



ARLENE H. SHOPS FOR OUR LADY'S PANTRY WITH WINN DIXIE STORE MANAGER CHRIS

RLC Newsletter

April 2020

A Message from Pastor Allman

When we planned for March on the Church Calendar we knew that the entire month would fall into the season of Lent. While we emphasize sacrifice and fasting for Lent, none of us anticipated the sacrifice of fasting from public worship. It has been a “learning-by-doing” and “as-we-go” journey through the season of COVID-19 in March. It is not the way any of us would recommend doing things, although circumstance gave us little choice. That being said, our Council made a difficult, heart-breaking decision on March 13th to abstain from public worship through the end of March in the effort to help our “high risk” population stay healthy.

The revised plan then was to once again gather in celebration of Holy Week and Easter. As of the writing of this article COVID-

19 continues to rear its ugly head, and the confirmed cases in Florida continue to rise, including some in our county, too close for comfort. In compliance with the CDC regulations and the strong encouragement of our Florida Bahamas Synod Bishop, the Council once again has had to make the heart-breaking decision to abstain from public worship in April. This time it may be best to say, “until further notice.” Please be assured the Council makes these decisions with the best intentions for the health and wellbeing of the Members and Friends of Redeemer.

While we should never blame God for COVID-19, we can certainly say with the Apostle Paul that “*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose*”

(Romans 8:28). How good it will be to come together with all of you again for public worship. My heart longs for the day when we will all be together again. On that Sunday I recommend we celebrate Easter, no matter what the calendar date might be. I recommend we sing the Easter hymns, raise the Easter banners, join the festal throng, and proclaim the Easter message, “He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!”

Pastor Allman †

News from the Office Administrator April 2020

Here we are in April. As I am writing this in March, we are in the quarantine phase of the Corona Virus and feeling our way through what it means for all of us. At Redeemer we have canceled worship and team meetings, choir and other activities in an effort to keep as many people safe as we can. There is still so much we don't know about this. By the time you are reading this, hopefully we will have gotten a handle on it. It is certainly our hope and prayer that all of us remain safe and healthy. We hope soon to resume our normal activities and programs. Electronic communication has been a blessing for all of us as we can keep in touch without risk of spreading the virus.

I usually like to highlight the activities coming up, but right now there is nothing planned until we know more about this virus and how we need to proceed. So this is a shorter article than usual! Please stay safe and healthy and I look forward to when we can all be together again!

At Redeemer we have an active Visitation/Communion Team! They visit and take communion to our many home bound members. Our Parish Nurses help with medical questions and concerns. Helping our people in these ways is a blessing both to the recipients as well as the caregivers. If you are interested in serving with either of these teams, please give me a call or send me an email: Susan 813-634-1292 or carekeepersccr@gmail.com. You will be blessed!

WEBSITE NEWS

www.redeemerlc.com

The website will look a little different if you are using a mobile device vs a computer or laptop. Patience is key.

Once you are on, look in the upper right for "Sunday Worship." When you hold your mouse over the area you should see a drop down that says "March Worship 2020" and "April Worship 2020." This is where you will see our readings, prayers, and Pastor Allmans videos.

This is new territory for many of us. Please call the office or email me if you have any questions.

Kadie

Thank you in advance for your stewardship as we continue to place our trust in God and as God continues to work through each one of us. May God bless us with an end to this Pandemic sooner rather than later; and, may God bless the world with a speedy recovery from all the ways in which COVID-19 has negatively impacted us.

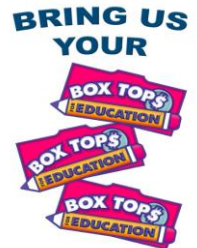


Thank you for donating items for the food pantry in the narthex closet. Please remember, NO open packages or containers.



Support for others

(Collection boxes are on the narthex counter)



APRIL STEWARDSHIP

by Pastor David Allman

Do you consider Redeemer a Social Organization or a Service Organization?

A social organization is defined as a pattern of relationships between and among individuals and social groups. For example: a couple's club; a single's club; a sports fan club; a celebrity fan club; a retired worker's club; ethnic clubs; language clubs; etc.

