

SURPRISE 35TH ORDINATION

RLC Newsletter

October 2020

A Message from Pastor Allman

35 years of ordained ministry seems hard to imagine; although with me still being part of the Youth Group at Redeemer, telling many of you how the years have zoomed by may be comparable to the adage of “preaching to the choir.” Candy and I wish to thank you all for helping us celebrate with well wishes, cards, gifts, and a car/golf cart parade. Perhaps the best part was being able to see some of your lovely faces again albeit hiding behind masks. I say that you helped “us” celebrate as Candy and I have always been a team in ministry. Being a Pastor’s wife is likely even more demanding, at times, than being the Pastor.

Today I sit at my computer taking a walk down memory lane; although 35 years ago I had a typewriter instead of a computer.

September 15, 1985 I was ordained at my home congregation in Toledo, OH; and, we began a ministry 30 miles east of Columbus, OH with a congregation of eight (8) people, four of which were children, and who were all related to one another in some way. It was a part-time Call, with my full-time job being at the State of Ohio Bureau of Employment Services. The Assistant to the Bishop asked me to help the congregation close their doors. I failed. Two years later there was an average attendance of 35 people, and the congregation stopped receiving financial assistance from the Bishop’s office. A few summers ago we stopped by the old church to show Noah and it was still there, had shown some improvements to the building, and many of the

folks I knew 35 years ago are now laid to rest in the cemetery on the property. It was the typical Church one sees on greeting cards, complete with cemetery, and surrounded by cornfields in the summer and snow fields in the winter.

Throughout the years I have served as solo pastor and on team ministries, as Associate Pastor and as Senior Pastor, often in Youth and Family ministries. There have been churches where I was the only staff member and churches where I had nine staff people working with me. I pastored a church with eight (8) members and two churches each with 1500 members. I have preached at one service on a weekend in some and five services on a weekend in others. One thing I

have learned is to remember that it is God that builds the church and I do my best ministry when I listen and follow God's lead into God's preferred future.

Another surprise is the speed at which these seven and a half years have gone by at Redeemer. We have grown together from an average weekly attendance of about 150 to nearly 200 prior to the impact of COVID-19. As we have met the challenge of the years together, we will continue to meet the challenge of this pandemic together. We do not know all the answers, and that is frustrating for everyone, although we know and trust a God who will not fail us. The first Sunday I led worship at Redeemer I used Jeremiah 29:11 as my text, *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'*" That promise remains true as long as we continue to follow God into God's preferred future. Thank you for helping us celebrate, and thank you for letting us join you in this journey together.

Pastor Allman 

News from the Office Administrator

October 2020

Well, here we are in October already. We have been in this COVID-19 bubble for more than six months now. As I am writing this in mid-September the cases in Florida have dropped significantly over what they were in July, so we are grateful. We remain hopeful that they will have a working vaccine soon that will allow us to have in-person worship. We really miss seeing all of you!

As many of you know, we have started our livestream of the Sunday morning service, thanks to the donation from a very generous member. We have at this writing had two services and things are working well. Thank you, Noah Allman, for running this for us on Sunday morning! If you are having difficulty getting the livestream on your computer, please give us a call for assistance. Kadie will email the bulletin during the week for the following Sunday to our distribution list. It will include information on how to connect to the livestream. We want as many people as possible to be able to be a part of worship in this way. The first stream has had 168 views to date, and since this is households, the number of participants is greater than that 168! That is better than our summer attendance usually is!

Thank you to all who participated in the parade honoring Pastor Allman's 35th anniversary of ordination! It was so nice for all of us to see your faces again. Thank you to the team that put this together via zoom meetings.

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.

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)



OCTOBER

STEWARDSHIP

I think it would be an understatement to say that COVID-19 has detoured the Church and her people at every turn. One such example for Redeemer, and likely many congregations, has been in the area of the 2020 Spending Plan. Some expenses remained the same, while some increased and some decreased. When it appeared that this pandemic would last more than any of us wanted, Church Stewardship commentators said we could all toss our 2020 plans aside; and, that developing plans for the year 2021 would be even more difficult.

In a normal year our Stewardship & Finance Ministry Team would have already met to discuss Stewardship Programs, meeting dates, and a proposed 2021 Spending Plan. Per guidelines published by scientific and medical experts, we have abstained from in-person gatherings to help people stay safe; and, the 2020 income and expenses have been atypical so our baseline is ineffective. Financially Redeemer is currently doing okay, thanks to your generosity, although we cannot use 2020 finances to predict 2021 income and expenses.



