



VIEW OF DIAMOND HEAD FROM PU'U 'UALAKA STATE WAYSIDE

RLC Newsletter

December 2022

A Message from Pastor Allman

Jesus walked the earth before there were such things as Mission Statements; although, I think if he were to have made one for himself and his mission it would have said something like: “Come and See,” “Follow Me,” “Go and Tell.”

In John, Chapter 1, Andrew was one of John the Baptist’s disciples, until he met Jesus and asked him where he was teaching. Jesus responded, “Come and see.” Andrew later invited his brother, Simon Peter, to come and see Jesus. The next day they went to Galilee, where Jesus found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Philip went to tell Nathanael about Jesus the Messiah from Nazareth. Nathanael made a derogatory remark, asking, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip invited Nathanael to “Come and see.”

We are told that at one point Jesus had at least 120 followers. I cannot give a proof text from the Bible, yet I can make an educated guess that the pattern was set by Andrew and Philip for all of them to use the “Come and See,” “Follow Me,” “Go and Tell,” method of inviting more people to meet Jesus.

Personal invitation is still the best method for growing the Kingdom of God. People naturally gravitate toward less personal methods: sending out postcards to new residents; placing a “welcome” sign in the front yard; advertising in the newspaper or social media; etc. Less personal methods provide less results. All combined, those methods result in about 6% of new members in Churches. More than 85% of new members can name someone who invited them. The remainder state some

method of finding the church on their own.

As we close out 2022, and look ahead to 2023, I wonder if a New Year’s Resolution you might adopt could be to invite at least one person/couple to “Come and See.” They could come and see (hear) Sandy’s talents on the organ; or come and see (hear) our choir; or come and see a presentation from our parish nurses (ABCs of Dementia on 12/7); or come and see a movie night (starting again in January); or the next time the South Shore Concert band come, or the Swing Band comes; etc.

I have faith in the supposed mission statement of Jesus (above), that once people “Come and See;” they will some time hear Jesus’ call to “Follow Me;” and, later will feel the urge to “Go and Tell” someone else.

News from the Office Administrator -December 2022

Merry Christmas! I wish all of you a blessed Christmas this year. At the end of the year I always like to look back and reflect on all of the amazing blessings I have in my life. For me this includes my role here at Redeemer. Redeemer's congregation is truly amazing.

Year round we have events that require volunteers and you guys make it all happen. As we look forward, if you are someone we have not seen volunteer, please consider what gifts you might be able to share with Redeemer. Big or small, it is all important to us. This might even be offering to help that person that always seems to be doing it all, believe it or not those people can use help too.

Right around the corner on December 18th we have the choir cantata. This is always a Sunday not to be missed.

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.

Upcoming Activities:

Wed. Dec. 7: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Dementia Workshop, Lunch to follow.

Sun. Dec. 11: Congregational Spending Plan Meeting

Tue. Dec. 13- WELCA Women's Luncheon

Sun. Dec. 18- Choir Cantata

Sat. Dec. 24- Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 PM

Sun. Dec. 25- Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 AM

Fri & Sat. Feb 3 & 4. - Rummage Sale

Mon. Mar. 20 - Lifeline screening



Our channel is:

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
Sun City Center Florida**

If you missed a Sunday or want to hear your favorite hymn again, you can find past sermons and more on our YouTube channel.

DECEMBER

STEWARDSHIP

We just wrapped up what I had once hoped would become our annual stewardship campaign: The New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program. We first used it in 2018-2019, then COVID struck in 2020, so the stewardship campaign was “shelved” for a time. Herb Miller, a highly regarded stewardship leader, said, *“Hope without a plan is denial.”*

Consecration Sunday is designed to help us grow in our relationship with God, by helping us grow in the faithful use of our time, talents and treasure provided to us by God. The focus on “treasure” is not about the church’s need to receive money; rather, it is a focus on how giving away a percentage of our money/possessions, based on a prayerful conversation with God, will grow a person’s trust in God rather than solely in money and possessions. When Jesus challenged a rich, young man to sell his possessions and give to the poor, the rich young man literally grieved like he had lost a loved one (Mt. 19:22).

The American Psychological Association states that money is consistently the number one source of stress in our lives. We also know that stress is the leading cause of negative health outcomes like heart disease, diabetes, and insomnia. The medical community has been aware of these connections for many years. And yet their typical recommendations for managing stress are to increase physical activity, meditate, or take a pill.

