



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - MARCH 2011

"PERSISTENCE"

This is the time of the year when almost everything happens. Well, not everything, but almost everything. Up north, where winter takes its hardest bite, here in Southwest Florida, where summer-like weather is expected, many people travel to our area for spring break, attend spring training baseball games, or just get away from the cold winter weather of the north. This year, March is also host to the season of Lent, with Ash Wednesday bringing the solemnities of the penitential season to bear beginning on the ninth.

This, I think, is the perfect time of year to think about perseverance. We have so much to persevere through. There is the traffic, crowded beaches and restaurants. Just dwell on the idea of perseverance and it casts a dark cloud over one's mind. Thinking about such things is not a cheerful or inviting idea. To this I offer a big UGH!

This is odd, since perseverance is considered an aspiring Christian virtue. Look it up in the Bible, and you will find that in the New Testament alone, it appears twenty-two times, and almost always as a good and desirable thing. It is not connected to fun or pleasure. It appears to be connected, rather, to the realities of normal, daily life. It means, "You need to hang on, endure, put up with, and have patience." Sometimes it is connected to sufferings. More often it is the case for the Christian, than not.

Jesus mentions it only once in the Gospels in His explanation of the parable of the sower (Luke 8:15). The seed that falls into the good ground is explained as representing the ones who hear the Word with honest and good hearts and hold it fast, bearing fruit "with perseverance". And there you have the heart of it. The life of the faithful Christian is all wrapped up in enduring the realities that the Christian encounters in daily living, and facing the foes that may arise, and yet continuing in well-doing and holding fast to the faith which, at times, may seem to have little to recommend it.

Many times the Psalms speak of this needed perseverance, but they never actually use the word. Actually, in the Psalms, endurance is something God does, and His mercy does. So when we persevere in faith or in holiness, we are showing our likeness to our heavenly Father. But when the Psalms speak of perseverance, they talk about the Lord making me not afraid, the Lord causing me to lie down in peace, the Lord as my stronghold, committing one's self to the Lord, calling upon the Lord, and the like. In other words, the perseverance of the child of God is the work of God.

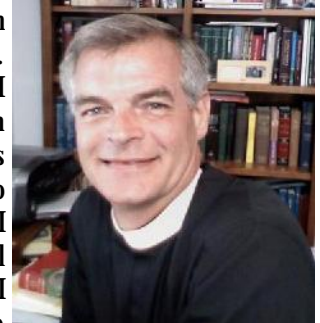
The perseverance of the saints in the Old Testament, particularly the Psalms, is never a done deal. It isn't a thing by itself, or actu-

ally a *thing* period. It is a process, an on-going act of living in the good will and love of God. The Psalms are filled with "I will" statements: I will call upon the Lord. I shall wash my hands in innocence, and I will go about Your altar, O LORD. I will give thanks to You, or I will praise You, or I will rejoice, or I will confess, or I will bless the Lord at all times. Essentially, they teach about trust in the Lord, and recognizing His hand for good in our lives.

On the other hand, the Psalms are also filled with statements like: the Lord preserves His faithful, and, the Lord will give strength to His people, and, the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. Over and over again the patience of the people of God rests on the Lord and His goodness – and they are not disappointed or ashamed.

This on-going act of perseverance is a large part of the life of the Christian, as the Apostle Paul writes repeatedly, "Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18). It is something to be sought after, "Flee from these things [*craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people*], you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness" (1 Timothy 6:11). It is the gift of God, "Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 15:5-6). It is almost synonymous with the life a Christian leads. "We ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure" (2 Thessalonians 1:4). And St. John seems to sum up the Christian life with, "I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus" (Revelation 1:9).