A service organization is defined as a voluntary non-profit organization where members meet regularly to perform charitable works either by direct hands-on efforts or by raising money for other organizations.

Here are some other questions that may help clarify your answer. Do you come to Redeemer to visit with your friends or to serve on a ministry team? Did you pick Redeemer based on what Redeemer can provide for you or did you pick Redeemer based on what you can give back to God? Are you a consumer of Redeemer's programs or are you a steward of your time, talents and treasure?

The dictionary defines volunteerism as a noun: the use or involvement of volunteer labor, especially in community services.



The dictionary defines volunteer as a noun: a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task; and also a verb: freely offer to do something.

There is a tongue-in-cheek bit of humor that addresses volunteerism in many churches. You have probably heard this before: There were four church members named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody would not do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

God has a role and a responsibility for you, or you would not be here. In Numbers 4 we can read how the clans of Israel were given specific responsibilities by God for how they would serve. The Apostle Paul carries this message forward in his letter to the Ephesians, chapter 4. We are called into ministry in the Church, and not to take our freedom for granted. God is not merely present in a particular place, like the church; God is present in the people who represent the Body of Christ by being Jesus' hands and feet.



Social Ministry & Benevolence Thank you!

Thank you for making the February Food Drive for Our Lady's Pantry a huge success! We had a huge carload of goods that were brought in by members, plus another carload of items that were purchased with the Thrivent Community Impact card. Thank you to Arlene Hansen for getting the Thrivent card and shopping, and to all that brought in items and to those that helped make deliveries.

Our Lady's Pantry would welcome volunteers. Just visit them at Our Lady's Pantry any Tuesday, Friday, or Saturday morning and ask for Anita or Tom. OR: You can call Tom at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Office at: (813) 633-2384. He will return your call at his earliest opportunity. For more information please visit their website (ourladyspantry.com).

If you would like to help deliver items from Redeemer's food closet to Our Lady's Pantry on a Tuesday or Friday morning, please contact the Social Ministry Team. This can be a one-time opportunity to lend a hand and help support Our Lady's Pantry.

In gratitude, Social Ministry Team



Jane Trefren presents our check to Tom Bullaro and some of his dedicated volunteers. These funds will be used to purchase needed supplies.

Tom was very grateful and thanked the Redeemer people for their heartfelt support.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Social Ministry has chosen The Pastor's fund as our benevolence. There are times when Pastor Allman is asked for Redeemer to assist one of our members with a financial need. It is at his discretion to assist this person. By donating to this fund, we give him money to help out someone in need. Please consider donating to this fund. Write "Pastor's Fund" on your envelope. Thank you!

Blessings, Social Ministry Team

April Social Ministry Haven of Hope

Haven of Hope is a faith based non-profit Prison Transitional Ministry. Volunteers work with women who were incarcerated for various crimes. They assist each woman to get back on her feet. Through Christian teachings the women are provided life-skills training.

The group has many needs to support these women. They have a 6-bed home they rent in Ruskin. If you wish to drop off items, please call the office before you come.

- White kitchen trash bags
- Black trash bags
- Laundry detergent
- Fabulosa
- Plain sponges without scrubber on one side
- One broom
- Walmart and Aldi gift cards
- Hand soap in dispensers
- Reams of paper for printer
- Swiffer mop refills
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Furniture polish
- CLR all-purpose cleaner

We ask that you consider supporting this cause. As Janet Smith told me it cost \$30,000 a year for one inmate in prison but Haven of Hope estimates their cost at \$7,200 annually per resident.

If you choose to donate money, please write "Haven of Hope" on your envelope. Money collected will be put towards the vacuum cleaner. Thank you

Blessings, Social Ministry Team

April

Evangelism

by David Allman

Preparing to tell your faith story to others

Your story is important because:

1. Your relatives/friends/acquaintances are already interested in you and your life
2. Your relatives/friends/acquaintances can relate to your story
3. People cannot argue with your story and the fact that your life has been changed

Some questions to consider as you prepare to tell you faith story to others:

Think about the time before you accepted Jesus as Lord over your life (if you have). Or, before you gave Jesus control over your life. Or, whatever language makes you feel comfortable.

