



## “Is Our Life a Journey, a Voyage, or a Pilgrimage?”

So often I have heard people say, “life is a journey, not a destination.” Although there may be some credibility in that statement, the statement alone leaves one in the Christian faith empty. By definition a *journey* is the act of traveling from one place to another; a trip. Certainly we experience this type of thing many times in our lives. We go on vacations; we visit family and friends; we even take risky journeys to Wal-Mart or anywhere else for that matter, especially during season here in southwest Florida. Understood correctly, journeys have a beginning and an end. In our lifetime, we have many of them. Some are very short and some are very long.

Just as in our lives, so it was in the life of Jesus. He traveled (journeyed) to many places during His earthly life, but His life here on earth was not just a means to an end, that is, He was here on earth, went through the motions of doing a few things here just so He could return to His heavenly throne. His journeys were with a profound purpose. As is revealed in the Epiphany of our Lord, He, from infancy, was revealed as the “Anointed One” (*the Christ*) of God the Father. In His earthly journey, He fulfilled prophecy marking Him as the only Savior (*Jesus*). The Spirit of the Lord God came upon Him and anointed Him to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom to the captives, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and to comfort all who mourn. (*Isaiah 61:1-2*)

Jesus physically journeyed from place to place doing many miracles. His purpose performing miracles wasn’t to be some sort of side-show for God. Rather, He came as God, humbling Himself and becoming man in order to save all men. He physically journeyed as a man as we journey. He experienced what we experience. His journeys on earth had purpose.

Our journeys here on earth and in this life also have purpose. We are chosen by God to do His work in this place and in the places we journey. We are His chosen and precious stones being built up as a spiritual house in order to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. We are His own possession that we may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. (*1 Peter 2:4-9*)

We physically journey in this life traveling from one place and to the next. The question is: “Why and for what purpose?” It is a legitimate question, but perhaps the answer can be received in knowing what is God’s work and God’s will for you? Jesus says, “The work of God is that you believe in Him whom

He has sent. His will for you is to look upon the Son and believe in Him and He will give you eternal life.” (*John 6:29-40*) Although our lives here on earth will come to an end, eternal life with Jesus will never end. This is some journey.

So, how about a *voyage*? Is our life also a *voyage*? Again, by definition a *voyage* is a long journey to a foreign or distant place, especially by sea. If you don’t see your life as a voyage, perhaps I can direct you to the boat.

Jesus took earthly voyages on boats and even came across storms. We too have taken trips on vessels afloat on water; to go fishing, a cruise, or even just to visit a neighbor on any one of the hundreds of canals in our area. However, the voyage we share with Jesus began for us in the waters of Holy Baptism. Furthermore, we are members of His church, which is allegorically called the boat. No wonder why the place where we sit and worship is called the nave. It comes from the Latin word *navis* which means ship.

Jesus was baptized by John, yet His true baptism took place in His suffering and death. Jesus once asked His disciples, “Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” (*Mark 10:38*) Jesus was making reference to the suffering and death He would endure on the cross. Jesus continued to say, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized.” (*Mark 10:39*) Although Jesus’ death on the cross was to atone for the sins of mankind, His disciples, us and all Christians everywhere suffer and die on account of faith in Christ.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that, “do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life ... for the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (*Romans 6:3-11*) This too is a glorious voyage on the good ship Jesus. A life lived in His church here in time, only to live forever with Him in His church in eternity.



REDEEMER LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

Pastor Rev. James Kress

Office Secretary Jennifer Steele

Organists Doris Dykhuizen  
Bill Bowers

**OFFICERS**

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Vice President Ed Sheahan

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Elders Tim Byrne

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Stewardship Joe Friess

Youth Jim Wright  
Lisa Vasallo

Finance Sec'y. Karen Kirkland

Newsletter Editor Leta Stender

**CLUBS/GUILDS**

Ladies Guild Carol Sheahan

Men's Group Bob Mortenson

Christian Support Group

# President's Corner



The President's Corner

First of all let me explain why I have not been in Church on a regular basis. It is an important part of my job as a Thrivent Representative to inform all of our members the changes in Thrivent's new Choice program. This affects the way money is donated to our congregations. Unfortunately the best way to do this is to address each congregation during their services. This is where Tim Byrne and I have been every Sunday this year when we have not been at Redeemer. As soon as we make our rounds to all of our Lutheran Church's we will be back with you.

We are off to a great start here at Redeemer, with many exciting things to start off the new year. There have been several social/fundraising events, and some special guests to enhance our worship services. We are truly blessed at Redeemer.

