

RLC Newsletter

March
2025

A Message from Pastor Allman

“When God Builds the Church” Pastor Bob Russell, Principle #7: Participation: Expect the Congregation to Participate in Every Ministry.

As of this month I have been the pastor at Redeemer for nearly twelve years. In those twelve years I cannot tell you how many times I have heard someone say, “Well, Pastor, we are retired. We did our church work ‘up north’ and we think it is someone else’s turn.” After I chuckle for a few minutes I encourage them to look around some Sunday morning and see that 99% of our people are retired and did their church work ‘up north.’ Who does that leave to volunteer?

The Apostle Paul writes to the Ephesian Christians that the gifts of the Spirit are given to each person “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...” (Ephesians 4:12). One of the keys to advancing the gospel is for the church to be made up of individuals who consider it their calling to do the work of ministry, rather than having a congregation of people who expect someone else to do ministry for them. For ministry to happen at any congregation volunteers are necessary.

The church is not shaped like a pyramid with one person at the top doing all of the work for the people below. The church is shaped like a circle where we minister with/to each other. Some church leaders mistakenly believe that the church will grow if all people have to do is come and receive ministry. The opposite more often proves to be true. If people begin to believe that they are not needed, then they will leave and find somewhere they are needed. Studies show that churches that experience better church growth are those that expect more out of their members, not less.

Pastor Rick Warren, in *The Purpose Driven Church* writes, “God gave me a gift, not for me but for you, and God gave you a gift, not for you but for me. If you don’t use your gift, you’re depriving me; if I don’t use my gift, I’m robbing you.”

Many people over the years have come to my office with ideas for a new ministry. The drawback is that they do not want to lead the ministry; or, they start a ministry and after a few months want someone in the office to take over the responsibility. Both of those methods are doomed to failure. If a ministry is to succeed then it will need a volunteer (or

volunteers) from within the church to step up and lead. If the leader of a ministry wants to step out of that leadership position, then someone within that ministry needs to be selected and trained to takeover.

Before a 'good idea' can become a ministry certain steps need to be taken: the purpose of the ministry needs to be well defined along with a set of goals and objectives; one or more leaders need to be found who are qualified and committed to reaching the goals and objectives; they must recruit sufficient numbers of volunteers, who are also qualified and committed, to reach the goals and objectives and make the ministry a success; and, the volunteers and leaders need genuine encouragement (not complaints) from the leadership and the congregation for their efforts.

Redeemer has grown and will continue to grow as a church. The numbers of people who worship here have already placed us into the category of something called a "Program Sized Congregation." Redeemer definitely needs more programs/ministries in which our people can become involved to do ministry. If you have a 'good idea' for a new program, please reread the previous paragraph before you come into my office. If you can meet the above qualifications, then I will be happy to talk with you further.

The larger our church grows, the more dependent it will become on every member to discern, understand, and use the spiritual gift(s) with which God's Holy Spirit has equipped them for the work of ministry. If Redeemer is to reach maximum potential in bringing glory to God, then every member must begin to see herself/himself as a minister, doing her/his part to see that the work of ministry is done.

We have many people here who have been phenomenal leaders in their chosen profession and/or their community organizations. Those same skills, what we call Spiritual Gifts, will translate into ministry opportunities. You are here because God brought you here; and, God brought you here because God had a plan for you.

Bob Sitze writes, "When you (or your congregation) start to think about the abundance of the Spirit's

gifts, about God's overwhelming generosity to you – that's when you stop thinking small about yourself and your congregation" (The Great Permission, page 26; emphasis added).

Pastor Allman 

February on YouTube

5 New Subscribers

836 total views

6,433 minutes watched



News from the Office Administrator

March 2025

March is here! Pastor Allman will doing a series called Savior, Servant, Friend for Lent this year. We hope that you will join us for these 3:00 pm services starting with our Ash Wednesday service March 5th.

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.

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.

MARCH STEWARDSHIP

What should we do with our freedom? Jesus talks about freedom in John 8:36, “*So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.*” The Apostle Paul writes in Galatians 5:13. “*For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters...*” Martin Luther in his writing “The Freedom of a Christian” says, “*A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything...*” And, at the same time none of these freedoms are to lead toward an irresponsible (unbiblical) lifestyle.

Following Jesus’ words there ensued a long argument in which some in the crowd tried to justify their ungodly lifestyle saying that they were children of God through Abraham; and, at the same time they rejected God’s Word which was coming through the very Son of God. In the second part of Galatians 5:13 Paul writes, “*only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.*” The second half of the quote from Martin Luther reads, “*A Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all.*”

John 8:31-32 reads, “*If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*” How do we continue in the Word? Some of that is reading the Bible, some of that is Bible study, some of that is being regular in worship.

