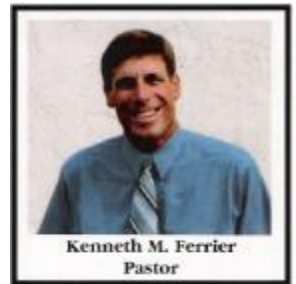


Sitting...but *not* "Just Sitting Around"

During the month of May a very significant but often overlooked day is sandwiched among Mother's Day, Confirmation Day, The Day of Pentecost, and Graduation Day. The day to which I'm referring is *Ascension Day*, which occurs on the 17th of this month.

In and of itself, Ascension Day is a rather dramatic "sneak preview" of our Lord's return on the Last Day. The Apostles were told that Jesus would come back in the same way they saw Him leave. But the thing that makes Ascension Day important for us right now is the assurance of all the things the ascended Christ is doing for us now that He has been "seated at the right hand of the Father Almighty."



Kenneth M. Ferrier
Pastor

I don't know about you, but it makes a big difference in my perspective on life...especially life's trials...to know that the same Jesus who lived as a man on this earth, and died and rose for me, has been placed in charge of all that exists. Scripture assures us that the ascended Christ is the *reigning* Christ, who rules the world on behalf of His people.

Another thing the ascended Christ does for us is to bestow the Holy Spirit (and His gifts) upon all believers. Faith, the power to live a faithful life, the words and willpower to witness...all of these are Christ's continual gifts to us from heaven. They are delivered to us daily through His Word and Sacraments. Is that "delivery" getting through each day to you?

We are also told that Christ's rule extends not only to the subjects of His Kingdom but also even over His enemies. And He is in the process right now of putting all His enemies (and ours!) "under His feet." Even death itself will succumb to His power.

Oh, yes ... did I mention the fact that the ascended Christ "intercedes" (acts as our go-between) for us. When we are hurting, or in need, when we desire some blessing, or when we pour out our hearts in prayer, it is Jesus Himself who presents our prayers before the Father's throne. And it is for Jesus' sake that God responds with love and mercy to us.

One of the happiest aspects of our Lord's ascension is the promise He gave us that "where I am going, there you shall be also." He tells us that one of the main reasons He ascended to His Father's house was to prepare a place there for you and me and all who put their trust in Him.

Someday He will come again in the clouds of heaven (just as He left), this time for all the world to see. He will take us to the place He's prepared so that we can be with Him forever. Until then, I'm glad He's where He is - doing what He's doing. How about you?

God's blessings throughout this Easter season!!

Pastor Ferrier

[p.s. One other thing the risen, reigning Christ has never stopped doing is "seeking and saving the lost". He does that primarily through the living witness of His disciples, the loyal subjects of His "Kingdom of Grace" here on earth. Being a "loyal" subject, however, is always a challenge. Being a loyal subject includes being a faithful steward of the King's property. You and I aren't given the option of "just sitting around" either! Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find one of a series of Bible studies on personal stewardship. I encourage you to work through that brief study today, praying that the Holy Spirit will motivate each one of us to be the kind of stewards and subjects our King commands...and deserves.]

REDEEMER LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Pastor Rev. Kenneth
Ferrier
Office
Secretary Pat Wilcoxon
Organist Nancy Gunterman
Lanette Schmidt

OFFICERS

President Joe Carlos
Vice
President Glen Kraft
Treasurer Byron Beaber
Secretary Dorothy
Sinowetski

BOARDS

Finance Leta Stender
Assimilation Laura Brooks
Building &
Grounds
Christian Ed. Nancy
Gunterman
Elders Tim Byrne
Human
Care Marj Sterriker
Outreach Carol Haupt
School Board Stacey Depersia
Stewardship Ray Altmann
Youth Jim Wright

CLUBS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild Linda Rogers, VP
Men's Group Bob Mortenson
Red Hat
Society Sandra Distasio
Christian
Support Group

President's Corner



The President's Corner

The Church Council and I thank you for your continued prayers and support. We thank God daily for all the blessings he showers on us.

Our marching orders are very clear, they are simply to go spread the GOOD NEWS. Therefore, we are here to strengthen and encourage each other so that we can effectively use all the resources the Lord has given to us to reach out to those that do not know about our Savior. I thank you all for your support and hard work.

As you all know life has its challenges be it your personnel life or that of a congregation. Most of you know by now that Harvey Sterriker, due to health reasons had to resign as Chair of Building and Grounds. Harvey, as Chair of Building and grounds demonstrated an enthusiasm regarding our campus that is unparalleled. He was doing an excellent job for our congregation and his services in that capacity will be missed. We are fortunate that as a congregation we have other dedicated servants such as Ernie Ferguson who has stepped up to head Building and Grounds until a new chair can be put in place.

Shawn Richards has tendered her letter of resignation as director of our Child Care. She will be moving back to Michigan to be closer to family and friends. Shawn has been the only director we have had and during the past ten years we have grown from a child care serving three children to one serving a hundred. Shawn's dedication, leadership, and skills have been amply demonstrated not only by our growth but also by the ratings that our Child Care receives. Shawn has really been an asset to our congregation. A committee has been formed to start searching for a new director that will help us build on the solid foundation that has been established.

