



## THE SOUND OF ADVENT: *HE IS COMING!*

The beginning of a new church year is here and with it the sound of God's promise: "He is coming!"

The church year begins with a preparatory season called "Advent." The word "advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "appearing" or "coming," referring to the appearing of a great king or even a god. In Christian usage, it refers to the appearing of Jesus Christ in two ways; first His appearing as the Child born of the Virgin Mary and second, His appearing in glory on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead. You see, Advent isn't only about getting ready for Christmas. It's also about getting ready for Jesus' final appearing in glory on the Last Day.

We live in the last days, between Christ's first and second appearances. He is always present with us, and always has been since the beginning. His presence is made audible and visible to us by the Spirit through the preached Word and the Sacraments. Only briefly did the Son of God show His face some 2000 years ago. Only at the end will we see His face again when He appears in glory. Until then, we watch and wait for His second advent even as we celebrate His first.

St. Bernard of Clairveaux (1090-1153) wrote the following concerning the coming of Christ: "In the first coming, Christ comes in the flesh and in weakness; in the second, He comes in Spirit and power; in the third, He comes in glory and majesty; and the second coming is the means whereby we pass from the first to the third."

Advent has four distinct Sundays themed by the readings from the holy Gospel:

The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent focuses on Christ's appearing in glory with the image of His triumphal ride into Jerusalem as the messianic King (Luke 19:28-40).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday brings John the Baptizer's prophetic voice calling Israel out to the wilderness to "prepare the way of the Lord" (Luke 3:1-14).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday again focuses on John the Baptizer, this time on the content of his preaching of repentance and his greatness as the forerunner of the Messiah (Luke 7:18-28).

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday brings to light the attitude of worship when the incarnate Christ contained in the womb of the Virgin Mary, enters Elizabeth's house and John the Baptist leaps in joyful faith while in his mother's womb (Luke 1:39-45).

Advent is a season of quiet anticipation and expectation. The One who once came in humility by way of Bethlehem's manger, David's donkey, and Calvary's cross, is the who now comes to us hidden in His holy Word and the blessed Sacrament of His body and blood, and will soon come visibly in radiant glory to raise the dead and give eternal life to all who call on His Name. The tone of Advent is joyful anticipation, a mixture of holy fear and expectant joy, like that of a mother-to-be awaiting the arrival of her first baby.

Advent is a time of sober patience. Sadly, our instant gratification culture seems to have had more influence on the Church than the Church has had on the surrounding culture. Advent has been gobbled up by the frenzy of the "holidays," which now begin after Halloween! By the time Christmas arrives, most are too weary to worship and too burned out from decking the halls to celebrate the birth of the world's Savior with any degree of joy much less energy. Remember, Christmas is a twelve day feast, *beginning* on December 25<sup>th</sup>. In celebrating Advent in all its somber, sober watchfulness, we Christians can give a priceless gift to each other and to the world by showing the patient hope we have in Jesus' coming.

The season has its own peculiar customs and traditions. One cherished tradition is the Advent wreath. This evergreen wreath with four candles is a tradition from northern Europe. Each candle stands for one of the four Sundays in Advent. The first candle, or the Prophet Candle, symbolizes the hope and anticipation of Christ's coming in the flesh as prophesied so many places in the Old Testament. The second candle recalls how Christ appeared in the flesh in humble manner, being born of a virgin in the insignificant village of Bethlehem. This is why this candle is often referred to as the Bethlehem Candle. The third candle, pink in color, is known as the Shepherds' Candle. It recalls the rejoicing of the shepherds when they departed after having seen the Christ-child in the stable. The fourth candle is the Angels' Candle. It reminds us of the heavenly host that announced the good news of our Savior's birth.



(Continued on Page 8)

REDEEMER LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

Pastor Rev. James Kress

Office Secretary Jennifer Steele

Organists Doris Dykhuizen  
Bill Bowers

**OFFICERS**

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Vice President Ed Sheahan

Treasurer Leta Stender

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School Board Bill Bowers

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Youth Jim Wright  
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Finance Sec'y. Karen Kirkland

Newsletter Editor Leta Stender

**CLUBS/GUILDS**

Ladies Guild Carol Sheahan

Men's Group Bob Mortenson

Red Hat Society Sandra Distasio

Christian Support Group

# President's Corner



The President's Corner

It is great to see so many new members joining us, and our Northern members beginning to start to return to church. It seems the church is slowly steadily beginning to look a lot fuller. Our pastor continues to be the great Shepard we expected, and although we are not without our share of challenges, things are moving forward at a smooth, steady pace.

