

REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHILD CARE - NOVEMBER 2013

“LOOK! WE’RE ON THE PLAYING FIELD”

Very clearly the Apostle Paul instructs us to, “*encourage one another and build one another up*” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Why is that so difficult to do with one another? Recently I ran across a blog post that really grabbed my attention. In fact, I posted a comment to the post stating, “If the author of the post were a play-by-play announcer on the radio, his broadcast of the play was accomplished with descriptive perfection. As a listener, I heard him well and found myself on the playing field.” After reading the following article, you too may find yourself on the playing field. But, before reading the article, you may need to become familiar with Jacob and Leah.

“As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister’s son, he ran to meet him and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things, and Laban said to him, ‘Surely you are my bone and my flesh!’ And he stayed with him a month. Then Laban said to Jacob, ‘Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?’ Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, ‘I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.’ Laban said, ‘It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.’ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’ So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. And in the morning, behold, it was Leah!” (Genesis 29:13-25).

What a shock to Jacob, huh? Now that you are aware who Jacob and Leah are, here is the blog post that placed me directly on the playing field.

“In the tiny Texas town where I grew up, sleeping in on Sunday morning was as inconceivable as rooting for someone besides the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday afternoon. Going to church made the list with apple pie and Chevrolet. My dad was a deacon; my mom a Sunday School teacher; and I was the typical daydreaming boy fidgeting in the pew. Fast-forward a couple of decades, and I found myself in a job where sleeping in on Sunday was highly frowned upon since the pulpit would’ve been quite empty without me. There I was: seminary trained,

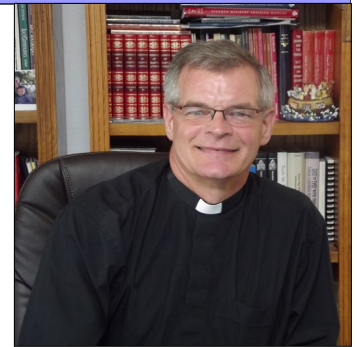
armed to the teeth with confessions and creeds, zealous to convert a world—or, at least, our Oklahoma town—to the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

Looking back at myself as that twenty-something pastor, I have to admit that

I was almost as steeped in naïveté then as I was as a twelve year old boy. Sure, I knew plenty about the church, but it was heavily freighted with the good stuff. The good stuff of the ladies’ guild cooking casseroles for grieving families, youth groups pounding hammers in Mexico to build homes for the poor, a rancher showing up on the pastor’s doorstep with half a beef from his own herd to stock the freezer. But as good and giving and beautiful as the church can be, there’s a dark side, too, that at times can be dog ugly. The day I stumbled upon a secret meeting of the church leadership and one of the elders stood up and slammed the door in my face—that comes to mind. Over the years, there were the not-so-veiled threats of violence, pastors who broke the seal of confession, bishops issuing warnings about me, and occasional rumors about me so outrageous they could have been ripped from the cover of the National Enquirer. I learned plenty through those years, the most obvious lesson being that the church can be a place that’s just as mean and nasty and royally screwed up as the world.

Like the patriarch, Jacob, who after his wedding night, awoke to the wrong wife in his bed, I too one day opened my eyes to find that the Rachel with whom I had fallen in love, for whom I’d labored long years, was not the one beside me as the sun rose. I rolled over and came face-to-face with the uncomely, undesirable, older sister. And then I had a decision to make: leave the church, or learn to love Leah.

Have you been there? Maybe you too grew up with a congregation as your second home, perhaps even served in the ministry, but later encountered within its walls



Pastor	Rev. James Kress
Seasonal Pastor	Rev. Mark Steinke
LHM Ambassador	Rev. Earl Schmidt
Child Care Director	Wendy Horvath
Office Secretary	Susan Moore
Organists	Bill Bowers Lanette Schmidt
Director of Music	Bill Bowers
Choir Director	Collins Sita
Newsletter Editor	Susan Moore
<u>OFFICERS</u>	
President	Rich Kueker
Vice President	Brian Abel
Treasurer	Judy Murphy
Secretary	Betty Clemens
<u>BOARDS</u>	
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
<u>CLUBS/GUILDS</u>	
Ladies Guild	Sally Zierdt
Men's Group	Bob Mortenson

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Time really does fly by, particularly as we get older. It is already November, the year is coming to a close, and yet much is left to do.

Where did the time go? Have any of us accomplished all we wished to do in the past year?

We had a wish list at the beginning of the year also for Redeemer.

We wanted to fill our vacancies (property management chairperson, stewardship chairperson, Sunday school teachers, committee members, etc.). We give thanks to all who stepped forward yet some of the vacancies remain. We hoped to meet our budget income goals (we will come much closer than last year), but we will fall just a little short.

Both of the above are stewardships issues. We need all of us to share with our time, talent, and/or gifts of which we are truly blessed here in our earthly paradise. Please prayerfully consider sharing of your talents and helping us meet our goals for the coming year. Working together, we can accomplish much with the Lord's help.

