

REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHILD CARE - AUGUST 2013

"A REPORT FROM YOUR SYNOD PRESIDENT"

Dear Delegates,

Take heart! You are baptized! And you are baptized for this moment!

A short time ago, I took into my hand the historic gavel, which has been used to open and close LCMS conventions for over a century. It's been wielded in every fallible hand from Pfothenhauer to Harrison, and will continue to be wielded at every convention after the hand of this sinner is long gone, dead and buried. It was commissioned and carved in 1911 in Germany for the 100th anniversary of Dr. C. F. W. Walther's birth. Its wood came from the original Concordia Seminary log cabin, which the Saxon immigrants built in Perry County in 1839, 100 miles south of here, 175 years ago this coming year.

Like most triennia in the history of our Synod, the one capped by 1911 faced real challenges. All the first generation leaders were gone. The triennium started with \$942.46 in the bank and ended with a debt of \$28,562.99. How gladly I would take the latter number today! First Vice-President Pfothenhauer was the first ever to lay hands on this gavel that year, though it should have been Francis Pieper. But Dr. Pieper—a name that every pastor here knows from his doctrinal theology textbook—had been serving as President of *both* the Synod and of Concordia Seminary, and it was just too much. This great, second-generation leader and student of Dr. Walther had suffered a breakdown. And yes, the President of the Synod missed the convention that year! It would take the next year and a half for him to recover. And so, the Synod—having begun with just a dozen congregations and now 880,000 strong—moved forward with a new president, President Pfothenhauer.

On the horizon were challenges aplenty. A world war with Germany soon turned ugly at home, where anti-German sentiment was poured out on the people and churches of the Synod. Soon after came the Great Depression. Then another world war. Then the post-war theological challenges, with which we still struggle today. Throughout it all, this gavel opened and closed convention after convention, some of them very controversial.

Should this gavel have any meaning for us today? Isn't it just a piece Perry County oak—a quaint nostalgic relic of our Germanic past, now long gone? Not quite. Why are these two faces on the gavel, Luther and Walther?

You see there is an extraordinary truth found in God's Word. In the Psalms, and many other places in the Bible, the fathers (and also the mothers, too) are remembered. "I am so troubled that I cannot speak" the psalmist declares in Psalm 77:4. But then he goes on to find comfort: "Has the Lord's steadfast love forever ceased? Are His promises at an end for all time? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has He in anger shut up His compassion?" Then I said, 'I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High. *I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes I will remember Your wonders of old*' (Psalm 77:8–11).

Mary sang the same song, announcing the coming Savior! "He has helped His servant Israel, *in remembrance of His mercy*, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever" (Luke 1:54–55). God spoke the promise of a Savior to Abraham and the fathers. He remembered His promises and brought them to be in the birth of the Savior.

We are told in the Book of Hebrews: "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, *and imitate their faith*. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings. For it is good for the heart to be strengthened by *grace . . .*" (Heb. 13:7–9a).

These "remember" verses are no navel-gazing, no gavel-gazing, do-nothing, nostalgic, retro-retreat to recover what was, or regret the impossibility of its retrieval. If you are under the impression that there was a golden age in the church—without struggle and controversy, anguish and politics, without fallible leaders who suffer weakness and breakdown—then you know nothing of the history of the Missouri Synod, the Lutheran Church, the Reformation, the church prior to the Reformation, or the New Testament for that matter! There ain't no goin' back! There ain't no golden age to go back to!

So Mary sang, in effect: "The Lord promised a Savior, and here and now He is! Here and *now*!" The Psalmist wept in anxiety on his bed and needed the strength to carry on in the morning. He needed help *now*! For *tomorrow*! To carry on, to move forward, He



Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President
of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Continued on Page 3

Pastor	Rev. James Kress
Seasonal Pastor	Rev. Mark Steinke
LHM Ambassador	Rev. Earl Schmidt
Child Care Director	Wendy Horvath
Office Secretary	Susan Moore
Organists	Bill Bowers Lanette Schmidt
Director of Music	Bill Bowers
Choir Director	Collins Sita
Newsletter Editor	Susan Moore

OFFICERS

President	Rich Kueker
Vice President	Brian Abel
Treasurer	Judy Murphy
Secretary	Betty Clemens

BOARDS

Head Elder	Tim Byrne
Assimilation	Deb Kueker
Property Mgmt	
Christian Ed.	Pam Replinger
Human Care	Carol Carlos
Outreach	Ty Schulte
School Board	Bill Bowers
Stewardship	
Youth	Dan & Rebecca Fernandez
Financial Secretary	Karen Kirkland

CLUBS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild	Sally Zierdt
Men's Group	Bob Mortenson

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is the dog days of summer. Someone once told me that this is the time of year when things slow down and we begin to catch our breath. I believe they must have been wrong for we continue to be almost as busy as ever here at Redeemer. Congratulations to Brian Abel as he has accepted the appointment of vice-president; he will serve out the remaining term. Please thank him when you see him and wish him well.

Soon, you will be receiving via either e-mail or snail mail a survey regarding your thoughts about the future mission of Redeemer. Please return as soon as possible (no later than Aug. 11th), that the results may be available by Aug. 24th.

