



RLC Newsletter

July 2020

A Message from Pastor Allman

Newsletter articles have to be written well in advance, sometimes weeks before you actually read them. As I write this article it is the day before Governor DeSantis plans to begin Phase 2 of reopening FL; and, it is one day after FL has recorded its 2nd largest number of positive COVID-19 tests - 1,317 for a 24-hour period.

I am working from three assumptions (adapted from John Roberto of Vibrant Faith) about the future, especially for we who are over 65-years-old or have underlying medical conditions, and even for those who do not fall into one of those categories.

First, there is no going back to day-to-day life before the pandemic or to church life before the pandemic. All of the evidence is pretty clear that our world and churches have been

transformed in significant and lasting ways. We are going to have to develop new models and approaches for church life at Redeemer if we are going to survive and thrive in this new world. Like I am currently, everyone will need to learn to use virtual platforms, sooner rather than later, to have any sense of the larger church community. My prediction, while it will not be an intentional consequence, is that people who decline to use computers, tablets, smart phones, etc. are going to feel more and more isolated.

Second, epidemiologists are no longer talking about months of living with COVID-19 as part of our lives, they are talking about it being around for years or longer. Based on the most optimistic, credible forecasts the earliest a proven effective vaccine might

be ready is early 2021 with production and widespread availability of the vaccine many months later.

Third, we will not be able to gather people in church facilities as we have in the past. Witness the great lengths that churches are going through to open for Sunday worship. If we use the Center for Disease Control guidelines for public gatherings, the picture becomes pretty clear. Most states are in Phase 1 (church activities limited to 10 or fewer, masks, distancing, and cleaning/sanitizing) or Phase 2 (50 or fewer with all precautions included in Phase 1). Very few are in Phase 3 (more than 50 with all precautions included in Phase 1). And the movement from Phase 1 to 2 to 3 is a gradual process.

In my humble opinion, the curve of new positive cases in FL has not flattened. When I look at a bar graph it zigs and zags in a vertical direction. Reopening the economy is certainly important. The health and well being of those who worship at Redeemer is also important. The Redeemer Council continues to take all of this into consideration as we make difficult decisions. Thank you to those who responded to the survey. Please continue to keep the Council and Staff of Redeemer in prayer.

Pastor Allman ✝

News from the Office Administrator July 2020

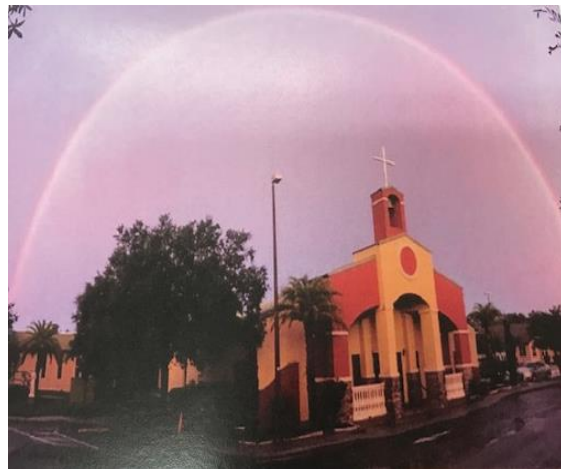
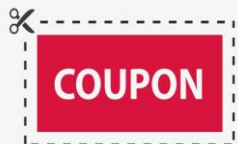
By now we are all very tired of “safer at home”! We miss our friends and activities and long to return to something approaching “normal”. Please remember to check in on your friends from Redeemer and make sure they are okay. If there are any needs that you are made aware of, let us know so that we can help. ***Please know that if you are in need of financial assistance, we have funds available at the church to help. This remains confidential, only Pastor will know that you received aid. We don't want anyone left in need so please, speak with Pastor Allman if we can be helpful.***

We are continuing to receive bids on a camera for livestreaming the service. Because we feel that it is going to be a while before we can be together again, we want to make a service available to all of you. For those who were homebound before this virus, we would like to continue livestreaming the service even when our sanctuary is open. We will update you with more information as it becomes available.

