

REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - MAY 2011

“Perception Misperceived”

From all four Gospel accounts we have the story of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Certainly the reports confirm Jesus' life after death, but I noticed something very interesting in John's narrative. It was early in the morning, on the first day of the week, when Mary Magdalene came to the tomb where Jesus was buried. She didn't see Him there. So she ran to tell the disciples about this. It was Peter and John who came to the place and confirmed Jesus wasn't in the tomb. They didn't stay to investigate, but rather went back to their homes. It was Mary who stayed behind weeping outside the empty tomb. When stooping to look into the tomb, she saw two angels sitting where the body of Jesus had lain. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she didn't know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away" (John 20:1-15).

Did you take notice of Mary's unusual response to Jesus? Did you recognize Mary's blindness in the face of the Truth? Mary supposed Jesus to be a gardener. She perceived Jesus to be someone else, someone other than whom He really is. In other words her perception of the situation was quite different than the reality. In the midst of her confusion, she was motivated to ask questions in order to find her dead Lord when in fact He, the Truth, was standing right in front of her. Moreover, He was speaking to her, yet she paid not attention to His words. Her perception of the situation was misperceived.

This sort of thing happens in our lives as well. We think something is one thing when in fact it is something totally different. This happens in our homes among husbands and wives; fathers and sons; mothers and daughters. To be sure it happens in the work place between co-workers as well as boss' and employees. It's hard to believe, but it happens within the church family as well. Again, hard to believe, but true. We think we understand a situation well enough that we come to a conclusion about it, when in fact the truth was spoken or explained but we failed to listen to the truth concerning a particular matter. When this happens relationships are fractured; tensions are raised; and chaos and uncertainty follow. Soon ones own perception of a situation is held over and above the truth and the truth itself is buried and lost in all the confusion. While these things escalate, what is missed in all this? Certainly the truth is missed, even becoming unimportant anymore due to the harsh words tossed back and forth during the chaos.

Satan loves it when there is chaos and confusion, especially among Christians. This is what causes divisions in the church. If it's not

over doctrine and practice it's over personalities and misperceived perception. All matters of doctrine and practice are settled according to the Word of God, which is His truth. And in matters of perception misperceived, we still need to turn to the Word of God. In doing so, we need to first fear the Lord. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and all those who practice it have a good understanding" (Psalm 111:10). Having fear of the Lord, we are enabled to understand one another and speak peaceably the truth in love for our neighbor (Ephesians 4:25).

However, those who do not turn to the Word of God; who do not find themselves in God house; who do not listen to the Truth, place themselves far and away from that which gives understanding and ultimately saves them: The Truth. So, if one is far from the Word of Truth, how can he speak the truth in love toward his neighbor? He becomes a friend of the world and an enemy of God (James 4:4).

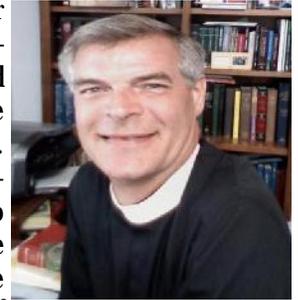
When Mary supposed Jesus to be a gardener, Jesus said to her, "Mary" (John 20:16). It was at the hearing of her name from the Truth Himself that she came to believe Jesus was not a gardener as she first perceived, but He was indeed her Lord and Savior now raised from the dead. Jesus calls her by her name because He has said, "I am the Good Shepherd. I call my sheep by name and they hear My voice and they follow Me" (John 10:3). Mary's misperceived perception was overcome with the words from the Truth Himself. Jesus also reminds us about Himself when He says, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6).

Jesus has called you by name. He desires that you turn to Him and pray to Him in all circumstances. Pray for wisdom and understanding. Pray for peace and unity. Pray that He will enable you to listen to the truth, not only in His Word, but also among fellow Christians. And finally, pray that He will enable you also to speak the truth in love toward your neighbor.

In conclusion, Jesus instructed Mary to go and tell His disciples what she had seen and heard (John 20:17-18). So too are we to go out and share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others:

Alleluia! He is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A Blessed Easter Season,
Pastor Kress



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Pastor Rev. James Kress
 Child Care Director Wendy Horvath
 Office Secretary Jennifer Steele
 Organists Bill Bowers
 Lanette Schmidt
 Choir Director Doris Dykhuizen

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 Human Care Carol Sheahan
 Outreach Carol Haupt
 School Board Bill Bowers
 Stewardship Sarah Watkins
 Youth
 Financial Secretary Karen Kirkland

CLUBS/GUILDS

Ladies Guild Doris Dykhuizen
 Men's Group Bob Mortenson
 Christian Support Margie Cypher

By now the great migration to the Northland is not only underway but nearly complete. We will soon be going to the summer schedule of one service on Sunday. As always, we hope our Northern friends have a wonderful summer and we look forward to their return in the fall. I want to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to our associate members for all they do for Redeemer, their church away from their home church. It's very gratifying to see how our associates dive right in upon their return to Redeemer to help us accomplish our mission. Believe me when I say that Redeemer wouldn't have achieved the level of success without the contributions of the associates.

