



RLC Newsletter

May 2021

A Message from Pastor Allman

This morning, the day I am writing this, not the day you will be reading this, Kadie sent me an email inviting me to submit to her my newsletter articles at my earliest convenience. In truth, I am at least five days late submitting them. It is not much of an excuse, although I feel like I have been a bit busy with online Bible studies, Live Streaming worship, and preparing for the Special Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote on a new and more visible electronic sign to be constructed in the front of our building.

I will confess that I decided to go back and read the newsletter article I wrote for May 2014, just a little past our one-year anniversary. Not mine and Candy's, rather mine and Redeemer's. On April 15, 2021 I

realized that it was 8 years ago to that date that I started as Redeemer's Pastor; yep, tax day. I wanted to cheat and just copy and paste the article I wrote seven years ago. One can do that with electronic files.

I will copy and paste some of what I wrote, because I was surprised at how prophetic those words have turned out to be, in some sense. In the 2014 article I was referring to how social media communications are making obsolete the forms of communication that many of our age group still use. My prophetic words warned that Redeemer was going to have to adapt or be left behind. Here is part of what I wrote:

Soon the use of the printer, copy machine, toner, paper and

folding machine will be obsolete. And consider where that will leave the greeting card industry, stationary industry and the USPS. I am no prophet, yet I can see the writing on the wall – which these days is my Facebook Wall. "The days are surely coming," says the pastor, "when Redeemer will have to catch up or get left behind." That may not happen in your lifetime. It may not even happen in my lifetime. It will, I predict, still happen; and, if we are concerned about whether Redeemer will still be here in 35 more years, then we should all take the future of Redeemer seriously.

In the seven years from then until now, we have moved Redeemer into the late twentieth century. Yes, I know we are

twenty years into the twenty-first century. We have converted nearly all of our communications to electronic, I am sure much to some people's chagrin. I can communicate with nearly all of our members and friends in the few minutes it takes Kadie to send out those mass emails; whereas, in May 2014 we were bulk mailing out the newsletter which could take as many as two weeks to receive.

We have started, and continue to develop, a Redeemer Lutheran Church website and Facebook page. This continues to be a work in progress for us, even though today's teenagers and twenty-somethings would tell us that those social media sites are for "old people." While chronologically we may be "old people" our knowledge and use of these media sites are still in their infancy.

We have converted our membership records and finance records into an electronic database, into which I can add records and retrieve records in a matter of seconds, instead of asking someone to see if they can find a file folder in one of the cabinets. Our office computers are networked so that we can keep common use documents in a "shared drive" on the "network server." Some of you may not understand that, just trust me that it is worth it. Everything on all of our computers is backed up onto an external hard drive, whereas before old paper files were archived into boxes and stuck up in the attic.

The pandemic forced us even further into the electronic age,

even though we are still years behind the curve. This time last year I was experimenting with recording Sunday liturgy on my cell phone, while Kadie was recording Sandy and various choir members providing music, then Kadie and I would, by a process of trial and error, upload those recordings on our Website and Facebook pages. Now we have added Live Stream capabilities, which many other congregations were already doing years ago, and we have a twenty year old operating it, because none of the rest of us could. Somehow it all comes together on Sunday mornings, and many people have been watching live worship on our YouTube page, even while some are returning for in-person worship. After worship on Sunday the YouTube recording is shared on our Website and Facebook page, so people can watch it later in the week, and we even have some watching from other states and from other countries. The pandemic also forced us into Zoom meetings for our own Council, and also some small groups, as well as Synod meetings and ELCA publications.

As of Sunday (4/18/21) we took a new step into the unfamiliar when those gathered for the congregational meeting approved the construction of a new, more visible, and electronic sign for the front of the building. Perhaps it will help deflect some of the people coming into our building thinking we are either the Catholic Church or the Funeral Home. I certainly expect it will help our presence as Redeemer Lutheran Church be better known in Sun City Center.

I also expect it will mean a new learning curve for our staff and perhaps some volunteers as we learn how to use this new (to us) technology to the glory of God.

The very first sermon I gave at Redeemer centered on Jeremiah 29:11, *"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.'*" At the time I could not have foreseen the future God had in store for us; and, truly speaking we are still moving into God's preferred future. While moving forward into the unfamiliar and somewhat uncertain may be scary at times, no one can say that it has been dull. I look forward to what God has in store for us next.

