



RLC Newsletter

December
2021

A Message from Pastor Allman

As we approached the November 7th Daylight Savings date to turn back our clocks, I read some sentiments that people should turn back to a time when there was common sense. I can certainly appreciate that sentiment and imagine that we can all point to someone else that we think needs some common sense, most likely because we disagree with that other person on some level. I would add a sentiment that we should also turn back to a time when people worked for the common good.

“Common” in each of those, ‘sense’ and ‘good,’ indicates something that applies to everyone. At some point in time, we appear to have moved to a more individualistic mindset of what makes sense to ‘me’ or what is good for ‘me.’

As I was writing this article, I was working on a text study for Psalm 24, the Psalm for All Saints Sunday. Verse one reads, “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it...” This verse helps me remember that it is not all about me (or you). All of Creation, including humans, belong to God. Genesis 1:27 reads, “So God created humankind in his image... male and female he created them.” All humans bear the image of God!

When Jesus said to “love your neighbor as yourself,” a lawyer tried to challenge the definition of neighbor, which was when Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan -- the Samaritans were the most hated race of people for the Jews who were listening to the parable. Can you image what listening to

Jesus’ parable must have felt like? Substitute whatever person, group, or race of people you hate for the Samaritan in that parable, and you will feel what that felt like.

Believing that ‘all people bear the image of God’ sounds easy as long as we only apply it to those we like, or who look like us, or think like us, or will not require anything from us, etc. Looking into the face of someone we hate, or even barely tolerate, and believing that they also bear the image of God challenges our ego -- that which wants to make it all about us. When I try to make it all about me, or when you try to make it all about you, we fail to leave space for God. God will not be indifferent to how we treat one another.

When God's Will is our heart's desire, then things like 'common sense' and the 'common good' become what God says; not what I (or you) say; or what politicians say; or what television personalities say; and so on... We have not been called to follow other people; we have been called to follow Jesus. As I have said before, if you think being a Christian is easy, then you are not doing it right.

Rev. Richard Rohr writes, "I believe that Jesus-who-became-the-Christ still stands as the perfect mediator of all that is human and good. The cross stands as the intersection of opposites between heaven and earth, divine and human, inner and outer—revealing at the same time the price of that intersection." (Devotional 11/3/21)

In *The Promise of Paradox* Parker Palmer writes, "The way of the cross is a way of absorbing pain, not passing it on, a way that transforms pain from destructive impulses into creative power."

When Jesus tells us to pick up the cross and follow him Jesus intends to lead us into transformation from 'me' to 'we,' from my will to God's Will, from destructive impulses to creative power, for the common good.

Pastor Allman 

News from the Office Administrator

December 2021

Merry Christmas! It is hard to believe that we are coming up on Christmas! I wish all of you a joyful, blessed Christmas 2021. As we look back over the past year, there have been many blessings. We have been working to rebuild Teams, restart Team meetings on Zoom and in person, and plan activities to be enjoyed by all. We have made new friends and cared for one another in ways different than we could have imagined.

The Fundraising Team has been busy! The Arts & Crafts Fair went very well. Many people came and lots of treasures were being taken home. The vendors and the Team are very happy with how it went. Currently the Team is planning a Christmas Sale November 14-December 18 and the Rummage Sale in February. More details elsewhere in this newsletter. The Ministry Fair, Health Fair, and Lifeline Screening are expected to return in the spring. We need volunteers for all of our activities, so if you are able, please volunteer to help. We are rebuilding our teams after 15 months of not meeting and it is a challenge. Please plan to plug in somewhere and help, believe me you will enjoy yourself and make new friends.

On December 13th the South Shore Concert Band will be back with a concert for us! My son Trevor will be playing trombone again this year. Plan to come and enjoy music and fellowship. Please bring a canned item for the food pantry as we continue to support those in need.

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.

Upcoming event dates

November 14-December 18: Christmas Sale

December 1, 5:00 PM: Christmas Cheer and Carols

December 13, 7:00 PM: South Shore Concert Band (Buhr Hall)

December 19: Spending Plan Meeting following worship

January 30: Annual Meeting

February 4-5: Rummage Sale from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

GROWING IN FAITH

John 8:31-32 reads, "Then Jesus said to the ones who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'"

In one of the mini Bible studies I recorded at Luther Springs Camp while I was there last month, I spoke about abundance and compared the Thanksgiving feast to a symbol of abundance. We hosted foreign exchange students while our daughter was little, and we experienced Thanksgiving with fresh eyes, because it was a holiday they did not have in their country. Honestly, we never hurt for food, so every day is a smaller version of Thanksgiving because we have an abundance of food.