I was recently offered the opportunity to be of assistance at the annual Ladies Guild Luncheon which traditionally is the last meeting of the season. When I say "offered" I took it as an offer I couldn't refuse. The Ladies can be very persuasive. The luncheon is usually held at the Fellowship hall but this year the event was held at the home of George and Doris Dykhuizen. I was assigned to assist George in food prep and replenishment. Let's just say, we were kept busy. It was a very tricky menu with all items, including flatware, were identified in various foreign languages and nobody knew what they were ordering for the four courses. Perhaps the most entertaining moment came when Avis Stuck unknowingly ordered a bowl of spaghetti, a knife and a toothpick. Avis persevered and was able to eat the spaghetti using only the knife. It was great fun and I thank the Ladies for allowing me to be a part of it. They make great contributions to many worthy causes in our church and our community. Thank you Ladies.

Although reported upon elsewhere in this issue, I would like to say just a few words about this year's Crop Walk. It was once again a successful event with approximately 20 walkers and many non-walking volunteers. Crop Walk is a Human Care event. This year's walk resulted in a generous contribution to Englewood Helping Hands and also to the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. Thank you everyone.

Thank you for taking the time to read the Newsletter and I always look forward to your comments, questions and brickbats.

Respectfully submitted,
 Ed Sheahan



STEWARDSHIP

The Month of Yam

Welcome to the month of Yam! Wait a minute, you might say, Yam is not one of the twelve months of the year! And you are right, but if you reverse those three letters you have the month of May. You can have some fun reversing words, like your name or the names of others or whatever triggers your imagination.

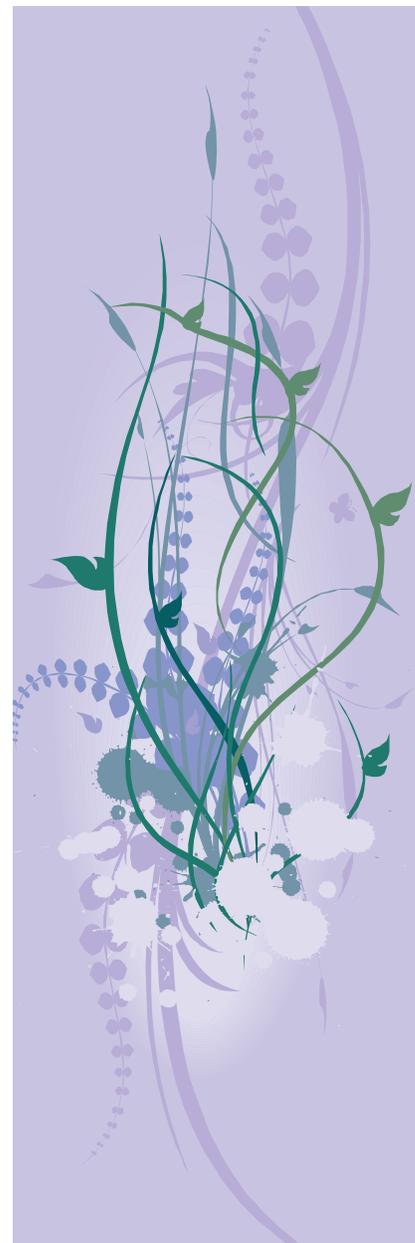
However, we sometimes get important things reversed and that is not good. For example, we Americans often think of ourselves as "owners" instead of "managers." That runs contrary to what the Bible clearly teaches in passages like Psalm 24:1 which state that *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."* All things belong to God because He is the Creator and therefore the Owner of all things, including us.

What are we then? We are managers, trustees or caretakers of that which belongs to someone else. For example, Genesis 2:15 states that *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."* The garden belonged to God, but He chose to have Adam work the garden and take care of it. If Adam would have thought that the garden belonged to him, he would have reversed the truth.

If we are not clear on the proper distinction between Owner and manager we will have major struggles with Christian stewardship. We will conclude that all the things we surround ourselves with belong to us and, therefore, we can use them in any way we choose. That assumption is a misconception of what the Bible teaches. It is also opposed to the first Article of the Apostles Creed which says *"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth."* We could also add *"and Owner"* between "Maker" and "of."