The Talent Show has come and gone for another year. It was a great time, and we have some very talented individuals in our congregation. It was nice to see some new faces as well as some favorites from past years. Everyone had a good time of entertainment and fellowship.

The Elders, Council, and I have heard from several of you on the idea of going to one service sometime next year. Since this will affect all of us, it is important that everyone has a say, and makes their opinions known. This is a major decision and your church leadership wants to be sure we are all on the same page BEFORE we make any changes.

As we enter the Advent season please consider serving as an Usher, with this many services we will need plenty of extra help. Contact Tommy Kirkland, and he can answer any questions and sign you up.

The Child Care has been blessed with over 75 children, and as a result will be adding some staff and promoting Lisa to Assistant to help Wendy with some of the administrative duties. We did have a problem that you all need to be aware of. One of our teachers was reported to the Department of Child Services, and after an investigation the Child Care has been placed on probation for a period of two years. Wendy and the School Board met in a Special meeting and after much discussion, and reviewing the employee's employment file, it was the decision of the Board to lay off the employee. We are looking into this situation to see if there is any appeal process to reduce or reverse the probation decision. While I am saddened by this, I want to let you know that Wendy handled this with great professionalism, and continues to have the full support of the School Board. This was a setback, but was promptly dealt with and we will continue to grow and move forward.

See you in Church!

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

*Ron Beaber*

## Newsletter Deadline

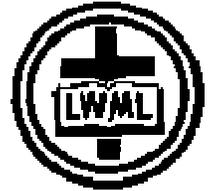


The deadline for submission of articles for January is **Sunday, December 27th by 6 p.m.** If you have an article you would like to submit for the newsletter, either e-mail it to [letastender@gmail.com](mailto:letastender@gmail.com) or place it in the newsletter box in the church office. Articles received after December 27th will be held for the February, 2010 newsletter.

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

Leta Stender

## Ladies Guild



A special thank you to Vicky Davis for planning & making the LWML Rally such a success. It was a wonderful day for inspiration and for affiliation with one another in fellowship. We had a good attendance and three guest pastors. Bible study was led by Pastor Andrew Toopes -- the Sarasota Zone LWML Counselor.

McKenna Heldenbrand gave a report & a film presentation on the Jamaican Mission. The Mission offering was \$941.00 which has been sent to the Fellowship of Christian Farmers. We are so grateful to the Lord for the generosity of everyone. A big thank you to the ladies who prepared the food and to the servers, ushers and clean up crew.

The Ladies Guild Christmas Party and Luncheon is Dec. 11th at 11:30 at the Rotonda Hills Country Club. The cost is \$15.00 and that includes tax & gratuity. We will also be singing Christmas Carols. Come join us and bring a friend.

Advent Services begins Dec. 2nd. Suppers are being planned.

There will be no Ladies Guild meeting in December due to the many activities.

*Submitted by Linda Rogers, Ladies Guild Vice President*

## A Christmas Invite

*Please join Pastor and Lisa for a Christmas Celebration!* You are all cordially invited to our home for Christmas Eve immediately following the 7:00 PM service. We look forward to celebrating the Savior's birth with our Redeemer family and friends! Please bring your favorite drink to share and we will provide lots of light hors d'oeuvres, appetizers and sweet treats! Our home is located 14118 Appleton Blvd. Port Charlotte, FL 33981. Please RSVP by 12/16/2009. We look forward to enjoying your company!



*Submitted by Lisa Kress*

# Assimilation

**Pictorial Directory:** The Assimilation Committee will be assisting in a Pictorial Directory for the church. This directory will be done "in-house" and at no cost to members and does not include any "sales pitches". Those who can are asked to have their pictures taken in the Fellowship Hall. The committee requests that all who can, have their pictures taken in January so the directory will be available by Easter.