Your Council continues to closely monitor the budget, and cut costs when possible. You will notice a new addition to the newsletter this month. We have included a chart to keep you up to date on the Budget, Giving, and Expenses, on a monthly basis and to be able to compare the Year to Date Expenses, and Giving to see how we are doing for the year. Fortunately we are in the black at the end of January.

The Child Care continues to have over 80 children enrolled, and we are getting close to the maximum number of children we can serve. Pastor Kress announced during services that the counsel has approved the addition of a new dedicated fund to start saving for a School and Child Care Building Fund. We will begin the process of seeing if adding a School to the Child Care is feasible. We will cross all the T's and dot all the I's, and if it is God's will, someday we will have a new building for the Child Care and an elementary school. The closest Lutheran Schools are in Sarasota and Fort Meyers, so having one in this area would serve a lot of Lutheran congregations.

I'm sure most of you have seen the new Elder's board in the narthex, so you can look up who your assigned Elder is. He should be calling you in the next few weeks, if he hasn't already. Look up your elder and introduce your self to him.

See you in Church!

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.  
Ron Beaber

**YOUR ELDERS**

- Tim Byrne 941-234-2216
- Ron Beaber 941-238-7925
- George Cancellieri 941-961-3079
- Jim Heichelbech 941-830-8640
- Roger Luedtke 941-828-2635
- Joe Carlos 941-255-3354
- Bob Buie 941-735-5615
- Ed Doenges 941-697-2429

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for April is Sunday, March 21st by 6 p.m.

If you have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter, either e-mail it to

[letastender@gmail.com](mailto:letastender@gmail.com) or place it in the newsletter box in the church office. Articles received after March 21st will be held for the May, 2010 newsletter.

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



Leta Stender

## Stephen Ministry



An overview of Stephen Ministry for the past five years has been impressive as I estimated the number of man hours given by the Stephen Ministers in God's service. We begin by meeting weekly, January through March, to complete 50 hours of education. The last 4 years we have had 14 members of our congregation or 700 man hours of training to become commissioned as Stephen Ministers. Presently, in our 5th. year, we have 2 members in our training class and when commissioned in March we will have completed 800 man hours of training. After the initial training the Stephen Minister attends small group peer supervision meetings 2 hours biweekly each month which totals approximately 672 man hours in a year for the 14 commissioned ministers. After the care giver receives a care receiver they meet usually weekly. We have had 15 care receivers in the past 4 years with the care giver visiting each care receiver for 1,2 or more years, depending on the situation. The Stephen Ministers also have begun an all congregation visitation so you can become acquainted with a Stephen Minister and the minister can become acquainted with you.

We have begun our 5th. year of Stephen Ministry. A thank you to our compassionate, full of faith, skilled, and trustworthy ministers who have listened to the Lord and have been led by the Holy Spirit to bring Christian, healing care to those in need. A thank you to our care receivers who have been brought to us by the Holy Spirit and who have had trust, confidence and love for their Stephen Minister.

" And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased ". Hebrews 13:16

Submitted by Carol Carlos

## Lutheran Women In Mission—LWML

MITES for Seminaries on March 7

Through our Mites we touch the lives of young men studying for the Ministry at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne. A grant of \$86,000 from LWML will enable these Seminaries to enlarge their Food Bank and Digitize Classes for off site learning. What a joy it is to live in His light, to serve Him, and to share His love with others! Truly, we are blessed, and blessed even more to be a blessing to others. ALL Redeemer members and guests can drop coins and paper money into the large MITE BOX on Sunday, March 7 and take a complimentary box home, also a box for the children.

Women ----- bring your Mite Box and a friend to the Guild/LWML meeting on March 3 at 12:30. Dessert will be waiting!

Submitted by Vicky Davis

473-7522

# “Is Our Life a Journey, a Voyage, or a Pilgrimage?”

(continued from page 1)

Finally, can our life be considered a pilgrimage too? And again by definition, a *pilgrimage* is a journey to a sacred place or shrine. It is a journey undertaken with a specific objective. You probably already know where I'm going to go with this, but allow me to remind you of the sacred pilgrimage of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, especially in this season of Lent. Jesus made many journeys, took voyages, but His final earthly trip was His pilgrimage to Jerusalem and then ultimately to Calvary and the cross. St. Luke points out for us that long before His triumphal entry into the holy city, "He resolutely set His face toward Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51) In this Jesus was looking beyond the miracles, far beyond His basic human needs. Jesus was looking toward the goal: His suffering, death, and resurrection.

