

Silence is (Not) Golden

By now, I'm sure that many within the Redeemer Family are wondering, "What's going on with Pastor Ferrier?" The short version of the answer to that question is that "I'm doing okay, but I'm not well." If that sounds confusing, join the club. I am working diligently with various doctors and with our District President to try to reach a clearer answer.

Back in the first week of January I met with the Board of Elders and explained that I was feeling very "stressed out" in the wake of the hectic holidays and in the aftermath of tensions within the congregation surrounding our budget and the future of our Child Care. I further explained to the Board of Elders that I really needed some "down time" just to try to regain my equilibrium.

As you read in last month's newsletter the Elders supported the idea and recommended to the Council that such a leave be granted as part of the recognition of my 25th Anniversary in the Ministry. I had already scheduled vacation time in January for a long overdue visit with my parents in Oregon, and with Matt and Sarah at USC.

When I came back from that trip I was scheduled to see my doctor regarding angina-like symptoms I had been experiencing throughout the end of 2007 and into the new year. Since those symptoms usually occurred during high-stress situations I suspected that I was having some sort of anxiety attacks—but that my heart was fine.

You can imagine my surprise when my doctor called the EMTs to take me directly to the hospital for further tests and observation. He had detected, and the hospital confirmed, that I am suffering from heart arrhythmia coupled with a hypertension (200+ Blood Pressure) that arises when I'm feeling over-stressed.

On Saturday, February 9, I met with Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael, the President of our FL/GA District, who encouraged me to seek a leave of absence for psychological/medical reasons. My personal doctor, in concurrence with my Cardiologist and the attending physician from the hospital, assures me (based on numerous diagnostic procedures) that "my heart is fine." There appears to be no damage to heart muscle tissue and no blockage of veins or arteries.

They are also agreed that psychological factors have played a key role in the disruption of the normal heart rhythm, and certainly in the onset of some of the other symptoms I had been experiencing. For this reason my doctor has stipulated that I should not resume my duties until I have had time to seek appropriate counseling and further medical tests.

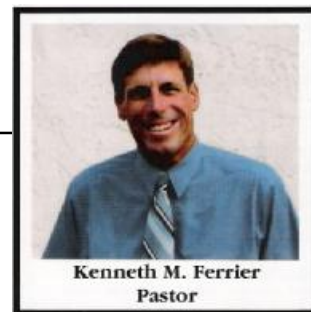
As of this writing (Saturday, Feb. 16) I am awaiting the results of a recent ultrasound as well as a "stress test" coming up on February 18.

So ... as I said, "I'm okay" ... no pain or other debilitating cardiac symptoms. But, at the same time, "I'm not well." I am waiting to find out much, much more, and then get back on a healthier footing.

I hope you can appreciate from what you've just read why I haven't communicated much about my current condition. I'm still trying to determine what it is—with the help of a team of others.

In the meantime, I appreciate the cards I've received, as well as the many prayers on my behalf. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers as well. I hope to give you more details as they become available.

Pastor Ferrier



Kenneth M. Ferrier
Pastor

REDEEMER LUTHERAN
CHURCH

- Pastor Rev. Kenneth Ferrier
- Winter Pastor Rev. Earl Schmidt
- Ofc. Secretary Pat Wilcoxon
- Organist Nancy Gunterman
Lanette Schmidt
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- Human Care Marj Sterriker
- Outreach Carol Haupt
- School Board Charlie Vovcsko
- Stewardship
- Youth Jim Wright
- CLUBS/GUILDS**
- Ladies Guild
- Men's Group Bob Mortenson
- Red Hat Society Sandra Distasio
- Christian Support Group

Outreach



O U T R E A C H
MINISTRIES

"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." Matthew 28:19

During 2007, the main emphasis of the Board of Outreach was to make the name of Redeemer Lutheran Church and Child Care better known in our community. We therefore focused our efforts on advertising (newspapers, radio), on signs, and on participation in community events. While we will continue to put forth our these efforts (maybe even a billboard?), this year our emphasis will be on "one-on-one" outreach. This is really the most effective way to help Jesus tell his story, so that more people will receive the gift of faith and return to worship.