1. What was your life like that will relate most to the non-Christian?
2. What did your life revolve around the most? What did you get security or happiness from? (The non-Christian is relying on something external to give him/her happiness)
3. How did those areas begin to let you down?
4. When was the first time you really heard the gospel? (Or when were you first exposed to dynamic, life-changing Christianity)
5. What were your initial reactions?
6. When did your attitude begin to turn around? Why?
7. What were the final struggles that went through your mind just before you accepted Christ as Lord over your life?
8. Why did you go ahead and accept Christ as Lord over your life?
9. Why are you motivated differently?
10. Write the way you speak; make the testimony yours.

11. Practice this over and over until it becomes natural.
12. Keep it short and simple (KISS) – 3 minutes maximum. At that length, it is easily something you can put into a conversation without it becoming a sermon.

Example: Look at Paul's testimony as you consider how to tell your story.

Paul's life before (read Acts 22:1-5); How Paul became a believer (Acts 22:6-11); Paul's life after Jesus became his Lord (Acts 22:12-21).

It is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to draw someone to Jesus, and you want to communicate your story in such a way to show the listener that your life is different and more meaningful with Jesus as Lord.



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

From Parish Nurse Team

What are the symptoms?

Coronavirus makes people sick, usually with a mild to moderate upper respiratory tract illness, similar to a common cold. Its symptoms include a runny nose, cough, sore throat, headache and a fever that can last for a couple of days.

For those with a weakened immune system, the elderly and the very young, there's a chance the virus could cause a lower, and much more serious, respiratory tract illness like a pneumonia or bronchitis.

How does it spread?

Transmission between humans happens when someone comes into contact with an infected person's secretions, such as droplets in a cough.

Depending on how virulent the virus is, a cough, sneeze or handshake could cause exposure. The virus can also be transmitted by coming into contact with something an infected person has touched and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes. Caregivers can sometimes be exposed by handling a patient's waste, according to the CDC. The virus appears to mainly spread from person to person.

"People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest)," the CDC says. "Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; there have been reports of this occurring with ... coronavirus, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads."

Anyone with flu like symptoms should stay home and not go into the public.

How is it treated?

There is no specific antiviral treatment, but research is underway.

Most of the time, symptoms will go away on their own and experts advise seeking care early. If symptoms feel worse than a standard cold, see your doctor. Doctors can relieve symptoms by prescribing a pain or fever medication. The CDC says a room humidifier or a hot shower can help with a sore throat or cough.

People with coronavirus should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. In some severe cases, treatment includes care to support vital organ functions, the CDC says.

If you think they may have been exposed to the virus you should contact your healthcare provider immediately.

How long is the incubation period?

Quarantine is usually set up for the incubation period – the span of time during which people have developed illness after exposure. For coronavirus, the period of quarantine is 14 days from the last date of exposure, because 14 days is the longest incubation period seen for similar illnesses.

How can you prevent it?

There is no vaccine to protect against it, at least not yet. The US National Institutes of Health is working on a vaccine but it will be months until clinical trials get underway and more than a year until it might become available.

Meanwhile, you may be able to reduce your risk of infection by avoiding people who are sick. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, and disinfect the objects and surfaces you touch. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Awareness is also key. If you are sick and have reason to believe it may be coronavirus, you should let a health care provider know and seek treatment early.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 6th- Phil Eaton**
- 8th – Marion Giblin, Eva Michna**
- 11th – Alice Miller**
- 13th- Renate Bartz, Marilyn Bohl**
- 14th – Debby Nelson,
Helga Spitzenberger**
- 16th – Helga Balter, Erika Barfels**
- 18th – Jo Anne Owens, Mike Wiechers**
- 19th – Carol Brown, Angela Grill,
Barb Lauer**
- 21st – Marty Matz**
- 27th – Paul Carrier**
- 28th – Cheryl MacPhee**
- 29th - Gerry Adams, Candy Allman,
Reinhold Baal, Lois Hobratschk**
- 30th – Everette Glas**



