

REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHILD CARE - FEBRUARY 2013

"An Encouraging Word Goes a Long Way"

"Well done, good and faithful servants. Depart in peace." These are words I usually speak to the elders, communion assistants, and acolytes following the distribution of Holy Communion. They are meant as words of encouragement. They are not my words, but words I have pulled from Holy Scripture. For many of us the familiar phrase, "Well done, good and faithful servants," comes from a parable of Jesus (Matthew 26:14-30; Luke 19:11-27). After entrusting his property to a few servants, the master returns home to see the good order of his land and then tells his servants how much he is pleased.

How do you encourage someone? What words do you use to build someone up, to edify them, to lift them up? "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and **through the encouragement of the Scriptures** we might have hope," (Romans 15:4).

To be sure, when God's Word is used as a means to provide encouragement for you, much more is given. In His Word, God cleanses you (Psalm 51:2); God heals you (Psalm 107:20); God gives you the gift of repentance (2 Timothy 2:25); God gives you the gift of faith (Romans 10:17); and God makes you holy (John 17:17).

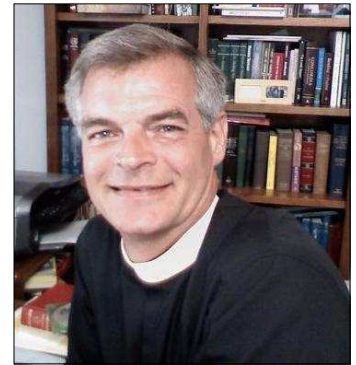
Having the Word of God roll off our lips isn't as easy as it sounds. Many of us are not well versed or versed at all in the sacred Scriptures. That comment isn't meant as a strike against you. The point that I'm attempting to drive here is still going back to a previous question: What words do you use to encourage someone?

Throughout my life, I have received an encouraging word from many different people: a dedicated teacher, a devoted coach, a caring friend. However, there was one special moment in my life when I received the greatest encouragement of all. That word came from my dad.

It was nearly 14 years ago when I sat down with both my mom and dad to explain that I was taking their daughter-in-law and grandchildren and moving to Ft. Wayne, Indiana to enter into the seminary to become a Lutheran pastor. Upon hearing the news and without hesitation, my father stood up with outstretched arms and said, "Who can argue with God?" I too

then stood up to enter into those open arms to be held by them. We hugged each other and cried tears of joy.

If there was ever a time a child needed to receive approval from his father that was when I received mine. His encouraging word goes a long way.



Every year since entering into the ministry I receive many, many encouraging words from people like you. They come during the usual times of the year like Christmas, Easter, Pastor Appreciation Month, and even when I celebrate a birthday or another year of marriage with my wife, Lisa. The words inscribed on the card or the ones written by your own hand are truly appreciated and received as wonderful words of encouragement. Every word in every card I treasure for Lisa will tell you I don't throw a single one of them away ... really. Your encouraging word goes a long way.

And then there are times, many times – out of the blue it seems – when I receive a card, a note, an email, a text message, or a phone call with words of encouragement, thanks, and support. I don't know what I have done to deserve such kindness but again, your encouraging word goes a long way.

Your encouraging word helps me face and eventually get through difficult circumstances. And yet can you see how God uses you to encourage me with your words which are born out of faith in God? So, how do you encourage someone? Use the words given you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within you (2 Timothy 1:13-14).

Each time before stepping into the pulpit to supply you with an encouraging word, I pray Psalm 19:14: "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to You O Lord, my Rock and Redeemer." And then I conclude with, "Send now Your Holy Spirit into my heart placing words in my mind and on my lips, that I may proclaim the wonderful works of Your Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen"

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
Choir Director	Doris Dykhuizen
Newsletter Editors	Jennifer Long & Susan Moore

OFFICERS

President	Rich Kueker
Vice President	
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

STEWARDSHIP

February is the month when "Valentine's Day" is celebrated and thus a month in which we think of "love." A few short weeks ago we celebrated Christmas—the occasion that marked God's great love gift to the world, His only-begotten Son. Jesus came into our world as a servant and took upon Himself our human flesh and form, as well as our sin, guilt and shame, and then offered His life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the whole world. This act of sacrificial love caused the hymn writer to pen these words: "What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!" (LSB, 543).



The truth is that the love of Jesus is far more wondrous than we can ever describe or imagine, much less imitate and practice. The best that we can do is respond to that wondrous love with our free and joyous stewardship. True Christian stewardship is not something that we do because of laws, rules and commands. True Christian stewardship is always a response to the love of God for us. The Apostle John said it so well: "We love because He first loved us."

So, during this month of February when "Valentine's Day" reminds us of human love, we do well to pause and reflect on the divine love of Jesus. By the power and presence of the Holy Spirit we are equipped to show our love through deeds and words that support and encourage.

Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. Let your love show in your giving of time, talent and financial resources to God's glory and the expansion of His kingdom.

The Board of Stewardship



Continued from page 1 ...

