

From the Interim Pastor



As I write this, I am putting the finishing touches to my sermon for **The Last Sunday in Pentecost**, which is also **The Last Sunday of The Church Year**. The last Sunday in November is also the beginning of a **NEW CHURCH YEAR** and the beginning of **THE NEW SEASON OF ADVENT**. How appropriate in light of our Town Hall Meeting last Sunday where I got the wonderful impression that Redeemer has begun a **New Season!** Our Transition Time is coming to an end. Our new Time of Calling a Pastor is about to begin! There is a feeling of excitement – of anticipation – in the air! Our Congregation is entering a new season. We could almost call it **REDEEMER'S NEW ADVENT SEASON** as we prepare for a new Pastor. So let's enter the new Church Year and its Seasons with renewed awe and joy as we prepare our hearts once again for the Incarnation of Jesus.

Over the centuries, the Christian Church has recognized its own changing seasons—the "church year" or "liturgical calendar." Most people could name a few of these seasons, such as Christmas, Lent, and Easter. But what is the purpose of observing these different seasons? And what is the benefit of maintaining the distinctiveness of the seasons even as fewer and fewer people are aware of them?

To answer these questions, let's look at the two seasons that are upon us: Advent and Christmas. Advent comprises the four weeks that precede Christmas Day. Its purpose is not to celebrate the birth of Jesus—that will come at Christmas—but to humble ourselves before the coming King.

The world, of course, has no idea as to what the season of Advent is even about. Long before December rolls around, the trappings of Christmas can be found everywhere (this year before Halloween). The reasoning is quite simple: if lights and tinsel and seasonal songs can get you into the Christmas spirit, you'll be more generous with your purchases. But once December 25 passes, don't expect to find many reminders of Christmas.

How different it is in the Church. By keeping Advent as a distinct season, we give ourselves the opportunity to savor the beauty of God's plan of salvation. Then, when Christmas finally arrives, our celebration knows the joy of the shepherds as we join in the song of the angels.

Our observance of Advent might be compared to children who wait for weeks to open the presents that temptingly rest under the Christmas tree. The excitement builds and builds until finally the day arrives and the gifts are opened. By sharing in the anticipation of Advent, we arrive at Christmas—including the 12 days after it, which lead up to Epiphany on January 6—with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the great Gift that God has given by sending His Son in the flesh to save this world from sin and death.

The tension between the now and the not yet is one of the great themes of the Advent season. Many have recog-

nized the double character of this season as we prepare for the Christ's coming in Bethlehem while, at the same time, we prepare for his Second Coming at the end of time. The First Sunday in Advent is intensely focused on the end of all things and continues a focus that began on All Saints Day. The Gospels for the last three Sundays of the church year are taken from the apocalyptic chapters of Matthew 24 and 25, culminating on the Last Sunday with the Great White Throne Judgment (Mt 25:31-46). The church year's conclusion is a natural bridge to Advent.

The appointed Gospel lessons for Advent support this theme of the Second Coming by showing the continuity between the Old Testament and the New in the appearance of John the Baptist, the last prophet of the old age. He closes the old age and inaugurates the new one by baptizing Jesus, the long awaited Messiah.

The Advent I Gospel of Mark 13:24-37 looks back on the end-times emphasis of the last three Sundays of the church year and calls for the church to be vigilant as she waits for the Lord's second coming, not knowing when it will come. Fear is mixed with hope.

The Advent II Gospel of Mark 1:1-8 calls for the church to prepare the way of the Lord through John the Baptist's preaching of a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Preparation for the birth of Christ through repentance and forgiveness is also preparation for His second coming.

John 1:6-8, 19-28, the Gospel for Advent III or Gaudete (rejoice), continues the theme of preparation but adds a new dimension. The third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been the transitional Sunday that anticipates Christmas joy and narrows the focus upon the incarnation. John's function as precursor is "to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." (Jn 1:7).

The Advent IV Gospel of Luke 1:26-38 senses the church's nearness to the celebration of the nativity and therefore offers an invitation to the feast by announcing to the church the coming birth of Jesus through the words of the angel to the humble Virgin.

The portrait of the Messiah becomes more complete. He is conceived by the Holy Ghost; He will be Great; He will be called the Son of the Most High; He will be given the throne of His father David; He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever in an unending kingdom; He will be called holy, the Son of God. Thus, with these messianic pronouncements, the church is ready for the birth of the Christ child.