Please also keep this date in mind as will be meeting on that date to review this important information. More to come in the next few weeks.

It is also that time of year as we begin to review the finances and establish a budget for next year. Thanks to all who have striven to be good stewards of the gifts God has given each of us and the gifts He has given to Redeemer of your time, talent, and resources. We are truly blessed.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to the time that we will once again welcome back our northern friends.

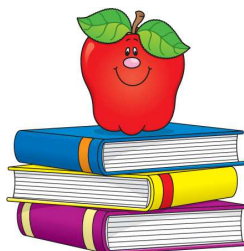
Rich

MANY THANKS!!

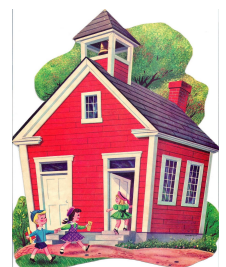
Thank You!

Recovery time after my knee replacement has been amazing. It'll soon be time for surgery on the other. In the meantime,

thanks for all the prayers, well wishes, cards, and phone calls. They sure help the healing process.
~ George Dykhuizen



Back to School



“A REPORT....” *CONTINUED*

remembered the Lord's promises, and that the *Lord* kept and keeps His promises! The writer to the Hebrews says, “Remember your leaders” (look back!); and “imitate their faith” (look forward!).

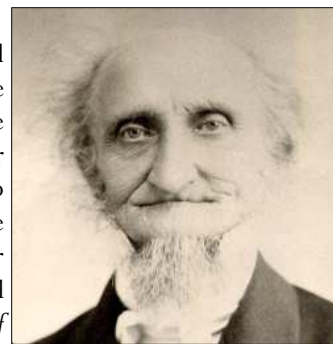
And so we have two faces on our gavel—Luther and Walther. Hermann Sasse, who prayed daily for the Missouri Synod, said that “It is always a sign of a deep spiritual sickness when a church forgets its fathers” (*Lonely Way*, vol. 2, page 223). In the broad sense here, we include *all* our mothers and fathers in the faith—our parents, our grandparents, those who have gone before us into heaven, the founders of the Synod, the church, the saints of the Scriptures, Moses, David, the apostles and more. In forgetting these, the church forgets the merciful goodness and deeds of God in caring for his saints. But in the narrower sense in which Luther and Walther are “fathers of the church,” when such leaders are forgotten, it is a sign of sickness because what comes with it is often a lack of Scriptural fidelity, a lack of clarity on the Gospel and all its teachings, and *especially a lack of the father's zeal to proclaim and share the message of salvation in Christ alone*. Walther said the church is the mission society par excellence! Every Christian is a missionary, wherever God has placed him or her! Luther said time and again that every Christian is to speak the Gospel and bears the keys to forgive!

On our gavel is therefore also carved Romans 3:28: “For we hold that one is justified by faith, apart from the works of the law.” Fallible as he was, Luther pointed the church back to this fundamental truth of Holy Scripture. It was this fact of the free forgiveness of Christ, by faith alone that as he said, “moved all of my theological thoughts day and night.” It was this fact of salvation by grace alone that gave Luther, who was himself a weak and often sickly man, the strength to stand in the face of the world, the devil and the flesh. It was this Gospel that enlivened his very being when he stood before the Emperor and confessed, “Here I stand! I cannot, I will not recant. God help me. Amen.” And the Gospel flew forth—midst trials aplenty, to be sure—but the Gospel flew forth!

Sasse also noted that every great era of advancement in the history of the church begins with the cry, “Back! Back to the Scriptures!” In the Lutheran Church, every great era of mission and growth has begun with the cry, “Back to Luther!” The prophets in the Old Testament cried, “Remember the covenant and the testimony!” “Back to the Word of God!” John the Baptizer came crying out, “Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand! Hear what the Scriptures say! ‘A voice crying in the wilderness! Prepare the way of the Lord!’” Jesus came preaching! “Repent! For the kingdom of God is at hand!” He stood up in Nazareth and read Isaiah, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor” (Luke 4:18ff.). Luther came preaching! “Back to the Scriptures! Back to the Gospel of grace alone!”

In the midst of widespread apostasy from the Word of God, from the Gospel, from the Lutheran Confessions, God raised up another fallible human being—in many respects physically and emotionally very weak. And yet, C. F. W. Walther's message 175 years ago was “Repent! Back to the Scriptures! Back to the teaching of grace and free eternal life for the sake of Jesus! Back to Luther! Back to the Church's confession!”

We may joke about old Walther. We may chuckle about his looks. Some may criticize his method of doing theology. But note this: What Walther and the founders of the Missouri Synod were able to do 175 years ago, which led to the founding of this church body, is a remarkable accomplishment by the grace of God. We live today from the blessings that God granted to our fathers in the faith. This church confesses that “there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts. 4:12). “The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe” (Rom. 1:16). For all our weaknesses, this church confesses to this very day that the Bible is the very Word of God, inspired and inerrant. This church confesses the full authority of Luther's Catechism and the whole *Book of Concord*, the heart and soul of which is the Gospel. The *Book of Concord* has this one purpose: certainty of divine favor in Jesus Christ for troubled souls.