First and foremost, stay safe and healthy in your homes until we can safely meet again. Our first priority is the safety and wellbeing of all of you, so please be good to yourselves.

Support for others

(Collection boxes are on the narthex counter)



Redeemer Lutheran Church,

Thanks for your more than generous donation. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

God Bless,

Tom & Anita Bullaro for Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry

Thank you for donating items for the food pantry in the narthex closet.

Please remember, NO open packages or containers.



JULY STEWARDSHIP

by Pastor David Allman

People used to ask, “Do you have a second?” Now people more often ask, “Can I ask a quick question?” Depending on who is asking I sometimes respond, “You just did.” or “All questions are quick, it is the answers that take time.” Many years ago a study discovered that people now consider their time to be a more valuable commodity than their money. The study stated that people would rather make a financial donation than volunteer their time.

I think just about every retired person I have ever met has said, “I am busier now than I ever was.” Maybe the problem is not a lack of time so much as the many more demands on our time. After all we have the same amount of time each day as we did when we were younger. Since it is not because there is less time each day, it must mean there are more demands on our time. So, what are the things that are demanding our time?



Years ago I read a book entitled “First Things First” in which Stephen Covey stated that the key to managing our time better is doing a better job of prioritizing. He suggests four boxes. The first box is for things that are urgent and important (deadlines, crises, emergencies, etc.). The second box is for things that are important and not urgent (relationships, exercise, health, planning, etc.). The third box is for things that are urgent and not important (telephone sales calls, door-to-door political solicitors, drop-in small talk, etc.). The fourth box is for things that are not urgent and not important (excessive TV, window shopping, some emails, social media, etc.).

	URGENT	NOT URGENT
IMPORTANT	<u>Quadrant I</u> <i>urgent and important</i> DO	<u>Quadrant II</u> <i>not urgent but important</i> PLAN
NOT IMPORTANT	<u>Quadrant III</u> <i>urgent but not important</i> DELEGATE	<u>Quadrant IV</u> <i>not urgent and not important</i> ELIMINATE

My encouragement is that each of us consider which box is consuming most of our time. Prioritizing and planning can keep you out of the less desirable boxes (#3 & #4). Doing the first things first (not procrastinating) can help alleviate the stress of crises and emergencies. Spending less time on things that are not urgent and not important can also help.

While we live in this time of pandemic and staying safer at home, we may find that some of our time has been freed up. What have you been doing with that time? Which of the four boxes mentioned above have your activities fit into? While you may not be doing some of the things you used to do, you only have so much time... let's use it wisely. What are the “first things” that you can put first?

Social Ministry & Benevolence Thank you!

Dear Friends:

We thank you very much for the donation of many cleaning and household items for Haven of Hope. What a wonderful blessing you are to our ministry! Your willingness to help women coming out of prison assimilate back into society will make all the difference in their lives.

Our women are very thankful for the physical, emotional and spiritual support we have been able to give them as a result of your generosity. Our ladies continue to grow in their effort to make a successful transition back into society.

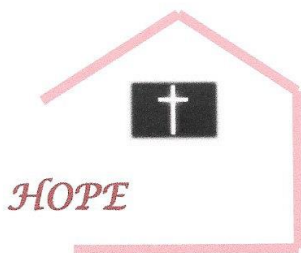
Since we do not receive any government support, we are dependent upon churches, organizations and individuals such as you for our support.

Those we serve together deeply appreciate your wonderful generosity and ask for your prayers. God bless you!

Sincerely,

Janet Smith

*Janet Smith, President
Board of Directors
317-441-7022*



Lois Hobratchk delivered donations to Haven of Hope, our April & May Social Ministry Project.

Thank you to the congregation for your support of Haven of Hope. The Thrivent team lead by Pastor and Lois was able to shop for needed items (via internet). The funds collected will be used for gift cards and hand soap. Lois was able to do a trunk

to trunk delivery. During this difficult time, Redeemer has spread love to this charity.

Blessings to all,
Stay healthy

JANE

July Benevolence

We are happy to announce our July benevolence is Sun City Veterans Memorial. The funds we collect will be used for the upkeep of the facility. Bricks can still be purchased by going to their website or calling Walt Cowan. A huge thank you for the shadow box which Marion Giblin made to display our tile. It will be hung in the church.

