



RLC Newsletter

March 2024

A Message from Pastor Allman

We are a couple of weeks into our Lenten journey, and Lent can come across feeling like a dreary walk in the dark, in which we talk about Jesus' death and our own inevitable deaths. How many of us wake in the middle of the night, dreading the insomnia, the hours of darkness, and fears of life that keep our minds from resting? I just had one of those nights. I awoke at 3:42AM and could not get back to sleep.

I do not suffer from chronic insomnia as some do, although when life gets busy, I suffer from sleepless nights thinking about all I must do, what could go wrong, and whether I had prepared enough in advance. A common Saturday night dream that wakes me in a panic revolves around being unprepared for the Sunday, i.e., I cannot find my Alb, I cannot find my sermon, I am wearing the wrong clothes, I am in the wrong church, etc.

What kinds of things keep you up at night? Are there things that you are afraid might happen, and you convince yourself that they will happen? If there was a way that we could be assured that everything will work out okay, that would be good news indeed. Whatever stereotypical version of Lent people imagine, Jesus' brings good news of assurance, even as he journeys to the Cross.

This year's midweek worship theme is "Guided to the Cross." In February we have already talked about being guided to forgiving others just as God has forgiven us; guided to hope, remembering that Jesus has opened for the us the way to eternal life; and guided to love God, ourselves, and others. Still to come in March we will talk about being guided to peace in our hearts, souls, and minds; guided to trust God and trust Jesus; and guided to perseverance, even when the worries of this life sometimes keep us up at night.

On Christmas Eve, December 24, 1968, the crew of Apollo 8, the first humans to travel to the Moon, read from the Book of Genesis during a television broadcast. What a moment? I cannot imagine the feelings created in those men as they blasted off into the unknown and the uncertainties. I cannot imagine, from my perspective, any other story that was big enough for that moment. The Gospel is the good news that is bigger than any problems that we encounter, or imagine we might encounter, or worries that keep us up at night.

Pastor Allman 

News from the Office Administrator March 2024

In the month of March, we have extra days of worship. I hope everyone will make time to come to at least one of the Wednesday services. Join us at 10:00 AM.

The parking lot is scheduled to be resealed and repainted the first week of April. They will not be able to complete the work if the weather does not cooperate, that aside keep in mind that there will be no parking here at Redeemer on those days.

As usual be sure you check the Welcome Table in the narthex for upcoming events. We post flyers and signup sheets there for many different activities so come and choose some fun and informative things to do!

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:

Monday, March 4 - LifeLine Screening

Thursday, March 14 at 10:30 AM – Sunshine Gift bag assembly

Thursday, March 21 1:00 PM – WELCA Book Club Meeting

Friday, March 22 11:00 AM – Memorial Service in celebration of the life of Mariam Sorby

Monday, March 25 10:00 AM – WELCA Board Meeting

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



**February on YouTube
7 New Subscribers
941 total views
13.6K minutes watched**



MARCH STEWARDSHIP

Walter Brueggemann is an American, Protestant, Old Testament scholar and theologian who is widely considered one of the most influential Old Testament scholars of the last several decades. Plus he is 90-years-old so he is of the same generation as many of you who are reading this article. In other words, he understands what it means to be part of what has come to be called “The Greatest Generation.”

In an article titled, “The Liturgy of Abundance, the Myth of Scarcity” (Christian Century, 1999) he writes that wealth, or the acquisition of wealth, becomes a kind of narcotic for we Americans. As such, we tend to not even notice our own prosperity. He writes, *“The great contradiction is that we have more and more money and less and less generosity...”*



American consumerism is never more obvious than during the Christmas season. Consumerism is more than simple marketing. It creates a love affair with “more” and the myth that there can never be enough. A prime example is the latest iPhone that tend to hit the market a couple of weeks before Christmas. I do not believe that anyone could justify this gadget as a “need,” yet people will line up early to spend approximately \$1000.00 on something that will likely be considered obsolete in a few months.