C. F. W. Walther, first president of the Luther Church-Missouri Synod

Like the hammer blow of this gavel, the past is abruptly behind us. We will never see it again. It's gone. But the echo of the blow goes forward and out into this hall. And all the past comes to a head in this moment—to teach us, to console us, to motivate us! The echoes of the past reverberate right into our present, and so into our future!

Listen to the blessings of the past echoing to this very moment: (*President Harrison after reading each of the following struck the gavel on the podium. It was a very powerful delivery.*)

1. We have the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No doubt. Done deal. It is finished! “The blood of Jesus Christ . . . cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

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“A REPORT....” *CONTINUED*

2. We have the sacred Scriptures. They bear witness to all the great salvific deeds of God Himself! No doubt what is or where is God's Word.
3. We have the Gospel in preaching, in Baptism, in the Sacrament.
4. We are blessed by the catechism and all its teaching expanded in the confessions.
5. We have a clear confession of faith and polity that has stood the test in our Synod constitution.
6. We have fantastic seminaries in good shape and friends all over the world seeking our partnership.
7. We have thousands of faithful pastors.
8. We have thousands more faithful teachers and church-workers!
9. We have a University System to die for, with 30,000 students!
10. We have the worldwide outreach ministries of the LWML and LHM!
11. We have LCMS international mission, with work in some 85 countries!
12. We have 35 districts, all at work where they are, striving to share the Gospel!
13. We have partners all over the world, and the number grows monthly!
14. We have 2,200 early childhood centers, grade schools and high schools.
15. We have a hundred mission organizations, 130 mercy organizations.
16. We have disaster work in the name of Christ that just won't stop!
17. We are blessed by the LCMS Foundation, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Concordia Plans, and Concordia Publishing House.
18. We are blessed by nearly 6,200 congregations on the front lines of mission.
19. We and we are blessed by some 1568 delegates.

And it's all gift. *ALL GRACE*. "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God. Consider the outcome [and what an outcome!] of their way of life, and imitate their faith" (Heb. 13:7). "I will remember the deeds of the Lord" (Psalm 77:11). "What do you have that you did not receive?" we say with St. Paul (1 Cor. 4:7).

But as we all know, we face severe challenges as a church:

- One in three people under thirty in this country are religiously un-affiliated. And I am shocked by how many of these I meet who tell me, "I used to be LCMS."
- We are deeply affected by the decline in the birth rate, and the decline of marriage as an institution.
- The culture is on the attack.
- Thus far our best efforts at mission have not been able to stem the slow, forty-year decline.
- *And* if I were to talk to each one of you, with a little time you'd tell me, and I'd tell you, about our challenges in the ministry, our personal struggles, our weaknesses. Our need for prayer and strength.

Today I say to you: Take heart! You are like the paralytic who was let down through the roof by his friends. Jesus says to you: "Take heart! Your sins are forgiven!" (Luke 5:20). "But so that you might know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, I say to you, here today, rise! Take up your mat and go!" (Luke 5:24). Take heart! You are baptized!

Today I say to you: Take heart! What Jesus told his apostles applies directly to you—*today*, this moment: "I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Buried with Christ by baptism into His death (Rom. 6:4), Jesus has overcome the world in you! Take heart! You are baptized!

Today I say to you: You are like blind Bartimaeus sitting by the road. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" . . . "Jesus, Son of David! This congregation is driving me mad! Jesus, Son of David, I'm tired, I'm depressed, I'm paralyzed! I'm working myself to death. I'm not seein' the fruit. Lord, have mercy!" "And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart. Get up; He is calling you.' . . . Jesus asked him 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Rabbi! I want to see!'" (Mark 10:46-49). Take heart! The Lord delights in reducing us to nothing! And then when we are nothing, He calls! Take heart! You have a vocation in your baptism!

Today I say to you, take heart! Jesus has placed this good ship Missouri out on the high seas. The stakes are high. The waves are higher! The culture is wretched; the hatred of the world is palpable. But the Lord doesn't want us safely secluded away from the world in a tranquil haven. He wants us out among sinners, just like us, who need Him. Facing these challenges is enough to make us lose our courage and our confidence in God's Word. Take heart! Jesus wants us out in the waves, out

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“A REPORT....” *CONTINUED*

in the storm—out *in* the world, but not *of* the world (cf. John 17:11, 16). And He is here *with us* in that storm! “For they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid” (Mark 6:50). Take heart! You are baptized! That tiny bit of water will stand down all the oceans of tribulation on earth!

Today I say to you, take heart! Perhaps you’ve come to this convention with apprehension, concern, anger, sinful thoughts, all mixed with faith and the best intentions! On a humorous note, and for those particularly worried about the coming week, I quote for you the words of St. Paul in the Book of Acts, “I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship” (Acts 27:22). God help us! “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” (Psalm 27:14).

