



JACK &amp; WENDY KITZMAN DELIVERING FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

# RLC Newsletter

## June 2020

### A Message from Pastor Allman

Are you sick of reading/hearing about COVID-19 yet? I know I am, yet it is necessary that we stay informed with credible information from epidemiologists and other such experts in order to make the best decisions possible.

Individually we must stay informed with credible information because we must decide how much public exposure we want to risk. Each of us is trying to balance personal safety with economic recovery. No one wants to sacrifice either of those completely. When is it safe to go out? Where is it safe to go out? How long is it safe to stay out? Who is it safe to be around? I spoke to one person who said she was tired of being isolated at home; yet, when she did go in public, she became very anxious

about being exposed and could not wait to get back home. I imagine many of you are feeling that way.

Collectively, as a congregation, we are eager to gather again with our brothers and sisters in Christ for Sunday worship, Bible study, Choir, WELCA, Quilters, and so on. We also know that there have been Churches that reopened and are now reclosed because a person or multiple people, while asymptomatic, became infected and spread the virus to others at Church.

While it may feel like we all have more questions than answers, please rest assured that your elected Council has been diligently at work investigating what the epidemiologists and other experts are saying, what our Synod Bishop is saying, what

the national Church is saying, and what is happening with churches in places like Georgia and Texas that reopened before Florida. Everyone at Redeemer would like to know the date when we will be able to gather for worship again. As of this writing only God knows.

As we wait to see what happens during Phases 1 & 2 respectively of reopening Florida; and, as the Council continues to investigate the most recent credible information; there is something you can do to help. You may be receiving a survey, or maybe you already have, asking what steps can be taken at Redeemer that would make you feel more comfortable returning to mass gathering worship. If you receive a survey, please complete it and return it at your earliest convenience. The Council and

Staff will be using these to help make decisions about how we reopen, using the best practices to keep our people safe.

The majority of our worshipping community is considered to be in the High Risk category; and, the Governor's plan to reopen Florida in both Phases 1 & 2 says that for our own health and wellbeing we should remain safer at home. For our own sake individually and for the sake of our entire congregation, I strongly encourage everyone to continue to be patient, continue to pray, and continue to trust God's Holy Spirit to guide us.

*Pastor Allman* ✝

## News from the Office Administrator

**June 2020**

This has been a tough time for all of us, we miss seeing you. The story continues to unfold day by day as we watch the progression of this virus and try to gauge what it might do next. Please keep yourselves safe and healthy above all things. We would also encourage you to pick up the church directory and call a couple of people every day to see how they are doing. If there is anything the church needs to know, please give us a call and fill us in. 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 you received aid. We don't want anyone left in need so please, speak with Pastor Allman if we can be helpful.

Currently we are looking at possibilities for cameras to be installed in the sanctuary. This would give us the capability of live streaming the Sunday service! While we look at the possibility of an extended period without being all together, the live stream could continue indefinitely and if able, our home bound members could participate in a whole new way. More on this as our research unfolds.

First and foremost, stay safe and healthy in your homes until we can safely meet again.

### Support for others

(Collection boxes are on the narthex counter)



### May Food Pantry Donation

Our May donation to Our Lady's pantry was a full cart of food. Thank you for continuing to support the local food pantry by dropping off your donations at church. If you have a donation you would like to bring by call the office to let us know you are coming and to be sure we are here.

**Thank you for donating items for the food pantry in the narthex closet.**

**Please remember, NO open packages or containers.**



# JUNE

# STEWARDSHIP

“Do not be afraid” seems almost to be an impossible expectation while we are still hearing about people testing positive for COVID-19; while warnings are still being issued for those in our age group or with underlying medical conditions; and, while Florida is moving forward with reopening plans and more people are venturing into public places.

The words “do not be afraid” are used 21 times in the four gospels. God is not saying we should have zero fear; rather, God is saying that we should not have an unhealthy fear. Fear can benefit us when we are in fearful circumstances, because fear can make us more alert and help us take necessary precautions.



