



RLC Newsletter

April 2024

A Message from Pastor Allman

Easter was early this year, so when you read this Easter has just happened. As I write, Easter is still a few weeks away. It always seems, to me, like there are two kinds of Easter: the one at Church and the one at home. We obviously are a religious family, coming from religious families. We go to church on Sundays, and Wednesdays during Lent. Our children went through the catechism program and each made their confirmation. My brother and I both ended up being Lutheran Pastors. Growing up though, I always had a feeling that there were two kinds of Easter: Church Easter and World Easter.

What do you remember about Easter from your childhood? I will admit that when I was a child the idea of going to church on Easter was not the most exciting part of the morning. We did not have individual Easter baskets in my childhood. Our dining room table became the location of everything brought by the Easter Bunny. In addition to candy and hardboiled eggs of various colors, the center piece was always a rabbit shaped (white) cake with pink frosting and covered in coconut. I never liked that cake. For lunch we always seemed to have ham and scalloped potatoes. I never liked that meal. I always tried to eat enough candy to ruin my dinner.

Church Easter and World Easter. It still seems that way in our society. Children (and some adults) are more excited about the coming of the Easter Bunny than the Resurrection of Jesus. People dress up in giant bunny costumes for parades and appearances at the malls. Some even have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny. Newspapers advertise Easter specials at stores and restaurants; and Easter egg hunts around the neighborhoods – even at some churches. I heard of one church where the Easter egg hunt planning person thought it would be okay to cancel a worship service to have the egg hunt in its place.

I am not against having fun, although, it just strikes me as interesting that right in the middle of all those worldly events and excitement, we pause for one hour (or maybe a little longer) to hear the story of the Resurrection, and then we go back to having fun at World Easter. Maybe I am being too cynical. Maybe it is just my problem that I can vividly remember that display on my childhood dining room table, and I cannot remember one thing that happened at church.

I just wonder what today's children are going to remember about Easter when they are grown. I

hope they have a community of believers, like I did, that will remind them that Jesus is the reason for this season too. May the blessings of the Risen Lord Jesus, Savior of all Creation, fill your Easter Season, and that of all the children you know, with an abundance of his grace, mercy, and peace. Amen!

Pastor Allman 

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



February on YouTube
11 New Subscribers
1,264 total views
13.1K minutes watched



News from the Office Administrator April 2024

I hope everyone had a blessed Easter.

I hope as you read this the parking lot project is underway. We will have the entire parking lot closed the first week of April. We anticipate that they will be able to complete the work if the weather cooperates. Please call the office if you need something rather than stopping by.

Mike is a Notary Public, he will be offering this service to our congregation. If you have friend in need the cost is \$10 per signature.

As usual be sure you check the Welcome Table in the narthex for upcoming events. We post flyers and sign up 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:

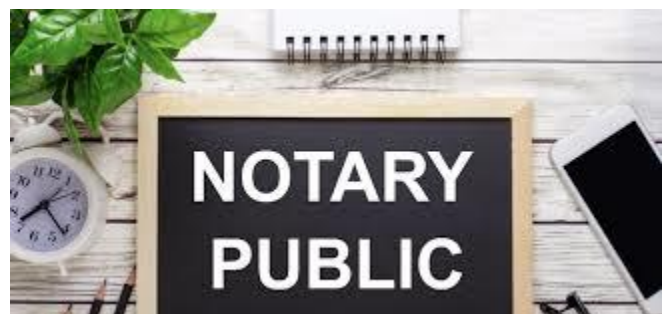
April 1st – 5th- Parking lot closed

Monday, April 8 – Southshore Concert Band
7:00 PM in the fellowship hall

Thursday, April 18 at 1:00 PM – WELCA Book Club

Tuesday, April 23 5:30 PM – Movie Night (potluck)

Wednesday, April 24 9:30 AM – History of a Dog



APRIL STEWARDSHIP

Job 1:21 (CEV) reads, *“We bring nothing at birth; we take nothing with us at death.”* Each of us owns whatever we brought into this world when we were born, and whatever we can take with us when we die. In between birth and death, we are stewards of what God entrusts to us.

We do not often hear the word, “steward,” today. Perhaps one might use it while traveling. As a noun the definition is *“a person who looks after the passengers on a ship, aircraft, or train and brings them meals.”* By that definition many of us would rather have a steward than be a steward.

