



FOOD PANTRY DONATION

RLC Newsletter

May 2020

A Message from Pastor Allman

Since you asked: Pentecost is the Christian festival celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension, held on the seventh Sunday, fifty days after Easter (5/31/20). The main sign of Pentecost in western churches is the color red. It symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit. Pastors and choirs (sometimes) wear red vestments, and in modern times, the custom has extended to the lay people of the congregation wearing red clothing in celebration as well. Red banners are often hung from walls or ceilings to symbolize the blowing of the "mighty wind" and the free movement of the Holy Spirit. Red flowers at the altar/preaching area, and red flowering plants such as geraniums around the church are also typical decorations for Pentecost services. These symbolize the renewal of life, the coming of the

warmth of summer, and the growth of the church at and from the first Pentecost.

Since its date depends on the date of Easter, Pentecost is a "moveable feast." The holy day is also called "White Sunday" or "Whitsunday" or "Whitsun", especially in the United Kingdom, where traditionally the next day, Whit Monday, was also a public holiday (since 1971 fixed by statute on the last Monday in May). In German, Pentecost is called Pfingsten, developed through contracting the Greek term pen[te]k[os]te, and often coincides with scholastic holidays and the beginning of many outdoor and springtime activities, such as festivals and organized outdoor activities by youth organizations. The Monday after Pentecost is a legal holiday in many European nations.

Some would call it the "birthday" of the Christian Church, because it represents the disciples' first proclamation of the good news of Jesus' Resurrection. The Season after Pentecost lasts from the day after Pentecost to the day before Advent (6/1/20-11/28/20). The color is green to symbolize the growth and life of the Church. In most churches, the general theme of the Bible readings and sermons concern the church's mission in the world. Jesus commanded us to, "Go therefore 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 that I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:19-20).

Pastor Allman 

News from the Office Administrator

May 2020

We are approaching May as I write this and things are still very uncertain. We continue to take all the precautions possible to keep ourselves and our families safe. We continue to offer Pastor Allman's sermons via video recording on both our Facebook page and the website. I know it is not the same as worshipping together, but God knows our hearts. We have received a lot of feedback from our members that they find these services to be meaningful and worshipful. These will continue as long as necessary to keep everyone safe. We are following the guidance of our Synod Bishop, who is following the CDC and WHO for regular updates. We will work hard to keep you informed as things change.

A big thank you to all of you who have been faithful in your giving during this time. We are so grateful. Like any other entity, many of our bills continue, even though we are not using our space as we normally would. That being said, we are also holding down our expenses during this time as we are not using as much electricity, water, paper and more. We will continue to be careful stewards of your contributions. The offering counters are coming in every other week right now, instead of each Monday, so if your check isn't immediately cashed that may be the reason. Please feel free to call if you have concerns.

I am hoping May brings a return to some of our "normal" and we can see each other in person again!



Food Pantry Donations

Food pantry donations are down all over Tampa Bay. We normally collect a trunk full or more of items each month. As of today 4/22/20 there is not a single item to be donated to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Beth-el Farmworkers Ministry Inc. is another local organization that is in need of food or monetary donations. They can be reached at 633-1548 if you are able to help.



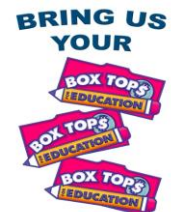
Thank you for donating items for the food pantry in the narthex closet.

Please remember, NO open packages or containers.



Support for others

(Collection boxes are on the narthex counter)



MAY STEWARDSHIP

by Pastor David Allman

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried” (Luke 16:19-22).

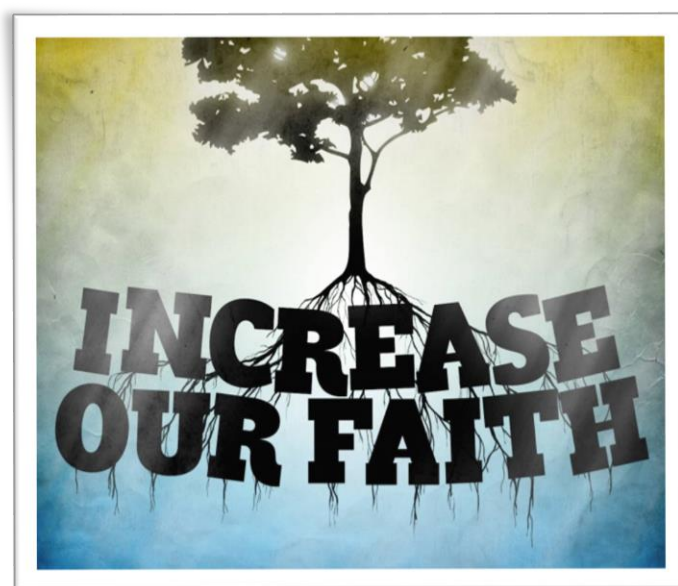
If you have food to eat every day, own a pair of shoes and have a roof over your head you are *rich* in comparison to most of the rest of the world. If you own a car or even a bicycle you are *very rich* in comparison to most of the rest of the world. Jesus’ parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus is a challenge to me personally as I think about my living situation when compared to the poverty around the world. The stimulus check that most of us received in April was more than the Gross National Income in Niger – the poorest Country in the world – which is \$906.00 per year.

