



RLC Newsletter

July 2022

A Message from Pastor Allman

I have been thinking about “*even if*” theology this week. It started with a radio talk show that was referencing the book of Daniel, when some of God’s faithful were ordered into the fiery furnace for not bowing down to King Nebuchadnezzar. This was the response given by the faithful, “*If you throw us into the hot furnace, the God we serve can save us. And if he wants to, he can save us from your power. But even if God does not save us, we want you to know, King, that we refuse to serve your gods*” (Daniel 3:17-18, ERV, emphasis added).

Have you ever prayed that God would get you out of a terrible situation; sometimes even a situation of your own making? I know I have, and sometimes that prayer can sound like bargaining with God. Legend has it that

Martin Luther, who was studying to be a lawyer, was traveling and got caught in a severe thunderstorm. The thunder spooked his horse, and Luther was thrown to the ground. It is said that Luther prayed for mercy and promised to become a monk if God saved him. Luther was bargaining.

The faithful in the book of Daniel did not pray to be saved, did not try to bargain with God, and, did not try to bargain with the King. They knew that God could save them, and wanted the King to know that even if God did not save them, it would not change their faith. Those two little words, even if, make a powerful statement.

A popular Christian group called “MercyMe” sings a song called “Even If,” and the refrain refers to this passage from Daniel. The

refrain is, “*I know You're able and I know You can; Save through the fire with Your mighty hand; But even if You don't; My hope is You alone.*”

I cannot imagine any of us being threatened with a fiery furnace if we do not bow down and worship a monarch; although, we all have times of trials and tribulations. We have all faced situations that are outside of our control, and we feel overwhelmed. During those times we may have prayed for God to remove us from that situation. What if God does not?

The Apostle Paul had some type of situation for which he prayed and asked God to remove. In 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 (ERV), Paul describes it this way, “*I begged the Lord three times to take this problem away from me. But the Lord said, ‘My grace is all you need.’*”

Is our faith sincere enough to not hinge on what we want God to do for us, and instead be in God alone? Can we profess a faith that says, “I know You're able and I know You can; ...But even if You don't; My hope is You alone.”

Pastor Allman ✝



Evan and Lucas shopping in New York.



Evan and Josh at Josh's high school graduation.

News from the New Office Administrator

July 2022

I am happy to be back from two wonderful vacations, California & New York. My cousins' high school graduation in California was awesome. He had more family members present in the crowd than there were in the whole graduating class of 14!

New York was also an amazing experience. It is unlike any other place I have been. I loved meeting and talking to people from all over the globe. There was no shortage of beautiful architecture, history, and amazing food. I am sure Evan will never stop telling me how much better the pizza is in New York. It's such a treasure to be able to enjoy trips like this with my family. I would love to hear some of your favorite places to travel. Feel free to send me brief emails about your favorite destinations.

There is plenty to keep us busy here, so maintenance and repair projects will continue. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, we always encourage you to share your talents by getting involved here at Redeemer.

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 Activities:

Mon. July 25th at 6:00 PM - Movie Night: *Singin' in the Rain*

Wed. July 27 at 10:30 AM- FL DNR Seminar



It's Lady Liberty back there!



Central Park Carousel.

JULY

STEWARDSHIP

"Time" is one of the categories that is normally considered part of our Stewardship – giving a percentage back to God. In June Greg & Judy Kiel gave back to God a percentage of their time by attending the Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly along with Pastor Allman. Greg and Judy spoke of their experience before worship on June 12th. Greg also currently serves as Council President. Judy creates beautiful banners that have been used in the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. Redeemer is very grateful for their ministry of time (and talents).

The Credentials report given at the Synod Assembly on Saturday morning said there were a total of 344 (152 Lay & 192 Rostered) in attendance. The Synod Spending Plan of \$2.6 million was approved. A Resolution passed and is being sent to the Churchwide Assembly in August requesting that The Statement on Human Sexuality from 2009 be reviewed and updated where necessary. A separate resolution failed to be considered because of inaccuracies in several statements in the "whereas" section, and several unconstitutional statements in the "resolves" section. A total of 4518 pounds of non-perishable food and hygiene items were collected and donated to Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida.



Bishop Darius Bultena (General Presbyter and Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Tropical Florida) of the Presbyterian Church USA brought greetings

and words of appreciation for being partners in "full communion." He also discussed their Mission & Ministry goals to establish Leadership Development; Widen Discipleship; Vital Worship; Community Engagement; Clarity of Identity; et. al.

