



BLESSING OF THE EMERGENCY SQUAD VEHICLES

RLC Newsletter

December 2024

A Message from Pastor Allman

“When God Builds the Church” Pastor Bob Russell, Principle #4: Excellence: Do Your Best in Every Area of Service.

“And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father... Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people” (Colossians 3:17, 23, NLT).

Candy and I do not eat out at a restaurant very often, so when we do, we are selective about where we go: we choose one where we know we will eat quality food and receive quality service. Have you ever gone to a restaurant where the food was mediocre and the service was almost non-existent? If yes, how did you feel about the whole experience? Have you ever gone to a church where the worship was mediocre and you wondered if the members really wanted to be there? If yes, how did you feel about the whole experience?

As you consider the various ministries at Redeemer, are they something you would invite your friends and relatives to “come and see?” Why or why not? As you consider the “why not” and think of ways to

improve the quality of our ministries, also remember that if you are passionate about a ministry that is a sign that God is speaking to you about how you can contribute to excellence in God’s service.

From time-to-time people will come forward with an idea for a new ministry. Even when the idea for a new ministry is a good one, the question becomes who will lead it and will it be done with excellence? If no one is willing to lead with excellence, including the person who brought the idea, then starting the ministry would be a bad idea because it will eventually fall short and, in the end, will reflect negatively on Redeemer.

Not every church can do every ministry. Every ministry that a church does needs to contribute to the Mission of that church. Differing churches in one community can complement one another by offering different ministries, and that could be fulfilling God’s Mission for each church. By most people’s standards Southeast Christian Church is a mega-church (with tens of thousands of members). In his book Pastor Russell points out that there are much smaller churches that televise their worship service, while (at that time) Southeast chose not to

because it did not yet fit into their Mission Plan and their commitment to do it with excellence.

If a ministry is to be done with excellence, it needs to be led by the person(s) most gifted to do it. If you have committed yourself as a Christ-follower, then God has given you a gift for ministry. Before committing to a ministry, however, each person must discern which gift(s) God has given her/him to fulfill God's plan for her/his life and ministry. God might give someone a love for music without giving her/him a talent for music/singing. Redeemer needs people whom God has gifted to lead ministries with a commitment to excellence.

If you are not sure what gift God has given you for ministry, then please make a commitment to pray that God reveal your gift to you. Once God has revealed that gift to you, please pray for the commitment to use that gift wisely to bring God honor and glory. If you are already aware of God's gift to you and are already committed to using that gift to bring glory to God, then please pray for those who are still on that journey.

"So, with yourselves; since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for building up the church" (1 Corinthians 14:12, NRSV).

Pastor Allman 

Redeemer on YouTube

3 New Subscribers

897 total views

8,256 minutes watched



News from the Office Administrator December 2024

As we finish off this year, I would like to thank everyone here at Redeemer for making this year a great one. I hope everyone has a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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.

Donations to the Pastors discretionary fund can be made at any time and given in any amount. If you would like make a donation, please write Pastor's discretionary fund on the memo line.



Wishing you a blessed and
MERRY CHRISTMAS

From the fullness of his grace we have all
received one blessing after another.

JOHN 1:16

 CRS Care



DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP

What does the Christmas Story have to do with Stewardship? When the angel appeared to Mary and they had a conversation about her being chosen to bear God's child, her ultimate response was one of total stewardship: *Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."* (Luke 1:38).

We paint pictures and build nativity sets with Mary looking very peaceful. Think for a moment though what must have been the reality of her situation. A young, unmarried, pregnant woman, living in a culture which undervalued women anyway, and she is claiming to be carrying the child of God. Mary's life from the moment of conception forward would have been anything but peaceful.

Mary's life would have been turned upside down. Her pregnancy would have shamed her parents. The people of her village would have shunned her. Joseph, the man to whom she was promised wanted to divorce her quietly. She would have been considered a disgrace and an embarrassment. How many people would have said, "Why me Lord?" rather than, *"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."*

In nine months, the real beauty and majesty of Christmas was delivered, and God turned the whole world upside down. In the words of the Magnificat, Mary proclaims the hope of every good steward: *"My soul magnifies the Lord"* (Lk. 1:46). God's desire is that we too respond with total stewardship (saying "yes") to God's invitation to participate in God's plan for salvation.

Consumerism, gaudiness, and the excesses of our cultural Christmas can be overcome by answering the call to be God's stewards in this world – especially around Christmas. In a world that seems to desire wealth and gratification above all else, the Christian steward finds hope in the stillness – the silent night – which lies at the heart of Christmas. May our souls also magnify the Lord.

GROWING IN FAITH

We all know that the "season" of Christmas, which now seems to begin before Halloween and end on Christmas day, can be one of the busiest and most hectic times of year. It also affords Christians the best time of year to share the gospel with inactive church goers, and especially those who do not attend worship at all.

