



REFORMATION SUNDAY DANCERS

RLC Newsletter

December 2017

A Message from Pastor Allman by Pastor David Allman

Endings and beginnings. People often like new beginnings and regret endings. The circumstances usually mean that we must deal with both at the same time. Even Christians who say they are not afraid to end their mortal life and begin their eternal life, will hasten to add that they are not yet ready for that to happen.

Each year the end of November marks the end of the Church calendar and the beginning of December marks the beginning of the new Church year. Worship in the Church keeps a different calendar than does business in the Church. As you read this we are likely already into the Season of Advent, while those using the secular calendar are already into the season of Christmas.

It becomes confusing, especially when Christmas decorations were selling in the stores before Halloween. It is also confusing because most congregations, ours included, have put up Christmas decorations, and we are not yet singing Christmas carols -- we sing Advent hymns. For Christians Christmas does not technically begin until the birth of the Christ child -- that is, Christmas Day. So logically, if we want to keep Christ in Christmas, then we should not sing about Christ's birth during Advent -- before he has been born.

Now some of you will be thinking, "But, Christ was born 2,017 years ago, so it is okay to sing about his birth any time." And, you would be right, and yet in the new Church year that birth has

not happened, even though in the secular calendar the birth has already happened. I have just spent a lot of words to get you to think about how we live in the "already and not yet."

The November gospel readings have focused on the Second coming of Jesus -- the Parousia. Many consider this to mean that this world comes to an end. The last Sunday of November is Christ the King -- which many see as the final Judgement of the Nations. In 1st Advent's gospel Jesus is encouraging us to look forward to his return when "*...the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken*" (Mark 13:24).

When one is reading gospel words about the end of the world, it proves difficult to match that Sunday with a heartfelt rendition of “*Silent Night*,” which brings me back full circle to how difficult it is for us to deal with endings and beginnings. People often like new beginnings and regret endings. We would rather sing about the birth of the Savior than think about the consequences of his second coming. We cannot have one without the other.

During Advent we live in the “*already and not yet*.” We prepare for the birth of the Savior and the Parousia at the same time. We would like to cuddle the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes while at the same time hope the adult Jesus does not return in our lifetime. The circumstances insist that we cannot have one without the other.

I invite you to embrace the season of Advent for what it is -- the “*already and not yet*.” Lean into the seemingly paradoxical circumstances of the newborn baby and judge of the nations; prince of peace and the bringer of the righteous verdict; the wonderful counselor and the one who pronounces sentence on sinners; as well as other character traits of our Savior and Lord.

Pastor Allman 

Christmas Blessings



Redeemer Lutheran
Church
701 Valley Forge Blvd.
Sun City Center, FL
813-634-1292
sccredeemerlc.com

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24, at 10:00 AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Holy Communion

Sunday, December 24, at 7:00 PM

Christmas Day Service

Holy Communion

Monday, December 25, at 10:00 AM



News from the Parish Administrator

December 2017

by Susan Warner

Can you believe that Christmas is almost here? This year has gone by so quickly. Most of our snowbirds are back and the church is full! It has been so much fun to see familiar faces coming through that door. Our month of December is packed with events starting with the Advent Service and Soup Supper on the 6th and culminating in Christmas Eve and Christmas day. Check out our calendar and participate in the things that interest you.

Our Visitation/Communion Teams continue to reach out to our members in need with companionship and communion. Our parish nurses are providing support to our members with medical issues. **If you know of anyone who needs visiting or help with a medical question, or if you would like to be one of our volunteers providing care, please feel free to contact me at carekeepersccr@gmail.com or call the church office at 813-634-1292. Our list of folks who are homebound keeps increasing and we could use more team members to visit them, particularly men to visit other men.** If you have a couple of hours a month to reach out to one of these members please consider joining us. It makes such a difference in their lives as many are lonely and craving human interaction; I often receive feedback from those visited saying how much it meant to them. Believe me, you will be even more blessed by the visit!

Upcoming Events

Thursdays at 10:00 AM – Bible Study in Buhr Hall. FREE!

