



JANUARY FOOD PANTRY DONATION

RLC Newsletter

February 2021

A Message from Pastor Allman

Mark Twain is credited with saying, *"The only person who likes change is a baby with a dirty diaper."* There are times when I can believe that is true. There is also an old joke in which the denomination is probably interchangeable: *"How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?"* and all the Lutherans yell, "CHANGE?!"

We all were forced into change during these past 11 months. I wish I could say we could now go back to normal. Sadly, not yet. The Council made another difficult decision to cancel the in-person Annual Meeting and to send out Annual Reports by email. We felt, and I think rightly so, that if we could not meet the constitutional requirement for a quorum to hold the special congregation meeting on the 2021 Spending Plan, then we

likely would not achieve a quorum to hear/read annual reports.

The Worship & Music Ministry Team also believes we will still be subject to pandemic precautions as set out by the CDC and our Presiding and Synod Bishops, respectively, and has decided that the wiser course will be to forego Wednesday worship services and book studies during Lent. We are glad to continue offering in-person worship on Sunday mornings while adhering to the Guidelines and Recommendations (see the Redeemer Website). Additionally, we encourage those staying 'safer-at-home' to watch Sunday worship via our You Tube channel; or, watch the recording which is later copied to our Facebook page and Website.

Mini Bible studies on each week's Sunday readings are added to the You Tube channel Monday through Thursday each week, and copied to the Facebook page and Website.

"When will we get back to normal?" That question is likely in everyone's mind. Some epidemiologists predict that we will probably not achieve pre-pandemic normalcy until November 2021. That prediction came out before a new strain of COVID was discovered; and, it also hinges on 70%-80% of the US population getting the vaccine. Some reports indicate that only 40% of the US population has said they will definitely get the vaccine. Meanwhile positive case numbers in Florida continue to rise; and, in mid-January positive cases in Sun City Center climbed

to over 1000. While there have been a few positive cases among our membership, they are few in number and those infected are doing well. Thankfully the virus has not been widespread among our membership.

Consequently, we will continue to adhere to the precautionary measures (Guidelines & Recommendations) that you can read through on our Website. Thank you to everyone as we continue this difficult journey together.

Pastor Allman 

Support for others

(Collection boxes are on the narthex counter)

BRING US
YOUR



**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 February 2021

By now many of you have been vaccinated against COVID-19. I am still waiting. At 63 I am not a priority. My husband and I do hope to get them soon. There is a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel now! We continue to offer in-person worship as well as the livestream option. We recently had an upgrade to our sound system that has improved the audio dramatically; we are hoping this is helping you to enjoy the service more. It is wonderful to see so many faces here on Sunday morning! We have missed seeing you. We are limiting in-person attendance to 50 people. Please call ahead and reserve your spot, Monday-Thursday from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

Hopefully you have had an opportunity to read the Annual Report. It was decided that an Annual Meeting was not going to be feasible this year as we weren't able to get close to a quorum for the Spending Plan meeting. Please be sure and read the reports and get caught up on what has been going on at Redeemer this year. When I look back, I see how we have adapted to the challenges the virus has presented. We added the livestream, enhanced the audio and before that we began recording services. Pastor has a daily Bible study available online and we have learned how to have Zoom meetings! None of this was on the radar a year ago.

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. Please speak with Pastor Allman if we can be helpful.

We are hopeful that we will be able to offer more programming in the near future. It will be so good to be together again. First and foremost, stay safe and healthy. Our first priority is the safety and wellbeing of all of you, so please be good to yourselves.

FEBRUARY

STEWARDSHIP

Luke 16:10 reads, *"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much..."*



There was much anticipation for the end of the year 2020, even though the pandemic did not mysteriously disappear January 1, 2021. Still, there is a feeling, especially with the vaccines being delivered and given out, that we can look forward to better days. Those better days may still be months away, yet it is the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel.

