



RLC Newsletter

May 2024

A Message from Pastor Allman

Today is the Tuesday after Easter! Well, maybe not “today” the day you are reading this; rather “today” as in the day I am writing this article. Maybe you were wondering what the staff does right after Easter. Wouldn’t your guess be that we are preparing the May newsletter? This morning (again, my “this morning” and not your “this morning”) I was thinking about the need to start putting the May newsletter together. I confess that I looked back to 2014 to see what I wrote ten years ago; and, I discovered I had been prophetic. I told our (then) secretary, *“You know, most churches these days simply post their newsletter on their website.”* Years ago, we started doing that, and sending them out via email, leaving a small amount of paper copies on the Welcome Table for those who decline to use computers, smart phones, tablets, etc.

I tell you that story to have you help me wonder. Most of the world today is involved in multi-media presentation: television and radio are still viable options, although maybe not for long; while most of the world communicates through social networking websites and smart phones. In the early 2000s, I signed up for Facebook to stay in touch with our daughter in college. In 2014, a pastor told me his 7th-8th confirmation class students said that

“Facebook is for old people.” If Facebook is now considered to be for “old people,” then what would those same 7th-8th grade students think of a paper newsletter?

Probably the most popular social networking product was called Twitter – now “X”. Maybe you have heard of it and maybe not. I have never used it. People “tweet” on their smart phones using up to 280 characters, if they do not include an image. Twitter started in 2006 and by 2012 had 500 million registered members posting 340 million “tweets” per day. In 2024 “X” (formerly Twitter) has 550 million monthly users – a small increase from 2012. I imagine 7th-8th graders today would say “X” is for old people. Teens in 2024 mostly use YouTube, TikTok, and Snapchat; while older youth are likely using Instagram.

Maybe you are not interested. I confess that I am only on Facebook, because I am part of the “old people;” and, by necessity since the pandemic, the church uses YouTube for Livestreaming worship and uploading a recorded Bible Study.

SO, why did I bring it up? Because it shows the direction that communication is moving. With those

networking sites a person can instantly communicate with a friend, share pictures/videos, share recipes, share craft ideas, get a date for the weekend, and even find a job. I imagine there are many more uses, of which I am not familiar. We are nearing the era where the printer, copy machine, toner, paper, etc. will be obsolete. Redeemer has not used a FAX machine in many years. And consider where that will leave the greeting card industry, stationary industry, and the USPS.

I am not really a prophet, yet I can see the writing on the wall – which these days is my Facebook Wall. “*The days are surely coming,*” says the pastor, “*when Redeemer will have to catch up or get left behind.*” That has already started to happen in our lifetime. It will, I predict, continue to happen; and, if we are concerned about whether Redeemer will still be here in 45 more years, then we should all take the future of Redeemer seriously.

Don’t expect me to start tweeting, or Whatsapping, or Instagramming, or whatever those activities are called. I am still electronically challenged, even though the pandemic made me crash into self-taught YouTubing. I am not sure how much further I will go in terms of social media, as it seems to change faster than I can learn. I have, however, managed to set up a Facebook page for Redeemer. If you are a Facebook user you can find the page at Redeemer-Lutheran-Church/579478448758608. You can “Like” the page and receive inspiration and updates. You can also find Redeemer on YouTube and subscribe to our channel. What we really need on staff is a teenager.

Pastor Allman 

March on YouTube
15 New Subscribers
1,345 total views
15.2K minutes watched



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



News from the Office Administrator May 2024

In case you had not heard 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 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:

Sat., May 11th at 10:00 AM-
 Memorial Service for Dick McKibben
 (Father of Sherri Knaub)

Wed., May 15th at 7:00 PM-
 Riverside Jukebox Swing Band

Thurs., May 16 at 1:00 PM –
 WELCA Book Club
Sat., May 18th at 10:00 AM-
 Memorial Service for David “Dean” Beltz

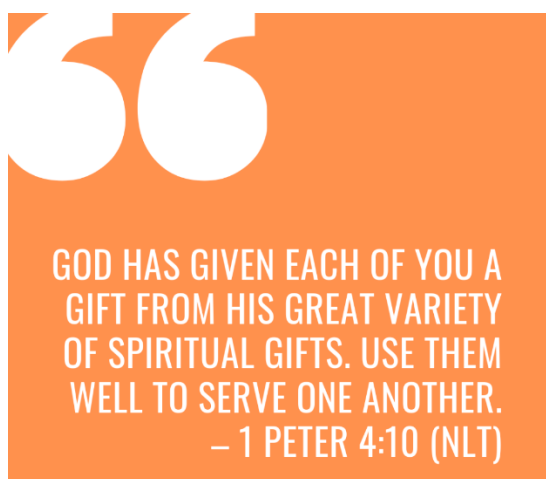
Tue., May 21 at 5:30 PM-
 Dinner and a Movie

Sat., May 25 at 9:00 AM-
 Garden Work Day

MAY STEWARDSHIP

“Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received... Give your complete attention to these matters. Throw yourself into your tasks so that everyone will see your progress” (1 Timothy 4:14-15, NLT).

