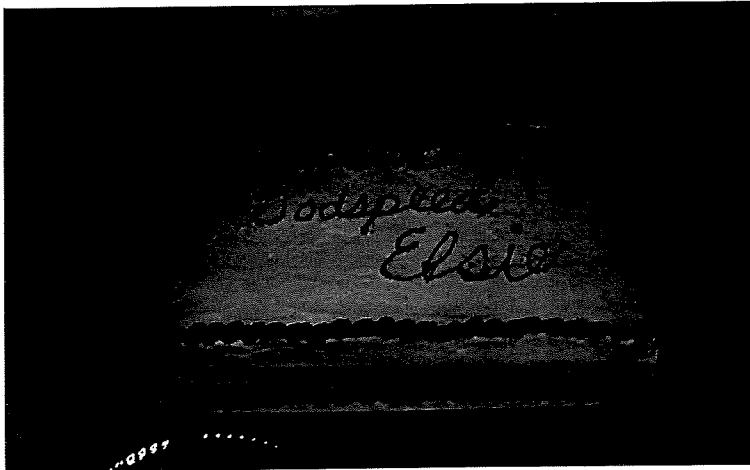
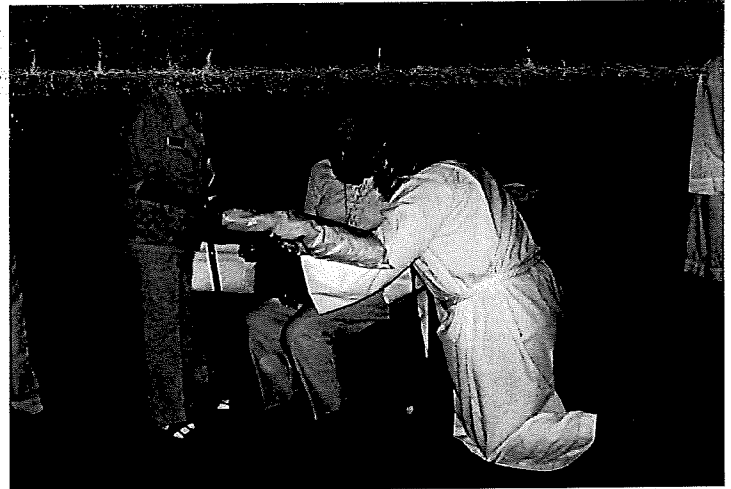
### SARAH BORZA

Sarah Borza, along with sons, Jayden (9) and Michael (1) were received into the Redeemer fold on August 12th. Sarah, husband Michael, and their two sons, are recent newcomers to Florida. They moved to their present home in North Port from the state of Virginia and have been here now for just a year. (The softball team is presently thankful for this move...smile!) Sarah works for the Federal Government and husband Michael has his own business. Check out their picture in the Narthex, along with our other 'newbies' and let them know how glad we are to have them 'in the fold'.

## FOND FAREWELL!

### ELSIE MCGORMAN-LARSEN

Farewell & Godspeed to Charter Member of Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care, Elsie McGorman-Larsen. A plaque from the Church was given her which read: For remaining faithful to hearing God's Word, receiving His sacraments, and supporting this congregation, we honor you and bid you farewell and Godspeed. Other gifts from members were also given. In one picture, Pastor is presenting Elsie with a blanket with a beautiful design and inscription.



## LADIES GUILD MEETING

Our first Ladies Guild Meeting for the season will be held on Wednesday, October 3rd. Plan on coming and bring along your "church buddies". We will begin at 12:00 noon with a light lunch and dessert. Fun, food and laughter is planned for the first hour - then the meeting begins at 1:00. (but the fun and laughter does not have to stop there as we make plans for the coming season) One lucky lady will receive a door prize...hmmm, wonder what that will be! There's a sign up sheet in the Narthex so we can plan on how much food to prepare. Looking forward to seeing you on the 3rd.

