

REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEBRUARY 2012

“I REALLY COULD USE AN EXTRA 24 HOURS”

Things around here at Redeemer are moving so fast. There is so much to do and so little time to do it all. There are so many meetings to attend; so many people to see; so many activities to participate; and so many events to prepare. What I could really use is an extra 24 hours. Guess what? The month of February supplies us with an additional 24 hours. This year is leap year and no one is more aware of this than our office secretary, Jennifer. She celebrates her birthday on February 29th. Happy Birthday Jennifer!

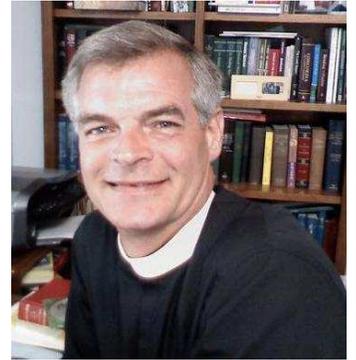
Now that our Redeemer community is in full-bloom, we are officially ‘in season’ and that means this is our opportunity to bring a busy, but larger community together under the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We kicked things off with a fabulous and long awaited New Member Dinner in January. More than 135 were in attendance. All were represented: new members, associate members, long-standing members, and even those interested in becoming members.

Entering now into my third full-season here at Redeemer, I can’t help notice all the many visitors the Lord continues to send our way. I do my best to call and meet with them as soon as possible, but guess what? It’s not always possible and not always soon enough. There aren’t enough hours in a day, let alone a single month.

As members or associate members of Redeemer, I could certainly use your help in this regard. Although the members of the Board of Outreach and the Board of Assimilation are doing all they can to greet them and make contacts, they can’t reach them all. They could use your help too. Do you know that on one Sunday last month, there were 74 visitors and guests attending services? That was ONE Sunday. And that was only those who wrote their names in the attendance book. There may have been others. That’s amazing, isn’t it?

What does this mean? I believe, as already stated above, the Lord is sending us more and more of His people to worship Him. What this means is that the people of God

that He is bringing to Redeemer desires to worship with us. But, this isn’t necessarily new to Redeemer. Year after year Redeemer has received many new members and associate members through the fact we are located in a community made up of



predominantly retired people. Each year a new batch of individuals and couples consider our area as a place for retirement. Some retire late and some retire early, but the fact of the matter is, they seek out our area in which to retire and enjoy God’s good creation. And then – this is the good and exciting part – they seek out a church to call home; a church where they are welcomed; a church where God’s Word is taught in its purity and truth; a church where the Sacrament is rightly distributed according to Christ’s command; a church where they can remain connected actively in the body of Christ; a church where they can become friends, Christian friends with you and me.

For most of us here at Redeemer, this is how we became members or associate members of Redeemer, remember? We once lived and worked up north. We desired to retire and live in Florida when retirement came. We sought out the Englewood, Rotonda, Port Charlotte, Venice, and North Port areas. The Lord led us to Redeemer. We made Redeemer our church home and have developed wonderful, long-lasting Christian friendships. Thanks be to God.

With so many visiting Redeemer during this time of the year, and I trust the Lord will continue to send more, can you imagine them gathered with us every Lord’s day under His grace in Word and Sacrament? Can you imagine the many more voices being raised up to God singing praises to His Holy Name? Can you imagine the many more members and associate members involved in

Continued on Page 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...

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

OFFICERS

President	Rich Kueker
Vice President	
Treasurer	Judy Murphy
Secretary	Dorothy Sinowetski

BOARDS

Head Elder	Tim Byrne
Assimilation	Deb Kueker
Property Mgmt	Charlie Vovcsko
Christian Ed.	Pam Replinger
Human Care	Carol Carlos
Outreach	Carol Haupt
School Board	Bill Bowers
Stewardship	
Youth	
Financial Secretary	Karen Kirkland

CLUBS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild	Doris Dykhuizen
Men's Group	Bob Mortenson

the life of the church through participation on Boards and Committees? Can you imagine how much more laughter shared during Choir, Senior Fellowship, Ladies Guild, Men's Group, or other events? Can you imagine the possibilities God can create through this increased membership? Can you imagine? (Sounds like it would make an inspiring song title, but I'll need another 24 hours). But rather than imagine, let's work together and with the help of God make it a reality.

Historically here at Redeemer, February has been the month in which we dedicate some of our attention to Stewardship. Unfortunately, we are without a Stewardship Board Chairman and that means there is no leadership present in that area. But, I will remind you, stewardship isn't just about money. Stewardship is also about the talents, that is, the gifts and skills the Lord has blessed us with, whether it is a seamstress, a woodworker, a clerical worker, a baker, or someone who can polish brass. These are just a few of the many examples of the talents and gifts the Lord has blessed us and they are the very things needed for the continued life of the church.