Wendy Horvath, our assistant Child Care director has requested a leave of absences so that she can tend to her seven year old son Mark who has been diagnosed with cancer. For the next ten or eleven months Mark will be undergoing treatments. This will be putting a tremendous financial burden on this young family. In addition to your prayers, this family will require your financial assistance. From time to time you will be asked to help this family. Please do so generously.

Some of our boards have completed work on developing plans and addressing the short term action items for their boards that were identified at our retreat. Those boards that have not completed this phase will be encouraged to complete this work.

The next phase for our boards is to start looking at the vision that was developed and start formulating plans that will get us to that vision.

As you can see we as a congregation have a few challenges facing us. I prefer to look at them as opportunities. Opportunities for us to go to our Lord and ask him to send the Holy Spirit to guide us in the way He wants us to serve Him.

Joe Carlos

Stewardship



The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod encourages the study of the biblical Stewardship Principles developed by the Department of Stewardship several years ago. Your Board of Stewardship is presenting in the next several monthly newsletter one of these eight principles. We hope you take the time to read and study these, and that you find them helpful. One of the Stewardship Principles follows:

GOD'S STEWARDS ARE SAINTS AND SINNERS

What does this mean:

God's stewards rejoice in and live out what the Lord has declared them to be through the cross. At the same time His stewards recognize they are sinners who fight sin and its consequences each day.

What does God's Word say about this?

Eph. 4:22-24 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (cf. Col. 3:5-17)

Rom. 7:21-25 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

1 John 3:1-2 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

How is this done?

As children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and with the Holy Spirit's help, we will:

- Recognize that the potential for great good, or great evil, lies in the way stewardship is presented and received;
- Evaluate carefully all communication, oral or written, according to the proper distinction between Law and Gospel, and in keeping with the biblical truth that each steward is at the same time saint and sinner; and
- Offer varying opportunities for Christian stewards to grow, recognizing that they are different points of spiritual maturity.

As children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and with the Holy Spirit's help, we will not:

- Assume that, because we are dealing with Christians, we can set aside the proper application of Law and Gospel in serving God's stewards;
- See all Christians as being at the same maturity level; or
- Use any approach to stewards that appeals to the sinful nature, selfish interest, or something other than faith active in love.

Submitted by Ray Altmann

Stephen Ministry



Carol Haupt who began the Redeemer Stephen Ministry program is in the spotlight for the month of May. Carol was looking for a program for the Human Care Ministry at Redeemer that provided training and a system for helping people. She discovered Stephen Ministry did that plus much more. Stephen Ministry helps the care receiver, the care giver, and the whole church grow in Christian maturity. Stephen Ministry has grown under Carol's guidance since 2005. We now have 6 Stephen Ministers and 3 Stephen Ministry leaders. Stephen Ministry is working presently with 4 care receivers.

Carol has lived full time the past 4 years in Venice, Florida and has been a member of Redeemer these past 4 years. She hails from Detroit, Michigan where she retired as a state administrator for unemployment insurance. Her profession is that of an attorney. Her interests include golf, church work, helping people, reading, and Bible Study (that's the short list). Traveling has been at the top of Carol's list and includes most of the United States, Europe (the Oberammergau) in 2000, Israel, and Mexico.

Thank you Carol for your dedicated commitment not only to Stephen Ministry but to the entire church body. Your loving compassions shines in all that you do.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" Hebrews 10:24