Enjoy Thanksgiving for we truly have much to be thankful for at Redeemer.

Rich Kueker, President



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3RD AT 2:00 AM**

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 2nd.



“LOOK! WE’RE ON THE PLAYING FIELD”

abuse or neglect or a whole host of other ills. While going through a divorce, or struggling with a sexually charged issue, you found not clasping hands of support but wagging fingers of accusation. As the shards of your broken life fell about you, when simply having a Christian show you they cared, when that alone would have meant the world to you, all you saw was the church’s back, turned away, walking the other direction. Or maybe you just slowly slipped away, skipping a Sunday here, a whole month there, and eventually never darkened the doors again, but not a single believer took the time to call or visit to reveal they missed you. You have your story, and I have mine, but all such accounts shoulder a common burden: the fellowship that is supposed to be a hospital for sinners can seem more like a religious country club, a xenophobic clique, or a horde of hypocrites. Call it what you may, it’s not been a church to you and for you. So what do you do? Do you leave or learn to love Leah, walk away from the church or stay?

I could’ve washed my hands of the whole affair and walked away. In fact, I gave serious thought to just that, and for several years, rarely planted my butt in a pew for, when I did, I could taste the bile rising up my throat. But over time, and through a whole lot of healing, re-wounding, and re-healing, I finally came to the point where I see and love Leah for what she is: **a beautifully ugly church in whose arms I encounter the God who loves beautifully ugly sinners like me.**

A beautifully ugly sinner like me—**that’s where healing has to start**, with an honest acknowledgement that there may be a slew of unattractive things about the church, but I’m no supermodel of holiness myself. Part of the way we humans deal with our grief or anger or guilt is to deflect any culpability from ourselves by blaming others for almost everything that goes wrong. And though there are important exceptions—such as the victims of sexual predators—most of us who’ve had a rocky relationship with the church must fess up to our own failings. There’s a good chance Leah finds me just as ugly as I find her. I see hypocrites in the church, but I see in my own soul times galore when I wore a mask of piety in public and a face of shame in private. I deplore how the church’s tongue can destroy a person’s reputation, **but my own tongue loves the desserts of lies and rumors and gossip more than it loves the bread of honesty.** In our society, where it seems everyone claims to be a victim, it needs to be said that we are all perpetrators ourselves. We struggle with the same faults with which we fault the church.

In addition to personal accountability, we’ve got to kill and bury any utopian daydreams we have about the church hitting the gym to tighten her glutes and getting a boob job so we have a hotter, sexier Leah. There has never been, nor will there ever be, a time when the church was flawless. Barely had Jesus ascended before the church descended into trouble. Squabbles arose, heresies spread, pastors played favorites, sexual immorality mushroomed, and hearts grew cold. In the last book of the Bible, there are letters from God to seven different churches. Although he commends those congregations for many good things, he also complains of them leaving their first love, holding to false teachers and teachings, spiritual death, and lukewarmness. And this while the church was still basking in the afterglow of the earthly ministry of Jesus! As long as there are people in the church, there will be problems, for if humanity is anything, it is problematic.

Therein is the reason I found my way (or rather, like a lost sheep, was carried) back to the church: because it’s a place pregnant with problems. **Because of those imperfections, I fit in perfectly.** If you’ve got it all together, have no struggles, live a full and happy life, free of sin, then the church is not for you. But if you struggle with selfishness, greed, lust, addiction, problem children, a cheating spouse, fear, loneliness, **or anything else** that plagues our race, **then the church is the ideal place for you.** For Leah struggles with all that crap, too. Don’t let the pretty stained glass and padded pews and vested clergy fool you; all around the church are wounded sinners wheeled about on gurneys, doctors sewing up stab victims, nurses checking IVs, and double amputees carried by the blind who are led by the mute while the deaf sing prayers for healing. The church is a messy place for messed up people who are in dire need of a God who cares.

In uncomely, undesirable, older Leah, that’s just what you’ll find: **a God who cares.** You’ll find a God who was born of an unwed teen whose neighbors likely whispered was a slut. You’ll find a God who hung out with outcasts, welcomed whores as followers, touched untouchables, called to the carpet the holier-than-thous of his day, and walked eyes wide open into the clutches of those who would torture him to death so as to save a world that really didn’t think it needed saving. **In the church you’ll encounter the God who takes all his beautiful and exchanges it for your ugly.**

And so, after a few years of growing up, maturing in a some areas, and realizing a bit more clearly what life is all about, I can now honestly say, ‘Leah, just as you are—not who I want you to be, not who others say you should be—but just as you are: I love you.’”

“LOOK! WE’RE ON THE PLAYING FIELD”

Do you find yourself on the playing field? Do you see Redeemer as your Leah? I do. Let’s be honest. Although there is a great deal of niceness among us, we need to acknowledge that we are all the same: sinners among more sinners. We are all on the same playing field.