Scheduled in our February calendar are Evangelism Workshops held on Saturday, Feb. 4th and 11th. The advertised workshops are not a repeat of last year. We will use the concept of 'Speed Dating' and apply it to Evangelism. In a world where nearly everything and everyone is in a hurry, we will equip you with simple phrases that will enable you to strike up a conversation allowing you to share your faith in the limited time you have. Please prayerfully consider attending these workshops. If you are only able to make one of the workshops, attending one is better than none. Attending even one workshop may not change your life, but it may change the life of a stranger, a co-worker, a neighbor, a friend, or a family member for an eternity, if they haven't heard of the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

So the next time you come to church, please introduce yourself with an extended hand of welcome to someone you don't know. They may be a visitor, a guest, a member of the church, an individual you'll come to know in God's eternal kingdom which shall have no end. And if anything, your kind gesture just might be another reason for the visitor to stay and return again rather than leave and never come back. I am greatly appreciative of your love and cooperation as we worker together, with the help of God, toward the increase of His kingdom. We are given an extra 24 hours in February to accomplish this work. Please consider helping me in the increase of God's kingdom here at Redeemer.

In His Service,
Pastor Kress

STEPHEN MINISTRY

A Valentine from a Friend,

I just had to write to tell you how much I love you and care for you. Yesterday I saw you walking and laughing with your friends. I hoped that soon you'd want me to walk along with you, too. So I painted a sunset to close your day and whispered a cool breeze to refresh you. I waited, you never called, but I just kept on loving you.

As I watched you fall asleep last night, I wanted so much to touch you. I spilled moonlight onto your face, trickling it down your cheeks as so many tears have. You didn't think of Me, yet I wanted so much to comfort you.

The next day, I exploded a brilliant sunrise into a glorious morning for you. But you woke up late and rushed off to the grocery store or an appointment, you didn't even notice. My sky then became cloudy and My tears were the rain.

I love you. Oh, if you'd only listen! I try to say it in the quiet of the green meadow and in the blue sky. The wind whispers My love throughout the treetops and spills it into the vibrant colors of all the flowers. I shout it to you in the thunder of the great waterfalls and compose love songs for birds to sing for you. I warm you with the clothing of My sunshine and perfume the air with nature's sweet scent. My love for you is deeper than any ocean and greater than any need in your heart. If you'd only realize how I care!

My Father also sends His love. I want you to meet Him... He cares too! Fathers are just that way. So, please call Me soon, I'm only a prayer away. No matter how long it takes, I'll wait, because I love you.

Your Friend, JESUS

Our prayer is that you may know you are never alone, God is always with you no matter whether you find yourself in happy or sad times, alone or with family or friends, working through a crisis or having an uneventful day. God has also placed Stephen Ministers to walk beside you, listen, and care. We pray you will contact Pastor Kress or any one of us as we are here for you. Yours in Christ, Carol Carlos, Carol Haupt, Nancy Hall

THANK YOU TO REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Redeemer Lutheran Church & Sunday School,

We presented the beautiful story Bible you sent with us to the Growing in Grace church congregation this morning during worship. They absolutely loved it. It will be well used by the church. Many people were looking at it after worship today. They send their heartfelt thanks and blessings to your whole family. Below is a photo we took of them this morning with the Bible (the boy in the red shirt is holding the Story Bible).

In Him,
Jack & Cathy Carlos



CROP WALK 2012

Set aside **Saturday, February 25, 2012** for the 24th annual **CROP WALK**.

Englewood Helping Hand, Inc. thanks all of you who walk year after year and have made this a successful community event.

CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. It is a program sponsored by Church World Service (CWS), a group supported by many Christian denominations. Over 2000 communities around the country participate each year.

25% of the money raised in Englewood stays right here in Englewood. It will be used to help less fortunate neighbors. In the past you have raised as much as

\$20,000.

In January and February recruiters will be enlisting walkers and non-walkers to sponsor those who do walk.

On February 25th the walk will start at Community Presbyterian Church in Englewood and walk to Lemon Bay Park and back, a distance of 5 miles. Registration begins at 8 am and the walk starts at 8:30 am. Last year we had many families walk and also The Lemon Bay High School Girls Softball team. It's a very easy and enjoyable walk.

Submitted by Ed & Carol Sheahan



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

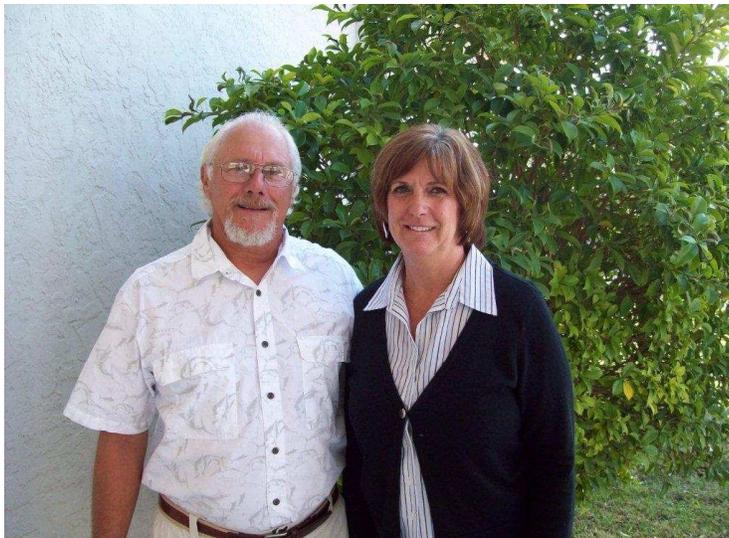
Jesus said "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for such belongs the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 19:14 I would like to say thank you to Redeemer for allowing me the opportunity to take care of Sunday School for the last 3 years. I have enjoyed every moment! I would also, like to thank Trish Hopkins for taking on the responsibility of the Sunday School as the new Sunday School Superintendent! The Sunday School is a wonderful way to touch the lives of children at Redeemer. Please keep Trish in your prayers as she takes on this opportunity! She will be awesome! Upcoming events for Sunday School will include the Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast on Easter Sunday!

