



RLC Newsletter

October 2023

A Message from Pastor Allman

While the world may be celebrating Halloween on October 31st; Lutherans, and possibly other Protestants, will be recognizing Reformation Day. What do the two have in common; and, why do both fall on October 31st?

Halloween, also known as "All Hallows' Eve," is a holiday celebrated annually on October 31st. Halloween originated in Europe and is celebrated today by a rapidly increasing number of many people of different religious backgrounds and in countries all over the world, despite that in its current form it is not a religious holiday. Halloween is often intertwined with other memorial holidays such as All Souls' Day and Día de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead), which take place around the same time frame.

Halloween is one of the world's oldest holidays. As is arguably befitting a holiday that is themed around the supernatural, the origin of Halloween is slightly mysterious. Most scholars believe that the roots of Halloween extend back to a 2000-year-old Celtic celebration known as Samhain (pronounced "SAH-win" in the original Gaelic), in which people would

light fires and celebrate the recent harvest on or around October 31st.

October 31st is commonly thought that the barrier between the physical and the spiritual world is at its "thinnest" and may be the easiest time to breach. People would often try to communicate with the souls of passed loved ones, leave food out for spiritual visitors, and dress in costumes to scare off any "spirits" that might wish to kidnap them.

The early Roman Catholic church established its own holiday in the 7th century, designating November 1st as All Saints' Day in memory of all the saints. Also called All-Hallows, and Allhallowmas, it was later joined by All Souls' Day on November 2nd, which commemorated all deceased people who were not saints. Today All Saints Day and All Souls Day remain a more Christian holiday, while Halloween has remained a more secular (pagan) holiday.

Martin Luther chose All Hallows Eve to post his "Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences," also known as "The 95 Theses" on the door to the Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

Indulgence was a name for any number of ways in which to lessen time in Purgatory for an individual or loved ones (living or already deceased). Please note that Luther did not argue against indulgences, so much as he argued against selling indulgences as a fundraising tool for the Church. Luther basically argued that if the Pope had the authority to lessen someone's time in Purgatory, then the Pope should release everyone without cost.

The reason Luther chose "All Hallows Eve" to post the 95 Theses was because he knew that attendance at worship on All Saints Day (November 1st) would be higher than normal days. Luther wrote the 95 Theses in a language for the highly educated, specifically to invite other theologians to debate his theses. The door of the Church was commonly used as a bulletin board, so Luther was not committing any desecration of the Church.

Luther was a monk who then became a priest. He never intended to leave the Roman Catholic Church and begin a new Christian Denomination called Lutheran; nor did he intend to start what became the Protestant Movement. That larger scale movement had more to do with political difficulties between the Holy Roman Empire and local monarchs; and, not surprising, revolved around money and taxation. That is a bigger story than I wish to start today.

We will recognize Reformation Sunday on October 29th at 10:00 AM. Please come and join us in worship with Holy Communion.

Pastor Allman 

August YouTube
2 New Subscribers
787 total views
8,064 minutes watched



News from the Office Administrator October 2023

We have a lot of stuff happening at Redeemer in the coming months. Be 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:

Tuesday, October 3- 11:00 AM Medicare update & luncheon

Sunday, October 8- New Member Sunday Luncheon following worship

Wednesday, October 18 – 10:30 AM Chair Yoga with lunch to follow

Monday, October 23 – 4:30 PM Oktoberfest

Wednesday, November 1 – Health Fair

Saturday, November 4 – Arts & Crafts Fair

Wednesday, November 8 – 11:00 AM Veterans Program with lunch

Wednesday, November 15 – 7:00 PM- Riverside Jukebox Swing Band

Thursday, November 16 – Virtual Dementia Program

Wednesday, November 29 – Electronics Recycling Event



OCTOBER STEWARDSHIP

The subject Jesus spoke about more than anything else was the Kingdom of God. What do you think came in second place? Prayer? Worship? Bible Study? Daily Devotions? As important as all of those are, none of them ranked second in terms of importance for Jesus to talk about. So, what did Jesus consider more important to teach about than those? You may not like the answer – money and possessions. It is true.

When Jesus taught, “*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*” (Matthew 6:21), Jesus was more concerned about your heart than your earthly treasures. In terms of biblical language, the heart is where we demonstrate our relationship to God (and vice-versa). The heart is where we commit our whole being to God; our motivation, our decision making, our devotion, as well as our emotions. Loving God with our whole heart is more than a feeling; it is a lifestyle and lifelong commitment.