Nancy Going of Vibrant Faith will be leading the Synod Council through a Vision to Action process regarding the wise use of monies brought from the sale of St. James, Coral Gables. She will lead them through a process to: name the realities; how God is calling now; how to put the Synod Mission Statement indicators into action; listening deeply; dreaming and visioning; et. al.

Jim LaDoux, also of Vibrant Faith, suggested that congregations can benefit by entering into a similar process within our individual means, which can lead to transforming our present into God's preferred future. The main objective is to ask "God questions" (what does God want?): How might we shift our focus? What do we measure? What do we celebrate? What are the norms? What topic shows up at each meeting? What could take its place? Is there something better? How do we reinvent the map to move forward? What do we do? How will we do it? What is the time line?

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Luis R. Torres-Hostos, Founding Dean & Professor, School of Social Work, at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley who focused his presentation around the Assembly theme of "Joyful, Patient, Faithful."



Dr. Torres-Hostos began by speaking of “implicit bias” which he provided an example as “if we always see certain people in the same positions, it develops an implicit bias in us.” For example: if we always see doctors who are white our implicit bias will become that all doctors are white. If we always see janitors who are black or brown then our implicit bias will become that all janitors are black or brown. Our brains will become “wired” toward these expectations and we will naturally mistrust anything (anyone) that does not fit into the norm of our implicit bias. He promotes choosing to see God in the “other” (who is not like us) which will rewire our “implicit bias” to embrace diversity.



He also spoke of the common afflictions of our day, which on a grand scale include mass shootings, the war in Ukraine, the ongoing COVID pandemic, economic pricing (gas, food, housing, etc.) and others. These add to our feelings of anxiety and tend to make us less patient with others and the systems. He promotes a way to counter these individual feelings by practicing sharing, hospitality, and mercy. Again, we begin by choosing to see God in the “other.” One cliché says that you can never look upon another human being that does not bear the image of God – we are all created in God’s image.



RE: faithful; Dr. Torres-Hostos asks each of us to consider whether we are faithful in prayer, steadfast in affection, adhere to our promises, and strong in our assurances. Ask: What do we pray for? How much (often) do we pray? Do we nuance

(partition, guard) our prayers? Does prayer feel overwhelming or scary? Are we afraid of what God might tell us? He promotes the idea that we not force prayer; we do not have to feel guilty if our mind wanders – just bring it back; and, see where God will take us in our prayer time. He also promotes intentionality, humility and patience in our prayers – set a time and place; acknowledge that we need God’s compassion, mercy and the ability to forgive ourselves.



RE: Joyful; teaching that we remain joyful in hope. Dr. Torres-Hostos promotes that hope means we keep looking forward, never without hope, because (as the cliché says) “this too will pass.” We can choose faith in every situation; trusting God even as we hope for the best. And, that joy is our birthright in Christ, even in difficult times.



GROWING IN FAITH

Unlike physical growth (maturity) we cannot always see spiritual growth with our eyes. On the other hand, we -- and others -- may bear witness to our spiritual growth by how our living changes and takes shape. As we grow spiritually -- become spiritually mature -- our priorities change, usually in direct relation to our physical life changes.

For those of us who have raised children, we have seen them go through stages of development. Sometimes they handle the stages well, and sometimes they do not handle them too well. Brian McLaren (life development analyst) teaches that the stages we adults see so easily in children are harder to see in ourselves. The workaholism of our thirties and forties? Just a stage. The obsessions with weight or wrinkles of our forties and fifties? Just a stage. Anxieties about empty nesting or retirement savings? (This is me right now) Just a stage. Facing death and experiencing denial, anger, depressions, or bargaining? (This may be some of you right now) Just a stage. And each stage will pass into another.

As we physically mature, we are thrust into these stages of development without our consent. How has this impacted our spiritual maturity? McLaren continues that spiritual development is affected by each new stage of our human development. The reverse is also true: our growth (or lack of growth) in spirituality inhibits or unleashes our cognitive, relational, and emotional growth. Their relationship is reciprocal. How could it be otherwise?



McLaren's teaching helps me look back at times when my workaholism threatened my family well-being, yet really did not grow the church or my spirituality as I presumed it would. Obsessing over my aging body also reciprocated into negative spiritual growth. Worries about our children moving away permanently, and how we can afford to retire also reciprocates into negative spiritual growth. What is the answer for the future?