Religious teachers, including Jesus, state that sharing resources, out of our abundance of time, talent and treasure, will release stress by taking the focus off ourselves and helping someone else. Transformation is hard work and will absolutely test your resolve; yet, without a plan, discerned in prayerful conversation with God, we live in denial.

Most of our congregation is already retired, which means you had a plan to get to this point in your life. It does not mean the plan is fulfilled. Financial planning is ongoing. Most Christian financial planners will encourage their clients to live on 80% (or less) of their income, save 10% and give away 10%. What is your plan moving forward? Financial Advisor Dave Ramsey writes: *“Work like it all depends on you, but pray like it all depends on God.”*

Thank you all for your generosity and trust in God. Thank you to the Council and Ministry Team Leaders for their commitment to strive toward God’s preferred future for Redeemer. Thank you to the staff for keeping this ship on course. Thank you all for your continuing prayers for Redeemer, for the Council, for the Staff, and for each other. Thank you to God for being so faithful and gracious. We are definitely blessed to be a blessing.

Share your
TIME
TALENT
TREASURE



What will you
give back to
God from the
blessing you
have received?

GROWING IN FAITH

I think there is a reason that the second part of Redeemer's Mission Statement is "Grow in Faith." A couple of months ago, our gospel reading came from Luke 17, and the 5th verse reads, "*The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!'*" In the sermon, perhaps not so successfully, I tried to distinguish between the words "increase" and "grow."

In my humble opinion, "increase" is used in reference to commodities of which one can acquire more; and, at the time I referenced a common experience of people trying to increase their hurricane supplies by purchasing more, in preparation for Ian. In that comparison, one cannot increase one's faith by acquiring more when one runs low; or, stock up on faith, like a commodity, in preparation for a traumatic experience.

Jesus' response to the apostles' request is that faith the size of a mustard seed would be enough to do what seems like the impossible. I do not think Jesus was suggesting that the apostles stock up on mustard seeds in preparation for what lie ahead. I think Jesus was saying that one mustard seed sized faith is all that is needed, because our faith can grow sufficiently to handle the seemingly impossible.



I think Jesus' message is that we were already given the faith we need, and now we have opportunities to "Grow in Faith." There is no perfect metaphor that I can give you, although we may compare faith to a muscle in the body. If a person does not use her/his muscles, then the muscles atrophy, which means they will gradually decline in effectiveness or vigor due to underuse or neglect.

How does one exercise faith? Some common methods would be worship attendance, prayer, daily devotions, Bible study, and participation in one of the ministry teams here at Redeemer. One can also use one's faith while facing a traumatic experience. A couple of weeks ago, in the Luke 21 reading, Jesus gives his disciples a list of awful things that will happen in the world: "*wars and insurrections*" (9); "*Nation will rise against nation*" (10); "*earthquakes...famines and plagues*" (11); "*they will arrest you and persecute you*" (12); "*You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends... You will be hated by all because of my name*" (16-17).

We may face different traumatic experiences, yet holding on to our faith is still how we face them and continue to move forward. Exercising our faith in positive ways is how we will grow our faith which helps us face the negative events of life. How will you "Grow in Faith" today?



From the Parish Nurse Team

10 WAYS TO LOVE YOUR BRAIN



START NOW. It's never too late or too early to incorporate healthy habits.



HIT THE BOOKS

Formal education will help reduce risk of cognitive decline and dementia. Take a class at a local college, community center or online.



BUTT OUT

Smoking increases risk of cognitive decline. Quitting smoking can reduce risk to levels comparable to those who have not smoked.



BREAK A SWEAT

Engage in regular cardiovascular exercise that elevates heart rate and increases blood flow. Studies have found that physical activity reduces risk of cognitive decline.



FOLLOW YOUR HEART

Risk factors for cardiovascular disease and stroke – obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes – negatively impact your cognitive health.

Growing evidence indicates that people can reduce their risk of cognitive decline by adopting key lifestyle habits. When possible, combine these habits to achieve maximum benefit for the brain and body.



STUMP YOURSELF

Challenge your mind. Build a piece of furniture. Play games of strategy, like bridge.



HEADS UP!

