



# RLC Newsletter

September  
2021

## A Message from Pastor Allman

The word “liminal” comes from the Latin root, limen, which means “threshold.” The liminal space is the “crossing over” space – a space where you have left something behind, while you are not yet fully in something else. In a sense the entire world has been in “liminal space” since the beginning of 2020. Even as we started thinking we had crossed over the threshold on the pandemic, we have discovered that the COVID virus has mutated and reared its ugly head once again.

Life for the entire world changed, adjusted, and changed again... and now again. Believers around the world have been crying out “How long, O Lord?” Liminal space can feel scary. One website explains it this way: *These spaces can often quickly become scary or uncomfortable because it is not a space that we are used to*

*being in for an extended period of time. In fact, liminal spaces are often cold and bare as people are expected to be just passing through them.*(Linkedin)

I think liminal space is also scary because the time and events are outside of our control. While many of us would not categorize ourselves as “control freaks,” I think we all have some need to feel like we are in control. It is important to accept what we can control and what we cannot. Something we have come to call the Serenity Prayer asks “*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference, living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; taking this world as it is and not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; so that I may be reasonably*

*happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen*” (Reinhold Niebuhr).

The part in each of us that longs for control, I think, has the most trouble with the line, “*taking this world as it is and not as I would have it.*” Surrendering, even to God, is difficult in the best of times. In these scary times we are more apt to lash out at anyone who dares to disagree with us.

The Psalms are filled with examples of “*crying out to God*” from the depths of our despair; or, from the depths of our liminal space. Let me encourage each of us to start each day crying out to God with the words of the Serenity Prayer quoted above. “*God grant me the serenity to...*”

Pastor Allman †

## News from the Office Administrator

### September 2021

I keep hearing about the end of summer, but that is not what really happens here in Florida! I guess the beginning of school signals fall to many people, especially those of us from the north. I plan to enjoy our summer for as long as I can.

We are continuing to worship both in person and via livestream. This has gone well and meets the needs of many of our members and friends. It has been a joy to see you as you have come back. Plans are underway to resume some of the activities that we used to have, like the Arts & Crafts Fair, New Member Sunday, Ministry Fair, Health Fair, Lifeline Screening, and more. We need volunteers for all of our activities so if you are able, please volunteer to help. We are rebuilding our teams after 15 months of not meeting and it is a challenge. Please plan to plug in somewhere and help. Believe me, you will enjoy yourself and make new friends.

During the pandemic we have continued to gain new members. Currently we have 17 new members since the beginning of COVID 19! We are excited to schedule the first New Member Sunday since October 2019. This year's New Member Sunday will be on **Sunday, October 10** at the 10:00 AM Worship Service. Please plan to join us in welcoming our new members that day. If you would like to join, please see Susan at the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings, or stop by the church to pick up a new member form. We would love to have you!

***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.***

### Support for others

(Collection boxes are on the table in the narthex)



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

**Please remember, NO open packages or containers.**



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/UCUniSRGmRw4qLi2qmolnoxw>

# SEPTEMBER STEWARDSHIP

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! I cannot say it enough.

You all have been very generous in your giving in the best of times; and, even during the pandemic, and now with the rise the Delta Variant, your generosity continues to shine through.

In July and August, we specifically collected school supplies as part of our outreach to the community. The supplies collected in July were delivered to the local schools in the vicinity of Sun City Center; while those collected in August, were going to be taken to the Synod Assembly this month. Since there will be no in person gathering items collected will also go to schools in our area.



It has been a crazy time for the whole world as we move in and out of pandemic precautions. The 2020 Synod Assembly, as well as other in-person gatherings, had to be cancelled. The 2021 Synod Assembly planned to meet in person with precautionary measures, but has now been rescheduled and will be held via zoom. Normally we would have gathered in June, although it was moved to September because of problems caused by the pandemic.