To be sure, perseverance is needed to be a Christian. Back in



Pastor	Rev. James Kress
Child Care Director	Wendy Horvath
Office Secretary	Jennifer Steele
Organists	Bill Bowers Lanette Schmidt
Choir Director	Doris Dykhuizen

OFFICERS

President	Ed Sheahan
Vice President	
Treasurer	Pat Luedtke
Secretary	Dorothy Sinowetski

BOARDS

Head Elder	Tim Byrne
Assimilation	Jane Hoivik
Property Mgmt	Charlie Vovcsko
Christian Ed.	Pam Replinger
Human Care	Carol Sheahan
Outreach	Carol Haupt
School Board	Bill Bowers
Stewardship	Sarah Watkins
Youth	
Financial Secretary	Karen Kirkland

CLUBS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild	Doris Dykhuizen
Men's Group	Bob Mortenson
Christian Support	Margie Cypher

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE - "PERSERVERENCE"

the time of the first Christians, the faith was illegal, and persecuted by the government periodically and with deadly force. Our situation is different. The Christian faith is still a legal religion in America. However, there are quite a number of places where it is no longer legal in the world, and other places where it was formally legal, but Christians may be abused and even murdered just for being a Christian. Christians in those places exercise heroic perseverance. But here at home, we haven't gotten to that point ... at least, not yet.

It is coming though. Today people are being harassed for carrying a Bible with them to read in their free time, or for reading aloud - not loudly, just aloud - from a Bible in a setting where many people were reading out loud from various books. Some schools which tolerate violently anti-social commentary or wildly sexual and inappropriate statements on T-shirts have insisted that some of those wearing Christian-themed shirts go home and change, citing the possibility of causing offense. Christians bearing a cross and perhaps reading from the Bible near abortion-- providers have been ordered to stop and go away, and have been arrested for failure to comply. Now, I believe that once legally ordered to stop, we ought to obey the law. But you can stop traffic and burn flags in the middle of the street in most of our major cities without danger of being arrested, because that has been regarded as being "protected free speech" by our courts. How a meek Christian witness can fall outside of such legal protection is logically puzzling to me but, not theologically puzzling.

Christ told us that the world hated Him, and that it would hate us also. In decades gone by, the Christian church, as we could observe it outwardly in this country, did not stand up for the Christian faith very well. The world came into the church and taught us to hold our peace and not make a scene or attract much attention to ourselves. We kind of came to believe that it was okay to believe as long as we didn't bother anyone else with it - and by bother we seemed to mean *'let them know that we believed or what we believed that set us apart from the world around us.'* The world didn't need to lean on us. We seemed to be keeping a lid on ourselves pretty well. And catechesis (*teaching the faith*) disintegrated in most churches so that people today who sit in the pews often do not know basic Bible history or what it is that the churches have taught in their history, and what "Christian" actually means.

In recent years there has been a re-awakening of faith and teaching, accompanied by the divisions in many churches between what is called "liberalism" and what is called "conservatism" (both probably inaccurately). As many congregations began to shake off the sloth of the fifties and the sixties, the world awoke to the reality that "Christian" was beginning to mean something again, and they began to take offense at the clearer confession of faith, and specifically of Christ. We should expect that as our culture grows coarser and cooler toward the Christian faith, the hostility of the world will become more evident. No doubt, our perseverance will be put to the test with increasing frequency and increasing anger if this cultural decay continues on its present course.

Continued on page 3

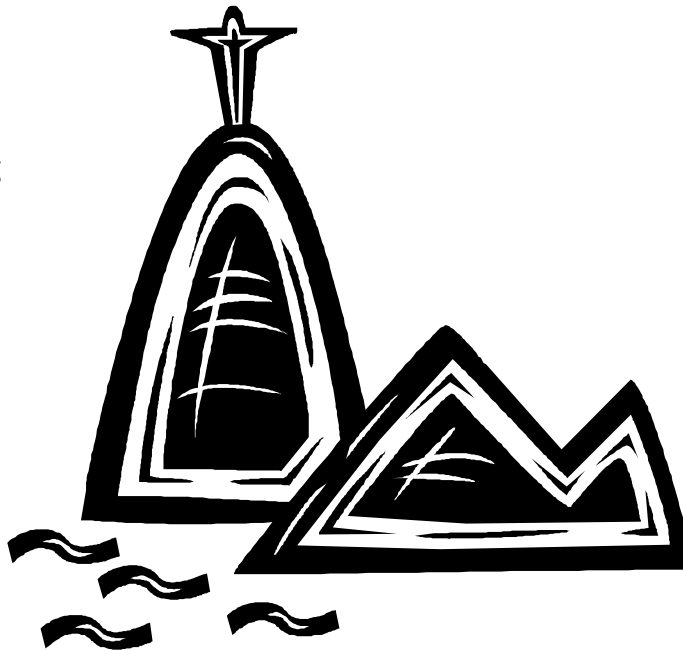
CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO - "PERSERVERENCE"

