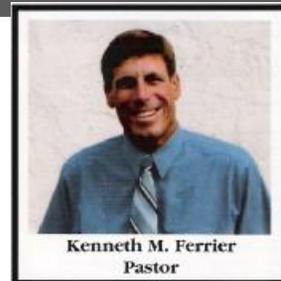


Three Questions for the New Year



Kenneth M. Ferrier
Pastor

As I hope you've already heard, our congregational leaders are well into a process of prayerfully setting long-term goals for Redeemer's future. There will also be a series of opportunities throughout the coming year for you and your input to be a valuable part of this process.

I realize that we can view this whole goal setting process in widely different ways. We can be cynical and jaded and say, "Oh boy, that's just what I needed ... one more meeting ... and a bunch of stuff that sounds good on paper, but never quite makes it into real life!" The other extreme might be just as troublesome. We might think one "gung ho" meeting is going to "pump up" our leaders to such an extent that our congregation will single-handedly usher in the Second Coming.

In reality, however, the benefits of such a brainstorming session probably fall somewhere between these extremes. Such meetings can be very helpful steps in our ongoing service to Christ and His Church. Even in the church (perhaps ESPECIALLY in the church), things very seldom "just happen." These meetings ... and goals ... and plans really do matter! At least they CAN.

Even if you aren't a Board Director or Board Member ... even if you aren't a Voting Member, I believe that we all can benefit in the coming year by trying to answer three questions:

- Why are we here?
- Where are we going?
- How are we going to get there?

Certainly these questions (or use your own) can be helpful in guiding us as we work and live together as a congregation. And, I encourage you to share your responses to them with me, Joe Carlos, or Bud Harty, or any of the rest of those who have been placed in positions of servant/leaders in our church.

But questions such as these can be helpful for us in our individual lives, our families, and our personal faith as well. New Year's Day is traditionally a time for self-examination and re-evaluation. Those three questions can apply to our relationship with God too! Why has He placed me here at this time? Where is God directing me? What means has He given me for getting there? How am I doing?

I realize that the answers to questions like these don't come easily ... and they don't always fit comfortably. We fail. We fall. . Sometimes we flee. But is there any better time than the beginning of a new year for rejoicing in the new life that is ours in Jesus Christ?! Because of what He has done for us ... and in us ... we can ask AND ANSWER questions like these ... and like it ... and live it ...

As we enter this New Year together may God grant us the peace that comes from knowing that we "turn over a new leaf" beneath the shadow of the same beautiful tree ... the tree of the cross. Yes, I know it's bad technique to mix metaphors like that. But it sure is Good News! God bless you in 2007.

Pastor Ferrier

We know this is a bit premature, as the newsletter is printed in December, but, since the Redeemer family has always been very generous to our family at Christmas, we would like to extend our sincere **thanks** to each and every one of you for your Christmas cards, Christmas wishes, and Christmas gifts to our family. They are much appreciated, as are all your kindnesses throughout the year! May God bless you all in this New Year!

The Ferrier Family

REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Kenneth
Ferrier

Office Secretary Pat Wilcoxen

Music Dir./
Organist

OFFICERS

President Joe Carlos

Vice President Glen Kraft

Treasurer Byron Beaber

Secretary Dorothy
Sinowetski

BOARDS

Finance Leta Stender

Assimilation Laura Brooks

Building & Grounds Harvey Sterriker

Christian Ed. Nancy
Gunterman

Elders Tim Byrne

Human Care Marj Sterriker

Outreach Carol Haupt

School Board

Stewardship Ray Altmann

Youth

CLUBS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild

Men's Group Bob Mortenson

Red Hat Society Sandra Distasio

Christian Support Group Shay Thurow

Outreach

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I assume Chairmanship of the Board of Outreach. Although I dearly love the work of the Human Care Ministry, I look forward to serving in this new capacity. After all, Human Care and Outreach are not so very different. Both serve our fellow man, one helping with physical and emotional needs, the other with spiritual needs.