For several decades our church has defined *Christian stewardship as the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing (not owning) all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.* That definition clearly distinguishes the important difference between owning and managing.

So, in this month of Yam, oops, May, resolve to grow in your understanding and practice of what it means to be a Christian steward. There is an old saying that *"April showers bring May flowers."* During this Easter season with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we can grow like beautiful flowers that give witness to the beauty and glory of our Father in heaven. To God be the glory!



From the Treasurer's Desk

2011 Church Actual vs. Budget Through March 31, 2011

OFFERINGS BUDGET
\$59,488.26

OFFERINGS RECEIVED
\$57,938.00

EXPENSES
\$56,848.07

PRAYERS

SHUT-INS: Gloria Carlson, Evelyn Etheridge, Ruth Jansch, Jim Prather, and Ruth Sutley.

HEALING: Members: Marjorie Boliere, Joe Carlos, Fred Fernald, Cecil Grahl, Bernice Heppner, Dick & Lorraine Hughes, Bob Johnson, Cliff Larsen, Gary Lute, Sandy McGrath, Clara Mitchell, Leona Morrison, Don Plesner, Duwayne Schoeneck, Ed Sita, Marie Talley, Barbara Wolgast, Ronald Woller, Eileen Zwick.

Friends & Relatives: Lorraine Agens, Linny Aspery, Grace Blum, Randy Bradshaw, Georgia Bush, Jack & Cathy Carlos, Raymond Carlos, Julie Carroll, Shirley Chattin, Bobbett Clark, Carly DeFeos, Renee Dempsey, John Denick, Heidi Everson, Manual Galan, Malia Grayer, Ellen Hammerschlag, Debbie Harrison, Larry Headun, Claudette Hendershot, Glory Herget, Bill Hillis, Robin Hincman, Jeff Hoivik, Tom Holt, Stanley Jablonski, Douglas Johnson, Heather Johnson, Betty Kabert, Rachel Kagay, Marinela Kandt, Julie Keck, Jim Lane, Denise Line, Sean Maki, Elsie Malecki, Dan Mason, Joe Manson, Patrick McCord, Vinnie Meli, Pete Mogg, Linda Mohr, Kaye Gene Mortenson, Ann Nagel, Judy Nagel, Rev. Gary Nehring, Dan Niemann, Josh Niemann, the family of Jaye Nistendirck, Darwin Oliver, Charles Pentecost Jr., the family of Annette Peters, Mary Raines, Sherrie Rhoades, Delaney Saunders, Audrey Slusher, Nancy Sly, Michael Stio, Eva Tabbitas, Samantha Jo Ann Toth, Phyllis Tucker, Helen Weishaar, Cindy Whitaker, Gordan Winkel, Ida Wippich, Andrew Wolgast.

Military Personnel: Daniel Anderson, Matthew Anderson, Adam Buchner, Eric Byrne, Kevin Copeman, Christopher Dutch, Michael Garza, Christopher Hankins, Jonathan Hibbard, Jonathan Hudson, Nathan Hudson, Brian Jackson, Keith Janssen, Josh Johnson, Joshua Jones, Eric Kieselburg, Jesse Krone, Michael Monson, Jesse Morse, Christian Mosser, Jeremy Schaitz, Scott Senna, Brandon Smith, Jeremy Twombly, Katherine Utroska, Matthew Walenta, and Charles Weishaar.

MAY COFFEE HOUR

1st	Earl & Avis Stuck
8th	Tom & Karen Kirkland George & Elma Cancellieri
15th	Donna Antonelli
22nd	Dennis & Pam Replinger
30th	Youth

Provided by Assimilation

MAY GREETERS

1st	Donna Antonelli & Claire Kieselburg
8th	Jim Wright & Earl Stuck
15th	Steve & Lee Procuik
22nd	Tim & Mary Ann Frees
30th	Youth

Provided by Assimilation

THANK YOU

I want to thank all my Redeemer friends for their prayers, cards & flowers during my recent surgery and recovery period. I am doing well.

- Sandy McGrath



REMINDER

The Newsletter deadline for next month is May 22nd. Please have all your submissions to the church office by that time.