This year Lent starts on March 5th with Ash Wednesday. We will worship at 3PM and enjoy a WELCA sponsored meal to follow. Then we will continue to host Wednesday worship over the next 5 Wednesdays, all at 3PM (no meal). The theme for Wednesday worship this year is “Savior – Servant – Friend.” Please come and continue in God’s Word that will help us understand Jesus’ role as, Forgiver; Healer; Listener; Encourager; Protector; and, Comforter.

SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

SERVICES FOR LENT

March 5th at 3:00 PM

Ash Wednesday – Forgiver

Jesus forgives us again and again, even though we do not deserve it.

March 12th at 3:00 PM

Week 1 – Healer

Jesus heals us when we are wounded and weakened by sin.

March 19th at 3:00 PM

Week 2 – Listener

Jesus listens to us like no other and answers our questions and concerns.

March 26th at 3:00 PM

Week 3 – Encourager

Jesus encourages us in our faith to live our life for him.

April 2nd at 3:00 PM

Week 4 – Protector

Jesus protects us from the devil and from danger and keeps us safe in him.

April 9th at 3:00 PM

Week 5 – Comforter

Jesus comforts us in struggles and sorrows that we might find rest in his promises.

GROWING IN FAITH

Here are five things to help Grow Our Faith during Lent.

1. What is it? Lent is observed beginning Ash Wednesday by many Christian denominations. The season is about 40 days long (it's technically 46 but Sundays are always days of celebration of the Resurrection) leading up to Easter Sunday, and the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. Lent is a time to pray and read Scripture, sacrifice by giving up food and material wants, and offer time, talent, and treasure to those in need. The number 40 is significant because 40 is the number of days Jesus spent in the desert, and Israel spent 40 years in exile after Exodus.

2. Who observes it? Lent is observed by many Christian denominations. In some communities, churches have joined to take turns offering a special community worship service on Wednesdays during Lent. It can be unique opportunity to have a variety of denominations worship together.

3. Why do people give up something? Christians believe that Jesus sacrificed himself so followers give up something or do something that is a small sacrifice. It could be giving up a daily can of soda or cup of coffee, or giving up Facebook or TV. People can pray more, read the Bible more, or find other ways to increase their spiritual life. If there is a particular sin a person struggles with, one can make a conscious effort to abstain. If someone "gives something up" the money that normal went to that thing could be given away to a church or a charity. There is a focus on renewing one's personal experience with God.

4. What is Ash Wednesday? Lent starts with Ash Wednesday and ends by Easter Sunday. The purpose of the ashes is to remind us that we sin and we need repentance and renewal. When ashes are placed on the forehead in the sign of the cross, the clergy or lay minister will say: "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." During a person's funeral at the committal the clergy will say "ashes to ashes, dust to dust." It reminds Christians to be

humble. It is a reminder of our mortality and our need for repentance before we leave this earth.

5. Why do some people eat fish on Fridays? Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. Meat from warm-blooded animals is a reminder of Jesus' flesh being sacrificed and crucified. Fish is allowed (that is why you see some churches advertising fish fries on Fridays) although it does not mean one can go all out and enjoy a lobster meal covered with butter. Fasting in the church can be one of the spiritual disciplines we take on for God; and, helps us remember the temptation Jesus experienced when he was in the wilderness. One does not live on bread alone. Fasting reminds us of our dependence on God. (Check with your doctor before you commit to fasting).

I encourage everyone to make the special effort, as you are able, to come to worship Sundays and Wednesdays during Lent. Ash Wednesday is March 5th and worship will be at 3PM, with a WELCA sponsored meal to follow. For five consecutive weeks after that we will continue our Wednesday worship services at 3PM (no meal).

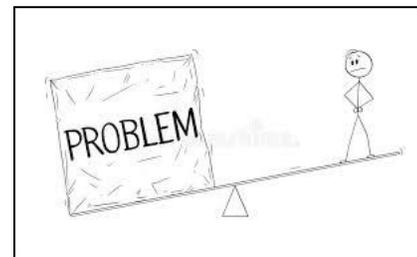


Join!
us!

Wednesdays. at
3:00 PM

From our Parish Nurse Team

After I broke my ankle, I spent time doing physical therapy to regain balance, flexibility, and strength. Physical therapy involves practicing increasingly difficult exercises in a controlled environment to better equip one to meet the challenges of daily life in the real world. It is the presence of stressors that leads to greater strength and resiliency. Without challenge, there is no growth or increased strength.



Life in the church is like balancing on uneven surfaces. That has always been true, even though there are some times when we are more aware of it than others. Changes happen; challenges arise; difficulties occur. New people bring different perspectives. New situations cause us to rethink cherished ideas.

