



RLC Newsletter

July 2021

A Message from Pastor Allman

Independence Day. That is the big thing that Americans will be celebrating this month, in just a few days, on Sunday the 4th. People will be especially excited this year as we are moving forward from pandemic restrictions. I imagine there will be numerous gatherings of people, food, fun, and fireworks on display. Please remember to spend the morning with us in worship, giving thanks for the gifts God has given each one of us.

We may also ask ourselves, what does it mean to be truly independent? Here are a few definitions: not subject to another's authority or jurisdiction; autonomous; free; not influenced by the thought or action of others; not dependent; or not depending or contingent

upon something else for existence.

As I thought about those definitions, I realized that I cannot really claim to be truly independent. Ultimately and in every one of those categories I realize that I am completely dependent on God. God is responsible for my initial and continuing existence. God influences my thoughts and actions. I am willingly under God's authority and jurisdiction. And, frankly, I do not want to be truly independent from God. I love God and I love being able to talk with God anytime and anywhere, and I love knowing that God loves me and loves hearing from me.

I suspect that some of you are thinking, "*Well, Pastor that is not what Independence Day is all about.*" I realize that. Independence Day has nothing to do with religion and everything to do with politics and separation from the King of England. And, I realize that there were thirteen colonies, numbering in the millions of people, who had to depend on one another in order to make the Declaration of Independence worth something.

Either way, the point is the same: none of us are truly independent. Everyone falls under some kind of authority or jurisdiction. No one can be truly autonomous. There is someone who influences your thoughts and actions. None of us can exist outside of community. My

encouragement is that each of us be aware of our choices and choose wisely. Before your social celebrations begin, please choose to worship with us that morning and celebrate God's presence in your life.

Have a blessed 4th of July and the rest of the month.

Pastor Allman ✝



News from the Office Administrator July 2021

It has been wonderful to see so many of you coming back on Sunday mornings for worship! It feels like a family reunion! We have been able to have our ushers, communion helpers, acolytes, altar guild and fellowship teams begin to reform. The choir has been back for a while now, and we are all enjoying their ministry.

Thank you to all the new people who have come forward to volunteer for these teams. We still need more help so please be praying about where you might join in and further the ministry of Redeemer in Sun City Center, Florida and the world.

Our outside groups have begun to return starting in June. We already have AA, Al-Anon and the barbershop group back. It is good to have them back in person and I know they are relieved, too. The Worship & Music Team and Stewardship & Finance have also come back to in-person meetings.

We have started moving forward with the sign project! A contractor has been chosen and is beginning to start the process. First of course are the permits from the county. It is their estimate that we should have the signs done in early September. There are two signs, one in the front near Rickenbacker and the other is on Valley Forge between the two driveways. Hopefully when these are in place not as many people will think we are the funeral home or Prince of Peace.

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.



JULY

STEWARDSHIP

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" (John 1:35-38, NRSV).

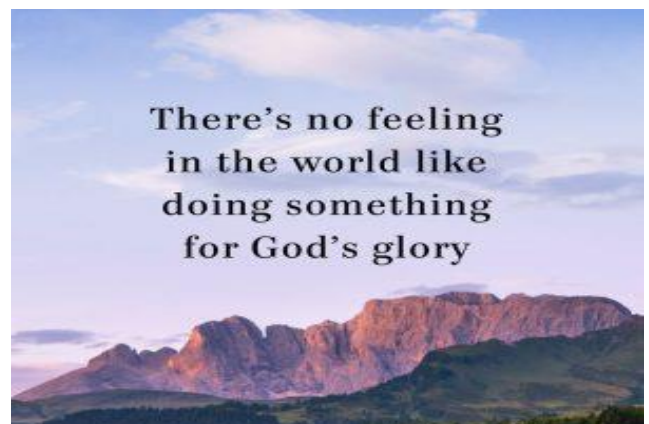
"What are you looking for?" That is a great question, which I encourage you to answer, at least to yourselves. When you come to church, what are you looking for? Some folks may answer that they come to church for the music. Some folks may answer that they come to church for the sermon. Some folks may answer that they come to church to see their friends. Some folks may answer that they come to church because that is what they have always done. Some folks may answer that they come to church to feel closer to God. Some folks may answer that they come to church to pray. Some folks may answer that they come to church because it offers them a place to belong.