As of this writing we cannot say with absolute certainty when a proven vaccine that is affordable and readily available to everyone will materialize. Some places are reopening, with restrictions, and some places are not. Some churches have opened with limitations on attendance and had no problems. Some churches reopened, followed all of the guidelines, and have closed again because of contamination. There is no one right answer for every place and everyone.

As of this writing the next Council meeting is still a few days away, although we will, once again, address many of these issues and make decisions that we believe are in the best interest for the safety of our congregation. Once again, I reiterate, that if even one member catches this virus and dies because of something I did, I would have a hard time living with that on my conscience. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we continue this journey together.



Social Ministry & Benevolence

There are no benevolence or social ministry projects for the upcoming months. Our Social Ministry team is without a chair currently. Many of you include money for these projects when you give to the church. At this point any money that comes in for benevolence or social ministry will go to the food pantry. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

Food Pantry

As many of you may already know. Redeemer collects food for our local food pantry run by Our Lady of Guadalupe. Giving within our community has always been a priority and right now the pantry really needs our donations.

Items the Food Pantry needs most:

1. Canned meat: chicken, tuna, ham, vienna sausages
2. Canned vegetables: potatoes, collard greens, beans, carrots, spinach, or peas
3. Canned fruit or individual fruit cups
4. Spaghetti and marinara sauce
5. Rice
6. Instant food mixes that only require water: mashed potatoes, biscuit mixes, instant oatmeal
7. Shelf stable milk and alternatives (rice, soy, etc.)
8. Macaroni & cheese
9. Cereal
10. Peanut butter and other nut butters creamy or crunchy
11. Pudding (non refrigerated)
12. Pop Tarts

13. Basic spices: salt, pepper, cinnamon, basil, oregano
14. Chips and crackers: Cheez-Its, graham crackers, animal crackers, peanut butter or cheese crackers
15. Soups, especially hearty meals like chili or stew (pop top cans are best)
16. Snack items for kids to take to school: juice boxes, applesauce containers, granola bars, fruit snacks
17. Infant items: formula and infant cereal

Items to stay away from:

- Anything needing refrigeration
- Homeade food
- Expired food
- Food without a label
- Food or packaging that's falling apart or damaged

Other ways to help

Visit Our Lady's Pantry any Tuesday, Friday, or Saturday morning to see what we do. You can ask for Anita or Tom if you come.

You can email Tom at: tom@ourladyspantry.com
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.

There are so many ways you can lend a hand. We really appreciate your continued support of the food pantry of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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

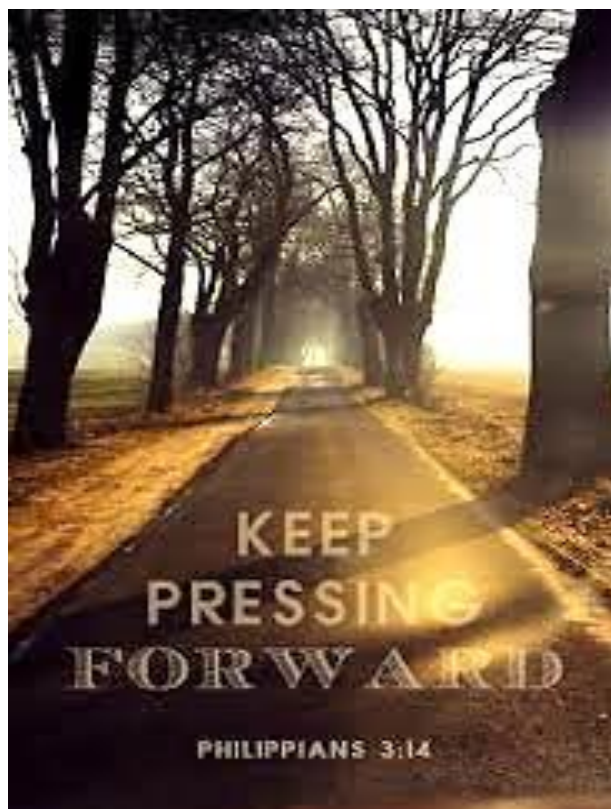
Please remember, NO open packages or containers.



