



RLC Newsletter

September
2022

OKTOBERFEST HYMN SING OCT. 10TH

A Message from Pastor Allman

School is back in session; buses are operating; we are collecting school supplies; etc. These are all signs that summer is over. This has been a fairly typical summer at Redeemer: in-person attendance has dropped; offerings are down; ministry teams postponed meeting; while expenses have remained constant or increased.

Even though this has been a common experience over my thirty-seven years of ordained ministry, it still is worrisome. Redeemer folks have traditionally made up the differences of expenses over offerings before the end of the year, yet this is still worrisome. Redeemer folks have proven their generosity year after year, yet this is still worrisome.

I completely understand how life sometimes happens. Sometimes

I arrive for worship on Sunday morning and realize that I forgot to write out my offering check. Has this ever happened to you? Sometimes, another week goes by and my mind fills with stuff I need to get done, and I arrive for worship on Sunday morning and realize that I forgot to write out my offering check again. Maybe that only happens to me two weeks in a row. Sometimes I find myself behind on my estimate of giving, so I need to write a "make-up" check for my missed offerings.

That may not happen to you. If it does, please know that I completely understand, because it happens to me too. Also, please be assured that what you give is strictly between you and God. No one at Redeemer is tracking you to see if you are "giving enough!" Each year we encourage Redeemer folks to

have a conversation with God about how much the two of you decide to give in offering. We do encourage Redeemer folks to complete an estimate of giving card, yet no one is checking to see if you did. This year's stewardship emphasis will encourage you and God to have a fresh new conversation about your offering.

In the months ahead you will read and hear more about Consecration Sunday, which is the stewardship emphasis we have used in the past, so it will sound familiar to many. It focuses more on why it is important to God that believers give back out of what God has given to us. The question each of us is encouraged to consider is, *"What is God calling me to do?"* That opens the conversation between you and God. No one else can answer that for you. My

encouragement is to open that conversation now, and spend some time with God discerning your current offering and your offerings in 2023. As always, Redeemer thanks you for your generosity.

Pastor Allman 



As of July 2022

3 New Subscribers

Total subscribers 219

Views: 659

Minutes watched: 7,564

Our channel is:

Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center Florida

News from the Office Administrator

September 2022

As I write this my younger son, Lucas, has started kindergarten. Many of you may remember when I had him back in 2017. Time sure passes by quickly!

We are happy to announce New Member Sunday is coming in October. This will be a chance for our new members to stand up and get recognized in the service if they would like to. The last New Member Sunday was last October, so if you have joined in the past year, you will be included in this group. If you are interested in becoming a member, just ask any member of the church staff for more information.

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:

Sun. Oct 9: New member Sunday

Mon. Oct. 10: Oktoberfest 4:30 PM

Wed. Oct. 19: Senior Nutrition Presentation

Thur. Nov 3: Volunteers needed to set up Buhr Hall for Arts & Crafts Fair

Sat. Nov. 5: 3rd Annual Arts & Crafts Fair from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Wed. Nov. 16 at 10:30 AM- FL DNR Seminar

Sun. Nov 20 – Dec. 18: Christmas Sale

Mon. Nov 28: South Shore Concert Band at 7:00 PM in Buhr Hall (check with Sandy)

Wed. Dec. 7: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Dementia Workshop, Lunch to follow.

Sun. Dec. 11: Congregational Spending Plan Meeting

Wed. Jan 18: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM-Dementia Screening

SEPTEMBER

STEWARDSHIP

"If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs..." (Isaiah 58: 9b-11a; NRSVUE)



Isaiah was speaking to a group of those returning from the Babylonia Exile. Imagine a group of tired, hungry and desolate refugees. Around 50,000 Jews walked approximately 1680 miles over mountains and through deserts. Compare the distance roughly to walking from Tampa, FL to Minneapolis, MN. Even under the best conditions, with people in great health, with an average of three miles per hour, it would consume 560 hours of walking time. Walking 24 hours per day would still take a little more than three weeks.

The refugees arrived in Jerusalem, likely after months of walking, exhausted and probably having suffered injuries and casualties along the way. They have brought little to nothing with them except bare essentials. The city is still in ruins. The Temple is still a pile of rubble. There are people living there, and some will be Jews, along with other ethnicities; yet, remember the exile had already lasted seventy years, so those who "return" likely had never been there before. They have virtually come home, yet it has not yet been their home, and it still shows signs of having been ravaged by war.