More often the Bible sees “steward” as a verb and its definition would be to, *“manage or look after another’s property.”* Honestly that definition may not appeal to many people either. In our society the accumulation of wealth and property is a high priority; and, often is used to determine a person’s worth and value.

Jesus taught that everything belongs to God, and that God has entrusted us with the people and things of this world as God’s stewards. It is tempting to think that if God already owns everything, then God hardly needs us to give back what we claim as our own. The fallacy is the belief that what we have is what we own. Do our lives provide others an example that we live as faithful stewards of the treasures God had entrusted to us?

GROWING IN FAITH

In Matthew 6:6-7 (CEV) Jesus taught, *“When you pray, go into a room alone and close the door... When you pray, don’t talk on and on as people do who don’t know God...”*

Søren Kierkegaard (theologian and author) once observed: *“A man prayed, and at first he thought that prayer was talking. But he became more and more quiet until in the end he realized that prayer is listening.”*

I remember when I began to learn to “be still” and listen; and, as a Spiritual Director, I have experience teaching others to “be still” and listen. What was true of me as a beginner, and true of some others as beginners, was the time where I was able to “be still” did not last very long – in the beginning.

Centering Prayer is one of many spiritual disciplines. God has given us the disciplines of the spiritual life as a means of receiving God’s grace. Of all the spiritual disciplines prayer is the most central because it ushers us into perpetual communion with God. Prayer brings us into the deepest and highest work of the human spirit. Real prayer is life creating and life changing. Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us.

Some have used the excuse that they have little or no time to pray, especially for “just sitting” to listen and “be still.” Our need to be “doing” convinces us that we are accomplishing nothing when we “be still” to listen. Martin Luther declared, *“I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer.”* That certainly feels like the opposite of what our human nature tells us; yet, Martin Luther accomplished more for God in his lifetime than I could ever hope to accomplish.

Listening to God is the necessary prelude to obedience. We must hear and know the Will of God before we can do the Will of God. I continually encourage Council and Ministry Teams to pray to be able to listen to God for God’s preferred future for Redeemer. If we do not first listen to God, then we are only trying to accomplish our own preferred future for Redeemer.

The beginning of learning to pray is to listen for God’s guidance. If you thought you already knew everything you needed to know about prayer, perhaps God can help you return to the beginning. Be still and start by listening.

This is an important message from the Parish Nurse Team

CREATE YOUR OWN ZONE

Following the example of people living in "Blue Zones," you can make wherever you live a healthier place. "Blue Zones" are regions where people have the longest lifespans and healthspans (the period in your life where you are healthy).

People in these regions have lifestyle habits that align with decades of medical research and are attributed to residents living healthier and longer. Incorporating some of these health habits could lead you to being more mentally and physically able to serve God and others.

Blue Zone people eat more plants. The more plant-based your diet, the bigger the impact on lowering your cholesterol and blood pressure which can reduce your risk of heart disease. Start slowly by adding vegetables as side dishes and use fruits as your dessert.

Blue Zone people pay attention to being hungry and being full. Be mindful of your body's cues when you eat. For example, it takes roughly 20 minutes from the time you start eating for your stomach to send signals to your brain that you're full. Eat slowly, drink water between bites, and be aware of how much you have already eaten. Stop eating when you are 80% full. Learn to read your body's signals if you are hungry or if it is simply your body telling you to drink more water.

Blue Zone people have long lasting social connections. Social relationships have a positive influence on your health, and growing evidence shows that loneliness can have a negative influence on how you age. Plan frequent get togethers with family or friends. If they live far away, stay in touch through phone calls, emails, Facebook, etc. Maintain a social network that supports a healthy lifestyle. Being involved with your church also creates a strong sense of community and belonging.

Blue Zone people prioritize movement. Make walking a part of your daily routine – even if it is just 15 minutes most days of the week. Find ways to add extra movement into your days.

Blue Zone people know how to cope with stress. When stress goes untreated, it can cause serious implications both mentally and physically. Yoga is one option to help reduce stress. Check out resources available to you.

Blue Zone people don't smoke. Smoking can lead to cardiovascular disease, cancer, and affect multiple organs. Seek help from your physician or a support group.

Source: National Institutes of Health

While each of the elements is important, the key is to incorporate them all habitually into your life.