Yet Jesus’ parable was not a condemnation of rich people. Abraham was considered exceedingly wealthy, and Abraham is pictured as being in heaven. The rich man’s love of money reveals his spirituality and lack of relationship with God. The rich man realizes his mistaken life choices only after death. The parable implies that if the rich man had followed the examples of people like Abraham and Moses, he would have made different lifestyle choices. It also confronts us with the realization that we have an even better example of humility in Jesus, the Risen Lord and Savior.



Following Jesus’ parable, “The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’ The Lord replied, ‘If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you” (Luke 17:5-6). It is this example of faith that leads us to the humility exemplified by Jesus. Whatever we do in service to God is done simply out of gratitude for what God has already done for us.

Faith is like a muscle that grows by stretching it in ways that take us beyond what we thought was possible from our own reason or logic. One of the ways to ‘increase our faith’ is to do something that God has asked us to do, especially that which feels impossible, trusting (in faith) that God knows better what is possible.



Social Ministry & Benevolence Thank you!

Social ministry would like to thank the congregation for your support of Sister Sara's Medical Mission. In May we will continue to be supporting Haven of Hope and the Pastor's fund for Redeemer.

Feel free to drop off items for Haven of Hope or your envelope with your donation. It has been a long journey for us but with God's guidance we shall overcome!

Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!

Stay safe,

Jane Trefren and the Social Ministry Team



Rosalie delivered health items to Sister Sara

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

During the month of May we will continue to collect for 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

May Social Ministry Project 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.

We understand that we are all being asked to stay home and shelter in place. If you wish to grab any of these items when you are out shopping for yourself, we are still collecting items for Haven of Hope. The office is still open and we are practicing social distancing if you wish to drop off items, please call the office before you come.

Shopping list for Haven of Hope

- 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 shared that the cost is \$30,000 a year for one inmate in prison but Haven of Hope estimates their cost at \$7,200 annually per resident.

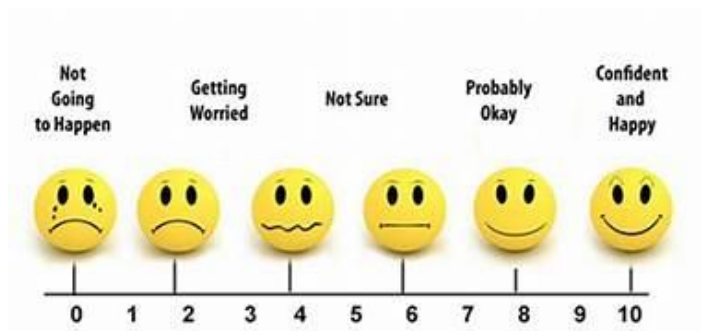
If you choose to donate money, please write "Haven of Hope" on your envelope. Money collected will be put towards the vacuum cleaner. Thank you.

Blessings, Social Ministry Team

MAY

EVANGELISM

On a scale of 1-10 how would you rate your confidence of going to heaven?



Let me add a caveat at this point: I am not asking if you hope to go to heaven someday, although you are not ready today. I am asking how confident you are that if you 'died' today you would wake up in heaven.

An Anglican Priest in London tells a story about a very godly eighty-seven-year-old woman, called Flory Shore, who underwent serious surgery. Flory had been told that her prospects of recovery were very slim. Thankfully she survived the surgery. As she opened her eyes, one of the first things she saw was the blurred image of her doctor, dressed in his white jacket. She smiled and said, "Hello God! I'm Flory Shore." (Copied from Nicky Gumble, ALPHA, Bible in One Year devotional).

In my varied experiences over the years, including Redeemer, I have met people who have said something like, "I'm ready!" I have also counseled people

who have doubts about their worthiness. And, I have spoken with people who may sum up their faith in words like, "I believe Lord; help my unbelief." When you are completely honest with yourself, because the Lord already knows, where would you rate your confidence on a scale of 1-10?

