



RLC Newsletter

January 2024

A Message from Pastor Allman

It is a brand-new Roman calendar year! For many it is an opportunity to compare the “old” with the “new” and make plans for improvement. Have you ever wondered how New Year’s Resolutions started? In searching the internet, I found that January gets its name from **Janus**, the two-faced Roman god who looks backward into the old year and forward into the new. Resolutions were made specific to moral behavior to improve individual and societal behavior for the New Year.

By the fourth century A. D. Rome had adopted Christianity as its official state religion and moral resolutions became times of prayer and fasting. January 1st became the celebration of the Feast of the Circumcision; and, people were encouraged to no longer participate in the revelry and indulgences that were meant to honor the pagan god, Janus.

As often happens church traditions and cultural traditions blend, and eventually Christian families were encouraged to make resolutions in the New Year that reflect Christian moral values: such as, making commitments to better use their talents, treat their neighbors with charity, and avoid their habitual sins.

If you are one who likes to make (and keep) New Year Resolutions, here are some suggestions to get your thought processes moving. You may choose all, none, one or two; or, you may read these and think of better ones.

- Maintain a regular prayer time each day.
- Find a “Read through the Bible in a year” program and follow it.
- Make practical plans to show love to your neighbor.
- Forgive someone who hurt you and tell them so.
- Forgive yourself and do not take the guilt back on yourself.
- Choose to be thankful despite outward circumstance.
- Take a risk and learn something new.
- Trust God for what you cannot see.
- Keep a journal.
- Invite others to “come and see” what is happening at Redeemer.

Whatever decisions you make for how you choose to celebrate the New Year; I hope we all have a blessed 2024.

Pastor Allman 

News from the Office Administrator-January 2024

What a year we have had at Redeemer! We were blessed with a good financial year and welcomed a wonderful group of new members. As we kick off 2024, my hope is that you will invite a friend to join your church, for something. You can invite someone to join you for worship on Sunday, invite them to movie night, or one of the other events here at Redeemer. The rummage sale is right around the corner maybe you and a friend would like to help with rummage sale prep. Sometimes an invite is all they need. I look forward to seeing you all in the months ahead for another amazing year with our Redeemer family.

As usual 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:

Monday, January 1- Office closed

Sunday, January 28 – Annual Meeting following worship

Sunday, January 28 – Blood Pressure Checks following Annual Meeting

Friday & Saturday, February 2-3 – Rummage Sale

Thursday, February 8- End of Life discussion panel 9:00 AM - noon

Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday Service 10:00 AM

Monday, March 4 – Lifeline screening



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



Our Year on YouTube 2023
50 New Subscribers
9,206 total views



JANUARY STEWARDSHIP

By now you may have heard or read that the 2024 Spending Plan was approved at the Congregational Meeting on December 10, 2023. Likely you have realized that your personal expenses will increase in 2024; and the same realization is true for Redeemer. I wonder if anyone is truly surprised by that realization. I cannot ever remember a time when expenses did not increase from one year to the next.