Please consider donating to the memorial. Please mark your envelope or check with SCC Veterans Memorial. If you have not visited the memorial, consider visiting soon. It is a very peaceful feeling. Stay safe and healthy.

Blessings,

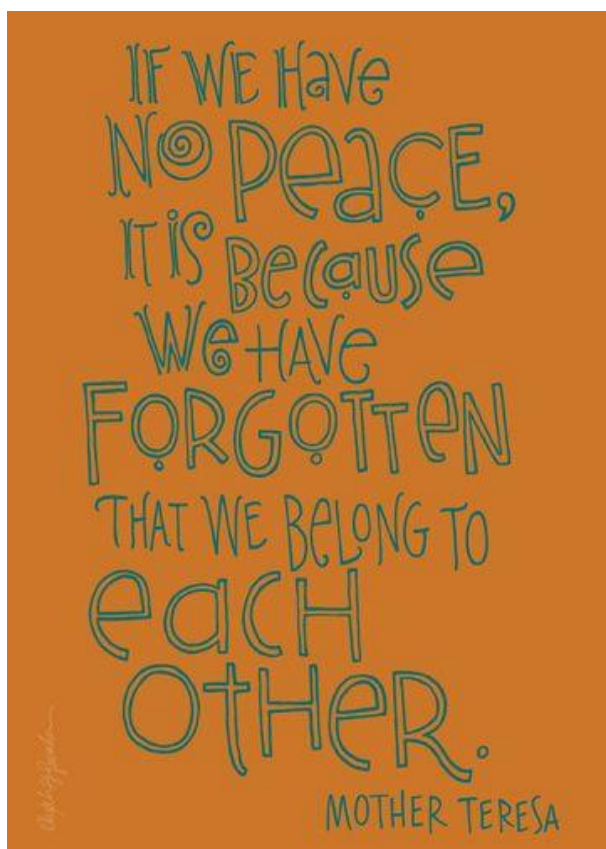
Jane Trefren and Social Ministry Team

Social Ministry project Good Samaritan Mission

Once again, we will be collecting baby supplies and personal hygiene items for the Good Samaritan Mission. The Good Samaritan Mission is dedicated to a holistic approach to enhancing the spiritual, emotional and physical quality of life for those living in poverty. They currently serve the community by offering a food pantry, Adult Education Program, post-secondary scholarships, and Back to School and Christmas Outreach Events. Current needs are for diapers (sizes 3, 4, 5, and 6), baby wipes, shampoo (travel size), conditioner (travel size), deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. All the hotel-size items are in great demand, as they are now working with the homeless in Tampa. If you would like a team member to shop for you, please consider making your donation by check to Redeemer Lutheran Church and note "Good Samaritan" project on the memo line and outside of your envelope. Thank you for supporting GSM!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

There is a modern proverb about not judging a person until you have walked a mile in her/his shoes. Author, speaker and Roman Catholic Priest, Gregory Boyle, says something similar: It would seem that, quite possibly, the ultimate measure of health in any community might well reside in our ability to stand in awe at what folks have to carry rather than in judgment at how they carry it. Mother Teresa phrased it this way: we have just “*forgotten that we belong to each other.*”



In 1 Corinthians 12 the Apostle Paul writes about Jesus’ followers all making up one body of Christ; even though there may be many parts we are all part of the same body. To think lesser of any part of the body is to damage the whole body. Sadly, some in the community strike the high moral distance that separates

“us” from “them,” and yet it is God’s dream come true when we recognize that there exists no separation between God’s people – all were made in the image of God. In Galatians 3:28 the Apostle Paul speaks out against developing any kind of pecking order among ourselves: *There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Richard Foster in his book *Celebration of Discipline* writes: *A group of people cannot be together for very long until the “pecking order” is clearly established. We can see it so easily in such things as where people sit, how they walk in relation to each other, who always gives way when two people are talking at the same time, who stands back and who steps forward when a job needs to be done. These things are written across the face of human society* (page 127).