This month we also look forward to the installation of two new outdoor signs, which were approved at the Special Congregation Meeting held on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you especially to Fred Bastion who spent a great deal of time on the planning stages of the project, as well as the Council and Staff who were regularly called upon to navigate certain aspects. To the best of our knowledge, we are still anticipating that the signs will be in place this month.

Many have been contributing to the expenses we have incurred already and will incur upon completion of the project. Thank you for helping make Redeemer more visible in the community. Maybe people will finally stop mistaking us for the funeral home. Maybe.

We are still accepting donations toward the signs – one on Rickenbacker and one on Valley Forge – and incidental expenses. Contributions can be brought directly to the office staff; or, you can place them in an envelope in the Sunday offering. Either way, be sure that your donation is clearly marked for the new signs.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! I cannot say it enough.

**UNITED SPIRIT, DIVERSE BODY**  
**SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021**  
**1 COR. 12:12-14**

**October 15 & 16**  
**Via Zoom**

# GROWING IN FAITH

A devotional that I read sometime in July posed an interesting statement, which I kept note of in my prayer journal and reflect on from time to time. The writer said that trying to love God with a divided heart is like trying to view galaxies with a \$5.00 pair of binoculars. I think that was the point Jesus was making when he said, “No one can serve two masters...”



We do not have masters in this 21st Century USA, so the metaphor would not be as striking to us as it was in 1st Century Israel. Jesus' point, I think, was that trying to serve two masters at the same time would not prove valuable to either one. The servant's loyalty would become blurry; especially if the servant was being asked to divide into two different directions.

Likewise, trying to view galaxies with a \$5.00 pair of binoculars, I imagine, would be a little blurry. I have never actually had a \$5.00 pair of binoculars, so I cannot swear to how ineffective they would be,

although it would stand up to reason that one could not view galaxies with cheap binoculars.

Have you ever listed out your priorities on paper? I have asked groups to do that before, and they include things like family, home, health, financial security, etc. Often, I find that people do not put God on the list, and when I ask about that the response is something like, “Well God is a given;” or, “God is always there.”



That may sound reasonable in our minds, although in my humble opinion, it skirts the edge of self-justification. How would it appear if I did not add my wife to my list of priorities, and justified that by saying, “Well, my wife is a given;” or, “My wife is always there”? Do you think my wife would be justifiably upset? I do. So, how do you think that makes God feel?

Jesus listed the greatest commandment as “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind” (Luke 10:27). Jesus uses the word “all” four times in that sentence, so I think he means it to be very important – no divided loyalties. When I consider God the top priority, I find that I treat all other people and things the way in which God instructs.

## DELTA VARIANT to COVID 19

**The Parish Nurse Team**

A newer strain of COVID-19 is causing concern as cases are rising across the U.S. [The Delta variant, which originated in India](#), began spreading more rapidly in June and creating another surge of COVID-19. Here's what [health experts have learned about the Delta variant](#):

### 1. Delta variant is highly contagious

According to the CDC, as of July 22, the Delta variant accounted for more than 80% of new cases in the U.S. Health experts say it's typical for a new strain of a virus to be more contagious because it often becomes much more efficient and easily transmitted.

### 2. Delta variant symptoms are the same

The symptoms of the Delta variant appear to be the same as the original version of COVID-19. However, people are getting sicker quicker. [Recent research found that the Delta variant grows more rapidly](#) – and to much greater levels – in the respiratory tract.

Typically, vaccinated people are either asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms if they contract the Delta variant. Their symptoms are more like those of a common cold, such as cough, fever or headache, with the addition of loss of smell.

### 3. Delta variant is affecting unvaccinated people more

Most patients hospitalized are people who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine. Nationally, 97% of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated, as of July 22. Vaccines are highly effective at preventing COVID-19 infection and are also effective in fighting against the Delta variant. Health experts urge that COVID-19 vaccines work to prevent severe disease, which may be fatal.