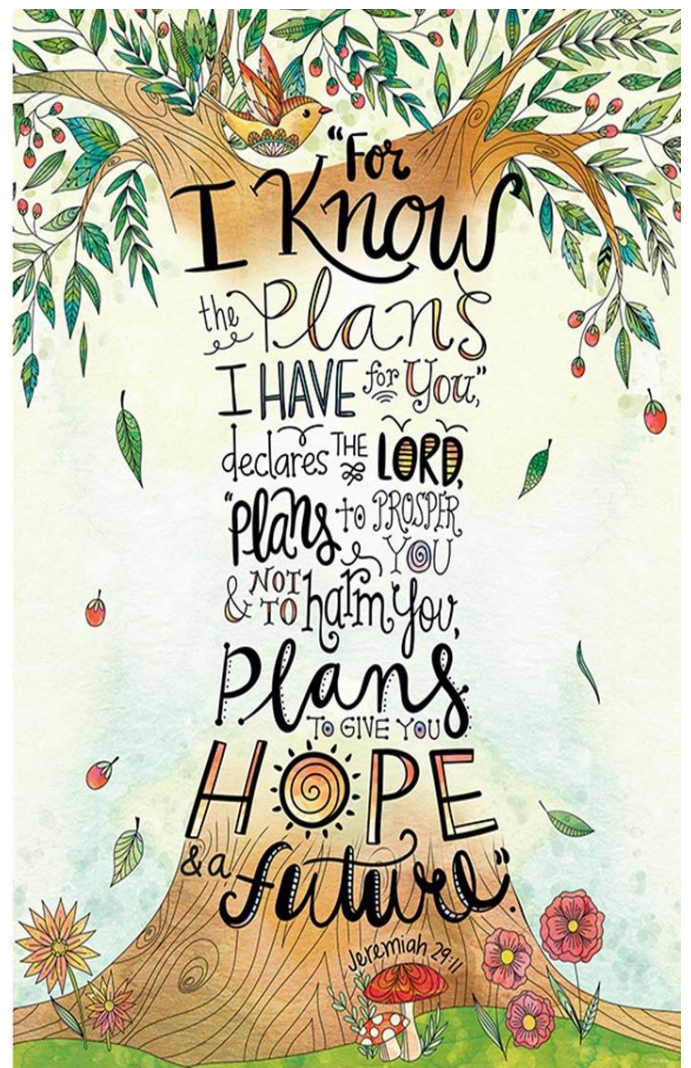
Being a good steward of our resources is a biblical mandate; and that means our finances, our spiritual gifts, and our time - yes, you each have something to offer from all three. The main question, however, is not what Redeemer wants from you so much as what GOD wants from you. The first step in being a good steward of your resources is prayer. Set aside a sizable segment of time, set aside all distractions, and pray that God reveal to you God's preferred future for you regarding the resources God has given you.

Once upon a time a new member called to ask me what their tithe should be to the Church. I cannot answer that because the biblical definition of "tithe" is ten percent, and without knowledge of someone's income I cannot answer as to what ten percent would equal. Also, I cannot answer that because I believe what one gives to the Church is between God and that individual. Once you pray and ask God what portion of your resources (finances, spiritual

gifts, time) you should give to the church, and listen to God's answer, you will have to choose whether or not to obey God (not another human).

Good Stewardship is not really about your relationship to the Church or a Pastor. Good Stewardship is, first and foremost, about your relationship with God. What does God expect from you? I have heard some people say something like, "Me and God have an understanding." Sometimes I wonder whether that means the person has made their decision without asking God and hopes God will understand.

Jeremiah 29:11 reads, "I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Do you trust God's Word? If so, pray and ask God what plan God has for your stewardship; then follow God's plan, which God says will "...give you a future with hope."



GROWING IN FAITH

“God will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness.... ‘Now I am making the whole of creation new.... It is already done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End’” (Revelation 21:4–6, Jerusalem Bible).



God, in Revelation, provides a very different perspective on the “end times” than many secular views that promote Armageddon and Rapture. According to Reverend Richard Rohr, *“Instead of judgment and destruction, we witness God keeping creation both good and new—which means always going somewhere even better or, in a word, evolving. God keeps creating things from the inside out, so they are forever yearning, growing, and changing. Implanted in all living things, this generative force grows them both from within—because they are programmed for it—and from without—as they take in light, nutrition, and water.”*

When we understand the idyllic Garden of Eden relationship that Adam and Eve had with God, prior to sin entering the world, we can view God’s Salvation history from the perspective that God’s goal is to bring us back into that idyllic relationship. Our Loving God does not lead us toward destruction, rather toward a relationship where *“...there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness....”*

The Risen Christ assures that God is leading us toward something positive and includes us in the process. The Apostle Paul writes, *“We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him. These are the people God chose, because that was his plan” (Romans 8:28, ERV).* The idyllic relationship in the Garden of Eden and the idyllic relationship in Revelation form bookends to the loving God’s Salvation Plan that continually calls people to repent and return to that right relationship of steadfast love and forgiveness.

Spiritual maturity (Growing in Faith) means turning away (repenting) of our self-centered living and returning to God/Christ-centered living. We read in Genesis that God created the world *“good, good, good, good, good”* and *“very good.”* Let us ask ourselves how we have been doing with the world since then. In Revelation God tells us, *“Now I am making the whole of creation new...” (21:5).* Do we doubt God’s Word, do we think we know better, or think that we can do better? Or do we find the idea of Armageddon (destruction) more appealing?