I think most people, if they answer themselves frankly, will admit that they come to church in order to get something. They get good music. They get to spend time with their friends. They get satisfaction that they did their duty to God. They get a feeling of peace. They get comfort from being with other like-minded people.

What is God looking for when we come to church? God is looking for complete and genuine worship. God wants to be the sole focus of our attention. Hymns are sung to bring God glory. Silence is observed to allow God to speak through the Holy Spirit. Prayers are said that praise God. Sermons are preached to share God's Word. Anthems are sung that draw attention to God. Offerings are given as a way of returning a portion of the money God has already given us. Holy Communion is celebrated to join us together with the communion of saints.

When we come to church God is looking for us to give... something of our time, talents and treasures. If we get something out of coming to church, then that blessing is a by-product of coming together to honor and glorify God. Some of the blessings that we get are: being reminded that God has already forgiven our sins; that Jesus loves us more than his own life; that by learning God's Word we grow spiritually; and encouragement as we see the gathering of witnesses surrounding us. I am sure you can name others.

In one of my former churches I once had a woman who was leaving after worship say, "*You didn't make me happy today.*" I wonder what she was looking for when she came to church...



GROWING IN FAITH

Because someone asked: Pentecost is the Christian festival celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his Ascension, held on the seventh Sunday after Easter. Some would call it the “birthday” of the Christian Church. The Season after Pentecost lasts from the day after Pentecost to the day before Advent (5/24/21-11/27/21). The color is green to symbolize the growth and life of the Church. In most churches, the general theme of the Bible readings and sermons concern the church’s mission in the world. Jesus commanded us to, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”* (Mt. 28:19-20) There are other holy days that the Church recognizes and which fall within the season of Pentecost: such as Trinity Sunday, Transfiguration Sunday, Holy Cross Day, Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday.



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

Please remember, NO open packages or containers.



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>

Support for others

(Collection boxes are on the narthex counter)

**BRING US
YOUR**



#teamHCSO PROJECT SAFE encounter

From Parish Nurse Team

*The Parish Nurse Team
would like to make you
aware of a new program.*

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office is launching a new program that will help deputies better communicate with vulnerable populations.

The new online registration system is called "Project Safe Encounter."

Hillsborough County residents can register themselves or family members who suffer from:

- ▲ Alzheimer's disease
- ▲ Blindness
- ▲ Autism
- ▲ Down syndrome
- ▲ Deafness
- ▲ Other medical and developmental disabilities that affect the way individuals interact and respond to law enforcement officers

The information that is voluntarily provided through "Project Safe Encounter" will be available to deputies as they respond to a call involving the registered person and/or their address. Deputies will be able to quickly access pictures, information about how to best communicate with the individual, and potential triggers to avoid.

In times of crisis, every second counts. With this information readily available to deputies, they will be prepared to deescalate a situation before they even respond to a call and come in contact with the known individual.

Project Safe Encounter is available in English and Spanish. There is NO registration fee.

To register a loved one, copy and paste this direct link into your browser:

<https://www.teamhcsso.com/.../d6e0175c-35.../Start-a-Registration>

Not all registrations can be filed online. If a registration is not listed in the category selection list or for more information, call the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office at 813-247-8200 for non-emergencies.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd – Ruth Lehnors**
- 4th - Linda Miller, David Schierenbeck**
- 6th – Doris Long, Nancy Philips**
- 7th – Ursula Clark, Audrey Erickson,
Jackie Flynn, Bob Shields**
- 8th – Laura Akins**
- 9th – Betty Johnson**
- 10th – Bill Adkins, Howard Baker**
- 11th – Judy Quitsch, Wendy Kitzman**
- 14th – Joe Ercegovich**
- 15th- James Fredrickson**
- 17th- Jim McCaw, Sammy Samuelson**
- 19th – Marlene Antonsen**
- 20th –Nina Smart**
- 21st – Maggie Byrd, Mirdza Drengers**
- 22nd – Margaret Miller**
- 27th – Emma Jean Mostoller**
- 28th - Bill Adkins Jr., Ellamarie Carr**