Brueggemann teaches that God’s Word in Genesis 1 starts out with a liturgy of abundance. God gives the world everything we need and declares it to be

good, good, good, good, good and very good. God tells creation to be fruitful and multiply. God tells Abraham and Sarah to be a blessing, to bless the people of all nations. The following chapters of Genesis are filled with God’s goodness and generosity. It is not until we reach the end of Genesis, where we read about the Pharaoh in Egypt, and we first encounter an attitude of scarcity – the idea that there will not be enough – unless we grab, and hoard, and keep for ourselves.

The lesson we learn from Pharaoh is to beware of feeling that we never have enough, that we must have more and more, because this insatiable desire will destroy us – which it did to Pharaoh. God’s Word teaches us abundance. Human nature teaches us scarcity. Life consists of a continuing inner struggle deciding which to believe. One problem is that most Christians read/hear the Word of God once a week, while we are exposed to advertisements – as many as 5000 – every day.

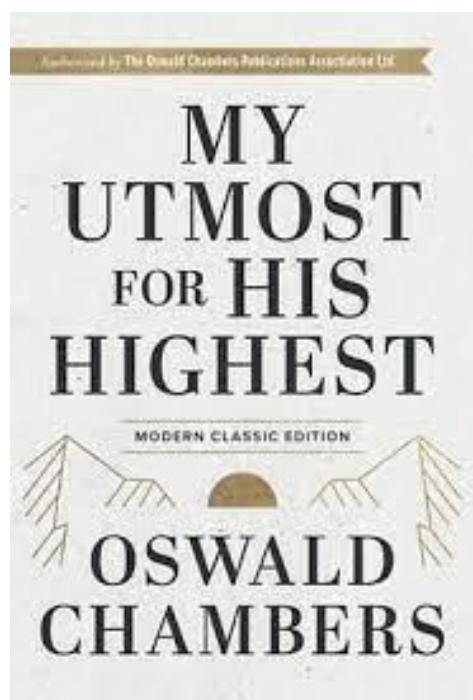
Jesus said, *“No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and wealth”* (Mt 6:24). Jesus tells us that we can change the world. Jesus left ordinary people amazed and grateful; he left wealthy and powerful people angry and upset. Consumerism wants us to believe that the world consists of buying and selling. Jesus presents a world infused with abundance and generosity.



The challenge Jesus brings to Christians is to recognize God’s abundance, especially within our own lives, and prayerfully consider, with God, to discern how to live the liturgy of abundance and dispense with the myth of scarcity.

GROWING IN FAITH

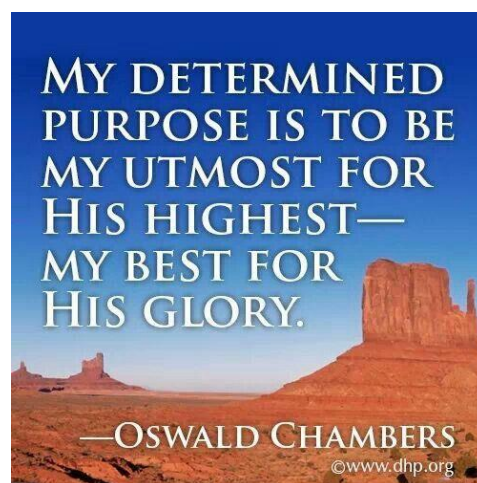
During my Lenten devotions I came across something written by Oswald Chambers (1874-1917) from his book, *“My Utmost for His Highest.”* Chambers writes, *“It is a snare to imagine that God wants to make us perfect specimens of what He can do; God’s purpose is to make us one with Him.”* He goes on to explain that God’s intent is not to make us something to place in a holiness museum. Those who may be trying to live up to what a human imagines a saint to be, or worse to try and force others into a model what a human imagines holiness to look like for God, are destined to fail.



Oswald continues, *“Christian perfection is not, and never can be, human perfection. Christian perfection is the perfection of a relationship to God which shows itself amid the irrelevancies of human life.”* Christian perfection for some churches (IMHO) looks a lot like a list of “dos and don’ts” which when followed completely will make one a perfect human. When God gave Moses what we call the Ten Commandments, religious leaders spent years developing over 600 additional rules to insure that

people would not break one of the original Ten. Jesus’ message was essentially telling the people that they cannot be made perfect by keeping the Law; rather, Jesus described holiness in terms of relationships: we are to love God with everything in us and love our neighbors.