In His service, Lisa Kress



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Joseph & Paula Maramonte
1040 Humboldt Street
Englewood, FL 34224
(941) 474-6256



Joseph and Paula Maramonte became Associate Members of Redeemer on 1/29/2012. It is their plan to spend their winters here with us and then returning to their home state of Wisconsin for the summer months. While enjoying their escape from the cold and the snow back in the tundra, they hope to get in some fishing and motorcycling. Joseph is a retired firefighter (Milwaukee) and Paula is employed as a Sales Trainer for Bracco Diagnostics.

Re. Mark & Laurie Steinke
22123 Malone Ave
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941)876-4596

Rev. Mark and Laurie Steinke, prior to moving here to Florida, called Michigan their home. Both are presently teachers, although Pastor Mark ventured into the classroom about four years ago. Laurie also works part-time for Home Depot (Punta Gorda) as a cashier. They have two adult children, Sarah, who has now been blessed in marriage to Derik two years ago. And recently, their son, Tim began his employment in Verona, Wisconsin with Epic Software as a technical server. The company deals with software for healthcare. In their spare time, they enjoy walking, biking, and kayaking. They admitted that they are both into the care of their home and their yard also.



THINKING OF LENT

Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. Churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent most meaningful. Lent is a good time to read, study and inwardly digest the four gospels. (The word gospel means "good news.")

A college student decided to work his way through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for his Lenten devotional time. Soon he was fascinated by the stories, such as the Pharisees and Sadducees trying to trap Jesus in debate. The brilliant Jesus handled every occasion with wisdom,

leaving the authorities dumbfounded. During his devotional time, the student was filled with laughter and amazement at the brilliant son of God, who was only in his 30s. Get to know the good news, and you'll understand the young man's amazement.



A DAY FOR ASHES

Since the Middle Ages, Christians in the so-called Western Church have observed Ash Wednesday (the seventh Wednesday before Easter) as the first day of Lent. On this day, in many churches, worshipers receive ashes on the forehead as a reminder of their sorrow for their sins. The ashes are often made by burning palm branches left over from the previous year's Palm Sunday. Ash Wednesday is February 22 this year.

FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

•••• DIRECTIONS ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.

gain as or ear van an for give
gave her on it one other he an a

B _____ w _____ h each
ot _____ d _____ give
_____ e an _____ if _____ y
of you h _____ grie _____ ce
a _____ st some _____ .
For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
for _____ you." COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV



Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

2011 Church Actual vs. Budget Through Dec. 31st, 2011

<i>Income Budget</i>	<i>Income Received</i>	<i>Expenses</i>
\$265,678.00	\$211,638.99	\$244,134.17

THANK YOU TO OUR USHERS

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE USHERS WHO VOLUNTEERED IN 2011. There is always a need for 4 ushers per service. Please prayerfully consider becoming an usher and sign up in the Narthex. If you have any questions or wish a walk-through of usher duties, please contact Tom Kirkland at 941-474-6407 or 941-456-5550.

The Newsletter deadline for the March Newsletter is February 19th. Please have all your submissions to the church office by that time. Thank you. Electronic submissions are best sent to redemerfl@verizon.net

PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY

Please join us for our monthly "Property Appreciation" Day on the second Saturday of the month, FEBRUARY 11th!!! Join us in keeping our buildings and properties beautiful. There's a little something to do for anyone willing to help... For more information please contact Charlie Vovcsko at 941-266-5118. THANK YOU!-*Property Management*

BLOOD DRAW

The BIG RED BUS from Florida's Blood Center was at Redeemer on December 18th. Redeemer registered 9 donors and 2 of these donors gave double red blood cells. That means a total of 33 local lives will be helped. If you are considering giving the double red blood cells you may go online to sbcinfo.org. This site explains the interesting process which will leave you with an energy boost and removes **calories**.

Many thanks to all who gave 45 minutes of their time for this extremely worthwhile community program.

If you would like to help make a successful blood drive, please mark your calendars for **February 26**, from 8:30 am to 1 pm. If you want to know if you are able to donate you may email floridasbloodcenters.org or call 1-888-936-6283. If this is your first time, you'll come off the bus really feeling like a hero. They make your donation time easy and fun.

BAKELESS BAKE SALE

The Ladies Guild/LWML will be having their annual Bakeless Bake Sale during the month of February.

Envelopes will be distributed after both services. If you don't receive one, there will be extras on the Narthex desk next to the "cake" . The proceeds will be used for a mission project to be selected at our February 1st meeting. Watch the Sunday bulletin for details.

Submitted by Sybil Grahl



DANCING WITH THE STARS!!!