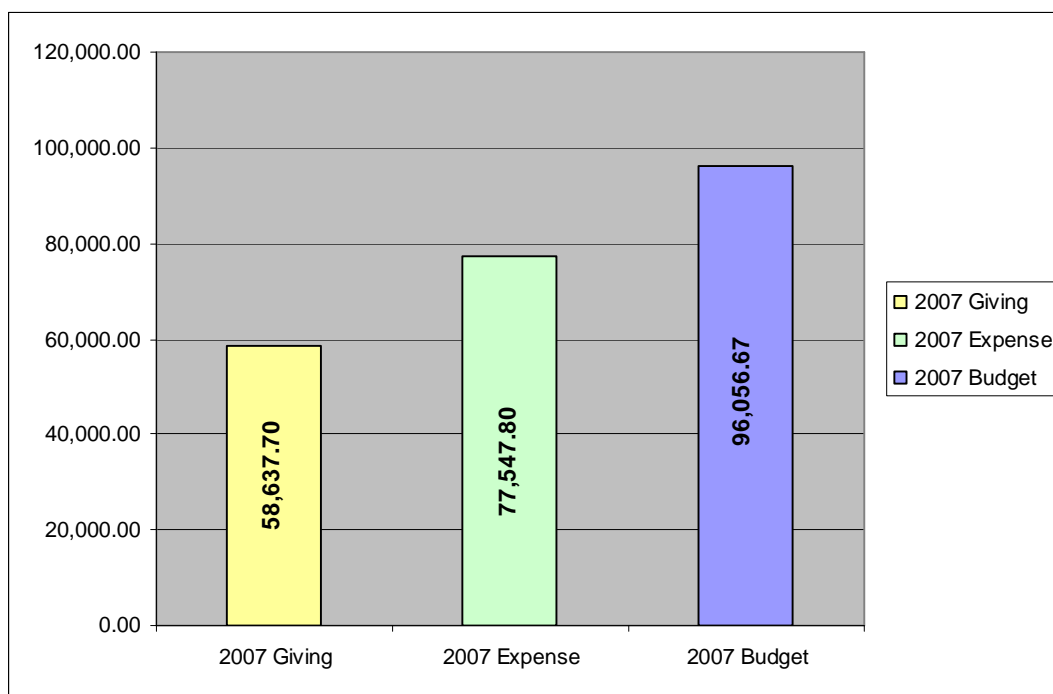


Submitted by Carol Carlos

Finance

	<u>2007 Giving</u>	<u>2007 Expense</u>	<u>2007 Budget</u>
January	18,056.00	19,419.38	33,803.55
February	19,634.20	28,275.83	25,622.37
March	20,947.50	29,852.59	36,630.75
Year to Date	58,637.70	77,547.80	96,056.67

Compared to Giving **(23,267.31)** **(37,418.97)**



Attendance



ATTENDANCE

	Sunday		Lenten Svcs.	
	8:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.	4:00 P.M.	7:00 P.M.
March 4	122	165	89	40
March 11	84	200	75	49
March 18	81	211	73	46
March 25	97	205	68	45

Bible Study

Church welcomes guests to Bible discussions

First I learned that the ladies around the table to my left were all nurse graduates from Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis, my hometown. Then, the woman on my right related how her grandmother had come from Norway, the land of my own mother's birth. Finally, I learned that the pastor in charge of the adult Bible study class at Redeemer Lutheran Church last Tuesday morning was from Minnesota too.

My Scandinavian heritage almost leapt to the fore when I felt the need to use a safe expletive I grew up with, "Jumpin' Jimminie!" (Pronounce the Js as Ys and you'll have the proper accent. It was like old home week.

It was also a terrific Bible study class, titled "Alone or lonely?" Pastor Earl Schmidt had prepared and distributed around the study table a collection of 18 Biblical passages that attendees read and discussed. Was Job alone or lonely? How about Elijah? And how about Jesus himself? The discussions were interesting, instructional and revelatory.

Pastor Schmidt mixed the teaching with levity, an ingredient in these studies that kept minds focused. When the subject got around to Noah, he admonished all to keep in mind that the Ark was built by amateurs while the titanic was built by professionals. (Which would you rather have been on?)

He also had a cartoon that he passed around showing the Ark with holes all around and a pair of a lucky species saying to one another, "Those woodpeckers have got to go!"

The lessons being presented for study by the Tuesday morning groups are non-sequential, so if you'd like to learn more, feel free to drop in at 10 A.M. any Tuesday and introduce yourself. Those Minnesotans, of whom I spoke above, will greet you warmly — along with the Michiganders, Indianans, Iowans, upstate New Yorkers, and Wisconsin visitors and Englewood residents.

The Redeemer Lutheran Church offers a full range of worship, study and service opportunities. Sunday services are at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. And there are Sunday Bible classes for adults, senior high students and youngsters. For more information, call the church office at 941-475-2410.

The Redeemer Church also offers child care, from infant to after-school. The child-care facility is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 941-475-2631 for rates and info.

The church is in East Englewood between Mayport and Mineola Road, two blocks south of the State Road 776 Access Road. Turn right off S.R. 776 at Mayport.

Reprint of Article in the Sun Herald on Saturday, March 24, 2007
Jan Findley, Reporter

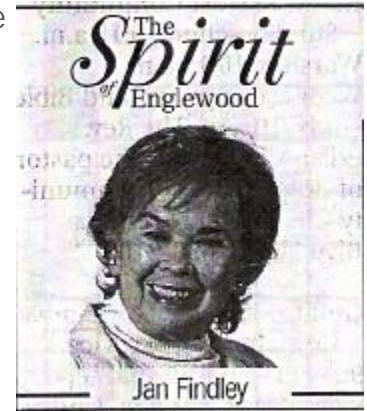


PHOTO BY JAN FINDLEY

Sixteen members of the adult Bible study gathered last Tuesday morning with Pastor Earl Schmidt at Redeemer Lutheran Church. The subject for the day was "Alone or lonely?" Passages from the Bible were selected by Pastor Earl Schmidt (at right) for reading and discussion.

Services Directory/Classified Ads

Services

Experienced 10th grade babysitter, available evenings and weekends, or for summer position. Contact Chelsea Gunterman 941-544-2797 or 941-474-0774.

Beautician/Manicurist

Debbie Balogh

Purple Palace

941-475-0731

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

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

7 bottles available.

\$10.00 ea.

Call Michelle Ferrier — 697-0502

Stewardship

First, we wish to THANK our members who responded with a faith promise during our recent Stewardship focus. As you know, your faith promises will remain sealed and be returned to you in December.



Not knowing the contents of the letters, we cannot report any data this year. However, we hope that our new tack encouraged all of us to prayerfully consider our participation in our church and renewed our commitments to Christian Stewardship.