(continued on page 4)

REDEEMER LUTHERAN
CHURCHInterim Pastor Rev. Warren Thomason
Office

Secretary Pat Wilcoxon

Organist Doris Dykhuizen

OFFICERS

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Vice
President

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Newsletter Editor Leta Stender

CLUBS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild Carol Sheahan

Men's Group Bob Mortenson

Red Hat Society Sandra Distasio

Christian Support Group

President's Corner



The President's Corner

I am glad that we have the majority of the budget process behind us. It started with a Council work shop on a Sat. morning, then with Council approval. We got a curve ball when we found out that even with a \$10,000.00 deductible our property insurance bill will be \$30,000.00 and the balanced budget only included \$20,000.00. I brought this to the Elders and we were able to work out a compensation figure for the new Pastor when he is called that would allow us to balance the budget. We then presented the revised budget at the Town Hall Meeting and it was well received by those in attendance. Copies are available from the Church office for those that haven't received a copy. The only thing left is the formal vote at this month's Voters meeting. I feel like we have a very realistic budget for both the income, and the expense side. If anything, the income may be a little on the conservative side, considering the increase in attendance we are seeing.

This year's Church budget remains firmly in the black. A committee of Ray Altman, Leta Stender, and Joe Friess, has researched software and has or will be purchasing new software for the financial side. This will make bookkeeping much easier and much more transferable should we decide to hire a part time bookkeeper.

The Child Care budget is also balanced and is conservative, but very realistic. Michelle Finley, Christin Wacker, and Wendy have done a great job with the budget and the Child Care in general. We all owe you a great big THANK-YOU.

Last Friday evening was the 1st annual Redeemer Lutheran Church talent show. We had a great crowd, and 10 very talented acts. The food was great, the performances were very entertaining, and I think the 100 or so folks in attendance had a great time. I really believe that these types of well attended fellowship activities show how well our congregation is coming together and how much closer we are coming together as a church.

The election committee still does not have a candidate for **Vice President**. If you are called to serve please give this office your full consideration. Pam DeGourse reviewed the Insurance policies and although we were not able to find a lower insurance price, we can be confident that we are not paying more than we need to pay.

The voters meeting in December we will approve the budget, vote on officers, get an update on the Call process/progress and distribute the annual report. The annual report will be presented to the Council at the December meeting. Most reports are already in, with just a few needed to complete the report. I hope to have copies available before the voters meeting. The timing of the December meeting is always a problem, with folks traveling, and an already full church schedule, but we will try very hard to get in a scheduled time that is convenient to as many as possible.

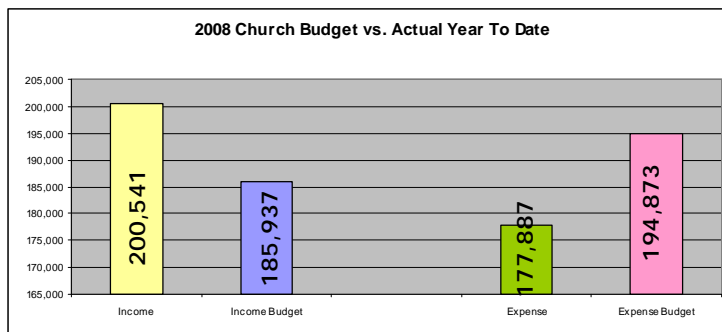
I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving, we all at Redeemer have a lot to be thankful for this year.

Ron Beaber

Finance

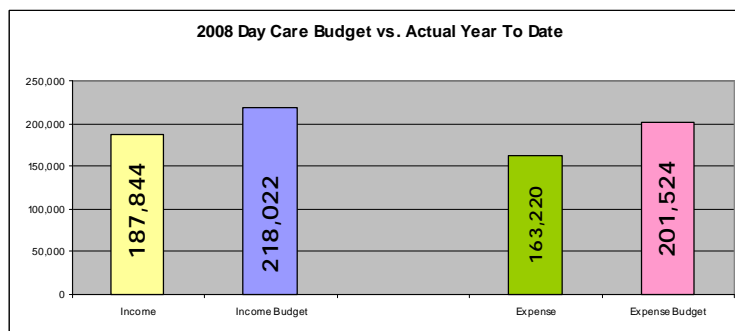
2008 Church Budget Actual vs. Budget Year to Date Through November 22, 2008

<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Income Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Expense Budget</u>
\$200,541	\$185,937	\$177,887	\$194,873



2008 Day Care Actual vs. Budget Year to Date Through November 22, 2008

<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Income Budget</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Expense Budget</u>
\$187,844	\$218,022	\$163,220	\$201,524



Englewood Helping Hands



Your love and support mean a lot to our community.