The Annual Dancing with Stars will be held Sunday, February
12th from 7:00 – 9:00 PM! SEE YOU THERE!!!

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**December 12, 2011**

Present: Pastor Kress, Tim Byrne, Bill Bowers, Rich Kueker, Karen Kirkland, Carol Haupt, Betty Foster, Charlie Vovcsko, Pat Luedtke, Deb Kueker

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Rich Kueker. Pastor Kress opened with a prayer.

The minutes of November 14, 2011 were presented. KAREN MOVED, BILL SECONDED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

The calendar for January was presented. The New Member Dinner on January 14th, the Quarterly Voter's Meeting on the 15th, and the Thrivent Coffee Hour were added.

REPORTS**PASTOR:**

- President Ed Sheahan submitted his resignation (indefinitely) due to personal family concerns.
- It was determined that this remain a leave of absence. TIM BYRNE MADE THE MOTION, CHARLIE SECONDED THE MOTION, MOTION CARRIED.
- Encouragement card will be sent and our financial support/free will offering discussed.
- Losses of 2 members/December 18th, 5 incoming members BILL ACCEPTED MOTION, TIM SECONDED, MOTION CARRIED.
- Pastor Schmidt will serve from January to April as Winter Pastor. He will be preaching once a month and conduct Bible Class between services.
- December 11th Caroling for the shut-ins took place/Thrivent provided pizza dinner.

ELDERS:

- January 21st there will be a spaghetti fundraiser at Faith Lutheran in Punta Gorda on behalf of the Carlos family (missionaries) at 5:30 PM. Carol is selling tickets in the narthex.
- Members have received letters from Elders assigned to them.

FINANCE: Budget will be submitted for the Voter's Meeting on December 18th. TIM MADE THE MOTION AND BILL SECONDED, MOTION CARRIED.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:

- Lights in the parking lot have been repaired by FPL.
- Charlie thanked those who have supported the 2nd Saturday maintenance crew.

ASSIMILATION:

- Addressing tasks for new members on December 18th.
- Considering a change in meeting time to accommodate new volunteers.

OUTREACH:

- Rotonda Christmas Parade was a success.
- New member dinner scheduled for January 14th.
- Suggested that each committee/board create a poster/short presentation for the New Member Dinner.
- New members for 2009-2011/Fellowship Hall/Main Dish provided/members contribute side dishes.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

- Christmas Program to be presented at the December 14th Advent Service.
- Tuition increase to take place in January.
- Anonymous donor provided funds to cover the deficit remaining for 2011. TIM MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE< CHARLIE SECONDED, MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion took place about candidates up for election and re-election.
- Members of the Council were asked who would be willing to serve for 2012-2013.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm with a prayer request from Charlie to Pastor for guidance.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Sinowetski, Congregation Secretary

STEWARDSHIP

"I LOVE YOU"

One of the best known days in February is Valentine's Day. Some people are tempted to call February 14th "Hallmark Holiday." Little wonder because in our country over 7,000,000,000 valentine cards are purchased each year. Most of these cards say "I love you" in one way or another. But what does "I love you" mean?

Some would say that "I love you" refers to being physically attracted to a person of the opposite sex. While it is true that physical attractiveness can draw people together we need to remember that physical attractiveness changes over time. Yes, it is an important kind of love, but it does not have the same lasting power as other forms of love.

Others would say that "I love you" means you are my special friend. Good friends are sweet blessings in this life as we find things that we enjoy doing with certain people we like and with whom we have so much in common. A friendship kind of love is very special but, sadly, we know from experience that friends come and go.

There is a deeper understanding of what it means to say "I love you." The word that comes to mind for many Christians is "*agape*" which we call God's kind of love. It is unconditional and keeps reaching out to other people even when they may not return this kind of love. That is certainly true of God's love for us sinners. Even when we say and do sinful things God's love reaches out to us. As the Scriptures teach, "*while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.*" (Romans 5:8 NIV). Jesus Himself said in John 15:13

(NIV): "*Greater love has no one than that he lay down his life for his friends.*"

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (NIV) describes agape love in this way: "*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*"

The Apostle John wrote in 1 John 3:1 (NIV): "*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are!*" Good and godly children imitate the positive characteristics of their good and godly parents. As the children of God through Jesus Christ we imitate the love of our Father in heaven. "*We love because He [God] first loved us.*" (1 John 4:19 NIV) What does our Father in heaven delight in doing? John 3:16 (NIV) says it so well: "*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."

God delights in loving and giving. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we are God's children, God's disciples, God's stewards. There is no better witness to what it means to be a child of God than for us to use all of life and life's resources in a way that brings glory to God and blessings to those whose lives we touch. May our "I love you" always be God's kind of love, God's agape love.