We will continue to place Stewardship material in our newsletter and we expect to include a periodic insert in our bulletins during the coming months. We are hopeful of making Stewardship not a once a year thought, but an ongoing focus of our Christian Lives.

Thank you again for your participation, and please continue to pray for Redeemer and the work we do in His service.

The Board of Stewardship

GREETERS SCHEDULE

May

May 6 Ernie & Shirley Ferguson
Don & Bonnie Roussin

May 13 Earl & Avis Stuck
Don & Bonnie Roussin

May 20 Diana Collins & Olga Nagel
Dallas & Rusty Queck

May 27 Steve & Lee Procuk
Carl & Betty Bertka

Submitted by Betty Rowe

Assimilation

May 6 Carolyn Jordan

May 13 Carol & Susan Haupt

May 20 Erv & Betty Maki

May 27 CONFIRMATION-Thrivent

Submitted by Pam DeGourse



USHERS THIS MONTH

May

May 6 Ron Beaber
Shirley Zatkalik
Patrick & Jackie Wall

May 13 Wilbur Bruce
Shirley Zatkalik
Patrick & Jacki Wall

May 20 Ron Beaber
Shirley Zatkalik
Patrick & Jacki Wall

May 27 Wilbur Bruce
Shirley Zatkalik
Patrick & Jacki Wall

Submitted by Ray Janssen



New Summer Worship Schedule

Our Summer worship schedule will begin on Sunday May 6th.

Worship Service	9:15 A.M.
Adult Bible Study	10:30 A.M.
Sunday School	10:30 A.M.

Lemon Bay Art Student

Lemon Bay Art Student Handles Challenges Just Fine

By Alison Posner
Herald Tribune

As an award-winning sculptor, Sarah Ferrier, 18, still has her ups and downs. The Lemon Bay High School senior won first place in the Lemon Bay High School art show with a clay armadillo. She won third place for a teapot in the ceramics/sculpture division.

But Ferrier says her hand is her biggest challenge when she uses the pottery wheel in art class. She finds it difficult when she pulls up the sides of the clay.

"I usually make plates more than bowls," she laughed. That's because Ferrier was born with only a thumb and a portion of her pinkie on her left hand; the other three fingers are missing.

"I don't consider my hand (a disability), but some people probably would," she said. Ferrier is right-handed, but uses her left hand for balance and to mold her work.

"I always like to do hands-on type of stuff," she said.



Sarah Ferrier, who was born with three fingers missing from her left hand, uses a technique called darting on her ceramics project.

STAFF PHOTO / DANIELLE RAPPAPORT



STAFF PHOTO / DANIELLE RAPPAPORT

Sarah Ferrier, 18, works on a vase in her ceramics class at Lemon Bay High School. Ferrier has won numerous awards for her ceramics pieces and will attend University of Southern California where she plans to minor in ceramics.

Ferrier was recently accepted to the University of Southern California Gayle Garner Roski School of Fine Arts, in Los Angeles. She will major in business administration and minor in art. Her goal is to combine her business sense with her creative side with the dream of one day opening an art studio.

As soft-spoken as she is, her determination is evident. "She's a perfectionist," said her mother, Michelle Ferrier.

Growing up, Ferrier had to work hard to do simple things like tying shoelaces and learning to use the keyboard. When she learned to play T-ball, her father attached a glove to her left arm so she could pick up the ball with her right hand and throw it. Instead Ferrier chose to use her right hand to play. "She always found her own way to do things," said her mother. "She can even pick up a dime if it's on the floor."

In second grade, she learned origami, a paper folding technique. But her art class is where she is most creative. Art

teacher Dawn Matonis has worked with Ferrier for four years and marvels at her accomplishments. "She is very talented. She comes up with an idea and will figure out how to create it. That's the problem-solving part of being an artist." Matonis said she believes Ferrier will be a success. "I hope someday to have her come back to my classes to visit and maybe even do a demonstration or two," Matonis said.

Reprint from the Herald Tribune,

Redeemer Book Exchange and Library

We're starting a new book exchange and library in the Fellowship Hall. Look for the bookcase by the Crafts.

We need books to help us get started — any kind (paperbacks, hard cover, new, used, fiction, non-fiction, religious, whatever! You can drop them off either in the church office, or just leave them by the bookshelves.

Here's how it works:

- **Book Exchange:** Bring a book you no longer want and exchange it with one you haven't read! You may never have to buy another book!!
- **Library:** Borrow a book, return it within a reasonable time.

This is an honor system so you don't need to check in with anyone.

If you have any questions, call Carol Haupt (941) 493-0399 or Leta Stender (941) 830-1412.