Healthy fear was demonstrated by the Apostles when they left the Upper Room on the Day of



Pentecost to proclaim the Risen Jesus as the Messiah. They were afraid and they did what was needed to further God’s Mission. Unhealthy fear was when they stayed behind locked doors while doing nothing.

In our current circumstances, healthy fear means following CDC guidelines for High Risk people by remaining safer at home thereby ensuring that the spread of COVID-19 is reduced and we do not unnecessarily risk our lives. Gathering en masse for public worship is not our only option for furthering God’s Mission. The Church is not a building; the Church is the people who are disciples of Jesus Christ; therefore, the Church is not closed, it has merely been deployed.

The Mission of Redeemer is to “Proclaim Jesus Christ; Grow in Faith; (and) Love All People.” If you think that can only be done after we once again gathering en masse for public worship, then I suggest that you are underestimating your own gifts for ministry. These current, necessary precautions are providing us the opportunity to think “outside the building” and realize we can “Be Church” from where we are.

I encourage you to realize the gifts God has given, not deny them, and discern the ways in which you can use your God given gifts from where you are by thinking “outside the building.”



# SPIRITUAL GROWTH

“Grow in Faith” is the short version of the second part of our Mission Statement. “Proclaim Jesus; Grow in Faith; Love All People”

What does it mean to Grow in Faith, also known as Spiritual Growth? Why is it important to Grow in Faith? Is it not enough just to go to Church and try to be the best person possible? Those are all valid questions, although I would like to speak toward the positive aspects of spiritual growth in this life. Even a basic internet search shows that there is a growing body of evidence indicating that spiritual practices are associated with better health and wellbeing.

Spiritual growth is the process of becoming more mature in one's relationship with Jesus Christ. Someone who is growing spiritually will become more and more like Christ.

Spiritual or contemplative practices are good for us spiritually, mentally and physically. Many spiritual traditions have a long history of using contemplative practices to increase compassion, empathy, and attention, as well as quiet the mind. Christians, and Lutherans in particular, are learning that contemplative practices are not ungodly or unbiblical.

Centering Prayer, which resembles meditation, may elicit a relaxation response, along with feelings of hope, gratitude, and compassion—all of which have a positive effect on overall wellbeing. Centering Prayer, acknowledging that our lives are centered in God, provides a sense of comfort and support in difficult times, especially during difficult times that feel outside of our control.

Journaling about your prayer experience is another, often overlooked, contemplative practice that can help you become more aware of your inner life and feel more connected to your personal experience

and the world around you. Studies show that writing during difficult times may help you find meaning in life's challenges and become more resilient in the face of obstacles.

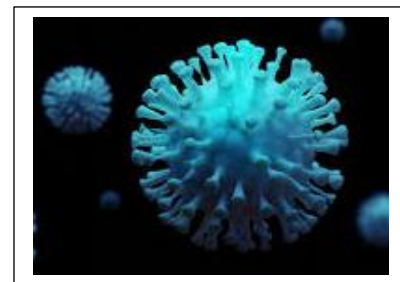
These are two simple spiritual practices that can help us along the way of spiritual growth – ‘Grow in Faith.’ Watch for more ideas in the months to come.



*From Parish Nurse Team*

## Testing for COVID-19

Two kinds of tests are available for COVID-19: [viral \(diagnostic\) tests](#) and [antibody tests](#).



- A viral test tells you if you have a current infection.
- An antibody test tells you if you had a previous infection.

An antibody test may not be able to show if you have a current infection, because it can take 1-3 weeks after infection to make antibodies. We do not know yet if having antibodies to the virus can protect someone from getting infected with the virus again, or how long that protection might last. Currently antibody tests are not available to the public.

### Testing

- Any Hillsborough County resident can request an appointment for a viral (diagnostic) test. You do not need to have COVID-19 symptoms to be tested.
- The tests are free. Insurance is NOT required, nor is a doctor's note or prescription.
- A reservation is necessary to ensure that time slots are available at the testing site, to increase the speed of the actual testing process, and so that you receive important instructions. Residents who want to be tested should call (813) 272-5900. The call center is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Location for testing is at the SouthShore Community Resource Center, 201 14th Ave. SE, Ruskin (same place as driver's license).
- You can also visit the Hillsborough County website to look for the latest local information on testing.