My dear friends in Christ. This truly is a remarkable moment for us. I believe that as America goes the way of Europe, the church will actually be attacked more violently on this continent because we do not have the tradition of state churches. I also believe that as we “obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29), and as our constitutional guarantees of the “free exercise” of religion face constant infringement and infraction, the Lord will work good among us, perhaps even bringing the greater unity among us that has often eluded us. Luther says in the Large Catechism that “spiritual fathers” are entitled to honor, but seldom receive it. “For the world’s way of honoring them is to harry them out of the country and grudge them as much as a piece of bread. In short, as St. Paul says, they must be ‘the refuse of the world, and every man’s footrag” (LC I 160). So it has always been. So it will be. An American Catholic bishop, Cardinal George, got it right, I think, when he said: “I expect to die in bed, my successor will die in prison and his successor will die a martyr in the public square. His successor will pick up the shards of a ruined society . . . as the church has done so often in human history.” Take heart! The Lord promised it would be so in the end times!

The Lord humbles those whom he would elevate. And even as we are being humbled and sifted and driven to repentance, the Lord is putting before us a moment like no other in our lifetimes. In fact, we are witnessing a tectonic shift in world Lutheranism. Lutheran Churches in Africa—such as the Ethiopian Mekane Yesus with 6.2 million members, the Malagasy Lutheran Church with over 4 million, and increasingly the Tanzanian Lutherans and many others—they are coming to us not asking for money. They want our teaching, our biblical and Lutheran fidelity, which has become so eroded in the European and American Lutheran world because of historical criticism and its effects. And in this moment of vast migration of peoples, we need our African Lutheran brothers and sisters more than they need us. They are frankly much better at mission than we are. And thousands upon thousands of their church members and their countryman have emigrated to America and to other places in the world. And they need Christ and the Lutheran Church.

The mission of the church is now more than ever trans-local. It is “glocal,” if you will. The world and its people are migrating like nothing seen since the great migrations of peoples into the Roman Empire during the third and fourth centuries. While they are distinct, we cannot completely separate out mission to Spanish speaking peoples in this country, and mission to their countries of origin. The same goes for Africa. The Gospel follows family and tribal and ethnic lines, wherever they may lead around the world.

My friends, I am deeply honored to serve you. I have been humbled over the past three years in many ways. I remain a poor, miserable, fallible sinner, trusting in the sole merit of my Savior. Luther said about Baptism that God is found under the cover of weak external things. In Baptism, said Luther, we die with Christ, but the dying of our sinful flesh continues until we depart this life. Said Luther, “The journey begins in Baptism. And as long as there is faith, man continues on this course until he completes it through death” (AE 24:42; cf. Trigg, *Baptism in the Theology of Martin Luther*, 29ff.). “Baptism is death; they are interchangeable terms in Scripture” (AE 2:143) But because I have died with Him, I also live with Him. And so do you!

Luther said that if given the choice of receiving direct revelations from God versus learning to treasure more highly and understand all the blessings of Baptism, he’d gladly choose the latter. It has been my deep prayer for you that our time together will help us grow in our baptisms—that we will grab hold of Baptism, the very Gospel of Christ poured out on us, and that this Baptism will drive us. For we are baptized for witness. We are baptized for mercy. We are baptized for a life together. And we are baptized for this moment.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



ASSIMILATION

With our committee on 'summer hiatus' and many of our board members off on a summer 'trek' somewhere (enjoying cooler weather, no doubt), I had told Susan NOT to expect any new report this month for the newsletter. However, after filling up our urgent need for greeters, coffee hour volunteers for our 'slow months' and a kind soul to set up our coffee hour on Saturdays, I knew that a huge 'thank you' was in order. I don't know if it was the threat of serving animal crackers or the good Lord's doing (we all know that it was the Lord), but our committee is extremely grateful for those who came forward when we were in a 'bind'. And, of course, we are also extremely appreciative of those who help us throughout the year. Without our volunteers, those animal crackers would come to fruition (I love that word, and look for ways to use it). Bless you all!!!!!!

Oh, sorry, there is one other thing...our committee resumes probably in September. We are still looking for at least five more committee members. I joke about our committee members walking around with clip boards, and we see the look of 'terror' as we approach folks (big grin). We would be thrilled come fall, if a 'visit' was made to one of our meetings, to check us out...no obligation, promise. If one cannot attend our meetings held during the day, due to work, etc., we would still welcome you aboard.

As has been discussed at Council, our committee would like to become more purposefully involved with our new members and making certain that they are 'assimilating' into our family here at Redeemer. If we were to have 12 members (or more), rather than trying to cover our duties with 7 on board, we would be granted more time with our new folks. Prayerfully consider perhaps just a sneak peek at us come fall.

Deb Kueker, Chairperson



GREETERS

Aug. 4th: Gary & Jonti Lute
 Aug 11th: Arlene Harden
 Aug. 18th: Georgette Callahan
 Aug. 25th: Lillian Miles

Submitted by Assimilation

COFFEE HOUR

Aug. 4th: Georgette Callahan
 Aug 11th: Mary Ann Frees
 Aug. 18th: Lisa Vassallo
 Lisa Grayson
 Aug. 25th: Gudrun Janke

Submitted by Assimilation



KRAFT KORNER



Stop over to the Fellowship Hall and take a look at all the new items in the Kraft Korner. We welcome any items anyone would like to donate. If you have any donations, please bring them and put them on the floor in the corner by the shelves. If anyone has taken an item and not paid as of yet, please pay Susan or me. Some items are gone that had not been priced yet. Give me a call and I can give you a price. Thanks so much!