As I began this article with a word of encouragement from the Apostle Paul, allow me to conclude this article with the concluding words of that same letter from Paul. He writes, “We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-18). Since we recognize we are all on the same field, does anyone want to play with me?

In His Service,
Pastor Kress

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



FROM THE TREASURER’S DESK

September 2013



Income
\$15,733.01

Expense
\$19,349.09



BOARD OF COMMUNITY & PARISH FELLOWSHIP

The annual Rotonda Christmas Parade is quickly approaching. This year it will be held on Saturday, December 7th. The Board of Community & Parish Fellowship would like to invite the parents and children of Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care to participate in this years parade. It is an especially joyous time for fellowship and community support. We would however ask than any children that are attending be accompanied by their parents. We want it to be a safe and fun time for everyone. Please contact Ty Schulte (941-286-4122) if you have any questions. More information to follow.

Submitted by Ty Schulte, B.C.P.F. Chairman

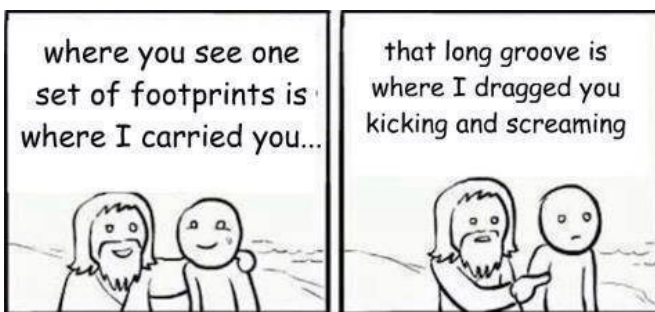
BOARD OF ASSIMILATION

The word is out!!! Pastor Kress recently announced at our Voter's Meeting that change was on the horizon for our committee. Thus making it possible for our Assimilation Board to once again focus upon our main goal of existence, that of assimilating our new members into our fold here at Redeemer.

The Board of Community & Parish Fellowship has graciously agreed to take over the Sunday Fellowship Coffee Hour under the direction of Lisa Kress. Our committee cannot even begin to properly express our gratitude in words. As stated, removal of this weekly responsibility, opens the door to our committee returning to the core and meaning of the Assimilation Board.

Assimilation members will remain on board in full support of Lisa and The Board of Community & Parish Fellowship, as they proceed forward. Often, the same volunteers have willingly served the Coffee Hour many, many times during the year, keeping our beloved fellowship time afloat. May you prayerfully consider signing up for a Sunday!! Our committee also asks for your prayers, as we begin to discuss and explore our true mission and meaning here at Redeemer.

In heartfelt appreciation,
The Assimilation Board



- Nov. 3rd: 8:00 AM – Rich & Deb Kueker
10:30 AM – Gary & Jonti Lute
- Nov. 10th: 8:00 AM – Helen Plank
10:30 AM – Tim & Catherine Byrne
- Nov. 17th: 8:00 AM – Ed & Carol Sheahan
10:30 AM – Todd & Gretchen Armstrong
- Nov. 24th: 8:00 AM – Donna Wolf
10:30 AM – Dale Whipple
- Nov. 27th: Thanksgiving Eve Service-
Rich & Deb Kueker

Submitted by Assimilation



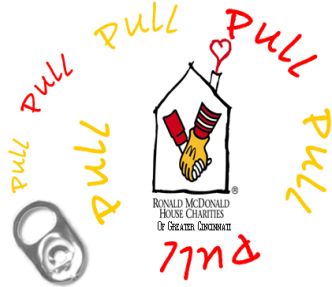
- Nov. 3rd: Dale & Pat Whipple
- Nov. 10th: Carol Carlos
- Nov. 17th: Gudrun Janke
- Nov. 24th: Laurie Steinke

Submitted by Board of Community & Parish Fellowship

PLEASE HELP!!!!

Wanted: Soda Can Tabs!!

Soda can tabs are being collected for a child who has Leukemia. The tabs will be given to The Ronald McDonald house to cash in at a recycling center. The money raised will be used to help defray the cost of treatment for the child. The tabs may be dropped off in the office. If you have any questions, please contact Jenni Dolphin or Margie Cypher.