Wednesday, December 6 at 4:00 PM – Advent service followed by a soup supper.

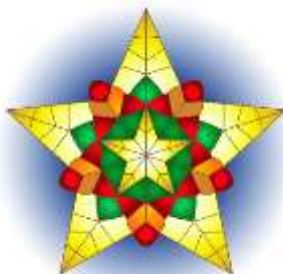
Wednesday, December 6 at 12:00 PM – Samaritans Alzheimer's Auxiliary Support Group Virtual Dementia presentation and a light lunch will be provided FREE!

Sunday, December 10 – Annual 2018 Spending Plan meeting following the 10:00 AM service.

Wednesday, December 13 at 9:30 AM – WELCA General Meeting will feature a presentation on Mary & Martha House. The meeting will be followed by a FREE luncheon.

Thursday, December 14 – Thrivent Legacy Event at 11:30 AM. Richard Steinbrueck will be offering a presentation on legacies. "What kind of Christmas gifts do you remember the most?" The event is FREE and lunch will be provided.

Monday, January 8 – Alpha begins at our new time 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Lunch will be provided and it is FREE!



DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP

by Pastor David Allman

In a daily devotional from November 13th, Greg Laurie asked the question, “What Makes a Disciple?” In the Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT), Jesus instructed us to “...go and make disciples of all the nations;” and, to “Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.” In John 8:31 (NLT) Jesus tells us, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.”



Greg Laurie contrasts disciples with students. The student is the one who is required to go to school and is expected to learn, even when they do not want to be there. The disciple is the one who is excited about learning from the teacher, and is excited to apply to their life all they have learned from the teacher.

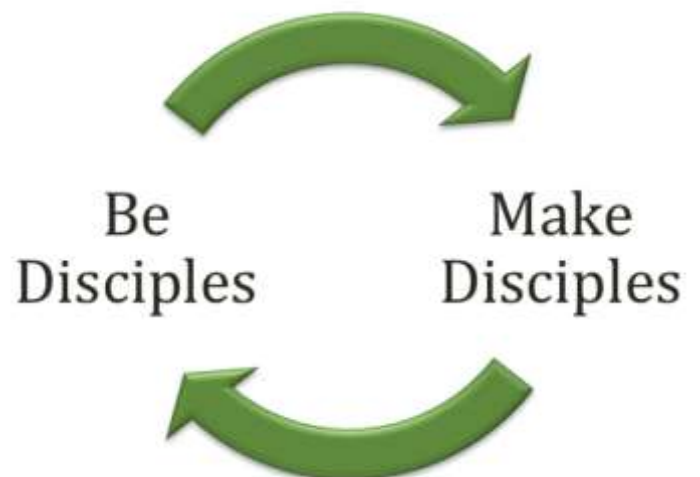
Greg Laurie writes, “In the Bible, the idea of a disciple is someone who listens to a person who has full knowledge. That listener is drinking in every word, marking every inflection of the voice, absorbing every detail. They cannot get enough. It is attention with intention” (emphasis added).



How would you describe yourself in regard to Jesus and the Church? Are you a disciple -- excited to come to church, learn as much as you can about Jesus, and apply that learning to your life; or, do you feel like a student, who attends church because it feels like a duty, maybe you will learn something if the pastor is not too boring, and doubtful that church is relevant to real life in this 21st century?

All of the worship leaders here at Redeemer strive for excellence every Sunday. We want people to take home something that they can apply to their everyday lives. However, worship is not a spectator sport, it is a participatory experience. Some would say that you will get out of it what you put into it.

Next time you come for worship, come with the mindset of a disciple -- drinking in every word, absorbing every detail, feeling like you cannot get enough; and then, in your enthusiasm, “go out and make disciples” like Jesus instructed us in the Great Commission.



Social Ministry & Benevolence Thank you!