### Results

- **If you test positive for COVID-19 by a viral test**, you need to take protective steps to protect yourself and others. This includes self isolating.

**Test**

**Track**

**Trace**

**Treat**

**Stay healthy !!**

- Wear a mask if you need to go out
- Wash hands frequently
- Maintain 6 foot social distancing

## ***From Parish Nurse Team***

### **What is the difference between the tests?**

**Swab test** (diagnostic test)

**Blood test** (antibodies test)

**Have I got it?**

**Have I had it?**



**How long do results take?**

Days

Seconds

**What is required?**

Swab from nose  
or throat

Blood sample

**What happens next?**

Laboratory runs a  
polymerase chain reaction  
(PCR) test

Solution added  
to test device

**How does it work?**

Looks for coronavirus  
genetic material

Detects antibodies  
created by body  
to fight virus

**What does a positive result mean?**

Patient has the virus

Patient has had the  
virus in the past

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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- 4<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Filip, Gerry Harding**
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Karen Munford, June Pohl,  
Don Schwarz**
- 7<sup>th</sup> –Gerri Julian, Evan Dehne**
- 8<sup>th</sup>- Tina Kotek**
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Linda Eargle**
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Esther Geissler**
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Roger Clark, Cheryl Green,  
Steve Stephanic**
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Kaye Ristow**
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Clarence Antonsen, Mike Corbett,  
Guy Merskin**
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Sieglinde Obernesser, David Barrett,  
Marjorie Mingst, Ralph Johnson**
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Fred Bastion**
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Martha Davenport**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> –Joan Abrams**
- 24<sup>th</sup> –John Thompson Jr.**
- 25<sup>th</sup> –Sandy Gundacker**
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Ann Miller, Mary Moquin**
- 29<sup>th</sup> –Sally Trenski**
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Walter Geissler**



## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

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- 5<sup>th</sup> – Lucy Ann & Buddy Clark**
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Jackie & Lester Moretti**
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Ava & James Casper**
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Patrick & Jane Sturmer**
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Ed & Tina Kotek**
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Robert & Delores Turner**
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Jim & Tina Schwartz**
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Vern & Renate Bartz**
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Jim & Sandy McCaw**



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





### Thank You Meals On Wheels Drivers

During the month of May, Redeemer served our community by bringing hot meals to people in need. This very worthwhile project reaches those who can use some help in tough times that are often brought on by medical problems, loss of spouse, or other family struggles. Receiving a hot, tasty, healthy meal and simply not having to worry about meal preparation is very much appreciated.

This year, because of Covid-19, additional precautions were taken which included social distancing and the wearing of masks. No signatures were required and meals were placed in coolers positioned near their entrance. After ringing the doorbell or knocking on the door, the client was greeted with a smile (under the mask) and a wave, plus the usual concern for their welfare.

The meals are picked up at South Bay Hospital and delivered throughout Sun City Center and Kings Point. The coordinator for Kings Point is Kathie Hackett and for Sun City Center is Hal Wold.



*Thanks to Jack & Wendy Kitzman pictured and all of the drivers for meals on wheels.*

Please contact either Kathie or Hal if you are willing to be part of this important mission. And, a great big THANK YOU to all our volunteers who brought smiles and joy, as well as meals, to those who need and rely on this service.

### Thank you from Everette Glas

Thanks for all of the birthday cards. I received 120 birthday cards! I had a wonderful 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday celebration. I miss everyone at church but enjoy watching the service each week online. I am doing well and getting stronger each day. My nieces dog has adopted me and sleeps at my feet.