When people think the Church has no business talking about money and possessions, that is a heart issue, and it is contrary to what Jesus taught. The news has been full of stories of the destructive forces of hurricanes, flooding, landslides, earthquakes, wildfires, etc. Sometimes people lose their lives because they did not have time to evacuate, or they chose not to evacuate.

Consider yourself evacuating, and having only a few minutes to choose what, if anything, you would take with you. This is meant to be a lesson in how we determine value. Aside from living beings, would you take photos, your computer, your jewelry, your family heirlooms, your financial records, your daily planner, etc. This is not a choice of right or wrong. What we would take in those few moments would reveal to us what we treasure – what we really consider valuable and important. Sometimes things happen so quickly that we do not get to choose to take any “things” that we cherish.

When it comes down to it, what do we really treasure? Jesus says, “*Where your treasure is there will your heart be also*” (Matthew 6:21). A treasure is something so important that we will do whatever it takes to protect (or acquire) it. It shapes our decisions. What do we treasure? What is it that we hold dear in our heart? Our family? Our health? Our investments? Our possessions? Jesus also taught, “*Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal*” (Matthew 6:19).

Jesus wants us to have the money and possession we need; and, Jesus tells us to treasure the things that are worthy of being treasured. Material things can be easily lost. If we treasure them, we will spend an inordinate amount of time, energy, and money trying to protect them – to “*store them up on earth*” as Jesus said. Most of us would probably say that the things we really treasure are not things—they are not stuff. We treasure relationships and family and friends and God. Jesus probes us to look very carefully at our “heart.”

We are entering into the month that has traditionally been known as Stewardship Month, and congregational finance leaders run a stewardship campaign. Stewardship is about more than money, although money and possessions ranked #2 in importance for Jesus’ teachings, so faithful church leaders will also talk about the “heart” issue of money and possessions. We consistently encourage Redeemer folks to prayerfully consider what God wants you to give.

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



Growing in faith

How do you exercise your faith muscles? Atrophy is a term sometimes used in conjunction with various muscles. In general, skeletal muscular strength can stay about the same for one month without exercising. Athletes lose muscle strength within three weeks of inactivity. Cardio fitness deteriorates more quickly than muscle strength, and this can start to happen in just a few days.

I think your faith muscle is much like your heart (cardio) muscle; it deteriorates more quickly when overlooked. When I was in my early years, I remember our Church passed out wooden coin shaped objects one year with "TUIT" printed on one side. It was a special gift for all those times when we may say, "I will do _____ when I get around to it" (round TUIT). I wish I had kept mine.

The note included with the gift encouraged me to pull it out whenever I said I will pray when I get a Round TUIT; or, I will get back to worship when I get a Round TUIT; or, I will read my Bible when I get a Round TUIT. I think you get the point. For which faith muscle exercise are you holding out until you get a Round TUIT?

Consider this your "Round TUIT" to start exercising your faith muscle, especially with an exercise you are not already doing.



New Member Sunday Luncheon October 8

As a welcome to our new members, we are planning a light luncheon following the October 8th worship service. The luncheon will be **finger food only**. If you plan to attend, please bring a finger food item to the kitchen before the service. **Please also bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the local food pantry.** Do not bring anything that needs to be heated. Suggested items include small sandwiches, deviled eggs, cut up ham/cheese squares, shrimp, cut up raw vegetables or fruit, breads, cookies/cupcakes, or other appetizers - or just use your creativity!! Beverages will be provided. It is always a good time to join. If you would like to become a member, you can find a membership form on the welcome counter. Forms can be returned to any member of the office staff.



This is an important message from the Parish Nurse Team

Older Adults are at High Risk for Severe RSV Infection

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is a common virus that affects the lungs and breathing passages

RSV infections can be dangerous for certain adults. Adults at highest risk for severe RSV infection include:

- Older adults, especially those 65 years and older
- Adults with chronic heart or lung disease
- Adults with weakened immune systems

Each year, it is estimated that between 60,000–120,000 older adults in the United States are hospitalized and 6,000–10,000 of them die due to RSV infection.