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another” (1 Peter 4:10, NLT).



Did you know you have a spiritual gift? Do not panic! There is nothing to fear! The Holy Spirit is our friend! The Holy Spirit is the third part of our Triune God! God gives good gifts! Now breathe...

After you have your breathing back under control you may feel like asking, “Why me?” or simply “Why?” Let’s consider the larger picture of why spiritual gifts are important. First and foremost, spiritual gifts are given and used to glorify God. Second, spiritual gifts are given and used to help us build up the Church and become more like Jesus Christ.

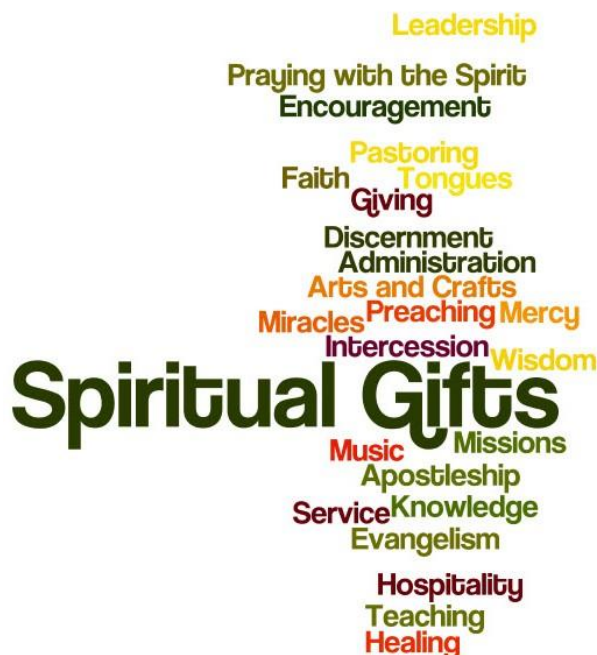


The Apostle Paul says, *“Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12-13, NLT).*

Jesus is our perfect example! Jesus personified all the spiritual gifts through the words Jesus spoke and the actions Jesus carried out. Since Jesus is now at the right hand of God, the Holy Spirit is the primary expression of the presence of God on the earth. Therefore, God distributes the gifts of the Holy Spirit among Christians, so we can glorify God and build up the Church.

Each person has been given a primary spiritual gift, and other secondary spiritual gifts. God brings people together in order that our spiritual gifts can complement one another and we learn to rely on one another. As our understanding of Redeemer’s spiritual gifts matures, our appreciation for all of the people at Redeemer increases.

God has brought you to Redeemer for a reason. Your spiritual gifts are important to God’s preferred future for Redeemer. Your spiritual gifts are not an end in themselves. They are tools with which we can speak clearly the love of God to all people. Use them well to serve one another.



GROWING IN FAITH

The Apostle Paul says, *“Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:12-13, NLT).



Paul also writes in Colossians 4:12, *“Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.”*

Church leaders (like Paul and Epaphras), especially pastors, have the job of equipping God’s people to do God’s work and build up the church, the body of Christ. It is not the pastors’ job to do all the work of God and build up the church; rather, pastors are to equip God’s people to do God’s work and build up the body of Christ. Each of us has been given spiritual gifts, primary and secondary gifts, to grow our faith (mature) and build up the body of Christ. Being a Christ-follower is not for spectators. Jesus said, *“Follow me.”* Jesus did not say, *“Sit and watch.”*

I know, many have already said some form of *“I’ve already done my work;”* or, *“I’m retired now.”* My response is that if you are still alive in this world, then God still has work for you to do. I have visited people who had near death experiences and have said something like, *“I guess God is not done with me yet.”* I affirm that thought and challenge them to discern what work God still wants them to do.

Once you transition into the Church Triumphant, i.e., heaven, then you can sit and worship God all the time. Once you hear the words, *“Well done, good and faithful servant,”* then you can rest in peace. Until then, you also are the hands, feet, and voice of God on earth, and there is plenty left to do. *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few”* (Matthew 9:37, NRSV).

“(The labor) will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12-13, NLT). How are you *“measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ”*? What other ways do you still need to Grow in Faith? What can we church leaders do to equip you for God’s work?