God bless! Everette Glas

### Wear red for Pentecost



*Miriam Zane (above)*

*Rosalie & Gerry Kelleher (below)*



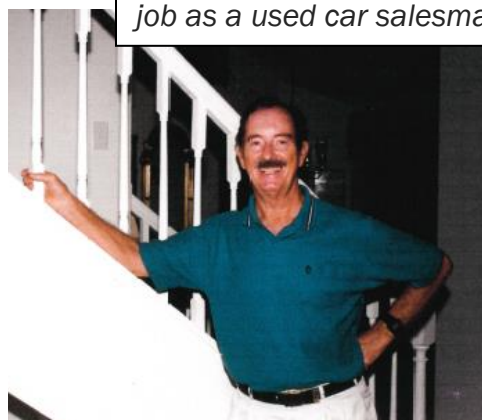




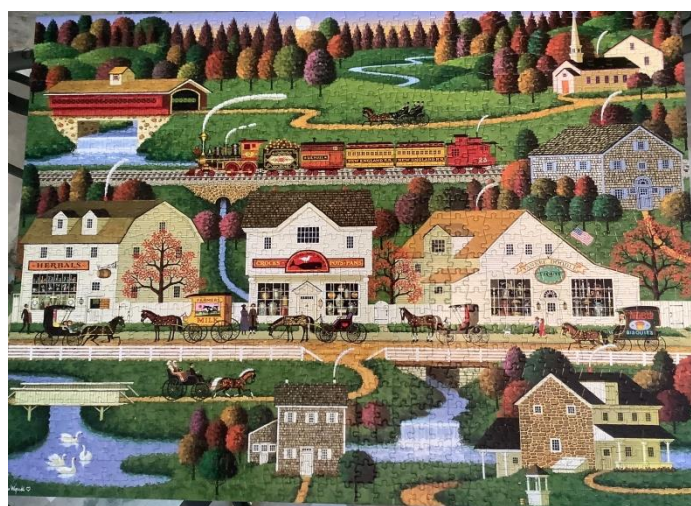
*Don & Lois Hobratschk*



*Above-Harold Fisher on his way to a part time Preaching job in Las Vegas. Below-Harold returning home from a part time job as a used car salesman.*



*Rick & Vorin Johnston, Lucy Ann Clark, and Kadie Dehne have completed a few puzzles while at home.*



*Puzzle completed by Rick & Vorin Johnston*

## Safe at Home

Looks like many of us have been keeping busy while we have been staying home. Thanks to everyone that shared how they have occupied their new found free time.

Harold Fisher was able to look through some of his old photos and shared some of his memories with us.





*Puzzles completed by Lucy Ann Clark*

Diane Brace has been spending time reading books, knitting for charity "Knitted Knockers" (38 so far and still room in the box for more), and started some wildflower seedlings.



Joan Wessinger has been busy making coasters for My Warrior's Place, here in Ruskin. The visitors can enjoy them on their arrival & take them home, if they'd like to. She is making 12 sets of 4. She has also done some baking and is sharing with shut-in neighbors.



Judy Kiel has done a bunch of projects while she has been home. She has made herself a new purse, a hooded poncho for her granddaughter, and is working on some Easter banners currently.



Grace Springer made this beautiful quilt



Thanks so much for sharing with us what you have been doing while you have been home. We miss seeing everyone and appreciate all the calls, letters, and drive by waves through the window. You guys are wonderful. Please stay safe in the meantime.

Pastor Allman has been posting a video on Redeemer Lutheran's Facebook page. This same video can be found on our website along with the readings and music.

Please go to our website. [www.redeemerlc.com](http://www.redeemerlc.com)

There you will see tabs across the top. Please look for **Sunday Worship**. Hover over it and you will see **June Worship 2020**, May will remain available through the month of June under the Sunday Worship heading, then it will be moved under **Archives**.

From there click down and it will bring you to the prayers, readings, music, and Pastor Allman's message. Dates are arranged reverse of our normal calendar the older dates will be toward the bottom of the page.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email. I will not be sending a link via email every week. Please familiarize yourself with our website and print these instructions if you need to. When I do send the link, you can use that link over and over again. If you prefer to save the email so you have access to it later, you are welcome to do that as well. The gmail account we have here has been limiting the emails I am able to send out. Many times these emails are returned with a vague explanation at best. If you feel like you have missed communications or are getting double emails, please reach out to Kadie in the office.