ASSIMILATION

The New Member Dinner on January 14th, was nothing short of spectacular, don't you agree? The Fellowship Hall was filled to capacity with our long time members, those with a few years under their belt and our recent 'newbies' were also accounted for and represented. The Lord had to be smiling down upon us. The Fellowship Hall was all decked out and the 'spread of food' would have made Paula Dean swoon and Martha Stewart nod her head in approval. To each and everyone who worked so hard to make this such a success, God bless you all. An evening filled with laughter, getting to know one another better, and delicious food...who could ask for anything better than that? Oh, and have you 'noted' that the Coffee Hour returned after the late service? The Assimilation Committee wishes to thank those who have signed up already (chart in the narthex) for a Sunday in 2012. Assimilation Committee

PRAYERS

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

HEALING: Members: Bill Balogh, Sr., Bob Johnson, Cliff Larsen, Gary Lute, Sandy McGrath, Clara Mitchell, Herb Petersen, Don Plesner, Michael Sanders, Zannie Scheel, Marie Talley, Fred Toth, Ronald Woller.

Friends & Relatives: Lorraine Agens, Noel Antonelli, Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Mary Beaber, Grace Blum, Georgia Bush, Jack & Cathy Carlos, Debbie Carr, Bobbett Clark, Carly DeFeos, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, Nick Frees, Manual Galan, Glenn Galway, Malia Grayer, Ellen Hammerschlag, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, Bill Hillis, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Tom Holt, Stanley Jablonski, Douglas Johnson, Heather Johnson, Ashley Johnston, Rachel Kagay, Marinela Kandt, Julie Keck, Mary Krueger, Jim Lane, Denise Lines, Sean Maki, Elsie Malecki, Greg Martens, Joe Manson, Patrick McCord, Amelia McInerney and family, Pete Mogg, Linda Mohr, John Molle, Mike Morrissey, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Ann Nagel, Judy Nagel, Rev. Gary Nehring, Dan Niemann, Darwin & Noreen Oliver, Charles Pentecost Jr., Ronnie Powers, Mary Raines, Delaney Saunders, the family and friends of Ashley Schultz, Ryan Sheahan, Nancy Sly, Debbie Speer Smith, Michael Stio, Eva Tabbitas, Teresa Tormala, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, Phyllis Tucker, Helen Weishaar, Cindy Whitaker, Gordan Winkel, Reece Withers, Linda "Kirkland" Woodum.

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

Pastor and members of the church are always willing to pray for you, family members and friends. If a loved one appears on our prayer list above, please call pastor or the church office to give us a health update. Thank you.

GREETERS

February 5th

Early: Donna Antonelli, Helen Plank

Late: Linda Rogers, Arlene Harden

February 12th

Early: Erna Abel, Donna Antonelli

Late: Jane Hoivik

February 19th

Early/Late: Outreach

February 26th

Early: Donna Antonelli, Helen Plank

Late: Rich and Deb Kueker

Submitted by Assimilation

COFFEE HOUR

February 5th

Mary Ann Frees

February 12th

Mike & Anne Sanders

Gudrun Janke

February 19th

Outreach

February 26th

Dottie Lamere

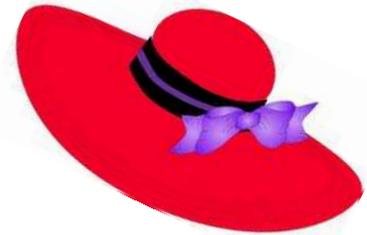
Submitted by Assimilation

REDEEMER RED HATS

The Redeemer Red Hats would like to invite the ladies of the congregation to join. We have lost several ladies due to moving or death. We meet every 4th Tuesday of the month for lunch. We also go on trips, etc. If you are interested please tell the church office and someone will be in touch to answer any questions.

Lunch will be at Mango Bistro (301 W. Dearborn Street in Englewood) at NOON on February 28th. Please sign up on the reservation sheet in the narthex to the left.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch



REDEEMER CARING NETWORK

If you are willing to help, please check the box of your choice.

- Leader
- Prepare a meal for shut-ins, etc.
- Sit with a shut-in or ill person when needed.
- Visit shut-in or ill person.
- Drive for Dr. appointments, etc.
- Handy work, such as cleaning, shopping, etc.

Please call me and I will be glad to explain what a leader does. It does not involve a lot. The groups are 8-12 persons in size and cover the entire congregational membership. We hope this is very helpful to persons living alone. It is also a great help to the Pastor in keeping up with all people. Please prayerfully consider this important item and call me. Thank you, Lessie Kirch (941) 475-3689

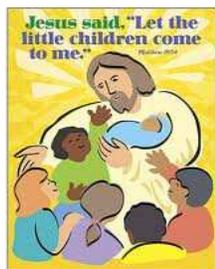
CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS

A "Cell Phone for Soldiers" drop box is located in the narthex. Drop off your old cell phone and our troops serving overseas will receive sixty-minute calling cards good anywhere in the world. Thank you for your help.

A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Beloved in Christ,

Pastor and I would like to thank the members of Redeemer that were so kind to us over the holidays, we truly appreciate your generous gifts, and kind words! We enjoyed the company of many of you in our home on Christmas Eve and look forward to that every year! You are all such a blessing in our lives and we love serving our Lord through the congregation at Redeemer. God's Blessings, Pastor and Lisa



QUIET ROOM THANK YOU

A HUGE thanks to the Assimilation Board, Gary Lute, Marie Talley and the Child Care for helping get the Quiet Room updated complete with a dutch door, storage bins for toys, some new toys and books, a table and chairs, changing pad and a book shelf for the little ones! Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



Happy Valentines Day!