To this end, the Board will be conducting a Sharing Jesus Workshop on Saturday, March 1, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The format will be somewhat different this year. At the Workshop we will learn about how to tell His story, our stories, and what Jesus means to us, as well as practical how-to's from Christian brothers and sisters experienced in witnessing for Jesus. There will be discussion, small group break-outs, and practice. Pastor Schmidt will also be participating in the Workshop.

Jesus commanded us to go forth and tell people about his saving grace. We know we should do this, we feel the prompting of the Holy Spirit to do it, and it may be our fervent desire and intent to do so. But when opportunity knocks, we often do not do what we want to do. We are afraid to offend, or feel inadequate, or don't know how to begin. If you have this problem, then this Workshop is for you! Please plan on joining us. We think you will enjoy this time of fellowship and spiritual growth with your Redeemer friends.

Friendship Sunday

Following on the heels of the Sharing Jesus Workshop will be our celebration of Friendship Sunday on Sunday, March 9. Friendship Sunday is a special day to invite our friends, family, neighbors, and acquaintances to come to church with us, especially those who are unchurched. It presents an opportunity—a reason, really—to invite someone. Inviting someone, and worshipping with them, is the best way to bring people to Jesus or to help those who have fallen away to return. It is the best way to "love your neighbor." What better gift could we give a friend; what greater act of friendship?

(Continued on Page 3)

Outreach



(Continued from Page 2)

So, think about who you might invite. Pray about it. Pray for courage to invite them. And by all means, invite them. Help us make this celebration a real success. Your friends will be recognized in church and there will be a reception for them after the service.

Chamber of Commerce Expo

Redeemer will again participate in the Englewood Chamber of Commerce Expo at the Englewood Sports Complex on March 7 and 8 (Friday and Saturday), from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will have a display telling about our church activities and about our Child Care, including the video made last year. We will pass out literature, pens, pencils and talk to people about Redeemer. If you would like to help us represent Redeemer, please contact Carol Haupt (460-8830). We can use the extra manpower (and womanpower). Come out and show your support.

Placida Seafood Festival

We will also have a booth at the Placida Seafood Festival which will be held on March 15 and 16 (Saturday and Sunday). We'll have the same exhibits there. Again, if you are able to help, we sure could use you. It's a lot of fun and an opportunity to talk to people about our faith.

Magnetic Car Signs

We still have a supply of magnetic signs for your cars. We'd like to see signs on every car in our parking lot. This is a very good way to advertise. We've heard stories already of people seeing them and being led to Redeemer. Only \$5.00 in the Narthex. We also have LCMS logo cross pins for \$2.00. They are good conversation starters.

Child Care Advertising

The Board of Outreach is helping Child Care with advertising efforts in an attempt to increase enrollment so that the operation can become self-sufficient. Karen Kirkland and Leta Stender recently redesigned the Child Care brochure and 200 copies were printed up. Mary and Jim Turner passed out about 90 brochures at the Oyster Creek County Park Bike and Skate Rodeo on February 9.

A special advertising insert (8 ½ X 11) has been designed (again by Leta and Karen) and is being inserted in the Englewood Sun (5000 copies). These advertising efforts will be monitored to evaluate their effectiveness. Whenever inquiries are made of Child Care, the caller will be asked how they found out about Redeemer.