AMIKIDS

The staff and students at AMIKids were very appreciative of us. They were grateful for the \$600 carwash check. The Thrivent team and your donations made it possible to purchase over 50 packages of socks, t-shirts and boxers. Mr. Tony told us that the boys appreciate the clothing as they have no resources to buy new ones. There is a Christmas party at the school Dec 15th and he invited us. There will be more info on the time and a sign-up sheet to carpool. Thank you for your continual generous support of this organization.



LUTHER SPRINGS/NOVUS WAY

Thank you for your support of this group. We were able to send a check to support camperships at the Florida camp site.

Social Ministry Team is grateful for your continuing support of these causes.



Social Ministry Team

The Social Ministry team mourns the loss of our dear member, Martha Alderman. She was a very active part of our group and we will miss her terribly. We are looking for a new member to take her place. Please come to the meeting or speak to the Pastor or any member of the team. We know God has a new angel, but we miss her.

December 2017 Social Ministry

Sweatshirts and sweatpants for local elementary schools

We are asking for donations of youth size small-large sweatshirts and sweatpants for children in our local elementary schools. Many of the children do not have a warm coat for the cooler weather. Please think about contributing to this ministry. If you wish to donate money, write sweatpants/sweatshirts on your check or envelope and we will shop for you.

Blessings,
Social Ministry Team



December 2017 Benevolence

The local DAV chapter is the benevolence for December. This chapter services many veterans in our area. The funds we donate will be used by the chapter to support their activities. All the money stays in Sun City Center. Please write DAV on your check or envelope.

Blessings,
Social Ministry team



DECEMBER EVANGELISM

by Candy Allman

ARE WE A CRUISE SHIP OR A FISHING VESSEL?

One Tuesday morning in our staff meeting, Father Kevin Warner, asked the group of this question. “Are we a cruise ship or a fishing vessel?” After a very brief discussion we moved on to the task of the day. I’m not sure if the others in this meeting have given any more thought to this question, but I have thought about it many, many times over the last several weeks. Now I am asking you this question. Is Redeemer Lutheran Church a cruise ship or a fishing vessel? Are we just sitting in the pews soaking up the “son” and enjoying spending time with our family and friends while forgetting everything and everyone around us? Are we “cruising” through our Christian life? Or are we a fishing vessel? Are we out there on the ocean which is full of fish just waiting to be caught? Do you have your pole in the water? Is your net ready to haul your catch on board? Are we reluctant to fish for people, whether from fear, selfishness, weariness, or skepticism that it will actually work? We have all heard and read the story of Peter and Jesus and their fishing trip. If your faith for “fishing” is not as strong as you want it to be, this story has some encouragements that might help:



Jesus calls us in our weakness. Jesus determined that the best time to call Peter as an evangelist was when he was at his weakest. Peter’s nets were empty, he was probably hungry and he was definitely tired from working all night and having nothing to show for it. He was probably in a pretty bad mood also. Why was this the best time? Peter needed his pride, unbelief, and weakness exposed. He needed to see himself as someone who, apart from Jesus, could do nothing (John 15:5). He needed to know who rules the fish and who fills the nets. Then he would be able to fish in faith.

It really doesn’t take great faith to drop the nets. Even though Peter was pretty sure that nothing was going to come from this fishing trip, he still responded, “at your word I will let down the nets” (Luke 5:5). Peter was willing to do it for Jesus’s sake.

Jesus provides the fish. When Peter threw his nets overboard, Jesus filled them. It was a powerful, ministry-shaping moment. Jesus commands fish and will fill our nets according to his plan. Our job as evangelists is to listen to Jesus and prayerfully, faithfully, drop the nets.