I believe God’s Word and promise of God’s desire to make *“the whole of creation new...”* My prayer for this new year (2024) is that we all repent of thinking that we know better or can do better than God’s preferred future. I invite each of you reading this article to join in praying for God to reveal God’s preferred future, for Redeemer, and for all the world. Then let us have the courage to follow God’s plan.



From the Parish Nurse Team

FORGETFULNESS: Normal or Not?



Many people can become more forgetful as they age.

How can you tell the difference between

mild forgetfulness



serious memory problems

like Alzheimer's disease?

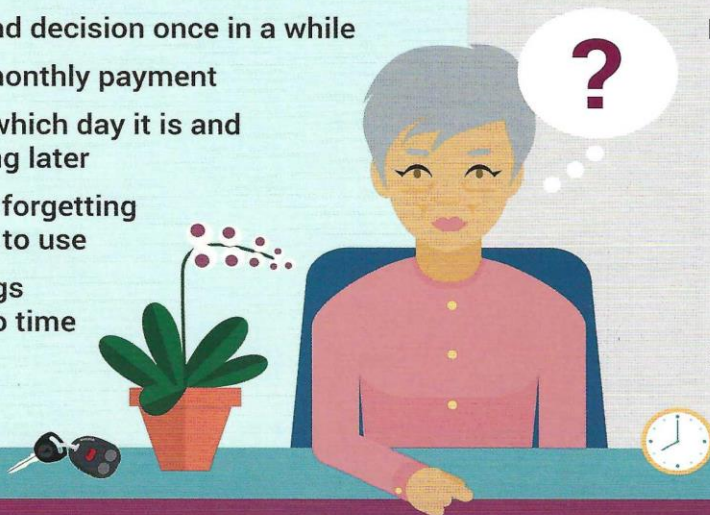
See what's typical and what's not:

NORMAL AGING

- ▶ Making a bad decision once in a while
- ▶ Missing a monthly payment
- ▶ Forgetting which day it is and remembering later
- ▶ Sometimes forgetting which word to use
- ▶ Losing things from time to time

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

- ▶ Making poor judgments and decisions a lot of the time
- ▶ Problems taking care of monthly bills
- ▶ Losing track of the date or time of year
- ▶ Trouble having a conversation
- ▶ Misplacing things often and being unable to find them



Although some forgetfulness comes with age, don't ignore changes in memory or thinking that concern you.

Talk with your doctor if you notice you have more serious memory problems than normal.



Visit www.nia.nih.gov/understanding-memory-loss to learn more.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd – Howie Warfield**
8th - Richard Meredith
10th – Mary Ann Romano
12th - Linda Cagle, Shari Fleming
15th – David Cockerham
17th –Janine Johnson, Janet Thompson
20th – Mary Ihrke
22nd – Mariam Zane
23rd – Dieter Quitsch, Jane Sturmer
25th- Nancy Almaguer
28th –Mike Knaub
31st – Charles Bennett



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2nd – David & Deya Schierenbeck**
11th – Jay & Audrey King
14th – Vern & Verbal Loepf
21st – Dale & Kay Lyndahl
26th – Dieter & Judy Quitsch
27th – Nancy & Bill Frey



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

JANUARY

Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Jan. 7 10:00 AM	Mike Corbett	Arlene Hansen, Mike Corbett, Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick
Sun. Jan 14 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Chuck Buskirk
Sun. Jan. 21 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt	David Lickfeldt, Wendy Kitzman, Paul Ó Braonáin	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. Jan. 28 10:00 AM	Mike Corbett		Dan Pollert

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.



January Usher Team	January Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Chuck Kovacik Team	Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk	Volunteers





Toys for Beth El Mission

Thanks to everyone who donated toward toys for Beth El. And thanks also to Jeanne Pruet, Mary Ann Sigler, and Laura Akins for shopping and delivering the toys to Beth El. In addition to congregational donations, a Thrivent Action Team card was used to purchase an additional \$250 in toys. Beth El ministries support many families through their dental clinic, education for children, housing, food, clothing, etc.