Submitted by Carol Haupt and Leta Stender



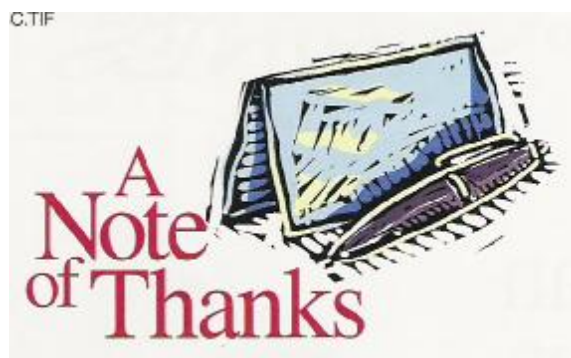
**New
Redeemer Book
Exchange & Library**

Dear Pastor Ferrier and Redeemer Church

Thank you so much for your warm hospitality on Easter Sunday. We visited my parents (Roger and Barbara Vick) and as a family, attended the early service. Afterwards, my daughters were invited to participate in the Easter egg hunt—an unexpected surprise. They had a **fabulous** time! During our bedtime prayers, my 5-year old thanked Jesus for dying on the cross and for leaving all the eggs at grandma's church for her and her baby sister. Like we learned in the sermon, the Easter message is slowly getting through.

Thank you for making us feel welcome and for letting us celebrate Easter with you.

Sincerely,
Valerie Norstrem



A Night at the Ball Park



Our youth and their friends have been invited to go to a Redfish baseball game on June 19 at the Port Charlotte Sports Complex. Their admission will be compliments of the Men's Breakfast Group. All of our church members and their friends are invited to come along. Admission is \$10 which includes hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and soda. We will be allowed into the park at 5:30 p.m. to have a picnic and the game will begin at 7:00 p.m. Tickets will be available in the church Narthex beginning June 3. please plan to come and have a great time!

Submitted by Jim Wright

Web Site

Check out Redeemer's very own web site. It's fantastic!! You can listen to Sunday's sermon, the children's sermon, read the weekly bulletins, check our worship schedule, read the monthly newsletter, check on child care services, and much, much more. There's even a direct link to our Missouri Synod's web site!!



Joe Friess has undoubtedly spent monumental hours developing and maintaining this web site. THANK YOU!!!

To log on to Redeemer's web site, go to www.redeemerfl.com.

You Are Invited ...

You Are Invited ...

You Are Invited...

Pastor and Michelle Ferrier and Jim and Lea Wonsey
are hosting a Graduation Open House for
Sarah Ferrier and James Wonsey, Jr.
on Sunday, May 20, 2007
in the Fellowship Hall (after Bible Class)
11:30 AM until 1 PM.

All family and friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church are invited.

Please R.S.V.P. to Michelle (697-0502) or Lea (375-8533)
by May 16, 2007.

(P.S. If you do not plan to attend Bible Class, we hope you will come back to join us!!!)

You Are Invited ...

You Are Invited ...

You Are Invited

New Members

It is with great joy that we welcome the following new members into our Redeemer Family:



Ray Stender



Kevin & Tricia Hopkins



Marjorie & Robert Boliere



Karen & Tommy Kirkland



Ken & Wilma Adair



Alexandra Scheel



Ann & Tom Elphick



Jamie Boliere



Maraline Meyerrink



Tom & Peg Leverenz



HEALING:

Members
 Elma Cancellieri
 Mark Horvath
 Lessie Kirch
 Lydia Klinger
 Cliff Larsen
 Tom McGrath
 Clara Mitchell
 David Perry
 Katie Rudolph
 James Wonsey, Sr.

Friends & Relatives

Jim Bergman
 Valorie Buie
 Dot Crawford
 Pam Davis
 William Evans
 Esther Gaskill
 Andy Gojkov
 Cheryl Harfst
 Walter Heppner
 Todd Holmes
 Nathalie Kiedaisch
 Darrel Lawson
 Mary Ann Leidy
 Elizabeth Linhardt
 Rev. David Maier
 Patrick McCord
 Donna Nesvacil
 Ron Peters
 Cheri Petersen
 Robyn Plesner
 Hudson Prior
 Mary Raimis
 Rae Ray
 Kyle Schultz
 Marcia Schuur
 Marion Talley
 Jill Taylor

We're shocked by the events of Monday, April 16, 2007, in Blacksburg, Virginia. Our hearts and prayers go out to the victims, their families and friends.



**Pray for the Victims
 and their Families**

MILITARY PERSONNEL & FAMILIES

**Remember
 Our
 Shut-ins**



Herb Bohm
 Gloria Carlson
 Ruth Jansch
 James Prather
 Bertha Sandhusen
 Norma Spaw
 Shirley Youngberg

Lutheran Service Book

In last month's Newsletter we introduced our Synod's latest worship resource: *Lutheran Service Book*. We also discussed how our Synod came up with that name for the new hymnal, as well as the rationale for producing a new hymnal at this time. As you may recall, our January Voter's Assembly voted to make the transition to the new hymnal during the course of this year.

This month we will address the important matter of funding that transition. To begin that discussion you also need to know about a few of the outstanding new features that come with *LSB*.

One of the most beneficial new features is that almost everything in the new book is also made available in digital (computer) format (called "*Service Builder*").

With the "*Service Builder*" we can create and print custom Worship Bulletins right in our own church office. Much of *LSB* is material that is already familiar to us. But, if we want to introduce a new segment of the Liturgy...or a new Hymn...we don't have to have a copy of the new hymnal for each worshipper – YET. We can print it with the click of a computer. *LSB* is the first Lutheran hymnal ever to come with this capability.