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

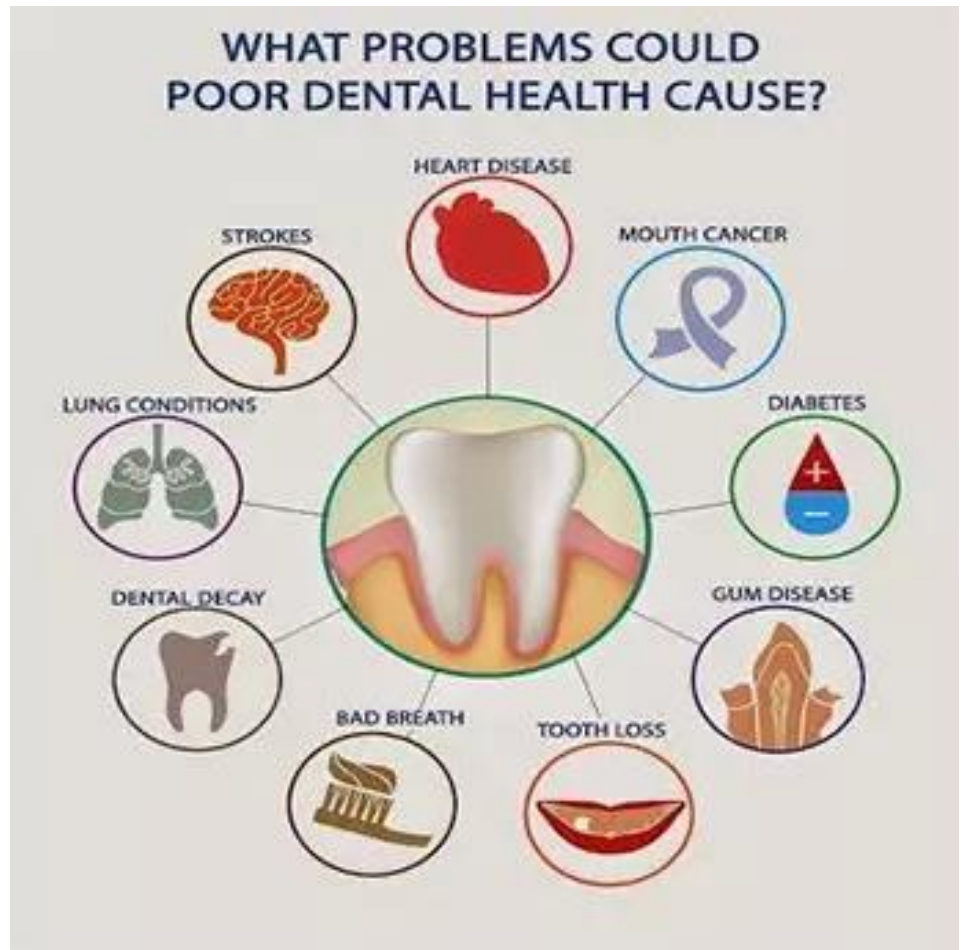
Redeemer is always welcoming new members! If you would like to join new member forms can be found on the welcome table or stop by the office to learn more.

Oral Health Complications

At first glance, the two major consequences of improper oral hygiene (Tooth Decay and Gum Disease) may seem strictly like oral health issues. However, in reality these issues go much deeper than that as their effects not only wreak havoc on your oral health but also cause an excess amount of oral bacteria to build up as well.

If the bacteria produced by either condition can enter the bloodstream, it may likely travel to other areas of the body, thereby spreading and worsening the infection. If the infectious bacteria reach the heart, it may inflame the heart's vessels.

As a result, individuals suffering from severe tooth decay or periodontal disease, (or both) have a higher likelihood of suffering a heart attack, stroke, or other cardiovascular-based complications. Additionally, tooth decay and more particularly gum disease, can also lead to the worsening of other chronic illnesses such as diabetes or various types of cancer.



Prevention

Properly brushing and flossing your teeth plus having regular checkups are necessary for good oral health. By having two checkups per year, you are more likely to correct poor oral health habits and prevent potential issues before they are allowed to become a threat to your health.

So, ask yourself:

“WHEN WAS MY LAST DENTAL APPOINTMENT? “

And...

“JUST HOW OFTEN DO I TAKE THE TIME TO MAKE SURE I AM PROPERLY BRUSHING AND CARING FOR MY TEETH?”