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK



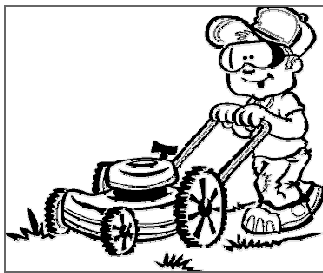
June 2013

Income
\$15,510.92

Expense
\$16,463.56



PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY



Please join us for our next monthly "Property Appreciation" Day on the second Saturday of the month, August 10th!!! We begin at 8:00 AM and continue until the last person has to go for the day. Join us in keeping our buildings and properties beautiful. There's a little something to do for anyone who is willing to help... We would like to thank everyone for all their hard work each month. THANK YOU!

Submitted by The Board of Property Management



LOST AND FOUND

If anyone is missing any items, namely eyeglasses, gloves, umbrellas, etc., please check the Lost & Found box located in the narthex.

*The deadline for the September Newsletter is August 18th.
Please have all your submissions sent to REDEEMERFL@VERIZON.NET
by the time indicated above.*

Thank you.

SINGLES LUNCHEON

The Singles lunch will be on Tuesday, August 13th at 11:30 AM at **Country Hound Cafe**, 1951 McCall Rd (Palm Plaza), Englewood. PLEASE SIGN UP NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH. Recently some people have not signed up who attended, so PLEASE sign up by that day. Some restaurants have limited spaces so numbers are important when I make the reservation.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch



Country Hound
Cafe

Locally Owned & Operated

OPEN 7 DAYS: Mon.-Sat. 6:30am-9:00pm; Sun. 6:30am-2pm

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- Homemade Deserts (regular & sugar-free)

All-You-Can-Eat
Friday FISH FRY \$7.99
3pm-9pm
Dine-In Only

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, July 11th, we were invited to the home of Sammy Jollay for our game day with 11 in attendance. Thank you Sammy. Vacation Bible School was in progress, so it was especially nice to go to the home of Sammy. Everyone really enjoyed the change. We meet every Thursday from 10:00 AM to Noon and welcome any one who would like to join in for a little fun. Bring a bag lunch. Drinks and dessert are furnished. We really miss Randy Winters and Helen Perry who are both under the weather. We pray, with God's help, they will be back soon. Four of our game day non-church members attended the 4th of July picnic at church. They all seem to enjoy the lunch and games.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch



THANK YOU

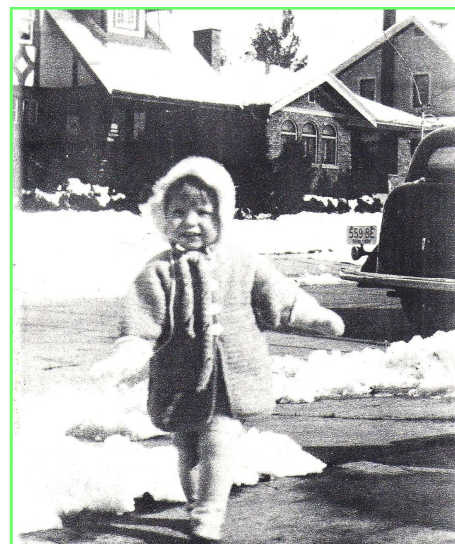
A special thanks to Sally Zierdt for keeping out a sharp eye. Due to this, we received a donation of a double bed, box spring, frame and all the linens. A special thanks to Ray Janssen and Todd Armstrong for picking up, delivering, and setting it up for Ruth Sutley at the River Road Nursing facility. Ruth was so excited to have a larger bed since she had fallen out of her twin several times. Thank God she had not broken anything yet. We do have another person in need, so continue to keep your eye out for another bed and give me a call. Thanks.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

"GUESS WHO THIS IS"

Welcome to my "Guess Who This Is" section. If you would like to be a part of this, please submit a childhood photo to me either by email or by dropping by the office so that I may make a copy of it. So, for Round 2....Guess Who????!! Can you figure out who each of these people are? Answers will appear next month. Last month's pictures were (listed in order): Kevin Hopkins, Jane Hoivik, James Moore, Tricia Hopkins, & Susan Moore. How did you do?

Submitted by Susan Moore, Church Secretary



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 10, 2013

PRESENT: Pastor Kress, Rich Kueker, Karen Kirkland, Carol Carlos, Judy Murphy, Tim Byrne, Deb Kueker, Ty Schulte, Betty Clemens

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Rich Kueker.

Pastor Kress opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES of the May 20, 2013 meeting were presented. TIM MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. JUDY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

CALENDAR for July was presented. The following changes were made:

- * Monday Weight Watchers will be at 6:00 p.m. only for the summer schedule.
- * Tap Classes will no longer be held on Wednesdays. They have found a new location. Letter of notification and thanks was read by the secretary.
- * Stephen Ministry Sunday will be on July 7th.