Submitted by Sally Zierdt, Avis Stuck and Betty Clemens

### -MISSING-

**QUILT RACK FROM THR KRAFT KORNER! THIS BELONGS TO  
THE LADIES GUILD. PLEASE RETURN IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE  
AS WE NEED IT NOW.**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE OR LESSIE KIRCH.**

### CLASSIFIEDS

<b>Beautician/Manicurist</b>	Debbie Balogh Linda Pontello	Purple Palace Purple Palace	941-475-0731 941-475-0731
<b>Sales—Rentals</b>	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.		
<b>Handyman</b>	Work any handyman job from A-Z, nothing is too big or small. Please call John Toth at 941-697-1670!		
<b>Cleaning Services</b>	Free estimates! Please contact Sheila Murphy at 941-473-1747.		
<b>Lawn Care</b>	Call Todd Armstrong at 941-961-7584 for your lawn care needs.		
<b>Construction</b>	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!		
<b>Real Estate</b>	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!		

The LWML Fall Rally will be held at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Port Charlotte on Saturday, October 6th. The theme will be, "Cast all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you." Registration fee is \$6.00 per person and we will need to know if you plan to attend by SEPTEMBER 23rd. There is a signup sheet in the narthex and Betty Clemens will be collecting the registration fees. For more information you can call her at 698-6643. All the ladies can meet at church so we can ride together. Hope we will have a bus load!

## Lutheran Women's Missionary League Sarasota Zone Fall Rally

The LWML Fall Rally will be held at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Port Charlotte on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The Theme will be, "Cast all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you." Registration fee is \$6.00 per person and we will need to know if you plan to attend by **SEPTEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>**. There is a sign up sheet in the Northex and Betty Clemons will be collecting the registration fees. For more information you can call her at 688-6643. All the ladies can meet at church so we can ride together. Hope we will have a bus load.

*How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of You? (1 Thessalonians 3:9).*

We thank God for you and your gift of \$140.00 to Project Clean Water from offerings given during VBS 2012 through the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod World Mission.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

As Carol explained last month, the main purpose of Stephen Ministry is reaching out to those facing life's difficulties. Normally, this is done on a one to one bases but we also have a responsibility to the entire congregation and sometimes questions are asked of us. For example, when someone has lost a loved one and is grieving, what should I do or say? How long does the grieving process last? We often search for words to say and yet hesitate because we are uncomfortable. Yet, we know as Christians, it is essential to reach out and involve them in the loving community of the church body. We'd like to outline a few guidelines that we pray will be helpful.

1. Tell the bereaved that you care. It is never too late to express this and simple words like "I'm so sorry for your loss" can mean so much. As time elapses, let them know that they remain in your thoughts and prayers. There is no time limit for grieving, it can last for years and everyone works through it in their own time. Know that those that grieve find comfort and consolation in words of caring, a personal note, a card, or sharing of a memory of their loved one.
2. Being present makes a difference. Many times, your kind words, phone call, warm touch, or note, helps those grieving get through the day. There is usually contact during the early days but as time elapses, the bereaved feel isolated and alone. Reality always sets in. Going to church can be one of the hardest things they do. Look for them as they enter church and greet them, sit with or near them. Include them in your conversations. If there is an event at church, call them and offer a ride. Walking in alone may feel unbearable for them. Invite them to go with you to a non-church event. Even if they refuse, you have told them you care and have not forgotten them. A "yes" answer may be one of the biggest steps they make and it comes because you care.
3. Try not to forget important dates such as birthdays, anniversary, date of death or even holidays. Just because time has passed, our lives go back to normal but theirs will never be the same. They will always recall their loved one on certain occasions. Never assume that because a year or two has passed that grief has run its course. Even if it has, the mentioning of a loved one and how they touched your life is always appreciated. As a church, it shows love and caring.
4. Never be afraid to say their loved one's name. As humans, we fear by saying their actual name that it will reopen their grief. Just know, nothing is more comforting to them and will be truly appreciated.

On a personal note, my grandson recently was married. He had many memorable moments with his grandfather who had died almost 10 years earlier. Yet, as the wedding was being planned, he was able to include touches in his grandfather's memory. A example was the reading of Psalm 42, knowing it was his grandfather's favorite, a deer was also on the wedding cake. This important time in his life brought to mind how much he missed that relationship. He had showed very little emotion at the time of death but was now, 10 years later, was finally dealing with his grief and was able to talk about it. No matter how much time has lapsed, no matter what the situation is, we need one another in Christian love. Use Christ as your example, love one another as Christ has loved you!