You made a difference in our small part of the world with your generosity. You have helped us to help the less fortunate and for that we thank you again!

With sincere appreciation,

Ginny Anderson, Corresponding Secretary

From the Interim Pastor

(Continued from Page 1)

The Christmas Gospel of Luke 2:1-20 shows that it is the sleepy village of Bethlehem, not Rome, where the Savior is born. Shepherds, not Pharisees, come to worship the child. A manger, not a palace, is the place of birth. God uses His power, not for the glory of man, but for the saving of man. God's powerful kingdom comes through abject humility. In humility and weakness God's power is released. This understanding unlocks the mysteries of the birth of God in Bethlehem and the death of God on Calvary.

The Christmas I Gospel of Luke 2:22-40 continues the theme of humility as the infant Jesus is proclaimed to be the Christ through the humble eyes of faith by two of Israel's aging saints. The little child in the temple will be rejected because the scandal of His cross "is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel" (Lk. 2:34).

Christmas II Sunday falls on January 4th and so is celebrated as Epiphany Sunday. The Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12 celebrates God's mercy to the Gentiles and so to you and me in the revealing Jesus Christ to all nations.

What a joy it is to experience THESE UNIQUE NEW SEASONS together with you at Redeemer!

Pastor Warren Thomason

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE -2008



ADVENT SERVICES

Wed. December 03, 2008 – 4:30PM & 7:00PM

Wed. December 10, 2008 – 4:30PM & 7:00PM

SUPPER WILL BE SERVED BETWEEN ADVENT SERVICES

Wed. December 17, 2008 – 7:00PM *"CHILDRENS' CHRISTMAS SERVICE"*
(ONE SERVICE ONLY – NO SUPPER)

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Wed. December 24, 2008 – 4:30PM & 7:00PM (Candlelight)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

Thur. December 25, 2008 – 9:15AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Wed. December 31, 2008 – 7:00PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

NO SERVICE

USHERS

8:00 A.M.

Dec. 7 Lee Vandercook & Olga Nagel
Earl & Avis Stuck

Dec. 14 Lee Vandercook & Olga Nagel
Earl & Avis Stuck

Dec. 21 Chuck & Elaine Malecki
USHERS NEEDED

Dec. 28 Chuck & Elaine Malecki
USHERS NEEDED

10:30 A.M.

Dec. 7 Ron & Mary Beaber
Cecil & Sybil Grahl

Dec. 14 Cecil & Sybil Grahl
James & Tonyua Hollis

Dec. 21 Ron & Mary Beaber
Karen & Tommy Kirkland

Dec. 28 Lessie Kirch **USHERS NEEDED**
USHERS NEEDED

Submitted by Ray Stender (941) 628-3939

ADVENT SERVICES

Dec. 3 4:30 Harold Hale & Diana Collins
7:00 Ray & Leta Stender

Dec. 10 4:30 Ray Janssen & Sammy Jollay
7:00 Tommy & Karen Kirkland

Dec. 17 7:00 Ray Janssen & Sammy Jollay
USHERS NEEDED

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Dec. 24 4:30 Lessie Kirch **USHERS NEEDED**
7:00 **USHERS NEEDED**

Dec. 25 9:15 Ray & Leta Stender
Karen & Tommy Kirkland

Dec. 31 7:00 Chuck & Elaine Malecki
USHERS NEEDED

Dec. 7 Betty & Erv Maki

Dec. 14 Elaine Malecki

Dec. 21 Marie Talley & Carolyn Jordan

Dec. 28 KC & Jim Wright

Submitted by Pam DeGourse



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Red poinsettias to help beautify our church for "Christmas" may be purchased for \$7.00 per plant. You may include the cost with your weekly contribution envelope. Write "plant" on the line below Child Care or make check payable to Redeemer Lutheran church and write Poinsettias in note field. Orders must be in by **December 17th**. You are welcome to take your plant home after the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service or the 9:15 a.m. Christmas Day Service to enjoy at home during the holidays.