DATE		LOCATION		LOCATION
Sunday, Jan 17	After 8:00	Narthex	Before & After 10:30	Narthex & Fellowship Hall
Sunday, Jan 24	After 8:00	Narthex	Before & After 10:30	Narthex & Fellowship Hall
<u>Saturday</u> , Feb 6	9:00-11:00 am	Fellowship Hall		
Sunday, Feb 21	After 8:00	Narthex	Before & After 10:30	Narthex & Fellowship Hall

**"Hanging of the Greens":** will be held on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Come and help decorate the church for the Christmas season.

**Church Directory:** Please submit any corrections or additions of names, addresses, phone and cell phone numbers, or e-mails directly to the church secretary, Ms. Jennifer Steele.

*Submitted by Barbara Bishop, Assimilation Secretary*

## Poinsettias

Red poinsettias to help beautify our church for "Christmas" may be purchased for \$7.00 per plant. You may include the cost with your weekly contribution envelope. Write "Poinsettia" on the line below Child Care. When paying by check, make check payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church and write Poinsettias in note field. Sign-up sheet is on the desk in the Narthex. Orders must be in by December 20th. You are welcome to take your plant home after the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service or the 9:15 a.m. Christmas Day Service to enjoy at home during the Christmas Season.



## FLOWER CHART



To honor a memory, birthday, anniversary, or special occasion with altar flowers:

1. Place the name & reason on the proper date line.
2. Call the church office if special wording is desired in the bulletin.
3. You may have the flowers after the second service or advise the office in advance that they be taken to a shut in. (We ask that all vases be returned to Redeemer.)
4. To make the payment of \$25, write "Altar Flowers" on the line below "Child Care" on the appropriate weekly offering envelope.

There is a new FLOWER CHART in the Narthex.

*Submitted by Avis Stuck, Altar Guild*

# Stewardship

Gratitude for God's Blessings, December, 2009



"And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus..." is the way Luke's account of the Christmas story begins in chapter two (KJV). That decree caused Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem, the city of David, where Jesus was born according to ancient prophecy. God's timing is perfect as He carries out His will. Galatians 4:4-5 reads, "*But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.*" (NIV)

God's promises are true and find their "amen" in Jesus. Throughout the Old Testament God inspired His prophets to write down many promises of a Savior. The faithful people of God believed His promises and were saved by that faith even though they had not seen the Savior with their own eyes. They lived before Christmas and we live after Christmas. We also have not seen Jesus with our own eyes and yet, by the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, we believe that on that first Christmas Christ took on Himself our human form, kept the law perfectly for us, preached the good news of salvation, performed countless miracles and then offered Himself up as the precious Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, ours included!

Christmas is a very joyous occasion as we celebrate our Lord's first coming into the world but we also know that the shadow of the cross already hovered over the manger where the baby Jesus was laid. He was born to die in our place so that the door to heaven will be open to us and all who believe in Him as our only true Lord and Savior.

As Christian stewards we live in the light of the Gospel and freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. God offered up His best for us and in response we strive to offer our best to Him. During this joyful Christmas season we have many opportunities to show our love for God by showing love to all the neighbors He has placed around us, especially those who have special needs of body, soul and spirit. May God help us to use our gifts of time, talents, skills and financial resources to His glory and the welfare of those around us. May He especially help us to be like the shepherds and spread the good news of salvation in Christ alone!

For lo, the days have come to pass  
 By prophets seen of old,  
 When down into the circling years  
 Came Christ as was foretold.  
 His word of peace shall to the earth  
 God's ancient promise bring,  
 And all who take this gift will hear  
 The song the angels sing.  
 (LSB, 366, verse 4)

Joseph Friess, Stewardship Chairman

Ushers are always needed. Plan ahead and call Tom Kirkland (941) 474-6407 and let him know the dates and service times (8 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.) you could help. Unsure of being an usher?—call Tom and he will do a walk through with you of the usher's duties.

Submitted by Tom Kirkland



# Stephen Ministry



The name Stephen comes from St. Stephen, who was the first lay person commissioned by the apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need.

During the time of the early church, the apostles decided to choose among their faithful disciples those who would be sent into the community to minister to the needs of the people. *"And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit" Acts 6:5*

Stephen Ministry is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Through one to one caring and confidential relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them. A Stephen Minister is a child of God who walks beside a hurting person, a caring Christian friend who really listens and a lay person who received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care.