Yet, even today, here in our little hide-away town of Englewood, where no one openly assaults us, we have need of the perseverance which is required of all Christians. We have everyday life to deal with. There are the financial problems that some of us wrestle with - probably most of us, at our own level of difficulty. There are the health issues which claim our attention. If they are not our personal issues, they are likely to belong to someone close to us and dear to us. The temptations of the world around us continue to grow - and temptations don't have to be to open sin. They can be temptations to keep up with the 'Joneses,' or the lure of technology which seems to be running faster than our budgets or our comprehension can keep up with. There are computers, and flat-screen TV's and I-pods and cell-phones, and all the accessories that go with them, and they seem to come packaged with this "you gotta have it" kind of urgency, right in the package. And if you can avoid all of those tests, life just keeps on keeping on day by day - dull for some, hectic for others, and alternating between the two with maddening persistence for the rest of us.

The temptation to do something to make life sparkle a bit, or to take a short-cut so that life can slow down a step or two, is often pretty attractive. Finding the time for prayer or for Bible Study can be a challenge. At other times, finding the energy to fit those things into our daily schedule can be our problem. And just remembering to walk by faith and live to what you believe and confess is a task that may slip our minds. Perseverance means hanging on, enduring, putting up with, and having patience with life and with ourselves, so that we continue to be who God has called us to be in Christ, and continue to remember our forgiveness (*both received by us and given by us to others*), and the rich blessing of God

on us which are so easy to take for granted.

The good spouse God has given us might easily come to feel like a burden or an irritation if we forget to give thanks, and count the blessings we have. We can quickly forget who we are and imagine ourselves as really decent people, and take offense at those around us, unless we persevere in looking into the Word and seeing our sinfulness honestly



reflected in the Law. We might begin to get defeated or depressed by the times we live in or the events in our lives if we forget the great love of God and do not pause to remember our Lord's death on our behalf, and the gift of forgiveness and life which is ours, but at His expense.

Sometimes it is just difficult to remember that we live under the Gospel and the grace of God and not under the Law and under the pressure to achieve something holy or noteworthy in the way of our conduct before we can rest in the love of God for us. We experience that when we begin to wonder if our troubles are due to our failure to meet some standard or live up to God's expecta-

tions. I know I face that temptation too, so I am guessing the devil can work you over with that sort of thinking sometimes as well. Those are the times we need to recall our unworthiness and to hold on to the words of absolution we hear in the service each week, and remember that the voice that spoke to them was the voice of Jesus - that is, the one chosen by Him to speak those words out loud to us.

Even without persecutions, perseverance is a difficult thing for the child of God. It is so difficult that we need God to work it up in us and make it happen - and God's ways are not always our own - "And not only this, but we also exult [*rejoice*] in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:3-5).

Anyway, the month of March put me in mind of the perseverance needed when looking at our Lenten schedule. It also made me think of the Christian life - our everyday life - in the midst of this world and more importantly with the people we live. "Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus; that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 15:5-6).

In His Service,
Pastor Kress

STEWARDSHIP

Hope, Strength, Commitment & Opportunities

Volunteers Are Important to the Church

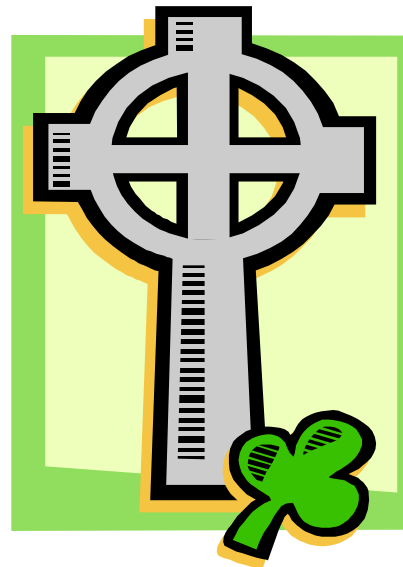
1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (New International Version, ©2010)