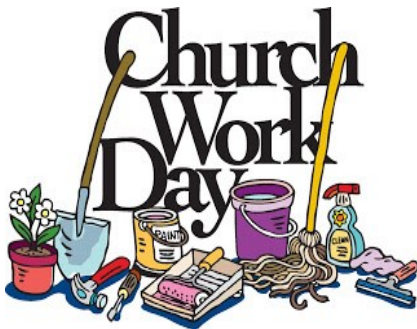


OLD INK CARTRIDGES

If anyone has any old ink or toner cartridges, rather than throw them away you can donate them to the church. By recycling of empty ink cartridges and toner cartridges, we are able to save money on purchases that are made through Staples. In this economy, every penny we can save will benefit Redeemer. There will be a box on the Visitor's table in the Narthex to drop off any that you would like to donate, or you may drop them off to Susan in the office during the week. Thank you!
Submitted by Susan Moore, Church Secretary



PROPERTY APPRECIATION DAY



Please join us for our next monthly "Property Appreciation" Day on the second Saturday of the month, November 9th!!! We begin at 8:00 AM and continue until the last person has to go for the day. Join us in keeping our buildings and properties beautiful. There's a little something to do for anyone who is willing to help... We would like to thank everyone for all their hard work each month. THANKYOU!

Submitted by The Board of Property Management

LOST AND FOUND

If anyone is missing any items, namely eyeglasses, gloves, umbrellas, etc., please check the Lost & Found box located in the narthex. There are quite a few items there at this time. Any items remaining there as of November 10th can be picked up in the Church Office.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

PRESENT: Pastor Kress, Rich Kueker, Brian Abel, Tim Byrne, Karen Kirkland, Deb Kueker, Carol Carlos, Pam Replinger, Bill Bowers, Betty Clemens

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Rich Kueker.

Pastor Kress opened the meeting with prayer.

MINUTES of the August 12, 2013 meeting were presented. PAM MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. BILL SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

CALENDAR for October was presented. Following changes were made: Human Care Meeting was changed from October 2nd to October 9th. Ladies Guild/LWML Meeting was added on October 2nd at 12:30.

REPORTS

PASTOR: Report attached.

PRESIDENT: No Report

VICE PRESIDENT: Brian said he would prefer to make his presentation when he has all the bids. Some expire by the end of the month and he asked if the Council could make their decision by email if necessary. Rich said this would be OK. We may be getting a grant from Thrivent matching dollars which could amount from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

BOARD OF ELDERS: No Report. Tim said the School Security Committee will be meeting tomorrow.

TREASURER: Report attached. All bills were paid without borrowing any funds.

HUMAN CARE BOARD: Report Attached

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: No Report. Rich Kueker has replaced all thermostats have been replaced. The rebate by using a credit card will pay for half of the cost.

YOUTH: No Report.

ASSIMILATION: No Report. They will resume their meetings in October.

COMMUNITY & PARISH FELLOWSHIP: No Report. Ice Cream Social was not well attended. Next time consider better promotion.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Report attached.

SCHOOL BOARD: Report attached. A quote was received from Regional Carpet Cleaning for \$1,165 for the Child Care and \$1,730 for the Fellowship Hall. They said it would take 3 days to complete the Fellowship Hall. The bid will be held until Bill finds out why it would take so long.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Regarding the sound system, Pastor is waiting for a quote. One option would be to replace the system at church and move that system over to the Fellowship Hall.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bill asked if anyone had a dolly or flat bed trailer to switch pianos between the one in church and one in the Fellowship Hall. He will check True Value Rentals.
- Pastor said the computers and software need to be updated and they are in the process of getting quotes from Lemon Bay Computers and Nick Baltimore. The cost will be between \$3,000 to \$4,000. No decisions will be made without Council approval. Converting of the Files should be included in the quote.
- CAROL MADE A MOTION THAT TWO QUOTES BE OBTAINED FOR NEW COMPUTERS AND SOFTWARE. PAM SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

PAM MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. BRIAN SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 with the singing the Doxology.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Clemens, Congressional. Secretary

PRAYERS



Whatever the need,
take it to the
CROSS!
Praying
for
you!

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

HEALING: Members: Carl Bertka, Elma Cancellieri, George Dykhuizen, Fred Fernald, Sharon Harris, Bernice Heppner, Erwin Janke, Peg Leverenz, Sandi McGrath, Marilyn Melcher, James Moore, Marlene Mossner, Stacy Neef, Helen Perry, Pat Petersen, Carolyn Plesner, Ron Ratzlaff, Michael Sanders, Judy Scarangella, Duwayne Schoeneck, Sandy Sita, Marie Talley, Fred Toth, Inge Tringali, Arlene Wiley, and Ronald Woller.

