



DPAА PRESENTATION ON 22 FEBRUARY 2023

# RLC Newsletter

## March 2023

## A Message from Pastor Allman

The Church is not the Kingdom of God! Did I get your attention? The Church is a part of the Kingdom of God, although the Kingdom of God is much, much bigger than the Church. Kingdom work is much, much bigger than doing what is good for the Church. Does God love the Church? Yes. Is Church work important? Yes. Is Church work all there is? No!

At least for the rest of this year I will be sharing thoughts from a book entitled, “Kingdom Come,” by Rev. Dr. Reggie McNeal. After all, is that not what we pray for at least once a week? “*Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.*” One important question we each need to ask ourselves is, “*Do we really mean that?*” If “yes,” then what are we doing to help make it happen? If “no,” then why are we praying for

it; and, what do we truly hope for instead?

Who’s preferred future for Redeemer do we truly want – ours or God’s? That may seem like a simple question, yet when we are brutally honest with ourselves, it may prove to be more complex. McNeal contends that some people see God’s Kingdom narrative and the Church’s narrative as being exactly the same. What happens when they are not the same?

McNeal points out that, “*A better future for the church requires that we realign our theology and practice with the primary storyline of (God’s) Kingdom*” (xv). When I speak to Redeemer’s leadership (i.e., Council and Ministry Teams) I emphasize that we all need to be praying that we

make decisions that lead us into God’s preferred future for Redeemer. That is a better practice than making decisions based on our wishes and then praying for God’s support. I hope you can see the difference.

McNeal teaches that, “*(God’s) Kingdom champions the life that God intends for all of us to experience on this planet, in this lifetime – not just some far off future time when Jesus returns... he wants us to pray that the Kingdom will break into our hearts, bringing transformation to our lives, and break out into the world*” (xvii; emphasis added).

The Mission of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sun City Center is, in short, “*Proclaim Jesus Christ; Grow in Faith; Love*

*All People.*" I think we do that well inside Redeemer; and, there are ways in which we do well in reaching out to help people in the surrounding community.

Yet, God's agenda is much, much bigger than building the Church. God's agenda is building the Kingdom. The question to consider will always be, "*What more can we be doing to help build God's Kingdom?*" Answering that will designate us as Kingdom Agents. What are you willing to do to be God's Kingdom Agent?

*Pastor Allman* 

**Thank you for donating items for the food pantry in the narthex closet. Please remember, NO open packages or containers.**



*Please remember Redeemer when doing your estate planning*

## News from the Office Administrator

### March 2023

The Rummage Sale is past us now and the fundraising team raised over \$8,700. This is always an important event, and because it raises money that is used both here at Redeemer and in the community. Thank you to Tina Schwartz and all of the many people that volunteered in various capacities to make this sale possible.

Make sure you check the Welcome Table in the narthex for upcoming events. We post flyers and signup sheets there for many different activities so come and choose some fun and informative things to do!

***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 Events:

**Every Wednesday in March- Lenten Worship – Sensing the Gospel - 3:00 PM**

**Every Wednesday evening in March- How Happiness Happens-7:00 PM**

**Monday, March 6 at 2:00 PM** – Memorial Service for Don Erickson

**Tuesday, March 7 at 10:00 AM** – AED Refresher

**Monday, March 13 at 5:30 PM** – Dinner and a movie, Dinner starts at 5:30PM followed by a movie at 6:00 PM

**Monday, March 20-** Lifeline Screening will be happening in Buhr Hall.

## March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023- Daylight Savings

### Spring forward

Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday.



**AP**

# MARCH STEWARDSHIP

The Greek word which we translate as “gospel” literally means “good news.” What makes the words of Jesus “good news?” Certainly, we can all say that Jesus loves us, for the Bible tells us so.

Yet, Pastor Richard Rohr tells us that, *“the gospel is so radical that if we truly believed its message, it would call into question all the assumptions we currently hold about the way we live, how we use our time, whom we relate to, how we marry, and how much money we have. Everything we think and do would be called into question and viewed in a new way”* (daily meditation, 2/19/23).

Is that really good news? It sounds challenging. We expect good news to make us happy, not call into question our lifestyle choices. When we believe Jesus loves us, we do not expect Jesus to ask us to change. Mark Twain is credited with saying that the only person who likes change is a baby with a dirty diaper.

Pastor Richard Rohr also reminds us that Jesus’ initial preaching is summed up in the verse, *“Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand”* (Matthew 3:2; Mark 1:15). “Repent” does not mean to feel sorry about something, it literally means a 180-degree change in direction. The first word of Jesus’ first teaching was literally, “change” for the Kingdom of God is near.