You can be involved through praying for our Stephen Ministers and care receivers, staying sensitive to those who need caring support and alert a Stephen Minister of that need, make others aware of the support system at Redeemer and consider God's direction as to whether you should become a Stephen Minister.

Redeemer training begins in January 2010, one day per week for 5 hours. The commissioning service will be in March. We learn to love each other, laugh at and with each other and sometimes cry together, that is, at least the ladies sometimes do some crying. We invite you to join us for the training, if not to become a Stephen Minister, to enjoy and participate in our classes. **AND YOU RECEIVE ALL THE BENEFITS FOR FREE!**

For further information please speak with Carol Carlos 941-456-0827, Nancy Hall 941-473-5547, Carol Haupt 941-460-8830.

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another" Hebrews 10:25a*

*Submitted by Carol Carlos*

# Sunday School

With Christmas quickly approaching, the Sunday School is very excited about our upcoming events! Mark your calendars for these special events and join us as we celebrate the Advent of our Savior and His Birth! Please join us for an afternoon of Christmas Caroling on Sunday, **December 13, 2009**, following the 10:30 church service! On Wednesday, **December 16, 2009** our Sunday School and Child Care will be presenting "Savior of the Nations" at the 7:00 PM Advent Service. The Sunday School teachers will also be hosting a Christmas Breakfast, on **Sunday, December 20, 2009** at 9:15 AM for the children of the Sunday School and Child Care. We will be sharing the Christmas Story with them and have a light breakfast along with some other surprises! Please join us for any or all of these events. We would love to share our excitement with you!!



*Submitted by Lisa Kress*

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE CHILD CARE CENTER

*December 2009  
Newsletter*

*Redeemer Lutheran  
Child Care & After-School*

*Enrollment is 75 Children*

## Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays at  
3:45

The Battle Of Jericho  
Joshua 6

Jesus Knows My Name  
Isaiah 43:1

The Angel Visits Mary  
Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

Jesus Is Born  
Luke 2:1-7

Angels Tell The  
Shepherds  
Luke 2:15-20



[Jesus] has been born  
to you.  
Luke 2:11

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

## Birthdays

Angelessa 12/1  
Carter 12/4  
Cassidy 12/7  
Ashlee 12/14  
Ebony 12/16  
Zachary V. 12/19  
Zachary M. 12/20  
Tyler S. 12/27  
Bethany 12/28



## Thank You's

Thank you for all the member donations and supplies.

## Needed Supplies

Snacks, Batteries, Hand Soap, Baby Wipes, craft supplies.

## What We Are Learning

Nov.30-Dec.4 Sound and Movement

Dec.7-11 Music

Dec.14-18 Winter

Dec.21-25 Christmas

Dec.28-Jan.1 Christmas

## December Events

December 16 @ 7:00 p.m. Is our annual Child Care Christmas Program. This year's theme is "Savior of the Nations".

December 23 @11:30 is our annual Child Care Christmas Lunch with Santa. All are welcome to come.

## THE SOUND OF ADVENT: *HE IS COMING!*

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The closed circle of the wreath is a symbol of God's eternity. Like the circle, our Lord is without beginning and without end. The evergreen branches represent the eternal life that is ours through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, a life that transcends death itself. Just as the evergreen remains alive and fresh even in the dead of winter, so Jesus fills us with new life even in death. "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26).

The candles remind us of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the world, the Light no darkness can overcome. They also represent all baptized believers in Jesus who reflect His light into the darkness of this world and proclaim Him who called them out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9-10). Each successive week in Advent, another candle is lit. Sometimes smaller candles or little red berries are added to count off the days between Sundays. At Christmas Eve, a single white Christ candle is added to the Advent wreath, signifying the appearing of Christ in the world.

As the candles on the Advent wreath burn ever more brightly with the approach of Christmas, we are reminded of how near is the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. Good news indeed! He comes to judge the world in His righteousness, and the verdict will be "innocent" in His atoning death. Your faith in Him will not be in vain. He comes to save!

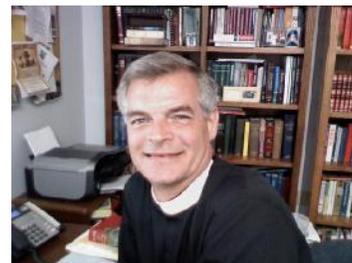
Other Advent customs include the Advent calendar with its little doors or pockets each concealing a gift or Scripture verse and counting the days to Christmas, and the "Jesse Tree," depicting the family tree of Jesus as the promised Branch from the stem of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1). Advent calendars and Jesse Trees make fun family projects during the season of Advent.