Severe RSV infection

When an older adult gets RSV infection, they typically have mild cold-like symptoms including runny nose, sore throat, cough, and headache. But RSV can sometimes lead to serious conditions such as:

- Pneumonia (infection of the lungs)
- More severe symptoms for people with asthma
- More severe symptoms for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) (a chronic disease of the lungs that makes it hard to breathe)
- Congestive heart failure (when the heart can't pump blood and oxygen to the body's tissues)

Older adults who get very sick from RSV may need to be hospitalized. Some may even die. Older adults are at greater risk than young adults for serious complications from RSV because our immune systems weakens when we are older.



How to protect yourself and loved ones

RSV circulation starts in the fall and peaks in the winter. If you are at high risk for severe RSV infection, or if you interact with an older adult, you should take extra care to stay healthy:

- **Wash your hands often**
Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Washing your hands will help protect you from germs.
- **Keep your hands off your face**
Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Germs spread this way.
- **Avoid close contact with sick people**
Avoid close contact, such as kissing, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who have cold-like symptoms.
- **Cover your coughs and sneezes**
Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash afterward.

The US recently approved a new vaccine for RSV. You may want to check with your physician to see if you should receive it.

FREE COVID TEST KITS- Starting on Sept. 25 you'll be able to order 4 more at-home test kits for free by going to covidtests.gov

You will likely only need to provide your name and mailing address to order our tests, and will have the option of providing your email address to receive order updates. The limit is one order per residential address and each order comes with 4 tests. Orders will begin shipping on Oct. 2 For assistance with ordering, see Lois Hobratchk.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1st – Sally Morse, Susan Wold**
- 2nd – Jay King**
- 4th – Judith Schmidt**
- 7th – Honey Ashley**
- 8th - Dick McKibben**
- 10th – Rosalie Kelleher**
- 11th – George Banes**
- 14th – Cathy Lindsey**
- 16th – Ed Kotek**
- 17th – Seel Lundy**
- 18th – Darlene Baker, Paul Eliassen,
Valerie Southwell**
- 23rd – Steve Hagg**
- 24th – Diane Good, Pat Schaefer**
- 26th – Delores Casper**
- 28th – James Casper**
- 30th – Don Brown**



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 9th – Charles & RaeAnne Bennett**
- 12th – Joe & Janet Demellier**
- 22nd – Chuck & Judy Buskirk**
- 25th – Dick & Mary Ihrke**



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





| Time | Acolyte | Communion Assistants | Lector |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Sun. Oct. 1 10:00 AM | Mike Corbett | Joyce Kuzmick, Mike Corbett, Paul Ó Braonáin | Joyce Kuzmick |
| Sun. Oct. 8 10:00 AM | David Lickfeldt | | Chuck Buskirk |
| Sun. Oct. 15 10:00 AM | Kathy Schwartz | Kathy Schwartz, Walter Geissler, Jim Schwartz | Jim Schwartz |
| Sun. Oct. 22 10:00 AM | Walter Geissler | | Chuck Kovacik |
| Sun. Oct. 29 10:00 AM | Kathy Schwartz | Kathy Schwartz, Wendy Kitzman, David Lickfeldt | Sherri Knaub |

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



| October Usher Team | October Altar Guild | Sound & Camera |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Arlene Hansens Team | Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk | Volunteers |





Medicare Presentation



Do you need information for making good decisions on your Medicare coverage? Diane Daniels will do a presentation in Buhr Hall on Tuesday, October 3rd at 11:00 AM. Many of you may remember her from past presentations. She is an expert in Medicare and will also answer your personal questions. With Medicare open enrollment starting on October 15th, this is a timely presentation that you will want to attend.

Following the presentation, a light lunch will be served. There is no charge, but you need to sign the sheet on the narthex counter if you plan to attend so we know how much food is needed.

Blood Pressure Check

The next blood pressure checks will be on October 29th 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.



Red Rover

Just like the childhood game, we need someone to let us come over and use your available garage space. In previous years, congregation members volunteered a portion of their garage for our Rummage Sale storage. Garage space allows Redeemer to increase the amount of inventory available on sale days. If you are willing to help us, please contact Mary Ann Sigler by e-mail at masigler67@gmail.com or by phone at 614-313-8082. We need to begin storing items in September of this year.



Meeting for Ushers

All ushers (old and new), plus anyone interested in ushering, are invited to a meeting after church on Sunday, October 29th in the sanctuary. The usher guidelines will be reviewed, especially those for communion Sundays. All questions and suggestions are welcome and will be resolved at this meeting. We need more ushers, so please encourage anyone who might be interested to attend. Again, the usher meeting is:

Sunday, October 29
following worship in the sanctuary

Any questions may be directed to Hal Wold at 813-634-2805. Thank you.