As we continue in this season of Lent and enter Holy Week, let us look beyond ourselves and take notice of Him who died for our sins in order that we might make our earthly pilgrimage to the sacred place of His church to receive that which He desires to give: forgiveness, life, and salvation.

May we also revisit the pilgrimage of our Lord which He did on our behalf and look beyond the cross and the grave believing and trusting in His words of promise when He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he dies, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)

In many ways, our life is a journey, voyage, and pilgrimage. However, those who do not believe in Jesus as Lord and only Savior, their journeys have an eternal destination of weeping, and gnashing of teeth. How sad. Therefore, believe in Him who loves you and who has saved you from eternal darkness and has brought you into His marvelous light. His life and light is eternal. Believe in Jesus. Travel safely.

In His Service, Pastor Kress

## Service Directory/Classified Ads

### Services

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

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

**John Toth Handyman.** If it's broken, I can fix it. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Home: (941) 697-1670  
Cell: (910) 320-4987

**House Watching** - Watch your house while you are back home in the north. Weekly or monthly inspection with written report on findings. Minor repairs if needed included. Monthly - \$25.00 Weekly - \$12.00 If interested, call Ed Sita 475-8116

**Sales—Rentals** —Pineapple Gulf Properties—Glenda McDorman, Owner/Broker (Lessie Kirch's Daughter)  
880 S. McCall Rd., Englewood (941) 473-0300—Office (941) 330-7922—Cell

**For Sale** — Small "Dorm" Fridg. — 19" x 19" x 19" \$40.00

**For Sale** — Men's Degree "Driving Iron" \$20.00 Call Sammy Jollay @ 697-5905

# Stewardship



## Gratitude for God's Blessings, March 2010

Jeff Foxworthy says that if you know all four seasons—almost winter, winter, still winter and road construction—you might live in Wyoming. A lot of other people in wintry states might say the same thing. But in March we observe the beginning of spring. As the trees and bushes bud, the grass starts to turn green, and the soil takes on a smell of new life, we look forward to the beginning of a new cycle with warmer weather and a new start for seedtime and harvest.

Sometimes as God's stewards we may feel that stewardship is more of the same old, same old. But, just as spring starts a new cycle of life, so also Easter with its joy and celebration starts a new cycle of life for us as God's stewards. During the reflective season of Lent we look forward to the joy and celebration of Easter. This is a great reminder that we are "Easter people," that is, people of hope. Hope is stronger than memory. Memory mostly makes us think about past failures, unfulfilled promises, frustration and disappointment, but hope refreshes us with a new start, not just at spring time, but for every new day.

During Lent we reflect on the extravagant love of Jesus as He went all the way to the cross and death as the perfect sacrifice for our sins and failures. Philippians chapter two reminds us: *"Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him a name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* (w8-11 NIV)

One day every knee will bow before Christ, even the knees of those who did not believe in Him, and confess Him as Lord of lords and King of kings. Those who do not believe will be forced to bow their knees when they see Jesus coming in glory and then they will go away to everlasting sorrow. By contrast, our knees will bow in humble adoration and our voices will proclaim *"How great Thou art!"*

Just as the earth comes back to life in spring time, so also we are renewed day by day to live as God's redeemed stewards who freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. This new life is not boring! It is exciting as we experience God's power in our lives and look for opportunities in which we can manage our time, talents, relationships and financial resources in a way that honors Him and provides so many blessings to others and ourselves.

Remember stewardship is an offering of your Time, Talent, and Treasures. Don't forget your Time and Talent; we have many current needs that were identified in the Gratitude letter sent to you a few weeks ago. Current and future needs of your Time and Talent will always be identified on our web site at <http://www.redeemerfl.com/gratitude.htm>. You can read a brief description of the talent needed and submit a confidential request for more information. You can also contact me, Pastor Kress, or any Elder about offering your time and talent to serve the Lord in Redeemer Lutheran Church.

The Gratitude letter also contained a Covenant card to create a private pledge of your Treasures to God. After completing the card, it should be sealed and returned to Church on Sunday, 2-28-10. The Covenant card will remain sealed and returned to you at the end of the year for your private review. If you haven't returned it yet, bring it on any Sunday and drop it in the offering plate.

Let's "spring" to new life as God's redeemed stewards who, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, manage all that we are and have to God's glory!