The intent of Advent is not to "take the fun" out of Christmas but to restore the joy and celebration to Christmas by having a period of prayerful preparation and to put the holy back into the December "holidays."

As we celebrate Christ's first coming by way of the Virgin and the manger, and as we delight in His sacramental coming to us in the Word and Supper, we await His coming in glory at a day and an hour no one knows.

So join us during this coming season making the sound of Advent: "*He is coming!*" And be prepared to join us in the celebration of His first coming in our many Christmas services as well as into the New Year and the Epiphany season too.

A Blessed Advent & a Merry Christmas to you all,  
Pastor Jim Kress



### GREETERS SCHEDULE

8:00

- Dec. 6 Mayrie & Harry Dawson
- Dec. 13 Nancy & Richard Hall
- Dec. 20 Gudrun & Erwin Janke
- Dec. 27 Donna Antonelli & Claire Kieselburg

10:30

- Dec. 6 Sue & Tom Poyer
- Dec. 13 Carol & Russ Spooner
- Dec. 20 Barbara & Gary Monson
- Dec. 27 Marion & Bud Zillins

Submitted by Pam DeGourse

- Dec. 6 Carol Spooner & June Markert
- Dec. 13 Mary Ann Frees & Jane Hoivik
- Dec. 20 Pam & Dennis Replinger
- Dec. 27 Joan & Stacy Bowers

Submitted by Pam DeGourse

HEALING:

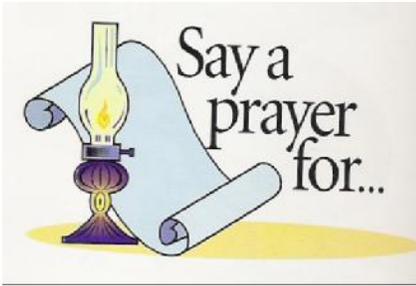
Members

Henrietta Appold  
 Wilbur Bruce  
 Marie Elphick  
 Pat Eiler  
 Jim Hollis  
 Roland Hansen  
 Bob Johnson  
 Carolyn Jordan  
 Charles Keller  
 Cliff Larsen  
 Gary Lute  
 Leona Morrison  
 Harriet Payne  
 Carolyn Plesner  
 Tom Poyer  
 Steve Procuk  
 Sharron Schultz  
 Sam Simonson  
 Vern Speer  
 Jim Straub  
 Pastor Thomason  
 Arlene Twombly  
 Lee Vandercook  
 Barbara Wolgast

Friends & Relatives

Lorraine Agens  
 Georgia Bush  
 Shirley Chattin  
 Lisa Clemens  
 Carly DeFeos  
 John Denick  
 Chase  
 Bruce Gnatkowski  
 Debbie Harrison  
 Larry Headun  
 Glory Herget  
 Michelle Hickner  
 Bill Hillis  
 Aaron Hingos  
 Barb Hladun  
 Jeremy Hoivik  
 Tom Holt  
 Heather Johnson  
 Howard Kagay  
 Rachel Kagay  
 Julie Keck  
 Erin Kress

Rev. Howie Krienke  
 John Lichty  
 Marie Liebl  
 Elsie Malecki  
 Dan Mason  
 Joe Manson  
 Karen Martel  
 Patrick McCord  
 Linda Merisko  
 Kaye Ann Nagel  
 Judy Nagel  
 Mike Pedretti  
 Charles Pentecost, Jr.  
 Sherrie Rhoades  
 Laura Simis  
 Audrey Slusher  
 Nancy Sly  
 Michael Stio  
 Marion Talley  
 Phyllis Tucker  
 Helen Weishaar  
 Andrew Wolgast



Ilse Berner  
 Gloria Carlson  
 Evelyn Etheridge  
 Ruth Jansch  
 Clara & Walter Mitchell  
 Ruth Sutley

PRAYERS OF COMFORT for family and friends of Laura Brooks who was called to his eternal home on November 9.