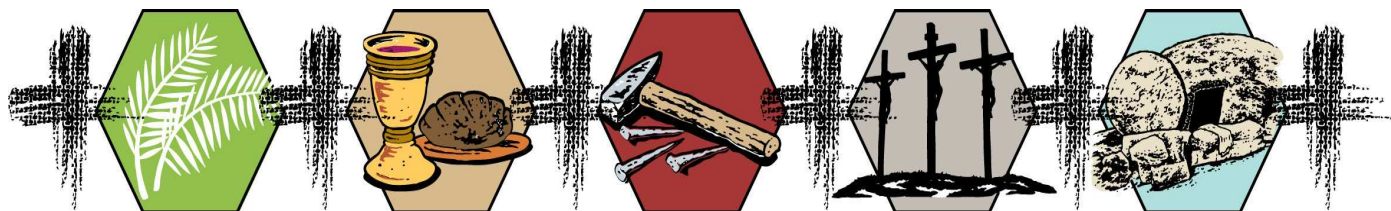
So allow me to build you up with these encouraging words that are spoken out of faith in Christ Jesus. I am grateful for the godly wisdom, guidance and the tremendous support I receive from Tim Byrne and the Board of Elders, along with Pastors Mark Steinke and Earl Schmidt. I am thankful for the incredible leadership of Rich Kueker, our President, the other officers, Betty Clemens, our Secretary and Judy Murphy, our Treasurer, and to all the members of the Church Council. I am appreciative of the extra effort given by all our Boards and Committees; to Deb Kueker and the Board of Assimilation; to all the greeters who welcome members, guests and visitors to Redeemer with a smile and a hardy handshake; to all who serve during coffee hour supplying all with delicious treats and good coffee; to all who welcome our new members and associate members with new member packets and name tags, to all who take pictures and set additional time aside to assemble a new pictorial directory; to Pam Replinger and the Board of Christian Education, including Tricia Hopkins, Sunday School Superintendent, Wendy Horvath, Vacation Bible School Director, and all who teach, for providing opportunities of learning more and more of God's Word to the youngest and the eldest among us; to Karen Kirkland and the Board of Finance; to all who volunteer as counters and all the many, many, many other things you do for Redeemer; to Ty Schulte and the Board of Community and Parish Fellowship for assisting me in reaching out to others and spreading the saving Gospel in Christ Jesus; to Dan & Rebecca Fernandez and the Youth Board for providing opportunities for our youth to learn the basic truth is loving God by service to our neighbor; to every member on the Board of Church Properties and especially to all who have ever assisted in fixing, cleaning, replacing, and working on our property or in any one of our three buildings; to Carol Carlos and the Board of Human Care Ministries, including Lessie Kirch and the entire Caring Network, Carol Sheahan and organizing our Blood Drives and Crop Hunger Walk, the Stephen Ministry Program and all Stephen Minister care-givers, thank you for assisting me in providing care and comfort to those in need; to Bill Bowers and the entire School Board in handling the affairs of our Child Care Center. I am eternally grateful to the Child Care Staff and our Director, Wendy Horvath and her Assistant Director, Lisa for nurturing and loving all of God's little children. I am appreciative of our Nominations Committee, to Allan Webster and our Audit Committee, to Ray Altmann and our Endowment Committee for the wisdom, knowledge, and tireless dedication to Redeemer Church & Child Care and to the their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Finally, I am inspired by the work of all our volunteers in our church and school, especially Tom Kirkland and all the ushers, Doris Dykhuizen and all the members of the choir, Bill Bowers and Lanette Schmidt, our organists, and all who strengthen the sound during our worship and assist us in singing hymns of glory, honor, and praise to our ever merciful and loving God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to our office volunteers, especially Margie Cypher, Doris Dykhuizen, Pat Petersen, and Jane Hoivik, Lessie Kirch for our Senior Fellowship, Singles Groups, and Red Hat Club, Carol Sheahan and all our Altar Guild members, for Sally Zierdt and the Ladies Guild, Vicky Davis and the LWML, Diane McGrath and all our Thrivent Members, Jennifer Long our Newsletter Editor, all of our Monday morning Quilters, all of the members of our Men's Group, and finally I am thankful for our Secretary, Susan Moore who has to put up with me every day. "Well done, good and faithful servants."

You know, even with all this incredible help and assistance to keep Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care alive and running well, we still need your help. Prayerfully consider becoming a more active participant in the body of Christ, that is, the church in order that you too may enjoy the wonderful and amazing experience in serving God and your neighbor.

Now returning to God's Word, I leave you with this final encouraging word from the Apostle Paul, "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God," (Romans 15:5-7). An encouraging word from you to your neighbor goes a long way.

In His Service,
Pastor Kress



ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND GOLF SCRAMBLE



Ready to see what a fantastic golfer you are?! Please join us for the second annual Angel Scholarship Fund Golf Scramble on Saturday, March 2, 2013! We are looking forward to participation! The Angel Scholarship Fund helps more than 12 children receive Christ centered quality child care at a discounted rate. This Fund is only available because of the generous donations of many of you throughout the year and with the help of this Golf Scramble. Please see the flyer within this newsletter to sign up to golf! If you find that you are not available to golf we would love to offer you the opportunity to be a sponsor.

Business sponsorships are \$100.00 and memorial sponsorships are \$50.00. Please see Ms. Lisa or Ms. Wendy at the child care or between services to sign up!!! Thank you in advance for your support!!!!

ENGLEWOOD CROP HUNGER WALK

This year's Crop Walk take place on Saturday, February 23rd. This is going to be the 25th year that the walk has taken place. This event has raised a tremendous amount of money nationwide. The Englewood community and Redeemer Lutheran Church have always supported this effort, and I am sure that this year will not be an exception.

Registration and step-off will take place as usual at Community Presbyterian Church on McCall. Registration will begin at 8am and the walk will begin at 9am. The route remains the same. We will walk 2.5 miles from the church to Lemon Bay Park where there will be an ample supply of iced water and improved comfort facilities and then we will make the return walk of 2.5 miles back to the church. If you have a "Redeemer" t-shirt we would like you to wear it.

We will be in the Narthex February 3rd, February 10th, and February 17th to hand out packets for walkers. For anyone wishing to simply make a contribution there will be a container to drop your donation.

Remember, 75% of the funds collected will go to Lutheran World Relief and the remaining 25% goes to Englewood Helping Hands and we will work with Thrivent to receive matching funds to be given to a local organization to be chosen.

Last year we had 14 walkers and we raised \$1704.00. This year with the help of the youth of our church and the support of the not-so-youthful we should be able to improve on last year's performance.

Submitted by Carol Sheahan

***The deadline for the March Newsletter is February 17th.
Please have all your submissions sent to
REDEEMERFL@VERIZON.NET by the time indicated above.
Thank you.***

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

December 2012

<i>Income</i>	<i>Expense</i>
\$26,102.89	\$24,398.07

PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY

Please join us for our monthly "Property Appreciation" Day on the second Saturday of the month, February 9th!!! We begin at 8 AM. Join us in keeping our buildings and properties beautiful. There's a little something to do for anyone willing to help... THANK YOU!-*Property Management*

PRISON MINISTRY

Please continue to bring reading materials for the prison ministry. We can use old devotional books, religious books (NO HARD BACK BOOKS). Some one brought several hard back books before. We ask you to pick them up in the Narthex, if they are still there. Thanks for thinking of the ministry but they will not let the people have hard backs. Put all materials in the box to the left in the Narthex. Thanks.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

LADIES GUILD/LWML

The program for January with Tim & Catherine Byrne was cancelled due to Tim's illness; therefore, they will be present for the February meeting on the 6th. This program is titled: "REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM". This is an excellent program and one you do not want to miss. It is with regard to your home safety, personal security in your automobile, etc. Come and bring a friend. We had 45 ladies present at our meeting. Don't want to say it was because of the program, but whatever, we were very happy to see all the chairs filled. Please come for our February meeting and give Tim & Catherine your support.