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4th – Hal & Susan Wold**
- 8th – Bill & Marion Giblin**
- 10th – Richard & Karin Meredith**
- 13th – Russ & Kathy Filip**
- 16th - Donald & Karen Munford**
- 22nd – Jon & Marie Ruse**
- 25th – Howie & Kathleen Warfield**
- 26th – Pete & Edie Moose**
- 28th – Don & Carol Brown,
Wayne & Janet Gehrke**
- 29th – Jack & Wendy Kitzman**
- 30th – Gerry & Ron Harding**



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



Shirts available

Three of the red Redeemer shirts are available. One is a new Ladies large with Redeemer Lutheran church embroidered on the front. Cost for this one is \$21. The other two are a slightly used Ladies 2XL and a Ladies medium and have Redeemer Lutheran Church on the back and the 35th anniversary logo on the front. These two are free. Please see the office if you would like one of these.

Sunshine Gifts

Gift bags for home bound individuals has been **postponed**. Once we have a new date selected we will ask for your assistance in baking cookies, assembling the gift bags, and delivering them.. A sign-up sheet will be available in the future for those that would like to provide cookies.

WELCA Meeting and Luncheon

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) meeting that was scheduled for Wednesday, April 15th has been **postponed**. We had planned on discussing the programs for the next season, please be thinking about this so you can make any suggestions you may have when we meet again.

Due to the uncertainties surrounding the current health situation, we had to postpone our program on flower arrangement and sunshine gift assembly.

Easter Brunch

The Easter brunch along with the Easter service has been cancelled.

What Ponce de Leon didn't know: Posture, balance and exercise

This course is the second in a series related to balance and will be presented by Linda Eargle, PT, DPT, MInEd and a Certified Exercise Expert for Aging Adults. New research emerges weekly to verify that exercise is the key to improving our quality of life and preventing falls. Come prepared to learn what you can do to improve your balance and posture as you worship. Linda is a member of Redeemer and did another program on balance a few years ago that was very well received.

As you can guess this event has also been postponed. The event will be rescheduled for a future date and we plan to provide lunch. A sign-up sheet will be provided once we have a new date for this event.

New Member Sunday

Our new member Sunday was scheduled for March 22. We do plan to reschedule this event, but a new date has not been selected at this time.

May is Meals On Wheels Month

Redeemer will once again be the sponsoring agency for Meals on Wheels delivery in the month of May. If you would like to be involved please contact Hal Wold at 813-634-2805, or for Kings Point deliveries you may call Kathy Hackett at 813-642-0971. Redeemer has provided this very worthwhile service for many years and you are invited to be a part. You will find it to be a very rewarding and fulfilling experience.



Ministry Fair

The annual Ministry Fair at the end of February was great time for all. Lunch was provided and we raffled off 3 Publix gift cards. The winners of the Publix gift cards were Janice Walsh, Mike Corbett, and Karen Meredith. (pictured below)



Bible Study

Bible study is taking a break. Once we return members, visitors, guests, and friends, will be welcome to join us on Thursdays at 10:00 AM for Bible study. The new topic is Ephesians. No prior knowledge of the Bible is required, and you don't even need to bring a Bible. One will be provided for you.

Refreshments are served and it is FREE!

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study usually meets at **noon** on the 2nd Friday of each month. At this point we are not clear when that Women's Bible Study will meet again.

Important Email Communications

Many of you read our newsletter regularly via email, and we are so thankful for that. During this time of uncertainty we wanted to take the time to stress to you how important it is to check your emails regularly. Redeemer no longer has a phone tree, which means we rely on emails, our website, phone calls, and word of mouth to communicate with each other. Many of us prefer to socially gather, especially following church services, but now we are being asked not have these social gatherings which greatly limits our communication. So let's keep connected with the resources we have. If you know someone does not have email, please take the time to call them. If you believe the phone book you have is out-of-date, you are probably correct. Please give the office a call and most often we can help you. Thank you for your willingness to embrace these changes.