BLUE ZONES

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd – Sherri Knaub**
- 5th – Gary Stark**
- 8th – Marion Giblin, Eva Michna**
- 11th– Jeanette Barber, Alice Miller**
- 12th – Vicki Weiss**
- 13th –Renate Bartz**
- 14th – Helga Spitzenberger**
- 16th – Helga Balter, Erika Barfels**
- 19th – Carol Brown, Angela Grill,
Barb Lauer**
- 29th – Gerry Adams, Candy Allman,
Reinhold Baal, Lois Hobratschk**



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st – Terry & Liz Hood**
- 4th – Hal & Susan Wold**
- 8th – Bill & Marion Giblin**
- 10th – Richard & Karin Meredith**
- 13th – Russ & Kathy Filip**
- 18th – Gary & Kathy Westerman**
- 25th – Howie & Kathie Warfield**
- 26th – Pete & Edie Moose**
- 28th – Don & Carol Brown
Wayne & Janet Gehrke**
- 29th – Jack & Wendy Kitzman**
- 30th – Gerry & Ronald Harding**



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





Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Apr. 7 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Wendy Kitzman, Kathy Schwartz, David Lickfeldt	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. Apr. 14 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Chuck Kovacik
Sun. Apr. 21 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick	Sharon & Bill Horinzsy, Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick
Sun. Apr. 28 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Sherri Knaub

April Usher Team	April Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Arlene Hansens Team	Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk	Volunteers



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. May 5 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt	Wendy Kitzman, Mary Ann Sigler, David Lickfeldt	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. May 12 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Sherri Knaub
Sun. May 19 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin	Paul Ó Braonáin, Arlene Hansen, Joyce Kuzmick	Paul Ó Braonáin
Sun. May 26 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Chuck Kovacik

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.





Parking lot Resurfacing & Painting

Redeemer will be having some work done in the parking lot the 1st week of April. During this time, you may notice that the parking lot will be blocked off to allow for resurfacing/sealing and painting. We ask that you do not come to Redeemer on those days and to call the office if you need us.



Project for April-May

The Synod assembly project this year is for Orlando Union Rescue Mission and we will be collecting hygiene items for them during April and May.

This is a description of their mission. " We provide more than just relief - we equip the homeless for long-term independence and self-sufficiency built on a personal relationship with Christ. We are more than a homeless shelter. Our life-transforming services are designed to address every area of need (physical, emotional, social, and spiritual) so those who were once hungry, hurting, and homeless can become filled, restored, and secure."

Hygiene items wanted are for both men and women and include deodorant, razors, shaving cream, lotions, toothpaste (adults and children), brushes and combs, shampoo and conditioner, soap bars and liquid soap, mouth wash, chapstick, hand sanitizer, and dental floss. Shopping lists will be available.

Items can be placed on the table in the narthex. If you would like us to do the shopping for you, write "Orlando Rescue Mission" on your envelope and place it in the offering plate.

We filled Pastor Allman's car with supplies last year. Hopefully he will go to the assembly with it as full this time.

History of the Dog: How the Wolf Became Man's Best Friend

How is it that wolves, hated and feared by man for centuries, are the ancestors of dogs, man's best friend and loyal companion? This presentation discusses the fascinating history of dog domestication from prehistoric times to the present. If you are a dog lover, and even if you are not, you will learn new and surprising facts about different dog breeds, dog terminology, and dog behavior.

The presenter will be Linda Mumford, a.k.a. Dr. Linda Medleau who taught veterinary dermatology at the University of Georgia. People who have heard her describe her as very knowledgeable and entertaining.

The presentation is being organized by WELCA and is on **Wednesday, April 24th at 9:30 AM**. This presentation is for both men and women.

Since a continental breakfast will be available, you will need to sign up on the sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex. It is free, but you will need to bring a non-perishable food item for the local food pantry.



Property Team Members Needed

Redeemer is in need of some handy people. We are looking for men or women 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.

May is Meals on Wheels Month (SIGN UP NOW, serve in May)

Redeemer will once again be the sponsoring agency for Meals on Wheels delivery in the month of May. Every afternoon between 3:00PM and 4:30PM, meals are delivered to those in need in Sun City Center and Kings Point. We have provided this very worthwhile service for many years and it is a rewarding and fulfilling experience. If you would like to be involved or just want more information, please contact Hal Wold at 813-634-2805.



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.