From the earliest days of the church, believers have faced challenges. God calls us to deepened trust, to prayerful practice of faith and to holy conversation. We are called to be a grace-filled community of believers practicing our faith together, even as we balance on uneven surfaces. Let us welcome the challenge and receive it as a gift, because hidden within is the opportunity to stretch and grow.

Upcoming Events;

- Redeemer Lutheran Church will be hosting a Life Line Screening event on Monday, March 10, 2025. Life Line Screening has been the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings since 1993. As the host of the event, Life Line Screening is extending a special offer to all our Redeemer Lutheran Church members for a screening package that enables you to get peace of mind or early detection. To schedule your appointment, click here WWW.LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA or call 888- 814-0466 to schedule your appointment! A simple screening can be worth a lifetime.



- "What Can Physical Therapy Do For Me?" This program will be presented by Linda Eargle. Watch for the date.

From Parish Nurse Team

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1st – Jackie Moretti**
3rd – Mary Ann Addleman
9th – Dottie McKenzie
10th – Bob Oliver
11th – Connie Berry
14th – Donna Munz, Jim Schwartz
15th – Patrick Sturmer
18th – Judy Buskirk, John Mostoller
20th - Loriann Fox
24th – Mary Jane Hermanns
27th – Paul Ó Braonáin
28th - RaeAnne Bennett
30th – Chuck Buskirk
31st – Ann Parisen, Karl Wessinger



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 4th – Greg & Judy Kiel**
21st – Chris & Roger McCann
26th – Richard & Vorin Johnston
27th – Cal & Gerry Adams



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





March

Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Mar. 2 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt	Paul Ó Braonáin, David Lickfeldt, Joyce Kuzmick	Paul Ó Braonáin
Wed. Mar. 5 3:00 PM	Kathy Schwartz	Kathy Schwartz, David Lickfeldt, Mary Ann Sigler	Jim Schwartz
Sun. Mar. 9 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Dan Pollert
Sun. Mar. 16 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Kathy Schwartz, Jenise German, Mary Ann Sigler	Chuck Kovacic
Sun. Mar. 23 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Chuck Buskirk
Sun. Mar. 30 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Sherri Knaub

March Usher Team	March Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Arlene Hansen's Team	Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk	Volunteers

APRIL

Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Apr. 6 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick, Jay German, Mary Ann Sigler	Joyce Kuzmick
Sun. Apr. 13 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Kathy Schwartz, David Lickfeldt, Paul Ó Braonáin	Dan Pollert
Thur. Apr. 17 7:00 PM	David Lickfeldt	David Lickfeldt, Bill & Sharon Horiszny	Sharon Horiszny
Fri. Apr. 18 7:00 PM			Chuck Kovacic
Sun. Apr. 20 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Kathy Schwartz, David Lickfeldt, Arlene Hansen	Sherri Knaub
Sun. Apr. 27 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Jim Schwartz

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.



Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those Thrivent members who are eligible for Choice Dollars, you must direct your 2024 dollars by **March 31st or you will lose them.** Visit www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to direct your dollars, or you can call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. For questions or help, see Lois Hobrathschk. This is an opportunity to support Redeemer.



Ash Wednesday Soup Meal

WELCA will be organizing a soup meal following the 3:00 PM service on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. We are looking for donations of a crockpot of soup, bread, and dessert. If you are providing soup, please also bring a ladle. There is a sign-up sheet on the welcome counter. And everyone please join us as it is always a treat to sample many delicious homemade soups!!

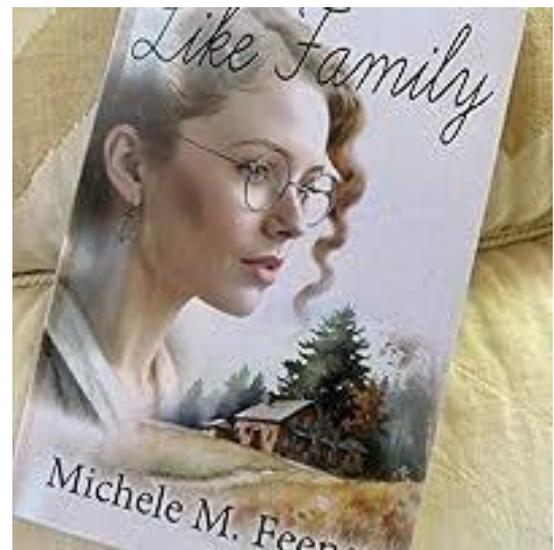


WELCA Book Club News

The WELCA book club will be meeting in the conference room on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 1:00 PM. to discuss *Like Family* by Michele M. Feeney. Set in rural Michigan this story takes us back to the time of the 1918 influenza pandemic. Ms. Feeney's inspiration for her debut novel came from a story told to her by her grandmother. She describes it as a story of loss, persistence, resilience, and love.