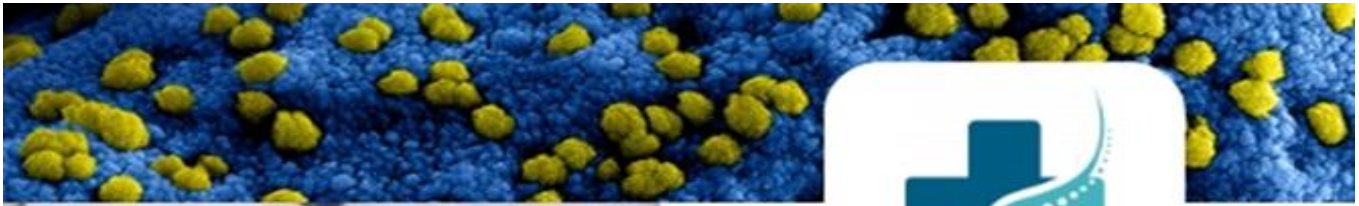
During most of March, all of April, and most likely all of May we have had and will have lots of time on our hands. How are you spending that time? Are you dedicating some of that time, like 10%, to Growing Your Faith (the 2nd part of our Mission Statement)?

In 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 the Apostle Paul writes about spiritual infancy versus spiritual maturity, "And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh."

This was not Paul being judgmental; this was Paul recognizing that not everyone is at the same point along the journey of spiritual maturity. Where are you? Only you (and God) can answer that; and, only you (and God) can set a goal for yourself to Grow in Faith. All of us can Grow in Faith no matter where we are along the journey, because there will always be someone further along who can lead us onward and upward.



From Parish Nurse Team



Coronavirus (COVID 19)

hand washing tips

Follow these 5 steps every time.

- 1** Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- 2** Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- 3** Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- 4** Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- 5** Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Viruses can be active outside the body for hours, even days. Disinfectants, liquids, wipes, gels and creams containing alcohol are all useful at getting rid of them – but they are not quite as good as normal soap.

USE HAND SANITIZER (WITH AT LEAST 60% ALCOHOL) WHEN YOU CAN'T USE SOAP AND WATER

**And remember to stay home except for essential trips, wear a mask when going out, and maintain at least 6 feet apart (social distancing).
Stay safe !!**

From Parish Nurse Team



World Health
Organization

Coping with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak



It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared or angry during a crisis.

Talking to people you trust can help. Contact your friends and family.

If you must stay at home, maintain a healthy lifestyle - including proper diet, sleep, exercise and social contacts with loved ones at home and by email and phone with other family and friends.



Don't use smoking, alcohol or other drugs to deal with your emotions.

If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor. Have a plan, where to go to and how to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

Get the facts. Gather information that will help you accurately determine your risk so that you can take reasonable precautions. Find a credible source you can trust such as WHO website or, a local or state public health agency.



Limit worry and agitation by lessening the time you and your family spend watching or listening to media coverage that you perceive as upsetting.

Draw on skills you have used in the past that have helped you to manage previous life's adversities and use those skills to help you manage your emotions during the challenging time of this outbreak.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st – Kathie Bastion, Mariam Sorby**
- 2nd – Louise Kunard**
- 3rd – Carolyn Cole**
- 4th - Cal Adams, Paula Simenson**
- 5th – Jane Magalski**
- 6th – Dorothy Warke**
- 7th – Karin Meredith**
- 9th – Mike Sigler**
- 10th – Eleanor Jurgens**
- 11th – Dorothy Paulson**
- 12th – Joan Wessinger**
- 14th – Peggy Fisher, Lee Johnson,
Kay Lewis**
- 16th - Anne Clouser**
- 19th – Elmer Mack**
- 21st – Chuck Kovacik, Laurence Moquin**
- 22nd –Kathie Hackett**
- 24th –Vivian Kann**
- 26th –Judith Lavallee**



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3rd – Ralph & Betty Johnson**
- 7th – Joseph & Audrey Ercegovich**
- 9th – Rosalie & Jerry Kelleher,
John & Cheryl MacPhee**
- 15th - Nancy & Mike Almaguer**
- 17th – Dorle Hahn & Bill Hahn**
- 19th – David & Candy Allman**
- 22nd – Tony & Sigi Espino**
- 28th – Bob & Delores Casper**



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

Thank you to everyone who made my 60th birthday so very special by sending cards and gifts. Your thoughtful was very well received during this time of isolation. I am looking forward to getting all my hugs and seeing you all real soon.

Candy



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.

Synod Assembly

The 2020 Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly has been cancelled. All registrations will be refunded. If you have a question or need more information, please contact Yuliet Garcia at 813-876-7660 Ext. 221

Next year's Synod Assembly is scheduled for June 3rd to 5th, 2021 at the Embassy Suites in Kissimmee.

Safe at Home

Hello everyone, Kadie here. I hope everyone has been staying safe and healthy at home. This has been an interesting and unusual time for all of us. We have to stay home instead of gathering together to worship, we have cancelled all of the fun and not so fun things we do in our everyday lives. I would imagine that you are missing many aspects of your former day to day life just like I am. Please consider sharing with us what you have

been doing. I would love to share it in the June newsletter. I am including a few pictures from what we have been doing since we have been home together.



Lucas enjoying a jump in a puddle on our nightly walk.



Evan and I dusted off the old camping tent!



My boys Evan and Lucas.