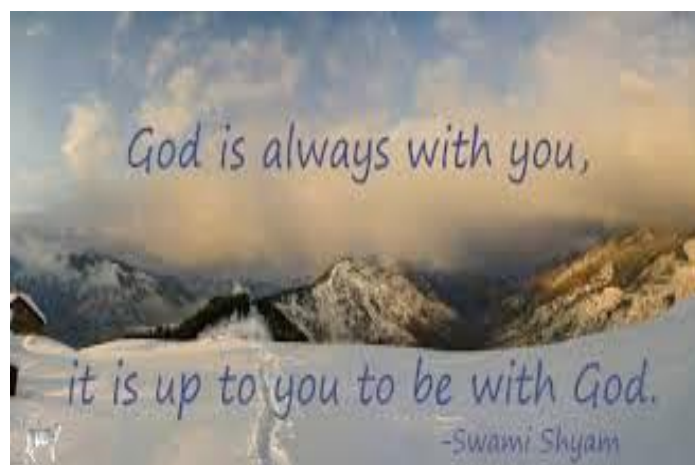
I wonder if the Word of God has become so available that we can no longer see it with fresh eyes. I imagine that all of us have at least one Bible, and many like me have multiple translations. If you have a smart phone, tablet or computer then you have electronic Bibles of varying translations with a few simple clicks.

What do we do with that abundance? Has it become so available that we keep it on a shelf; or, like our abundance of food do we store it in a pantry or refrigerator/freezer until we want to get it out? Being away at camp gave me time to put a pause on the busy "pace-of-life" that I have set for myself or perhaps has been set for me. That busyness becomes something that detracts from God's presence in my life. How about yours?

When I am meeting with people as their spiritual director I listen for a while and often will ask, "Where is God in all of that?" Sometimes the answer is something like, "I know God is always there." I think that sounds like, "I know there is food in the pantry if I get hungry."

The opening Bible verse (above) was part of our Reformation Gospel reading. Reformation is not just something that happened 504 years ago; it is an ongoing part of our Lutheran roots -- we are always reforming, or as the ELCA says it, we are always being made new. Notice that Jesus does not tell us, "If you keep my word on the shelf, you are truly my disciples..." As disciples we are to 'continue in his word.'

The second part of Redeemer's Mission Statement is to "Grow in Faith." Jesus says we do that by continuing in his word. It forms a present participle, which means it is an ongoing thing which never ends as long as we are alive in this world. How are you growing in your faith? How are you continuing in God's Word?



WORTH ITS SALT?



What do These Phrases on Food Labels Really Mean?



From Parish Nurse Team

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3rd – Jim Moyers
4th – Carole Beltz, Angie Wiechers
5th – Elfi Nolden
6th – Carol Crawford
8th – Sue Kovacik, Doris Hahn
12th – Richard Doerfler
14th – Hazel Crosby, Carol Thompson
15th – Joshua & Matthew Knaub
19th – Jim Smeltzer
22nd – Susan Pearson, Carolyn Stahl
24th – Donald Munford
29th – Delores Turner



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3rd – Dietrich & Helen Schaefer
22nd – Dean & Carole Beltz
28th – Rick & Debbie Andrews



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



Please remember Redeemer when you are doing your estate planning.



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Dec. 5 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler	Arlene Hansen, Walter Geissler, Mike Corbett	Mike Corbett
Sun. Dec. 12 10:00 AM	Debbie Andrews		Dan Pollert
Sun. Dec 19 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark	Walter Geissler, Lucy Ann Clark, Wendy Kitzman	Wendy Kitzman
Fri. Dec. 24 7:00 PM	Dale Lyndahl	Dale Lyndahl, Kay Lyndahl, Debbie Andrews	Kay Lyndahl
Sun. Dec 26 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark		

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 needs are acolyte and communion assistants.



December Usher Team	December Altar Guild	Sound
Arlene Hansens Team	Cathy Lindsey & Judy Buskirk	Noah Allman





Christmas Cheer & Carols

This year for Advent Redeemer will have our Christmas Cheer and Carols event.