(Previously, we would have been required by law to secure copyright permission for each item we print...from each copyright holder. With *LSB* all of that is covered by a single license fee.) With the purchase of a minimum number of copies of *LSB* we can begin taking advantage of these new features. That minimum purchase is "stage one" of the funding plan. I'm happy to report that our Redeemer Endowment Fund has made funds available for that initial purchase. We will be able to begin using sections of *LSB* soon...even *before* we have enough copies to replace our current hymnals.

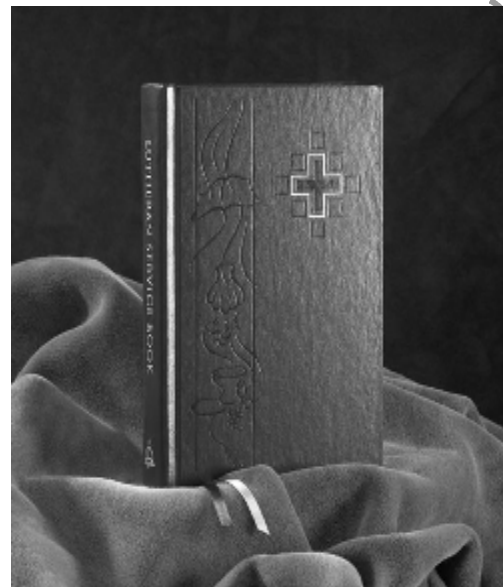
That brings us to "stage two". As we come to learn and love the hymns and liturgies of *LSB* we will then be presenting our members with opportunities to sponsor "hard copies" of the hymnal in memory of--or in honor of--loved ones, etc. We will also be providing for a more general "designated offering" for those who would like to sponsor copies in that way.

With our current staffing and printing capabilities you can understand that printing out the entire service each week just isn't feasible--or necessary--as a long term approach. That's why our ultimate goal is to have enough pew copies of *LSB* to serve our worship needs.

With you, I am looking forward to a joyful Service of Dedication later this summer as we place the initial copies of *LSB* in our Sanctuary...and then a second Dedication later in the year when additional copies will be presented to make our transition complete. May God's Kingdom be furthered through this process!

Next month: "*How is LSB better than LW?*" and "*What do we do with the old hymnals?*"

Pastor Ferrier



From the Office

Its that's time of year again when you Northerners start going back north. Please make sure you let the office know.

Thank you,
Pat Wilcoxon, Church Secretary



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for June and July is Sunday, May 20th by 12 noon.

If you have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter, either e-mail it to shortstack44@ewol.com or place it in the newsletter box in the church office. Articles received after May 20th will be held for the August newsletter.



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

ATTENTION!

There will be no July newsletter. It will be combined with the JUNE newsletter. If you have any information you need to get out in July, please plan ahead so it can go into the June newsletter.

Leta Stender

On giving and loving

The truth comes so often in simple sentences. For example, isn't it true that a person can give without real love or sympathy (maybe to impress others, for example) but one simply cannot love without giving? In fact, one of the clues to how much a person loves is how much he or she gives in terms of time, talent, friendship, service, encouragement and prayers on behalf of others.

Cross My Heart



Q. I am a new member of the LCMS (less than two years). My question is on the practice of making the sign of the cross on oneself during the course of the Divine Services, during the Sacrament of Communion, etc. It seems to me to be a great expression of love and respect to Christ our Lord. I am baffled because even though it is addressed in our hymnals, very few in the congregation actually do this. Is this simply left to an individual preference or should we all participate in practice? Could you also tell me the difference in the meaning of this practice between the LCMS and the Catholic Church?

A. Making the sign of the cross has a long tradition behind it, one that the Lutheran Church did not shy away from at the time of the Reformation. You are probably aware that in the Small Catechism Luther advises that we make the sign of the cross first thing in the morning. This practice is an excellent reminder of who we are: baptized children of God who have been redeemed by Christ the crucified.

Over the centuries the practice of making the sign of the cross fell into disuse among many Lutherans. While there are numerous factors that can be cited, probably the chief one is the fear that it is a "Catholic" thing. While the Lutheran Church does have serious disagreements with the Roman Catholic Church, it is an unfortunate thing that for many Lutherans in times past, the things that really divided us from the Roman Catholic Church had to do with external matters, like making the sign of the cross, kneeling for prayer, pastors wearing clerical collars, etc.

The practice of making the sign of the cross is, ultimately, up to the individual. C.S. Lewis once remarked that Christians shouldn't even notice whether other Christians do such things. If our attention is drawn to whether or not the person in the pew next to us is making the sign of the cross, or how he is folding his hands, etc, then our focus is on the wrong thing. So keep on making the sign of the cross. When you have the opportunity, you can certainly speak to others about the significance of this practice for you.

As for the matter of how to make the sign of the cross, there are different traditions. The oldest tradition is to bring together the thumb and first two fingers (three being the number of the Holy Trinity). As the Invocation is spoken, touch the forehead lightly, then move down to the middle of the chest. Then touch the right shoulder and finally the left shoulder. Or you can follow the western tradition and touch the left shoulder first, and then the right.