We had a lady speak from "Project Phoenix". They are located in Englewood. They help those in need with clothes, furniture, appliances, etc. We will be giving them some assistance in the future. If you are cleaning out clothes, household items or furniture, contact me (Lessie) and I will tell you who to call.

Mark your calendar now for the Spring Zone Rally to be held April 6th. Our church will be hostess. We need a lot of workers and if you will be able to help call Vicki Davis. There are many jobs open. With many hands working, it should not be a problem. Sign up NOW!!

Please mark your calendar now for February 6th at 12:30 PM for goodies, followed by the program and meeting and then April 6th for the Rally.

At our next meeting I am asking each one of you to bring at least one item for the KRAFT KORNER. THIS IS GOING WELL BUT WE ARE IN NEED OF ITEMS TO SELL. THANK YOU.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

BIG RED BUS BLOOD DRIVE

Redeemer had another **“WOW”** from the Florida Blood Center. We had another record turn out. Twenty-three registered donors and three first-time donors. Fifty-four lives were saved with your “Gift of Life”.

Shauna, the FBC representative says Redeemer may become the top donating church in a three city area.

At one point, there were too many volunteers and some were asked to come back a little later. FBC is aware of this and will increase the hours and add another staff member to the Big Red Bus in March.

Many thanks to all who gave and to those who attempted to give but couldn't at this time.

The Big Red Bus will be back on March 24th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.



THURSDAY SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

We would love to have you join us for a fun time of playing cards from 10:00 until Noon. We can use more players. There are several different games we play, take your choice. Followed by games, we break for lunch. Presently everyone is brown bagging. Dessert, coffee and tea are furnished. Tell your friends and join us!

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

ALTAR GUILD

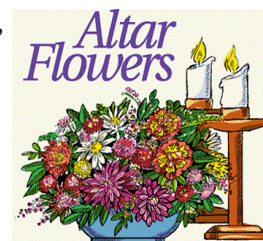
Sign your name next to your chosen date and the reason for placement: Birthday, Anniversary, In Memory Of, To the Glory of God, etc.

You may include the \$25.00 payment in your offering envelope.

Call the office with any special wording for the Bulletin listing.

You may take the flowers home or leave them for pastor to take to a shut-in.

Submitted by Carol Sheahan



BOARD OF COMMUNITY & PARISH FELLOWSHIP

We are having a “Share Your Faith” workshop the first two Saturdays in February, February 2nd and February 9th, from 9:00 AM - Noon.

Anyone interested in exploring a very rewarding experience in giving back to the community and to the church, please prayerfully consider joining the Board of Community & Parish Fellowship. If you have any questions feel free to contact me via e-mail at tylersddy@yahoo.com or you can call me at (941) 286-4122. We have a meeting once a month on the last Thursday of each month @ 7 PM. Please feel free to attend.

Submitted by Ty Schulte, Chairman

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - DECEMBER 10, 2012

PRESENT: Rich Kueker, Pastor Kress, Tim Byrne, Karen Kirkland, Bill Bowers, Charlie Vovcsko, Deb Kueker, Dorothy Sinowetski. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Rich Kueker. Pastor Kress opened with a prayer.

MINUTES of November 12, 2012 was presented. BILL BOWERS MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. TIM BYRNE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Appreciation to Betty Clemens for taking the November minutes.

CALENDAR for January, 2013 was presented for additions and/or corrections.

REPORTS

PASTOR - Reports attached. Presented membership gains and losses for 2012.

GAINS: Todd Armstrong, Michael & Sarah Borza, Catherine Byrne, Daniel & Rebecca Fernandez (Seth & Devon), Jacqueline Jose (Jackie & Tito), Donald & Mary Blakley, Jenni Dolphin (Braeden), Judith Guastella (Toby & Alyssa), David & Cynthia Johnson, Eric & Sharon Johnson, Charles & Enid Muhme, Mark & Laurie Steinke, James & Arlene Wiley, Martha Winterheimer. **ASSOCIATES:** *Charles & *Patricia Finkenbine, *Joseph & *Paula Maramonte.

LOSSES: Dee Baird, Diana Collins, Elsie Larsen, Alex Ruccatano **ASSOCIATES:** *Richard & *Nancy Hall, *Shirley Peterson,

VOTERS: Erven Maki, Clara Mitchell, Shirley Zatkalik,

DEATH: Don Plesner, Richard Hughes, Clifford Larsen, Jack Melcher, Anna Smith. This list is to be ratified at the January, 2013 Voters' Assembly.

*Mid week Advent services will be: "Unbelievable Bible Stories".

*Sunday, Dec. 9th, Circuit Pastor's Christmas Dinner

*Sunday, Dec. 16th, Redeemer Christmas Caroling.

*Sunday, Dec. 30th, Guest Preacher: Missionary to Guinea West Africa, Jack Carlos.

*Monday, Dec. 31st, Rev. Mark Steinke preaching.

*Youth Confirmation Class, Thursday, 4-5:30 PM. Two Catechumens.

*Bible Classes: Sunday 9:15 AM by Rev. Mark Steinke- "Jesus...Legend or Lord?"

Tuesday 10:00 AM by Rev. Jim Kress- "Three Sixteen.."

Thursday Ladies Bible Class 10:00 AM by Rev. Jim Kress-"Adoption"

PRESIDENT: Pastor reported on the slate of candidates for the Dec, elections. New Terms: Vice Pres.: OPEN; Congregation Secretary: Betty Clemens; Finance: Karen Kirkland; Stewardship: OPEN; Outreach: considered by Ty Schulte; Youth: Dan Fernandez (His wife will co-chair); School Board: Bill Bowers; School Board Assoc. member: Dieter Euler. A complete list will be presented to the Voters for election.

ELDERS: TIM MADE A MOTION TO PRESENT TO THE JANUARY VOTERS' ASSEMBLY THE FOLLOWING ITEM, BILL BOWERS SECONDED. **"RESOLVED,** THAT REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHILD CARE AUTHORIZES AND ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL (S) THE HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR THE YEAR 2013. REV. JAMES T. KRESS THE AMOUNT OF \$44,000 AND REV. MARK STEINKE THE AMOUNT OF \$2,400. THE HOUSING ALLOWANCE WILL BE PAID FROM JAN. 1, 2013 TO DEC. 31, 2013. MOTION CARRIED."