Friends & Relatives: Linny Aspery, Jean Bajner, Gioconda Barlow, Shirley Bloom, Grace Blum, Dennis Burchell, Georgia Bush, Jack & Cathy Carlos, Debbie Carr, Esther Clapham, Bobbett Clark, Wayne Coulter, Martin Cressman,

Renee Dempsey, Irene DiTommaso, James Dodge, Barb Dumeah, Chuck & Barbara Ebert, Maggie Edberg, Manual Galan, Glenn Galway, Nancy Gleis, Debbie Harrison, John Haupt, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Judy Hein, Joel Heppner, Walter Heppner, Glory Herget, Robin Hincman, David Hirtle, Larry Hladun, Tom Holt, John Hunter, Linda Hunter, Stanley & Lynne Jablonski, Carl Jennejahn, Heather Johnson, Betty Kabert, Rachel Kagay, John Kearns, Jackie Klinger, Mary Krueger, Jim Lane, Ray Likowski, Denise Line, Don Luffingwell, Sean Maki, Family & Friends of Elsie Malecki, Joe Manson, Pete Mogg, Linda Mohr, Mike Morrissey, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Rev. Dana Narring, Darwin & Noreen Oliver, Charles Pentecost Jr., Mary Raines, Jean Prior, Tucker Robert, Doris Rudewicz, Cookie Schneider, Ty Schulte's mother, Ryan Sheahan, Nancy Sly, Debbie Speer Smith, Virginia Stanley, Gary Stokes, Mary Temple, Charles Tolley, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, George Vespa, Pat Vovcsko, Caitlin Wagner, Steven Walker, Helen Weishaar, Gordan Winkel, Reece Withers, Angel Zavala.

Military Personnel: Mark Baranowsky, Michael Broughton, Brian Jackson, Joshua Jones, Brett Keck, David MacLeod, Michael Monson, Charles D. Weishaar.

Pastor and members of the church are always willing to pray for you, family members and friends. If a loved one appears on our prayer list above, please call Pastor or the church office to give us a health update so that we may either keep or remove their name. Thank you.



ENGLEWOOD HELPING HANDS

Remember, the last Sunday of every month is the Ladies Guild sponsored food drive. Sally Zierdt made the suggestion that if each of us donate one item, we can make a difference. For monetary donations, checks made out to Helping Hands is preferred.

Food donations have improved. I started weighing donations-starting 9-29-13 to 10-13-13. Total weight for the three weeks is 618 pounds. This is very impressive. I will keep you updated as to the progress we are making. Submitted by Dale & Pat Whipple



“CAN YOU GUESS WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE?”

Welcome to my “Guess Who This Is” section. If you would like to be a part of this, please submit a childhood photo to me either by email or by dropping by the office so that I may make a copy of it. So, for Round 5....Guess Who????!!! Can you figure out who each of these people are? The first person to correctly give me the answer for all three will win a prize!!! Good Luck!! Answers will appear next month.

Submitted by Susan Moore, Church Secretary



Last month’s pictures were (listed in order): Lisa Vassallo, Pat Petersen, & Robert Boliere. How did you do?

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

Sales—Rentals

Pineapple Gulf Properties—Glenda McDorman, Owner/Broker (Lessie Kirch’s Daughter), 350 S. Indiana Road Englewood, FL 34223.
Office: 941-473-0300, Cell: 941-330-7922.

Cleaning Services

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

Lawn Care

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

Construction

Call Rob Long! A.C.S., Inc. - Licensed General Contractor - Anything from full remodels, full lanai’s, window and door installation and ALL phases of construction. State certified licensed and insured. Please call for a free estimate at 941-475-5008 or 941-232-6606!

Real Estate

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



Lutheran Women in Mission

The Ladies Guild will meet November 6th at 12:30 PM for dessert followed with the program at 1:00 PM. We have a special speaker, Don Schilke who will be speaking on Indian Mound Park of Englewood. Husbands and or friends are invited to hear this special presentation. We would like to have a great attendance to support Don in his presentation. The business meeting will follow the program.

LWML FALL RALLY- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16th AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, PUNTA GORDA

If you have never attended a Rally, here is an opportunity to enjoy fellowship with many sisters in Christ from various congregations doing the Lord's work. The schedule begins with Registration and Refreshments from 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM followed by a Worship Service with Communion. After a short business meeting lunch will be served. A Bible Study presentation given by Naomi Weslock entitled "Run for Your Life" will be next. Naomi is a supporter of Exodus World Service. Come and learn all about this ministry and more. The registration fee of \$7.00 includes lunch and can be given to Betty Clemens or Avis Stuck by the November 3rd deadline. What better way to spend your time but by being inspired by fellow Christians dedicated to the promotion of mission work. You will not have to drive. Let's get a bus load of ladies together to represent our church. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex.



REDEEMER CARING NETWORK

The Caring Network seems to be slipping by the way side. We, presently, have 19 groups which covers the membership of our congregation. I know some leaders have been ill and others are up North or on vacation. It is very important for us to help those in need. To be a Network leader is not a BIG job. All one has to do is keep track of the members on his or her list to do the following: just say hello, send a card when ill or a special occasion, etc. Maybe they need a ride or maybe one just needs to know we care. We have a list of volunteers who will help with sitting, meals, transportation, things of this sort. One does not have to all the previous things themselves, but just see that they are taken care of. Many people in our congregation live alone and will not call asking for help. This is one of the reasons we have this network program, to keep check and see if there is need. One good thing is to read the bulletin for the names on your list. Some just need a phone call and prayer. We have so many elderly, it is difficult for the Pastor to keep up with all the needs and that is when we as leaders can help. If you are presently a leader, I will be calling you to check in and see how things are going. We are in need of some new leaders since some are ill or have moved. If you would like to be a leader or have questions, please call me, Lessie Kirch (941) 475-3689. We are thanking you in advance and hope that you will prayerfully consider being a leader. Thanks!