How would you feel if you were among them? After thinking about how you would feel; how would you react to God telling you to think of others before yourself: *"...offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted..."*? I imagine myself thinking, *"I really don't have anything offer."* The refugees likely felt like they were the hungry and the afflicted. They likely felt like they could not take care of themselves, much less others. Yet, there always seems to be someone worse off, and God challenges us to share, even if it is a meager amount.

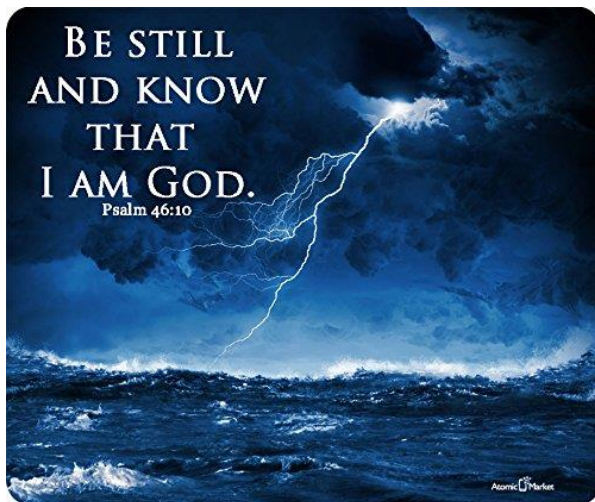
"(Jesus) sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on'" (Mark 12:41-44).



GROWING IN FAITH

What does it mean when God says, “*Be still?*” No, that is not God’s way of telling us to “*shut up,*” although there is virtue in listening instead of doing all of the talking. There is a modern-day proverb that says something about God giving us two ears and one mouth so that we listen twice as much as we talk.

“*Be still, and know that I am God!*” (Psalm 46:10) is also not about taking a day of rest and going to the beach. Psalm 46 was used during times of trouble and war, so there is a component that encourages us to discover peace when surrounded by trouble. There is an underlying sense of a “wake up” call for people overly focused on problems to turn their attention to God, “*...our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble*” (Ps 46:1).



Psalm 46 is all about security with God, and that God is our true home. It is mostly written in third-person, although at verse 10 there is a change and God speaks directly to the people (us). God calls us to stop everything we are doing, thinking and feeling and put all of our focus on him. God is higher than all else and able to rule above all. Have you ever tried to stop everything you are doing, thinking and feeling? I am not saying that is simple. I am saying that is what God wants from us

at times. Some called those times “centering prayer” or “contemplative prayer.” It is a time of shutting out everything else and focusing everything within us on God.



I know at least one person right now is thinking/saying, “*I could never do that.*” And, my response is “*Yes, you can; because if I could learn how, so can you.*” There is no ‘one right way’ to do contemplative prayer. A general suggestion is to sit comfortably with your eyes closed, relax, and quiet yourself. “Be” in love and faith to God. Choose a sacred word that best supports your sincere intention to be in the Lord’s presence and open to His divine action within you. It is not complicated; although it does take practice, and in this circumstance, practice is a good thing.

Summary of the Guidelines

- 1. Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God’s presence and action within.**
- 2. Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God’s presence and action within.**
- 3. When engaged with your thoughts (which include body sensations, feelings, images and reflections), return ever-so-gently to the sacred word.**
- 4. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.**

Help Available 24/7 for Everyone - Text or Call 988 Day or Night

New number means easier access for mental health assistance

Too many people are in need of mental health assistance, and sometimes, it is not easily accessible for everyone. But not anymore. People can call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org for themselves or if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support whenever or wherever they are.

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) [transitioned the 10-digit National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to the three-digit number](#) to be easier for those in need to access.

The confidential, free, 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year information service is available in English and Spanish. The service provides referrals to local treatment facilities, support groups, and community-based organizations. The new number will also be used for the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) for Veterans and their loved ones to access for help.