*With Elders approval: TIM MOVED TO GRANT PERMISSION TO PASTOR AND LISA KRESS TO HAVE A RENEWAL OF THEIR WEDDING VOWS IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ON 12/28/12 AND HAVE PERMISSION TO SERVE WINE/BEER. BILL SECONDED. 5 YEA, 1 ABSTAIN, MOTION CARRIED.

*Elders will sponsor and do the coffee hour for the month of January.

*Lessie Kirch made a request for approval to serve wine at the Senior Fellowship Lunch on 12/20/12 and the Elders approved. TIM MOVED TO GRANT THIS REQUEST. BILL SECONDED. 2 YEA, 1 ABSTAIN. MOTION CARRIED.

*Charlie asked the Elder Board to discuss the idea that use of Fellowship Hall for 50 or 100 people, such as a wedding, require a charge to cover expenses.

TREASURER. Reports attached. Expenses are down but contributions are down too.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: Attached is a list of the commonly used Vendors. The procedure would be to identify the problem, contact the Church office and if possible, the Secretary will call the Vendor

*Appreciation to all the men and women who have been such a help.

*The buses were pelted with eggs. Should a sign of some sort be posted?

HUMAN CARE: Report attached; No one has signed up for Stephen Ministry classes, 21

Continued on Page 7

people have signed up to donate blood in Dec. 10 angels were left on the tree. Will try to get Thrivent funds to help pay for these gifts that need to be purchased.

ASSIMILATION: Appreciation to all who helped serve coffee hour, "Hanging of the Greens", the upcoming directory and just plain "Helped Out".

OUTREACH (BCPF): The Rotonda Christmas Parade float was designed and made by Ty Schulte. Other helpers and participants were the Kirklands, Judy Murphy, the Hopkins family, Susan Moore, the Kresses, Judy Schulte. A "How to Share Your Faith" workshop will be the first two Saturdays in February. Considering a table in the Narthex with name tags for visitors and/or possibly using paper tags for children.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Thanks to Susan for her work on the Cradle Roll. She also has been teaching a S.S. class. Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday Bible classes continue. Plans are being made for the S.S. Rally Day, 2013, and have it earlier in the year. Children are busy practicing their songs for their program and will also sing on Feb. 10th, 2013.

SCHOOL BOARD: Child Care will be closed Dec. 24-26 & New Year's Eve and Day. Parents will only be charged for the days that are open. An application to the Endowment Committee has been made, asking for a grant for a concrete bike path and bikes, etc. There will be rules for bus/van drivers. No radio, texting, etc.

YOUTH: Pastor reported Dan & Rebecca Fernandez will meet with youth every 2nd Thursday @5:30 Pm, after confirmation class. They plan to have a fund raising dinner in March, fishing in May and a car Wash in April. It will include youth, 3rd grade to 8th grade, January thru May.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 with a prayer, Lord's Prayer and the Doxology.

Dorothy Sinowetski
Congregation Secretary

SINGLES LUNCHEON

In January, the lunch was attended by 13 ladies. Everyone wants to know, "Where are the men, don't they eat?" We are happy to have some of the northern folk back who can join us. On Tuesday, February 12th, at 11:30 AM, we will lunch at THE ELKS CLUB, 401 Indiana Ave, Route 776, Englewood. PLEASE SIGN UP NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH. The sign up sheet is located in the Narthex. Invite a single friend to join us.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Many scientists teach us that we have much evidence that the world was made millions of years ago. The Bible teaches us that we have much evidence that the world was made thousands of years ago. In an interview, Bill Nye the "Science Guy" told the world that anyone who would teach that the world is not billions of years old should be accused of child abuse. Who is right? Bill Nye and many other scientists or the Bible telling the account of someone who was actually present at the creation? Come to Bible Study on Sundays between the services as Rev. Steinke leads us in a study of Genesis 1-11, from Creation to Noah.

Submitted by Rev. Mark Steinke

MEN'S BREAKFAST



The Men will again be gathering for their monthly breakfast. We will meet the 2nd Monday of each month at Country Hound Café at 7 AM. Come and join us for breakfast and fellowship. All men are welcome to join us. For more information please contact Charles Malecki (941) 697-0976.

PRAYERS

SHUT-INS: Marjorie Boliere, Gloria Carlson, Evelyn Etheridge, Erv Maki, Clara Mitchell, and Ruth Sutley.

HEALING: Members: Bill Balogh Jr., Ermand Citrone, Fred Fernald, Bernice Heppner, Jane Hoivik, Sandi McGrath, Ron Ratzlaff, Michael Sanders, Duwayne Schoeneck, Sandy Sita, Edda Specht, Marie Talley, and Ronald Woller.

Friends & Relatives: Michael Aldene, David Anderson & father, Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Grace Blum, Georgia Bush, Jack & Cathy Carlos, Debbie Carr, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Lee & Ute Daniels, Carly DeFeos, Renee Dempsey, Jim Diffell, John and Irene DiTommaso, Barb Dumeah, Heidi Everson, Manual Galan, Glenn Galway, Nancy Gleis, Donald Grahl, Lucas Hall, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Joel Heppner, Walter Heppner, Glory Herget, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Tom Holt, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Debbie Jackson, Carl Jennejahn, Douglas Johnson, Heather Johnson, Rachel Kagay, Paul Kandt, John Kearns, Bill Keller, Mary Krueger, Jim Lane, Denise Lines, Harold Lowe, Don Luffingwell, Sean Maki, Elsie Malecki, Joe Manson, Tom Markle, Pete Mogg, Linda Mohr, Mike Morrissey, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Pastor Dennis Neigh, Maureen Nesvacil, Dan Niemann, Darwin & Noreen Oliver, Charles Pentecost Jr., Mary Raines, Pamela Robinson, Ryan Sheahan, Joey Sigfrid, Nancy Sly, Debbie Speer Smith, Virginia Stanley, Marj Sterriker, Gary Stokes, Eva Tabbitas, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Dick Voelker, Pat Vovsko, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Reece Withers, Angel Zavala.

Military Personnel: 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.