Our Lord Jesus gave us two commandments. " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment'. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " (Matt. 22:37-39) Jesus also gave us another command, "...Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...." (Matt. 28:18-20) Jesus directs us to love our neighbors, and to make disciples of all people. Both are great love and caring commandments. Telling others of the gift of God's love and grace is the greatest act of mercy that we could do. For the saving grace of Jesus is the greatest gift of all. On the other hand, caring for others is one of the best forms of outreach. "For they shall know you by your love."

Current Outreach Priorities

The Outreach Board has a very ambitious agenda of activities for the coming years. But, it is clear that we have some very glaring immediate needs that need to be addressed *now*. First, Redeemer has a problem of "name recognition." When we tell someone that we go to Redeemer Lutheran, the usual reply is "Where's that?" While there are many things that can be done to publicize our church, it seems the main need is a large sign or billboard on SR776. Redeemer is "hidden," off the main road. We will be investigating possible sign solutions—stay tuned. Another critical action in improving name recognition is better newspaper and radio publicity. I have met with appropriate staff from both the Englewood Sun-Herald and the Englewood Herald Tribune, discussing ways to better utilize both paid and free notices of our services and activities. More special announcements will be made about our activities, inviting the community to attend. Also, articles will be submitted about our activities.

The second emphasis will be on expanding and publicizing social ministries, such as Bible studies, Sunday School, Child Care, VBS, Youth Groups, Stephen Ministry, Christian Support Group, Senior Fellowship, Crafts, and educational programs and seminars.

The third area of activity is home visits. The first and most pressing activity, which will be started immediately, is the visiting of Sunday Visitors. A system has been established for identifying visitors, for calling on them by phone and in-person, and for following up on them. Such follow up of visitors is crucial to growing our church.

(Continued on Page 3)

Outreach

(Continued From Page 2)

The last area of emphasis is member training. Jesus asks us to go tell everybody about him and his love. But most of us are not “evangelists.” It is scary to try to talk to people about Jesus. We are not comfortable doing it. We probably all want to, but are afraid to or don’t know how to start. In coming months we will have Bible studies on outreach, and we will have Witness Training. There are many easy things that can be done, short of actually evangelizing.

Board Membership

Thus far, the following members have volunteered to serve on the Outreach Board: Ginney and Ed Doenges, Mary and Jim Turner, Betty Heimlich, and Margie Cypher.

Given all that the Board has on its plate, we need many more helping hands. There is a job for everyone—publicity, visiting, letters, labeling, events, parades, tracts, etc. While we all do not have the gift of evangelism, we all can help the evangelists. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 10, at 10:00 a.m. Please prayerfully consider joining our band.

Submitted by Carol Haupt

Child Care

Holiday Shoebox Drive

The Child Care participated in a Holiday Shoebox Drive for an Englewood man. He and his troop were deployed to Iraq in the middle of September.

We collected enough donations to make 6 boxes full of goodies. Even though the military takes care of their basic needs, they enjoy the little extras and a taste of home. Hopefully, we were able to help brighten their Christmas and let them know we are thinking of them and stand behind what they are fighting for — FREEDOM!



CHILDCARE

God Bless America

November 27th, 29th, and 30th, the Child Care had its annual environmental learning inspections. This inspection is done by the State of Florida School Readiness Organization, Early Learning Coalition of Florida’s Heartland, Inc. This is one of the many external accountability organizations we are responsible to. This organization comes in to check every toy, book, class size, furniture, outside equipment and area, teaching style, transition period, lesson plans, discipline plans, diaper changes, hand washing, meal and snack times, etc. The Child Care operation as a whole working/learning school. We once again scored a high rating with a 5.81 with an improvement over last year of 5.54. The perfect score would be a 7 and is not achieved by any center. No one is perfect. We scored one of the highest scores in Charlotte County with no improvement plan warranted except for the need for additional playground equipment. This is an achievement we can all be proud of, knowing we have a superior child care program and staff.