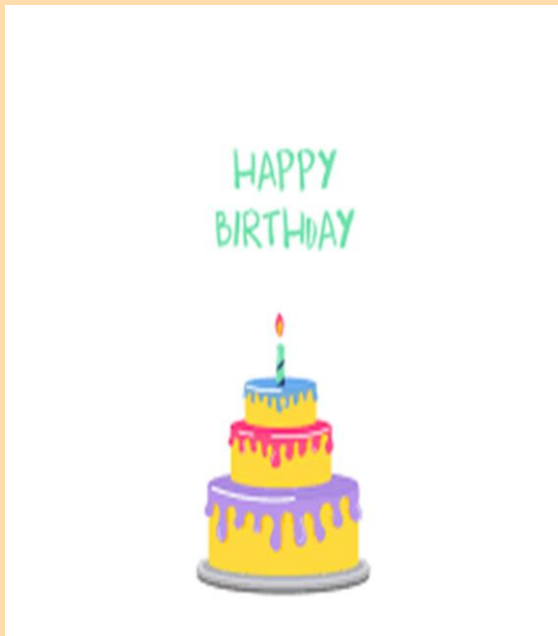
In 2021, the Lifeline received 3.6 million calls, chats, and texts. That number is expected to at least double within the first full year after the 988 transition. According to SAMHSA, studies have shown that after speaking with a trained crisis counselor, most Lifeline callers are significantly more likely to feel less depressed, less suicidal, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful.



From Parish Nurse Team

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4th – Noah Allman, Jack Kitzman
8th – Ted Wilson
12th – Hal Wold
14th – Dean Beltz, Mary Christiano
17th - Robert Turner, Bob Southwell Jr.
18th – Jerry DeCarbo
23rd – Edie Moose, Kurt Nolden
27th – Mike Almaguer, Dottie Drouin



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

**10th –Chuck & Sue Kovacik
Dick & Dorothy Paulson**
17th – Rich & Anne Doerfler
19th – Larry & Laura Akins
22nd – Walter & Esther Geissler
29th – Sal & Betty Ferrara
30th –Howard & Darlene Baker



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



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Sept 4 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark	Lucy Ann Clark, Richard Meredith, Denise Fitzpatrick	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. Sept 11 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Chuck Kovacik
Sun. Sept 18 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark	Paul Ó Braonáin, Lucy Ann Clark, René Buggs	Paul Ó Braonáin
Sun. Sept 25 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz		Sherri Knaub

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please consider being an acolyte and/or communion assistant

If you are not on the schedule would like to be scheduled in the future or if you are unable to help on your scheduled day please contact Carolyn Cole at 813-812-7527.

September Usher Team	September Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Arlene Hansen's Team	Cathy Lindsey & Erika Barfels	Volunteers





School Supplies

WELCA will continue collecting school supplies during September for Cypress Creek Elementary School. Since schools get a lot of supplies at the beginning of the school year, we decided to deliver items a little later when some of those supplies run out.

School Supply List

- Composition Notebooks
- Thermal lunch boxes (gender neutral)
- Pocket folders (prongs/brads, plastic)
- Printer/copier paper
- Spiral Notebook (wide ruled, 1 subject)
- Dry/erase markers (Expo, black and thin/fine tip, black)
- Clorox Disinfecting wipes (bleach free, canister)
- Kleenex Facial Tissues (box)
- Hand Sanitizer (30 oz. bottle)
- Ziplock Storage Bags (gallon size)



Church Membership

We are always welcoming new members, it's a great time to join. Ask Mike or Kadie for additional information.

It has been a while since we had a new member Sunday event. The next New Member Sunday is scheduled for October 9.



October 9th

First day of school

My youngest son Lucas just started kindergarten at LLT Academy South Bay in Ruskin on August 17th. Lucas has been a little nervous about being at such a big school but he likes his teacher and loves playing on the playground with his classmates.



Thank you from Yvette Moy

Sisters & Brothers at Redeemer,

Appreciate your generous gift blessing my seminary education. I continue my work with Lutheran Social Services settling Afghan refugees. I also hope to reach 18-27 year olds who seek identity, belonging and community.

Peace, Yvette Moy



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.



Our next movie Monday will be September 26. Doors open at 5:30 PM. Dinner 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.

September Movie: The Upside



The film follows a paralyzed billionaire (Bryan Cranston) who strikes up an unlikely friendship with a recently paroled convict (Kevin Hart) whom he hires to take care of him.

IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions

We want to let you know that Redeemer Lutheran Church is qualified as a public charity under section 170(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code and is able to receive qualified charitable distributions from your IRA. All or a portion of your gift may qualify as a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA under section 408(d)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code and the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015. **Please note: A QCD is not a tax-deductible charitable gift. A QCD may, however, count towards the annual IRA required minimum distribution (RMD) and not be deemed taxable income.** Please consult with your own professional tax advisor regarding this and all appropriate matters. Please remember Redeemer when doing your estate planning. Thank you for supporting Redeemer!

2022 WELCA Fall Gathering "Step by Step" November 11-13th.

The Fall Gathering is to be held at The Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center in Leesburg, Florida. This year's theme is **Step by Step** based on Proverbs 16:9 (NLT). We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

You can register for this event by online, email, mail. Grants are available on a first come first serve basis through the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization. For more information on this event please visit www.flwelca.com and click on the 2022 Fall Gathering tab on the upper left hand side of the screen.



Arts & Crafts Fair November 5th

Redeemer Lutheran will hold our third annual Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday, November 5th from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. This event is open to the community so please be sure to tell your friends. There will be over 40 vendors with various items for sale, such as pottery, homemade greeting cards, beach bags and totes, wood & leather crafted items, wreaths, paintings, jewelry and much more. Baked goods will also be available for purchase. All proceeds from the Arts & Crafts Fair and baked goods sale will benefit projects and benevolences here at Redeemer. We will also have a number of baskets to raffle off. Entrance is free so bring a friend!

Bakers Needed!!

We will be selling baked goods at this years Arts & Crafts Fair, just like we have done in the past at our rummage sale. We are looking for our bakers to help us raise money by making their baked treats and bring them to the church on Friday, November 4th between 2:00 PM & 5:00 PM. If you are making an item that contains nuts please be sure to note it on the items.



Help needed to move tables

The tables in Buhr hall will need to reset before and after the Art & Crafts Fair. If you are able to help please meet in Buhr Hall on November 3 at 10:00 AM. The more volunteers we have the faster set up with go.

The Christmas Sale is coming

We will start collecting Christmas items to use in our Christmas sale starting in November. If you have items to donate, please hold them until collection begins on November 7th. The Christmas Sale will run on Sundays from November 20 through December 18th in Buhr Hall.



Rummage Sale

The Fundraising Team is in the process of planning our annual rummage sale for Friday, February 3 and Saturday, February 4, 2023. Additional details will be announced in the upcoming months.



Feb 3 & 4

Oktoberfest Hymn Sing

On Monday, October 10th, Buhr Hall will host our next Oktoberfest Hymn Sing. Come and join us for Oktoberfest at Redeemer. Bring your own beer, wine, or non-alcoholic beverage. Munchies will be provided in theme with Oktoberfest, such as brats, hot dogs, potato salad, ice tea, and more. If you would like to bring something to share you are welcome to do so. We'll drink and sing hymns beginning at 4:30 PM until 6:00 PM—early enough for our friends on golf carts to get home before dark.

Beer and Hymns has been done in many ELCA churches over the past several years. It will be a fun evening. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the local food pantry. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a friend! Put October 10th on your calendar for an enjoyable evening.

Labor Day Reminder

September 5, 2022 the church office will be closed in observance of Labor Day.



School Fundraiser Time

It is that time again for my son Evan's fundraiser for Pepin Academy. Many of you have made a purchase or donation in the past and have asked to be notified when it is here again. So it's here, if you would like to know more let me know. The date to turn in funds is September 6th. Thanks, Kadie



September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM- AA Group NO CHOIR PRACTICE	2 9:30 AM-Quilters	3
4 10:00 AM- Holy Communion Worship	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA Buhr Hall reserved thru 9/10	7	8 10:00 AM-OA Group 10:00 AM-Fundraising Team Mtg 5:30 PM- AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	9 9:30 AM-Quilters	10
11 10:00 AM- Worship	12 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	13 1:00 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-Women's AA	14	15 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM- AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	16 9:30 AM-Quilters	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 5:30 PM- AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	23 9:30 AM-Quilters	24
25 10:00 AM- Worship	26 10:00 AM-WELCA Board Meeting 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting 5:30 Movie Night	27 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	28	29 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM- AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	30 9:30 AM-Quilters	