Diane



Rummage Sale 2025

Thanks to everyone who made our Rummage Sale this year a great success. It involved our entire congregation - donors, bakers, prep workers, sale day workers, clean up helpers, etc. to accomplish this. The Christmas Sale and Rummage Sale raised \$11,416. The money will be used for projects in support of ministry at Redeemer.



A note of thanks

Paul and I would like to thank everyone for making our wedding day so special. Everyone from the Pastor, to the kitchen staff, choir, family and friends, you made our special day one that we will never forget. Thank you for all that you did to make the celebration a success. It meant the world to us.

Geri & Paul Fullmer



WELCA Brunch News

Ladies of Redeemer, we are excited to announce our first "Brunch-Together". We would like to invite you for brunch in Buhr Hall on Tuesday, March 11 at 10:00 AM.

We are asking each lady to bring in a shareable brunch item such as fruit, pastries, or breakfast casserole and a canned food item to be donated to the local food pantry.

WELCA will provide juices and coffee. Bring a friend, and come enjoy lively conversation and fellowship. We would love for this event to bloom and grow into something special for the women of Redeemer and their friends in the surrounding community. A sign up sheet is available on the welcome counter in the Narthex.



Save the date- 2025 Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly

The Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly will take place June 12-14, 2025 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando Lake Vista South in Kissimmee. This annual gathering is an opportunity to worship, connect and engage in vital work of the SYNOD together. More information to come, if you are interested in attending please let the office know.



2025 FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD ASSEMBLY
JUNE 12-14 | KISSIMMEE, FL

School/Teacher Supplies

Thanks to everyone for your donations of school supplies. And thanks to Jeanne Pruett and Lois Hobratschk for delivering them to Reddick Elementary School. By using a Thrivent card, we were able to also purchase 150 headphones. Since they have testing in two weeks, the headphones were a timely donation as they said lots of kids don't have them. They were greatly appreciative of all the donations.



Gift Bags for Homebound Members

WELCA Sunshine will again be distributing Easter gift bags to homebound members. We will meet to assemble the bags on Monday morning, April 7th at 10:00 AM. Your assistance to help with both assembly and delivery of the bags would be appreciated. And 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.



Easter Brunch

WELCA is organizing an Easter Brunch from 8:30 am to 9:30 am on Easter Sunday, April 20th. We are asking members to bring egg casseroles, pastries, eggs (hard boiled/deviled), or egg salad sandwiches. There will be a sign-up sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex closer to Easter. WELCA will provide juice and coffee.



Movie Night

In March we will have movie night on the last Tuesday of the month, March 25th. The doors will open at 5:00 PM, dinner will be at 5:30 PM, the movie will begin at 6:00 PM. The movie will be announced soon. This event is potluck so bring an item to share and a non-perishable food item for donation to the food pantry.

Bible Study

Pastor Allman is discussing Revelation in his current Online Bible Study. Videos are available every Thursday. Prior bible study videos on Prayer will remain online along with Acts of the Apostles videos for you to view at your convenience.

Our YouTube channel is:

Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center Florida



Southshore Concert Band

The Southshore Concert Band will be performing a spring concert at Redeemer on Monday, March 31st at 7:00 PM. Join us for an evening of music and fun. Doors will open at 6:30 PM.

The band will be collecting a free will offering during the intermission. Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to the local food pantry.



Life Line Screening

Life Line will be here doing screenings on Monday, March 10th. To schedule an appointment, please call 888-814-0466. A simple screening can be worth a lifetime.

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00 AM- RJSB
2 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	3 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	4 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	5 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg 3:00 PM-Ash Wed Worship 4:00 PM-Soup Supper	6 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	7 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM- Prayer Shawl Ministry	8 10:00 AM- RJSB Practice
9 10:00 AM- Worship	10 8:00 AM-Lifeline screening 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	11 10:00 AM- Exec Team Mtg 10:00 AM WELCA Brunch 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	12 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg 3:00 PM-Lent Worship	13 9:00 AM- Parish nurse 10:30 AM- Fundraising 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	14 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM- Prayer Shawl Ministry	15 10:00 AM- RJSB Practice
16 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	17 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	18 11:30 AM-Southshore Coalition 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	19 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg 3:00 PM-Lent Worship	20 1:00 PM-Book club meeting 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	21 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM- Prayer Shawl Ministry	22 10:00 AM- RJSB Practice
23 10:00 AM- Worship 2:00 PM- Koffeeklatch	24 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg 11:00 AM- Thrivent	25 9:00 AM-Emergency Preparedness 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	26 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg 3:00 PM-Lent Worship	27 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	28 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM- Prayer Shawl Ministry	29 10:00 AM- RJSB Practice
30 10:00 AM- Worship	31 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg 7:00 PM-South Shore Concert Band					

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

Office Email: scredeemerlc@gmail.com