AROUND THE WORLD

FORO is a new partnership in Uruguay. It is a partnership between Lutheran Hour Ministry (LHM), Synod and three congregations in Uruguay and Brazil. It uses Bible correspondence courses, educational workshops, a vibrant equipping program for witnessing and spiritual growth and values-education programs for children and youth. The Uruguay LHM center promotes its programs through Internet and cell phone messaging, as well as newspaper ads and an attractive outdoor display. As we support LHM, we reach out with the Good News in many countries around the world. It is a blessing to have such a unique opportunity to support gospel outreach in today's world.

Submitted by Rev. Earl Schmidt, LHM Ambassador at Redeemer

DANCING WITH THE STARS

Don't forget to come and "Dance with the Stars" on Sunday, February 10th from 7:00 PM — 9:00 PM. No tickets or reservations necessary! Free will offering will be accepted! Hope to see you all there for a night of fun, fun, fun!!!

Submitted by Doris Dykhuizen, Choir Director



LADIES GUILD/LWML



MITE BOX IN NARTHEX FEBRUARY 3, 2013

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is known for Mite Box offerings that support mission grants to bring the Good News of Jesus to people of the world. Coins dropped in the MITE BOX will assist in providing a noon meal for the hungry children in our Lutheran School in Haiti. A grant of \$5000.00 will be given to our Lutheran Church in Haiti to feed these children. Please pick up a complimentary BOX and start your own "mission" in your home as you add loose change to your own BOX and return it next month. Thanks to all who have given so faithfully! Jesus smiles on coins given by men, women & children!

Submitted by Vicky Davis

Why Should I Go?

Have you had someone ask "Why should I go to an LWML Spring Rally? I'm to ____ (busy, tired, old...your reason)." The best answer to all the questions and the "I'm toos" is the theme of this year's Spring Rally, "Come To The Living Water". So, if you or friends are unsure about going to an LWML Spring Rally, remember some lines from an old song:

Accentuate the positive: All who are thirsty, come to the water; sit at Jesus' feet; drink from the well; be filled with the Spirit; it's a joy to be with God and His people.

Eliminate the negative: Let the pain and the sorrow and the "I can't's", "I'm toos", and "it's not my thing" be washed away. Say "yes, I can; I will" to God.

Latch on to the superlative: "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst, (it) will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:14; for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life...

Don't mess with Mr. In-between: Being luke-warm isn't the answer for me; —it's not fun! Neither is following Satan's lies and tricks in saying "I'm too ____".

If the Lord is to work in me and through me, I need refreshing! Will you Come to the Living Water with me on Saturday, April 6 here at Redeemer? Jan Struck, Humorous Christian Motivational Presenter, brings a fresh approach to the journey of faith as she shares her life on a walk to the Living Water and leaves the guests laughing.

This is one event YOU will not want to miss! More info coming in March.

Submitted by Vicky Davis, Adapted CID

LADIES GUILD/LWML BAKELESS BAKE SALE

Every February the Ladies Guild/LWML has its annual Bakeless Bake Sale. Envelopes to enclose donations will be distributed starting Sunday, February 3rd. Instead of baking something for the ladies to sell, just donate what it would cost to benefit our special project. Deposit your donation in the "cake" on the information desk in the Narthex.

This year Project Phoenix was chosen by the members at our January 9th meeting as our special project. Bobbie Sue Burton, founder of this nonprofit organization, spoke at the meeting of their goal. They had an article in the Englewood Sun on Sunday, January 13th explaining what the program was all about.

Submitted by Sybil Grah

CLASSIFIEDS

Beautician/Manicurist	Debbie Balogh Linda Pontello	Purple Palace Purple Palace	941-416-4688 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.		
Avon-Sales	Anyone interested in purchasing any Avon products, please see Susan Moore in the Church Office or call 941-254-0497 to order or to get a catalog.		
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 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	Sears Chest Freezer - 22 cubic feet - \$250.00 Like New. 2 Twin Adjust. (head & foot) Beds w/ Vibrator. All Bedding included - \$400.00. Like New. Lowrey Carnival Organ with Bench. All Pedals & Accompaniments - \$6,000.00 Like New. For further information please contact SANDY SITA 941-475-8116.		

LOST AND FOUND

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

GREETERS

Feb. 3rd: Erna Abel
Linda Rogers

Feb. 10th: Erna Abel
Linda Rogers

Feb. 17th: Erna Abel
Linda Rogers

Feb. 24th: Erna Abel
Linda Rogers

Submitted by Assimilation

COFFEE HOUR

Jan. 6th: Clare Kieselburg
Donna Wolf

Jan. 13th: Donna Wolf
Linda Rogers

Jan. 20th: Mickie Abel
Erna Abel

Jan. 27th: Donna Wolf
Erna Abel

Submitted by Assimilation

STEPHEN MINSITRY

The Call to Care

No one begins the day thinking they will add to someone's pain by making insensitive comments or by being extremely cheerful in front of someone that is suffering. We all want to be good caregivers. Let me tell you a story about a man whose wife was dying. He had a meeting to go to and was asked at the meeting how his wife was doing. His answer was simply "She's dying". A psychologist at the meeting said "We're all dying". A very true statement but not what the man wanted to hear. We all miss the mark at times with friends, acquaintances, family, etc.. What if a friend has been diagnosed with a serious illness. You want to go see the friend but you don't know what to say. How about "Hello, it's good to see you. Fill me in on what's been happening". Usually people that are hurting want to talk about their situation. Sometimes it's good to say "I'm sorry you have to go through this". Then being quiet and listening is an effective way to invite the person to begin talking. Follow the other persons lead and focus on the other person.

This is just a very small part of what we learn in the Stephen Ministry classes. We invite you to pray about being a Stephen Minister and if moved by the Holy Spirit and want to learn more please call Carol Carlos 941-255-3354 or Carol Haupt 941-460-8830.

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



HUMAN CARE

Small group ministries has been a discussion at our meetings for a few months. These groups are about 8-12 people that meet in members homes each month. The purpose is to support, encourage, strengthen and care for one another in the love of Christ. There is time for fellowship (visiting), interactive Bible study, and oh, of course, eating (light snack). There will be leaders chosen for each group who will lead the Bible study. That same person will lead the study every month. The key word with the Bible study is interactive. In the next few months we will have signup sheets for the members with names, addresses and phone numbers of each leader. You may sign on with any leader. Having been involved for many years with small group ministries I can attest to the fact that they are fun, and help you grow spiritually and lasting friendships evolve.