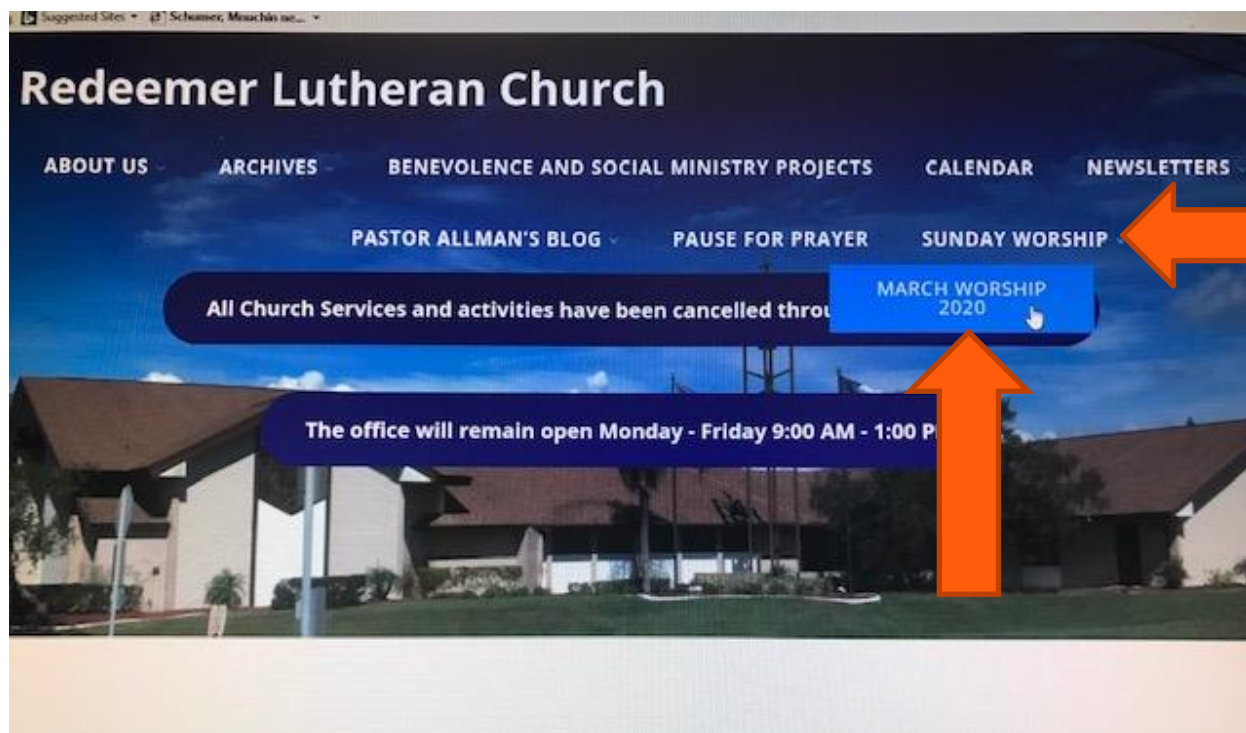
Pastor Allman has been posting a video on Redeemer Lutheran's Facebook page. This same video can be found on our website along with the readings.

Please go to our website. www.redeemerlc.com

There you will see tabs across the top. Please look for **Sunday Worship**. Hover over it and you will see **March Worship 2020** (April will be coming soon)

From there click down and it will bring you to the prayers, readings, and Pastor Allmans message. Dates are arranged reverse of our normal calendar 3/29/20, 3/22/20, etc.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call or email.



A message from Candy Allman

Are you bored? Do you wish there was something to keep you busy? With more “free” time in our schedules, I want to encourage each one of us to spend more time connecting with our friends and family in a very unconventional, yet timeless manner. How many of you have received a handwritten letter lately? It is almost nostalgic getting a handwritten letter and a past time treasure we don't share much in the age of e-mail, skype, and Facetime. I totally get it. I have an adult friend that to this day received a hand written letter from his 89 year old grandma several times a year, just to say hi, and that she misses him and loves him very much. These letters mean the world to my friend and he cherishes each and every one. These letters mean so much to him, because of the thoughtfulness behind them. I encourage all of you to send a few letters this month, to those you love letting them know how much they mean to you. I promise your handwritten note will speak volumes.

Please everyone, be safe, stay healthy, don't take chances. We will get through this together with the Grace of God.

Much love and prayers to all,

Candy