FLOWER CALENDAR



Altar Flowers

The Flower Calendar for 2008 is in the Narthex on the wall next to the Quiet Room. Select the Sunday you would like to have flowers on the altar. Only one arrangement can be used on the first and third Sundays. The cost is **\$25.00** and may be placed in your regular church envelope. Mark flowers on the line under Child Care. For special colors, please call Pat Wilcoxon (941) 475-2410 or Avis Stuck (941) 465-7862.

Submitted by Pat Wilcoxon and Avis Stuck

SCRIP

December Scrip orders will be taken Sunday December 7 and returned Sunday December 14. You still have time to get these gift cards for Christmas giving. These are the same gifts cards you purchase at department stores and restaurants. A complete list of retailers is available in the narthex and order blanks also. If you have any questions ask Sybil Grahl or Pat Wilcoxon.

*Sybil Grahl,
Ladies Guild Secretary*

Youth Group



Youth Group has had an active month. They attended the What If Middle School Rally in November. We had 6 middle schoolers and 1 high school student who served as a guide. It was a fun Christ-filled weekend. I can tell you they are already excited for next year. They helped build framing for Habitat for Humanity homes and loved the band – Rough Draft. They had the opportunity to choose two break-out sessions they felt best fit them. The Mass Events were loud and crazy but filled with amazing messages that I hope they got as much from as I did. I feel honored to have been with these wonderful children and have to congratulate the parents on raising such solid, loving and open kids. We also had the opportunity to have “family” sessions where we got to know one another and understand why the focus of the weekend was – no matter the What ifs in our lives, there is one constant – The Lord Jesus Christ. I hope that was instilled in their minds that no matter how great or how awful life seems they really do have someone who cares for them and will be by their side.

Nov. 30th is Youth Sunday and will be our first with our new group so as I right this I am hoping we do well. In addition, we plan to make a short presentation on the Youth Rally.

On Nov. 20, we were to have painted the playground equipment. When we planned this I did not think about the time change. Therefore, we postponed that to Sat., Dec. 6th and instead did our Angel Tree shopping. We were blessed to receive \$200.00 from Thrivent to shop for those children. We had a great time of fellowship & shopping. We had a wonderful turn out of 13 middle school and high school students.

On December 18th we will have our Christmas party.

Please continue to pray for the growth of this program and our wonderful children of all ages. We are excited for Jim & KC Wright to return and join our fun bunch.

Thanks again, Michelle Finley

Ladies Guild—Lutheran Women In Mission

In Sept. the Lutheran Women In Mission of the FL/GA District held their bi-annual District Convention in Orlando and voted a Mission Goal of \$67,800 to fund 7 Mission Grants. The Lutheran Church and School Project LaPrint, Haiti will receive \$14,800 to expand the Gospel in this region of 95,000 people who do not know Jesus. The Lutheran Church does have a physical site in LaPrint, Haiti which needs roof repairs and upgrades in order to expand this ministry. Please drop your coins in the Large MITE BOX on Sunday, Dec. 7 thus enabling the LWML to fund this Mission Grant.



Submitted by Vicky Davis

Human Care



We have had a busy month! Our Caring Network has three new leaders. They are: Diane McGrath, Joanne Toth and Barbara Wolgast. The leaders are in the process of mailing out special cards to every member to explain how the network functions. If you have not received one, please let Lessie Kirch know. We don't want to miss anyone.

The rice and beans we collected have been taken up to the Messiah Migrant Mission. Thanks to Pastor Thomason for offering to do this for us and to Marion Cary who ended up transporting them. (Marion had these items as well as quilts that she was planning to take on the same day as Pastor T.!) The Angel Gift Tree is up in the narthex and the deadline for returning the gifts is December 3rd. Please purchase a \$15 - \$20 gift, wrap it and attach the name tag as well as the receipt to the outside of the package. (Please, no clothing and no CDs, DVDs, etc as they won't have the equipment needed to use them.) Thanks to all of you who so generously provide gifts for these children!

There was a Stephen Ministry Sunday on the 9th and our ministers ushered, greeted and provided a delicious cake for our members. There will be a new class starting in January and will run through March. Anyone interested should contact Carol Carlos or Carol Haupt.

The Blood Donor sign-up was on November 16th and the Big Red Bus came on November 23rd. Thirteen people have signed-up as of this writing.

We got together on November 17th and filled our service personnel care packages. These were mailed and will arrive well before Christmas.