Christmas Eve or Christmas Day services can be a great opportunity for inactive or non-church-goers to "come and see" for themselves what a wonderful congregation we have at Redeemer. Visiting at one of those services can feel non-threatening because it is "normal" for non-members to attend at that time, and even our secular society can appreciate "going to church" during the holidays.

More importantly the story of the birth of the Savior is a gift to the whole world. Jesus came to save the whole world, not some mysterious chosen few. The messenger (angel) says to the people, *"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord"* (Luke 2:10-11, NRSV).

For years the Gallup Polls have said that roughly 40% of the people in the USA attend (Christian) worship on Sunday mornings. More recent research places that figure closer to 20%. As of the 2020 census, the population of Sun City Center was 30,952. Taking those sets of statistics into consideration would suggest that somewhere between 18,572 and 24,762 SCC residents do not attend Sunday morning worship. The odds are very high that you will encounter someone that does not go or stopped going to church.

This year for Christmas give the gift of Jesus' Love – invite someone to join us for worship; December 24th @ 7:00PM and/or December 25th @ 10:00AM.

GOOD SLEEP

Habits for good sleep hygiene can be used to help you have restful sleep at night so that you can function better and remain alert during the day.

- Maintain a regular sleeping and waking pattern every day. Go to bed at the same time every night and get up at the same time every morning.
- Try to get seven to eight hours sleep every night.
- Stick to a bedtime routine. A relaxing pre-sleep ritual such as taking a warm bath may help promote sleep. Don't bring your problems to bed with you.
- Try to relax your mind before bedtime with practices such as meditation, deep breathing, or progressive muscle relaxation.
- Get out of bed if you can't fall asleep within 15-20 minutes. Find something relaxing to do in another room. Once you feel sleepy, go back to bed.
- Maintain a pleasant and relaxing sleep environment. Your bed should be comfortable, and the room temperature shouldn't be too hot or too cold. Keep the room quiet and dark except for a night light.
- Limit exposure to screens (phones, computers, TVs) as the blue light that they emit can interfere with sleep.
- Use your bed only for sleep, intimacy, and when you are sick. Don't spend time in bed watching television, listening to music, or reading.
- Avoid napping during the day or limit naps to 20-30 minutes. Too much sleep during the day can disrupt normal sleeping and waking patterns.
- Don't drink caffeinated beverages within six hours of bedtime. Avoid drinking more than one or two caffeinated drinks per day.
- Avoid stimulants like nicotine at bedtime. These will make it difficult for you to fall asleep.
- Don't drink alcohol to help you sleep. Although alcohol may help you fall asleep, it causes sleep disruption later in the night.
- Exercise regularly to help promote good sleep but avoid exercising near bedtime. Exercise should be done in the morning or late afternoon unless it is a relaxing exercise like Yoga.
- Don't eat large meals close to bedtime.



From Parish Nurse

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd – Bill Giblin**
- 3rd – Jim Moyers, Gary Westerman**
- 5th – Elfi Nolden**
- 8th – Doris Hahn, Sue Kovacik**
- 12th – Richard Doerfler**
- 14th – Hazel Crosby, Carol Thompson**
- 15th – Joshua Knaub, Matthew Knaub**
- 16th – Carol Miller, Kaki Speicher**
- 19th – Steve Prieur, Jim Smeltzer**
- 22nd – Susan Pearson, Carolyn Stahl**
- 23rd – Heidi Oelgart**
- 27th – Dale Shook**
- 29th – Delores Turner**



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3rd – Dietrich & Helen Schaefer**
- 23rd – David & Paula Lickfeldt**



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



DECEMBER

Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Dec 1 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick, Wendy Kitzman, Jenise German	Joyce Kuzmick
Sun. Dec 8 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Chuck Kovacik
Sun. Dec 15 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick, Sharon & Bill Horiszny	Dan Pollert
Sun. Dec 22 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick		Sherri Knaub
Tue. Dec 24 7:00 PM	David Lickfeldt	Judy Buskirk, David Lickfeldt, Wendy Kitzman	Chuck Buskirk
Wed. Dec 25 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Kathy Schwartz, Jenise German, Wendy Kitzman	Jim Schwartz
Sun. Dec 29 10:00 AM	<small>Acolyte only</small> David Lickfeldt		

JANUARY

Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Jan 5 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt	Bill & Sharon Horiszny, David Lickfeldt	Sharon Horiszny
Sun. Jan 12 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz		Jim Schwartz
Sun. Jan 19 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick, Jenise German, Chris Zewin	Joyce Kuzmick
Sun. Jan 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.





WELCA Christmas Luncheon

The WELCA Board is planning a Christmas luncheon for Redeemer women and friends on December 10th. Since we immensely enjoyed the flower arranging presentation last year, we have invited Jo back for a similar program this year. We will also be assembling gift bags for homebound members. Save the date.