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Volunteers are hugely important to a church. They are the backbone and muscle; the face and voice; the strength and commitment of the membership. They give immeasurably through hours and hours of time contributed to programs and property; people and projects; teaching and caring; communicating and planning; working and giving—in ways too numerous to list. Without the dedication of volunteers a church could not afford to take care of all the things required for its continued success or fund all the needs that fall outside its budget.

During the month of February everyone at Redeemer Lutheran Church and Child Care (RLCCC) was asked to

consider a personal covenant—between themselves and the Lord—relevant to their financial contributions to RLCCC for 2011 and to return that sealed covenant in the offering plate any Sunday of the month. Many have made such a commitment and we thank you.



Now it is time to think about the many, many ways those who attend RLCCC can share their time and abilities in meaningful ways. We are in the process of identifying

specific areas of need for volunteers. Some of the ways you may be able to help are as simple as making phone calls or spending some time on the computer. We are working on establishing a list so that you can match your special abilities to a task that is a good fit for both your skills and your schedule. (We'll keep you informed of our progress.)

Volunteering can be rewarding. We want it to be rewarding and fulfilling for you. We are all a work in progress and so is the work of the Stewardship Committee. We know that many of you want to help but just don't know where or how you can be of service. Hopefully, with some thoughtful consideration, a little time, and some planning and organization effort, our committee *with the help of others* will come up with some useful suggestions and a list of opportunities.

Wishing you peace and contentment—Sarah Watkins, Chair, Stewardship

As our hope remains in Christ, let us commit in strength to the Lord for all He has given us.



From the Treasurer's Desk

2011 Church Actual vs. Budget
Through January 31, 2011

OFFERINGS BUDGET
\$19,829.42

OFFERINGS RECEIVED
\$20,177.00

EXPENSES
\$14,762.08

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

The Finance Office would like to pass on the following information. Some of you may not be aware that there are Dedicated Funds for special needs where you can make donations.

Some of these Dedicated Funds are:

Good Samaritan Fund #2125, to help any of our congregation members in need

Playground Equipment Fund #2145, to upgrade Child Care equipment to State standards

School/Child Care Building Fund #2141, to replace the modular units now housing Child Care

A full list of all Dedicated Funds is available upon request.

Submitted by Karen Kirkland

Lutheran Women In Mission

It's RALLY time for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League! Come to Grace Lutheran in Arcadia flying high with enthusiasm and transform into Wings of Outreach, Saturday, March 12. Pre pay \$6.00 registration (includes lunch) to Avis Stuck or Vicky Davis by Sunday, MARCH 6th. Carpool from Church at 8 am. ALL Redeemer women are invited to attend this day of inspiration and fellowship. Questions? call Vicky 941-473-7522.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School is looking forward to moving into the next quarter of lessons. The lessons for the Spring quarter will focus on Jesus' ministry, His Resurrection and the life of the early church after Jesus Ascended.....that is a lot of ground to cover!! Our April events include singing in church on Palm Sunday, at the 10:30 AM service. We will have the traditional Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011 between the 8 and 10:30 service. We will be looking for volunteers to help with this event. If you feel you may be able to help, either filling eggs, or helping children during the "hunt", please contact me as soon as possible. Also, of course bags of candy will be needed! Please look for a box in the Narthex mid-March. Please keep the Sunday School and her children in your prayers as we continue to Grow in Christ.

In Christ's Service,
Lisa Kress



Zach & Amy Vovcsko at the Little Orchard



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Newsletter

Monthly volunteers are needed for the folding of the newsletter. If you are able and willing, please contact the church office. Thank you so very much.

Nurses or medical personnel please consider assisting with blood pressures on the last Sunday of every month. This is an inreach program of our human care ministry. This is one way of showing your loving care to our Redeemer congregation. Please contact Carol Carlos at 941-255-3354 or see you at church.