Englewood Crop Hunger Walk is Saturday, February 23,2013. Registration is at 8:00am. You must sign in at the registration table. The walk begins at 8:30am. This is a community event (the 25th year) to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. Crop was an acronym for Christian Rural Overseas Program when it started years ago. Back then the primary mission was for Midwest farm families to share their grain with post world war II Europe and Asia. Church World Service who sponsors the walk has retained the name. The walk supports the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially fighting hunger around the world. Each community can choose to retain up to 25% of the funds it raises to hunger fighting programs in its own community. Our 25% goes to Helping Hands and the other 75% is earmarked for Lutheran World Relief. Carol and Ed Sheahan have done a terrific job every year of organizing our members for the walk. Once again this year they will be enlisting your help to walk along with Pat and Dale Whipple. If you would like to help with organizing this endeavor speak to Carol, Ed, Pat or Dale.

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." — 1 John 3:18

Submitted by The Human Care Board

LCMS LIFE CONFERENCE

LCMS Life Conference: We Must Help the Weak (St. Titus, Acts 20:35)

A Sermon by Rev. Christopher Esget, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, VA

All life is not equal. These are the words of Mary Elizabeth Williams, in her Jan. 23 *Salon* article, “So what if abortion ends life?” Williams acknowledges the humanity of the aborted child, yet justifies the taking of life with that chilling statement, “*All life is not equal.*”

She observes that we make other judgments regarding the taking of life, such as by drone strikes, capital punishment, or allowing a patient with a terminal illness to die. But of course, the unborn babies in question are not criminals or terrorists, nor in the throes of death.

“*All life is not equal*” is the lie that upheld **slavery** for so long in this great land. “*All life is not equal*” is the lie that upholds **racism** still today. “*All life is not equal*” was the lie that drove the obliteration of **six million Jews**. “*All life is not equal*” is the lie tyrants still today employ for **ethnic cleansing**. “*All life is not equal*” is the lie told by the greatest monsters ever to arise from the race of men. “*All life is not equal*” is the lie that **the powerful have more rights than the powerless**. “*All life is not equal*” is the lie that one person’s **convenience** trumps another’s most basic human right: **the right to life**.

Williams grounds her lie in the fiction of **autonomy**:

A fetus can be a human life without having the same rights as the woman in whose body it resides. She’s the boss. Her life and what is right for her circumstances and her health should automatically trump the rights of the non-autonomous entity inside of her. Always.

Thus the innocent human child is given the status of an enemy combatant, treated worse than a terrorist held at Guantanamo Bay.

Autonomy is the devil’s lie: “You shall be as gods” is nothing other than “You shall be autonomous, you shall be a law unto yourself.” But none of us is autonomous, and none of us is viable.

God has put us into community, into church and family and state precisely so that we will learn to love our neighbor, so that we will set aside the delusion of autonomy and our selfish desires to serve our neighbor. “*None of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s*” (Rom. 14.7f). To be the Lord’s, to belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, is to love the weak, the wretched, the burdensome, the annoying, the stinking, the foolish.

That is easy in the abstract. I find it easy to come to a conference and speak generically about the value of life. Where it becomes hard, where it collides into the concrete barrier of all my selfish desires, is when I’m confronted by a man asking for money and I think, “Get a job”; when I’m confronted by a troubled person and I think, “Get a life”; when I’m confronted by a scrupulous person and think, “Get over it”; when I’m confronted by an irritating person and think, “Get away from me.”

For **I would like to be autonomous**. I want my wife to obey, I want my church to do what I say, I want my neighbors and government to get out of my way. That’s the sinful flesh, raging in me and you and our entire race.



Continued from page 14 ...

Whenever we sin against God, we declare ourselves autonomous, rebelling all over again against our Creator. And whenever we sin against our neighbor, we declare right along with the abortion lobby and every murderous tyrant, "All life is not equal," my life is more important than yours.

The world says, "*All life is not equal*," but God says, "All life I made." The devil says, "*All life is not equal*," but God says, "All life I love." The flesh says, "*All life is not equal*," but God says, "All life I desire be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth."

So through the words of St. Paul in today's first reading, the Holy Spirit calls us to repentance by saying, "***We must help the weak.***"

We must help the weak first by repenting of our selfishness.

We must help the weak by speaking for the defenseless – the unborn child, the infirm widow.

We must help the weak by giving mosquito nets to fight malaria in Africa.

We must help the weak by supporting the local crisis pregnancy center.

We must help the weak by forgiving their sins as we wish to be forgiven.

We must help the weak by welcoming the difficult, the different, the strange, the abused, the lonely into our churches.

It begins anew this morning by acknowledging that **we are weak**. Our bodies are weak, soon to die. Our souls are weak, quick to despair. Our wills are weak, quick to compromise. Our ears are weak, too eager to take in gossip. Our eyes are weak, too quick to take in impure images. Our tongues are weak, too swift to slander. Our prayers are weak, spoken without confidence.

But today, the Lord comes again to us weak men and says, "I will be your strength." He comes to the weak of body and says, "I have trampled down death by My death; I will be your life." He comes to the sinner and says, "I will be your righteousness." He comes to the anxious and says, "I will be your comfort." He comes to the fatherless and says, "My Father will be your Father."

This is what compelled Him to become incarnate. In the divine counsel of the Holy Trinity, God said, "*We must help the weak.*" And thus the Logos, the Word, made Himself weak as an infant, taking on the weakness of our mortal nature.

The Father sent His Son to the blind and said, "*We must help the weak,*" and blind Bartimaeus recovered his sight.

The Father sent His Son to the deaf and said, "*We must help the weak,*" and the deaf heard the Good News.

The Father sent His Son to the sexually impure and said, "*We must help the weak,*" and the prostitute anointing Jesus' feet with her tears became virginal again.

The Father sent His Son to the corrupt and said, "*We must help the weak,*" and Zacchaeus restored what he had defrauded and gave away his treasure.

The Father sent His Son to the rebels and said, "*We must help the weak,*" and to the penitent thief Paradise was opened.

On this festival of St Titus, the Lord again says to us, "*We must help the weak,*" and we weak men say, "This we desire, help us by Your grace."