The fact that the Bible addresses this proves that prejudice of every form has been a long standing problem. When Nathaniel heard about Jesus he responded, “*Can anything good come from Nazareth?*” On the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit gave the Apostles the power to proclaim Jesus as Messiah, some in the crowd asked in a derisive tone, “*Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?*” And, others sneered and said, “*They are filled with new wine.*” The ruling religious leaders judged Peter and John to be “*uneducated and ordinary men*” and asked who gave them authority to teach in the synagogues.

The Golden Rule of treating others the way we want to be treated is easier said than done; yet, that is part of the calling of following Jesus.



PRECAUTIONS FOR USING NON-MEDICAL MASKS

DOs



Clean your hands before touching the mask



Cover your mouth, nose, and chin



Clean your hands before removing the mask



Remove the mask by the straps behind the ears or head

DON'Ts



Do not wear a loose or damaged mask



Do not wear the mask under the nose



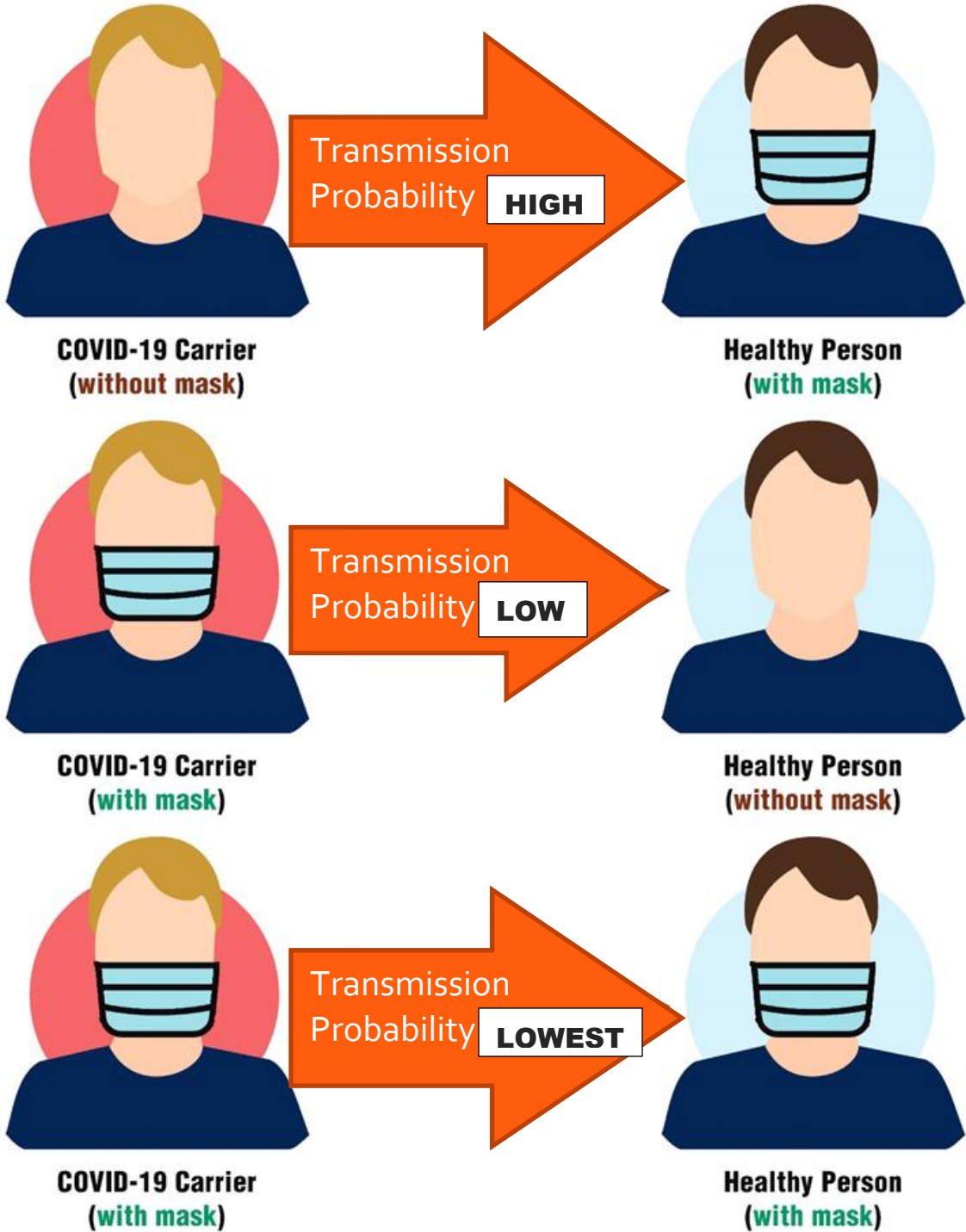
Do not wear a dirty or wet mask



Do not share your mask with others

Stay healthy !!

- Wear a mask if you need to go out
- Wash hands frequently
- Maintain 6 foot social distancing



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd – Ruth Lehnrs**
- 4th - Linda Miller, David Schierenbeck**
- 6th – Doris Long, Rick Nelson,
Nancy Philips**
- 7th – Ursula Clark, Audrey Erickson,
Jackie Flynn**
- 8th – Laura Akins**
- 9th – Betty Johnson**
- 10th – Bill Adkins, Phyllis Mead,
Howard Baker,**
- 11th – Judy Quitsch, Wendy Kitzman**
- 14th – Joe Ercegovich**
- 17th- Jim McCaw, Sammy Samuelson**
- 19th – Marlene Antonsen**
- 20th –Linda Cockerham, Nina Smart**
- 21st – Maggie Byrd, Mirdza Drengers,**
- 22nd – Margaret Miller**
- 27th – Emma Jean Mostoller**
- 28th- Bill Adkins Jr., Ellamarie Carr**



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st- Jim & Sue Smeltzer**
- 5th –Clarence & Marlene Antonsen**
- 15th – David & LaDonna Kiefer**
- 17th – John & Noreen Thompson**
- 19th – Roger & Ursula Clark**
- 23rd – Vlado & Eva Michna**
- 26th – Michael & Carolyn Stahl**
- 29th – Dick & Pat Fricke**
- 30th – Mike & Angie Wiechers**



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



Greetings from the Interfaith Council!