WELCA is hosting a free
Christmas Luncheon

Gift Bags for Homebound Members

WELCA Sunshine will again be distributing Christmas gift bags to homebound members. We will meet to assemble the bags on Tuesday morning, December 10th 11:00 AM. Your assistance to help with both assembly and delivery of the bags would be appreciated. We are looking for donations of prepackaged food items or wrapped candies as well as personal care items such as Kleenex, etc. This is a good opportunity to provide a little cheer.



WELCA Book Club News

The Gentle Readers of the WELCA book club are taking a break in December to enjoy the holidays. We are looking forward to 2025!

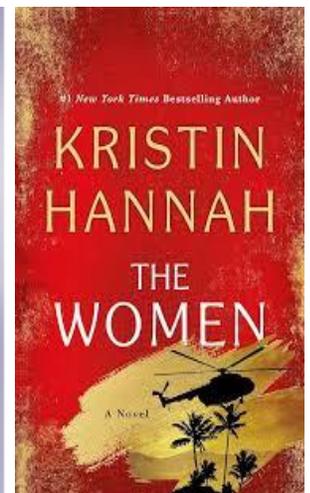
Our regular meeting on Thursday, January 16 at 1 p.m. will be held in the conference room to review comedian Leanne Morgan's new book "What in the World?!: A Southern Woman's Guide to Laughing at Life's Unexpected Curveballs and Beautiful Blessings." If you need a good laugh, you can also check on Netflix to find a recording of Leanne's standup comedy.

Save Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 1 p.m. for a bonus meeting to discuss "The Women: A Novel" by Kristin Hannah. This book has really made an impression on our members who've already read it and has been on many members future read lists. The subject may be difficult for some (you may want to check trigger warnings for this book), so please discern your comfort level reading and/or participating in this discussion.

The Book Club is an open group and we welcome new members.



Diane



Choir Members needed

Now is the time to join in singing with our choir. If you have previously sung in a choir, or you read music, or just love to sing we welcome you! Please join us every Thursday at 6:30 PM for Choir practice. Call Sandy Gundacker at 813-335-4969 for more information.



Rummage Sale

The Fundraising Team is in the process of planning our annual rummage sale for Friday, February 7 and Saturday, February 8, 2025. Additional details will be announced soon.



Southshore Concert Band

The Southshore Concert Band will be having a concert at Redeemer on Monday, December 9 at 7:00 PM. Please bring an item for donation to the local food pantry. During the intermission a free will offering will be taken up for the band.



Arts & Crafts Fair

November 2nd was our 5th annual Arts & Crafts Fair. We had a wonderful turn out this year. Redeemer would like to thank all of the volunteer bakers and workers that helped make this event a success. We could not have done it without you!



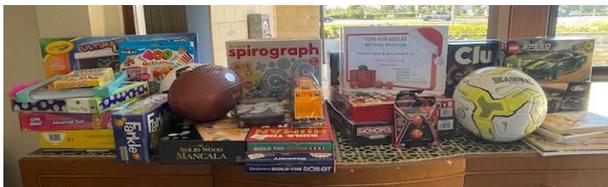
Interfaith Council Donation

Many of our Redeemer members volunteer with the Interfaith Action Council and Nearly New Shop. This organization has blessed Redeemer with \$5,000 dollars to use on outreach, building repairs or anything we have a need for. We are so grateful to this wonderful donation.



Toy Collection

Thanks to all of you that donated money or gifts to the children of Beth-el.



Bible Study

Pastor Allman is discussing Prayer in his newest Online Bible Study. Videos will be available every Thursday. They will remain online along with Acts of the Apostles videos for you to view at your convenience. A list of the many bible verses is also available for you to read if you wish.

Our YouTube channel is:

Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center Florida



Christmas Sale

The Christmas Sale will continue Sundays through December 15th in Buhr Hall. If you would like to come during the week, please come during office hours.



Christmas Worship

Please join us Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM for our candlelight worship service. Join us Christmas Day for worship at 10:00 AM.



Reminder the church office will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Christmas Sale 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	2 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	3 10:30 AM- Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	4 9:00 AM Gold Star 4:30 PM- Carols & Cheer/ Soup Supper	5 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	6 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	7 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
8 Christmas Sale 10:00 AM- Worship Spending Plan Mtg	9 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg 7:00 PM- Southshore Concert Band	10 11:00 AM-WELCA Christmas Luncheon 10:30 AM- Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	11 9:00 AM Gold Star 10:00 AM- Fundraising Team Mtg	12 9:00 AM- Parish Nurses 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	13 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	14 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
15 Christmas Sale 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	16 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 10:00 AM- Library reserved 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	17 10:30 AM- Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	18 9:00 AM Gold Star	19 1:00 PM-Book Club 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	20 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	21 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
22 10:00 AM- Worship	23 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	24 3:30 PM-AA Meeting 7:00 PM- Christmas Eve worship	25 10:00 AM Christmas worship	26 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	27 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	28 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
29 10:00 AM- Worship	30 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg 2:00 PM – WELCA Board	31 3:30 PM-AA Meeting				

*God bless our country, our first responders,
and our military men and women.*

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