None of us were completely prepared for how the pandemic has actually affected us, at home and at Redeemer. There is no question that the world's economy has suffered. There is no need to repeat all of that negativity to you here. Perhaps the downward spiral of the world's economy is what has caused some to assume that the offerings given to Redeemer would suffer as well. Giving all glory to God, and thanking you all for your faithfulness, I can report that we finished 2020 with more income than expenses. Thanks also goes to Redeemer's leadership by helping to keep expenses down, especially during the months the pandemic affected us.

We all know that Stewardship is about more than just our finances, although 'money' seems to be

the first thought most people have when they hear/read the word Stewardship. Biblical Stewardship is actually about faithfulness. *"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much..."* (Luke 16:10).

Faithfulness involves our whole lives: time, talent and treasures. Being faithful certainly involves how we use our money; although, it also involves how we use our time and how we use the spiritual gifts (talents) God has given us.

The pandemic of 2020 left us with 'little' in terms of how we might like to use our time to get out and be together; and, 'little' in terms of how we might like to use our talents to get out and do the luxuries as well as the essentials. Perhaps it has also left us 'little' in terms of treasures to make purchases and travel.

The leadership at Redeemer offers praise to God and thanks to all of you for showing faithfulness with all of those 'littles' left us from the impact of the pandemic of 2020. Keep the faith, as we move forward meeting the challenges yet before us in 2021.



GROWING IN FAITH

How many of you make New Year's resolutions? For those that do, how many of you keep your New Year's resolutions? Studies show that, on average, 80% of New Year resolutions failed by the second week of February. So, if you make it until March, you are better than average.



Do you know what the number one New Year resolution is? You probably can guess, it has some wording about weight loss, healthy eating and/or exercise. Last week I heard someone on the radio asking, "How is your spiritual weight?" Certainly, physical weight loss can help our spirits; although, I think the speaker was thinking more about the extra weight that we unnecessarily carry in our spirits.

I was not driving far enough to listen to what he had to say, although I would have included those things that burden our spirits: low self-esteem, stress, guilt, feeling unloved, failing health, loss, grief, etc. These, and others, can weigh down our spirits and may cause our faith to falter.

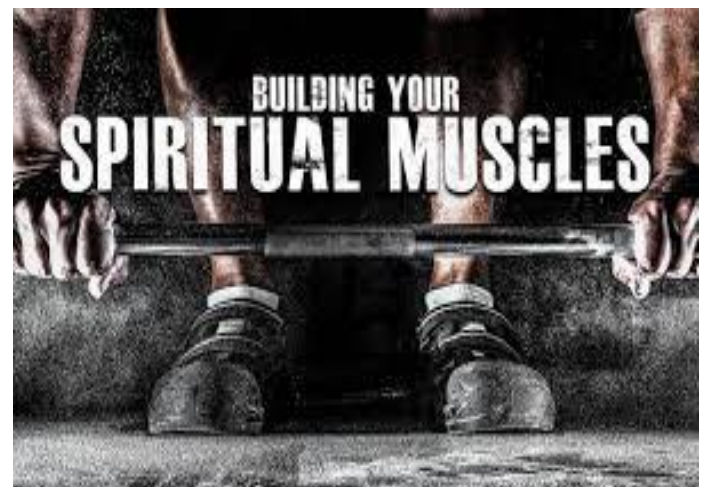
Any time Jesus' disciples were afraid; Jesus would say they were "of little faith." Notice Jesus did not say they 'had' little faith, Jesus said they were 'of' little faith. I think Jesus was saying that they were operating out of little faith. I think faith is like a

muscle. We already have it, although we may fail to exercise it. A muscle that is not used will atrophy; that is, decline in effectiveness. I find that I no longer have the muscle strength to do some of the things I used to do, because I do not exercise like I did when I was young. Anyone else find this to be true, or is it just me?

We might think that the older we get the less we need to exercise (grow) our faith. We may think that everything we needed to know we learned in Sunday school. Some of us may have stopped exercising (growing) our faith after making our confirmation – around age 13. This would be like me thinking I can still lift over 100 pounds because I used to be able to do it when I was younger. It would be a tragic mistake, because I can hurt myself in the process.