We are happy to announce the Nearly New Shop is open for donations and shopping. We are Following CDC requirements. Donations can be left at the store on Monday-Friday 8:30 AM-2:00 PM.

On Saturday we are open for shopping. Entrance to the shop is controlled and shoppers must wear a mask.

We also offer shopping by appointment. Call the shop or stop by to make an appointment. We allow 4 or fewer persons per 1/2 hour 9:00 AM -2:00 PM. We prefer cash for purchase. Recently we awarded 35 new high school scholarships and local grants.

Of course, we need volunteers, so if you are bored come and give us a try.

Blessings,

Your reps,
Jane, Ann, Sue, Jay, Barb, and Janice

Hillsborough County offering COVID-19 testing in Sun City Center

In an effort to make COVID-19 coronavirus testing as convenient as possible to all residents, Hillsborough County, in conjunction with health care providers has opened two local testing sites.

One local locations is right here in the parking lot of Redeemer and the other is at 5128 Florida State Road 674 in Wimauma.

Operating hours are from 8:00 AM until 11:00 AM on Mondays and Wednesdays only.

Please call 888-513-6321 to make and appointment or for more information



Tents for COVID-19 testing

Shadow box made by Marion Giblin to display our tile from the Veterans Memorial



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 and music.

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 **July Worship 2020**, June will remain available through the month of July under the Sunday Worship heading, then it will be moved under **Archives**.

From there click down and it will bring you to the prayers, readings, music, and Pastor Allman's message. Dates are arranged reverse of our normal calendar the older dates will be toward the bottom of the page.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email. I will not be sending a link via email every week. Please familiarize yourself with our website and print these instructions if you need to. When I do send the link, you can use that link over and over again. If you prefer to save the email so you have access to it later, you are welcome to do that as well. The gmail account we have here has been limiting the emails I am able to send out. Many times these emails are returned with a vague explanation at best. If you feel like you have missed communications or are getting double emails, please reach out to Kadie in the office.