Joseph Friess, Stewardship Chairman

## Elders Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. By the time you read this message you will have all received a letter from your Elder. In addition you will have seen the board in our Narthex of the picture of your Elder assigned. Many of you will have gotten or will be getting a call from your assigned Elder. This is the plan of your Elder board. We hope to contact each member assigned in each of the four quarters of the year.



The purpose of this article is to attempt to answer questions that you may have about Elders, their duties and responsibilities in our congregation.

First let me say that an Elder is here to serve! None of us are "above" anyone. We seek to serve you and to aid our Pastor in any way we can.

What is an Elder? To answer this question we can look at scripture our Lutheran confessions and our churches constitution and bylaws. In order to simplify this, I will explain it as it applies to our church and its customs.

We are here to assist the called Pastor in the performance of his duties. To aid and help Pastor with the spiritual welfare of our congregation. To assist him in serving of the members of our flock and their needs. To assist in the serving of the Lords Supper, to insure that our worship is done in an orderly fashion consistent with scripture, the confessions and our Synod.

Constitutionally your Elder board serves as the call committee. We can from time to time as needed visit shut-ins and as needed take them the Holy Supper, if the Pastor is unable or needs assistance in that area.

Our duties are taken very seriously and I can assure you that every Elder is deeply concerned about each and every one of you. And all of us take this responsibility very seriously. Please remember that we are here to serve you as is our Pastor.

I look forward in the coming month's newsletter to explain other things and to answer any questions you may have.

If you have concerns, questions, comments or suggestions please feel free to contact your assigned Elder or me at any time. We look forward to hearing from you. "Remember" We are all working together to build up each other and His kingdom in this place He has called us to!

Remember! YOUR Elder is here to serve you!

Your Brother in Christ Jesus,

*Tim Byrne, Chairman Elder Board*

**EASTER LILIES:** If you wish to place a Lily at the Altar for the Easter services, please sign your name on the sheet provided on the Activity Desk in the narthex. The cost is \$7.50. Your donation may be placed in your offering envelope and marked "Lily".

Your plant may be picked up after the Easter service you attend.

*Submitted by Avis Stuck*



Together In Mission to Guinea, West Africa

January/February 2010



## The Carlos Family Times

### Qu'avez-vous fait ?

(What have you been doing?)

Here's our news....

- **Joyeux Noël!** We were blessed to have our children, Raymond & Hannah here with us for the Christmas holiday. It was so nice to have so much activity in our apartment! We had welcome messes to clean up after and they got to see where we live.
- **Une très belle ville!** (A very beautiful city!) We took the FAST train to Paris. We loved it! There was so much to see and enjoy – a great memory for our family.
- **Nous continuons à étudier du français.** (We continue to study French.) There is so much to know! We feel overwhelmed sometimes but know that each day we get a little better. Your continued prayers are welcome for our ability to hear and speak the language.

- **Bon appétit!** Jack has been mastering the “art of French cooking” as another way to embrace the culture here. It has been interesting to shop for new foods in the market. He has made many lovely meals and I feel totally spoiled!
- **Les bonnes nouvelles de Guinée!** (Good news from Guinea!) After an assassination attempt on the military leader of Guinea, who had been acting as president, in December, there was quite a bit of unrest and uncertainty there. However, recently a transitional Prime Minister has been named, things are peaceful, and elections should occur sometime within the next year.
- **Les partenaires dans la Mission.** (Partners in mission.) We continue to receive good news from churches and individuals who are joining us in God's mission to Guinea by supporting the work there with finances & prayer. You are a blessing to us and we hope to see many of you when we are in the US this summer. Merci beaucoup!

### From Germany & Wisconsin.....

- Raymond & Hannah are back at their studies at UW-River Falls & Black Forest Academy.
- Raymond is braving a typical cold & snowy Minnesota winter (at least he doesn't have to shovel our driveway this year!).
- Hannah will be part of Mission to Athens, Greece March 25-April 2. She and about 10 other students will be working at “The Oasis” refugee center for Muslim people from Iran, Iraq, & Afghanistan. Their work will range from preparing meals and hygiene bags for the refugees, doing chores around the center, to preparing and leading worship services for adults and children. Hannah will be leading the worship time with guitar and singing.
- Hannah will be attending the University of Minnesota next fall – Go Gophers!