Military Personnel

Daniel Anderson  
 Adam Buchner  
 Eric Byrne  
 Kevin Copeman  
 Christopher Dutch  
 Michael Garza  
 Stephen Geib  
 Christopher Hankins  
 Brian Hollis  
 Nathan Hudson  
 Brian Jackson

Jennie Janssen  
 Keith Janssen  
 Josh Johnson  
 Joshua Jones  
 Scott Morris  
 Jeremy Schaitz  
 Steven Siegmundt  
 Jeremy Twombly  
 Matthew Walenta  
 Charles Weishaar

# Youth



On October 31, some of the youth and I went trick or treating on Dearborn Street. We had lots of fun. We ended the night with pizza at Ricaldee's in Englewood. Our trick or treaters were Naomi, Maddie, Nicole & Billy.

The youth group also painted the playground equipment behind fellowship hall. It took us 2 days but had lots of fun in the warm sun. Now Ms. Lisa has to just finish some minor touch ups. Great work to all the youth for their hard work. The playground is now watermelon pink, lime green & tropical blue.

We the youth group along with some of our congregation visited the Holy land in Orlando, Fl on November 13 & 14th. We stayed over night at the Comfort Inn Suites. On Saturday we were touring the Holy Land & enjoying the shows. On our way home we stopped @ Friendly's for dinner & ice cream. What a great way to end a great trip. Thank you to Leta & Ray Stender, Karen & Tommy Kirkland, Erwin & Gudrin Janke and Ms. Wendy from child care for joining us. Thank you to Sheila Murphy & Rick Vassallo for help chaperoning.

The youth have been doing some good deeds also to earn the trips they go on. This month we washed the church vans. Next month we will help clean the church grounds & painting the play ground was another.

We look forward to next month when we have our Holiday Fun Fest on December 6 for the congregation & friends to join in. There will be food, games, pony & horse rides, and even Santa will be there for pictures. The event will be on church grounds from 2-6 pm.

We also will be attending the **Festival of Lights** on December 19 @ 7:30 pm @ Fisherman's Village in Punta Gorda. We hope you will all join us then also. Sign up sheet will begin on Nov 29 after church services for this event.

On December 19th- the youth will be hosting a Bake sale @ Winn Dixie on Sunny Brook Ave in Englewood from 10-3. We hope you will come out & buy some goodies & support us.

The youth group & I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year. Thank you for all your continued support. We also want to thank Jennifer Steele for all her hard work in helping Ms. Lisa with flyers and poster. You rock Jenn!

## Holiday Fun Fest

*December 6—2-6 p.m.*

50¢ Games	\$1 Horse & Pony Rides
50¢ Popcorn	\$1 Hamburgers or Hot Dogs
50¢ Sno Cones	50¢ Cans Soda or Juices or Water
\$2 Picture w/Santa	Free Deserts

## Youth Group Fundraiser

Candles will be for sale as well as Pillows

## Outreach

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

The Apostle John tells us “[t]he Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” And then, “John [the Baptist] *testifies* concerning him. He *cries out*,

...From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:15-16.

John the Baptist *testified* time and again about Jesus, the One and Only. We, too, are called to testify to the World about our wonderful *Christmas gift of grace and truth*. We, too, have received one blessing after another. This is how we know that Jesus is the truth and the life. We were not there at his birth with the shepherds, we were not there to witness John’s testimony, we did not physically see Jesus’ miracles, we did not see his death and resurrection, and we were not there when he showed himself to the disciples.

Through his gift of the Holy Spirit which enables us to believe, *and* from “receiving one blessing after another”, we know that Jesus is our Redeemer.

Since we have received this wonderful gift, let us all *testify* about this gift to our friends and acquaintances who do not know Jesus. This would be the greatest Christmas gift you could give them! Please invite them to one—or all—of our Advent and Christmas services.

### SHARE YOUR MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH OTHERS!

*Submitted by Carol Haupt*



Our sincere thanks to Pastor Kress, Doris Dykhuizen and the Ladies' Guild for the real nice memorial service for Joan and the luncheon afterward. Also our heartfelt appreciation to the people who attended and/or contributed to the memorial fund.

*Bob Johnson and family*

### Heartfelt Thanks

## A Huge Thanks!

I would like to extend a very special thank you to all who attended the House Warming party. The Redeemer family has extended so much warmth, love and kindness to myself and Pastor, we are so very grateful to you all and that our Lord has brought us here to serve Him at this time and in this place. We truly feel a sense of belonging and as if we are “home”. The gifts are all so thoughtful and lovely and the fellowship was wonderful! A special thanks to Lessie Kirch, Lisa Vassallo and Dolores Altmann for the planning, organizing and preparation.