For God has regarded all life as equal. To Him every life is precious, in Him every life has value—even us weak sinners, and the vulnerable we wish to protect.

Listen to the Apostle: "We must help the weak." Trust God who declares: 'I will help the weak.' Confess to the world, "All life is equal, even—no, *especially* the life of the weak."

THE ABORTION DEBATE 40 YEARS LATER

As many of you know Pastor and I attended the March for Life in Washington DC on Friday January, 25th. The March for Life was the precursor to the Life Conference that the Life Ministries arm of the LCMS hosted on Saturday, January 26th. Many of you also know that Pastor and I are Pro-Life. This is not, as some would believe, a political issue, but rather, as Christians, it is a Biblical issue. Further, it is difficult to deny that a fetus is a baby with the technology of 3D/4D ultrasound. Moreover, we have seen the beautiful miracle of life given to us in our children and grandchildren. The abortion debate is near and dear to us because we feel it to be of the utmost importance that we protect the unborn, as Jesus says: “and the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me’” (Matthew 25:40). The least of these is the unborn child in the womb; the least of these is the disabled individual; the least of these is the person suffering with depression; the least of these may even be you and me. So we gathered on the mall, listening to various speakers, some public figures and some private individuals, as well as clergymen from various denominations, speaking on the sanctity of human life.

The march took place on Constitution Avenue and continued to the Supreme Court Building where of course we know the Roe v. Wade ruling took place January 22, 1973. 40 years later we have 55 million victims. These 55 million victims, the unseen children that have not had the opportunity to be born, to be Baptized, to run, to play, to fall down and get a scraped knee, to be picked up and hugged by their Mommy or Daddy. I urge you to understand that this is probably an underestimation because make no mistake my dear Christian friends the victims include not just the babies but also the women that live with that “abortion decision” or as Christians the abortion sin. The sin that takes the innocent life of a child and the motherhood away from that woman and, the sin that takes away the fatherhood of a man. We sometimes forget about those “other” victims.

Some scream out: “I am pro-life, what you have done is murdered your baby!” Others shout: “It’s a child not a choice!”, and still more exclaim: “Thou shall not commit murder.” Outcries like these, sound more like the Westboro Baptist Church pietistic demonstrators than the forgiven redeemed Christian Lutherans that our Lord Jesus Christ was to His followers and to us today. This abortion sin is unfortunately the “dirty little secret” in the church that no one ever wants to discuss, most especially the woman who was put in the position to make that “decision”. We as a Christian church body have made the abortion issue the elephant in the room, as it were, that nobody wants to address. We forget that without hesitation our Lord, Jesus Christ died for ALL sin, EVERY sin, not just the little white lies, not just the bounced check, not just the cursing and swearing, but for ALL of them; the alcoholism that destroys the family, the pornography that destroys the marriage, the lies of adultery, the pre-marital sex, the drug abuse and yes the women that have had abortions. Yes, even that sin Jesus died for. He died so that you may know the utter peace and joy that you are forgiven and you get to go to heaven with Him, where you will be reunited with your baby, face to face.

As a result of our trip to Washington D.C., we are even more resolute about the Pro-Life journey than we were before. The Life Conference was filled with many speakers and highlighted our own Synod President Rev. Matthew Harrison. He proclaimed: “Jesus exudes life and joy. We are a people who have much joy over life. We see in the face of death our voices are very much needed and also our social action is very much needed to right this wrong.” And further he states: “The secret to the joy of life is acting on behalf of those who cannot act for themselves. We must act”.



(Continued on page 16)

Continued from page 15

This call to action follows the threefold mission of the LCMS: Witness, Mercy and Life Together. President Harrison quoted Galatians 2:8-10 and reminded us all that we exist to bear witness to Christ. We certainly cannot have the church without Word & Sacrament, but Jesus came to serve; God serving us and hence we should serve our neighbor, especially the “least of these”! Whatever our vocation in life, we should be witnessing to others the love of Christ and having mercy on others as Christ has mercy on us. We should also be speaking the truth in love regarding issues that are directly against God’s Word; abortion is one of those issues. As a church body we can no longer be woeful quietists on issues that are against God’s Word and that includes taking a stand with our government. The avalanche has let go as a country, our society continues to fall into various forms of debauchery. The stand you take may be in the form of your vote, it may be your dollar, it may be your ability to March for Life, but it is necessary to speak the truth in love and take a stand!

I would ask you to take a look at the stand on life that your LCMS is taking through the various websites I am providing below. I would also ask you to think about Marching for Life next year in DC. There were over 250 LCMS members at the March and Life conference. It would be wonderful to have over 1000 participants from our synod next year! There is so much more to share. Please see Pastor or myself with any comments or questions you may have regarding the March for Life and the Life Conference.

<http://www.lutheransforlife.org>

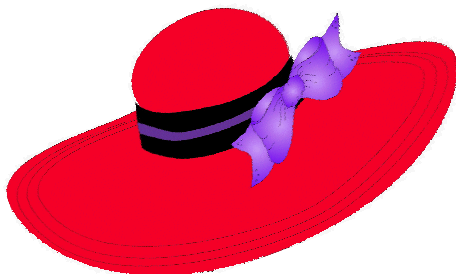
<http://www.lcms.org/page.aspx?pid=426>

<http://www.lcms.org/lutheransengage> (Lutherans Engage, Volume 1 Issue 3)

<http://witness.lcms.org/pages/witness.asp> (Lutheran Witness, January 2013).



REDEEMER RED HATS



The Redeemer Red Hats will have their luncheon on Tuesday, February 26th at 12:00 Noon at Leverocks Restaurant located at 7092 Placida Rd. in Placida. Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Reminder: The Red Hats Mini Convention at the VFW will be on Thursday February 21st at 12 Noon. This years theme is Country & Western.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

You are all very familiar with the phrase 'The Gospel in a Nutshell' right? Well, do you know where in Scripture that summarization is located? Of course! John 3:16! "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." Do you know how many Books of the Bible have a 3:16? Of the 66 Canonical Books, 17 do not have a 3:16. That means that 49 of them do. We will discover from Genesis to Revelation what God speaks to us through these 3:16 verses. But, let the reader understand, we will not take these scripture verses and let them stand alone. Some of them can't. Context is an important tool in interpreting God's holy Word. So join us on **Tuesday Mornings at 10:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall for this very interesting, yet out of the ordinary Bible Class.