Laura, Jeanne, & Mary Ann pack up to deliver all the toys donated to Beth-el for Christmas.

WELCA Luncheon

48 Redeemer women enjoyed a luncheon on December 13th. In addition to lunch, those attending appreciated selections by the barbershoppers and an amazing demonstration on flower arranging. And several women were able to take home door prizes. Thanks to Jeanne Potochny for making the baskets, Chuck Buskirk for making the pasta salad, Jeanne Pruet and Myrna Strom for shopping for the event, and to the seven men who served the lunch. Since all Redeemer women are members of WELCA, we hope that many of you will participate in our activities in the coming year.



Welcome to WELCA!

Have you ever wondered what (or more accurately who) is WELCA? WELCA is an acronym for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you attended the Christmas luncheon, donated baked goods for fellowship or a bake sale, received a carnation at Mother's Day, or joined in Friday quilting, you have participated in WELCA. Redeemer's WELCA is only where it begins, as we are part of the Tampa conference of the Florida-Bahama's Synod. The church-wide WELCA is based in Chicago and hosts a website (WomenoftheELCA.org) that holds a wealth of information and resources for us. Please check it out to get more familiar with how far reaching WELCA's ministry is. While visiting the website please also visit the section "Daily Grace." It is easy to sign up for the Daily Grace devotions to get them via email. If you need assistance in signing up for Daily Grace, please contact Diane Brace. We are not your mother's WELCA!



Gift Bags for Homebound Members

Thanks to everyone who helped assemble and deliver Christmas gift bags and quilts to homebound members. It is rewarding to see the gifts brighten someone's day. A special thanks to Honey Ashley and Arlene Hansen who purchased the items and to Thrivent for the Action Team card that was used to purchase the items.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Anyone that is interested in joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry the group will be meeting on Friday mornings at 10:00 starting on January 12th.



E-Recycling event November 29th

On November 29th we invited Urban E-Recycling to come to Redeemer to host an electronics recycling event for our community. This company came out to Redeemer and with the help of our volunteers they were able to collect and destroy 327 items. 112 of those items were old cell phones. Thanks to the help of Urban E-Recycling we were able to responsibly recycle 3,564 pounds of electronics waste. Thank you to all that came out to help and support this event. We hope to do this again in the future.



Thank you from My Warriors Place

To all members of the Redeemer Lutheran Church, Thank you for your generous donation and prayers. It will allow us to continue to provide a place of recreation and restoration to our veterans, first responders and families who come to our retreat.

Sincerely,

Kelly Kowall (Proud Gold Star Mother of SPC Coery Kowall)
President and Founder of My Warrior's Place

Blood Pressure Check

The next blood pressure checks will be on January 28th and continue on the last Sunday of every month. Honey Ashley and Rosalie Kelleher will be in Buhr Hall following the worship service. This is a convenient opportunity to keep check on your numbers.

Calling All Rummage Sale Helpers

We are asking for volunteers to come help empty the shed in preparation of our annual Rummage Sale. We are asking that you sign up using the sign-up sheet on the narthex counter. There will be coffee and goodies to help get you moving on January 2nd at 9:00 AM.



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.

Property Team Members Needed

Redeemer is in need of some handymen. We are looking for men to help us assess work that needs to be done at the church. This may include some hands on work but often times you may just be writing up a contract for the scope of work that needs to be done & getting quotes for the work. There are no structured meeting schedules, the property team meets on an as needed basis. If you might be interested in lending a hand please contact the office.

Worship Assistants Needed

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.



Parking lot Resurfacing & Painting

Redeemer will be having some work done in the parking lot on January 8th-January 10th. During this time you may notice that half of the parking lot will be blocked off to allow for resurfacing/sealing and painting. Please look for signage during these times with parking instructions if you need to come by Redeemer on those days.

Socks & Underwear

WELCA is organizing a project for the month of January. We will be collecting socks and underwear for Cypress Creek Elementary School students. Since they include preschool, sizes needed are 4T to 6T and child's 8 to 14. The social worker was elated to hear that we would be donating these items as that is a big need. Donations can be left on the table in the narthex. If you want us to do the shopping, please place your check or cash in an offering envelope and mark it "underwear project".