We might presume that physical maturity automatically brings spiritual maturity, although I have not found that to be the case. To Grow in Faith, as the second part of our Mission Statement says, requires intentionality. Will I remain stuck in my "negative spiritual growth" as I journey through my physical life stages?

I think when Jesus gave us the two Great Commandments -- love God with everything in us and love our neighbor as ourselves -- he was encouraging us to see individual things/desires in larger and larger contexts. I think Jesus was encouraging us to see God, ourselves, and our neighbor all interrelated and interdependent. The 'communion of saints' is not merely an abstract; the community is an important part of our physical maturity and our spiritual maturity.



As of MAY 2022

4 New Subscribers

Views: 609

Minutes watched: 7,133

Five How-to Tips for Visiting a Person with Dementia

About five million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia. The disease affects thought, language, and memory. You may have a family member with dementia, or you may know someone in our congregation or in the community. You may be a caregiver, or you may want to help someone who is a caregiver. Understanding the nature of the disease will help you look after a loved one, a caregiver, or yourself.

1. Learn to speak dementia.

Language shifts with the disease, and a person with dementia may generate conversational language even in late stages but have more trouble understanding. Avoid using the verbal shorthand friends readily understand. You might say "I know you like the social stuff" and the person with dementia does not understand what the "social stuff" is. Consider what language sounds like from the perspective of someone who is losing ability.

*From Parish
Nurse Team*

2. Sift questions carefully.

"Are you ready for the holiday?" The person with dementia may not even know what time of year it is. "What did you have for lunch?" Short term memory loss would make this question impossible. "Remember? I said I was coming back." No, the person does not remember. Many people with dementia will feel that they "should" be able to answer, and the inability to do so causes emotional distress. Craft conversations around the current activity. "Would you like to go for a walk?" "Shall we have a cup of coffee?"

3. Provide orientation hooks.

A visit with someone with dementia will go more smoothly if you subtly help the person orient to the moment. "It's a sunny day for the middle of January." "I'm Jane from church, and I enjoy coming to see you on Fridays." "It's almost time for lunch. Are you hungry?"

4. Be invitational.

As the disease progresses, even the simplest decisions can be overwhelming. Rather than asking "What do you feel like having for lunch?" say "I'll make us some tuna sandwiches." Rather than "What would you like to do this afternoon?" say "I brought this photo album to look at together."

5. Be patient.

Mental processing for many people slows as part of aging, and dementia in any form slows cognitive responses. As you make conversation, avoid filling every bit of silence. The person with dementia may be trying to form a response, a process that is disrupted by more language coming too fast. Even finding shoes and getting ready to leave the room can take longer, though the person is capable of the task without the stress of being rushed. If your visit wakes someone from a nap, allow time for the person to rouse. Offer a glass of water rather than a rush of language.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2nd – Ruth Lehnors
4th - Linda Miller, David Schierenbeck
6th – Doris Long, Nancy Philips
**7th –Audrey Erickson, Jackie Flynn,
Bob Shields**
8th – Laura Akins
9th – Betty Johnson
10th –Howard Baker, Phyllis Mead
11th – Judy Quitsch, Wendy Kitzman
13th – Linda Kovach
14th – Joe Ercegovich
15th- James Fredrickson
17th- Jim McCaw, Sammy Samuelson
20th –Nina Smart, Linda Cockerham
21st – Maggie Byrd, Mirdza Drengers,
22nd – Margaret Miller



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1st - Jim & Sue Smeltzer
15th – David & LaDonna Kiefer
23rd – Vlado & Eva Michna
29th – Dick & Pat Fricke
30th – Mike & Angie Wiechers



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



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. July 3 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark	Lucy Ann Clark, Mike Corbett, Kathy Jones	Mike Corbett
Sun. July 10 10:00 AM	Mike Corbett		Jim Schwartz
Sun. July 17 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark	Lucy Ann Clark, Mike Corbett, Arlene Hansen	Chuck Buskirk
Sun. July 24 10:00 AM	Kathy Jones		Rosalie Kelleher
Sun. July 31 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Sheri Knaub



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 & Camera
Arlene Hansen Team	Judy Buskirk	Volunteers





Volunteer Gardener Needed

We are looking for someone to help keep our memorial garden pretty. The area is small so this task will not take very long to complete. We are looking to have someone pull weeds and water when it is drier than normal. There is no specific day or time, although the sun is less direct there in the mornings. If you are willing to help please contact Kadie in the office.