Submitted by Lessie Kirch

SINGLES LUNCHEON

The Singles lunch will be on Tuesday, November 12th at 11:30 AM at **Mama's Restaurant**, 2091 S. McCall Rd., Englewood. Sign up sheet is on the Visitor's table in the Narthex. Please sign up no later than Sunday, November 10th.

Submitted by Lessie Kirch



GIRL SCOUT-DAISIES

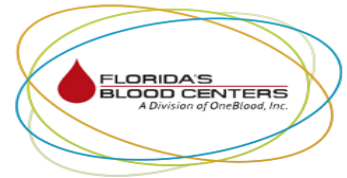
A group of Girl Scout Daisies are meeting every Tuesday from 4:30-5:30 here at Redeemer in the small meeting room of Fellowship Hall. What is a Girl Scout Daisy? Daisies are girls in K-1st Grade. They go on trips, learn about nature and science, and explore the arts and their communities. Girl Scout Daisies can also earn Learning Petals and receive participation patches. Mrs. Melinda Ireland is the leader of this patch of Daisies. If you have a little girl in kindergarten or 1st grade please consider coming on Tuesday afternoon for a wonderful and rewarding experience.



HUMAN CARE

BIG RED BUS BLOOD DRIVE

In 2012, 55 units of blood was collected; and in 2013, 85 units have been collected. The BIG RED BUS will be here again on DECEMBER 7TH from 8:30 AM-11:30 AM. This will be our last collection for the year. The following dates are for 2014: February 2, April 6, June 1, August 3, October 5, and December 5. Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar!!



RELAY FOR LIFE



Relay for Life is a 14 hour journey providing the light of day and dark of night to parallel the physical effects, emotions and mental state of a cancer patient while undergoing treatment. When Relay begins it is bright and sunny and a lot of energy flows through the community. The setting sun symbolizes when a patient is diagnosed with cancer. As the day gets darker this represents the cancer patients state of mind as he or she feels that life is an unknown journey. The evening gets cooler and darker just as the cancer patients emotions. Around 1:00 AM to 2:00 AM the Relay participants feels tired and wants to take a break or go home. This is when the cancer patients treatment begins. The patient becomes exhausted, some sick, not wanting to go on, possibly wanting to give up. Just as the cancer patient cannot give up on the treatment, Relay participants push through this phase to show unity with cancer patients around the world. By 4:00 AM to 5:00 AM the Relayers are truly exhausted, but the end is in sight and they believe they can make it to the morning celebration. This symbolizes the coming of the end of the treatment for the cancer patient who is tired, but now has hope and motivation to push through to the end of treatment. The sun rising represents the end of the treatment for the cancer patient. They see the light at the end of the tunnel and know life will go on. The morning light brings a new full day of life and excitement for new beginnings for the cancer patient. As a participant, you will feel the brightness of the morning and know that the end of the Relay is close at hand. You will feel triumphant in the knowledge that you, one person, has made an impact in the fight against cancer. When you leave Relay, think of the cancer patient leaving his or last treatment. Just as you are exhausted and weak, so is that person after treatment. But a new day has arrived and we are continuing to take up the fight against cancer. REMEMBER: THERE IS NO FINISH LINE UNTIL WE FIND A CURE!! To participate, talk to Nancy Kozak (941) 697-1165 or Carol Carlos (941) 255-3354.

STEWARDSHIP

“Where Is Your Treasure”

“Where your treasure is there your heart will be also” (Luke 12:34). Notice that our Lord does not say: Where your heart is there your treasure will be also. He says the exact opposite. Hearts follow treasure, not treasure follow hearts. And this raises a question: where is your treasure?

In other words, what do you do with your money? A quick glance through your check register will tell you. It reveals where your heart is. So, where is your heart? What do you find? If you’re honest, it will reveal two things. First, that your heart is *not* where it should be; and second, that you’re heart is where it should be. You ask: How can this be? How can it be both? Isn’t this a logical contradiction?

No. Because your heart is not to be in one place only. “Consider your station in life according to the Ten Commandments” This we all know from the fifth chief part in Luther’s *Small Catechism* on Confession. Our station is our vocation. What is our station, our vocation, in life according to the Ten Commandments? Luther makes a list, but this list can be stated more generally under three categories: the Family, the State, and the Church. We have a vocation as a member of our family, of the state or society, and of the church. Vocation sets forth our relationship to those around us. Some are members of our family. Some are members of our community in society, the state. And some are members of the church, God’s own family. This is

where your heart should be. It should be with your family, your state, and your church. And since hearts follow treasures, this is where your treasure should be. So “consider your station in life according to the Ten Commandments.” Consider your vocation. You are a member of a family. You are a member of society. You are a member of the church, God’s own family. And so

you give your treasure to those who are placed under care according to your vocation. You give to your family to provide for them because God has ordered your life to be in service to the members of your family. You give to the state to provide for them because God has ordered your life to be in service to those who are fellow members of the state. You give to the church to provide for

them because God has ordered your life to be in service to those who are fellow members of the Body of Christ, God’s own family.