*Love, In Christ, Lisa Kress*



## SCRIP



**DECEMBER** orders for Scrip will be taken **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**, in the church narthex after the 8:00 a.m. service and before and after the 10:30 a.m. service. Orders will be returned **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you to everyone who placed orders in November.

**JANUARY** orders for Scrip will be taken at the **Ladies Guild meeting** on **Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**, and **Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**, in the church narthex after the 8:00 a.m. service and before and after the 10:30 a.m. service. Orders will be returned **Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**.

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

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

### What Is Scrip?

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

### How scrip generates revenue for you

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

### Scrip is "shopping cart fundraising"

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

### Find Out More

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

*Submitted by Sybil Grahl*

## Lutheran Women In Mission -- -- -- -- -- IWML

The JOY of the Lord is my Strength and Rock was the Sarasota Zone Rally theme as 84 guests came to know JOY in serving their Lord and looking to Him as the Rock of their Salvation. This JOY was celebrated on Sat., Nov. 7 as Redeemer LWML women hosted this Rally with singing, Psalms, Devotions, Bible Study and a delicious Chicken Salad luncheon prepared by Sybil Grahl and her committee. (Pictures on Page 14)

Featured speaker, McKenna Heldenbrand, touched many hearts during her power point presentation of a recent Jamaican Mission trip with her grandfather. These Jamaican people live in extreme poverty and have almost no financial resources. Their greatest need is to buy building supplies, paint and lumber to complete the mission of building a church with a pre-school room to assist in spreading the Gospel to adults and children of the area. "Gifts From The Heart" donations totaled \$941.00 which will be sent to this Jamaican Mission. McKenna summarized her trip as educational and a life changing experience as she witnessed poverty, no running water or electricity. She came to deeply appreciate her life in America and grew closer to her Lord and Savior.

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world. McKenna fulfilled this Mission!

We meet the first Wed. of every month, Oct. thru April, in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 for dessert followed by devotions and our meeting. Won't you please join us?

*Submitted by Vicky Davis*

## LAURA BROOKS

Laura Brooks, a faithful, long-time member of our Redeemer family entered Eternal Life on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the age of 86. Laura was a true friend of the congregation and a close friend to many. She gave generously of her time and contributions to the needs of our church. She was well known and highly regarded for her absolute honesty and directness, firmly standing with her convictions. She will be sorely missed.

Laura was born in Detroit, Michigan and was the last survivor of eight siblings. In 1946, she married Gordon Brooks who passed away in 1989. They had no children and her surviving family consists of her niece Mary Pat Mysliwiec and nephews John and Tom Brooks.

She retired in 1975 as Services Manager at Detroit Massey Ferguson and lived in Manceleona, Michigan with two to six months per year in Florida. In 1992 she made Florida her full-time home. In addition to her many activities at Redeemer, she was a driver for FISH for 20 years and a member of the Red Hats and the Elks Club.

As her health began to fail, she left Florida in February, 2009 for the Wynwood Retirement Home in Livonia, Michigan where she would be close to Mary Pat and where she resided until she was called by the Lord.

A memorial service at Redeemer will be planned when most of her winter friends have returned to Englewood. Memorials may be made to the "Laura Brooks Memorial Fund" at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Condolences may be sent to Mary Pat and Joseph Mysliwiec at 20464 Meadowview Lane, Livonia, Michigan 48152.

*Submitted by Avis Stuck*



# IWML Rally



# New Members



## DOMINIC A. BILHARDT

6113 La Porte  
Port Charlotte, FL 33981  
Tel. (941) 268-0107

Three month old Dominic, pictured with parents Kristine and Gerry Bilhardt, was brought into membership by Baptism. He was born July 24, 2009. Dominic's mother is one of our Child Care teachers.



## SAMANTHA D. BREWER

830 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Englewood, FL 34223  
Tel. (941) 914-0844

Samantha was brought into membership through Baptism and Adult Confirmation. Samantha is a native Floridian. She is a senior at Lemon Bay High School and is on the school soccer team. She enjoys helping with the crafts at Vacation Bible School and helps with reading to the Child Care children.