Ten more Wal-Mart gift cards were purchased at \$10.00 each and have been given to Pastor Thomason to distribute at his discretion to the needy who come to him for help. As a result of these gifts, this past summer, three children were baptized due to Pastor T's follow-up! Praise the Lord!

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."-----
-Isaiah 6:8

God is always looking for people who will be His servants. Are you willing to give all to Him? If so, give Him your best.

Submitted by Marj Sterriker

Assimilation

The Assimilation Board welcomes their two new members Diana Collins and Sybil Grahl. We thank them both for their willingness to serve in yet another capacity.

The Christmas Season is quickly coming upon us. Therefore, the Board did the Hanging of the Greens on Nov. 29, 2008. The Hanging of the Greens is an English custom of thoroughly cleaning one's house in preparation of adorning the house with the garlands of joy and the symbols of life in the greenery of the wreaths and the Christmas tree. The cleaning is a symbolic act of repentance and cleansing one's heart in preparation, for the Prince of Peace. The Chrismons that decorate our trees are copies of symbols of Christianity. The Chrismons are gold or white or a combination of the two colors. Gold represents the Glory and majesty of God and white, the liturgical color for Christmas.

Our next board meeting will be January 20, 2008 at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. All Board members please try to attend.

May our good and gracious God, bless you and your family in this Christmas Season.

Yours in Christ,
Pam DeGourse, Board Chairperson

New Members



Gary & Laura DeGourse
615 Rotonda Circle
Rotonda West, FL. 33947
941-830-8658

Gary & Laura have transferred from the First Lutheran Church in Bowie, MD. (Gary is the son of our own Don & Helena DeGourse). They owned and managed the Information Management Company & Service Bureau in Beltsville, Maryland. Laura enjoyed her work as the Office Manager and Accountant. They are members of a local motorcycling club and also enjoy boating. Gary is a golfer and owns a Model A Ford. They have 2 children, a son and daughter and 2 grandchildren, one only 6 weeks only!



Barbara Duff & son Matthew Geist (not pictured)
P.O. Box 193
Placida, FL 33946
941-661-1432

Barbara has transferred from the Church of the Nativity in Austell, GA. Her son Philip Geist, is now at Florida State University in Tallahassee. Her son Matthew is a student at the LA Ainger Middle School in the 7th grade and is enrolled in our RLC confirmation class. Barbara enjoys golf, gardening and reading. Barbara grew up in Florida, moved away and returned in 2001.



Peggy Blain
7206 David Blvd.
Port Charlotte, FL 33981
941-697-7038

Peggy was born and raised in Wachula and has lived in Florida all of her life. Calls herself a "cracker". Peggy has worked extensively with the Punta Gorda Historical Society and loves working with the genealogy of old Punta Gorda. She has written many articles concerning the families living there. She enjoys sharing her knowledge and compiled 2 notebooks of the Punta Gorda area. She is now compiling one large notebook of her family history with pictures and stories.

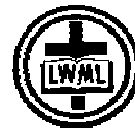


Betty Foster
11306 Seabreeze Ave.
Port Charlotte, FL 33981
941-473-9705

Betty is joining us as an Associate Member. Her home is St. Mark's in Muskegon, MI. Betty and her husband Les are EPA accountants. Betty enjoys crocheting, reading and doing upholstery. (Betty is Nancy Hall's sister)

Submitted by Pat Wilcoxon, Secretary

Ladies Guild



Ladies Guild attendance was up at our Nov. meeting with a lot of our Northern friends back. First time visitors Carol Spooner was welcomed. Pastor Thomson opened with prayer. Speakers were Joanna Pesare and Wendy Horvath.

Joanna Pesare from DASH--Domestic Abuse Shelter House explained their mission about child abuse & domestic abuse and some of the causes and results of abuse.

Wendy Horvath reported there are 55 in child care. A faith based curriculum is in place. A fax machine (to be addressed later) is needed. Other needed items can be donated such as paper towels, Kleenex, construction paper, trash bags (30 gallon & 13 gallon size), non-scented baby wipes and pump foam hand soap. These items can be brought & put in a box in the Narthex.

An Angel Scholarship Fund has been established. Donations help parents who cannot afford the full tuition. Thrivent gives matching funds. You can place your donations in the offering plates or mail to the church and mark them Angel Scholarship Fund.