Tradition is not necessarily a bad thing, unless it blocks the ways in which God is trying to redirect our lives. Great traditions always call people on a journey of faith to keep changing. The Lutheran denomination is built on Reformation; and, the motto of the ELCA is “Always Being Made New.”

Rohr states that, *“The best protection from the next word of God is the last word of God.”* The warning he was giving was against taking the Word from God, building a fence around it, and sitting in that protected space for the rest of our lives. Whenever I pray at the beginning of our Council meetings, I

include words asking God’s Holy Spirit to lead us into God’s preferred future for Redeemer.

How would Redeemer’s ministries “change” if each and every one of us prayed for God to lead us into God’s preferred future for Redeemer?

## GROWING IN FAITH

IMHO being a Christian in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, western civilization has become largely an individualistic, spiritualized experience as opposed to a communal, familial relationship experience. “I” and “My” language has replaced “We” and “Our” language. Just think for a moment, *“How many of the nearly 300 members at Redeemer can you call by name?”* I would guess the percentage may be pretty low.

God’s Word is filled with reminders that we are meant to live in community with one another; and, we are meant to live into God’s larger community which Jesus referred to as the Kingdom of God. The giving of what we call the Ten Commandments shows how God values relationships. The first three describe how the community is to be in relationship with God; and, the other seven describe how we are to live in community with one another.

During my lifetime I have noticed that we are growing more and more into a psychological age, very close to defining salvation as self-realization, as therapeutic experience, as self-knowledge. It is all an internal dialogue. Biblical salvation is definitely an external dialogue with the whole community. John 3:16, a favorite verse of many, reminds us that God sent God’s Son because God loves the whole world.

The Prophets reminded Israel that they were to be a light to the “nations” which means all foreign nations. Jesus tells Christ-followers, *“You are the light of the world...”* and, that we are not to hide that light under a basket (Mt 5:14-15). The life of the Spirit is a life of relatedness and relationship.

## AED – Automated External Defibrillator

From Parish Nurse Team

*If in an emergency you were asked to get the AED, would you know where the closest one is located? Please look at their location.*



**Buhr Hall**  
On wall by  
women's  
restroom



**Narthex**  
On wall  
above  
counter

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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- 1<sup>st</sup> – Jackie Moretti**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> – Mary Ann Addleman**  
**6<sup>th</sup> - Lucas Dehne**  
**9<sup>th</sup> – Dottie McKenzie**  
**10<sup>th</sup> – Barbara Kately**  
**11<sup>th</sup> – Connie Berry**  
**13<sup>th</sup> - David Kiefer**  
**14<sup>th</sup> – Jim Schwartz**  
**15<sup>th</sup> – Patrick Sturmer**  
**16<sup>th</sup> – Harold Fisher**  
**18<sup>th</sup> – Judy Buskirk, John Mostoller**  
**19<sup>th</sup> – Dick Paulson**  
**20<sup>th</sup> – Don Detar, Loriann Fox**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> – René Buggs**  
**24<sup>th</sup> – Mary Jane Hermanns**  
**26<sup>th</sup> – Margie Adair, Vern Bartz, Nancy Carrier**  
**27<sup>th</sup> - Paul Ó Braonáin**  
**28<sup>th</sup> – RaeAnne Bennett**  
**30<sup>th</sup> – Chuck Buskirk**  
**31<sup>st</sup> – Ann Parisen, Joe Plaskon, Karl Wessinger**



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

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- 4<sup>th</sup> – Greg & Judy Kiel**  
**14<sup>th</sup> – Lee & Janine Johnson**  
**21<sup>st</sup> – Roger & Chris McCann**  
**24<sup>th</sup> – Dick & Doreen McKibben**  
**26<sup>th</sup> – Richard & Vorin Johnston**  
**27<sup>th</sup> – Cal & Gerry Adams**



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



You Tube stats January

4 new subscribers

769 views

8,584 minutes watched



<b>Time</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Lector</b>
<b>Sun. Mar. 5 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Walter Geissler</b>	<b>Richard Meredith, Deb Pollert, Kathy Schwartz</b>	<b>Dan Pollert</b>
<b>Sun. Mar. 12 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>		<b>Chuck Kovacik</b>
<b>Sun. Mar. 19 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Walter Geissler</b>	<b>René &amp; Sandra Buggs, Wendy Kitzman</b>	<b>Wendy Kitzman</b>
<b>Sun. Mar. 26 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>		<b>Jim Schwartz</b>
<b>Wednesdays 3:00 PM</b>			



Happy St. Patrick's Day

<b>March Usher Team</b>	<b>March Altar Guild</b>	<b>Sound &amp; Camera</b>
<b>Arlene Hansen Team</b>		<b>Volunteers</b>



## Service times during Lent

The Lenten worship theme this year will be *Sensing the Gospel*. Wednesday service times will be at 3:00 PM.