Brain injury can raise risk of cognitive decline and dementia. Wear a seat belt and use a helmet when playing contact sports or riding a bike.

BUDDY UP

Staying socially engaged may support brain health. Find ways to be part of your local community or share activities with friends and family.



TAKE CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Some studies link depression with cognitive decline, so seek treatment if you have depression, anxiety or stress.



CATCH SOME ZZZ'S

Not getting enough sleep may result in problems with memory and thinking.

FUEL UP RIGHT

Eat a balanced diet that is higher in vegetables and fruit to help reduce the risk of cognitive decline.



Visit alz.org/10ways to learn more.

alzheimer's  association®

THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS™

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd – Jim Moyers
 4th – Angie Wiechers
 5th – Elfi Nolden
 6th – Carol Crawford
 8th – Sue Kovacik, Doris Hahn
 12th – Richard Doerfler
 14th – Hazel Crosby, Carol Thompson
 15th – Joshua & Matthew Knaub
 16th – Carol Miller, Kaki Speicher
 19th – Jim Smeltzer
 22nd – Susan Pearson, Carolyn Stahl
 23rd – Heidi Oelgart
 24th – Donald Munford
 29th – Delores Turner



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3rd – Dietrich & Helen Schaefer



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



Please remember Redeemer when you are doing your estate planning.



DECEMBER



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Dec 4 10:00 AM	Mike Corbett	Sandra Buggs, René Buggs, Wendy Kitzman	Rosalie Kelleher
Sun. Dec 11 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler		Dan Pollert
Sun. Dec 18 10:00 AM	Mike Corbett	Mike Corbett, Paul Ó Braonáin, Wendy Kitzman	Chuck Kovacik
Sat. Dec 24 7:00 9M	René Buggs	Jenise German, Sandra & René Buggs,	Jim Schwartz
Sun. Dec 25 10:00 AM	Mike Corbett	Jenise German, Richard Meredith, Mike Corbett	Chuck Buskirk

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please consider being an acolyte and/or communion assistant

If you are not on the schedule would like to be scheduled in the future or if you are unable to help on your scheduled day please contact Carolyn Cole at 813-812-7527.

December Usher Team	December Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Arlene Hansen's Team	Erika Barfels, Jean Jackson, Judy Buskirk	Volunteers





Choir Practice change

Choir Practice has been moved from December 8th to December 7th. Please note that the change is only for this one week.

Un-decorating Helpers needed

Please come join us on Wednesday, January 4th at 9:30 AM to help pack up our Christmas decorations. The more helpers we have the faster clean-up will go. And a huge thank you to everyone that showed up to help decorate. It's always so much fun seeing everyone.

Consecration Sunday Luncheon

Thanks to the servers and all those who helped with the luncheon. And a special thanks to Chuck Buskirk for making the wonderful pasta salad.

Florida DNR Program

Thanks to Redeemer members Mary Christiano and Linda Eargle for providing a very informative program on DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) on November 16th. Approximately 50 attended. Thanks also to a Thrivent Action team for the food for the luncheon.



The ABC of Dementia

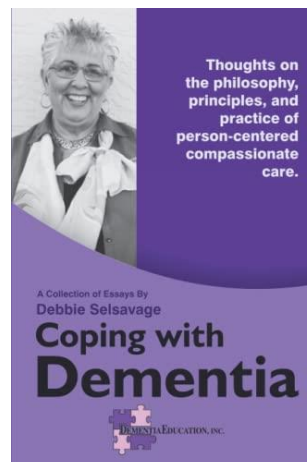


Are you interested in learning more about dementia? Do you know or care for someone with dementia? To learn more about this disease and how to better help those living with it, come to a program on **Wednesday, December 7th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM** in Buhr Hall. It will be presented by Debbie Selsavage, President of Coping with Dementia. Following the program, there will be a lunch that will be provided through a Thrivent Action Team. No charge. Please sign up on the sheet on the narthex counter if you will attend so we know how much food is needed.

Topics that will be discussed:

1. An overview of the symptoms and characteristics of dementia.
2. What is the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia?
3. What is happening to this person physically and chemically?
4. The deficits the person with dementia is losing.
5. How to better recognize a person living with dementia.
6. What we can do to better understand, interact, and respond to a person living with dementia.
7. Ways to keep a person safe.
8. Resources that may help with the journey of dementia.
9. Role play in how we do this in a better way that is more effective

This program is to provide a better quality of life for both the caregiver and the person living with dementia.