From Parish Nurse Team

Signs and symptoms OF BREAST CANCER

- **A lump in the breast** – the most common first sign.
- **A lump in the armpit (axilla)** - Sometimes small, hard lumps in the armpit .
- **Changes** in breast shape or size
- **Skin changes** - skin of the breast may become dimpled or puckered.
- **Nipple changes** - Normal nipples that suddenly become inverted

Sometimes there are no symptoms of breast cancer in the earliest stages. However, talk to your doctor as soon as possible if you notice anything unusual. Don't be embarrassed or think it is going to go away. Have it checked! This applies to both men and women.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2nd – Art Jarvela
5th – Elfi Nolden
6th – Carol Crawford
8th – Sue Kovacik, Phylis Mather
13th – Martin Lehnert, Anna Miner
17th – Martin Schwartz
22nd – Susan Pearson
24th – Dorli Grober, Donald Munford
26th – Irene Brenner
29th – Delores Turner

Happy Birthday



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

14th – Todd & Ellen Vargo
26th – Pete & Carolyn Robinson
28th – Rick & Debbie Andrews
31st – Ron & Arthella Fritz



We ask if you notice information is missing or incorrect please let us know. Thank you!



December 2017



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sunday Dec. 3 10:00 AM	Jim Moyers	Jim Moyers Joan Kopycinski Lucy Ann Clark	Hal Wold
Wednesday Dec. 6 4:00 PM	Walter Geissler		Jim Schwartz
Sunday Dec. 10 10:00 AM	Joan Kopycinski		Rosalie Kelleher
Sunday Dec. 17 10:00 AM	John Minor	John Minor Arlene Hansen Jim Moyers	John Minor
Sunday Dec. 24 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark		Jim Schwartz
Sunday Dec. 24 7:00 PM	Pete Moose	Pete Moose Joan Kopycinski Lucy Ann Clark	Edie Moose
Monday Dec. 25 10:00 AM	Kay Adkins	Kay Adkins Dick Fricke Jan Glass	Dick Fricke



December 2017



December Usher Team	December Altar Guild	Sound
Dr. Oliver Hackett's Team	Mary Ann Romano, Karin Meredith, Judy Buskirk and Mirdza Drengers	Bill Adkins



Here are a few of the new banners we have hanging in Buhr Hall and the sanctuary.




RECYCLE


Don't forget to use the paper/card board recycling bin in the corner of the church parking lot.

Support for others
(Collection boxes are on the Narthex counter)






Thank you for donating items for our Food Pantry in the Narthex closet. Please remember, NO opened packages or containers.





Interfaith Social Action Council

Many of you may not be aware of this organization. Redeemer, helped organize this group in 1971. Today there are 9 houses of worship that make up the ISAC group. We operate the Nearly New Thrift Shop, which is located in the Sun City Plaza. Through the revenue from this shop, we award \$2000 scholarships to seniors from East Bay High School and Lennard High School and grants to nonprofit groups in the South Shore Area. The shop is staffed by volunteers and one paid employee. We are always in need of volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering, please see Barb Lauer.

Blessings,

Barb Lauer, Chair, NN crafts, counter

Jane Trefren, ISAC President, NN shoes, counter
 Mike Trefren, NN furniture
 Mirdza Drengers, grants, counter, NN men's dept.
 Sandy McCaw, scholarships

<http://www.interfaithcouncilofsuncitycenter.com>

RUMMAGE SALE 2018

Rummage Sale February 9 &10, 2018

Christmas Sale

Dec. 3, 10, 17 in Buhr Hall after the service.

In December we will have 3 drop-off days. Clothing, accessories, shoes, linens, jewelry, and collectibles are what we are asking to be donated.

December 4, Monday, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

December 5, Tuesday, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

December 7, Thursday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

This will be the last days to drop off clothing. We still have a table for sale.

Thank you for your participation. We need helpers during December.

Thanks,
 Rummaged warriors



Fellowship News

It is wonderful that we have such a large crowd at fellowship. We are in need of weekly helpers. There is a sign up paper in the lecture in Buhr Hall. If you could sign up to help one Sunday that would be greatly appreciated. We also are in need of dessert items.

Thank you
 Your fellowship team,

Paula, Mike, Miriam, Gerri, Honey, Myrna and Jane

Southshore Brass Quintet Veteran's Day Concert

The Veterans Day concert was marvelous. There were 142 people in attendance. Thanks to all that came out to honor our veterans and to everyone that gave a monetary donation or brought a non-perishable food item for the local food pantry.