On **Wednesday, December 1st at 5:00 PM**, we will have **"Cheer and Carols"**. Bring your favorite alcoholic or non alcoholic beverage and a non perishable food item for the local food pantry. We will have light snacks and iced tea available, or you are welcome to bring your own snacks. We'll sing Christmas carols and other seasonal songs.

Christmas Sale

Since used Christmas items sell better before Christmas than at the Rummage Sale, we will be selling them in Buhr Hall until December 19th. You can drop off or shop Christmas items any time, either on Sunday or during office hours.

Fundraising Team Update

We are pleased to report that Redeemer's second annual Arts and Crafts Fair was very successful. Feedback from both the 40 artisan vendors and the shoppers was overwhelmingly positive. The vendors are already asking to be included next year.

The many Redeemer volunteers, including set-up and reset crews, kitchen, publicity, donors and creators of raffle baskets, quilters, and roaming volunteers who made sure all went well the day of the fair made it all possible. The nine-member fundraiser team is very pleased to have so much volunteerism and cooperation. Also, thank you

goes to Redeemer's staff. You graciously worked with our team.

Marion Giblin, Chair of the Arts & Crafts Fair



Beautiful handmade cards made by Delores Turner. Robert & Delores Turner at the Arts & Crafts Fair.



Arts & Crafts Fair Volunteers



Baskets raffled off by WELCA

Rummage Sale from the Fundraising Team

January is the month to start collecting items for the rummage sale to be held on February 4 & 5, 2021. Hours this year will be from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Friday and Saturday.

Much needed items are clothes, household items, jewelry, books (no magazines), puzzles, toys, linens, collectibles, knick knacks, small kitchen appliances, tools, office supplies, craft supplies, and home décor.

Items to be accepted on the day before the sale from 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM are: lamps, side tables, small chairs, large mirrors, golf equipment, umbrellas, and beach chairs.

Due to limited space the following items are **NOT** accepted: large living room furniture, tvs, cell phones, exercise equipment, and wire hangers.

There will be no bake sale this year due to covid.

Beginning January 3 items can be dropped off in Buhr Hall every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in January from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

We will need many volunteers to make this year's rummage sale the best ever. Please sign up any Sunday in January. Sign-up sheets will be in Buhr Hall following the church service.

The following jobs are available: pricers, organizers, attendants, outside greeters, floor workers, shopping bag distributors, baggers, cashiers, door attendants, clean-up, (including trash, vacuuming, breaking down boxes, moving tables, and chairs).

Please mark your calendars!

If you have any questions, please call or text Tina Schwartz at 813-365-8974, or email her at tmski1980@aol.com. You can also contact any of the fundraising team.

Thank you for all your help!

Tina Schwartz and all of the Fundraising Team



Drop off dates

All Monday, Wednesday, & Fridays in January from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Christmas Decorating Volunteers

Many thanks to all of the volunteers that came to church to help us decorate for Christmas. With all of the volunteers we were able to make quick work of it. A special thanks to Kadie's husband Jon Dehne and Vern Loepp for braving the tall ladder to display our beautiful wreaths in the sanctuary.



The Sounds of Christmas December 13

Join us as we gather for a beautiful evening of Christmas music at **Redeemer Lutheran Church**, at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 13.

Rejoice in the spirit of Christmas melodies with friends, family and colleagues. The South Shore Concert Band creates an endearing and impressive performance entitled "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" fit for the excitement of your friends and family.

The concert will feature traditional Yule time favorites and whimsical pieces. Enjoy the works of eight different arrangers.

Enjoy the sound of our 34 member ensemble returning after the virus.

The concert is open to the public and a **free will offering** will be taken.



December donations to C.A.R.E

During the month of December Redeemer will be collecting food, toys, monetary donations, and general supplies for C.A.R.E. Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort.

C.A.R.E. is a 501 (c)(3) public charity; a no-kill animal shelter for neglected, abused and unwanted cats and dogs with a mission to reduce the number of homeless and abandoned animals through adoption, sterilization and education.

We are local, located in Ruskin, Florida.