Submitted by Shawn Richard

Building and Grounds

Please note that some additional storage shelves have been added to the Narthex kitchen area. There may even be more room for food on Sunday mornings. Also, watch for little ants in the Narthex kitchen. A little Clorox spray in the sink might discourage them from trying to join us for refreshments.



Submitted by Harv Sterriker

Ladies Guild Christmas Party



Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry classes will begin January, 2007. The classes consist of 50 hours of training initially with continuing education and small group peer supervision after completion of the 50 hours. If God has given you the gifts of compassion, faith, trustworthiness and listening and you would like to use these gifts to help someone, please contact Carol Carlos (941) 255-3354 or Carol Haupt (941) 493-0399.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for February is **Sunday, January 28th by 12 noon.**

If you have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter, either e-mail it to letastender@yahoo.com or place it in the newsletter box in the church office. Articles received after January 28th will be held for the March newsletter.

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

Please Note: My email has changed to the address shown above.

Leta Stender

From the Office

Northern Members When you return, remember to check in with the Church Secretary to let her know you are here.

Thank you, Pat Wilcoxon, Church Secretary



Service Directory/Classified Ads

Services

Beautician/Manicurist	Debbie Balogh	Purple Palace	941-475-0731
Beautician	Linda Pontello	Purple Palace	941-475-0731

Classified

1999 Ford Ranger, extended cab pickup — 6 cyl., 5 speed standard transmission, 86K miles. Runs Good. 4,600 or best offer. Call Ray Stender at 628-3939.

VillaWare Ice Cream Maker — New — \$32. Call Clare Kieselburg at 697-0940

Marine Items: Zincs for 1 1/2 in. shaft; 50 amp 120V Dockside (Hubbell) Receptacle — \$35
Antenna—12 inch Shakespeare—Exterior VHF — \$20; Fenders 30 x 11 Black — \$50 ea.;
Call Clare Kieselburg at 697-0940.

Pressure Washer — Craftsman (new)

2700 PSI x 2.5 GPM = 6750 cleaning power — 7.0 HP Briggs & Stratton Intek Platinum Plus overhead valve engine — 1 Gal. Fuel Tank, 30 ft. Hose, Stainless Steel Trigger Gun/Wand

Adjustable spray nozzle w/high/low pressure control — Chemical injection efficiently siphon and mixes cleaning chemical into water flow. (Repair Protection Agreement to 8/14/08)

\$350.00

Call Margie Cypher — 475-4805

Fostoria American Dishes (large lot). The Youth are selling this online at eBay. However, if you are a collector or know someone who is and would like to buy it directly from them, please call Michelle Ferrier at 697-0502.

Tommy Hilfiger "tommy" cologne spray, 1.7 fl. Oz/50 ml. Brand new in box.

7 bottles available.

\$10.00 ea.

Call Michelle Ferrier — 697-0502

Do we have any electricians, plumbers, handymen, babysitters, computer experts, etc.? Let us know so we can add your name to our service list!!!, Contact Leta Stender at 830-1412 or email to letastender@yahoo.com

GREETERS SCHEDULE

Assimilation

8:00 A.M.

		Jan. 7	Phylis Lehner & Elaine Malecki
Jan 7	Robert & Harriet Payne	Jan. 14	Dee Baird & Joyce Redding
Jan 14	Joseph & Phyllis Lehner	Jan 21	Ginny doenges & Ada Hagerman
Jan 21	Jack & Marilyn Melcher	Jan 28	Michelle Ferrier & Edna Elowsky
Jan 28	Diana Collins & Olga Nagel		

Submitted by Pam DeGourse



10:30 A.M.