Riverside JukeBox Swing Band

The Riverside Jukebox Swing Band will be having a concert at Redeemer on Wednesday November 15 at 7:00 PM.

Bakers Needed!!

The Arts & Crafts Fair on November 4th will include a bake sale, and any help with baking items would be greatly appreciated. Items will need to be brought to the church on Friday, November 3rd from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. If your baked item contains nuts, please note it. Profits from the bake sale will go to WELCA. If you can help bake, please sign the sheet on the narthex counter.

Arts & Crafts Fair Saturday, November 4th 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



This will be the 4th Arts and Crafts Fair that Redeemer will be hosting. This event is from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The Arts & Crafts Fair is open to the community so please invite your friends. There will be a variety of arts & crafts, a raffle for gift baskets, 50/50 raffle, bake sale, and a food truck.

There will be over 40 vendors with various items for sale, such as pottery, honey, jams & jellies, homemade greeting cards, novels, beach bags and totes, wood & leather crafted items, tumblers, wreaths, paintings, jewelry, Christmas items and much more. This is a great opportunity to find some unique gifts in time for the holidays. Please save the date and come to support Redeemer and local vendors. Funds raised from the sales of vendor tables will be used to support Redeemer, funds raised from bake sale will support WELCA.

Volunteers Needed

The tables in Buhr Hall will need to be changed from the round ones to the rectangular ones for the Arts & Crafts Fair and then reset back again following the fair. If you are available for either time (or both) and able to move tables or chairs. Hopefully there will be enough help to make this a quick easy job.

Oct. 29 (Sunday) following worship for set up
Nov. 5 (Sunday) following worship for reset

Oktoberfest Hymn Sing

On Monday, October 23rd, Buhr Hall will host our Oktoberfest event. Come and join us for Oktoberfest at Redeemer. Bring your own beer, wine, or non-alcoholic beverage. Munchies will be provided in theme with Oktoberfest, such as brats, hot dogs, potato salad, ice tea, and more. If you would like to bring something to share you are welcome to do so. We'll drink and sing hymns beginning at 4:30 PM until 6:00 PM—early enough for our friends on golf carts to get home before dark. Beer and Hymns has been done in many ELCA churches over the past several years. It will be a fun evening. Please bring a non perishable food item for the local food pantry. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a friend! Put October 23rd on your calendar for an enjoyable evening.



Chair Yoga

Redeemers very own Linda Eargle will lead the adaptive chair yoga class..This class is designed to help individuals develop their own program that will focus on developing and maintaining flexibility, strength, and mobility. This will be a gentle, individualized program to meet your needs and abilities. The class will be followed by a light lunch. Please sign up to join us Wednesday, October 18th at 10:30 AM.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

We are looking for individuals that enjoy knitting or crocheting or sewing to help restart Redeemer's Prayer Shawl Ministry. If you are interested, please call Wendy Kitzman at 813-362-0783. Please leave a message with your name and number if she is not able to answer.

Our first get together will be on Friday, October 13th at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to bring your yarn and crochet hooks or knitting needles. Blessings.



Health Fair

We will be hosting a **FREE** Health Fair for the congregation and the community on Wednesday, November 1 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM noon. Approximately 35 vendors will be present and provide health screenings, a free laser treatment, vaccines (Tetanus, Flu, Pneumonia, Shingles), hand massage, health information, and much more! Screenings include balance, hearing, cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, and vein. There will be representatives from many other aspects of health that will have helpful information. Moffitt will be present, and the Blood Mobile will also be on site. And there will be a raffle for a Publix gift card plus many give away items.

The Health Fair has been organized by our parish nurse team and they would greatly appreciate your support. Please save the date and join us



Electronics Recycling

WELCA is organizing a community wide electronics recycling event to be held in Redeemer's parking lot on Wednesday, November 29th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Urban E-recycling will be on-site and accept the items listed below. If you have any of these items and no longer have use for them, this is your opportunity to safely and conveniently dispose of them. All hard drives will be shredded.