## Stay Connected – Support our Work

We couldn't do the work we are called to without your prayers & financial support. We invite you to be involved in God's mission:

- Give financially - click “Give Now” on our website: [www.carlostribe@worldpress.com](http://www.carlostribe@worldpress.com) or by sending a gift by mail to: LCMS World Mission, 1333 Kirkwood Rd. St. Louis, MO 63122 (write “Carlos Support” on your check)
- Support our work on a regular basis by becoming a *Mission Sender*. You will find the Mission Sender form on our website under the *Newsletters/Prayer Cards* tab.
- Email us to be added to our monthly “e-newsletter at [carlostribe@hotmail.com](mailto:carlostribe@hotmail.com)

### Prayers Please!

- For our whole family as we all study in different parts of the world.
- For Hannah and the team from Black Forest Academy as they travel to Athens for their mission.
- That the political situation in Guinea would remain peaceful and stable.
- Thanksgiving for all of our faithful supporters!



“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 Cor. 4:18

# Thrivent



Our Thrivent Representatives are excited to announce two upcoming Thrivent Financial Activities. The first is a luncheon with two educational seminars at Visoni's in Port Charlotte on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. The first topic is Identity Theft, and the second is information on the limited time offer from the IRS on Roth Conversions, and who can take advantage of this program. Lunch is provided and there is a door prize of a personal shredder. There is no cost to anyone but space is limited. You can make your reservation by calling Lori at 941-488-0625.

The second event is the First Annual "Lutheran Day at the Park. This will include a Concert before the Stone Crabs baseball game, an all you can eat buffet until the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, featuring hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, chips, and pasta salad, with drinks included in a reserved picnic area, a reserved seat at field level next to the Stone Crabs dugout, a free baseball cap, and fireworks after the game.

Also a huge thank you to all who volunteered their help to make our Yard sale a big success. We had a net profit of \$2,033.23.

*Mary Beaber*

After Redeemer hosted the Fort Wayne Seminary Kantorei Epiphany Service of Lessons and Carols on January 8, 2010, the donations of \$1,180 definitely showed the support we give to the men preparing to become pastors.

The generosity of Redeemer members continued as we once again showed our generosity in the donations for the Haiti disaster relief effort. A total of \$1,705 was sent to LCMS World Relief & Human Care, designated for Haiti relief. Thank you to all who gave generously out of true faith and compassion for your neighbor.

*In His Service, Pastor Kress*



## GREETERS SCHEDULE

- Mar. 7 Barbara Monson & Gudrun Janke
- Mar. 14 Clare Kieselburg & Helen Plank
- Mar. 21 Donna Antonelli & Arlene Harden
- Mar. 28 Karen Kirkland & Elaine Malecki

*Submitted by Pam DeGourse*

### 8:00

- Mar. 7 Ray Janssen & Jerry Schreiner
- Mar. 14 Nancy & Richard Hall
- Mar. 21 Marlene & Glenn Mossner
- Mar. 28 Georgia & Tom Lang

### 10:30

- Mar. 7 Marian & Don Cary
- Mar. 14 Tonyua & James Hollis
- Mar. 21 Shirley Zatkalik & Tony Grcevic
- Mar. 28 Elma & George Cancellieri

*Submitted by Pam DeGourse*

HEALING:

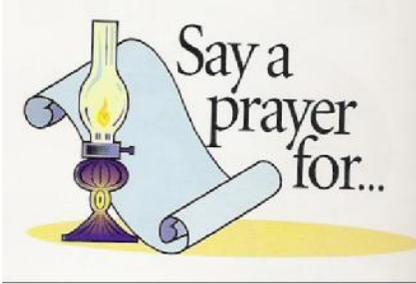
Members

Henrietta Appold  
 Dick Hughes  
 Bob Johnson  
 Cliff Larsen  
 Gary Lute  
 Clara Mitchell  
 Leona Morrison  
 Bob Mortenson  
 Jaye Nistendirk  
 Harriet Payne  
 Herb Petersen  
 Don Plesner  
 Duwayne Shoeneck  
 Ashley Schultz  
 Sam Simonson  
 Anna Smith  
 Pastor Thomason  
 Arlene Twombly  
 Lee Vandercook  
 Barbara Wolgast  
 Ronald Woller

Friends & Relatives

Lorraine Agens  
 Grace Blum  
 Georgia Bush  
 Julie Carroll  
 Shirley Chattin  
 Lisa Clemens  
 Carly DeFeos  
 John Denick  
 Bruce Gnatkowski  
 Debbie Harrison  
 Larry Headun  
 Glory Herget  
 Bill Hillis  
 Robin Hineman  
 Barb Hladun  
 Tom Holt  
 Bob Jamney  
 Douglas Johnson  
 Heather Johnson  
 Howard Kagay  
 Rachel Kagay  
 Julie Keck