Jan 7	Paul & Vicky Davis
Jan 14	Byron & Mary Beaber
Jan 21	Bill & Dorothy Balough
Jan 28	Carl & Betty Bertka

Helping Hands



Dear Congregation,

Thank you very much for staffing our food pantry with volunteers during the month of November. Thank you also for your generous donation of food. Your continued support and generosity is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
 Sharon Hodgdon
 Corresponding Sec.

Special dates

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2007
- Epiphany, January 6, 2007
- Baptism of the Lord, January 7, 2007
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15, 2007
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2007

High School Youth

We are planning to attend the Celebration Station Lock-in (see below). Call Mrs. Ferrier @ 697-0502 if you would like to go!

See you at Bible Class on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.

Tampa Bay Area

Celebration Station Lock-In

January 19-20, 2007
8pm — 6am

\$35/person covers worship, community building games, pizza buffet, AND UNLIMITED drinks, go-carts, video games, bumper boats, & mini-golf for six hours!

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship as your high school youth get to know other LCMS youth from the Tampa Bay Area.

January 10th is the deadline for turning in the number attending from your church. Start signing up your youth TODAY!

Tentative Schedule

8:00	Meet at Christ the King Lutheran Church 11220 Oakhurst Road, Largo, Florida
8:15	Worship/Devotions
9:00	Community Building Games
10:30	Pizza Feed
11:00	Leave for Celebration Station
12:00	Arrive at Celebration Station (Stay the night!)
6:00	Go home

For more information and to register, contact Pete LeBorious at (727) 744-7726

A New Year wish

May the New Year bring us:

Enough happiness to keep us sweet;

Enough trials to keep us strong;

Enough hope to keep us lively;

Enough sorrows to keep us dependent upon God;

Enough failure to keep us humble;

Enough success to keep us eager;

Enough friends to give us comfort;

Enough wealth to meet our needs;

Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;

Enough faith to overcome despair;

And enough determination to use every day and situation somehow for good.

Human Care

Transition

Beginning this month, I will assume Chairmanship of the Board of Outreach, while Marj Sterriker will be taking over the Board of Human Care. I have enjoyed serving in the Human Care Ministry very much, and I will continue to do so, but as a Board member. I thank the Lord for having had this opportunity. It has been a pleasure working with the congregation in providing assistance to persons in need, both to our members and to the community. You have been wonderful to work with, and have generously responded to our requests to serve and to give. Thank you all very much.

Carol Haupt

Thanksgiving Dinner

The Dinner was a *huge* success; we had 71 in attendance, mostly our members and their family and friends. The food was excellent, the fellowship fun. I think the workers enjoyed themselves most. We were somewhat disappointed that there were not more guests from the community, but attribute that lack to the fact that neither of the major Englewood newspapers published the notice that we submitted. We wish to thank everyone who worked on the dinner, whether cooking turkeys, pies, mashed potatoes and green bean casserole, shopping, setting up, serving, or cleaning up. We had a total of 48 volunteers, 8 of whom were not members of our church. We wish also to thank **Howard's Restaurant**, for donating 5 gallons of gravy and 4 turkey breasts. A big thank you also goes to the Charlotte County Chapter of **Thrivent**, which covered the costs of the dinner. It was a good start, we learned a lot, and plan to have an even bigger and better event next Thanksgiving.

Messiah Migrant Mission Angel Tree

Many thanks again to all who bought gifts for the children of the migrant workers. Your generosity has been a blessing to this ministry and to the kids, who otherwise might not have had any gifts. And thank you to the Youth, who shopped, wrapped gifts, and delivered them to the Mission. Once again, this year, 100 gifts were provided.

Two checks have also been sent to the Mission from Redeemer: one for \$500 (Christmas gift from WalMart) and one for \$1400, which represents an earlier gift from WalMart, a gift from the Youth, our door offering, and matching funds from **Thrivent**. These funds are dearly needed by the Mission because overall their donations have been substantially lower throughout 2006.