KAREN MOVED TO ACCEPT CHANGES TO CALENDAR. TIM SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORTS

PASTOR: Report attached. Pastor said he will be attending the Concordia Retirement Plan meeting in Orlando tomorrow. Rev. Steinke will be preaching on July 21st in Pastor Kress's absence.

PRESIDENT: Rich investigated the cost of programmable thermostats. The product chosen to fill all are need is priced at \$80 each and we will need 14. Total cost would be \$1,100 plus \$400 for installation. He is still checking further to get the best price.

BOARD OF ELDERS Report attached. *Security Committee (Tim Byrne, Kevin Hopkins, Gary Lute and Tom Kirkland) is working to develop a plan for the Child Care and vehicles. Possibly a garage or fence would work for the buses.

TREASURER: Report attached. Judy reported everything is in balance.

HUMAN CARE BOARD: Report attached. New Care Notes have been replaced in the Narthex.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: No Report.

ASSIMILATION: Report attached.

New pages will be added to our pictorial directory and will be distributed in the Newsletter.

COMMUNITY & PARISH FELLOWSHIP: Report attached. Free will offering collected at the 4th of July party will be put back into the dedicated funds. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for helpers.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: No Report.

YOUTH: No report.

SCHOOL BOARD: Report attached. Still getting quotes for the Child Care bike path. Looking for volunteers for VBS in July.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No information obtained for the portable speaker for the Fellowship Hall.

NEW BUSINESS: Vision Path Experience -Pastor met with Dan Reichart from LCEF. Report Attached. A video from Max Biesenthal, of Ministry Resources for LCEF will be emailed for viewing. Pastor and Tim agreed that we are lacking in Stewardship leadership which is an important part for our Vision. After discussion - Pastor, Tim and Rich will meet on Thursday to discuss candidates for a Committee.

JUDY MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 8:15. TIM SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned with a prayer by Pastor and everyone singing the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted, Betty Clemens, Congressional. Secretary

PRAYERS



SHUT-INS: Marjorie Boliere, Evelyn Etheridge, Erv Maki, and Ruth Sutley.

HEALING: Members: Bob Aldene, Sarah Borza, Stacy Bowers, Elma Cancellieri, George Dykhuizen, Fred Fernald, Sharon Harris, Bernice Heppner, Erwin Janke, Peg Leverenz, Jim Libke, Sandi McGrath, Marilyn Melcher, Helen Perry, Carolyn Plesner, Ron Ratzlaff, Michael Sanders, Duwayne Schoeneck, Sandy Sita, Marie Talley, Arlene Wiley, Randy Winters, Ronald Woller, and Eileen Zwick.

Friends & Relatives: Michael Aldene, Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Gioconda Barlow, Jamie Bellik and infant Carter James Bellik, Grace Blum, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Jack & Cathy Carlos, Debbie Carr, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Wayne Coulter, Martin Cressman, Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, James Dodge, Barb Dumeah, Maggie Edberg, Dorothy Evans, Nick Fernandez, Manual Galan, Glenn Galway, Nancy Gleis, Lucas Hall, Debbie Harrison, John Haupt, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Joel Heppner, Walter Heppner, Glory Herget, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Mary Jo Hoivik, Tom Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Carl Jennejahn, Heather Johnson, Betty Kabert, Rachel Kagay, John Kearns, Jackie Klinger, Mary Krueger, Jim Lane, Ray Likowski, Denise Line, Harold Lowe, Don Luffingwell, Sean Maki, Elsie Malecki, Joe Manson, Pete Mogg, Linda Mohr, Mike Morrissey, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Dan Niemann, Darwin & Noreen Oliver, Charles Pentecost Jr., Mary Raines, Tucker Robert, Ryan Sheahan, Nancy Sly, Debbie Speer Smith, Virginia Stanley, Marj Sterriker, Gary Stokes, Sarah Sturzenbecker, Eva Tabbittas, Charles Tolley, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Pat Vovcsko, Caitlin Wagner, Steven Walker, Heath Weichmann, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Reece Withers, Angel Zavala.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Michael Canavan, Brian Jackson, Brett Keck, Michael Monson.

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 so that we may either keep or remove their name. Thank you.

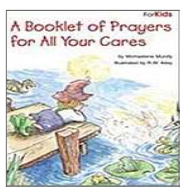
SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

Rally Day will be Sunday, August 4th, 2013. The event will take place directly after the Divine Service. There will be no Sunday School on this day. There will be a water slide, a dunk tank, games with prizes and more! Please come out in support of our youth. We look forward to seeing you there.



Submitted by the Board of Christian Education

CARE NOTES



The Board of Human Care has added some NEW Care Notes in the Narthex. There is something for adults as well as some for children. Go and take a look! There may be something there that could help you, or even could help someone you know.