GROWING IN FAITH

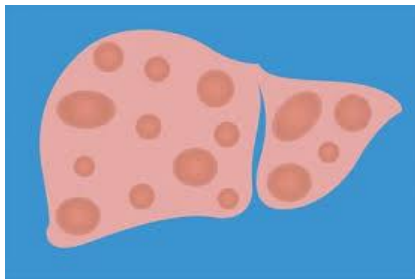
Chronological age is not necessarily a good indicator of spiritual maturity. What does it mean to be a mature Christian? One definition of Spiritual Maturity is becoming more like Jesus Christ. There are those that thought making their Confirmation of Faith, around age thirteen, meant they had completed the journey. In fact, that was simply a decision to take personal responsibility for becoming more like Jesus rather than rely on parents to ensure that you continue in a growing relationship with Jesus. If one treated Confirmation like Graduation then it is likely that person's spiritual maturity stayed at that level.

Others treated Confirmation as a new beginning, in which she/he could build on their personal relationship with Jesus, to learn from Jesus' teachings, and model their lives after Jesus to the best of their ability. For them the journey became a lifelong commitment, as the Apostle Paul said, "*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus*" (Phil 3:14). The pressing on does not end until one makes the transition from this world into eternal life in heaven.



Many people are somewhere in between, although on the same journey. Only you and God can answer the question as to how much you are like Jesus. Yet, all of us have room to grow, which is why the second part of our Mission Statement is to 'Grow in Faith.' All of us can find someone further along the journey, and someone not quite as far along the journey. I once heard that each person needs three specific characters to accompany them along the journey: (1) someone like Paul; (2) someone like Barnabas; and, (3) someone like Timothy. Paul (the Teacher) is the person you look to as a mentor to help you grow spiritually. Timothy (the Student) is the person you can mentor and help grow spiritually. Barnabas (the Encourager) is the person you trust most to hold you accountable, and to whom you will listen.

Let me encourage you to pray and ask God how you can Grow in Faith, and who might become your "Paul, Barnabas and Timothy" if you do not already have someone.



Fatty Liver Disease

by **Linda Eargle**

According to the Mayo and Cleveland Clinics, Fatty Liver Disease diagnoses are increasing in the US and approximately 25% of the population is affected.

While some fat cells in the liver are normally occurring, Cleveland Clinic's website indicates more than 5% fat in the liver is the beginning of Fatty Liver Disease. Fat is deposited throughout the liver and leads to scarring and decreased liver function. When the scarring becomes significant, the liver hardens/becomes sclerotic.

Those at most risk are those with obesity, Diabetes Mellitus and/or Metabolic Syndrome. Certain medications can increase the risk and typically liver tests are done to monitor any changes. At the beginning of the disease, symptoms are mild but can be diagnosed by blood tests. When diagnosed early, a program to reduce the progression can be prescribed. Gastroenterologists are very aware of the problems; our family practice/internists are typically not as pro-active in ordering the blood tests to confirm a diagnosis.

The Harvard Health website list the following as steps to reduce the amount of fat in your liver:

- “Don’t drink too much alcohol. How much is too much remains controversial, but it’s probably best to avoid alcohol completely.
- Make sure that none of your medications, herbs, and supplements are toxic to the liver; you can crosscheck your list with this [LiverTox](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK547852/) database. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK547852/>)
- Even acetaminophen (the generic ingredient in Tylenol and some cold medicines) may be harmful if you take too much for too long, especially if you have liver disease or drink alcohol heavily.
- Get vaccinated to protect against liver viruses hepatitis A and B.
- Control other health conditions that might also affect your liver, and check with your doctor if you might have other underlying, treatable diseases contributing to your fatty liver.”
<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/fatty-liver-disease-what-it-is-and-what-to-do-about-it-2019011015746>

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1st – Susan Wold**
- 2nd – Jay King**
- 4th – Patty Fricke, Judith Schmidt**
- 5th – Anne Koehler**
- 7th – Honey Ashley**
- 10th – Rosalie Kelleher**
- 13th - Gideon Bender**
- 14th – Cathy Lindsey**
- 16th- Edward Kotek, George Powell**
- 18th – Darlene Baker, Paul Eliassen,
Valerie Southwell**
- 21st – Debbie Andrews**
- 24th – Dianne Good, Patricia Schaefer**
- 26th – Delores Casper**
- 28th –James Casper, Helen Sawyer**
- 29th – George Brinker**
- 30th- Don Brown**



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st – Martha & Paul Davenport
Steve & Evelyn Stephanic**
- 17th- Laurence & Mary Moquin**
- 22nd – Chuck & Judy Buskirk**
- 25th – Dick & Mary Ihrke**



Have you moved? Changed your phone number? Did your anniversary or birthday miss the list?