### **Week One (Touch): March 1, 2023**

Texts: Psalm 118:15-17; Revelation 21:1-4; and Luke 7:11-15

*All the action in Luke 7 ceases when Jesus' hand contacts the bier carrying the son's corpse. Palpably, his touch injects life and renewal into desolate conditions.*

### **Week Two (Sight): March 8, 2023**

Texts: Psalm 36:1-2, 7-9; 1 Corinthians 13:12; and Mark 8:22-25

*This unique healing story, which only Mark tells, symbolizes that Gospel's emphasis on mystery and delayed disclosure. It is also a story about a Jesus who never gives up on myopic disciples and who alleviates human suffering whenever it presents itself.*

### **Week Three (Taste): March 15, 2023**

Texts: Psalm 34:4-8; 1 Peter 2:2-3; and, John 2:1-10

*Imagine the expression on the chief steward's face when he tastes the sample of Jesus' private reserve to determine whether it will be appropriate for consumption. Jesus' first miracle in John, changing water into wine, announces that Jesus' time indeed has begun, a time bursting with the flavors of fulfillment and abundance.*

### **Week Four (Hearing): March 22, 2023**

Texts: Psalm 62; Romans 10:14-17; John 5:25-29  
*Authority resides in the Son of God's voice because of its innate ability to accomplish what it says. When*

*Jesus discusses judgment in John, he places more emphasis on life than on condemnation. His ministry reverberates with sounds that beckon people toward life and safety.*

### **Week Five (Smell): March 29, 2023**

Texts: Psalm 141:1-2; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16a; and, John 12:1-3

*A pound of ointment, equal in value to a laborer's annual salary, spreads its aroma throughout the house. Some smells permeate everything. Our brains process scents in close proximity to our emotion and memory centers. God's grace may operate in similar ways.*

## Wednesdays Evenings in Lent 7:00 PM Video/Discussion Series.

*How Happiness Happens: Finding Lasting Joy in a World of Comparison, Disappointment, and Unmet Expectations* by Max Lucado.

Each video will begin at 7:00 PM and small group discussion will follow until 8:00 PM. You do not need to read the book first. Study Guides can be requested for \$10. Watch for more details to come.

Video topics are as follows:

March 1, 2023:

**Accept One Another** (Romans 15:7).

March 8, 2023:

**Bear with One Another** (Ephesians 4:2)

March 15, 2023:

**Serve One Another** (Galatians 5:13)

March 22, 2023:

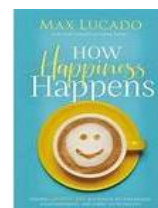
**Forgive One Another** (Ephesians 4:32)

March 29, 2023:

**Carry One Another's Burdens** (Galatians 6:2)

April 1, 2020:

**Love One Another** (1 John 3:11)



### AED Review

You recently saw the value of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) when a football player collapsed and was resuscitated by quick action with an AED. Would you know where Redeemer's AEDs are located if you were asked to get one? And would you know how to place the AED if needed? We will hold an AED review class on Tuesday, March 7th at 10:00 AM. The Parish Nurse Team would like to encourage everyone to attend as the AED works automatically and is designed for anyone to use. Please sign the sheet on the narthex counter if you will be attending

### Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those Thrivent members who are eligible for Choice Dollars, you must direct your 2022 dollars by March 31st or you will lose them. Visit [www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to direct your dollars, or you can do so by calling Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and saying "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. For questions or help, see Lois Hobratschk. This is an opportunity to support Redeemer.



### Blood Pressure Check

Blood pressure checks will be starting on March 26th and continue on the last Sunday of every month. Honey Ashley and Rosalie Kelleher will be in the conference room following the worship service. This is a convenient opportunity to keep check on your numbers.

### Home Safety for Seniors

Prince of Peace's Health Ministry in cooperation with Hillsborough County Fire and Rescue is offering a FREE Senior Home Safety Course on Thursday, March 16th 10 - 11 am in the Conesa Center. You are invited to come and learn how to make your home a safer place to live, including ways to prevent falling! Registration is required. Go to [popcc.org](http://popcc.org). Click on the POP events tab and select "Senior Home Safety Workshop". Last day to register is 3/10. See Lois Hobratschk for questions or help with registering.