We are beneficiaries of God’s generosity in the family, the state, and the church. This, we confess in the Apostles’ Creed as we learned it from the meanings in the *Small Catechism*. We have received from God, out of his divine goodness and mercy, from his rich and daily providence, all that we need for this body and life, and all that we need for the life that is yet to come. God gives; we receive. And because we have received what He has given so richly, we can’t not help but give in like measure. This is where your treasures go. And as our Lord promises, your heart shall follow.

The Board of Stewardship



REDEEMER RED HATS



The Redeemer Red Hats will have their luncheon on Tuesday, November 26th at 12:00 Noon. Please see the sign up sheet in the Narthex for more information.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Wow! I Didn't Know That!-LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund) Pondering Points

Did you know :

- *that LCEF was started over 100 years ago?
- *that less than 5% of LCMS members are investors with LCEF?
- *that LCEF benefits Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregations, workers, and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) of the LCMS?
- *that LCEF offers many different investment options with competitive interest rates?
- *that LCEF has helped Redeemer Lutheran Church and Child Care grow and expand?
- *that even you can help expand ministry opportunities within our synod and congregation with just a small investment?

LCEF has a strong history of providing investment opportunities while providing services and loans to congregations and workers. Ministry is able to expand with the money that is loaned. With the many different investment options to choose from, you are not limited to a "one size fits all" investment.

We all have investments, or have thought about having them. When we choose to invest in companies other than LCEF, we never really know where our money is going. With LCEF, you can rest assured that your money will always be working to further mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, both near and far. Your investment will fund loans and services that are available to congregations, church workers, and RSOs of the LCMS.

Please see the LCEF display in the narthex or talk to me, your LCEF congregational representative. I will answer any questions you might have regarding investing in LCEF. Prayerfully consider becoming an investor with Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Steinke



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry



Coffee Hour

What a wonderful way to have fellowship before and after church! We look forward to meeting new friends that visit and catch up with Northern friends that have returned to sunny Florida! If you would like the opportunity to provide treats one Sunday in December please sign up in the Narthex, give me a call, or e-mail. If you have questions about what is

involved in coffee hour please give me a call or an e-mail. The members of Redeemer truly appreciate the treats provided and the fellowship offered on Sunday morning! Lisa Kress 941-889-8938 or kresslisa@yahoo.com

LEMON BAY HIGH SCHOOL MANTA RAYS HOMECOMING WEEK

Redeemer Lutheran Church & Child Care are proud to report that Billy Ruccatano and Morgan Ervin (pictured here), were members of the Lemon Bay High School Homecoming Court. During the half-time of the varsity football game Billy was announced Homecoming King. Although Morgan was not crowned queen, you can see she is a beautiful young lady. However, it is not known whether these two are dating. Billy is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, as are his mom and dad, Lisa & Rick Vassallo. Morgan is a teacher at Redeemer Child Care. She is in her second year working wonderfully with the afterschool kids and in the other classrooms. Congratulations to you both and especially to Billy the King.



Also during Homecoming week, the Junior Class (pictured here), were declared champions in a highly competitive Lip Sync Contest. After performing at the opening competition on Tuesday night, the Juniors qualified to move on to the next round on Friday afternoon. The talented Juniors not only prepared one routine, but two lip sync routines. As they did in the first round they achieved in the final round, a championship performance. These young men and ladies practice vigorously for weeks at various places. One of those places was Redeemer Lutheran Church. Pastor Kress received an email asking if Redeemer would be able to provide space in order for their group of Juniors to practice. During the months of September and October, Redeemer was one home for these Juniors to practice and excel. It was an honor to open our doors to provide these energetic students with the opportunity to prepare and perform well. Congratulations Juniors on your outstanding achievement.

LADIES THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

The picture here represents the feeling many people, maybe even you, as we struggle with the basic questions of life.

- **Why was I born?**
- **Why is my life so meaningless?**
- **Why do I experience so much inner conflict in my life?**

You may also have experienced the inner conflict of trying to lead a decent life, but you fail constantly (Romans 7:9). Why are many people – even Christians – afflicted with deep inner struggles? This Bible Class will help you find answers, not in the wisdom of man, but in the cleansing, hope-giving, and living Word of God.