It could be just as tragic to operate out 'of little faith.' When we operate out 'of little faith' we are not sure where to turn for help, or perhaps we turn to the wrong things or people. Psalm 62 reminds us that it is God alone who is our refuge and strength. Another word for faith is trust, and trust is gained by spending time in a relationship. There are some people that I trust more than others, because I have a stronger relationship with them. My trust/faith in God grows as my relationship with God grows stronger.

We can shed that excess spiritual weight by spending more time growing our relationship with God, which means spending more time with God. Maybe it is okay to make it a New Year Resolution, even in February.



From Parish Nurse Team

MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES FOR COVID 19



You may have heard about monoclonal antibodies as part of treatment for Covid 19. While still in limited supply, they are becoming more widely available as a treatment and may be effective in stopping disease progression.

What are monoclonal antibodies?

The drugs consist of artificially synthesized copies of the antibodies that people produce naturally when their immune system fights off infection. Early data have shown that they may prevent disease progression and hospitalization in the elderly and for people at high risk for severe complications from the disease. The treatments are believed to work by helping to shut down the virus soon after infection.

Two companies have developed drugs specifically to treat Covid-19 that have been authorized for emergency use by the F.D.A. These drugs are considered investigational as they are still being studied, but there is enough evidence to believe that they meet safety and performance standards.

Who do the treatments help?

The treatments can be given to anyone who has tested positive for the coronavirus, is at high risk of developing a severe form of the disease, only has mild to moderate symptoms, and is within 10 days of first developing symptoms. This includes people who are at least 65 years of age and those younger who have serious medical conditions.

The treatments are not authorized for people who have already been hospitalized, or who need supplemental oxygen.

Testing to detect the infection and starting treatment as early as possible in the course of the disease is important.

It is possible that the drug could interfere with the body's ability to fight off a future Covid infection, and there is a 90 day wait after receiving the antibodies to receive the Covid vaccine.

How much do they cost?

The government is currently offering the drugs at no cost, although some patients depending on their insurance coverage, may have to pay for administration of the drug which must be infused by a health care provider.

How are they administered?

The antibodies are administered in a hospital Emergency Department as an IV infusion over about an hour followed by an hour of observation for any reaction. Not all hospitals in our area currently administer them.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1st – Dale Lyndahl**
5th – Tony Espino
6th - Sam Thompson
7th – Janet Gehrke, Jerry Miller
8th – Mary Ann Sigler, Nora Wilhide
10th- Tina Schwartz
17th – Katharina Coryell, Myrna Strom
18th – Brigitte Austen, David Decheine, Greg Kiel
19th – Lucy Ann Clark
21st – Margaret Scott, Nancy Viohl
22nd – Kadie Dehne
23rd – Gerda Regelin
24th – Sigi Espino, Paul Hannesson
27th –Marjorie Kesler
28th – Chris McCann



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2nd – Dan & Deb Pollert**
11th – Bill & Kay Adkins
17th – John & Amy Minor
27th – James & Mary Kay Young



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





For those Thrivent members who are eligible for Choice Dollars, you must direct your 2020 dollars by **March 31st** or you will lose them. You can direct your dollars by going to www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or by calling Thrivent at [1-800-847-4836](tel:1-800-847-4836) and saying "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. For questions or help, see Lois Hobratchk. This is an opportunity to support Redeemer.

Direct your
Thrivent Choice
Dollars
Today!



SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Feb. 7 – Hal Wold

Feb. 14 – Jim Schwartz

Feb. 21 – Wendy Kitzman

Feb. 28 – Janice Walsh

**If you would like to read on
Sunday please call Carolyn
Cole. 813-812-7527**



Search for Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center Florida and hit the red subscribe button. This will keep you current with videos from Pastor Allman.

The direct link below can be entered right in to your address bar.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUniSRGmRw4qLi2qmolnoxw>