Advent begins Dec.3rd---the Guild will prepare suppers between services. The cooks for Dec 3rd will be Avis Stuck, Dolores Altmann & Carol Sheahan. Dec. 10th will be Doris Dykhuizen, Pat Peterson, Jane Hoivik and Sybil Grahl.

Ladies Guild Christmas Party/Luncheon is Dec. 12th at noon at the Hill's Country Club in Rotonda. See Laura Brooks for tickets and choice of menu. The cost is \$17.00.

Jane Hoivik will be making Christmas baskets for shut-ins. She is accepting cash donations and home made cookies. The baskets will be distributed by the carolers Dec. 14th or Human Care.

The Ladies Guild Style Show and Luncheon is scheduled for Jan. 23rd. Tickets will go on sale Jan. 4th. The cost is \$12.00. Beall's will be providing the fashions. Make plans now to join us for good food and fun.

There will be no meeting in Dec. We will resume Jan. 7th. Hope Seeds will provide the speaker. See you there.

Submitted by Linda Rogers

Special Event

On Sunday, Dec. 14 (during Bible Class hour between Services), President Michael from the FL/GA District will be at Redeemer. He will give a short presentation and have Q/A time about the Synodical emphasis "Ablaze." The goal of Ablaze is to reach 100 million people with the gospel by the year 2017 (500th Anniversary of the Reformation). In order to spread the Gospel through His Word, God uses manpower and money which He provides here on earth. "Fan Into Flame" is a special offering throughout Synod to gather new funds (beyond our regular offerings) for the Ablaze outreach effort. President Michael will give information about "fields white unto harvest" both locally and worldwide. Because the Lord has freely given to us His mercy, grace and blessings, we want to "freely give" in return. "Fan Into Flame" / "Ablaze" provides a unique opportunity for every member of Synod to "walk together" and "work together" to spread the good news of the Gospel. May the Lord touch our hearts and bless our efforts.

Pastor Schmidt

Service Directory/Classified Ads

Services

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

Pressure Cleaning - Matt & Michelle Finley - Hoover Pressure Cleaning – 697-6886

Tell us you saw us in the Redeemer Newsletter & get a 10% discount.

Licensed & Insured – www.hooverpressure.com

6" Seamless Gutters — Jim W. Gossett, Residential Construction, Licensed & Insured

Home: (941) 698-9940; Cell: (941) 445-2074

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

Handyman Licensed & Insured Call Jim Gossett Home: (941) 698-9940; Cell: (941) 445-2074

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

Sales—Rentals Pineapple Gulf Properties—Glenda McDorman, Owner/Broker

880 S. McCall Rd., Englewood (941) 473-0300—Office

(Lessie Kirch's Daughter) (941) 330-7922—Cell

For Sale

Collectors—Beanie Baby "Jabs", Mallard Duck, one of the most sought after of all Beanie Babies—\$10.00

MJC Collection—Baby "Mandy" Manatee—\$10.00 Call Jay Nistendirk (941-697-6577)

8' pool table. Great condition. 8 pool cues and bridge, racks, balls, etc. \$1000. Call Michelle Ferrier at 697-0502. Also, numerous furniture items - couches, shelves, bookshelf, dressers, twin beds.

Newsletter Deadline



The deadline for submission of articles for January is Sunday, December 21st by 12 noon.

If you have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter, either e-mail it to letastender@gmail.com or place it in the newsletter box in the church office. Articles received after December 21st will be held for the February newsletter.

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

Leta Stender

Jack Carlos, son of Joe and Carol Carlos who are active members of Redeemer, Englewood, and his wife Cathy have been called by LCMS World Missions to serve in West Africa to spread the word to the Maninka people group. This is a group of about 4 million and is basically unreached since less than a fraction of 1% are Christians.

Jack and Cathy are proven missionaries having served in Africa from 1998-2000. They had envisioned a longer stay but civil war, civil unrest, sickness and family issues brought them back home. Since then they have served congregations in St. Paul and Minneapolis but with the dream that some day they would return to the mission field in Africa.

Here is an opportunity for all the members of our congregations to identify with a missionary couple that they are helping to support. They will be kept abreast of what they will be doing through newsletters and they will have the opportunity to communicate with them directly. They will also have the opportunity to meet them as they visit supporting congregations.

The Carlos' will be visiting their parents on December 28 and will speak at Bible Class at 9:15 a.m.