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays
at 3:45

2/6 Jesus Teaches
Nicodemus

John 3:1-17

2/13 Jesus and the
Samaritan Woman

John 4:1-26

2/20 The Temptation of
Jesus

Matthew 4:1-11

2/27 Jesus seeks the
Lost

Luke 15:1-32



For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that who so ever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Birthdays

Ariana 2/12

Valen 2/14

Ms. Lisa 2/18

Hajnalka 2/20

Trevor M. 2/21

Cailey 2/23

Jackie 2/24

Jordan 2/28



Congratulations on your years of service!

Ms. Courtney

2 years on 2/16

Closings

Child Care will be closed
February 20th for
Presidents' Day.



What We Are Learning

2/6-2/10 Traditional
Tales

2/13-2/17 Valentines
Day



2/20-3/2 Wheels and
Wings

A Great Big Thank You!

A great big thank you to all who have donated to the Angel Scholarship Fund. We appreciate the out pouring of financial support.



Submitted by Wendy Horvath

NEW MEMBER DINNER!



LADIES GUILD/LWML

A "Thank You" was received from Redeemer Lutheran Child Care for our generous contribution to the Angel Scholarship.

5 Thank You notes and/or letters addressed to our "Quilters" were received from seminarians and their families. Not only will the quilts keep them warm, but the appreciation was also expressed for the love, support and encouragement that they felt that went into the making of these "special" gifts.

Submitted by Betty Clemens, Secy.

OUTREACH

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

WHAT IF?

The Apostle Paul says *"For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?...So faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."* [Romans 10:13-14, 17]

WHAT IF no one had ever told us about the words of Jesus? Think about it. How would our lives be different? No hopeno peaceno eternal life. *Tell someone.*

OUTREACH NEWS

New Member Dinner Thank You

The New Member Dinner was a great success. We had over 130 guests, about half "old-timers" and half "new members." The food was yummy and the fellowship was lots of fun. We all got to know many new people--people we will now recognize in church. But the party could not have been a success without the tireless efforts of a lot of people. This was a joint effort of the Boards of Outreach and Assimilation, with the help of the following people: Erna Abel, Donna Antonelli, Margie Cypher, Vicki Davis, Arlene Harden, Susie Haupt, Bernice Heppner, Jane Hoivik, Carolyn Jordan, Karen and Tommy Kirkland, Jonti and Gary Lute, Cathy Mielke, Linda Rogers, Jennifer Steele, Mary and Jim Turner, Pat and Dale Whipple, the Board chairpersons, those who were so generous with dishes and desserts, and, of course, Pastor Kress. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

'Speed Witnessing' Workshop

It is hard to tell someone about Jesus, especially in this day and age, when hustle-bustle is our way of life. What do we say? When do we say it? How do we introduce the subject when we only have a few minutes' opportunity. Recognizing these difficulties in sharing our faith, our up-coming witness training will take into account this problem. Pastor will be conducting a hands-on, practice type workshop. Dialogues and answers will be suggested and we will practice sharing our faith with each other. It should be a very helpful, valuable experience. Please set aside two Saturday mornings, February 4 and 11, from 9:00 to 12:00 p.m. We will meet in the Narthex.

Friendship Sunday

We will celebrate Friendship Sunday on February 19, so start thinking and praying about who you might invite. This is a good way help someone "hear" the word of God, without having to tell them yourself. They will hear it through the readings, the sermon and the songs. Hopefully, they will want to come back and hear more. They can "come and see" what it's all about. You might even take them out to lunch afterwards.

Watch Out for Visitors

Keep an eye out for visitors in church on Sunday. As they introduce themselves, take note of who they are and make a point of talking to them and befriend them. Let's make them feel welcome so that they will want to come back.

Submitted by Carol Haupt



CLASSIFIEDS

Beautician/Manicurist	Debbie Balogh Linda Pontello	Purple Palace Purple Palace	941-475-0731 941-475-0731
Sales—Rentals	Pineapple Gulf Properties—Glenda McDorman, Owner/Broker (Lessie Kirch's Daughter) 350 S. Indiana Road Englewood, FL 34223. Office: 941-473-0300, Cell: 941-330-7922.		
Handyman	Work any handyman job from A-Z, nothing is too big or small. Please call John Toth at 941-697-1670!		
Cleaning Services	Free estimates! Please contact Sheila Murphy at 941-473-1747.		
Lawn Care	Call John Zimmerman at 941-445-0772 for a free estimate.		
Construction	Call Rob Long! A.C.S., Inc. - Licensed General Contractor - Anything from full remodels, full lanai's, window and door installation and ALL phases of construction. State certified licensed and insured. Please call for a free estimate at 941-475-5008 or 941-232-6606!		
For Sale	"Rebounder" Trampoline with Holding Bars. \$99 or best offer...Please call Sammy Jolley at 697-5905 if interested.		

GUARDIAN ANGELS

We are all aware of the difficult economic times being felt in our state. Due the lack of home building, many jobs have left our area and left our neighborhood families struggling to make ends meet. Many parents are working more than one job or several part time jobs to support their families.