Submitted by KC Wright

BOARD OF COMMUNITY & PARISH FELLOWSHIP

The B.C.P.F. would like to thank everyone for the help received on July 4th. We would also like to remind everyone about the upcoming Englewood Pioneer Days parade which will occur on Labor Day Monday, September 2nd. The parade will begin at 9 AM. As always we will need to have anyone who wishes to walk in the parade to be at St. Raphael's Church on Old Englewood Rd between 7:30 & 8:30 AM. Ready to go at 9 AM. Bring the kids, bring the family, the parade is always a great time for fellowship and fun. Just a friendly reminder to wear comfy shoes and dress for a hot day. The theme for the parade is 'Englewood Goes Hollywood' so use your imagination. Our float theme will be Moses and the Ten Commandments. If you have any questions feel free to contact me via e-mail at JesusRocks01@yahoo.com or call me at (941) 286-4122. Thanks & God Bless.

Submitted by Ty Schulte, Chairman



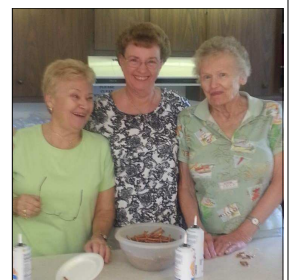
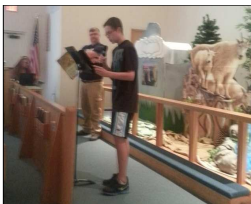
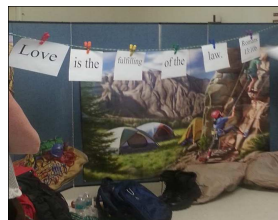
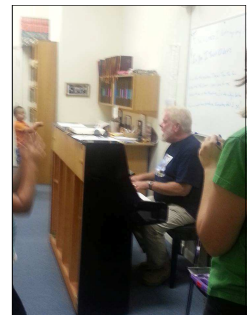
JULY 4TH PICNIC

A DAY OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP & FOOD!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2013

Tell it on the Mountain VBS took the children on an expedition to the top of five mountains and taught them more about God's might and grace and His son Jesus our Savior and Lord. They sung fun songs, made some crazy crafts, learned some bible verses, tried some yummy snacks, and much *more*. A great big THANK YOU goes out to all of the volunteers who helped make this a wonderful experience for the children. The volunteers included Pastor & Lisa Kress, Pastor & Laurie Steinke, Wendy Horvath, Mark Horvath, Miranda Leksche, Pam Replinger, Bill Bowers, Mary Kay Straw, Liam Straw, Betty Clemens, Kevin & Tricia Hopkins, Helen Sturzenbecker, Cathy Mielke, Gudrun Janke, Lisa Vassallo, Billy Ruccatano, Cherylann Galway, Mallory Oliver, Kristy Melucci, Katie Weeks, Kali Mills, Melissa Tosto, Susan Moore and Samantha Martel. We had 42 children in attendance. We also collected \$100.00 in offerings to go to the mission! Our mission this year is "Ready Now: Disaster Response Fund". This fund helps those people who are suffering from disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, and other natural disasters. They help the victims with water, food, blankets, tents, and other items that may be needed for their safety and wellbeing for a few days as they begin to rebuild their lives.



Tell It on the Mountain
Where Jesus Christ Is Lord

STEPHEN MINSITRY

THE STORY OF STEPHEN MINISTRY

It began in 1974, when Kenneth C. Haugk became Pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. He was fresh out of seminary and his passion was caregiving ministry. Pastor Haugk was also a clinical psychologist. He very quickly discovered that the needs for care in the congregation were overwhelming. There were people slipping through the cracks. This is one of a Pastor's greatest frustrations.

He discussed this situation with two seminary friends over a cup of coffee. The conversation turned to Ephesians 4 and "equipping the saints for work in the ministry". He realized that God gave all his people gifts for ministry, not just Pastor's. His role was to equip others to use their gifts of ministry.

Back at St Stephen's he recruited nine members who had the gift and heart to do caring ministry. He then used his theology and psychology background to develop a training program in Christian caregiving. In March, 1975, the nine members were commissioned as "Stephen Ministers".

Immediately the members were receiving the Christian care they needed and Pastor had more time to perform other Pastoral duties. The story doesn't end there. Two Stephen Ministers approached Pastor Haugk about bringing the ministry to other churches. He agreed to find a way to do just that, and in November 1975 Pastor and his wife Joan founded the not-for-profit Stephen Ministries organization. Through the organization they began bringing Stephen Ministry to other congregations.

It spread like wild fire and Redeemer is one of more than 7,000 congregations from more than 90 Christian denominations that now has Stephen Ministry. Over a quarter million people have been trained as Stephen Ministers and that number grows by tens of thousands each year. More than a million people across the United States, Canada and the world have been touched by God's love through Stephen Ministry. **AND THAT IS THE MARK OF GOD'S DOING!**

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." ~ Ephesians 4: 11-12

\$\$\$\$ CLASSIFIEDS \$\$\$\$

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.

Cleaning Services

Free estimates! Please contact Sheila Murphy at 941-473-1747.

Lawn Care

Call Todd Armstrong at 941-961-7584 for your lawn care needs.

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!

Real Estate

SURF & SAND REALTY - Pat Whipple, Realtor 2350 N. Beach Road, Unit 3B, Englewood, 34223. I'd love to help you find your perfect home or sell it, because I really care. Please contact me at 941-882-2725 or (941) 474-7755!