Louis Kirkland  
 Rev. Howie Krienke  
 Elsie Malecki  
 Karen Martel  
 Dan Mason  
 Joe Manson  
 Patrick McCord  
 Linda Merisko  
 Kaye Ann Nagel  
 Judy Nagel  
 Charles Pentecost, Jr.  
 Sherrie Rhoades  
 Donna Santora-Vovcsko  
 Lori Schumacher  
 Audrey Slusher  
 Nancy Sly  
 Michael Stio  
 Marion Talley  
 Phyllis Tucker  
 Helen Weishaar  
 Andrew Wolgast



Gloria Carlson  
 Evelyn Etheridge  
 Ruth Jansch  
 Laura Simis  
 Ruth Sutley

PRAYERS OF COMFORT for family and friends of Wilbur Bruce who was called to his eternal home.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT for family and friends of Dale Tompkins who was called to his eternal home.

Military Personnel

Daniel Anderson	Brian Jackson
Col. Dennis Beatty	Keith Janssen
Adam Buchner	Josh Johnson
Eric Byrne	Joshua Jones
Kevin Copeman	Michael Monson
Christopher Dutch	Luis Equendo
Michael Garza	Jeremy Schaitz
Stephen Geib	Jeremy Twombly
Christopher Hankins	Katherine Utroska
Brian Hollis	Matthew Walenta
Nathan Hudson	Charles Weishaar

## Youth



The Youth Group would like to express their sincere thanks to all who went to Visani's Comedy Club and also to those of you who went to Ricaldee's Night and then back again for the month of January to support the Youth Group. Without the help of our friends and family of Redeemer Church these fundraisers would not be a success. We hope you will continue to support us in the coming months.

The Youth Group has had a quiet month in February. We are looking forward to seeing the play Annie at the Venice Theater on February 28 and also being a part of the Crop Walk on February 27. Our chaperones will be Jim Wright, Rick Vassallo, and joining us will also be our Vice President- Ed Sheahan. Ms. Lisa has a surprise for those youth who attend the Crop Walk.

On March 5th we will be having our spaghetti dinner fund raiser, from 5:00-8:00 PM. Adults: \$7, Kids 5 & up: \$4

We hope you will all be there for some delicious pasta with the fixing's. Please bring your friends and family. Thank you to Leta Stender for making the sauce for this event. Also on March 27th, the Youth Group will be having a car wash at Cape Haze Consignment Shop off Gasparilla Road from 9:00-2:00 PM. We hope you will bring us your dirty cars to clean for you.

*Thank you & God Bless, Lisa Vassallo*

## Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild had a good attendance at our Feb. meeting. Guests Helda Zumbahlen and Donna Antonelli were welcomed. Pat Luedke is our newest member. Welcome Pat.

Pastor Kress spoke about his Discretionary Fund and how it will be used. The Guild will purchase grocery and gasoline gift cards in order to provide assistance for those in need. This will be included in our "Love Gifts" along with Care, Solve, Lutheran Prison Ministry, Englewood Helping Hands, Meals on Wheels, Fish, Loveland Center, Orphan Grain Train and Hope Seeds. Carlos Missionary Family has been added to these gifts.

Bakeless Bake Sale continues through Feb. A motion was made to use the proceeds towards sound proofing the Fellowship Hall. A fund has been established. Your donations will be appreciated.

Lenten Suppers Schedule is complete. Help is needed each week to keep these suppers going. If you can help please call the church office.

Our thanks go to Vicky Davis, Avis Stuck and Arlene Harden for revising the Guilds Constitution. We will vote for approval at the April meeting. We will also be voting for new officers. President and Vice President will be open. Please give this your prayerful thought.

Our next meeting is Wed. March 3 rd at 12:30.

*Submitted by Linda Rogers, Vice President*

## Finance

### 2010 Church Actual vs. Budget Through January 31, 2010

	<u>OFFERINGS BUDGET</u>		<u>OFFERINGS RECEIVED</u>		<u>EXPENSES</u>	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
Jan	\$19,954.60	\$19,954.60	\$21,281.00	\$21,281.00	\$15,599.39	\$15,599.39

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, good wishes and cards sent to us after the death of Lydia Sterriker, Harv's mom. Your expressions of Christian love mean so much to us.

*Harv and Marj Sterriker*



Heartfelt Thanks

## Christian Support Group

The group meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am in the Quiet Room, in the Narthex of the church building.

The scripture reading was the "23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm". The Lord provides for us and gives us many blessings.