Care Notes

Response has been very good to our new Care Notes pamphlet rack, which has been placed in the Narthex. Throughout November and December pamphlets have been provided to help people get through the tough times of the holidays, especially those who have lost loved ones, experiencing severe illness, in long-term care facilities, etc. Beginning this month, the Care Notes will be of a more general nature, e.g., *Making Sense out of Suffering*, *Giving Your Worries to God*, *Dealing with Anger*, and *When Your Prayers Go Unanswered*, etc. Use them yourselves, or pass them on to friends, relatives, and neighbors who might be able to benefit from their counsel.

Submitted by Carol Haupt

Retreat Workshop

Saturday, February 10, 2007

“Retreat Follow-Up Workshop



This long-awaited gathering is in the final stages of planning and preparation by the Long Range Planning Committee. The workshop is open to all retreat participants and others in the congregation who wish to be on the “cutting edge” with respect to designing and molding the future directions for our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

The goals or outcomes for the workshop are:

1. Consolidate the four retreat-generated vision statements
2. Update the present congregation constitution missions to bring in line with and complement the consolidated vision statements, and
3. Collect your input for future Long Range Planning Committee deliberations and activities.

The workshop is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 10, 2007 in the Fellowship Hall and the Church Narthex. Activities will include prayers and devotions, both large and small group interactive sessions, a light lunch, and an abundance of future-focused fellowship. Pre-workshop packets will be available for those wanting materials in advance which will include the agenda, several working documents, and handouts for use in the small group sessions. Space will be limited; therefore, please sign up for the workshop as soon as possible by contacting the Church Office (475-2410).

Submitted by Bud Hartly

New births
 Birth is God's dawn for each new life,
 Dawn is God's birth of each new day,
 Death is God's dawn of eternal life for us,
 As God's Love lights our way.

—Peggy Ferrell, Poems and Prayers

Several More Opportunities

"Find Out About the Recent Leadership Retreat"

Here is your chance to get the info . . . Time is running out!! The Long Range Planning Committee has organized four small focus groups to discuss the Retreat activities, answer your questions, and collect your input and suggestions. You will not be asked to volunteer for anything, just come and chat and interact within a small group. The groups will be limited to about six people to allow for as much open discussion and questions as possible. It is anticipated that each session will last about one hour. All sessions will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up for one or more of these sessions by contacting the Chur Office (475-2410). Below is a listing of the days, dates, times and facilitators (a retreat participant).

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
Wednesday	01/03/07	6:00 p.m.	Wendy Horvath
Monday	01/08/07	1:30 p.m.	Marge Sterriker
Thursday	01/11/07	9:30 p.m.	Michelle Ferrier
Friday	01/19/07	9:30 p.m.	Carol Carlos

Submitted by Bud Hartz



In Jeremiah 18, God told Jeremiah to go down to the potter's house. Jeremiah obeyed. The potter was forming a vessel of clay on his wheel, but he accidentally ruined it. He reformed the clay into a lump and started over. He worked the clay again until he had a vessel that seemed good to him.

Jeremiah, the Lord's prophet, discerned that God was using the occasion as a lesson regarding individuals and nations. What was the lesson?

- A. God can do individuals and nations great good if they yield themselves to God's will.
- B. God doesn't really care in the long run whether people obey him or not.
- C. God's judgment doesn't really matter.
- D. If things don't work out well the first time, you can always try again.

The answer is found in Jeremiah 18:1-10.

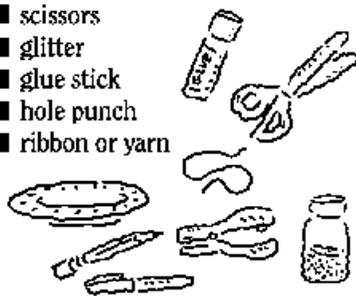
Fancy Flakes

Make a snowflake as unique and as special as you are in God's eyes.