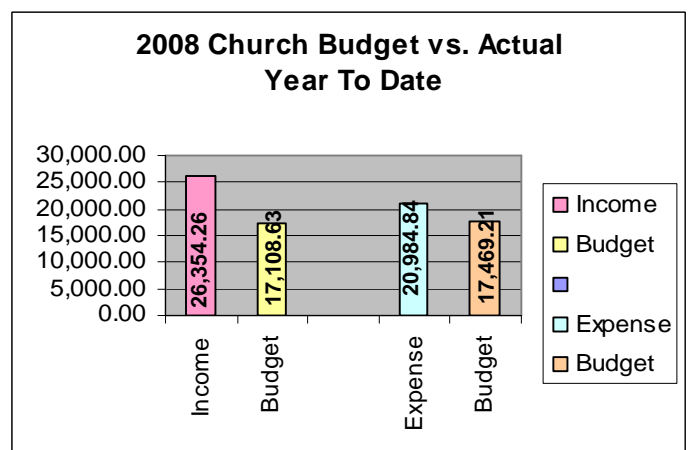
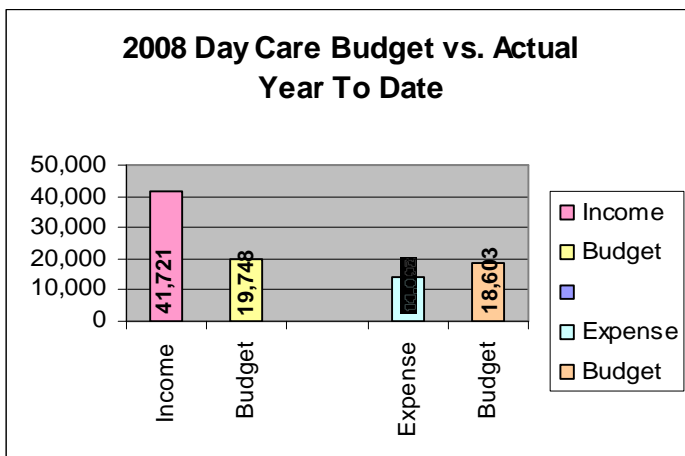
Nametags

Please remember to wear your nametags to church and other fellowship functions. It will help us identify visitors so that we can warmly welcome them. If you see someone without a regular burgundy name tag, and you don't recognize them, please talk with them and get to know them. We'd like our visitors to return, and hopefully become members at some later time.

Submitted by Carol Haupt

Finance

	<u>2008 Income</u>	<u>2008 Expense</u>	<u>2008 Expense Budget</u>
Church			
January	26,354	20,985	17,469
Year To Date	26,354	20,985	17,469
Day Care			
January	41,721 (Includes \$27,600 Gift)	14,092	18,603
Year to Date	41,721	14,092	18,603



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

Hoover Pressure Cleaning ~ “The Plant Friendly People”

For Sale

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 Ferrer at 697-0502.

40-50 8 TRACK CARTRIDGES PLUS ADAPTOR. Best offer over \$50.00

Call Eleanor Jollay (941) 697-5905

Instamatic Camera, Brownie Camera, Slide Camera in Brown Case. Make Offer.

Call Eleanor Jollay at (941) 697-5905.

Do you need an extra refrigerator with top freezer? Haul and it's yours.

Call Ray Janssen 697-9186

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for April is Sunday, March 23rd by 12 noon.



If you have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter, either e-mail it to letastender@ewol.com or place it in the newsletter box in the church office. Articles received after March 23rd will be held for the May newsletter.

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

Leta Stender

THIS MONTH USHERS



Acolytes

Mar. 2	8:00	Tom & Peg Leverenz Tom & Ann Elphick
	10:30	Vern Speer & Alan Webster Henry Krueger & Bob Buie
Mar. 5	4:30	Chuck & Elaine Malecki
<u>Lent</u>	7:00	Tommy & Karen Kirkland
Mar. 9	8:00	Bob Payne & John Sleight Jerold Schreiner & Ray Janssen
	10:30	Vern Speer & Henry Krueger Laura Brooks & Harv Sterriker
Mar. 12	4:30	Chuck & Elaine Malecki
<u>Lent</u>	7:00	Tommy & Karen Kirkland
Mar. 16	8:00	Jerold Schreiner & Tom Lang Chuck & Elaine Malecki
	10:30	Alan Webster & Bob Buie Joe & Judy Scarangella
Mar. 20	7:00	Tom & Georgia Lang
Maunder Thursday		Ray & Leta Stender
Mar. 21	7:00	Ray & Leta Stender
Good Friday		Tommy & Karen Kirkland
Mar. 23	8:00	Ray Altmann & Jerold Schreiner
Easter		Earl & Avis Stuck
	10:30	Ray & Leta Stender Tommy & Karen Kirkland
Mar. 30	8:00	Chuck & Elaine Malecki Erv & Betty Maki
	10:30	Richard & Lorraine Hughes Ed & Loretta Grobe