Members of the Southshore Brass Quintet practicing before the Veterans Day concert.

Soup Meal

WELCA is organizing a soup meal following the Advent service on Wednesday, December 6th. If you are willing to provide a crockpot of soup, bread, or a dessert, please sign the sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex. We invite you to join us in trying a variety of delicious homemade soups.



Sunshine Gifts

Gift bags for homebound members of Redeemer will be assembled at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 12th. Volunteers are needed to bake cookies, assemble the bags, and help distribute them. A sign-up sheet for providing cookies is on the welcome counter in the narthex.



Women of the ELCA Meeting

WELCA will meet on **Wednesday, December 13th** beginning with refreshments at 9:30 AM. This month it is on the 2nd Wednesday instead of the 3rd. The program will be a presentation by Mary Martha House, a local shelter providing hope and healing for abused women. Everyone is invited to attend. Following the meeting, there will be a luncheon (FREE) provided through a Thrivent Action Team. If you will be attending the lunch, please sign the sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex.

Redeemer Lutheran Legacy Event

Do you want to learn about ways to leave a legacy? Richard Steinbrueck will be offering a presentation on legacies on Thursday, December 14th at 11:30 AM following Bible Study in the fellowship hall. This event is free and lunch will be served!





When Christmas Hurts

Matthew 11:28-30 states, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.' If the holidays bring you more sadness than happiness, then join us on Monday, December 11th at 7:00 PM for a special service directed toward helping you find a little peace at this time of year. This service is open to everyone in the community, so invite someone you know that is hurting to join us. Everyone is welcome.

BUDGET MEETING

The budget meeting to approve the 2018 spending plan will be immediately following worship service on December 10th, in the sanctuary.



New – Lunch and Learn Program

St. John Divine will be hosting a new program beginning in December, titled Lunch and Learn. Each month we will offer informative and sometime fun programs for the community. We will ask that you invite your friends and neighbors to join you because, as everyone knows, the more people we have the more fun we have. To start us out I am offering a repeat (upon popular request). We will have a sign-up sheet available on the welcome table. As lunch will be provided we will need to know how many to prepare for. Topic, date and time of the upcoming Lunch and Learn will be communicated in the newsletter each month. If you can't sign up, please call Candy at St. John's church office 633-3970 to RSVP.

December Topic: Cell phone class

Held on Thursday, December 28th 11:30 AM at St. John the Divine

Cell Phone Class – If you have a cell phone or receive a new one for Christmas and want to know more tricks and uses to make your life easier, come to this class. I will show you some fun apps, some very useful tips, and just about anything else you want to know. Bring your phone to the class!

January Topic: End-of-Life Decisions

Held on Thursday, January 25th 11:30 AM at St. John the Divine

Several folks have recently asked about end-of-life information. We have decided to offer a program that will help you with these very hard decisions. It will be very informal but also very informative. We will offer you a packet of information along with some forms for you to complete. One of the forms we will include is your funeral/memorial arrangements. This form is very important as it takes pressure and stress from those you leave behind as they try to decide for you. This is one way that you make sure you receive the service you want. Other forms will include information for the funeral home, attorney, bank accounts, IRA's, and many others. This packet will include most of the information that your loved ones will need after your passing to help them get through this very difficult time. Again, please use the sign-up sheet found on the welcome table. Candy Allman

The Samaritan Services Alzheimer's monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6th in Buhr Hall at 12:00 PM. This month will feature the virtual dementia tour. This gives caregivers the opportunity to experience some of the physical and mental challenges that those with dementia face. Sun Towers and Senior Helpers will also be represented. A light lunch will be provided. For more information please call the Samaritan Services office at 634-9283.



Samaritan Services Fundraiser Dance

Put your dancing shoes on, or just come and enjoy the good music and company! Back by popular demand Taylor n Taylor will be the entertainers for the Samaritan Services Fundraiser Dance on Friday, January 26th, 2018 from 7 to 9:30 PM at Community Hall, 1910 South Pebble Beach Blvd. The cost is \$10 per ticket. BYO snacks and drinks. Tickets on sale starting December 4th at Samaritan Services office, 1207 North Pebble Beach Blvd. Tables of 8 are available. Reserve yours now!