Yours in Christ, Carol Carlos, Carol Haupt, Nancy Hall

## Some Basic Questions on Witness, Mercy, Life Together



Some years ago I was working with a small congregation in a small town during a vacancy in the pastoral office. The congregation, never large, had been declining in recent years. The previous pastor had left for a more attractive position in another state.

When I asked them why they had no Sunday School, they told me there were no children in the congregation. When I asked them what their mission was, they insisted that just about everyone in town already had a church. They thought there was no mission field.

I decided to challenge them. "Go to every other church in town and find out what their average church attendance is, then add up those numbers for all the churches in town." Several weeks later I heard their discovery. On any given Sunday less than half the population of the town was in any church, and many of the congregations also drew from the surrounding country-side. "There's your mission field," we said.

Every one of our congregations is surrounded by a mission field – even yours! I do not know of a single county in the USA where more than half of the population is found in

church, and in many, many locales the percentage is far less than half or even 25%.

No, this is not the time for blame! Don't be saying, "Well if these people were more welcoming or if our members were truly Lutheran, or whatever, we'd be able to do more." Don't be thinking, "Well, if our pastor were a better preacher, or more with the times, or whatever, then we'd..."

Instead, here are some other questions, some basic "Witness, Mercy, Life Together" questions, to ask together, and with God's guidance seek positive answers, TOGETHER:

**Witness:** Who are the people around us who do not know Jesus? Or have become disconnected from Him? How might we connect with some of them? Where are they? Who among us meets them as part of our various vocations? How might we get to know them so that we have the opportunity to confess the name of Christ? How might we find ways to baptize and teach them?

*And we have seen and testify (witness!) that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God (1 John 4:14-15).*

**Mercy:** What are the needs in this community? Who are the "invisible" people in the community? The people no one else notices? How many folks in your community are hurting? Why? Who are they and what are their needs? What do we have to offer them in the name of Christ? How can we be the arms of Christ's mercy for them? How can we find them?

*We love because he first loved us. If any one says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen (1 John 4:19-20).*

**Life Together:** What is the health of our fellowship? How are we connected to one another? More importantly, how are we connected to Jesus Christ? Are we regularly in the Word of God, remembering our Baptism, receiving our Lord's body and blood, in which He gives life? How many of our people are? Does our congregation live in love with one another as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us?

*If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:6-7).*

In other words, the things we do as the body of Christ in "Witness, Mercy and Life Together" are part of sanctification. That is, they grow from our justification. Christ has made us His own, forgiven our sins in the blood of His cross, and declared us righteous by His resurrection. Receiving these gifts by faith, we can revel in them, knowing our connection to Christ is sure. Living as His forgiven people, witness, mercy and life together are simply what we do as the body.

Our congregations are all outwardly different. The communities we serve vary significantly. The specific answers to these questions may also look different on the surface. But the purpose is the same – drawing people, by the Spirit's work in Word and Sacrament, into the worship of the Holy Trinity, the only worship that gives life. We witness so that the Spirit might connect some to Jesus. We show mercy that hurting people may receive the love of Jesus. We live together in Christ's Word, because

*God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9).*

Well, what happened to the congregation I was visiting? The Lord sent them a pastor who helped them discover children in the community who needed a place to go after school. Their Sunday School never really revived, but their three hour program for kids Wednesdays after school regularly drew dozens, and even brought parents and families. People were connected to Jesus, and the Spirit grew the congregation.

How will you prayerfully ask these questions in your congregation?

+ Herbert Mueller

LCMS First Vice President



# HAPPY LABOR DAY!

September 2012

## Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays  
at 3:45

9/4 The Birth of Isaac

Genesis 18:21

9/10 Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 22

9/17 Isaac and Rebekah

Genesis 24

9/24 Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:27



Dear God, you gave Abraham faith to trust You. Help me remember that You will take care of me. Thank you for sending Jesus to pay for my sins. Amen.

*Submitted by Wendy Horwath*

## Birthdays

Ms. Miranda 9/2

Brandon M. 9/7

Ryan D. 9/14

Alyssa 9/21



## Thank You

Thank you for your continued support with the Angel Scholarship fund.