Printed from: www.lcms.org

Special Dates

- National Day of Prayer, May 3, 2007
- Christian Family Week, May 6-12, 2007
- Mother's Day, May 13, 2007
- Ascension of the Lord, May 17, 2007
- Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2007
- Pentecost, May 27, 2007
- Memorial Day, May 28, 2007

May 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Outreach



“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” --Matthew 28:19

As followers of Jesus, we have all been given the task of sharing the Gospel. There are many ways of doing this. There are evangelists and preachers, who actively tell others the story. There are lay people who, in casual conversation with friends, relatives, and acquaintances, feel comfortable discussing their faith, helping to show “the Way.” There are others who tell the good news by their actions—their love, their kindness, their peace, their faith, their goodness. Whatever your way, remember that the Holy Spirit is always there at your side, helping you, telling you what to say, giving you courage to speak and to act.

Board of Outreach

Continue watching out for visitors at worship and at our other events. Greet them, talk to them, and make them feel at home at Redeemer.

The Chamber of Commerce Expo was a great success. Our team talked to hundreds of people on April 13 and 14, inviting them to Redeemer. Interestingly, we discovered that about 95% of the people who visited the Expo already belonged to a local church. This was truly good news! But those who don’t have a church home were encouraged to visit Redeemer. We talked to people about Child Care as well. Many thanks to our volunteers: Jim and Mary Turner, Margie Cypher, Marj and Harvey Sterriker, Susie Haupt, Carol Vovcsko, Ruth Speer, Ray Janssen, Michelle and Pastor Ferrier. Thanks also to Ray Altmann for bringing over the new “Redeemer Banner.”

The Share Life Workshop was well-attended. Thirty+ members learned to feel more comfortable witnessing (sharing their faith with others). We got to know each other better, and the food was good, too. We will be having such workshops several times each year so if you missed this one, you will have another opportunity later in the year.

We sold a large number of Redeemer T-Shirts. Many thanks to those who took up the challenge to “Wear Your Shirt for Jesus.” We will continue to sell the shirts (\$10)—just call Carol Haupt at 493-0399 to order one, or get one in the Craft Corner in the Fellowship Hall.

As we heard at the Voters Meeting on April 22, Redeemer is currently “financially challenged.” The Outreach Board has many plans for ‘advertising’ Redeemer Church and Child Care, including a billboard on SR776 and a large sign on the lot on the corner of Mayport and SR776. These things cost a lot. Therefore, if you are able to make a special contribution for Outreach—to help us reach those who don’t know Jesus—we would be very happy to put it to good use. Just include it in your regular offering envelope, with the notation that it is for Outreach. Thank you.

We would like to start a new feature for the Newsletter—witness sharing. If you have had an opportunity recently to talk to someone about your faith, or about Redeemer, and would like to share that experience with the rest of us, please put your story in the Outreach box in the Office. It will help all of us to gain that comfort level, and it will give us ideas of how to proceed. Thank you.

Submitted by Carol Haupt

Fixing Chairs



Stephen Ministry Commissioning



Ladies Guild Spring Luncheon/Meeting



Weather plays havoc with church fundraiser

By **BETSY WILLIAMS**
CORRESPONDENT

Dorothy Sinowetski, a self-taught artist, came prepared this year for the Redeemer Lutheran Church Spring Festival.

As the event's official face painter, she pre-painted a limited amount of samples for the children to choose from.

"Last year, I had children lined up to have their faces painted," said Sinowetski, "but some of the ideas they had were a bit much and time-consuming."

One thing he could not be prepared for, though, was Sunday's weather.

The Spring Festival, a joint effort of the Men's Breakfast Group and the Ladies Guild, was to raise money to send their youth group to the June 19 Redfish baseball game.

"It's a shame the weather turned bad, but we already had everything in place," said **Jim Wright**, chairman of the youth board, as he looked through the window at the overflowing dunk tank and bounce house that lay flat to the ground.

Conceding to the weather, done with lunch, the 20 or so die-hard adults that did show up for the fundraiser decided to make the best of the situation and sat for an afternoon of bingo.

Mary Ellen Graef won the first bingo being called by volunteer **Chuck Malecki**. Graef chose a photo frame from the prize tray, returned to her seat and the games continued while the rains continued outdoors.

During Sunday's blustery session, the only faces painted were adults.

Cashiering for the event, **Raymond Janssen** took on a devilish look with a few strategically placed strokes of black paint.

Carol Haupt opted for a tiny Bluebird of Happiness on her cheek.

Offering his nose as a "big canvas," **Joe Carlos** let Sinowetski paint a large bee on it.

Face painting is not Sinowetski's only talent.

Each season, she provides the banner that hangs in the church narthex along with the Christian symbols she hand painted that are on display year round. She uses her calligraphy talents for the certificates for new



Chuck Malecki explains the rules of the bingo game to those who braved the weather to attend the Spring Festival.

CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOS /
BETSY WILLIAMS

church members. But the mural she painted in the child care and after-care building, is her "pride and joy."
"They keep me busy around here," Sinowetski said.