We had a "children's hot chocolate party". An assortment of cups, different sizes and designs, were placed on the table. One of the cups was fine china, another was a collector's cup, one was an expensive clear plastic, one had a beautiful raised design, there was a blue plastic and one with a decal of little significance, a cup from a dinner set, and a plain heavy mug. The members of the group were asked to select one of the cups. The cups were used to symbolize the members as the cup that held the Lord's blessings, the hot chocolate the blessing that fills our cups, sometimes to overflowing. We discussed that our choice could be significant if we used it to measure our reason for stress, unhappiness or depression. The size, design, material or shape of the cup selected could reflect our needs, social position, family relationships, connection with others, our likes and needs. If we become so involved with the cup, we forget to accept and appreciate the blessings it holds.. We are all different, yet like the cup, we are filled with the blessings of the Lord. We are not to be concentrating on the cup, but what is in the cup – the many blessings we are given.

We are to use our blessings to overcome our stress and depression. While it is normal to want only the best for ourselves, that can be the source of our problems of stress. We are to be thankful for our blessings - be trusting, show kindness, be honest and care of others.

The meeting was closed with a "group hug" as we prayed the Lord's Prayer.

*Submitted by Margie Cypher*

# CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS®



**OUR MISSION: HELP OUR TROOPS CALL HOME**  
[WWW.CELLPHONESFORSOLDIERS.COM](http://WWW.CELLPHONESFORSOLDIERS.COM)

Cell Phones for Soldiers is a program that collects old cell phones for recycling. They are sent to the Cell Phones For Soldiers recycling facility. For each phone donated our overseas troops receive a sixty-minute calling card good anywhere in the world. There is no cost to the church, not even for postage, and the benefit to our troops and their families is great. Tell your friends.

A drop box is located on the information table in the narthex. You fill it up and Pat and I will do the rest.

Thanks

*Roger and Pat Luedtke*

## Assimilation

The Assimilation Board would like to thank everyone at Redeemer who participated in having their pictures taken for the Pictorial Directory. The response from the congregation has been very good with at least 90% participation. The board is planning on the directory being completed by Easter prior to the "snowbirds" returning north.

*Submitted by Barbara Bishop, Assimilation Secretary*

### FROM PASTOR WARREN AND PEGGY THOMASON

Greetings to all of you at Redeemer, Englewood. We are so pleased to hear all the good news about the activities and growth you are experiencing. You are so blessed to have Pastor and Lisa Kress.

Peggy and I have been blessed mightily by your constant prayers and cards and calls and expressions of love and concern. Often we go back over the cards and give thanks for each one of you. Thank you. Bless you.

We are very happy to report that your prayers have been answered. I have returned to normal, eating and sleeping and gaining in strength each day. My doctors say I've turned the corner and I feel wonderful! On February 1<sup>st</sup> I passed out on the kitchen floor and was taken to Bayfront Medical Center. My cardiologist worked hard to adjust my meds and after much testing sent me home on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Already then I felt like a new man. I am gaining in strength daily and will enroll in Rehab II next week. It's been since December 1.

## March Newsletter

Enrollment is 81 Children

## Redeemer Lutheran

Child Care & After-School

### Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays at  
3:45

Jesus Stops the Storm

Matthew 8:23-27

Jesus heals a deaf, blind  
& crippled Man

Mark 7:31-37, 10:46-52, Acts 3:1-16

Locust Plaque

Exodus 10:4

Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-10

Jesus Dies and Arises

Matthew 27:32-28:6



Blessed...are those who  
hear the word of God.

Luke 11:28

If you would like to volunteer to come in and read the Bible story please call Wendy.

### Birthdays

Shelby 3/1

Ava 3/20

Christopher 3/22

Drea 3/23

Vincent 3/31



Thank you to all who donate to the Angel Fund.

Thank you for all the paper products and snacks that are donated every month.

### Needed Supplies

Snacks, Batteries, Paper Towels, Bleach, Baby

Wipes & craft supplies.

We will be celebrating Earth day in April and will need flowers and soil.

### What We Are

#### Learning

March 1-5 Weather

March 8-12 Real and Make Believe

March 15-19 Bugs

March 22-26 Bugs

March 29-April 2 Animals

#### Important Dates

March 14<sup>th</sup> is Daylight Savings Time

March 17<sup>th</sup> is St. Patrick's Day

March 20<sup>th</sup> is the First Day of Spring



Submitted by: Wendy Horvath



## SCRIP

**MARCH** orders for Scrip will be taken at the Ladies Guild meeting on **Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, and **Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**, in the church narthex after the 8:00 a.m. service and before and after the 10:30 a.m. service. Orders will be returned **Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you to everyone who placed orders in January.