Chambers tells us that God is not trying to perfect us into specimens for God’s showroom. God is trying to get us to place where God can use us to reach others with God’s love. Spiritual maturity is growing our relationship with God (Grow in Faith). Building God’s Kingdom is growing in our relationship with others.



This is an important message from the Parish Nurse Team

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month

What You Need to Know ABOUT COLON CANCER



Your colon is the lower end of your digestive system



Colon cancer affects men and women equally



On average, your risk is about 1 in 20



90% of new cases occur in people 50 or older



Colon cancer is on the rise in those under 50.

RISK FACTORS

People in the following categories are at greater risk of developing the disease:

- Individuals with a personal and/or family history of polyps or cancer
- People over age 50
- Those with ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease
- Individuals with the genetic conditions Hereditary Nonpolyposis Colon Cancer (HNPCC) or Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP)
- Jews of Eastern European descent and certain ethnic groups including African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives and Latinos

SYMPTOMS

- Change in bowel habits
- Rectal bleeding or blood in your stool
- Persistent abdominal discomfort
- Nausea or vomiting
- Unexplained weight loss
- Chronic fatigue

Oftentimes, symptoms do not appear in early stages of the disease. Do not wait for symptoms before talking to your doctor.

What You Can Do

- Get screened at age 50, or at 45 if you're African American. Get screened earlier if you're high risk
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Adopt a physically active lifestyle
- Eat a healthy diet
- Don't use tobacco products
- Limit alcohol intake



TRUE or FALSE?

Colorectal cancer is the 2nd leading cancer killer.

TRUE FALSE

Both men and women get colorectal cancer.

TRUE FALSE

Colorectal cancer often starts with no symptoms.

TRUE FALSE

You can stop this cancer before it starts.

TRUE FALSE

Since symptoms are not always present in the early stages, regular screening is important. Several screening options exist — each with its own benefits and drawbacks. Talk about your options with your doctor, and together you can decide which tests are appropriate for you.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1st – Jackie Moretti
3rd – Mary Ann Addleman
9th – Dottie McKenzie
10th – Barbara Kately
11th– Connie Berry
14th – Jim Schwartz
15th –Patrick Sturmer
18th – Judy Buskirk
19th – Dick Paulson
20th – Don Detar
27th - Paul Ó Braonáin
28th - RaeAnne Bennett
30th - Chuck Buskirk
31st - Ann Parisen, Karl Wessinger



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

4th – Greg & Judy Kiel
14th – Lee & Janine Johnson
21st – Chris & Roger McCann
24th – Dick & Doreen McKibben
26th – Richard & Vorin Johnston
27th – Cal & Gerry Adams



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





March

Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Mar. 3 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Mary Ann Sigler, Kathy Schwartz, David Lickfeldt	Jim Schwartz
Wed. Mar. 6 10:00 AM			
Sun. Mar. 10 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz		Chuck Kovacik
Wed. Mar. 13 10:00 AM			
Sun. Mar. 17 10:00 AM	Mike Corbett	Wendy Kitzman, Mike Corbett, David Lickfeldt	Wendy Kitzman
Wed. Mar. 20 10:00 AM			
Sun. Mar. 24 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Sharon Horinzsy, Kathy Schwartz, Joyce Kuzmick	Diane Brace
Thur. Mar. 28 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin	Wendy Kitzman, Mary Ann Sigler, Jay German	Dan Pollert
Fri. Mar. 29 10:00 AM			
Sun. Mar. 31 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Mary Ann Sigler, Jay German, Kathy Schwartz	Dan Pollert

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



March Usher Team	March Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Arlene Hansens Team	Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk	Volunteers



Thank You – Soup Supper

WELCA organized a soup meal following the 3:00 pm service on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Thank you to all of the volunteers and to everyone who brought in soups or treats. It is always wonderful sample so many delicious homemade soups & treats with friends!!



Gift Bags for Homebound Members

WELCA Sunshine will again be distributing Easter gift bags to homebound members. We will meet to assemble the bags on Thursday morning, March 14th at 10:30 AM. Your assistance to help with both assembly and delivery of the bags would be appreciated. And we are looking for donations of prepackaged food items or wrapped candies as well as personal care items such as kleenex, etc. This is a good opportunity to provide a little cheer.