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



Thank you from Candy & Pastor Allman

Thanks so much for all of the gifts and cards in celebration of the anniversary of my 35th ordination. It was great to see everyone during the parade. Thanks for coming out to celebrate.



Parking Lot COVID-19 Testing

We wanted to share with you that the drive through testing in our parking lot is finished. Testing will continue to be available locally, in Wimauma.

Please call 888-513-6321 for appointments or any other questions.

YouTube

We began livestreaming Sunday worship on September 6th and will continue to stream every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. As some of you may have noticed this is a learning process for all of us. Our internet connection was lost on September 20 and nothing recorded after Sandy's prelude. We hope these things won't happen in the future but not everything is in our control. We hope you will tune in every Sunday. Our YouTube channel has so much to offer, please also check out some of the bible study videos Pastor has recorded.

In case anyone needs it once you are on YouTube use the search feature to search for Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center Florida. When you have found it hit the red subscribe button. This will keep you current with videos from Pastor Allman.

The direct link below can be entered right in to your address bar.

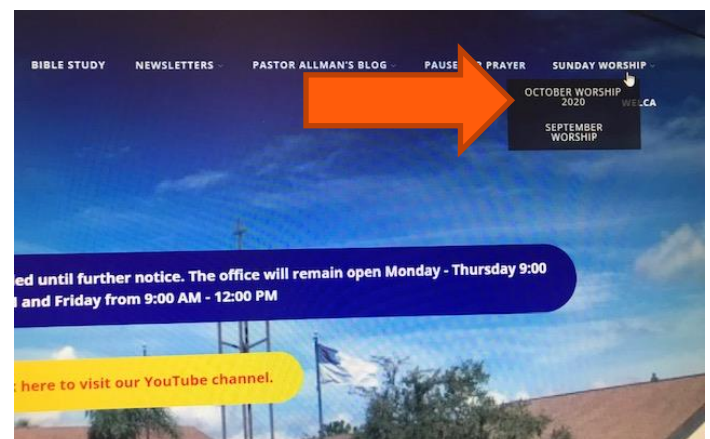
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUniSRGmRw4qLi2qmolnoxw>

There is also a link directly to YouTube on our church website. Just click on the yellow button and it will take you right to YouTube. The online version of the bulletin can also be found on our website.

Simple instructions: Go to our website www.redeemerlc.com



To get to the bulletin: Look for October Worship 2020 at the top of the page, hover over it and the dropdown will appear. Click on the month you would like to view and the dates are arranged with the most current on top.



SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Oct. 4 – Wendy Kitzman

Oct. 11 – Denise Fitzpatrick

Oct. 18 – John Minor

Oct. 25 – Rosalie Kelleher



Nov. 1 – Debbie Andrews

Nov. 8 – Jim Schwartz

Nov. 15 – Carolyn Cole

Nov. 22 – assistant needed

Nov. 29- assistant needed

Canadian Cheddar Cheese Soup from Le Cellier Steakhouse at EPCOT

Serves 10

Ingredients:

1/2 pound of bacon, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
 1 medium red onion, cut into 1/4-inch pieces
 3 celery ribs, cut into 1/4-inch pieces
 4 tablespoons butter
 1 cup all-purpose flour
 3 cups chicken stock
 4 cups milk
 1 pound white cheddar cheese, grated
 1 tablespoon Tabasco sauce
 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
 Coarse salt, freshly ground pepper to taste
 1/2 cup warm Canadian golden lager or any pale
 lager-style beer
 Chopped scallions or chives, for garnish

Directions:

1. In a 4- or 5-quart Dutch oven, cook bacon, stirring, over medium heat for about 5 minutes, or until lightly browned.
2. Add red onion, celery, and butter and sauté until onion has softened, about 5 minutes.
3. Add flour and cook, stirring constantly, for about 4 minutes over medium heat. Whisk in chicken stock and bring to boil for 1 minute. Reduce heat to simmer and cook for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Add milk and continue to simmer for 15 minutes. Do not boil after milk is added.
5. Remove from heat and add cheese, Tabasco sauce, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and pepper. Blend with immersion blender until cheese is melted and soup is smooth. Stir in warm beer. If the soup is too thick, thin with some warm milk.
6. Serve the soup hot, garnished with chopped scallions or chives.



Please call Carolyn Cole if you would like to read on Sunday. 813-812-7527