**APRIL** orders for Scrip will be taken at the Ladies Guild meeting on **Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**, and **Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**, in the church narthex after the 8:00 a.m. service and before and after the 10:30 a.m. service. Orders will be returned **Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Scrip is a substitute for money. They are gift cards for every thing from fast food restaurants, food stores, department stores, gasoline, office product stores and even hotels, cruises and many more. Every month we have an updated **list on the desk in the Narthex**. Everyone who is interested should pick up a copy and at least see what is available.

The percentage the Ladies Guild makes is based on the scrip orders for the month. This percentage is then applied to our **mission projects**. Your support is appreciated. Thank you, *Scrip Chairperson, Sybil Grahl*.

### **What Is Scrip?**

*Scrip is a term that means "substitute money". When you purchase scrip, you're purchasing negotiable gift certificates and prepaid cards that are used just like cash. You can use scrip to purchase everyday expenses like food, clothing, and other essentials, and with every purchase, you earn revenue for our organization.*

### **How scrip generates revenue for you**

*The Great Lakes Scrip Center acts on behalf of churches, schools and other non-profit organizations to purchase large amounts of scrip from grocery stores, department stores, and other retailers. Because the scrip is purchased with cash up front, the participating retailers offer a substantial discount. Our organization buys the scrip from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a discount, and re-sells the certificates to families like yours for full face value. The discount - from two to fifteen percent or more - is our organization's revenue.*

### **Scrip is "shopping cart fundraising"**

*Scrip is a popular fundraiser because families don't have to sell anything. Organization members produce revenue by making regular household purchases they would make anyway. Groceries, clothing, toys, gifts, even gasoline can be purchased with scrip.*

### **Find Out More**

*Ask your scrip coordinator listed below for the latest participating retailer list. Then put your shopping dollars to work for our organization! **Contact: Sybil Grahl 941-475-0263.***

*Submitted by Sybil Grahl*

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS BY TRANSFER, AFFIRMATION OF FAITH,  
ADULT CONFIRMATION OR ASSOCIATE

FEBRUARY 21, 2010

**ASHLEY SCHULTZ**

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

9466 Tacoma Ave. Apt. B  
Englewood, FL 34224  
Tel. (941) 623-2918

Ashley is joining us by Adult Confirmation. She is from Ann Arbor, Michigan. She and her husband Jason (already a member of Redeemer) have two children Kiera and Jason Jr. Ashley enjoys reading and spending time with her family.

**FRED AND VICKIE FERNALD**

7800 Meroni Blvd.  
North Port, FL. 34291  
Tel. (207) 838-1862



Fred joins us by Adult Confirmation and Vickie by Affirmation of Faith. Their home state is Maine. Fred is employed part-time at Sweetbay supermarket in Venice. Vickie is employed at Sweetbay supermarket in Sarasota. Vickie's hobbies are swimming, crossword puzzles, reading and miniature golf. Fred enjoys fishing, remote controlled boats and they both enjoy boating and movies.



Don't forget to set  
your clocks ahead  
on March 14th!

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS BY TRANSFER, AFFIRMATION OF FAITH,  
ADULT CONFIRMATION OR ASSOCIATE

JANUARY 31, 2010

**TIM AND MARY ANN FREES**

213 A Rotonda Blvd.  
Rotonda West, FL 33947  
Tel. (941) 441-8057



They come to us by Transfer from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hudson, Michigan. Tim is now retired but was formally a manager of a construction company. Mary Ann enjoys sewing. They both like the beach, the outdoors, sports, and square dancing.

**SALLY ZIERDT**

9457 Heartwellville Ave.  
Englewood, FL 34224  
Tel. (941) 474-1128



Sally comes to us by Affirmation of Faith. She was formally a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church. We rejoice she is now back with us. Sally enjoys cruising and reading.

**BILL AND EILEEN ZWICK**

37 Pearl St.  
Englewood, FL 34223  
Tel. (941) 473-4223



Bill and Eileen come to us as Associate members. They are from Decatur, Indiana. Bill is semi-retired and was a funeral director for many years and is the son of the late Aleta Zwick. Also, Bill sings in our choir. Eileen is a retired RN and enjoys reading, sewing and knitting.

*Submitted by Ellie Ratzlaff and Pat Wilcoxon  
New Member Co-Chairpersons -Assimilation Committee*

# Dancing With The Star