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st- Jim & Sue Smeltzer**
- 5th –Clarence & Marlene Antonsen**
- 15th – David & LaDonna Kiefer**
- 19th – Roger & Ursula Clark**
- 23rd – Vlado & Eva Michna**
- 26th – Michael & Carolyn Stahl**
- 29th – Dick & Pat Fricke**
- 30th – Mike & Angie Wiechers**



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

JULY

Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. July 4 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler	Debbie Andrews, Lucy Ann Clark, Walter Geissler	Dick Fricke
Sun. July 11 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark		Wendy Kitzman
Sun. July 18 10:00 AM	Debbie Andrews	Walter Geissler, Debbie Andrews, Lucy Ann Clark	Rosalie Kelleher
Sun. July 25 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler		Jim Schwartz

Worship Assistants Needed - We are in need of worship assistants to help on Sunday. If you have helped in the past and would like to again, or would like to help for the first time please call Carolyn Cole so she can add you to the schedule. 813-812-7527

Our biggest need is acolyte and communion assistants.

July Usher Team	July Altar Guild	Sound
Linda Miller's Team	Jean Jackson and Judy Buskirk	Noah Allman





Fellowship donations needed

During fellowship we have been enjoying pre-wrapped treats of store bought items. Our kitchen relies on donations to make this possible. When you are at the grocery store please consider purchasing snack items that are wrapped and ready to go for fellowship. Things like granola bars, cheese and crackers, peanut butter crackers, mini muffins, honey buns, cheese sticks or wrapped slices, etc. If you prefer to have us shop for you please write "Fellowship" on your envelope or check for donation.



Grief/Loss Support Group

FREE 4-week guided educational support group led by a licensed counselor with over 30 years of experience. Grief and loss may be due to: death, COVID, terminal illness, suicide, loss of dreams or purpose, estranged children, marriage/partner, loved one's dementia, pet loss, veteran battles, etc. The group is open to adults – 18-and-older. WHEN: FRIDAYS 2:30 - 3:30 PM; July 09, 16, 23 & 30, 2021 (no late entry after 2:30 PM.)

Redeemer Lutheran Church (701 Valley Forge Blvd, Sun City Center, FL) has generously allowed the use of their Fellowship Hall to serve the needs of the community for this group. The program is not linked to any religion or philosophy. GRIEF: "The loss of anything important to you can cause feelings of grief. Grieving well is to value what we have lost." Additional information could be obtained by contacting (813) 955-1819. NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED. No Audience Participation required.

GRIEF & LOSS
SUPPORT GROUP



WELCA School Supply Project

School supplies for middle school aged students

WELCA will be collecting school supplies for middle school students. Social ministry usually does this project, but since we currently do not have a Social Ministry Team, WELCA will do the honors. Many families are on a budget and school funding is limited, when you are out shopping you might consider picking up some school supplies. We hope to provide the schools with some needed supplies. Please see the list of supplies requested to aid in your shopping for items to donate. If you would like to donate money (we will do the shopping for you), please write "school supplies" on your check and make note on your church envelope.

Thank you for your help, WELCA

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:45 PM-Choir practice	2 9:30 AM-Quilters	3
4 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	5 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	6 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	7	8 10:00 AM-OA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	9 9:30 AM-Quilters 2:30 PM-Grief/Loss Support Group	10
11 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM – Fred to meet with council	12 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	13 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	14 10:00 AM Fred/Sign meeting	15 10:00 AM-OA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	16 9:00 AM-CC Expo at KP 9:30 AM-Quilters 2:30 PM-Grief/Loss Support Group	17
18 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	19 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	20 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	21	22 10:00 AM-OA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	23 9:30 AM-Quilters 2:30 PM-Grief/Loss Support Group	24
25 10:00 AM-Worship	26 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting	27 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	28	29 10:00 AM-OA Group 6:45 PM-Choir practice	30 9:30 AM-Quilters 2:30 PM-Grief/Loss Support Group	31

