

THE LUTHER SPRINGS SOUND PROJECT IS COMPLETE!

# RLC Newsletter

## May 2023

### A Message from Pastor Allman

The Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven is mentioned more than 80 times in the New Testament. Jesus only mentioned Church three times in two places in Matthew's Gospel. In Jesus' usage, the Church is believers called-out from the community to look after the community's wellbeing. In his book, "Kingdom Come," Rev. Dr. Reggie McNeal says, *"By definition the church (ecclesia) referred to people who were never meant to focus on themselves or itself"* (page xvi). In what we call the "Lord's Prayer," Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom Come...;" so our question to ourselves must be, "How serious are we about that prayer?"

As the "new" Council began in 2023 I asked each of them to enthusiastically pray that God

reveal to them God's preferred future for Redeemer. From God's response we will develop short-term goals (1-2 years) and long-range goals (3-5+ years). I have also asked each of you at Redeemer to enthusiastically pray for God to reveal God's preferred future for Redeemer to our leaders.

The purpose of the Church is to take up where Jesus left off in doing God's Mission in the world. McNeal writes, *"...for missional thinkers, church is a verb, a way of being in the world... in short, church is not a thing, it is a who. It is the people of God... Everywhere we go and everything we do is informed by our relationship with God..."* (pages 8-9). That includes us at Redeemer.

God is not asking the people at Redeemer to fix the whole world. When we think that way, we feel overwhelmed and quit before we start. God is asking the people at Redeemer to discover the needs within the South Shore area that we can help with and do so. The Mission of God's Kingdom involves people helping people experience life as God intends it. That is not simply a platitude, it is the bedrock truth of God's Kingdom.

Sharing the gospel means much more than passing along information about securing personal salvation. Every good deed and expression of goodwill points to the Kingdom of God. McNeal writes, *"The Kingdom narrative is that God is at work in the world today, redeeming and restoring life to its intended*

design. These efforts stretch across all domains of human endeavor. Everyone has the opportunity to get in on God's Kingdom agenda" (pages 57-58).

If you are still alive and reading this, then God is not yet finished with you, and you have an opportunity to get in on God's Kingdom agenda. The first step is to enthusiastically pray for God to reveal God's preferred future for you; and, commit to taking that first step.

*Pastor Allman* 

**Thank you for donating items for the food pantry in the narthex closet. Please remember, NO open packages or containers.**



*Please remember Redeemer when doing your estate planning*

## News from the Office Administrator

### May 2023

Thanks to everyone that made Pastor Allman's 10-year anniversary at Redeemer special. All of the cookies were great!

***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 Events:

**Tuesday, May 2-** 10:30 Home Safety for Seniors with lunch in Buhr Hall

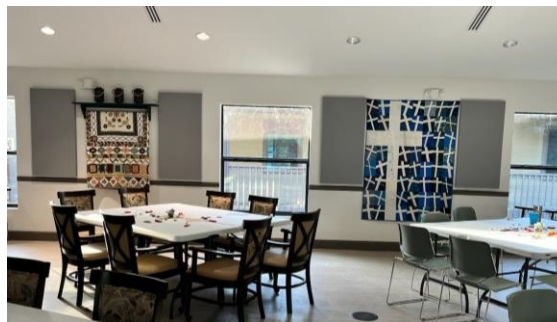
**Friday, May 19-** 11:30 AM -1:00 PM-Advance Directives Play at Prince of Peace, must RSVP by May 15<sup>th</sup>. See article for more details

**Monday, May 22 at 5:30 PM** – Movie Night, bring your own drinks and snacks doors open at 5:30PM, movie at 6:00 PM

**Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>-** Blood Pressure Checks following worship

### Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible to have the proper sound effect in the chapel at Luther Springs. Here are some pictures of what we can accomplish together.



# MAY STEWARDSHIP

According to recent statistics, the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population is people who are 80 years and older. These “Super seniors” are forging new ground in aging. Some model an active lifestyle. Others have a zest for life -- from a walker or wheelchair! -- that is contagious. The super seniors who lead ministry teams and congregations, quilt, knit and crochet; or greet others with a smile are potential role models.



However, even a supportive environment of super seniors will not provide enough fuel to power Redeemer’s future indefinitely. We all must be open to ongoing service in God’s Kingdom. Each one of us has been created to make a contribution to growing God’s Kingdom. There is no retirement plan from serving God; at least not on this earth. God designed each of us to continue making a difference; and, I contend that God has brought each person to Redeemer for a specific purpose – this is your ministry or service at Redeemer, now.

We do not serve in order to earn points toward entrance into heaven. We do not get a pass on the day of accountability. We do not serve God out of guilt or fear, or even because it is a duty. We serve God out of a sense of joy and deep gratitude for what God has already done for us. In Matthew 20, Jesus told his disciples, “Whoever wants to be great

*must become a servant... That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not be served...”* (27-28, Msg). Pastor Rick Warren writes, “A non-serving Christian is a contradiction in terms” (Purpose Driven Life, page 229).