Annual Reports for Meeting

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28th following the worship service. If you head one of the many groups (altar, ushers, fellowship, etc.); please plan to email your report by January 12th at the very latest.



“It’s Time to Talk...About What Happens at the End of Life”

Redeemer church will be hosting a panel discussion on issues relating to end of life on Thursday, February 8th from 9:30 to 12 in Buhr Hall. During this discussion, you will learn what legal documents are of importance regarding end-of-life care and the disposition of your assets such as Advanced Directive, Last Will and Testament, and POA. We will have an overview of palliative care and hospice, and how these services are provided. We will also discuss end-of-life pre-arrangement planning such as cremation, Celebration of Life, and disposition of remains. An attorney from elder care and representatives from hospice and the National Cremation Society will share their knowledge. You will be encouraged to make your own decisions and not leave them to those you love the most. There is no better gift for your loved ones than leaving your estate in order. This is also an opportunity to have your questions answered.

Please sign the sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex as Continental Breakfast and Snacks will be provided.

Bake Sale

The Rummage Sale on February 2-3 will include a bake sale, and any help with baking items would be greatly appreciated. A sign-up sheet is on the welcome counter in the narthex. **Baked goods drop off: Feb 1st Thursday, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

Rummage Sale News

January is here and January is the month we start collecting items for the rummage sale to be held on February 2-3.

The items we will be collecting to sell are; clothes (no stains), plastic hangers, household items, jewelry, books (no magazines), puzzles, linens, collectibles, Knick knacks, small appliances, tools, DVDs, CDs, toys, office supplies, craft supplies, and home décor.

We are unable to accept any large items until January 30th. These include lamps, small tables, small chairs, large mirrors, golf equipment, umbrellas, beach chairs, no big furniture such as couches and large living room furniture.

We will not accept: phones, tvs, vcrs, large exercise equipment, or wire hangers.

We will need bakers to donate treats for our baked goods table. Baked goods drop off will be on Thursday, February 1st, between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Please be sure to label all baked goods, especially item containing nuts.

Collection dates:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, starting on January 3

Last day for donations will be January 26, 2024

Baked goods drop off: Feb 1st Thursday, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Sale dates: Feb. 2, Friday 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Feb. 3, Saturday 8:00 AM -1:00 PM

Family and friends will be Feb. 1, Thursday from 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

Volunteer sheets will be available on Sundays on the welcome table and following worship in Buhr Hall on January 7, 14, 21, 28. Please consider this volunteer opportunity to help your church for this very important project.

We will need volunteers for the following job/areas: pricing items, organizers, kitchen, books, parking lot attendants, outside greeters, floor workers, handing out bags for shopping, baggers, cashiers, door attendants, clean-up, people to vacuum (please bring a vacuum) and moving tables for set up and take down.

Please note on sale dates everyone should wear red Redeemer shirts (or just a red shirt) on Friday, and a black Thrivent shirt on Saturday, with name tags please. Black Thrivent shirts in all sizes will be available for free.

We need many hands to make this year’s rummage sale a success. Please mark your calendars today!

Thank you for all your help.

Tina Schwartz and all of the Fundraising Team.



January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office closed 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	2 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Group	3	4 1:00 PM-WELCA Board 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	5 reserved	6 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice reserved
7 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	8 Parking lot closed	9 Parking lot closed	10 Parking lot closed	11 9:00 AM- Parish Nurse Mtg 10:30 AM- Fundraising 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	12 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry reserved	13 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice reserved
14 10:00 AM-Worship	15 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting	16 9:00 AM-Altar Guild Luncheon? 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Finance Team Mtg 1:30 PM Music & Worship 3:30 PM-AA Group	17	18 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	19 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry reserved	20 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice reserved
21 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	22 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	23 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Group	24	25 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	26 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry reserved	27 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice reserved
28 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-BP Check	29 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-WELCA Board	30 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Group	31	Rummage Sale Drop off dates Monday, Wednesday, Friday (No drop off on-1/8 & 1/10) 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM		