Submitted by Ray Stender

Mar. 2	8:00	Courtney Thatcher
	10:30	Alex Wall
Mar. 5 (Wed)	7:00	Nathan Gunterman
Mar. 9	8:00	Madeline Keller
	10:30	McKenna Heldenbrand
Mar. 12 (Wed)	7:00	Alex Wall
Mar. 16	8:00	Courtney Thatcher
	10:30	Anthony Bruno
Mar. 20 (Thur)	7:00	Nathan Gunterman
Mar. 21 (Fri)	7:00	Alex Wall
Mar. 23	8:00	Madeline Keller
	10:30	Nathan Gunterman
Mar. 30	8:00	Courtney Thatcher
	10:30	McKenna Heldenbrand

Submitted by Pat Wilcoxon

GREETERS SCHEDULE

8:00

Mar. 2	Jack & Marilyn Melcher
Mar. 9	Ken & Cathy Mielke
Mar. 16	Olga Nagel & Lee Vandercook
Mar. 23	Joe & Phylis Lehner
Mar. 30	Youth

10:30

Mar. 2	Shirley Zatkalik & Ione Comstock
Mar. 9	Shirley Zatkalik & Jane Hoivik
Mar. 16	Paul & Vicky Davis
Mar. 23	Ed & Loretta Grobe
Mar. 30	Youth

Submitted by Pam DeGourse

Don't Eat the Crackers



from Pastor Schmidt

In 1981, a Minnesota radio station reported a story about a stolen care in California. Police were staging an intense search for the vehicle and the driver, even to the point of pacing announcements on local radio stations to contact the thief.

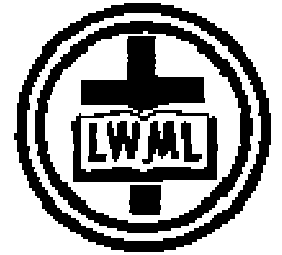
So often, when we run from God, we

feel it is to escape His punishment. But what we are actually doing is eluding His rescue. As we go through this Lenten season, we want to be in church regularly so we grow in appreciation of the great effort our Savior expended "to seek and save us."

Pastor Schmidt

On the front set of the stolen car sat a box of crackers that, unknown to the thief, were laced with poison. The car owner had intended to use the crackers as rat bait. Now the police and the owner of the VW Bug were more interested in apprehending the thief to save his life than to recover the car.

Ladies Guild



The Ladies Guild had a good attendance at the meeting on February 6th. Guest Barbara Mossner was welcomed. Our thanks to Marj Sterriker and Avis Stuck for being hostesses. Barbara Monson gave the devotion.

The final Lenten supper is March 12th with pork and sauerkraut. Cooks are Earl Stuck and Ed Sheahan. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex if you plan to attend.

Easter coffee hour will be provided by the Ladies Guild. We are in need of a chairman. Call the church office if you are willing to be in charge.

The Ladies Guild only has 2 more meetings for this season. Time is flying! Have you been thinking and praying about someone to nominate for President and Vice-President for the coming year? Please continue to pray for our organization — its members and leaders.

The next meeting is March 5th at 12:30. Plan to attend and enjoy the fellowship of each other. Dessert, coffee, and tea are provided. All members of Redeemer and guests are welcome.

Submitted by Linda Rogers

Rummage Sale



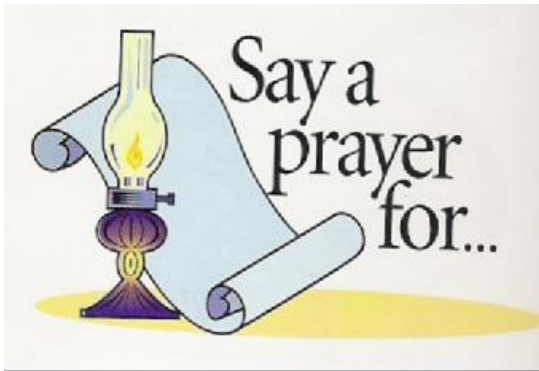
HEALING:

Members

Joe Carlos
 Mark Horvath
 Bob & Joan Johnson
 Lessie Kirsch
 Cliff Larsen
 Tom McGrath
 Ellie Ratzlaff
 Katie Rudolph
 David Schurr
 Ben Strefling
 Lee Vandercook

Friends & Relatives
 Phil Alcantara
 Ella Boegeman
 Jim Cleary
 Deborah DiTommaso
 Dorothy Doenges
 Julia Earl
 Bruce Ferrier
 Esther Gaskill
 Connie Gunterman
 Debbie & Red Harrison
 Betty Hetzel
 Sandy Hubbard
 Joyce Kimple
 Jean Lamb
 Jenna Layson
 Gary Lehner
 Estella Lewis
 Carol Lockett
 Rev. David Maier

Patrick McCord
 Ian McDowel
 Natalie Notto
 Mary Elizabeth Raines
 Gwyn Ramsey
 Sherrie Rhoades
 Audrey Slusher
 Jill Taylor
 Denise Vincenti
 Pat Vovcsko
 Cameron Wasiluk
 Valerie Washburn
 Virgil Weldy



PRAYERS OF COMFORT for the family of Betty Best (Judy Scarangella's Cousin who was called to her eternal home this past weekend).

MILITARY PERSONNEL & FAMILIES

Herb Bohm
 Gloria Carlson
 Ruth Jansch
 Ruth Sutley



Ladies Guild—Lutheran Women In Mission

Please join us on Wednesday, March 5 at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall as we enjoy dessert and coffee and dedicate our Mite Box offerings. A grant of \$4,570.00 gathered in the FL-GA District will provide a noon meal for 125 children in Lutheran Schools in Haiti. Hmong Mission of Central FL will receive \$2,150.00 to provide assistance with the growing Hmong ministry in Central FL. Isn't it amazing what God can do with our pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and paper money to fund these Grants? COME -- bring a smile, your name tag, join the fellowship, and meet new friends, no reservations needed! MARCH 5



TEAM

Together Everyone Accomplishes More

Lutheran Women In Mission are TEAM players and will be sharing the daily expenses of our Child Care Facility as we move forward in Mission Is Our Service. We will co-ordinate our service by seeking donations from the Congregation in providing weekly consumable items for our Child Care thus enabling them to use their money for larger budgeted items.

The Monday Morning Quilters joined the TEAM as they sewed small tote bags imprinted with a picture of the Child Care building and the telephone number. Daily the older children proudly carry their papers home in these bags.

Are you ready to join our TEAM? Weekly items will be printed in the Sunday bulletin and we request that ONLY these items be donated weekly. Please place them in the large container marked SERVICE IS OUR MISSION. God Bless!

March 2 and March 9 Donations

Paper Towels

Construction Paper (any size, any color)

Baby Wipes (non scented)

Diapers—all sized

(parents furnish their own diapers-sometimes they run short or forget to send them)

Watch the BULLETIN for future weekly items

Submitted by Vicky Davis

Human Care

We still need people to help with the monthly blood pressures. We do this the last Sunday of every month. If you could do this task for us once or twice a year, please contact Marj Sterriker. Thanks!

Our shut-ins still need your prayers. Please use the list which is printed in every Sunday bulletin.

Lessie Kirch was rescheduled to have her knee surgery in mid-February and was going to spend two more weeks after surgery at Pine Brook rehab facility. Marj is still taking calls for the Caring Network. If you know of anyone in need of assistance during this time, please call Marj.

We received a thank you from the Messiah Migrant Ministries. Please read the attached letter from Connie Sikkema the Executive Director.

Carol Haupt and Nancy Hall have been leading the Stephen Ministry sessions and the two students will soon be commissioned to receive people who need a care giver.

We have postponed Senior Fellowship gatherings until a better schedule can be established. Watch for new dates and times in future bulletins or the Newsletter.

The Blood Mobile was here on February 10th. Twenty four people signed up and 18 were able to donate! (That's 3 more than last time!) The Big Red Bus will come again in April. Watch for date and times in the bulletin.

The January rummage sale brought in over \$4,445.00 in sales and matching funds from Thrivent for the Horvath Family Fund! Thank you all for your participation. Mark continues to do well and plans to start back to school part-time in March. Keep him in your prayers!