From Parish Nurse Team

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st – Kathie Bastion**
3rd – Carolyn Cole
4th – Cal Adams, Paula Simenson
5th– Jane Magalski
6th – Barbara Kargol, Dorothy Warke
7th –Karin Meredith
10th – Mike Sigler, Eleanor Jurgens
12th – Joan Wessinger
14th – Lee Johnson
19th – Elmer Mack
21st– Chuck Kovacik
26th – Judith Lavallee
27th – Kathy Westerman
30th– Carrie DeCarbo, Martha Viohl

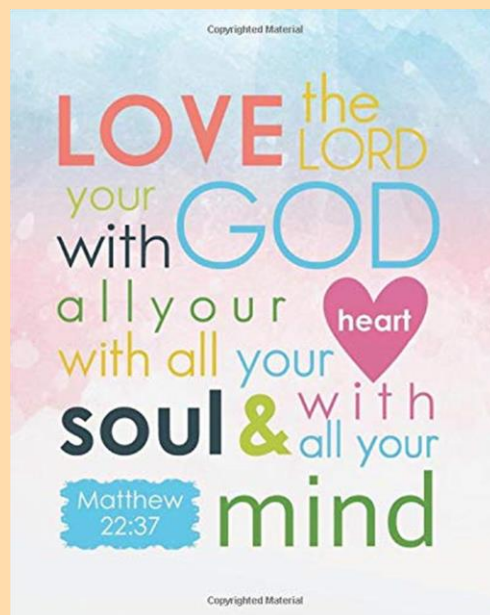


MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7th – Joseph & Audrey Ercegovich**
9th – Rosalie & Jerry Kelleher
17th – Doris & Bill Hahn
18th – Mike & Sherri Knaub
19th – David & Candy Allman
27th – Tim & Theresa McKee
28th – Bob & Delores Casper



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





Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. May 5 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt	Jay German, Mary Ann Sigler, David Lickfeldt	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. May 12 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Diane Brace
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

May Usher Team	May Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Dan Pollerts Team	Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk	Volunteers



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. June 2 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt	Paul Ó Braonáin, Wendy Kitzman, David Lickfeldt	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. June 9 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz		Jim Schwartz
Sun. June 16 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick	Sharon & Bill Horiszny, Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick
Sun. June 23 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Chuck Kovacik
Sun. June 30 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Bill Horiszny

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.





Project for May

The Synod assembly project this year is for Orlando Union Rescue Mission and we will continue to collect hygiene items for them in May.

The Orlando Union Rescue Mission provides more than just relief - they equip the homeless for long-term independence and self-sufficiency built on a personal relationship with Christ. They are more than a homeless shelter. Their 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 are out there if you wish to pick one up.

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. Final date to get items in is Sunday, May 26.



WELCA's April presentation

Thanks to WELCA for inviting the presenter Linda Mumford and her guide dog Suzy to share some new and surprising facts about different dog breeds, dog terminology, and dog behavior.

This free event included a continental breakfast and attendees brought non-perishable food items 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.

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

The WELCA book club will meet on Thursday, May 16 at 1:00 PM to discuss Sue Monk Kidd's *The Book of Longings*. This will be our last spring meeting before taking a summer break and resuming meetings in September. We will select a new book for September, as well as look at taking on a summer reading challenge! If you have any questions, please contact Diane Brace at 703-517-6115 or Marion Giblin at 813-347-3066.



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



Diane



Tuesday, May 21st at 5:30 PM

Join us for movie night this month on May 21st at 5:30 PM. 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 desserts. The movie will begin at 6:00 PM

Check the welcome table for more information about the movie for May.

Volunteers Needed May 25th

The church is in the process of trying to improve the look of the parking lot garden beds. We are hoping to have some volunteers come to the church on Saturday, May 25th at 9:00 AM to help dig holes, move mulch, plant some plants, etc. If you are willing and able to help please sign-up on the sign-up sheet on the Narthex counter.



We are also in need of some volunteers to help with weeding in the memorial garden. This will need to be checked on a regular basis and weeded as needed. If you have any questions, please contact Kadie in the office.

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	3 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	4 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
5 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	6 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	7 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	8	9 9:00 AM-Parish Nurses 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	10 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	11 10:00 AM-Memorial Service for Dick McKibben
12 10:00 AM-Worship	13 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 06:30 PM-AA Mtg	14 8:00 AM-Candy Meeting 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Finance Team Mtg 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	15 7:00 PM- Riverside Juke Box Swing Band Concert	16 1:00 PM-Book Club 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	17 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	18 10:00 AM-Memorial Service for Dean Beltz
19 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	20 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM- Council Mtg 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	21 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	22	23 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	24 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	25 9:00- AM Garden Work Day 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
26 10:00 AM-Worship	27 Office closed 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	28 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	29	30 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	31 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	