Reformation Sunday

On October 29th Redeemer Lutheran celebrated Reformation Sunday. This year's celebration was significant because it marked the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther and the 95 Theses. Thanks to all that helped make the celebration a success and thanks to all that joined us for the event.



The people of Redeemer believe in the power of prayer.

Members

Ginny Acker, Mary Ann Addleman, Gerry Barnicle, Rev. Donald Beal, Shirley Bogedain, Marilyn Bohl, Fran Bullock, Lenora Chapman, Anne Clouser, Carolyn Cole, Betty Corzine, Carol Crawford, Dottie Earl, Dorothy Erickson, Kitty Fogt, Patty Fricke, Joan Glas, Dianne Good, Irene Griffin, Ken Heindel, Mary Jane Hermanns, Art Jarvela, Bev Johnson, Lee Kesler, Norman & Anne Koehler, Jean Kostka, Harvey & LaVern Lentz, Jim McIntosh, Tillie McMahon, Herb McKittrick, Lynn & Phyllis Mead, Alice Miller, Homer Morrison, Thyra Nagel, Louise Neam, Caroline Nensewitz, Sharon Olson, Nancy Payne, Gerda Regelin, Marlene Scharback, John & Patti Schaefer, Deya Schierenbeck, Helene Schwartz, Harold & Margaret Scott, Mariam Sorby, Linda Strohfus, Myrna Strom, Ingrid & Sam Thompson, Jane Trefren, Sally Trenski, David Waterfield, Sylvia Wicktor, Ted Wilson.

Our Family Members and Friends

Mark, Gerry Albert, Ashley & Zach Allen, Roman Amon, Jennifer Baez, Lois Barrett, Donna Barnett, Abigail Bayless, Barbara Beck, Ashley Beltz, Terri Bergin, Joey Bernas, Tim Berns, Bierce family, Lore & Max Bokma, Julie Boos, Mark Bordwine, Steve Bullock, George Clark, Norma Cole, Chris Collumb, Julia Cox, Reanna Diaz, Steve Evans, Peggy Farrell, Tom Flamm, Cindy Freeman, Robin French, Katherine, Austin & August French, Meg Gallagher, Michael Golywacz, Marie Grazino, Ernestine & Bob Greenslate, Matt Gunter, Jack Hambrick, Christa & James Harkins, Miranda Harris, Leonard Hermanns Jr., Diane Heindel, Michael Hillard, Jack & Cynthia Hildebrant, Donna Hitt, John Holland, Cindy Hyland and family, Sandy & Bob Janicek, Sherry Janovec, Joe Kanoza, Gary, Joan, & Mike Kollerman, Nell Lucas, Ron Lumme, Annie Mangen, Zoe Marcus, Adam Marks, Emily Marks, George Martin, Terry Mattia, Caroline Mayne, Shannon McCormick, Judy McElvy, Marilyn Meister, Dennis Michel, Mary Fran Miller, Elizabeth Milligan, Karen & Brodie Nelsen, Scott Nestor, David Nuchols, Christina O'Neill, George Perkons, Kelly Powell, Clariece Reitz, Neil Rich, Ed Robb, Lori Robb, Velma Roberts, Mary Rollins, Liz Rollins, Lynne & Ken Rome, Irv Rothman, Joe Ruckert, Pam Goldy-Rudy, Hope Rund, Kathy & Steve Sanfilippo, Dan Schierenbeck, Joan Schollmeyer, Lynn & Patrick Sheridan, Mary Soja, Thomas Sullivan, Sharon Toth, Jim Tucker, Maria Veiazquez, Clair Vilasi, Agnes Wagaman, Alex Watts, Donna Weber, MaryAnn Winters, Camryn Wittekind.

God bless our country, our first responders, and our military men and women.