PRAYERS



SHUT-INS: Gloria Carlson, Evelyn Etheridge, Ruth Jansch, Jim Prather, and Ruth Sutley.

HEALING: Members: Marjorie Boliere, Bob Johnson, Cliff Larsen, Gary Lute, Clara Mitchell, Leona Morrison, Jaye Nistendirk, Don Plesner, Ed Sita, Anna Smith, Marie Talley, Ronald Woller, Eileen Zwick.

Friends & Relatives: Lorraine Agens, Linny Aspery, Grace Blum, Randy Bradshaw, Georgia Bush, Raymond Carlos, Julie Carroll, Shirley Chattin, Bobbett Clark, Carly DeFeos, Renee Dempsey, John Denick, Manual Galan, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, Bill Hillis, Robin Hincman, Casey Hoivik, Tom Holt, Bob Janmey, Douglas Johnson, Heather Johnson, Betty Kabert, Rachel Kagay, Julie Keck, Rev. Howie Krienke, Denise Lines, Elsie Malecki, Dan Mason, Joe Manson, Patrick McCord, Vinnie Meli, Pete Mogg, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Ann Nagel, Judy Nagel, Dan Niemann, Josh Niemann, Darwin Oliver, Charles Pentecost Jr., Mary Raines, Sherrie Rhoades, Donna Santora-Vovcsko, Audrey Slusher, Nancy Sly, Michael Stio, Eva Tabbitas, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, Phyllis Tucker, Helen Weishaar, Cindy Whitaker, Gordan Winkle, Ida Wippich, Andrew Wolgast.

Military Personnel: Daniel Anderson, Matthew Anderson, Adam Buchner, Eric Byrne, Kevin Copeman, Christopher Dutch, Michael Garza, Christopher Hankins, Jonathan Hibbard, Jonathan Hudson, Nathan Hudson, Brian Jackson, Robert Krakowiak, Keith Janssen, Josh Johnson, Joshua Jones, Eric Kieselburg, Jesse Krone, Michael Monson, Jesse Morse, Christian Mosser, Jeremy Schaitz, Scott Senna, Brandon Smith, Jeremy Twombly, Katherine Utroska, Matthew Walenta, and Charles Weishaar.

MARCH COFFEE HOUR

March 6th

VICKI DAVIS, CAMILLE WEABURG,
MARION BUIE

March 13th

ANN ELPHICK, ANN VOELKER, NOLA
LAWRENCE

March 20th

MARY CITRONE- SHIRLEY -ZATKALIK

March 27th

JANE HOIVIK – MARGIE CYPHER

Provided by Assimilation

MARCH GREETERS

March 6th

ALDENE'S

March 13th

SHIRLEY SCHIEFER

March 20th

GEORGIA LANG

March 27th

Provided by Assimilation



REMINDER

The Newsletter deadline for next month is April 17th. Please have all your submissions to the church office by that time.



Ministry to the Dying and their Family and Friends

Fred and Alexander were best friends and both baseball fanatics. They wondered if there was baseball in heaven. They made a pledge - whichever died first would come back and let the other one know if there was baseball in heaven. Fred died first. One day while Alexander was watching baseball on TV he heard a voice calling him. He recognized it as Fred's. He asked if it was Fred and the voice answered "Yes. I have good news and bad news. Which do you want first.?" Alexander said, "give me the good news first. Then I'll be able to stand the bad news." Fred replied "The good news is there is baseball in heaven and the bad news is your pitching tonight." As Christians our good news is when we die our earthly life, we will live eternally with Christ. "For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ." - 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

A terminally ill person can experience social isolation due to people feeling uncomfortable around a dying person. They have physical isolation because they no longer receive hugs, kisses or other kinds of caring touches. People may withdraw their emotional support from the dying person because they are overwhelmed by their own pain. The dying person can no longer attend church and have involvement with the community of Christians; therefore, feeling spiritually isolated. Along with all of the isolations, they are



also experiencing all the symptoms of their illness for weeks or months before their death.