Ladies of Redeemer: Come and learn of God's abundant mercy for you. God has answers of hope to your questions of struggle and despair. "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

We will once again use *GOOD NEWS* magazine as our guide through this amazing study of God's victory over 'THE POWER OF SIN' through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let our Divine Physician, Jesus diagnose the causes of frustration in your life. Join us on **Thursday at 10:00 AM** in the large meeting room in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome to join us. You may also invite your girlfriend, sister, mother, or daughter.



WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT . . . ?

Tuesday morning Bible Class at 10:00 AM continues with another exciting topic of study: "What Does God Say About . . . ?" An ellipsis (three dots) is intentionally placed at the end of the question to indicate that we will examine what God's Word says concerning almost any concern (question) you may have. Some of the questions we will consider at the onset will be what God says about same-sex marriage, the sanctity of life, the end times, Bible prophecy, etc. Certainly these are some 'hot topics' but just as the average Lutheran layman today may not know any Latin, he probably knows what the phrase 'sola Scriptura' (Scripture alone) means. It means that we Lutherans base our theology, our teaching, the doctrines of the church solely on the Scriptures of God and nothing else, not tradition, not human speculation, not modern scholarship, not our experiences, our feelings, or our emotions, or anything else. Sola Scriptura is a watchword, a guide for action, for every true Lutheran, pastor or layman.

This was the position and practice of Luther and our Lutheran Confessions. "The Word of God is and should remain the sole rule and norm of all doctrine" (FC SD, Rule and Norm, 9). "We pledge ourselves to the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments as the pure and clear fountain of Israel, which is the only true norm according to which all teachers and teachings are to be judged" (FC SD, Rule and Norm, 3). This is the spirit in which our great Lutheran Confessions speak. Everything we need to believe and do as Christians is told us in the Scriptures. In other words, what God has to say about this or that issue. Just as our Lord Jesus was a man of one Book and drew all His teaching from that One Divine source and submitted Himself to it utterly in all He said and did, so we too who are His disciples today place ourselves joyfully under that prophetic and apostolic Word. And with our Lutheran Confessions we say: "No human being's writings dare be put on a par with it, but . . . everything must be subjected to it" (FC SD, Rule and Norm, 9). So come join us **Tuesdays at 10:00 AM** in the small meeting room in Fellowship Hall and discover "What Does God Say About . . . ?"



Bible Studies



THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR FAMILY AT REDEEMER: WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE AND LOVE TO PASTOR KRESS, ALL THE CARDS AND PHONE CALL IN THE RECENT DEATH OF OUR BELOVED SON MICHAEL, AND TO STEPHEN MINISTRIES FOR THE HELPFUL PAMPHLET ON GRIEF. IT CERTAINLY HELPED TO EASE SOME OF THE DOUBTS AND STRESS IN OUR LOSS.

*GOD IS GOOD IN CHRISTIAN LOVE,
BOB & NEVA ALDENE*

THANKS

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR THE CARDS AND ALL THE VISITS. I ALSO WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS TOO.

INGE TRINGALI



KID SPOT

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

19 21 4 18 3 2 22 22 9 26 19 21 4 3 22 2 10 25 19 21 4

— — — — — — — — — — , — — — — — — — — — —

20 1 5 9 4 3 22 20 2 1 1 17 23 19 19 21 4 9 5 3 25

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

5 20 5 23 3 1 5 3 25 22 19 2 10 25 22

— — — — — — — — — —

20 5 3 4 13 4 3 *Isaiah 40:8*

Solution: The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our Lord stands forever.



From the Child Care

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Tuesdays
at 3:45 PM

11/5 The Tabernacle Is
Build

Exodus 35-36

11/12 Gideon Wins the
Battle

Judges 7

11/19 David, the singing
Shepherd

1 Samuel 16; Psalm 23

11/26 God Loves Naomi
and Ruth

The Book of Ruth



Lord,
You helped Gideon lead
Your people to love and
trust in You. Forgive
me when I do wrong.
Lead me to love and
trust in You too.
Amen.

Birthdays

Gunner 11/11

Braeden 11/13

Nolan 11/14

Allison 11/16

Mykalina 11/26

Ms. Wendy 11/28



Big Thank You!

Thanks to all who
participated at our Fall
Festival. You are a
Blessing.

Closed

November 28th & 29th



What We Are Learning

11/4 God's People
Worship in God's House
Theme: Worship

11/11 God Gives Us
Confidence to Trust
His Plans

Theme: Music

11/18 God's Presence
Gives Us Peace

Theme: Music

11/25 Our Caring God
Is in Control

Theme: Thanksgiving



GOBBLE, GOBBLE!

Welcome to
Redeemer Child
Care

Emma, Rose and Tucker

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & CHILD CARE
6970 Mineola Road
Englewood, FL 34224

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED-OPTION 1

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PLACIDA, FL
PERMIT 774



REDEEMER LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILD CARE
6465 Mayport Street
Englewood, FL 34224

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.

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.