### 4. Breakthrough cases for vaccinated people are rare, but do happen

When a vaccinated person tests positive for COVID-19, most either have no symptoms or have very mild symptoms, and it rarely results in hospitalization or death. Their symptoms are more like those of a common cold, such as cough, fever or headache, with the addition of loss of smell. As of July 22, 0.04% of vaccinated people reported breakthrough cases. No vaccine is 100% effective.

### 5. Many unvaccinated patients with COVID-19 wish they had gotten the vaccine

Physicians have noted that a number of patients, when they come in with critical illness, say that they wish they would have gotten the COVID-19 vaccine. Many have said, "Why did I not listen?"

### 6. Experts are recommending to wear masks, even if you're fully vaccinated

Many health experts across the country are wearing masks themselves even though they're fully vaccinated against COVID-19. They're also advising vaccinated people to mask up indoors in areas of high Covid spread (this includes Hillsborough County).

### 7. More COVID-19 variants are likely to come

The Delta variant is currently the most prominent strain of COVID-19, but the Lambda variant out of South America is also emerging. Health experts urge that if people want to get back to normal, a significant portion of the population needs to be vaccinated. As long as a chunk of people across the world are unvaccinated, new strains of the virus will continue to develop and cause problems.

## Things That I “Knew” But That Have Changed with Delta

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| • Virus has <u>an</u> Ro of about 3              | ➡ | • Delta has <u>an</u> Ro of 7-8                                      |
| • ~70-80% vax will reach herd immunity           | ➡ | • Herd immunity needs >85% vax; may be impossible                    |
| • Prolonged exposure (>15 min) needed for spread | ➡ | • Less prolonged exposure (5 min, perhaps less) can result in spread |
| • Risk factors of bad outcomes known             | ➡ | • Delta cases may be more serious on average                         |
| • mRNA vaccine overall efficacy ~95%             | ➡ | • mRNA vaccine overall efficacy vs. Delta ~85%                       |
| • mRNA efficacy vs. severe cases >99%            | ➡ | • Efficacy vs. severe cases ~95%, lower in hi-risk groups            |
| • Immunity is long-lasting                       | ➡ | • Immunity (from vax or illness) wanes in ~6 months                  |
| • Vaxxed people can't spread virus               | ➡ | • Vaxxed people probably can spread                                  |

### Notes:

- “Ro” refers to the number of cases, on average, an infected person will cause during their infectious period.
- The mRNA vaccines are Pfizer and Moderna.

### September Project – Health & Hygiene

WELCA is organizing a collection of Health/Hygiene items to donate to Cypress Creek Elementary School. A list of requested items is to the right and is different from past years. Items can be left on the table on the narthex through the end of September.

Sizes range from 3-year old for their pre-k kids to 10 - 12 year old. They described their biggest problem as kids having bathroom accidents. If you wish us to shop for you, please place cash/check made out to Redeemer in an envelope in the offering plate and mark it with "Health/Hygiene Project". Thanks in advance for your support.



### Shopping List

- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- shampoo
- body wash
- hand towels
- wash cloths
- underwear (sizes 3 to 10/12 year old)
- socks
- deodorant



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Robert Kappauf**
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Noah Allman, Jack Kitzman**
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Kenneth Heindel**
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Becky Bergman**
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Ted Wilson**
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Meta Boesel, John Schaefer**
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Helene Schwartz, Hal Wold**
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Dean Beltz, Mary Christiano,  
Michael Stahl**
- 17<sup>th</sup>– Robert Turner, Bob Southwell Jr.**
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Jerry DeCarbo**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Edie Moose, Kurt Nolden**
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Portia Conway**
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Mike Almaguer**



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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- 10<sup>th</sup> –Chuck & Sue Kovacik  
Dick & Dorothy Paulson**
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Rich & Anne Doerfler**
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Larry & Laura Akins**
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Walter & Esther Geissler**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Jim & Angela Grill**
- 27<sup>th</sup> – John & Patricia Schaefer**
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Sal & Betty Ferrara**
- 30<sup>th</sup> –Howard & Darlene Baker  
Paul & Marianne Eliassen**