CLASSIFIEDS

Beautician/Manicurist	Debbie Balogh Linda Pontello	Purple Palace Purple Palace	941-475-0731 941-475-0731
Painter/Handyman	If it's broken, I can fix it. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Please call John Toth - Home: 941-697-1670, Cell: 941-875-6191.		
Sales—Rentals	Pineapple Gulf Properties—Glenda McDorman, Owner/Broker (Lessie Kirch's Daughter) 880 S. McCall Road Englewood, FL 34223 . Office: 941-473-0300, Cell: 941-330-7922.		
Wanted	Work any job from A-Z, nothing is too big or small; cleaning, cooking, babysitting, yard work! Please call Sheryl (Twombly) Holden at 941-928-5238.		
For Sale	Like new, excellent condition shuffle board (ten feet long) Original purchase price was \$375 and is being sold for \$75, a great deal. Please call Judy Scarangella at 460-9155 if interested.		
Cleaning Services	Free estimates! Please contact Sheila Murphy at 941-473-1747.		
Lawn Care	For your weeds and trees lawn care, please call Todd Armstrong at 941-961-7584.		



HUMAN CARE

We had our last meeting with Diana Collins this month. Diana is moving to N.C. She will be greatly missed by all of us. One of Diana's tasks was managing the "Care Notes" located in the narthex. If anyone is willing to continue tending them, it would be appreciated. Diana made sure they were all up-to-date. You would decide which "notes" you would like to make available and order them. It is not very time-consuming but we feel it is necessary. People do find them informative.

April 23rd was the last Blood Draw for the season. Ten units of blood were collected. This means thirty local lives will be helped. We're happy that one new person decided to donate. We will start up again in October.

A very generous Redeemer member has given us an automatic blood pressure cuff. This cuff is very accurate and approved by the American Heart Association. On the last Sunday of each month, if we do not have a medical person to take the blood pressures, you may take it on your own. I will set it up in the quiet room and can assist if need be.

Crop Walk earned \$1445. Seventy-five percent will go to LWR and 25% to Helping Hands in Englewood. Redeemer had 20 walkers and many volunteers. Thrivent has sent us a check for \$500 in matching funds. Since Thrivent's guidelines will not allow us to apply these funds to our church or child care, Human Care has chosen to donate them to Charlotte County Homeless Coalition.

The Caring Network needs more leaders, especially in the summer. This position will NOT take up a lot of your time and is not demanding. If you are even considering helping us out, please contact Lessie and she'll tell you all about it. We encourage you to stop by for Senior Fellowship any Thursday at 10am. Have fun playing games and cards followed by a sumptuous lunch.

Human Care discussed "disposing of medicine containers". If you toss the empty containers in your trash, please remove the label or blacken it out. It's been reported that thieves go through more trash than we imagine and find these bottles. Then they know where to obtain more of this medicine...at your home. Also, please taken any unused meds to your doctor or fire station. Flushing them down the sink or toilet pollutes our water system.

Submitted by Carol Sheahan

CHILD CARE NEWS

ENROLLMENT IS 81 CHILDREN

Bible Lessons

Chapel is on Mondays at
3:45

5/2 Philip and the Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-39

5/9 Timothy

2 Timothy 1:5;3:15

5/16 Jesus Knows My Name

Isaiah 43:1

5/23 Jesus Promises to Be with Me

Matthew 28:20



[God says,] "I have called you by your name."

Isaiah 43:1 NKJV

Submitted by Wendy Horvath

Birthdays

Meganne 5/3

Kyleigh 5/14

Brianna 5/15

Ms. Megan 5/20

Ava W. 5/23

Daniel 5/25

Amy 5/27

Ms. Cheryl 5/30



Welcome to Redeemer Child Care

Ella

Safety Alert

We have just been notified that our 8 cribs have a safety alert on them and we are required to replace them by law. If you would prayerfully consider making a donation it would help us with this unexpected expense.

What We Are Learning...

May 9-20 Down by the Seashore (Beach/Ocean)

VPK Graduation is on May 14,2011

Summer Camp Begins

We will be going to the San Casa Pool every week and a field trip every Friday. Some of the places we will be visiting are: Children's Garden, Bit of Hope Ranch, Babcock Ranch, Lowery Park Zoo and the Florida Aquarium.



Child Care is Closed

May 30th for Memorial Day

THANK YOU

THANK YOU to the members of Redeemer for your prayers, cards, gifts, food and words of concern during my surgeries and recovery. One of the ways the Lord blesses us with encouragement is through the care and spiritual support of fellow members in His church. Everything was greatly appreciated. - Lanette Schmidt

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for the prayers and get well wishes via greeting cards, emails, phone calls and personnel visits. I'll like to clear up a slight misunderstanding. It was not the act of falling that shattered my right collar bone and messed up my ribs. It really was the sudden stop when I made contact with the ground.

Your Brother in Christ, Joe Carlos

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! This was the proclamation of our Sunday School children on Easter Sunday!! We enjoyed our Easter egg hunt with over 25 children! Before we went hunting for the 800 eggs that were hidden for the children we read the Easter story of Jesus, learned about the Jelly Bean poem and made bags for our hunt! Upon the conclusion of the Easter egg hunt we enjoyed refreshments with the children's parents.