WELCA Christmas Luncheon

All women attending Redeemer are invited to a special Christmas luncheon in Buhr Hall on Tuesday, December 13th at 11:30 AM.

Come join us for lunch, a devotion, assembling of gift bags for the homebound, social time, and some bingo. And you might win a door prize or one of the bingo prizes. Women friends are also invited. If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet on the counter in the narthex so we know how much food is needed.



Calling ALL ladies of Redeemer!

Join Candy Allman for a fun relaxing weekend at God Spa. April 21-23, 2023.

Soak in the beautiful scenery and solitude of Luther Springs, relaxing your mind, body and spirit. Activities may include faith-filled conversation, devotions, music, journaling, guided meditation, relaxing and spa-type activities such as facials, manicures, and pedicures. Come with other ladies from Redeemer and make new friends along the way. We will hold monthly get-togethers so we all will know each other before the weekend. Copy the link below for all the details. Make sure you add a note that states you are with Candy Allman and our group. If you have any questions, please let Candy know. She is looking forward to a great fun weekend with you all.

https://luthersprings.org/fall_spring_programs/god-spa-for-women/



Christmas Sale

As you prepare for Christmas decorating, are there items that you no longer use and could donate for the Christmas sale? They can be dropped off on Sunday mornings or during hours when the church office is open. Items are currently for sale in Buhr Hall on Sundays through December 18th. This is your chance to find a new or slightly used Christmas item at a good price.



Rummage Sale

Plans are in process for our 2023 Rummage Sale.

Dates:

Friday, February 3 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Saturday, February 4 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

To have a successful sale, donations will be needed. We will begin collecting clothing and small household items on Wednesday, January 4th. In the meantime, please think about items you no longer use that you might donate and start saving newspaper, store shopping bags, and Bealls bags. The newsletter and bulletins will have more details as the time gets closer. Profits from the sale will be used to support Redeemer.



Thank You from the Fundraiser Team

We are pleased to report that Redeemer's Third Annual Arts & Crafts Fair was very successful. Feedback from both the vendors and shoppers was overwhelmingly positive. Vendors are already requesting to be included next year. Over 40 vendors participated, along with our quilters and bakers. Our raffle baskets were very popular as well.

The many Redeemer volunteers made it all possible – for the set-up and re-set crews who got lots of exercise moving tables, the kitchen crew, parking, publicity, donors and creators of raffle baskets, and roaming volunteers who made sure all went well the day of the Fair. The nine-member Fundraiser Team is happy to have so much volunteerism and cooperation. Also, thank you goes to Redeemer's staff, especially Kadie, who worked with our Team.

Marion Giblin on behalf of the Fundraiser Team

Food Pantry Donations

Redeemer is always accepting donations to support the food pantry at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Wimauma. Thank you for continuing to bring in unexpired non-perishable, food items and canned goods. Our Lady feeds over 300 families weekly.



**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
FOOD PANTRY**



Movie Monday

Movie Monday will return January 30th, with the movie Ticket to Paradise.



Something from Vacation

This very flag survived the attack on Hickam Field on December. 7, 1941. It lays on display the “wrong way” because it was so severely damaged. In order to repair the flag, backing was placed on the most damaged side in an effort to preserve it.



December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 AM-OA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	2 9:30 AM-Quilters	3
4 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship 4:00 PM-Bible study dinner	5 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	6 10:30 AM- Men's quartet 12:30 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	7 10:00 AM- Dementia Workshop	8 10:00 AM-OA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	9 9:30 AM-Quilters	10
11 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-Spending plan meeting	12 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	13 10:30 AM- Men's quartet 12:30 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-Women's AA	14	15 10:00 AM-OA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	16 9:30 AM-Quilters	17
18 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship -Christmas Cantata	19 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	20 10:30 AM- Men's quartet 12:30 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	21	22 10:00 AM-OA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	23 9:30 AM-Quilters	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship
25 10:00 AM- Christmas Day Worship	26 OFF CLOSED	27 10:30 AM- Men's quartet 12:30 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	28	29 10:00 AM-OA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	30 9:30 AM-Quilters	31

The office will also be closed on January 2nd, 2023.