Animal Supplies:

- ♥ Dog & Cat Toys
- ♥ Dog & Cat Treats (no MilkBone)

General Supplies:

- ♥ Laundry Detergent (HE)
- ♥ Bleach
- ♥ Dish Soap
- ♥ Refills for Hand Soap Dispenser
- ♥ Alcohol and Peroxide
- ♥ 13 Gallon Trash Bags / Tall kitchen trash bags
- ♥ Paper Towels

Donations of general supplies will allow C.A.R.E. to use funds directly for the care of animals. Look for specials and BOGOs at your stores to share with C.A.R.E

Financial Donation/ Assistance will help cover:

Monthly Animal Medical Expenses (flea/heartworm prevention, tests, vaccinations) - Veterinarian Services

C.A.R.E. 1528 27th St. S.E. Ruskin, FL 33570
Open: Tues – Sat 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM



WELCA

You may be asking what is WELCA? It stands for "Women of the ELCA" and is the women's organization of the congregation. All women members of our congregation are automatically members of WELCA.

WELCA programs and meetings center on fellowship, learning, and service and provide opportunities for both personal and spiritual growth. Currently group meetings/programs and the women's Bible Study are on hold due to Covid. The WELCA Board continues to meet and has held several congregational projects this year. They also organized an electronics recycling event for the community in October.

Quilters meet every Friday morning at 9:30 in Buhr Hall. In addition to quilts, new centerpieces were made for the tables in the hall and lap quilts were made for many church members.

Cards are sent to members on the church prayer list and to others with special concerns. Gift bags are delivered to homebound members at Christmas and Easter.

We expect to be able to hold more events and projects in 2022 and invite everyone to participate.

WELCA Board members for 2021 to 2022 will be installed in the worship service on December 12th. They are:

President - Carolyn Cole
 Vice President - Jeanne Potochny
 Secretary - Wendy Kitzman
 Treasurer - Arlene Hansen
 Membership - Mariam Sorby
 Sunshine Circle - Honey Ashley
 Hospitality/Quilters - Myrna Strom
 Bible Study - Paula Simenson
 Publicity/Program - Lois Hobratchk



Gift Bags for Homebound Members

Gift bags for homebound members will be assembled in Buhr Hall on Tuesday, December 7th at 9:00 AM. Assistance with assembling and delivering the gifts to the homebound is needed.

Electronics Recycling Update

The WELCA- organized electronics recycling event was a huge success. This event was held in Redeemer's parking lot on October 20th. Urban E-recycling came out to help local residents safely and conveniently dispose of their unwanted electronics items. The cars were lined up just about the entire time Urban E-Recycling was here. They collected so many items they had to call out a second truck. All hard drives were shredded. A total of **732** items in all were safely destroyed.

Hybrid Bible Study

Our Hybrid Bible Study is both in-person and live streamed. Please join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM. The Hybrid Bible Study will be held in the Sanctuary to accommodate both in-person and online (for those who cannot attend in person). I will be teaching on the readings for the upcoming Sunday worship. We invite you to attend in-person or online through our You Tube channel.



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

Please remember, NO open packages or containers.



December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00 PM- Cheers & Carols	2 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-Hybrid Bible Study 6:45 PM – Choir Practice	3 9:30 AM- Quilters	4
5 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	6 10:00 AM Fundraising team meeting 10:30 AM AI- Anon	7 9:00 AM- Gift Bag Assembly 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Mtg 12:00 PM-Altar Guild Lunch 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Womens AA 7:00 PM- Finance Team Meeting	8	9 9:00 AM-Parish Nurse Meeting 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-Hybrid Bible Study 6:45 PM – Choir Practice	10 9:30 AM- Quilters	11
12 10:00 AM- Worship WELCA Board Installation	13 10:30 AM AI- Anon 7:00 PM-SS Concert Band	14 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Womens AA	15	16 10:00 AM-OA Group 6:45 PM – Choir Practice	17 9:30 AM- Quilters	18
19 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship 11:00 AM- Spending Plan Mtg	20 10:30 AM AI- Anon	21 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Mtg 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Womens AA	22	23 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-Hybrid Bible Study 6:45 PM – Choir Practice	24 9:30 AM- Quilters 7:00 PM- Christmas Eve Service	25
26 10:00 AM- Worship	27 Office closed	28 Office closed	29 Office closed	30 Office closed	31 Office closed	

The Christmas Sale will be held every Sunday following worship through Dec 19.