For Sale

Rataan & glass oblong coffee table, light wood \$95 and Dorm size refrigerator, only used for 2 months \$25--Call Sammy Jollay at (941) 697-5905 for more information!

STEWARDSHIP

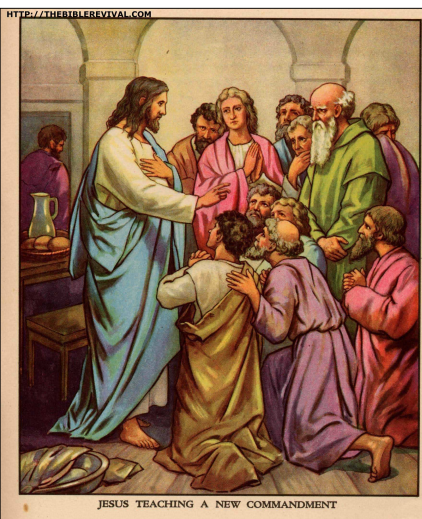
"The Dog Days of August"

Major league baseball players sometimes refer to August as the *"dog days of summer."* August does seem to be one of those months that you simply want to get through. In the wheat growing regions of our country from Texas up to Canada the crops have been harvested and the fields are bare except for stubble and straw. The days are hot and dry accompanied with winds. It's enough to make people long for September when things start all over again. ***"If we can just get through August then things will get back to normal."***

Living and working as God's stewards can sometimes feel like the *"dog days of August."* Managing all of life and life's resources seems like a never-ending job. And it is because we are stewards from birth to death. We are tempted to think of ourselves as owners rather than stewards or managers. But God is the true Owner of all things and He has entrusted to us a portion of that which belongs to Him with the expectation that we will manage those gifts wisely for His purposes. That can seem like chasing the wind—always managing and never owning. But for us as God's children and stewards it is not so much an obligation as it is a privilege.

In life we normally want to get ahead and in that process may sacrifice our health and family in chasing after more and more. Jesus taught us that life is not a matter of accumulating material things but is rather the seeking first of His kingdom and His righteousness. Then, since

our Heavenly Father knows what we need, He will provide it so we can be content and confident. St. Paul learned that truth well and gave us some wise counsel in Philippians 3:11b-12: ***"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."***



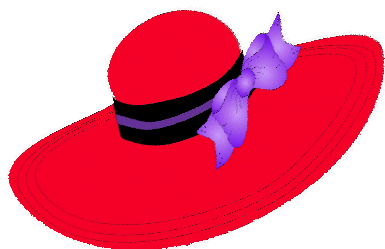
St. Paul knew that God is the Owner and Giver of life and everything associated with life. In most cases God blesses us beyond measure. However, He does not give us more than we can handle. When Jesus told the parable of the three stewards He indicated that the master gave each one a different amount to manage according to the individual steward's ability (Matthew 25:15). Likewise, God gives us only as much as we can manage for His purposes.

So when we think about the wise management of time, abilities, money, relationships and all the other things in life, we can do so without worry or the feeling that life as God's stewards is like enduring the *"dog days of August."* Because Jesus redeemed us to be God's children we can live each day and work each day in a free and joyful way confident of the truth that we ***"can do everything through Christ who gives us strength."*** (Philippians 4:13)

Don't just endure the *"dog days of August"* but make the most of each day as God's redeemed stewards.

The Board of Stewardship

REDEEMER RED HATS



The Redeemer Red Hats will have their luncheon on Tuesday, August 27th at 12:00 Noon. Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex for more information.



August 2013

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on
Tuesdays at 3:45 PM

8/6 Hannah Prays For A Child

1 Samuel 1:1-20

8/13 Samuel As A Boy

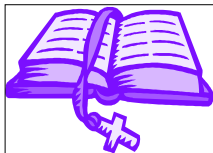
1 Samuel 1:21-28; 3

8/20 David Defeats Goliath

1 Samuel 17

8/27 David And Jonathan

1 Samuel 19:20



Dear God,
You heard Hannah's prayer. You gave her a child at just the right time. Thank You for hearing all my prayers. Thank You for giving me what is good for me at just the right time.
Amen.

Birthdays

8/1 Paige

8/3 Jason

8/7 Rylan

8/16 Matthew

Ms. Jackie

8/20 Gavin

8/27 Ms. Mallory



VBS



Thank you to all the Volunteers! VBS would not be a success without you. This year's VBS had 42 children attend and we collected \$100.00 toward the Mission.

Welcome to Redeemer!

Dominic, Delaney & Paige

What We Are Learning

We are beginning our new curriculum this fall and are very excited about it. It is through CPH and is called "One in Christ"



8/5 God Answers Prayer

8/12 God Calls His People to Serve

8/19 God Saves Us from Our Enemies

8/26 God's People Help One Another

Special Days in August

8/1 VPK Open House

8/4 Friendship Day

8/6 School Starts

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

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REDEEMER REPORTER

Published monthly for Members, Associate Members
and Visitors of Redeemer Lutheran Church a member
congregation of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

WORSHIP SERVICES:

May—October: 9:15 AM

Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Bible Study: 8:30 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.