### Lifeline screening

On Monday, March 20th at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Life Line Screening will be offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that do not require you to disrobe. These screenings are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be proactive about your health for yourself and your family, register for these health screenings today.

A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

- Carotid artery ultrasound to identify plaque buildup in the carotid arteries, a major risk factor for stroke. 80% of strokes are preventable, 75% have no warning signs!
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm ultrasound to identify presence of an enlargement in the largest blood vessel in the body.
- An EKG to identify the presence of atrial fibrillation, which increases the risk for stroke!
- Ultrasound of the lower legs to look for plaque buildup known as peripheral arterial disease.

These four screenings are offered for only \$149, take 60-90 minutes to complete and do not require you to disrobe. To learn more and to schedule your appointment call 1-800-679-5161, text the word circle to 216-279-1607 or visit Life Line Screening's website at <https://lisa.social/HC>. When you are proactive with your health, you have a chance for more tomorrows.



### Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Project

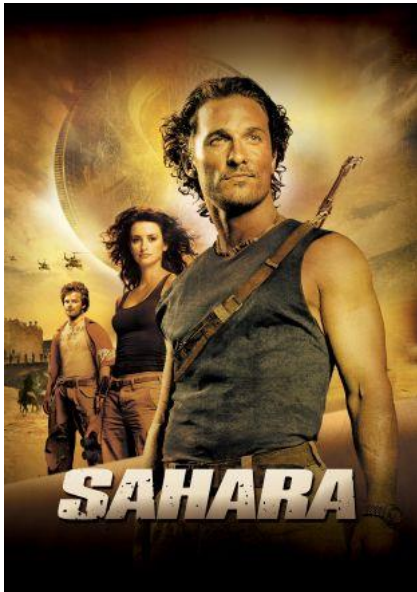
Those attending the DPAA presentation found their efforts in identifying missing military to be a great service to our country and those families that have faced a loss. As a follow up, WELCA will be encouraging donations during the month of March to support the DPAA efforts. On your check or envelope, please write "Missing Military".





### Monday, March 13<sup>TH</sup> at 5:30 PM

Join us for movie night this month on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM to see *Sahara*. Dinner will be soup, sandwich and desert. Bring your own beverage and a non-perishable food item to be donated to the food pantry.



### Worship Assistant Volunteers Need!

**Please consider being an acolyte and/or communion assistant.**

Please contact Carolyn Cole at 813-812-7527 if you have any questions about being an acolyte or communion assistant or if you would like to be added to the upcoming schedule.

### Altar Guild Volunteers Needed!

The Altar Guild needs members to set up for communion. We usually work 1 hour on Saturday and 30 minutes on Sunday twice a month. Members choose 2 months a year to serve. We have teams of 2-3 people and we will train you. By making a small commitment to join altar guild you would be helping the church in a very big way. Please call Judy Buskirk 813-335-5445.

### 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. You can go to the Luther Springs site to register or contact the office for assistance. When you register 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.



### Gift Bags for Homebound Members

WELCA Board members will be assembling Easter gift bags for homebound members on Monday morning, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. Please join us in assembling and delivering these gifts. It doesn't have to be many as just delivering a few is a big help.

### Easter Brunch

WELCA is organizing an Easter Brunch from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM on Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. This year, we are asking members to bring egg casseroles and pastries. There will be a sign-up sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex. WELCA will provide juice, coffee, and fruit.



# March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 3:00 PM-Lenten Worship  7:00 PM-How Happiness Happens	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 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 2:00 PM- Memorial service for Don Erickson	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM-AED Refresher 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 12:30 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>8</b> 3:00 PM-Lenten Worship  7:00 PM-How Happiness Happens	<b>9</b> 9:00 AM – Parish Nurse 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 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 5:30 PM- Movie Night	<b>14</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 12:30 PM-Barbershop 1:30 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>15</b> 3:00 PM-Lenten Worship  7:00 PM-How Happiness Happens	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 1:00 PM Fundraising Mtg 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM- Quilters	<b>18</b> 4:30 PM- Wedding
<b>19</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>20</b> 8:30 AM-Lifeline Screening 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	<b>21</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 12:30 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>22</b> 3:00 PM-Lenten Worship  7:00 PM-How Happiness Happens	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	<b>24</b> 9:30 AM- Quilters	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM- BP checks 1:00 PM-German American Club Event	<b>27</b> 10:00 AM WELCA Board 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting	<b>28</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 12:30 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>29</b> 3:00 PM-Lenten Worship  7:00 PM-How Happiness Happens	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	<b>31</b> 9:30 AM- Quilters	