Pastor Allman 

Support for others

(Collection boxes are on the narthex counter)

**BRING US
YOUR**



News from the Office Administrator May 2021

It is so good to see so many members of the congregation coming back to in-person worship! We have missed seeing you! Thank you for continuing to observe the precautions, wearing your masks and keeping a safe distance. Things are starting again; in June we are expecting the AA group to come back and hopefully our barbershop gentleman. By the time you read this, Pastor, Kadie and I will have had our second vaccine! We will begin to feel safer when that has happened. Stay tuned for more upcoming activities!

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. Our first priority is the safety and wellbeing of all of you, so please be good to yourselves.



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. May. 2 11:00 AM	Walter Geissler	Walter Geissler, Debbie Andrews, Lucy Ann Clark	Carolyn Cole
Sun. May. 9 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler		Rosalie Kelleher
Sun. May. 16 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark	Debbie Andrews, Lucy Ann Clark, Wendy Kitzman	Debbie Andrews
Sun. May. 23 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark		Judy Kiel
Sun. May. 30 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark		Myrna Strom

Worship Assistants Needed - We are in need of worship assistants to help on Sunday. If you have helped in the past and would like to again, or would like to help for the first time please call Carolyn Cole so she can add you to the schedule. 813-812-7527

MAY

STEWARDSHIP

How much time has God given you? Have you ever considered that question? I do not mean to ask how many years has God given you on this earth. I mean to ask you to think about the amount of time you have each day, week and year. Everyone has the same amount of time. It does not matter whether you are young or old. It does not matter whether you are retired or still working; although I have heard retired people wonder aloud how they got everything done in a day while they were working.



God has given each one of us 24 hours in a day; 168 hours in a week; and 8760 hours in a year. For those of you who have graduated from our youth group (above 70-years-old), you have already used up at least 613,200 hours. What have you done for God with all of those hours?

It should not come as a surprise because you have heard it before... there is only one way to retire from God's work, and then we get an eternity of time to worship God. I have heard some folks say they "have done their time" in their church "up north" and that they are retired now. If you truly believe that, then you may want to be sure you are ready for God to take you to your heavenly home.

I have heard other people, who have had some kind of close brush with death, say that "God must still have a purpose for me here." I usually respond with something like, "That is wonderful. What is that purpose?" Some people can tell me and some people do not know how to answer. My thinking is that if you believe God has left you here for a reason, then God wants you to figure out that reason and do it.

What separates us one from another is not the amount of hours available to us each day, week and year. What separates us is the manner in which we use our gifts and talents within the available time. We can waste time; we can spend time; or we can invest our time wisely. That is what stewardship is about: faithfully developing and using our gifts, talents and resources within the amount of time God has given to us.

The Bible teaches that each one of us is a steward of the resources with which God has entrusted us. Our time is a resource. It does not belong to us. It is entrusted into our care to see what we will do with it. Typically in Jesus' parables the steward is expected to one day give an accounting of how those resources were used. How have you used the time that God has entrusted to you?

Do not rush through this question. Use some time to think it through. This is the fundamental principle of biblical stewardship: We own nothing. God owns everything. We are God's stewards. We all know that we brought nothing into this world and we can take nothing with us when we leave this world. This should tell us how much we actually own.

The question then becomes, do you follow your will or do you follow God's will? Whether we realize it or not, we face this decision many times in the course of each day. Our answer to this question will determine how we manage the time, abilities, money, truth and relationships God has placed under our care. A wise steward will treat things according to their true value, treasure the things God declares to be important and hold with a loose grip the things that God says will not matter in the end.

GROWING IN FAITH

“Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received... Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress” (1 Timothy 4:14-15, NLT).

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another” (1 Peter 4:10, NLT).



Did you know you had a spiritual gift? Do not panic! There is nothing to fear! God's Holy Spirit is our friend! God's Holy Spirit is the third part of our Triune God! God gives good gifts! Now breathe...

After you have your breathing back under control you may feel like asking, “Why me?” or simply “Why?” Let's consider the larger picture of why spiritual gifts are important. First and foremost spiritual gifts are given and used to glorify God. Second, spiritual gifts are given and used to help us build up the Church and become more like Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul says, *“Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12-13, NLT).*

Jesus is our perfect example! Jesus personified all the spiritual gifts through the words Jesus spoke and the actions Jesus carried out. Since Jesus is now at the right hand of God, the Holy Spirit is the primary expression of the presence of God on the earth. Therefore God distributes the gifts of the Holy Spirit among Christians, so we can glorify God and build up the Church.