Items Accepted

Computers (Desktop/Tower)
Laptops
Servers Tower/Rack
Networking Equipment
Telecom Equipment
LCD Monitors
Printers
Copiers
Modems/Routers
Cable/Satellite Boxes
USB, Video, & Power Cords
Audio/Video Equipment
All Circuit Boards
UPS /Battery Backups
Lead Acid Non-Spillable Batteries
Lithium Ion Batteries
Cell Phones
Office Phones/Phone Systems
Insulated Cable/Wire
Video Games & Consoles
iPads/Tablets/E-Readers
Keyboards/Mice
Stereo Equipment

Items NOT Accepted

CRT Monitors
Televisions
Household Batteries
Glass Bulbs
Paint or Varnish

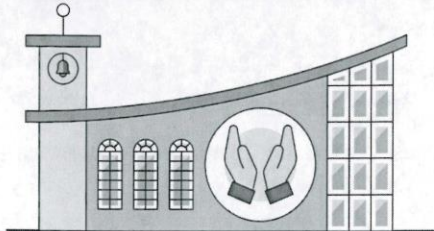
October 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship | 2 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 4:00 PM- New Member Meet & Greet | 3 7:30-9:30 AM reserved 11:00 AM-Medicare update 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop | 4 | 5 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir Practice | 6 9:30 AM-Quilters | 7 2:00 PM-Memorial Service for Paul & Nancy Carrier |
| 8 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM New Member Sunday luncheon | 9 10:30 AM-AI-Anon | 10 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Finance Team Mtg 1:30 PM-Worship & Music | 11 9:30 AM Fundraising Meeting | 12 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir Practice | 13 9:30 AM-Quilters | 14 |
| 15 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship | 16 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting | 17 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop | 18 10:30 AM-Chair Yoga | 19 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir Practice | 20 9:30 AM-Quilters | 21 |
| 22 10:00 AM-Worship | 23 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 4:30 PM-Octoberfest | 24 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop | 25 | 26 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir Practice | 27 9:30 AM-Quilters | 28 |
| 29 10:00 AM-Holy Communion 11:00 AM-BP Check Table take down | 30 10:00 AM WELCA Board 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Interfaith Meeting | 31 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop | | | | |



PROTECTING PLACES OF WORSHIP:

SIX STEPS TO ENHANCE SECURITY AGAINST TARGETED VIOLENCE



OVERVIEW

This document outlines actions that faith-based organizations and community leaders can take to increase security. These six steps can help protect places of worship against potential threats of targeted violence in a cost-effective manner that maintains an open and welcoming environment.

PLAN AHEAD

Following these six steps will help places of worship better understand potential risks, prepare a response plan, and pursue additional resources for security. ➤

IF AN INCIDENT OCCURS

Immediately call 9-1-1. Set the emergency action plan in motion. Every employee and volunteer who has an emergency task should know how and when to perform it; this may include life-saving procedures. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) [You Are the Help Until Help Arrives](#) curriculum and the Department of Defense [STOP THE BLEED®](#) program teach life-saving first aid techniques that should be incorporated into planning efforts. After the emergency, report the incident to your local [Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#) field office, community groups, and relevant faith-based security organizations.

STEP 1 Understand the Risk

- ▶ Review the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin](#) to understand and monitor national trends and developments.
- ▶ Connect with local law enforcement, the local FBI field office, DHS Intelligence Officers within the [DHS Fusion Centers](#), and other places of worship in the area to better understand localized threats.
- ▶ Perform a [security self-assessment](#) of the facility to determine potential vulnerabilities or contact the local Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) [Protective Security Advisor](#) or local law enforcement to conduct the assessment.

STEP 2 Understand Your Space

- ▶ Evaluate your facility through a [layered security approach](#) that considers the outer, middle, and inner perimeters of the building and grounds.

STEP 3 Develop and Practice a Plan

- ▶ Create a security and emergency action plan to [document](#)¹ the steps that personnel and volunteers will take to respond if an incident occurs.
- ▶ [Practice](#) the plan to build muscle memory of the actions that will be taken if an incident occurs.

STEP 4 Inform and Educate Greeters

- ▶ Identify suspicious behaviors and possibly prevent a potential attack through [de-escalation](#) techniques.
- ▶ Recognize [signs of terrorism-related suspicious activity](#) and how to [Report Suspicious Activity](#) to local law enforcement or a person of authority. Many states also have designated a unique “tip line” to collect reports of terrorism-related suspicious activity.

STEP 5 Pursue Grants

- ▶ Apply for [grants](#) that can provide new resources for security.

STEP 6 Report Hate Crimes and Other Incidents

- ▶ [Report](#) hate crimes or any other criminal incidents to local law enforcement and the FBI.

¹ Example template that may be used for active shooter-specific scenarios.