We would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the Board of Outreach especially Tommy and Karen Kirkland, Carol Haupt and Margie Cypher for filling all of the eggs. Also, a very special thank you to Dennis Replinger, Pastor Schmidt and Tommy and Karen for hiding the eggs during the early service on Easter. These special people made the Easter egg hunt possible!! The Sunday School would also like to thank Pam Replinger, Barb Duff, Wendy Horvath and Carol Vovcsko for the donations of food for the breakfast. Please enjoy the pictures attached.

A special note to all parents: Summer Sunday School will continue at the 9:15 hour beginning May 1 and will begin at the church, instead of the Fellowship Hall. After the Feeding of the Lambs the children's teachers will bring them down to the Fellowship Hall for the Sunday School lesson and then conclude prior to the end of that service, again up at church. If you drop your child off, please be sure to drop off and pick up at the church. This is of course to coordinate with the Summer church schedule.

- Submitted by Lisa Kress



THANK YOU

First we want to thank Outreach for purchasing the plastic eggs, and a very special thanks to a generous donation from a Redeemer couple who paid for the candy. Next, many thanks to Jim & Mary Turner, Margie Cypher, Carol & Susie Haupt, Sarah Watkins and Henry Rudolph who helped fill 800 plastic Easter eggs with the candy and Pastor Earl Schmidt and Dennis Replinger who helped hide the eggs. Because of your help the Children's Easter Egg Hunt was a real success. God bless you. - Tom & Karen Kirkland

Ladies guild luncheon



THANK YOU TO THE LUTE'S



BAPTISMS



Ruby Ann Gough



Ella Sophia Tosto



The Beautiful Easter Lilies!



EASTER EGG HUNT 2011



Dorothy Sinowetski and her Beautiful Hand-Painted Easter Eggs!



A Gift From God: Forgiveness

We all are constantly falling short of God's expectations whether we want to admit it or not. We all have faults, failings and imperfections that constantly cause us to sin against God and one another. How hurtful it is for each of us when we feel someone has wronged us in thought, word or deed. Our first inclination may be to talk to someone about it and from there the word spreads and it usually gets twisted and more ugly. Our thoughts could turn to "Let's Get Even". Imagine how our Father must feel when these feelings first enter our mind and then become words and deeds. No matter how ugly the thought, word and deed, Praise God, He forgives us because of His Son who gave his life for our failings. As followers of Jesus we have His command to offer forgiveness to one another (John 20:23). What a gift and asset God has given us. This means we must continually put aside differences between ourselves and others. We should accept each others faults, failings and imperfections instead of judging these failings. God already has accepted and forgiven us.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you".
Ephesians 4:32

Submitted by Carol Carlos



Monday Morning Quilting Group

First and foremost, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to our quilting and our "pillowcase dresses for Haiti" project. Your generosity made it possible for us to complete over 100 dresses in less than one month. These dresses will be shipped to Haiti sometime in May. In addition to the dresses, we were able to send 26 quilts to Orphan Grain Train and 15 quilts or blankets to Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne. Along with our quilting projects, the pillowcase dresses will also be an ongoing project for the next several years. This has been a fun project and we hope that more of you will become involved next year. We need donations of pillowcases, seam tape, elastic, trims, etc. We are also in need of material for quilts, and most of all, we need "you" to help us assemble quilts and dresses on Monday mornings January 9th through March 2012. Christ has challenged us to "do unto others". Let's do it together!

Thanks again,
Georgia Lang, Chairman

LADIES GUILD/LWML

A "Thank You" was received from SOLVE *maternity homes* for the contribution from Ladies Guild. They explained that our generosity enables them to continue their work and offer a home and service to homeless pregnant women. Their goal is to teach and support these women and show them the love and power of Jesus Christ in an effort to help them change their lives and become better women, good parents and good citizens.

A "Thank You" was received from Hope Seeds for the contribution from Ladies Guild. They reported that **Hope Seeds** provided 273,082 packets of quality garden seeds. At 20 packets per family, 12,654 families were served. Over 65 missionaries/mission teams traveling to 15 countries were equipped with God's Plan for Food and quality seed to plant. Plant a seed! Feed a soul!

Submitted by Margie Cypher



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REV. JAMEST. KRESS, SR.

REDEEMER REPORTER

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

WORSHIP SERVICES:

May - September: 9:15 AM

Sunday School: 9:15 AM

Bible Study: 10:30 AM

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 941-475-2410

We, the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church are called into the service of our Lord by receiving 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 brothers and sisters as He served us