Easter Brunch

WELCA is organizing an Easter Brunch from 8:30 am to 9:30 am on Easter Sunday, March 31st. We are asking members to bring egg casseroles, pastries, eggs (hard boiled/deviled), or egg salad sandwiches. There is a sign-up sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex. WELCA will provide juice and coffee.



Property Team Members Needed

Redeemer is in need of some handymen. We are looking for men to help us assess work that needs to be done at the church. This may include some hands on work but often times you may just be writing up a contract for the scope of work that needs to be done & getting quotes for the work. There are no structured meeting schedules, the property team meets on an as needed basis. If you might be interested in lending a hand please contact the office.



Worship Assistants Needed

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.



Parking lot Resurfacing & Painting

Redeemer will be having some work done in the parking lot the 1st week of April. During this time, you may notice that the parking lot will be blocked off to allow for resurfacing/sealing and painting. We ask that you do not come to Redeemer on those days and to call the office if you need us.



Breaking news from WELCA

What do Oprah, Reese, Jenna and Queen Camilla have in common? They all have created book clubs. And soon Redeemer will have one, too, as a new WELCA circle.

Whether a newbie or seasoned bibliophile, please join us for an inaugural meeting of the book club. Let's get to know more about each other's favorite genres, book recommendations, and ideas/expectations for growing this new group. We'll explore resources to make reading more accessible, such as e-books, audiobooks and using apps to curate reading lists and track our reading. We'll meet with others who enjoy reading to discuss selected books and share fellowship. We may even partake of a service project, book swap or try a reading challenge.

Our inaugural meeting will be on Thursday, March 21, 2024 from 1:00 PM. to 3:00 PM in the church's library. Future meetings will be held the third Thursday each month except June, July and August. If you have questions, special needs or suggestions, please contact Diane Brace at 703-517-6115 or Marion Giblin at 813-347-3066.

Please be sure to sign the contact list on the Welcome Table in the Narthex so we know who is planning to attend.

<https://bookclubs.com/clubs/6018580/join/326b32/>



Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those Thrivent members who are eligible for Choice Dollars, you must direct your 2023 dollars by March 31st or you will lose them. Visit www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to direct your dollars, or you can call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. For questions or help, see Lois Hobratschk. This is an opportunity to support Redeemer.



Service times during Lent

The Lenten worship theme this year will be *Guided to the Cross*. Wednesday service times will be at 10:00 AM.

March 6, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Week Three: Guided to Peace

In Week 3 of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to receive peace. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of peace in our hearts, souls, and minds through Christ, who brought peace between us and God by the cross.

March 13, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Week Four: Guided to Trust

In Week 4 of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to deepen our trust. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of trust in God, who entrusted his Son, Jesus, on the cross for our sake.

March 20, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Week Five: Guided to Perseverance

Week 5 of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to grow in perseverance. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of perseverance in the midst of strife in the name of Jesus, who endured the cross to the very end for us all.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	2 10:00 AM- RJSB Practice
3 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	4 8:00 AM- LifeLine Screening 10:30 AM-AI- Anon	5 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	6 10:00 AM- Lenten Worship	7 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	8 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	9 10:00 AM- RJSB Practice
10 10:00 AM- Worship 3:00 PM- German Am Club Coffee	11 10:30 AM-AI- Anon	12 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Finance Team Mtg 1:30 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	13 10:00 AM- Lenten Worship	14 9:00 AM Nurses Mtg 10:30AM- Sunshine Gift assembly 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	15 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	16 10:00 AM- RJSB Practice
17 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	18 10:30 AM-AI- Anon	19 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	20 10:00 AM- Lenten Worship	21 1:00 PM-Book Club 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	22 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry 11:00 AM-Memorial Svc M Sorby	23 10:00 AM- RJSB Practice
24 10:00 AM- Worship	25 10:00 AM- WELCA Board 10:30 AM-AI- Anon	26 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	27	28 10:00 AM-Maundy Thurs Worship 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	29 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry 10:00 AM-Good Friday	30 10:00 AM- RJSB Practice
31 11:00 AM-BP Check 10:00 AM- Easter Worship						