What you need:

- paper (plain white or glittery wrapping paper)
- round plate or saucer (about the size you want your snowflake)
- pencil, crayon or marker
- scissors
- glitter
- glue stick
- hole punch
- ribbon or yarn



What you need to do:

1. Draw a circle on a piece of paper by tracing around the plate or saucer.
2. Cut out the circle.
3. Fold the paper in half three times. (If the paper is thick, fold it just twice.)
4. Use your scissors to carefully cut out shapes from the folded paper.
5. Unfold your paper.
6. On one side, write some things that are special about you.
7. Decorate the other side using the glue stick and glitter.
8. When the glitter is dry, punch a hole in the snowflake.
9. Put ribbon or yarn through the hole, and tie it to make a hanger.



Just for KIDS

Unique Creations

It is the New Year and in many places it is cold enough to snow. God created snowflakes that are so unique that no two are alike! It is the same way with people – we are all one-of-a-kind. If God cares so much about how each snowflake is made, imagine how much God cares about you!

Directions: Draw lines to match the two halves of the snowflakes. Write the letters on the numbered blanks to form the words and to complete the verse.

1			7		
2			8		
3			9		
4			10		
5			11		
6			12		

“I _____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ I _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____
 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____”

Psalm 139:14, NIV

Answer: “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful...”



HEALING:

Members

Ron Beaber
Elma Cancellieri
Gene Eiler
Kim Horn
Joan Johnson
Lessie Kirch
Cliff Larsen
Ken Mielke
Clara Mitchell
Lois Overmeyer
Katie Rudolph
Marie Talley
Lee Vandercook

Friends & Relatives

Marilyn Borowski
Valorie Buie
Dot Crawford
William Evans
Andy Gojkov
Pamela Hackley
Carol Heath
Walter Heppner
Todd Holmes
Elizabeth Linhardt
Rodney Lippman
Callie Little
Donna Nesvacil
Tommie Palmer
Cheri Petersen
Rae Ray
Alan Robeson
Becky Schemenauer
Jill Taylor
Jae Wright

MILITARY PERSONNEL & FAMILIES



Herb Bohm
Ruth Jansch
James and Henrietta Prather
Bertha Sandhusen
Norma Spaw
Shirley Youngberg

Christmas Caroling



Children's Christmas Program



Fall Rally



Newsletter



THANKS SO VERY MUCH TO EVERYONE FOR
ALL THE HELP WITH THE NEWSLETTER
EACH AND EVERY MONTH!!!



Submitted by Leta Stender

Building and Grounds

Building and Grounds wishes to thank all who participated in our fall work day and cleanup on Saturday, November 18. Several members who were unable to join us on the 18th volunteered their time and helping hands on other days prior to the big event.

The projects completed by the 31 volunteers were numerous. Special thanks should be given to those offering their pickups, vans, and personal equipment for various cleanup projects.

Also, our thanks to Thrivent and its members for their generous financial support for the day, including the delicious treats and the lunch they provided.

Our hope is to continue with future cleanup and work events which will help improve our campus at Redeemer for its members and friends.

Submitted by Harv Sterriker



Youth Group

Seven youth and three chaperons went shopping on Sunday, November 19, to purchase gifts for children whose names were on the Messiah Migrant Ministry Angel Tree. Each youth participant was given 4-5 names and the money needed to shop with the instructions to purchase the nicest gift possible for \$20. All had a fun time purchasing gifts with "other people's money". Judy, the cashier, was very patient as she rang up each purchase and complimented our church and youth on the wonderful service we were doing and on how well the kids used the money. Thanks goes out to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for providing the money to shop, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wonsey, Sr. and Mrs. Michelle Ferrier for chaperoning, and to James Wonsey, Jr., Sarah Ferrier, Chelsea Gunterman, her friend Kristen, Nathan Gunterman, Alex Wall, and his friend Collin for their creativeness and thoughtfulness in purchasing the nicest gift possible for \$20.

Remember to join in on Sunday, December 10, for lunch after church, trimming the tree, and then Christmas Caroling, with supper to be served afterward.

Submitted by Michelle Ferrier