Book Club News from WELCA

15 ladies met to launch the new WELCA book club. We have selected *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles to read and discuss at our next meeting on Thursday April 18th at 1:00 PM. Please consider reading the book and joining us if you missed our first meeting. Please contact Diane Brace at 703-517-6115 or Marion Giblin at 813-347-3066.

<https://bookclubs.com/clubs/6018580/join/326b32/>

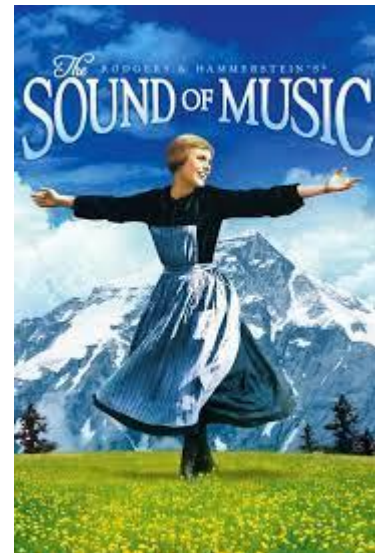


Diane



Tuesday, April 23rd at 5:30 PM

Join us for movie night this month on April 23rd at 5:30 PM to see *The Sound of Music*. Dinner will be potluck, so bring a dish to share. Bring your own beverage and a non-perishable food item to be donated to the food pantry. There is a sign-up sheet on the welcome table. Please include what type of item you plan to share so we don't all bring deserts. The movie will begin at 6:00 PM



About the movie: The musical tells the story of Maria, who takes a job as a governess to a large family while she decides whether to become a nun. She falls in love with the children and their widowed father, Captain von Trapp. He is ordered to accept a commission in the German navy, but he opposes the Nazis.

Southshore Concert Band

Redeemer will be hosting the Southshore concert band on Monday, April 8th at 7:00PM in the fellowship hall.

A free will offering will be collected during the show. Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the local food pantry.

The Holy Land Christians will be our guests on April 28th

Hear their story and see their beautiful olivewood crafts!

On April 28, 2024, during the service, you will be hearing a temple talk about the Christians of the Holy Land. Following the worship service, the Holy Land Christians will be in the church fellowship hall with a nice display of handmade olivewood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income. For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the wars, the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem, the COVID-19 pandemic, and nowadays the catastrophic ongoing war, due to this tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land.

This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites.

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings.

A Christian family from Bethlehem will be telling us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and they will be presenting these carvings after the service.

It is never too late to help. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem.

Let us carefully tend our roots, the Christians of the Holy Land. And let us pray together for peace in the Holy Land.

Can You Help?

We have just returned the “Alleluias” to our worship service of Easter. Lent began Ash Wednesday and continued through Holy Week to Easter with its joyful and uplifting service- lots of differences.

Did you notice something that was consistent? From Ash Wednesday to Easter our chancel area was “dressed” appropriately for each service. Actually, changes take place all year long. These changes are done by a small group of faithful and dedicated ladies, the Altar Guild which is lead by Judy Buskirk. Not only do they decorate but they also attend all things relating to the altar. That includes preparing communion, laundering the linens, and being sure all necessary items are in supply (wine, wafers, grape juice, etc.).

Redeemer is blessed to have these women taking care of our altar. A special thank you to each and everyone of you, and especially to Judy Buskirk for her leadership and all the extras she does.

Does this sound like something you would like to help with? The guild is open to both women and men. There is always room for more help. The Altar Guild is now operating short-handed and your help would be really appreciated. We have many different groups looking for helpers, ushers, worship assistants, finance, property, etc. Thanks for your consideration.

Edie Moose



April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Parking lot closed 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	2 Parking lot closed 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	3 Parking lot closed	4 Parking lot closed 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	5 Parking lot closed 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry reserved	6 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice reserved
7 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	8 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 7:00 PM-Southshore Concert Band	9 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Finance Team Mtg 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	10	11 9:00 AM-Parish Nurses 10:30 AM-Fundraising Team Mtg 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	12 9:30 AM-Quilters 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 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	16 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:30 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	17	18 1:00 PM-Book Club 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	19 9:30 AM-Quilters 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 1:00 PM-Council Meeting 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	23 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting 5:30 PM- Movie Night	24 9:30 AM-WELCA Program History of the Dog	25 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	26 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry reserved	27 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice reserved
28 10:00 AM-Worship	29 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-WELCA Board Mtg 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	30 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting				