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



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Sept 5 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark	Lucy Ann Clark, Walter Geissler, Wendy Kitzman	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. Sept 12 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark		Rosalie Kelleher
Sun. Sept. 19 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler	Lucy Ann Clark, Walter Geissler, Wendy Kitzman	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. Sept. 26 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler		Chuck Kovacik



**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

**Our biggest need is acolyte and communion assistants.**

September Usher Team	September Altar Guild	Sound
Linda Miller's Team	Honey Ashley & Erika Barfels	Noah Allman





## New Member Sunday!

It has been a long time since we celebrated our new members! We have had quite a few who have joined us since the last New Member Sunday, including a number of folks during COVID 19. We would like to celebrate on Sunday, October 10, 2021 at our Worship Service at 10:00 AM. If you have joined us since October of 2019, please plan to stand with the group (optional) so you can be recognized by the congregation. If you have not joined and would like to, please see me any Sunday and I will have new member forms at the Welcome Table. I believe that I have kept track of all of your files for two years, but to be on the safe side, I am providing a list below of those I have for New Member Sunday. If your name isn't here and it should be, please contact me at [carekeepersccr@gmail.com](mailto:carekeepersccr@gmail.com) or call the church office at 813-634-1292. Blessings, Susan Warner

George Banes  
 Jerry & Carrie DeCarbo  
 Mickey Dobbs  
 Russell & Kathy Filip  
 Jim Fredrickson  
 Steve & Karin Hagg  
 Doris Hahn  
 Mike & Sherri Knaub  
 Ann Parisen  
 Judith Schmidt  
 Lynn Thomas  
 Seel Lundy

## New Member Meet and Greet

We would like to invite new members to a meet and greet, with Pastor David and his wife Candy. Please sign up on the welcome table; we will have a light snack. We are looking forward to welcoming you to our church family.

**Monday October 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM**



## Hybrid Bible Study

Some people have asked when I am going to do Bible study again, which I actually never stopped. I presume they are requesting something they can attend in-person. "Hybrid Bible Study" – both in-person and live streamed – will begin September 2, 2021 on Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM. The Hybrid Bible Study will be held in the Sanctuary to accommodate both in-person and online (for those who cannot attend in person). I will be teaching on the readings for the upcoming Sunday worship. This will replace the individual online Bible studies that I have been posting Monday through Thursday. September will serve as a "trial basis" to see how everything works. We invite you to attend in-person or online through our You Tube channel.





### New Subscribers

5

### Views

1,257

### Minutes Watched

9,887

### Save the Dates

Many of you will be happy to hear that plans are in the works for some events. Save these dates and watch for more details.



**Craft Fair** - Saturday, November 6 from 9 to 2

**Christmas Sale** - November 14 to December 18

**Rummage Sale** - Friday, February 4 and  
Saturday, February 5, 2022



## September Movie Night!

Our movie for September 27<sup>th</sup>  
will be:

# The Art of Racing in the Rain

Racing in the Rain is about a man and his dog. The dog helps the man throughout his life, through his ups and downs and helps him regain custody of his young daughter.

Dinner served promptly at 5:30 (this movie is 1.75 hours long)

Movie begins at 6:00

Dinner will be soup and salad. If you can provide either please indicate on signup sheet.

B.Y.O. Beverage

**PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR THE FOOD PANTRY**

This is a free event.



# September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-Hybrid Bible Study 6:45 PM-Choir practice	<b>3</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>6</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Mtg 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM- Worship & Music Meeting 10:00 AM Fundraising meeting	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-Hybrid Bible Study 6:45 PM-Choir practice	<b>10</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10:00 AM-Worship	<b>13</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Mtg 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-Hybrid Bible Study 6:45 PM-Choir practice	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>20</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Mtg 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA 7:00 PM-Finance Team Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-Hybrid Bible Study 6:45 PM-Choir practice	<b>24</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00 AM-Worship	<b>27</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting 5:30 PM Movie Night	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Mtg 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-Hybrid Bible Study 6:45 PM-Choir practice		