Our scholarship committee met recently with the intention of reducing some of the tuition assistance we were providing. Families receiving angle fund assistance must apply every 90 days and we were provided with the recent requests and the families' financial information. The committee was deeply touched by the difficult situations many of our children face at home. For many of them, the best hours of their day is the time they spend with us. The committee was touched by the great need in our community and was led to not turn away any families in need. All who applied and have family incomes that fall below our required level will receive assistance for the first quarter of 2012.

As many of our members are aware, the drop in VPK enrollment has resulted in a significant income reduction for our school. We realized that the VPK income played a significant role in the financial resources that provided assistance to our struggling families. If the full amount of assistance that was applied for was granted, we would be providing over \$41,700 in financial assistance. It was clear that we could not provide for this need without help from Jesus and all of you!

We recently announced the start of our Guardian Angel program. We asked The Lord to lead 100 of our members to support our Angel Fund ministry with a \$20 gift per month through 2012. Your response has been a tremendous and demonstrates the leading power of The Holy Spirit and the faith lifting power of answered prayer.

If you aren't a Guardian Angel yet, joining is easy. First, take an Angel Envelope from the basket in the narthex, so we can track the number of Guardians. Then just add \$5 to your regular offering envelope each week, and note the \$5 amount as Angel Fund. Karen asks that you place your donation on a separate check, to insure that it is reflected on your annual gift statement and simplify the bookkeeping process.

The School Board thanks you for your ongoing support and trusts The Lord will bless you greatly in your participation of this ministry.

In His Love,
Bill Bowers

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REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.

REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for members, Associate Members and Visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church (LCMS).

WORSHIP SERVICES:

October—April: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Bible Study: 9:15 AM

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 941-475-2410

We, the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church are called into the service of our Lord by accepting His command (Matthew 28:18-20):

- *Making disciples of all nations / peoples.*
- *Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*
- *Proclaiming the Gospel and teaching the Word.*

Christ's love for us compels us to serve our neighbors as He served us.



The Carlos Family Times

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18

Together In Mission to Guinea, West Africa

January 2012

Guinea - Home, Sweet, Home!

Have you ever returned home after an absence to a group of friends greeting you with big smiles, shouts of greeting, and applause? Well, that was the welcome we had when we arrived at our home in Siguiri a few days ago. It warmed our hearts. It is indeed good to be home.

We had a wonderful time in the United States with friends and family. We were able to share the story of what God is doing in Guinea with many brothers & sisters in Christ and we were encouraged and uplifted by all of you. We are now settled in and prepared to begin our work next week. Looking ahead, this is what our weeks will look like:

- Sunday – worship with Growing in Grace Lutheran Church
- Monday-Thursday – see people at our home who are in need of health care treatment or eyeglasses (we will now be seeing 10 people each day)
- Friday – day of rest
- Saturday – continue and expand our Prayer Day, when people can come just for prayer and fellowship
- Continue our Maninka language learning
- Identify villages where the MOST Ministries eyeglass team that is coming in August can hold clinics
- Plan for a possible short term team to come to hold an English as a Foreign Language (EFL) Camp this Fall

We want to provide more ways to reach out to people when they are waiting in our yard for treatment or on Saturdays when they come for prayer. We will be trying to use Bible stories in the Maninka language on audio tape and some illustrated Bible stories as well. Please pray for us as we begin to introduce these new resources.

The Aroma of Christ

The following verse has come to mind again and again over the past year:

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God, the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life." 2 Corinthians 2:15-16

Let me tell you, there are a lot of smells in Siguiri. Unfortunately, many of them are not pleasant. But what a joy it is to see people get a whiff of Christ's love! Sometimes you can see that they are wondering, "What was that?" It is like they have smelled something good cooking in the kitchen – like baking bread – they think, "Oh, that sure smells good. I want to know more about that."

It is our prayer that each of our short encounters with our neighbors here in Guinea, would be filled with the aroma of Christ and that they would lead people to want to know more about Jesus and his love.

MOST Ministries is coming to Guinea

We are thrilled to announce that we will be hosting a team from Messiah Lutheran Church in Lakeville, MN in August of 2012. The team will be partnering with MOST Ministries and will be conducting eyeglass clinics in various villages in the Siguiri area. Please pray for the team, and for us, as we all make preparations for what we know will be an exciting time.

Stay Connected—Support our Work

Thank you for your generous financial support! You are a blessing to us & the kingdom of God!

We want to share a special need with all of you. Due to Jack's Parkinson's, we need to return to the US two times per year so that he can see his neurologist. We believe this will help us continue our work in Guinea for a longer period of time. However, this is an additional expense and we will need enough funds in our account to cover two trips to the US instead of one. Your gifts are appreciated.

- Click "Give Now" on our website www.carlostribe.wordpress.com or send a gift to (write "Carlos Support" on your check):
LCMS World Mission
Missionary Support
PO Box 790089
St. Louis, MO 63179-0089

To receive our "e-newsletter" & prayer updates, email us at carlostribe@gmail.com

Please pray...