From The Office



The New Redeemer Lutheran Church directories were handed out November 2, 2008. If you have not gotten one they are available in the Narthex at the activity table or in the Church office.

Below are some changes since the new directory was printed:

Removed:

Lois and James Overmyer self removed due to health problems.

Reinstated:

Lorna Straub

Virginia Glotzhofer

Additions:

By Transfer:

Gary and Laura DeGourse

Barbara Duff and son Matthew Giest

Peggy Blain

By Associate member:

Betty Foster

Under the Northern Addresses please correct the following:

Ken & Cathy Mielke telephone # 989-785-4539

Don & Carolyn Plesner – 2221 Grass Lake Ave. Sandy Shores Resort, Lot 91

John & Audrey Thurow – 6608 New Hampshire Trail Crystal Lake, IL 60012 — telephone #815-477-4599

Marv & Ginny Will – telephone # 863-241-7514

Thank you,

Pat Wilcoxon, Church Secretary

Special thanks to all who donated items and cash for the service personnel care packages. We were able to include four \$25 international phone cards in the packages. Please remember our servicemen and women in your prayers!!

Submitted by Marj Sterriker



Heartfelt Thanks

HEALING:

Members

Ginny Doenges
Gene Eiler
Bob & Joan Johnson
Charles Keller
Cliff Larsen
Sandy McGrath
Lois & Jim Overmyer
Don Plesner
Ellie Ratzlaff
Morris Rieck
Sharron Schultz
Edda Specht
Clarence Sturzenbecker
Alan Webster

Friends & Relatives

Phil Alcantara
Elaine Baron
Georgia Bush
Kay Cypher
Dorothy Doenges
Elaine Entzian
Debbie Harrison
Lynn Harrison
Howard Kagay
Rachel Kagay
Rev. Howie Krienke
Estella Lewis
Marie Liebl

Kaye Ann Nagel
Judy Nagel
Sherrie Rhoades
Barbara Springer
Michael Stio
Marion Talley
Katie Taseff
Polly Tice
Phyllis Tucker
Helen Weishaar
Virgil Weldy
Kenneth White
Michael Zaffino



PRAYERS OF COMFORT FOR IONE COMSTOCK AND FAMILY WHOSE SON CHRIS GOSSETT WAS CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL HOME OCTOBER 23RD.



Ilse Berner
Herb Bohm
Geraldine Bradberry
Gloria Carlson
Evelyn Etheridge
Marie Gill
Earl Gossett
Ruth Jansch
Clara & Walter Mitchell
Ruth Sutley

I would like to thank the members of the Redeemer Congregation for all the support, cards, words of encouragement and prayers during my husband David's illness. I especially thank Pastor Thomason who was so faithful in visiting us all summer and also Pastor Schmidt who was a faithful visitor last winter before he flew back north! It was very important to David and me to know we had such a big team cheering us on and praying us forward. He is at peace now, whole again and healthy. For this I give thanks.

Jane Schurr



December 2008 Newsletter

Redeemer Lutheran Child Care & After-School



Recipe/ Snack Idea

Sleepy Bear Snack Mix

You will need:

Honeycomb cereal, 2 flavors of fish-shaped crackers, shelled sunflower seeds and dried apple slices.

Directions:

Mix all ingredients in a bowl.

Special Thanks

Thank you very much to the Ladies Guild for the brand new Fax/Copier Machine.

Thank you to all who donated supplies this month. Please keep them coming.

Birthdays

Ebony 12/16

Zachary V 12/19

Zachary M 12/20

Tyler 12/27

Bethany 12/28



Special events

The Threes and Vpk will be going to Lemon Bay High School on December 10 for the Annual Elf Party.

Redeemer Child Care Christmas Program will be on December 17 at 7:00 p.m. This year's story is One Night In Bethlehem.

Closings

December 24, 25, 26

December 31

January 1

The Child Care Christmas Party with Santa will be held on December 23 at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Items Needed

Trash bags, Baby wipes, Hand soap, Paper towels, Holiday craft supplies, Construction paper, snacks (crackers, gummy bears etc.) Cotton balls and Paper plates.

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

Talent Show

This year's talent show was a great success. We had approximately 99 people attend. The M.C. was grand, the acts were wonderful and we had them begging for more. It really was a great time had by everyone. Doris Dykhuizen did a great job organizing this function. Below are a few pictures:



