



RLC Newsletter

November 2021

A message from Pastor Allman

The 2021 Synod Assembly had been scheduled for June and in-person; however, the rise in the Delta Variant of COVID-19 resulted in a spike in positive cases in FL and motivated the Synod Council to change the meeting to be held virtually (Zoom) on October 15th & 16th.

The Assembly was called to order by Bishop Pedro Suarez, the credentials report given (297 participants), and the rules and agenda were adopted. The opening Bible reflection was conducted, at the end of which Bishop Suarez declared the 2021 Synod Assembly was open. In order to determine the viability of virtual voting, a practice vote was held (Katharina von Bora-Luther was elected to Synod Council - *posthumously*).

A proposed bylaw to reduce the term for the Synod Council Youth Member from two years to one year effective with the 2021 election was adopted. This will allow better opportunities for students to serve without the term of office being impacted by college enrollment. Nominations for a variety of positions were identified, including Vice President of the Synod. The two candidates gave a brief speech (video). Ballot #1 was held after which a break was allowed.

Pastor Rob Rose delivered the Treasurer's Report, as the Treasurer was one of the nominees for V. P. The fiscal year closed with a clean audit; congregational giving increased a little over 1%; overall, it was a good year financially despite COVID-19; proposed spending plan of a little over 2.5 million

was presented; a vote was taken and the Spending Plan Resolution was adopted. The results of the first ballot were announced, including Michelle Hilton being elected as the next Synod Vice President. Other positions were announced, and ballot #2 was held for run-off elections.

Bishop Pedro Suarez' Report began with select verses from Ephesians 4: Make every effort to maintain unity in the bond of peace. Despite physical distancing caused by COVID-19 & necessary precautions, we did not lose Jesus as the focus of our faith; nurtured by prayer and God's Word. Divisive events brought us opportunities to maintain unity: 43 rostered ministers received Calls; new candidates for Seminary & first Calls were approved; we

maintained contact/support through virtual meetings; the Synod office was renovated; three new congregations were formed; two Churches elected to close; \$156K in grants were given for new technologies in 76 congregations to install live streaming capabilities; over \$222K in aid to congregations damaged by disasters; and, through a joint venture with the ELCA, the Synod began Palms Church for the deaf along with St. Mark by the Sea in Palm Coast.

A Ministry Moment showed a Global Missions Video narrated by Pastor Katie Carroll providing our Synod with links to what God is doing with ministry contexts in other countries through our mission support.

Exiting Vice President, Cheryl Stuart, gave her final Assembly report after concluding her 3rd 4-year-term, with 4 different bishops. She offered her congratulations to all who are doing ministry virtually in response to the pandemic and recognized what a difficult transition this has been for all congregations, ministry teams and the Synod. She has considered it her calling to provoke people to think in different ways, which she understands has made some people uncomfortable, and she assured us that her goal was always to be inspiring. She lifted up the national youth gatherings as life changing events that provide hope for youth as well the Church. She encourages and challenges congregations (people) to contribute financially to youth who could not otherwise

attend, noting that it takes about \$1000.00 per youth per gathering. She closed her remarks by offering her thanks to many with whom she ministered along the way.

Ballot #3 was taken; then a Ministry Moment (video) gave us the opportunity to see some of what our youth experience at the national youth gatherings. Following that we heard the results of ballot #3. Pastor and Candy were not elected to be voting members at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, which was a little disappointing although okay at the same time. Ballot #4 was taken, which included voting for two people from our Synod to be nominated to the National ELCA Churchwide Council. These two names will be sent to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, where one will be elected to the Council.

Day #2, 10/16/21, began with opening prayer and a credentials report that we have 324 participants. A Churchwide (ELCA) Report was provided by Rev. Jaime Dubon, former Assistant to the Bishop of the FL-Bahamas Synod, and now serves the ELCA as Area Desk Director for Latin America and the Caribbean. This was followed up by a brief video from ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton reflecting on the Church's invitation into God's preferred future for the sake of the world.

A vote was held for a proposed term of office bylaw modification for Synod Council. The proposed change is to eliminate the ambiguity created by having the Synod Assembly less or more

than one year apart, such as in 2017, 2020 and now in 2021. People were elected to one-year, or three-year terms, based on regular (annual) Synod Assemblies. The COVID restrictions which resulted in the cancelled 2020 Assembly and the delayed 2021 Assembly resulted in conflicts to the original bylaws. The bylaw allows for the elected person to serve until the new person is elected. The bylaw modification was adopted.

A Ministry Moment (video) from the Synod Women of the ELCA was presented. Recognitions of anniversaries for congregations will happen at the next in-person Assembly; while anniversaries for rostered leaders were listed on the screen for 25-years, 35-years, etc. The next Synod Assembly, currently planned to be in person, will be June 3-5, 2022, at Caribe Royale Resort, Orlando. Unfinished Business included thanks to exiting V.P. Cheryl Stuart for 12 years of service and a bouquet of flowers from Bishop Suarez.

Closing worship included a Bishop's Message on Hebrew 10:24, *"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds..."* Bishop Suarez noted that too many only follow the *"how to provoke one another"* part; and, reminded us that we come to worship to remember whose we are; who we are; why we are here. That is, to provoke ourselves and others to do *"love and good deeds."*

Pastor Allman 

News from the Office Administrator

November 2021

Happy Thanksgiving month! In spite of the lingering pandemic, we have much to be grateful for: family, friends, activities resuming and our wonderful Florida weather. Do take a moment to give thanks for blessings and continue to worship with us either in person or on livestream. We do have a fellowship time following the service with individually wrapped items and coffee. Currently 25-30 folks have enjoyed their time visiting with fellow members at fellowship.

Plans are underway to resume some of the activities that we used to have, such as the Arts & Crafts Fair we have scheduled for this month on the 6th. We received many applications from vendors who are eager to participate. There is currently a waiting list for additional vendors. It looks like it will be an amazing event! The Fundraising Team has been busy planning the fair, as well as 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.

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 6th Arts & Crafts Fair 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Nov. 14-Dec. 18 - Christmas Sale

February - Rummage Sale



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>

New Subscribers (September)

2

Views

709

Minutes Watched

9,404

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

Please remember, NO open packages or containers.



NOVEMBER

STEWARDSHIP

First and foremost, please join me in thanking Debbie Andrews and Jenise German for addressing the congregation during temple talks about volunteering as part of our 2021 Stewardship emphasis in October. Each of them took major steps forward in volunteering on Ministry Teams. They know of which they speak regarding the time well spent in serving God at Redeemer.

Throughout the 8.5 years I have served as Pastor at Redeemer I have had the privilege of serving with many of you who have volunteered your time and talents. Those who have served with me, even if reluctantly at first, have realized that serving God at Redeemer provides for them an emotional and spiritual recharge. It gives more meaning and purpose to their lives as Christians when they follow Jesus' example of service.

A couple of comments stand out from those who choose to not volunteer. (1) *I'm retired now*; and, (2) *I did my church work up north. It is someone else's turn*. If those comments make sense to you, then the next time you are with a group of people at Redeemer, I encourage you to look around. 99% of the people who come to Redeemer are retired, just like you; and, 99% of the people at Redeemer came from up north too and did church work there. The simple truth is that the so-called 'someone else' does not exist at Redeemer.

The second part of Redeemer's Mission Statement is to "Grow in Faith." Maybe you are thinking that being of retirement age means you are already spiritually mature; in other words, already done growing in faith. Placing "Grow in Faith" as part of our Mission Statement was decided by people who were retired as well. They realized that we never stop growing in faith, no matter our chronological age.



Serving God, following Jesus' example laid out for us in the gospels, is one way of growing in faith as we deepen our relationship with God by helping build God's Kingdom. Imagine each week praying, *"thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"* and God's answer to your prayer is *"okay, here is what I need you to do in order to make that happen."*

We are the hands and feet of God on this earth, especially in the Sun City Center area. I firmly believe that God has brought each one of us to Redeemer for the purpose of using our God-given spiritual gift(s) to move us toward God's preferred future for Redeemer. *"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11).



GROWING IN FAITH

Would you still want to come to worship if it were a small group of people, sitting around a campfire, talking about how much they love God and love people? I can remember sitting around a campfire, out in the wilderness, with some others, talking about God/Jesus, and perhaps singing a song to the accompaniment of one acoustic guitar. Those experiences were 42-years ago, although I can vividly remember them because they were experiences, not congregations.

For what length of time can we remember coming to a worship service on any given Sunday morning? Granted, if something memorable happens it is a given; like a special day (Easter, Christmas, etc.); or, if the choir sings a favorite anthem or Cantata; or, perhaps that time the Synod Bishop came to preach (when was that?); etc. What about any other random Sunday worship service? How did Sunday Worship become routine? What stops us, individually, from 'experiencing' worship?

Rev. Richard Rohr writes, *"In Israel, Jesus and the early 'church' offered people an experience; it moved to Greece, and it became a philosophy. When it moved to Rome and Constantinople, it became organized religion. Then it spread to Europe, and it became a culture. Finally, it moved to North America and became a business. This isn't much of an exaggeration, if it's an exaggeration at all."*

In 313 A.D. Emperor Constantine declared Christianity to be the official religion of the Roman Empire. That seems like it would be a good thing, and one benefit was that it stopped persecution of the Christians, which was primarily being done by the Romans. The down side was that Constantine was more interested in furthering his own empire than God's Kingdom.

Christianity did not change Constantine; Constantine changed the Church. Christian worship began to be influenced by imperial protocol. Incense, the sign of respect for the emperor, began to appear in Christian churches. Ministers began dressing in more luxurious garments, processions and choirs developed, and eventually the people in the pew came to have a less active role in the worship. One criticism of Mega-Churches today is that they feel more like entertainment.

When younger generations are asked why they do not join a "Church" they do not claim atheism or agnosticism, they claim that they are looking for an authentic experience with Jesus. They differentiate between going to Church and experiencing Jesus. Lately I have been curious about this theory that Church in America has become a business, as opposed to an experience.

I am not saying that going to worship on Sunday morning is wrong, although 'Growing in Faith' involves a personal and authentic relationship with God through Jesus the Christ. We bring our whole selves on Sunday morning to give worship to God, to bring God honor and praise due God's Holy Name. If the purpose of going to worship on Sunday morning becomes about us and what we can get out of it for ourselves, that would make it about entertainment and consumerism (i.e. - a business).

Would you still want to come to worship if it were a small group of people, sitting around a campfire, talking about how much they love God and love people?



CHRONIC VENOUS INSUFFICIENCY (CVI)

Chronic venous insufficiency (CVI) is a condition that occurs when the venous wall and/or valves in the leg veins are not working effectively, making it difficult for blood to return to the heart from the legs. CVI causes blood to “pool” or collect in these veins which is called stasis.

From Parish Nurse Team

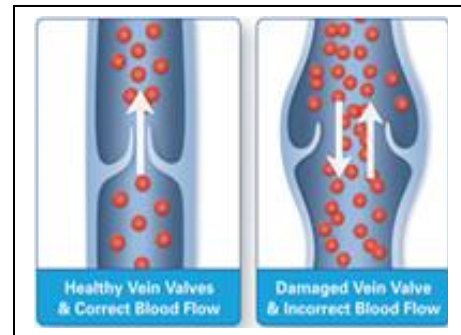
What causes chronic venous insufficiency?

Chronic venous insufficiency occurs when these valves become damaged, allowing the blood to leak backward. Valve damage may occur as the result of aging, extended sitting or standing, or a combination of aging and reduced mobility. When the veins and valves are weakened to the point where it is difficult for the blood to flow up to the heart, blood pressure in the veins stays elevated for long periods of time, leading to CVI. CVI also can occur as a result of a blood clot in the deep veins of the legs.

What are the symptoms of chronic venous insufficiency?

The earlier CVI is treated, the better the chances of preventing serious complications. Symptoms include:

- Swelling in the lower legs and ankles, especially after extended periods of standing
- Aching or tiredness in the legs
- New varicose veins
- Leathery-looking skin on the legs
- Flaking or itching skin on the legs or feet
- Venous stasis ulcers



If CVI is not treated, the pressure and swelling increase and tiny veins in the legs burst. The skin then takes on a reddish-brown color and is very sensitive to being broken if bumped or scratched. Burst capillaries can cause local tissue inflammation and internal tissue damage. This can lead to venous stasis ulcers which can be difficult to heal. If infection occurs, it can spread to surrounding tissue, a condition known as cellulitis.

CVI is diagnosed through a physical exam and a vascular ultrasound of the blood circulation in your legs.

How is chronic venous insufficiency treated or managed?

The goals of treatment are to reduce the pooling of blood and prevent leg ulcers. Vascular specialists typically recommend a combination of treatments. Some of the basic treatment strategies include:

- **Avoid long periods of standing or sitting:** If you must be sitting for a long time, frequently flex and extend your legs, feet, and ankles to keep the blood flowing in the leg veins. If you need to stand for long periods of time, take frequent breaks to sit down and elevate your feet.
- **Exercise regularly.** Walking is especially beneficial.
- **Lose weight** if you are overweight.
- **Elevate your legs** while sitting and lying down, with your legs elevated above the level of your heart.
- **Wear compression stockings**
- **Practice good skin hygiene.**

Nonsurgical treatments include sclerotherapy (medication to collapse vein) and endovenous thermal ablation (laser heat treatment). Both are outpatient procedures to close the veins. Surgical treatments involve vein removal. In severe cases, vein bypass may be needed.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st – Bob Casper
2nd – Jane Trefren
7th – Peggy Collins
8th – Dottie Peterson, Sue Smeltzer
11th – Kay Lyndahl, Jeanne Pruett
12th – Wayne Gehrke, Carolyn Robinson
13th – Dick Ihrke
14th – Betty Ferrara
17th – Nancy Konian
18th – Russell Filip
19th – Arlene Hansen
20th – Vlado Michna
21st – Jim Glass, Helen Schaefer
22nd – Diane Brace
25th – Deya Schierenbeck
26th – Betty Schuppert
27th – George Grosskopf, Dietrich Schaffer
29th – Kay Adkins
30th – Sylvia Nachbor



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3rd – Karl & Joan Wessinger
4th – Hans & Erika Barfels
6th – Steve & Karin Hagg
7th – Linda & David Cockerham
8th – Kadie & Jon Dehne
21st – Mike & Jirattikorn Corbett
23rd – Fred & Kathie Bastion



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



November



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Nov. 7 10:00 AM	Walter Geissler	Arlene Hansen, Walter Geissler, Paul Ó Braonáin	Paul Ó Braonáin
Sun. Nov. 14 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark		Judy Kiel
Sun. Nov. 21 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark	Debbie Andrews, Lucy Ann Clark, Wendy Kitzman	Debbie Andrews
Sun. Nov. 28 10:00 AM	Mike Corbett		Chuck Kovacik



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.

November Usher Team	November Altar Guild	Sound
Dan Pollerts Team	Barb Lauer & Marge Miller	Noah Allman





Help Wanted to Move Tables

The tables in Buhr Hall will need to be moved for the Arts & Crafts Fair and then Buhr Hall reset the following Monday. If you are willing to help either time, please contact the church office. Many hands will lighten the work.

Nov. 4 (Thursday) 10:00 AM - take down round tables, set up with rectangular ones

Nov. 8 (Monday) 10:00 AM - reset Buhr Hall

Arts & Crafts Fair

Please join us at our 2nd annual Arts & Crafts Fair in Buhr Hall on **Saturday, November 6** from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Since a wide variety of vendors will be present, this is your opportunity to find a treasure for yourself or a nice holiday gift. A food truck will also be on site. Profits from the sale of tables will benefit Redeemer.



ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR



Health/Hygiene Donations

WELCA thanks everyone for the very generous donations for Health & Hygiene supplies for students at Cypress Creek Elementary School. In addition to donated items, \$560 was received in cash donations and we had a \$250 Thrivent card!! Due to your generosity, we were able to donate a lot of underwear, socks, shampoo, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, hand towels, washcloths, etc. The Social Worker receiving the items was very appreciative and many kids should benefit. Thanks to Arlene Hansen and Lois Hobratschk for shopping and to Rosalie Kelleher and Lois for delivering. And thanks also to Arlene for doing the Thrivent Action Team card.



Rosalie delivering the items to the social worker at Cypress Creek Elementary School.

Christmas Sale

Since used Christmas items sell better before Christmas than at the Rummage Sale, we will be selling them in Buhr Hall between November 14th and December 19th. You can drop off your Christmas items any time after November 7th, either on Sunday or during office hours.

Electronics Recycling Event

WELCA organized an electronics recycling event that was held in Redeemer's parking lot on Wednesday, October 20th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Urban Erecycling was on-site and they collected a bunch of unwanted electronics. This event gave our community the opportunity to safely and conveniently dispose of items. Thanks to our volunteers for helping with this busy event. Urban Erecycling had so many items they had to call a second truck to help.



That's a bunch old electronics!



Christmas Cheer & Carols

This year Redeemer for Advent 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.

Mark your calendar now to attend this event. Invite your friends and neighbors to come for an evening of fun, food and fellowship. It will be too late for golf carts to be out, so if you know of someone who would need a ride, please offer one.

Sign up sheet can be found on the welcome table in the narthex. As always thank you for your support.



Choir

Now is the time to join in singing with our choir. If you have previously sung in a choir, read music, or just love to sing, please join us every Thursday at 6:45 PM for Choir practice. Call Sandy Gundacker at 634-2329 for more information.



Sunday November 7, 2021

Clocks should be turned back 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday night.



Bible Study

Members, visitors, guests, and friends, please join us for Bible Study in person or by watching on our YouTube channel, Thursdays at 10:00 AM. No prior knowledge of the Bible is required, and you don't even need to bring a Bible. One will be provided for you. No Bible study on 11/4 or 11/25.



Christmas Decorating help needed

Christmas is coming! Are you ready? Let's get in the spirit of the Holiday. The Christmas decorations for Buhr Hall will be put up on **Wednesday, November 24th**. We will meet in Buhr Hall at **9:00 AM**.

We need all the help we can get. Many hands make easy work. We have a great time and it really gets everyone in the spirit for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Please come and join us! Thank you in advance.



Veteran's Project

The local DAV is in need of a new desktop and laptop computers. As a way to support veterans, we are asking for donations during the month of November that will be used toward the purchase of these items. If you write a check to Redeemer, please state "veteran's project" on the memo line. We will also be applying for a Thrivent Action Team Card to purchase software or printer cartridges.



November 22nd is movie night!

Doors open at 5:30
(the movie is still being decided so it will be a surprise!)

Movie begins at 6:00

B.Y.O. Beverage & Snacks

PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

This is a free event.



Good Samaritan

In prior years our social ministry team had supported the Christmas Blessing event that Good Samaritan does every year. If you would like to support this event by donating gifts or by making a monetary donation, please contact Good Samaritan directly at 813-634-7136. Their annual event will be Saturday, December 4th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:30 AM-Al-Anon	2 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Womens AA	3 11:00 AM- Electric for sign	4 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-Arts & Crafts Set up 6:45 PM-Choir practice	5 9:30 AM-Quilters 3:00 PM-Vendor set up	6 9:00 AM-Arts & Crafts Fair
7 10:00 AM- Holy Communion Worship	8 10:30 AM-Al-Anon	9 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Mtg 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM- Worship & Music 3:30 PM-Womens AA	10	11 10:00 AM-Parish Nurse Meeting 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-Hybrid Bible Study 6:45 PM-Choir practice	12 9:30 AM-Quilters	13 Christmas Sale drop off
14 10:00 AM- Worship	15 10:30 AM-Al-Anon	16 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Mtg 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM – Zoom Council 3:30 PM-Womens AA 7:00 PM-Finance Team Meeting	17	18 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-Hybrid Bible Study 6:45 PM-Choir practice	19 9:30 AM-Quilters	20
21 10:00 AM- Holy Communion Worship	22 10:30 AM-Al-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting 5:30 PM-Movie night	23 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Mtg 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Womens AA	24 9:00 AM – Christmas decorating	25 Office closed for Thanksgiving	26 Office closed	27
28 10:00 AM- Worship	29 10:00 AM-WELCA Board meeting	30 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Mtg 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Womens AA				