Paul writes in Ephesians 2: 8-10, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them” (NRSV). Many people read verses 8-9 and stop there. Yes, we are saved by God’s Grace; and God also provides us with a purpose to do good works.

Each of us is going to spend our time in service to something: a career, a sport, a hobby, a leisure activity, power, money, etc. None of those will have lasting, eternal significance. Service in God’s Kingdom is a pathway to significance. How long a person lives is not nearly as significant as how a person lives. God gives us abilities, interests, talents, gifts, personality, and life experiences that can all be used to bring glory to God. In 1 Corinthians 12:7 Paul writes, “The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others” (CEV). What are you passionate about? How can you use that to bring glory to God?



*The Spirit has given each  
of us a special way of  
serving others” (CEV)*



# GROWING IN FAITH

We were created to become like Christ. Anyone who is not yet exactly like Christ has room to grow. This is not the same as a desire to be a god. That desire rears its ugly head every time we try to control our circumstances, control our future, control people around us, etc. The desire to be like Christ is the desire to allow Christ to transform our character. Paul writes in Philippians 2:5, *"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."*



God wants each of us to develop the mind of Christ as described in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, chapters 5-7); that which is listed as the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23); Paul's great love chapter (1 Corinthians 13); and Peter's description of participating in divine nature (2 Peter 1:5-7). As

soon as you conform to everything in those Bible sections, we can move on to step two.

Years ago, a youth group held a fund raiser by selling WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) bracelets. They were wildly popular for a season. I do not object to that sentiment, although that only lasts for a moment. Paul teaches that we become like Christ by allowing the mind of Christ to be in us. Imitating Christ for a moment is not long lasting. Allowing Christ to inhabit us generates growth throughout a lifetime. Spiritual maturity develops over time; and does not automatically come with chronological age.

Paul writes, *"...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God"* (Romans 12:2 NRSV). Your character is known by the sum of your habits; either you are conformed to the world, or you are transformed by Christ.

Being transformed by Christ requires that each of us make the counter-cultural decision to focus on becoming more like Jesus. Millions of Christians grow older yet never grow in faith – being transformed by Christ. I have said before that many people attending Church stopped growing in faith around the age of thirteen, when they made their Confirmation. Spiritual growth is not automatic; it must be intentional. We understand that muscles atrophy over time if they are not used. We can apply that same principle to our spiritual 'muscle;' it will atrophy over time without use.

Christianity is more than a religion or a philosophy. Christianity involves relationship, which produces transformation, which shows in our lifestyles.



## From the Parish Nurse Team

**Remembering When™** A FIRE AND FALL PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS

# How to Prevent Fires



**1** **If you smoke, smoke outside.** Provide smokers with large, deep, sturdy ashtrays. Wet cigarette butts and ashes before throwing them out or bury them in sand. Never smoke in bed. Never smoke if oxygen is used in the home.

**2** **Give space heaters space.** Keep them at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from anything that can burn—including you. Shut off heaters when you leave or go to bed.

**3** **Stay in the kitchen when frying food.** Never leave cooking unattended. Wear tight-fitting or short sleeves when cooking. Use oven mitts to handle hot pans. If a pan of food catches fire, slide a lid over it and turn off the burner. Don't cook if you are drowsy from alcohol or medication.

**4** **Stop, drop, and roll.** If your clothes catch on fire stop (don't run), drop gently to the ground, and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over or back and forth to put out the fire. Use cool water for 3-5 minutes to cool the burn. Get medical help right away.

**5** **Smoke alarms save lives.** Have smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, inside each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area. For the best protection, use interconnected alarms so when one sounds, they all sound. Make sure everyone in your home can hear the smoke alarms. Test the alarms monthly.

**6** **Plan and practice your escape from fire and smoke.** If possible, plan two ways out of every room in your home and two ways out of your home. Make sure windows and doors open easily. If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.

**7** **Know your local emergency number.** Your emergency number may be 9-1-1 or the fire department's phone number. Once you have escaped a fire, call the fire department from a neighbor's phone or a cell phone.