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

Submitted by Marj Sterriker



Redeemer Lutheran Child Care & After-School

Redeemer Child Care Monthly Review

Enrollment stands at 53 children, 1 loss due to work situation, 6 gain

No expenses except for staff salaries

2008 approved Budget holding

Staff Handbook under review and revision

Advertising and marketing plans underway for enrollment

Thanks to Henry Kruger for making the Crosses as a fund raiser.

Thanks to Ladies Guild for organizing "supply" donations as one their missions.

Milestone planning in progress (yearly plan)

Welcome to Michelle Finley to School Board as Parent Representative

Welcome to Christin Wacker

You Can Help!

Volunteer to be a Congregational Reader for children

Call Brandy directly - 475-2631, mornings only

Help with extra supplies as listed

Submitted by Barbara Bishop

An Easter Carol

Tomb, thou shalt not hold him longer;

Death is strong, but Life is stronger;

Stronger than the dark, the light;

Stronger than the wrong, the right;

Faith and Hope triumphant say,

Christ will rise on Easter Day.

—Phillips Brooks

Redeemer Lutheran Child Care & After-School

Recipe/ Snack Idea

Lions and Tigers and Bears.....Yum! Yum!

You will need:

3 Tbsp. creamy peanut butter

3 celery stalks (6 inch)

12 animal crackers

1 graham cracker

Spread peanut butter evenly into hollow part of celery sticks. Stand 4 animal crackers in peanut butter in each stalk.

Sprinkle evenly with graham cracker crumbs to resemble dirt.

Volunteers

Volunteers are still needed to help with weekly laundry. Call Brandy if you are interested.

Birthdays

Shelby 3/1

Presley 2/28

Jesse 2/28



Events

Currently the child care is doing a pizza fundraiser and a candy fundraiser. If you would like to help with the sales or even make a purchase, stop by the child care. Also Michelle Finley is selling wood crosses; the funds for those will go to the child care.

Supplies

Donations of any of the following supplies will be greatly appreciated:

Pump foam hand soap

Paper towels

Baby wipe refills

(non-scented)

Snacks (animal crackers, graham crackers, juice, cookies, fruit cups)

Thank You's

The child care would like to thank EVERYONE. So many people have donated their time, supplies, and hearts to the child care that I would need another page to list them all. Your generosity and love is what keeps this huge family going.

THANK YOU!!!!

Submitted by Brandi Bilhardt

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

This craft is a reminder of God's love for the world and of Jesus' sacrifice for everyone.