Family and friends may be withdrawing because of the pain it inflicts on them seeing their loved one dying. Be understanding to family and friends. If they have concerns encourage them to talk to a medical professional. You can be the reliable one to the dying person. Visit, hold their hand and encourage them to talk about their feelings. Read a psalm from the Bible, pray with them and bestow a blessing upon them. Usually people in the last stage of dying do not have the stamina for long visits. Five or ten minute visits lets them know that you are there for them and care about them. Be committed to visiting them even for a short time on a regular basis.

As death approaches the dying person may only want one or two people beside them. We all do what we have to do to get ready to die. Wishes must be respected. You may be excluded but continue to make yourself available, continue to pray for the dying person and provide some care for the family and friends. Perhaps praying with them, reading scripture and letting them know that the Lord God is always there for us, hearing every thought, comforting every sadness and meeting every need.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" - *John 10:10b*

Submitted by Carol Carlos

LADIES GUILD/LWML

At our February meeting, Vicky Davis presented an informative report about the creation of LWML and how it evolved. We now know how our mites are distributed. 75% are kept in our own FL/GA district for projects and 25% go to national for mission projects. The Zone Rally will be held in Arcadia on March 12th. If interested in attending please call Vicky.

Pastor Kress explained our new Redeemer Good Samaritan Fund which will be administered by the Human Care board. This fund will be for the benefit of Redeemer members exclusively. We decided to dedicate our Bakeless Bake Sale proceeds to this new fund.

Our annual Style Show was reported on and once again was a huge, sold-out success. Thrivent will match funds to be distributed to our Love Gift recipients.

We are hoping to make a trip to the Broadway Palms Dinner Theater in March. Second, Helping, Church Basement Ladies is playing and is supposed to be hilarious.

Lenten dinners are coming up and we need volunteers. The dates are March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 and 13. The list will be completed at our March 2nd meeting.

Our President, Doris has something special planned for our April meeting. Please join us.

Submitted by Carol Sheahan

SCRIP

February SCRIP orders will be taken Wednesday, February 2 at the Ladies Guild/LWML meeting and Sunday, March 6 after both services and returned the following Sunday, March 13. These gift cards make great gifts any time of the year. April orders will be taken Sunday, April 10 after both services. These orders will be returned Sunday, April 17. April will be the last month for Scrip orders until November, so stock up for the summer months. SCRIP is a substitute for money. They are gift cards for everything from fast food restaurants, grocery stores, department stores, gasoline, movies, to office supply stores and many, many more. Each month an updated list is on the narthex desk. Anyone who is interested should pick up a copy and see what is available. The percentage the Ladies Guild/LWML earns is based on the amount of SCRIP orders for the month. These earnings are used for our Mission Projects. Your support is appreciated. If you have any questions, please call Sybil Grahl at 475-0263.

CLASSIFIEDS

Beautician/Manicurist	Debbie Balogh Linda Pontello	Purple Palace Purple Palace	941-475-0731 941-475-0731
Painter/Handyman	If it's broken, I can fix it. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Please call John Toth - Home: 941-697-1670, Cell: 941-875-6191.		
Sales—Rentals	Pineapple Gulf Properties—Glenda McDorman, Owner/Broker (Lessie Kirch's Daughter) 880 S. McCall Road Englewood, FL 34223 . Office: 941-473-0300, Cell: 941-330-7922.		
Insurance	For all your insurance needs, contact Lisa Kress at State Farm! 941-548-2205		
For Sale	Like new, excellent condition shuffle board (ten feet long) Original purchase price was \$375 and is being sold for \$75, a great deal. Please call Judy Scarangella at 460-9155 if interested.		

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening's Mobile Health Testing Units Are Coming

Where: Redeemer Lutheran Church
When: Friday, March 11, 2011

When tragedy strikes, people often ask themselves, "What could have been done to prevent this from happening?" For many who have lost their lives to stroke or vascular disease, prevention may have been the answer.

Stroke and other serious problems can be avoided and treated before they become life threatening. That's what makes Life Line Screening such a valuable service. Within easy reach of your home, and for very little money, their healthcare professionals use ultrasound technology to learn whether you are at risk for life threatening conditions

Life Line Screening is dedicated to helping avert stroke and other complications of cardiovascular disease by providing preventive health screenings. Typically a physician cannot order these tests for prevention, you must have the symptoms of the disease before Medicare and other insurances will pay for these ultrasound tests.

The three vascular screenings—Stroke/Carotid Artery Screening, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening and Peripheral Arterial Disease (hardening of the arteries) are priced at \$60 each. A special price package allows you to receive all three vascular screenings for \$119. The Complete Wellness Package which includes the Osteoporosis Screening is offered for \$129. Add the Atrial Fibrillation test to any package for \$20 more. Add the Blood Tests (cholesterol, glucose and liver enzyme) to any package for \$80 more.

Pre-registration is required. Space is Limited!

****Call 1-800-324-1851 to schedule your appointment****

CHILD CARE NEWS

ENROLLMENT IS 81 CHILDREN

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays at
3:45

3/7 Mary and Martha
Luke 10:38-42

3/14 Jesus Heals a
Deaf Man
Mark 7:31-37

3/21 Jesus Heals a
Blind Man
Mark 10:46-52

3/28 Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10



Teach me Your way, O
Lord.

Psalm 27:11

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

Birthdays

- 3/1 Shelby
- 3/2 Dr Seuss
- 3/7 Mr. Tommy
- 3/11 Gavin E.
- 3/11 Ms. Cherylann
- 3/12 Lily
- 3/21 Kallie
- 3/24 Ms. April
- 3/30 Ethan O.



Welcome to Redeemer Child Care

Collin, Katie & Ava



Happy St. Patrick's Day!
March 17th

What We Are Learning...

March 7-11
Sound and Movement

March 14-18
St. Patrick's Day

March 21-25
The Pot, the Pan & the
Wooden Spoon

March 28- April 8
Tell Me A Story

Playground Fundraiser

March 18, 2011
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Please join us in the Fel-
lowship Hall for a Taco
Dinner to help raise
funds for new play-
ground equipment

Taco Dinner
Price TBA

SCHOOL BOARD NEWSLETTER

Dear Redeemer Family,

I am pleased to report that all is going well at Redeemer Child Care. We are consistently averaging over 80 students and have waiting lists for some age groups.

Our VPK program and our facility excel in pre school education and in meeting the needs of parents who seeking a Christ centered atmosphere to entrust the care of their children. We have always scored highly on DCFS and Coalition inspections in these areas.

One of the requirements of certification for our facility by these governing agents is that we have increases in our evaluation scores every year. This is to insure that our facility is continually progressing in providing the most professional care available for the Redeemer children. Although we continue to receive glowing reports about our program, it is becoming more and more apparent that our playground facilities are not up to expected standards and have been hurting our scores.

We currently have equipment similar to what one would find in a neighborhood backyard. Governing agencies require that commercial quality equipment that is certified to the highest safety standards be utilized. We have also been the victims of mischief in that there were several days when Wendy has arrived to find the playground equipment taken apart. This requires additional staff time to put everything back together before the children can go outside. Permanent equipment, professionally installed would be more immune to the temptation to vandalize.

We have recently increased the child care fees each family pays. We are dedicating \$2.50 of the increase per student, each week to a dedicated fund so that we may begin to make our playground equipment compliant with industry and regulatory standards.

We are grateful for the support the Church has given the child care facility over the years and realize that Redeemer Child Care would not exist without the prayers and support of our congregation. I ask all of you to prayerfully consider supporting us once again, with a gift dedicated to our playground fund.

We would also like all of you to join us on Friday March 18 for a taco dinner in Fellowship Hall. Beef and fish tacos, along with Mexican side dishes will be served. All proceeds will benefit our new playground fund.

On behalf of the School Board, I wish to again thank you for your past, future and continued support of our child care ministry.

In Christ's Love,

Bill Bowers - Redeemer Lutheran School Board, Chairman

HUMAN CARE

Our Human Care Committee met on February 7th and all members were in attendance to discuss the guidelines of Redeemer's new **Good Samaritan Fund**. This fund has been set up to help a member of Redeemer meet a temporary need. Once a Redeemer member has exhausted all helpful resources within their community, the Pastor will be contacted and Human Care will see to their needs. All of this will be held in strictest confidentiality.