**8** **Plan your escape around your abilities.** Have a telephone near your bed in case you are trapped by smoke or fire. Have other necessary items near your bed, such as medications, glasses, wheel chair, walker, scooter, or cane.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS 2023

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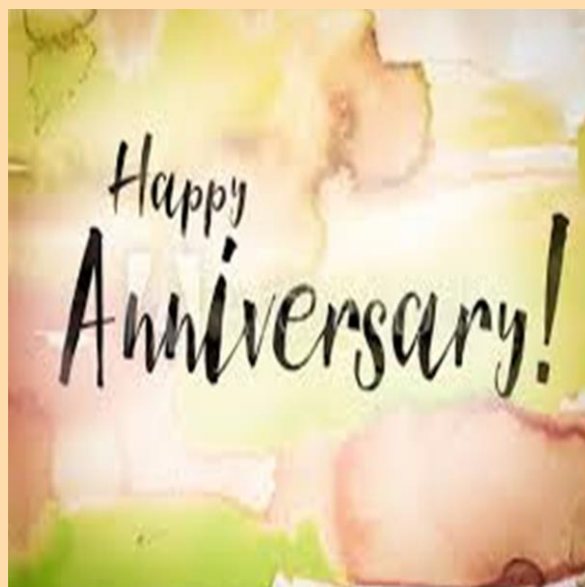
**1<sup>st</sup> – Kathie Bastion, Mariam Sorby**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> – Carolyn Cole**  
**4<sup>th</sup> - Cal Adams, Paula Simenson**  
**5<sup>th</sup> – Jane Magalski**  
**6<sup>th</sup> – Dorothy Warke**  
**7<sup>th</sup> – Karin Meredith**  
**9<sup>th</sup> – Mike Sigler**  
**10<sup>th</sup> – Eleanor Jurgens**  
**11<sup>th</sup> – Dorothy Paulson**  
**12<sup>th</sup> – Joan Wessinger**  
**14<sup>th</sup> – Lee Johnson**  
**16<sup>th</sup> - Anne Clouser**  
**19<sup>th</sup> – Elmer Mack**  
**21<sup>st</sup> – Chuck Kovacik, Laurence Moquin**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> – Kathie Hackett**  
**24<sup>th</sup> – Vivian Kann**  
**26<sup>th</sup> – Judith Lavallee**  
**30<sup>th</sup> – Carolyn DeCarbo, Martha Viohl**



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES 2023

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**3<sup>rd</sup> – Ralph & Betty Johnson**  
**7<sup>th</sup> – Joseph & Audrey Ercegovich**  
**9<sup>th</sup> – Rosalie & Jerry Kelleher**  
**15<sup>th</sup> - Nancy & Mike Almaguer**  
**17<sup>th</sup> – Doris & Bill Hahn**  
**18<sup>th</sup> - Mike & Sherri Knaub**  
**19<sup>th</sup> – David & Candy Allman**  
**27<sup>th</sup> - Tim & Theresa McKee**  
**28<sup>th</sup> – Bob & Delores Casper**

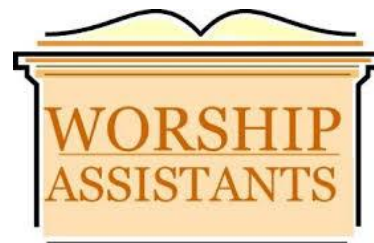


**We ask if you notice information is missing or incorrect please let us know. Thank you!**



<b>Time</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Lector</b>
<b>Sun. May 7 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Walter Geissler</b>	<b>Walter Geissler, Jay German, Mary Ann Sigler</b>	<b>Mike Corbett</b>
<b>Sun. May 14 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>		<b>Jim Schwartz</b>
<b>Sun. May 21 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Walter Geissler</b>	<b>Arlene Hansen, Walter Geissler, Wendy Kitzman</b>	<b>Wendy Kitzman</b>
<b>Sun. May 28 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>		<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>

Please contact Carolyn Cole at 813-812-7527 if you have any questions or need to ask about the worship assistant schedule or if you would like to be added to the upcoming schedule.



<b>May Usher Team</b>	<b>May Altar Guild</b>	<b>Sound &amp; Camera</b>
<b>Chuck Kovacik Team</b>	<b>Judy Buskirk &amp; Jean Jackson</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>





## Home Safety for Seniors

A representative from Hillsborough County Fire Department will provide a presentation on home safety for seniors on Tuesday, May 2 at 10:30 AM in Buhr Hall. Many different aspects of safety will be covered, some of which many of us have never considered. Come and learn how to make your home safer. A light lunch will follow the presentation and it is free. To register, sign the sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex or call the church office.



## Advance Directive Actors

End of life discussions are never easy. Speaking with your family and loved ones regarding your wishes can be very challenging. How.... where do you start? Prince of Peace's Health Ministry is hosting "Lily", a short play with live actors demonstrating how these types of discussions may take place. Come join us for this unique way of thinking through your own personal desires regarding advance directives, and ways to share them with your loved ones. A box lunch will be provided by the Faith Community Nurses of BayCare Health System. **Reservations are a MUST!** See Lois Hobratchek for questions or assistance with registering.