- Thanksgiving for a wonderful time in the US
- Thanksgiving for safe travel back to Guinea
- Thanksgiving for good medical treatment for Jack and for his continued good health
- For Raymond & Hannah as they continue their studies
- For us as we begin our work again in Siguiri, that we may be the 'aroma of Christ' to many
- For the group from Messiah Lutheran Church & MOST Ministries as they begin preparations for their trip to Guinea

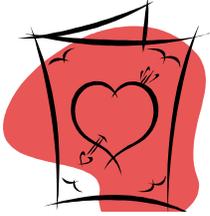


Jack & Cathy Carlos are missionaries to the Maninka people of Guinea, West Africa



LCMS WORLD MISSION
www.lcmsworldmission.org

♥ ♥ ♥ FEBRUARY 2012 ♥ ♥ ♥

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<i>1</i> 9:00 – 11:00 AM Tap 10:00 AM Outreach 12:30 PM Ladies Guild Mtg 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<i>2 The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord</i> 10:00 AM Sr. Fellowship 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Class 4:00 – 5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Class 6:00 PM Adult Confirmation 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 9:00 AM – NOON Witness Workshop 3:00 PM Hammerberg-Armstrong Wedding
<i>5 The 5th Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Property Mgmt Mtg 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service	<i>6</i> 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Stephen Ministry Training 9:00 – 11:00 AM Tap 9:00 AM Quilting Group 3:45 PM Child Care Chapel 4:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:00 PM School Board	<i>7</i> 9:00 AM Hula Class 9:00 AM Sarasota Circuit Pastor's Meeting, Parrish, FL NOON – 6:00 PM AA BBQ 6:00 PM Elder's Mtg 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>8</i> 9:00 – 11:00 AM Tap 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<i>9</i> 10:00 AM Sr. Fellowship 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Class 4:00 – 5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Class 6:00 PM Adult Confirmation	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 8:00 AM - ? Property Appreciation Day 9:00 AM – NOON Witness Workshop 3:00 PM Bedwell-Byrne Wedding
<i>12 The 6th Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service 7:00 – 9:00 PM Dancing with the Stars	<i>13</i> 7:00 AM Men's Group 9:00 – 11:00 AM Tap 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Stephen Ministry Training 9:00 AM Quilting Group 3:45 PM Child Care Chapel 4:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:00 PM Weight Watchers 7:00 PM Council Mtg	<i>14</i> 9:00 AM Hula Class 10:00 AM Bible Class 6:00 PM Christian Ed. 6:00 PM Adult Confirmation 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>15</i> 9:00 – 11:00 AM Tap 7:00 PM Choir Practice	<i>16</i> 10:00 AM Sr. Fellowship 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Class 4:00 – 5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Class 6:00 PM Adult Confirmation 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19 The Transfiguration of Our Lord / Friendship Sunday</i> 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<i>20</i> 9:00 – 11:00 AM Tap 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Stephen Ministry Training 9:00 AM Quilting Group 3:45 PM Child Care Chapel 4:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:00 PM Weight Watchers	<i>21</i> 9:00 AM Hula Class 9:00 AM Assimilation 10:00 AM Bible Class 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>22 Ash Wednesday</i> 9:00 – 11:00 AM Tap 10:00 AM Human Care 4:30 PM Divine Service w/ Imposition of Ashes 6:00 PM Choir Practice 5:30 PM Lenten Dinner 7:00 PM Divine Service w/ Imposition of Ashes	<i>23</i> 10:00 AM Sr. Fellowship 10:00 AM Ladies Bible Class 4:00 – 5:30 PM Youth Confirmation Class	<i>24 St. Matthias, Apostle</i>	<i>25</i> 8:00 AM – Crop Walk
<i>26 The First Sunday in Lent</i> 8:00 AM Divine Service 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Divine Service BLOOD PRESSURE	<i>27</i> 9:00 – 11:00 AM Tap 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Stephen Ministry Training 9:00 AM Quilting Group 3:45 PM Child Care Chapel 4:00 PM Weight Watchers 6:00 PM Weight Watchers	<i>28</i> 9:00 AM Hula Class 10:00 AM Bible Class 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>29</i> 9:00 – 11:00 AM Tap 4:30 PM Midweek Lenten Service 6:00 PM Choir Practice 5:30 PM Lenten Dinner 7:00 PM Midweek Lenten Service			

Wedding Anniversaries – February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Robert & Alexandra Scheel (6 Years)	2 Doug & Maraline Meyerink (52 Years)	3	4
5	6 Gary & Jonti Lute (49 Years)	7	8 Ken & Cathy Mielke (48 Years)	9	10	11
12	13	14 Bill & Debbie Balogh (30 Years) Bud & Jane Harty (48 Years)	15	16	17 Don & Bonnie Roussin (61 Years)	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

Birthdays – February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Vance, Pat	2 Tringalli, Inge	3 Fernandez, Daniel	4
5 Bowers, Joan	6 Schiefer, Marvin	7 Spooner, Russ	8 Hoivik, Jane	9 Replinger, Dennis Turner, Jim	10	11
12	13 Balogh Sr., Bill Bowers, Bill Schiefer, Shirley	14 Balogh, Debbie Straw, Valen	15 Black, Logan	16	17	18 Kress, Lisa
19	20	21	22 Schoeneck, Duwayne Siegmann, Gene	23 Altman, Nathan Monson, Gary	24 Franze, Sharon	25
26	27	28	29 Jennifer Steele			