Florida DNR Seminar July 27th

There are many considerations, both personal and legal when planning to implement a Do Not Resuscitate order (DNR) in the State of Florida. Redeemer Lutheran Church will host a detailed session about Florida DNR for parishioners on Wednesday July 27, 2022, at 10:30 AM. This session will describe the steps to obtain a Florida DNR, the differences between a DNR and Advanced Directives, and how to ensure that your DNR is honored, should you decide to have one. Your presenters have broad experience in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as current

members of the Sun City Emergency Squad and will be there to present the information as well as take your questions about DNR.

Your presenters for this session are:

- Linda Eargle PHD, Emergency Medical Responder
- Mary Christiano MS, Team Captain, Emergency Medical Technician

Following this informative session there will be a luncheon at 11:30. FREE

If you or a loved one wants to know more about Florida DNR, please come and learn more. There will be blank DNR forms available.

Special Mission Project for July (and June)

Sponsored by Redeemer WELCA

Meet Yvette Moy – Mission Worker and Seminary Student

Yvette is currently assisting Lutheran Social Services in resettling approximately 4,000 Afghan refugees in the Metro DC area. She remains area coordinator for the Crescent Project, an outreach to Muslims. Yvette is passionate about sharing the love of Christ. Her greatest joy is to equip individuals and congregations to share the Gospel with their friends and neighbors to fulfill Christ's command to make disciples of all nations. She has served in women's and healing prayer ministries at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Springfield, VA. In 2015, the Board of Directors of the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod selected Yvette as one of only three recipients of the Servant of Christ Award to recognize her lifetime of ministry among youth, homeless, Hispanics, and Muslims as well as short-term mission trips to China, Haiti, and Turkey. This year, Yvette will graduate from Fuller Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity.

Yvette is looking to pursue ministries in these areas after graduation and needs financial support. We will be continue raising funds as a congregational project during the month of July.

Several of you may remember Yvette as the Seminary student who was the recipient of some rummage sale funds and did a presentation here at WELCA on her ministries. Yvette is a long-time friend of Marion Giblin.

Please write "Special Mission Project" on your check or envelope.



Food Pantry

Thank you for your continued support of our local food pantry.

Please place donated items for the food pantry in the narthex closet.

Please remember, NO open packages or containers and NO items requiring refrigeration.



The food pantry can also use clean egg cartons. Once you finish your eggs consider bringing the carton with your canned good donations.



Treats on Father's Day

Thanks to WELCA board members for providing treats to all men attending church on Father's Day. Goodie bags were also delivered to all homebound men and those with a special need.



Our next movie Monday will be July 27th. Doors open at 5:30 PM. Chili & dessert will be provided so please sign up. The sign-up sheet can be found on the welcome table. Bring your own beverages.

This event is free but please bring a nonperishable food item for donation to the local food pantry.

July Movie: Singin' in the Rain



62 Colossians

Y Q E R H O L Y L I V I N G T
 I A P H L Y Y S Y S A T R Y Q
 H H I Y O V B E S X S A X N Q
 S D S M T M R E K S C F W O C
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 J T D D H M O D E E R F C F V

COLOSSI
 COMPASSION
 EPISTLE
 FIRSTBORN
 FREEDOM

GENTLENESS
 GLORY
 GRACE
 HOLY LIVING
 HUMILITY

HYMNS
 KINDNESS
 PATIENCE
 PAUL
 PSALMS

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:30 AM- Quilters	2
3 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	4 10:30 AM-Al-Anon	5 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	6	7 10:00 AM-OA Group	8 9:30 AM- Quilters	9
10 10:00 AM-Worship	11 10:30 AM-Al-Anon	12 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	13	14 9:00 AM-Parish Nurse Meeting 10:00 AM-OA Group	15 9:30 AM- Quilters	16
17 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	18 10:30 AM-Al-Anon	19 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	20	21 10:00 AM-OA Group	22 9:30 AM- Quilters	23 10:00 AM-Mem Service E. Domroes
24 10:00 AM-Worship	25 10:00 AM-WELCA Board Meeting 10:30 AM-Al-Anon 5:30 PM-Movie Night	26 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	27 10:30 AM- DNR Program	28 10:00 AM-OA Group	29 9:30 AM- Quilters	30
31 10:00 AM-Worship						