Florida Blood Centers collected **16** pints of blood from Redeemer's last **Blood Draw** on February 13th. Forty-eight lives in our community may be saved with this donation. The blood center was extremely pleased with our generosity. Next blood draw is April 10th and if you gave blood in February this is when you are more than fully recovered and able to donate again. Many guidelines have changed. If you

have been told in the past, that you cannot donate, it may be different now. Visit FloridasBloodCenters.org or phone 1-888-9DONATE.

CROP Walk is March 5th. Registration begins at 8am and the walk starts at 9am. The walk is 5 miles from Community Presbyterian Church on McCall to Lemon Bay Park and back. If you have a "Redeemer" tee shirt, we'd like you to wear it. There are a few for sale in Dolores' Gift Corner in the Fellowship Hall. If you want to make an anonymous donation, we have a container in the narthex. Seventy-five percent of the funds we collect will go to Luther World Relief, 25% to Englewood's Helping Hands and Thrivent will give matching funds to the Charlotte County Coalition. Last year the weather was not-so-great but we still collected over \$1,400.

Submitted by Carol Sheahan

ENDOWMENT NEWS

You may not be aware of the fact that Redeemer Lutheran Church has an Endowment Fund, which has been funded by gifts made by faithful members who named Redeemer in their wills and or trusts, as well as members who have made direct contributions to the Fund. The Fund is managed to seek to provide a perpetual source of income to benefit the various projects of Redeemer in its efforts to accomplish the Lord's work.

Under the Fund bylaws each year the annual earned income becomes available for distribution through a grant program. Grant requests may be submitted to the Endowment Committee for consideration and review under the established bylaws governing the Fund. In the past the fund has made grants which made possible the initial purchase of our new hymnals, and also allowed the purchase of the large storage shed located near the Child Care facility.

The goal of the granting of income is to provide funding for projects and programs which support the growth of God's church on earth. Such projects or programs shall seek to support the spread of the Word of God, support the work of the Lutheran Church both in our District and Synod, as well as the local work of Redeemer Lutheran Church in encouraging the worship of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our Grant program shall consider but not be limited to distribution request in support of:

Lutheran Education
 District and Synod programs
 Outreach programs
 Youth programs
 Human care and support programs
 Lutheran Worship
 Facility Improvement programs

Grant request instruction and or a Sample request are available should you or your committee or board feel you have a qualified project or program requiring support. Such requests will be reviewed by the Endowment Fund Committee as received, and their recommendation for action being made to the Council and Voters Assembly as soon as possible.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to remind each member that Redeemer Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is an excellent vehicle through which you may make a lasting gift to your church. Please consider this Fund in your estate planning if the Lord so moves you.

Thank you for your attention to this message, and should you have questions or comments please contact any member of the Committee listed below.

Pastor Kress - Ray Altmann - Karen Kirkland - Earl Stuck

NEW MEMBERS



Dick & Betty Clemens
 547 Boundary Blvd.
 Rotonda West, FL 33947
 (941) 698-6643

Dick & Betty are originally from Milwaukee, WI. Dick is a retired Prudential Insurance Agent. He enjoys reading and is an avid Packers fan. Betty is employed at Fiddler's Green. Betty enjoys sewing, counted cross-stitch and crafts.

Rick Clemens
 1846 Neptune Drive
 Englewood, FL 34223
 (941) 475-1020

Rick is the Meat Manager at Publix in Sarasota. Rick likes to play golf.



More members were received into Redeemer Lutheran on February 27th, but will be pictured in the April newsletter!

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
6970 Mineola Road
Englewood, FL 34224

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PLACIDA, FL
PERMIT 774



REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
6465 Mayport Road
Englewood, FL 34224

REV. JAMEST. KRESS, SR.

REDEEMER REPORTER

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and Visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church (LCMS).

WORSHIP SERVICES:

October - April: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Adult Bible Study and Sunday School: 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
receiving 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 brothers and sisters as He served us