## SARAH D. WATKINS

1811 Whispering Pines Circle  
Englewood, FL. 34223  
Tel. (941) 473-7907



Sarah has joined us by Adult Confirmation. Sarah Watkins has been a resident of Englewood for seven years, moving to Southwest Florida from Flushing, Michigan, in 2002. She has worked in the non-profit sector for more than 20 years. She graduated cum laude from Baker College (Michigan) and holds a Bachelor of Business Leadership (BS) degree. Prior to moving to Florida, Sarah was Executive Director of the Library of Michigan Foundation (for Michigan's State Library in Lansing) and prior to that Development Director for the Community Foundation of Greater Flint (Michigan). Currently she is the Development Director for the Gasparilla Island Conservation & Improvement Association (GICIA) in Boca Grande. Sarah has one child, a daughter, Jennifer Steele (Redeemer's Church Secretary), and a granddaughter—Scotlyn Steele. Her late husband, Stephen Watkins, died from colon cancer in 2005. In her personal time she enjoys spending time with family, reading, exercising, dancing, entertaining family and friends, gardening, time at home and in nature, and being a mother and grandmother. She is happy to be a year round Florida resident and feels fortunate to be living in Englewood where the sunsets never disappoint. She is looking forward to a long and happy membership with Redeemer Lutheran Church.

*Submitted by Ellie Ratzlaff and Pat Wilcoxon*

*New Member Co-Chairpersons -Assimilation Committee*

RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS BY TRANSFER, AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, OR ASSOCIATE  
**NOVEMBER 22, 2009**



**GENE D. SIEGMANN**  
3506 Whitman St.  
North Port, FL 34288  
Tel. (941) 429-2573

Gene was born in Sanborn, Minnesota. He comes to us by Transfer from Grace Lutheran Church in Crockett, Texas. Gene was the Manager of a plastics plant in Texas. He is an avid walker, walking 8 miles a day.



**THEODORE AND LAURA SIMIS**  
6025 Manasota Key Rd.  
Englewood, FL 34223  
Tel. (941) 474-8690

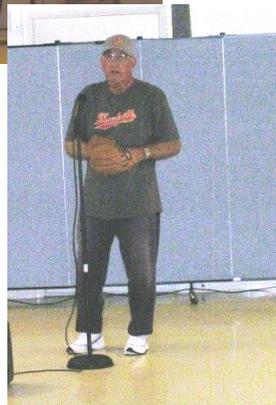
Ted and Laura come to us by Affirmation of Faith. Ted was born in New York. He is a former executive of AT&T, and the E.F. Hutton firm. Laura was born in Hohokus, New Jersey. She loves music and over the years she has been active in local musical societies. Ted and Laura have lived in Englewood for thirty years.



**MARION BUIE**  
1651 Beach Rd. Unit 406  
Englewood, FL 34223  
Tel. (941) 475-0308

Marion comes to us as an Associate member. She is from St. Albert, Alberta, Canada. Marion is a newlywed. She and Bob Buie (an elder) were married on October 17, 2009. Marion is a retired teacher. She enjoys hiking, reading, aerobics and yoga on the beach.

# Talent Show



**Redeemer Lutheran Church  
6970 Mineola Road  
Englewood, FL 34224**

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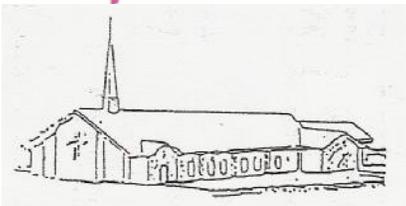


**Christmas Day**



Redeemer Lutheran Church  
6465 Mayport Rd.  
Englewood, FL 34224

Rev. James Kress



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

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

Christ's love for us and our love for Christ compels us to serve our Sisters and Brothers as He served us.

**REDEEMER REPORTER**

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

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**WORSHIP SERVICES**

September – May	8:00 & 10:30 am
June - August	9:15 am
Communion	First & Third Sundays

Midweek Advent	4:30 & 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve	4:30 & 7:00 pm
Christmas Day	9:15 am
New Year's Eve	7:00 pm

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

September - May	9:15 am
June - August	10:30 am

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:15 AM

**Church Phone: 941-475-2410**