Each person has been given a primary spiritual gift, and other secondary spiritual gifts. God brings people together in order that our spiritual gifts can complement one another and we learn to rely on one another. As our understanding of Redeemer's spiritual gifts matures, our appreciation for all of the people at Redeemer increases.

God has brought you to Redeemer for a reason. Your spiritual gifts are important to God's preferred future for Redeemer. Your spiritual gifts are not an end in themselves. They are tools with which we can speak clearly the love of God to all people. Use them well to serve one another.



Search for Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center Florida and 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/UCUnSRGmRw4qLi2qmInoxw>

From Parish Nurse Team

Relieving Stress

Stress is a natural part of existence. However, too much stress can interfere with your total well-being. Some ways to relieve stress include:

- Prioritize ...simplify.
- Take time to be good to yourself; get the recreation and relaxation you need.
- Avoid using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs to cope.
- Maintain a positive attitude and a sense of humor.
- Keep physically fit. Exercise regularly.
- Eat a well-balanced diet.
- Work on learning to accept those things that you cannot change.
- Identify and use the personal stress relievers that work best for you. They may include one or more of the following: music, walking, hobbies, pets, writing, meditation, deep breathing, prayer.
- Talk things out. Don't hold in feelings of anger, hurt, or sadness any more than you hold back feelings of joy and delight.
- Seek counseling if necessary.** Today, counseling is far more available and acceptable than in the past. People of all ages seek counseling to help them deal with difficult situations and personal concerns. Often just a few visits are needed.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st – Kathie Bastion, Mariam Sorby**
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 – Lee Johnson
16th - Anne Clouser
19th – Elmer Mack
21st – Chuck Kovacik, Laurence Moquin
22nd – Kathie Hackett
24th – Vivian Kann
26th – Judith Lavallee
30th – Carolyn DeCarbo, Martha Viohl



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3rd – Ralph & Betty Johnson**
7th – Joseph & Audrey Ercegovich
9th – Rosalie & Jerry Kelleher,
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!



Flowers on the Altar

The flower book has been placed in the Narthex again for anyone that wishes to sign up for flowers. It is always so nice to have fresh flowers on the altar. Please consider signing up for flowers on the altar.

God Spa is back!

Way back before COVID some of you were registered to attend God Spa with Candy Allman. Recently Candy received an email saying that the camp has it back on their schedule for October, 2021. Candy is going, and she would like to have the ladies of Redeemer join her. (Sorry gentleman, ladies only this time.) This will be a joint venture with the ladies of Saint John the Divine. In order to attend you must have your covid vaccine(s). More information will be shared once the details arrive from the camp. If you have any questions please email Candy Allman at candyallman@gmail.com.



Sunshine Circle

The Sunshine Circle prepared Easter gift bags for our homebound members and delivered them. Thanks to Honey Ashley, Linda Miller, Carolyn Cole, Vern & Verbal Loepp, and Lois & Don Hobratschk for making it all possible.



Sunshine Circle Easter gift bags prepared by Vern and Verbal Loepp

The Care Team

We know there are some people in our church who could use help with household chores while recuperating from surgery, illness, or a fall. If you were incapacitated for a short period of time, would you have help getting meals, doing light housekeeping, or laundry?

Some members of Redeemer would like to help. We are in the beginning stages of forming a Care Team to help with these things insurance doesn't cover. If the Care Team could help you or you would like to volunteer to be a Care Team helper please contact Jeanne Pruet.



Pentecost Celebration May 23

Our Pentecost celebration will look a little different this year, the good news is we are having one! Wear red and please plan on joining us in Buhr Hall following the service or fellowship. Safety precautions will be in place to ensure everyone's safety as we celebrate the birthday of the church.



Worship Assistants Needed

We are in the need of new worship assistant volunteers. If you are willing to be an acolyte, lector, or communion assistant, please contact Carolyn Cole 813-812-7527.



Welcoming New Choir members

We are welcoming new members to join our choir. If you are interested in joining, please stop by and practice with us Thursday at 6:45 PM.



New Members

We are always welcoming new members, it's a great time to join. Forms are available in the office. See Susan or Kadie for additional information.



Quilters

The quilters are back! We are happy to get together again, and we are looking for new faces to join us. We have important jobs that do not involve quilting or sewin. We meet every Friday from 9:30 AM to noon. All quilts we make are for charity. Please join us to enjoy the fun of fellowship of a worthwhile ministry.



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

Please remember, NO open packages or containers.