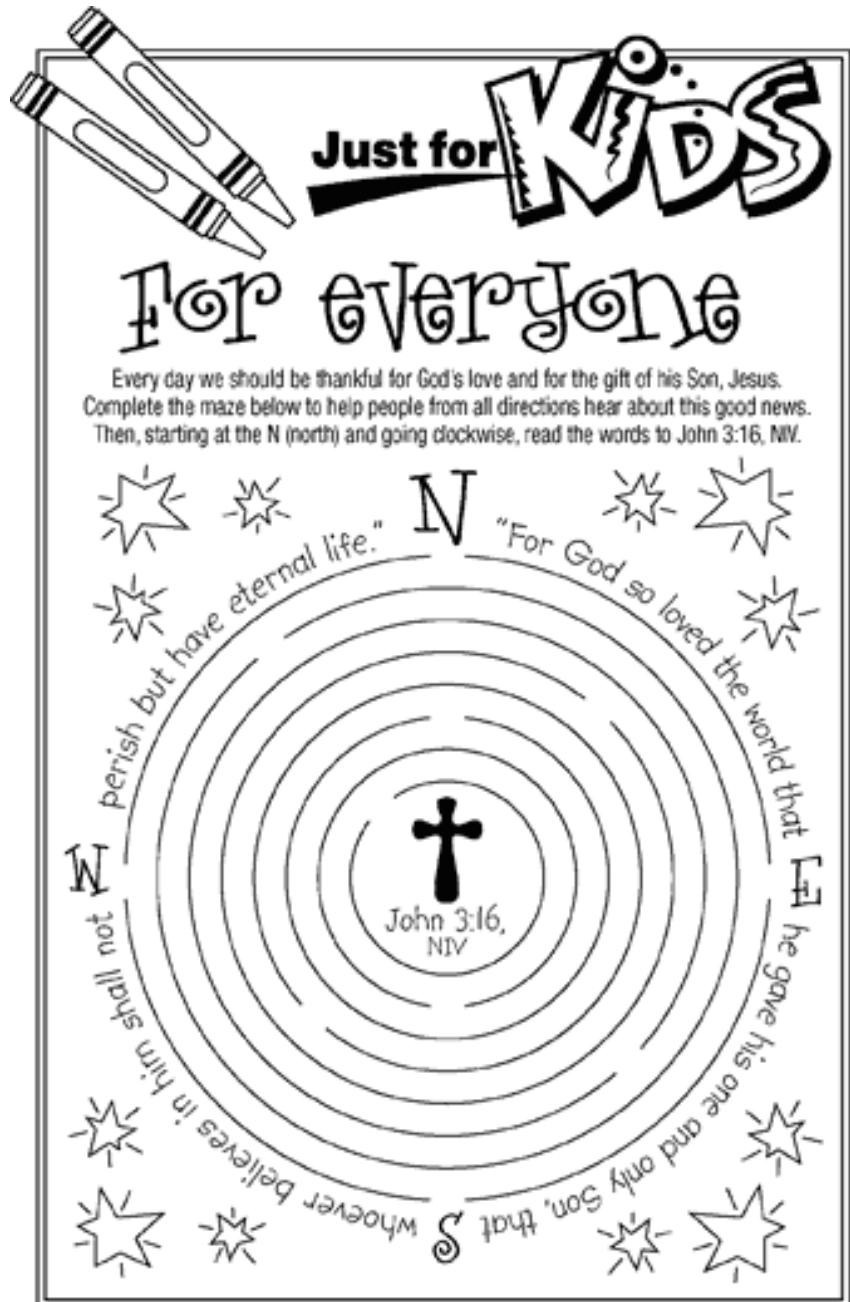
What you need:

- Two pieces of 8 1/2" x 11" white or light-blue construction paper
- Circle shape that fits paper (plastic lid or paper plate)
- Black marker or crayon
- Masking tape
- Shallow box, box lid or old cookie tray
- Blue and green paint
- Two paper plates
- Two marbles
- Two plastic spoons
- Scissors



What you do:

1. On one piece of paper, trace the circle shape.
2. Using two pieces of masking tape, make a cross in the center of your circle.
3. Place your paper inside the box, box lid or cookie tray.
4. Pour blue paint onto one paper plate and green onto the other. Place one marble in each color of paint.
5. Using a spoon, take out one marble at a time and place on your paper.
6. Roll each marble back and forth, around and around, alternating between colors.
7. After your circle looks like the planet Earth with lots of blue and green, cut out the circle.
8. Glue the circle onto another piece of paper.
9. Around the circle, write the words to John 3:16, NIV: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
10. Take off the masking tape and see the cross that's left. Keep your artwork as a reminder of how much God loves you!



Messiah Lutheran Church

Migrant Ministries

Giving a Christian Hand, Not a Handout

January 31, 2008

Redeemer Lutheran Church
ATTN: Marj Sterriker
6970 Mineola Road
Englewood, FL 34224

Dear Friends in Christ,

I don't know if anyone is more dedicated than you have been with helping the migrant program. You are so diligent in not only distributing the names, collecting and wrapping the gifts, but you even deliver them. I pray that you receive as much joy from all of this effort as the children do when they receive the gifts. Each year, you take at least 150 names. That's 150 smiles on children's faces, which is about equal to the 150 miles that you travel. I can't tell you how much that means to a child who so often feels forgotten, especially at Christmas time.

The rice and the beans were greatly appreciated, but I do understand how it might be easier in the future to make a cash donation. They are so heavy.

May God continue to bless the growth of your church in all its outreach ministries. I know we appreciate you, and I'm sure the others do also.

In His Love and Service,

Connie Sikkema
Executive Director