## Welcome to

## Redeemer Child Care

Nicolette, Kaven

## Closed

Child Care will be closed on September 3<sup>rd</sup> for Labor Day

## What We Are Learning

9/3 How can we play and learn together?

9/10 Who am I?

9/17 What are my feelings?

9/24 What do the parts of my body do?

## News

We are having a great time with our brand new curriculum and the teachers and children are very excited about all of the fun activities, new songs and stories that we are learning together!



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
6970 Mineola Road  
Englewood, FL 34224

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Englewood, FL 34224

REV. JAMEST. KRESS, SR.

REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, Associate Members and Visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church (LCMS).

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.*




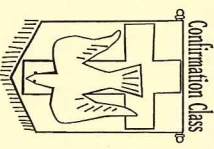

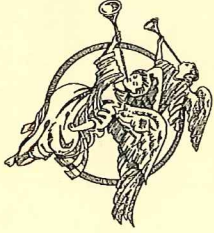
*Christ's love for us compels us to serve our neighbors as He served us.*

# REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHILD CARE

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

# SEPTEMBER

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 <i>The 14th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 AM Bible Class 9:15 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School 3:00 PM Softball Game</p>	<p>3 9:00 AM Pioneer Days Parade <i>Labor Day</i></p>	<p>4 9:00 AM Hula 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 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.</p>	<p>6 10:00 AM Sr. Fellowship 4-5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM Instruction Class</p>	<p>7 <i>14 Holy Cross Day</i></p>	<p>8 8:00 AM - ? Property Appreciation Day</p>
<p>9 <i>The 15th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 AM Bible Class 9:15 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School 5:45 PM Softball Game <i>Grandparent's Day</i></p>	<p>10 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 3:45 PM Child Care Chapel 5:30 PM Weight Watchers 5:45 PM School Board 7:00 PM Council Mtg</p>	<p>11 9:00 AM Hula 11:30 AM Singles Lunch 6:00 PM Christian Ed. 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>12 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.</p>	<p>13 10:00 AM Sr. Fellowship 4-5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Instruction Class</p>	<p>14 <i>Holy Cross Day</i></p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 <i>The 16th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 AM Bible Class 9:15 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School 5:45 PM Softball Game NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>17 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 3:45 PM Child Care Chapel 5:30 PM Weight Watchers</p>	<p>18 9:00 AM Hula Class 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>19 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.</p>	<p>20 10:00 AM Sr. Fellowship 4-5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM Instruction Class</p>	<p>21 <i>St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</i></p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 <i>The 17th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 AM Bible Class 9:15 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School Softball Playoff Game</p>	<p>24 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 3:45 PM Child Care Chapel 5:30 PM Weight Watchers</p>	<p>25 9:00 AM Hula Class 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>26 9:00-11:00 AM Tap Class 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.</p>	<p>27 10:00 AM Sr. Fellowship 4-5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Outreach 7:00 PM Instruction Class</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 <i>St. Michael and All Angels</i></p>
<p>30 <i>The 18th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:30 AM Bible Class 9:15 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School Softball Playoff Game Sunday School Rally Day</p>						

## Birthdays – September 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Miranda Leksche	3 Jonti Lute	4 Amy King	5	6	7	8 Madeline Keller Michael Sanders Martha Winters
9	10 Dorothy Balogh, Sr. Patricia Sprague Francis Zillins	11	12 Raymond Altmann	13	14 William Keller Tom Lang Ruth Markwart Robert Mortenson	15 Rev. Warren Thomason
16	17 Ryan Brew	18 Diane McGrath	19 Natalya Colon	20	21	22
23	24	25 Pat Petersen	26 Edwin 'Bud' Vierk	27 Gudrun Janke	28	29 Cynthia Johnson
30 Tony Grcevic						

## Anniversaries – September 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Fred & Clara Jo Toth (52 Years)	3	4	5	6 Roger & Pat Luedtke (14 Years)	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Erwin & Gudrun Janke (54 Years) Jim & KC Wright (31 Years)	21	22
23	24	25 Dale & Pat Whipple (8 Years)	26	27	28	29
30 Herb & Pat Petersen (61 Years)						