THREE SIXTEEN

LADIES THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS CONTINUES

Notice the picture of this adorable baby. If money or time or age were not an issue, would you consider adopting him? Of course you would. Now can you picture in your mind what sin would look like? If you're like me, you would probably picture the most disgusting thing you could possibly imagine. So how do suppose God sees sin? Does He see sin the way we pictured sin in our minds?

God's Word clearly states, 'all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23). So if you're a sinner, do you think God sees you as an adorable little child like the one pictured here? Or do you suppose He sees you as a disgusting little creature? Fear not! God has called you out of darkness and brought you into His marvelous light. He has adopted you as His own adorable child. He loves you.

Ladies of Redeemer: Come hear and see more about how God has adopted you as His own child. Come also to hear and see how He revealed His great love for all mankind through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ.

We will once again use *GOOD NEWS* magazine as our guide through this amazing study of God's love for you and all humanity through 'ADOPTION'. Class continues on **Thursday Mornings at 10:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome to join us. You may also invite your girlfriend, sister, mother, and daughter.



MY SERENITY

There's a lot I don't appreciate. A lot I don't take into consideration. Maybe there's too much that I don't even notice at all. I tend to change myself, my preference, and my moods like it's a job. But all my life there has been one thing that has never changed for me. My love for music. My love for producing it, for playing it, for learning it. My love for opening a new book and staring at a page of musical puzzles. My love for finally conquering the difficult measures that I swore I would never get past. My love for the smiles I would see in the silence that followed my performance. And my love for the days when I was alone and played ever not flawlessly and felt completely and entirely invincible.

Music has been a part of me since I was little. Not only surrounding me, but embedded deep in my heart and soul. I would sit at the piano in my high chair and pound at the piano keys and people would "awe" at me. I grew up and asked my parents for piano lessons, not knowing they were going to make me take them regardless. I will never forget my first lesson. I learned to find my way around the keys: The low tones and the high tones, and the ones right in between. My arms stretching to discover the lowest and highest keys, but somehow finding their way there. My legs dangled off the bench leaving my feet far from the ground. This became my home. Sometimes home life gets a little stressful. A little overwhelming. Sometimes you want to leave and never look back, but you know the longer you're gone the more homesick you'll be by the end of the day.

I confess, I've cried over pieces I've gotten. I've cried over my poor performances, or my poor preparation. Sometimes, I would become sick to my stomach looking at a piano and then realizing the crowd surrounding it. There's never been a performance where I don't shake and look for the nearest exit when I know I'm next. But if anyone tries to tell you that music isn't therapeutic, just know that the minute I sit down on the bench and position myself, everything's okay. Because I'm home.

In all honesty, music is probably the most important, most reliable thing in my life. It's one thing I will never doubt, or ever question. There's been too many times that I have been at a loss for words. Days when I hate the world and I'm uneasy inside and my feelings build up until I feel like I could explode. That's when I listen to something. Anything. I can pick out the melody, and I can close my eyes and find a way to relate it to myself. I can sing words someone else wrote and feel like I'm moving the weight of the world off my shoulders. I can find a way to feel at peace with myself and my surroundings and convince myself that everything is okay. Music has found a way to describe people, places, and feelings that I've experienced, but could never find a way to express. Music has mended my broken hearts, fixed my bad days, and soothed any overwhelm or stress I had been feeling. It has the power to turn any harsh mindset I develop into a state of euphoria.

Music is the one way of universal communication. Harmonies and patterns of notes are something that every person in the world can understand. It connects all races, genders and religions. I've learned a language in which I can speak to anyone. I can touch anyone's heart and I can connect to a stranger's darkest secret with a song that may be far too familiar to me. I can brighten someone's day. I can make someone feel less alone. I can give someone something to whistle when they're lonely and losing hope.

Music isn't just a tune, or a beat that you find yourself mindlessly humming. It's the words and the patterns that you find yourself singing because you feel like someone else understands you. It's what makes you feel less alone. Music has given me confidence. The confidence of knowing that I will never spend a day in silence. It has given me one of the deepest emotions I've ever felt: 15 years of pure passion and dedication. It's given me skills, and it's given me bragging rights. It's given me something to look forward to everyday. It has influenced my heart, my body, and my soul in a way no words ever could. When I'm sad, music is my joy. When I'm lonely, music is my friend. And when I find myself wondering, music is my inspiration. Music isn't important in my life. Music *is* my life.

Written by: Kira Dykhuizen



Happy Valentines Day!

February 2013

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Tuesdays
at 3:45 PM

2/5 The
Transfiguration
Mark 8-9

2/12 The Temptation
of Jesus
Matthew 4

2/19 Jesus Seeks the
lost
Lukę 15

2/26 Jesus and
Zacchaeus
Lukę 18-19



Dear Jesus, thank You
for saying "no" to the
devil when he tempted
You. Lead me not into
temptation, but deliver
me from evil. Amen.

*Submitted by Wendy
Horvath*

Birthdays

Ariana 2/12
Ms. Lisa 2/18
Hajnalka 2/20
Cailey 2/23
Jackie 2/24
Jordan 2/28



**Congratulations on your
years of service!**

Ms. Jackie 6 years
Ms. Cherylann 3 years
Ms. Miranda 4 years

Closings

Child Care will be closed
February 18th for
Presidents' Day.



**What We Are
Learning**

2/4-2/8 How do plants
grow and change?

2/11-2/15 V is for
Valentine



2/18-2/22 How do people
grow and change?

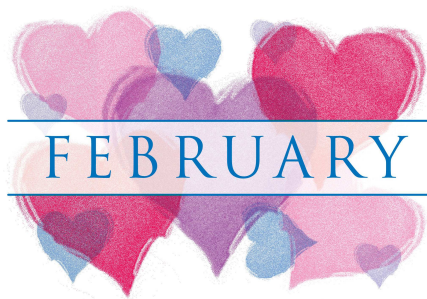
2/25-3/1 How do living
things grow and change?

**GOLF Scramble
Fundraiser**

Redeemer Lutheran Child
Care is sponsoring a
Fundraiser for the Angel
Scholarship Fund please
see flyer in this month's
newsletter or contact
Ms. Lisa at 475-2631. The
golf outing will be
Saturday, March 2, 2013
at 8 A.M.

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REV. JAMES T. KRESS, SR.

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:

November—April: 8:00 & 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.