The Senior Youth Group will hold a car wash (weather permitting) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in the church parking lot, 6465 Mayport Road, East Englewood, to help with the cost of game tickets.

Donations will be accepted.



ABOVE: At lunch time, Jim Turner, Jim Wright and Mary Turner fill up their plates.



Joe Carlos had a bee painted on his nose by Dorothy Sinowetski. "My nose provided a big canvas for Dorothy to put it on," joked Carlos.



LEFT: Hot dog in one hand and dessert in the other, Laura Brooks heads back to the dining area.

Human Care

New brochures have been added to our [Care Notes Rack](#). There are Care Notes available for almost any subject. Let me know of your interests.

In April, we collected "shoebox" items for the Armed Forces Ministry. Thank you for your generosity! We filled our big box more than twice and the items have been delivered to the Rotunda American Legion for mailing.

Human Care has been asked to sponsor fund raising for the Horvath family as they deal with a serious medical problem of their son, Mark. On May 6th there will be a door offering which will be matched by Thrivant. Please consider a generous donation for this worthy cause.

Our board's membership has dwindled for various reasons, and we would love to add more "caring folks" to our special group. Won't you please add this request to your thoughts and prayers?? We'd love to have you join us.

Submitted by Marj Sterriker



Helping Hands

March 18, 2007

Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for your Souper Bowl donation. We appreciate your support of Englewood Helping Hand and would like you to know that your donation was used to help Englewood families receive food and help with other basic needs.

Sincerely,
Sharon Hodgdon, Corresponding Sec.



Spring Clean Up



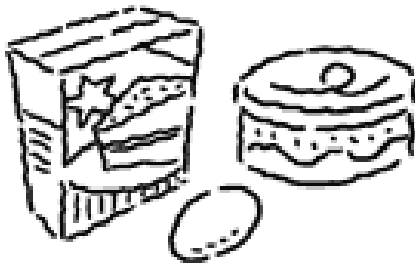
Youth Car Wash



Cloud Cookies

Jesus was "lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9, NRSV).

When you make these cloud cookies, remember what the angels said to his apostles: "This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (verse 11).



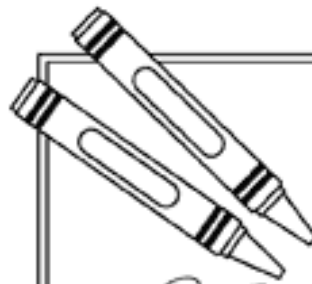
What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1 white cake mix
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 container (6 oz.) of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 3 cups powdered sugar



What you do:

1. Combine cake mix and egg.
2. Fold in whipped topping.
3. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto powdered sugar and coat well.
4. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until tops are firm.

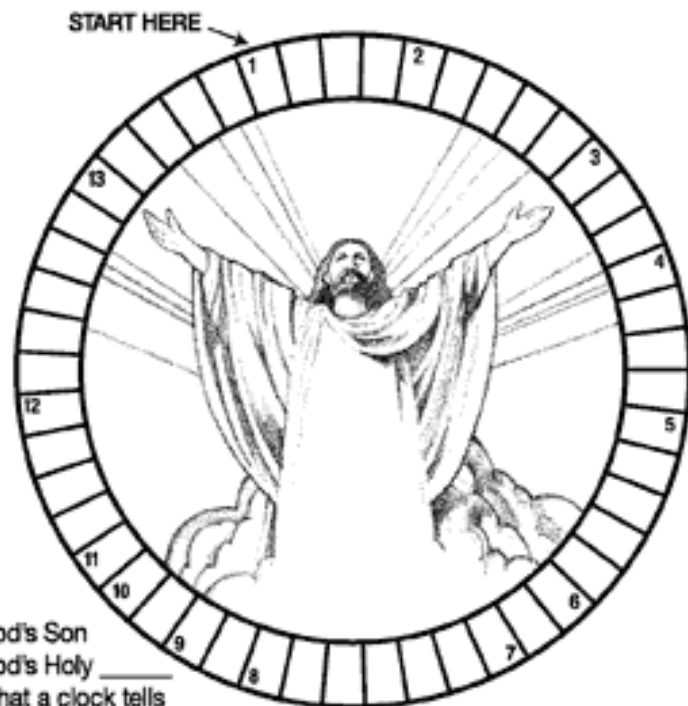


Just for KIDS

Ascension of the Lord

On the day Jesus left his disciples and went up in a cloud to heaven, he said to them, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (John 14:18, KJV).

Read the clues below. The last letter of each word is the beginning of the next word.



1. God's Son
2. God's Holy _____
3. What a clock tells
4. Our planet
5. Where Jesus is now
6. Opposite of Old Testament
7. An onlooker
8. Place to see clouds
9. Modern word for thee
10. Opposite of down
11. Authority or strength
12. Comes back
13. Searches for

Answers: (1) Jesus; (2) Spirit; (3) time; (4) Earth; (5) heaven; (6) new; (7) witness; (8) sky; (9) you; (10) up; (11) power; (12) returns; (13) seeks