**Date:** May 19, 2023

**Time:** 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**Location:** Conessa Center at Prince of Peace

**RSVP:** No later than Monday, May 15th

**RSVP Link:** [popcc.org/advanced-directives](http://popcc.org/advanced-directives)

## Blood Pressure Check

The next blood pressure checks will be on May 28th and continue on the last Sunday of every month. Honey Ashley and Rosalie Kelleher will be in the conference room following the worship service. This is a convenient opportunity to keep check on your numbers.

## Red Rover

Just like the childhood game, we need someone to let us come over and use your available garage space. In previous years, congregation members volunteered a portion of their garage for our Rummage Sale storage. Garage space allows Redeemer to increase the amount of inventory available on sale days. If you are willing to help us, please contact Mary Ann Sigler by e-mail at [masigler67@gmail.com](mailto:masigler67@gmail.com) or by phone at 614-313-8082. We need to begin storing items in September of this year.

## Community Indoor Garage Sale

Redeemer will be trying a new fundraiser this summer. This one is an indoor garage sale where you can purchase a table for \$20 and sell your own items. It will be held in Buhr Hall on Saturday, June 24th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Save the date to either be a vendor or a shopper - or both. Vendor applications will be available on the welcome counter in the narthex. The sale will benefit both you and the church. And watch the bulletins and the next newsletter for more details.

Help from both men and women will be needed to set up Buhr Hall following Fellowship on Sunday, June 18th and to reset it on June 25th again after Fellowship. Please offer a hand as many hands make quick work. They also help make projects like this possible. A signup sheet will be on the welcome counter in the narthex.

## Thank you- Meals on Wheels

Thanks to everyone who stepped up and volunteered for Meals on Wheels duty. Redeemer has once again fulfilled our promise to provide meals to people in need during the month of May. To deliver all the meals for the entire month requires 24 drivers and 14 backups and all positions were filled. The Good Samaritan Services of Sun City Center is grateful for all the volunteers who ensure that this very worthwhile service continues for our community. **Thank you very much!**



## Altar Guild message from Judy Buskirk

I have one of the BEST volunteer jobs here at Redeemer. I am the lead of the Altar Guild. It is the best because of all the support I receive from the members of the altar guild. Each and every one of you are always there when I need you. Thank you!!! I especially want to thank those that made Holy Week so very special. I received so many compliments of how moving Maundy Thursday service was. I also received many compliments about the altar for the Easter service. I don't need to name names because you know who you are. Thank you, thank you, thank you! I would also like to thank four gentlemen who helped prepare for Holy Week: a big shout out to René Buggs, Richard Meredith, Mike Sigler and Jim Schwartz.



**Monday, May 22<sup>TH</sup> at 5:30 PM**

Join us for movie night this month on May 22 at 5:30 PM to see *CODA*. Dinner will be potluck style. Plan to bring a summery dish to share. Bring your own beverage and a non-perishable food item to be donated to the food pantry.



**About the movie:** A famous pianist (Patrick Stewart) who is struggling with stage fright late in his career finds inspiration with a free-spirited music critic (Katie Holmes).

## Worship Assistant Volunteers Need!

**Please consider being an acolyte and/or communion assistant.**

Please contact Carolyn Cole at 813-812-7527 if you have any questions about being an acolyte or communion assistant or if you would like to be added to the upcoming schedule.

## Welcome Basket Items - SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Our service project for the Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly (June 8-10) will benefit Harbor House of Central Florida. Your generous donations of the following items will help us create welcome baskets for survivors of domestic violence, which will be put together during the Assembly. Harbor House of Central Florida is a non-profit state certified domestic violence shelter near Orlando. They operate a 24-hour crisis hotline, and provide counseling and a 110-bed shelter open to women, children and men.

## Please bring in the following items in the Month of May

Full Size Sheets  
Towel/Washcloth Sets  
Toothbrush  
Full Size Toothpaste  
Full Size Shampoo  
Full Size Conditioner  
Full Size Body Lotion  
Full Size Body Wash  
Deodorant  
Hair Brush/Comb

## Thank you from Pastor & Candy Allman

Thank you to everyone that recognized Candy's and my 10-year anniversary at Redeemer. We certainly feel blessed to be able to share in this ministry with all of you and look hopefully into God's preferred future for Redeemer. You are all appreciated, Pastor & Candy Allman.

# May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	<b>2</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 10:30 AM-Senior Safety 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	<b>5</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>8</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	<b>9</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Finance Team Mtg 1:30 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM-Parish Nurse Mtg 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	<b>12</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10:00 AM-Worship	<b>15</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting	<b>16</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM-Fundraising Mtg	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	<b>19</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>22</b> 10:00 AM-WELCA Board 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 5:30 PM Movie Night	<b>23</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00 AM-OA Group 5:30 PM-AA Group 6:30 PM-Choir practice	<b>26</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-BP Check	<b>29</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>30</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-Women's AA	<b>31</b>			

