



TILE CLEANED AND SEALED

RLC Newsletter

August 2024

A Message from Pastor Allman

"In the morning, while it was still very dark, (Jesus) got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed" (Mark 1:35, NRSV).

The Jewish people had set times of the day to pray, roughly 9:00 AM, 12:00 (noon), and 6:00 PM; and prayers that they had learned from childhood. Their prayer-liturgy consisted of three primary measures: (1) the twice-daily recitation of the Shema – the central statement of Jewish monotheistic belief – and the formulaic blessings (berakhot) recited before and after it; (2) "The Prayer" of 18 blessings, also known as the Amidah – recited several times daily, and (3) the public recitation of the Torah in installments.

Jesus likely followed these prayer-liturgies as a faithful Jewish man, and took time out for prayer in the early morning, late evening, and sometimes all night. Jesus set an example for Christ-followers, in addition to the institutional religious requirements, for a more personal experience with God.

"If we think we cannot pray, it is a sign that we have not yet properly understood what it is to pray. Prayer is to look to the omnipresent God and allow oneself to be seen by him... God is far more present to us than the light. In Him we live, we move, and we are.

He penetrates us, he fills us, he is nearer to us than we are to ourselves. To believe this in simplicity and to think of this simply as well as one can, that is prayer" (Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697-1769).

The Bible does not tell us the method of prayer used by Jesus whenever he went off by himself to a deserted place to pray; except for the night before Jesus was crucified when he spent the night in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. You can read that prayer in John, chapter 17, and I encourage you to read it often. More often, I suspect, in those quiet, alone times of prayer Jesus looked to the omnipresent God and allowed himself to be seen.

How many times do we turn to God in prayer and spend all the time talking and little or no time listening? One pastor compared that to going to see the doctor, spending all the time telling the doctor your problems, and then immediately leaving without waiting for the doctor's response. Neither would be productive.

Judge for yourself how your prayer time with God has been, and discern whether there are ways to improve. I will be praying for you, and listening to God.

Pastor Allman 

**Our YouTube channel is
Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center
Florida**



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



News from the Office Administrator August 2024

Over the past few months, the fundraising team has been working on getting some projects completed. The restrooms in Buhr Hall as well as the restrooms in the main hallway have been stripped of the wallpaper and painted a shade of blue. Once the painting project was complete the tile and grout were professionally cleaned and sealed. It looks bright and fresh in these areas. A big thank you to our fundraising team for funding these projects for all of us to enjoy.

In case you had not heard Mike is a Notary Public, he will be offering this service to our congregation. If you have a friend in need the cost is \$10 per signature.

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.

Donations to the Pastors discretionary fund can be made at any time and given in any amount. If you would like make a donation, please write Pastor's discretionary fund on the memo line.

Friendly Reminder

Beginning soon our Council Members will be calling a few of our members, simply to check-in and see how you are doing. Many will be using cell phones that could appear from area codes outside of the (813) prefix for our region. If you are committed to not answering those kinds of calls, please, at least, wait to see if they leave a message before declining and blocking the number. Once you receive a message, please take the time to call back and speak with the Council member. I promise they will have your best interests in mind and heart. Thank you, Pastor Allman.



AUGUST STEWARDSHIP

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly..." (2 Corinthians 9:7-8, NRSV).



"Cheerful Giver?" How many people truly feel like they always have enough? We grow through our giving, almost sounds contrary to logic. This is hard to believe for a reason. The checkbook or wallet is usually the last thing that we allow to come under the control of Christ in our lives.

Giving is not a matter of money. It is a matter of trust and faith. Our offering is not a debt we owe; it is a seed we sow. The Bible describes the process of giving as a Christ-follower being like a farmer sowing seed. Sowing seed is an investment. Seed is the one thing that will multiply in its value. It is the main investment.

Every farmer understands the principle of investment. No seed, no harvest. The more seed the greater the harvest. The same is true in our giving to God. When we dedicate a portion of our income to God, we invest in the Kingdom of God. That investment will not deteriorate or fade; it will grow in value. It is the only investment we make that will last for eternity.

Once the seed is planted, it takes a while before the harvest. The farmer must be patient and wait. Sometimes, during the waiting period bad things happen: hail, insects, too much rain, or not enough rain. There may be some loss, although eventually

the harvest comes. The same is true in our giving to God. Some people take a faith step, making a larger commitment. Then in a couple of months they hit a string of bad luck: unexpected bills, car repairs, medical costs, and the accountant made an error on the tax return so that you owe way too much money.



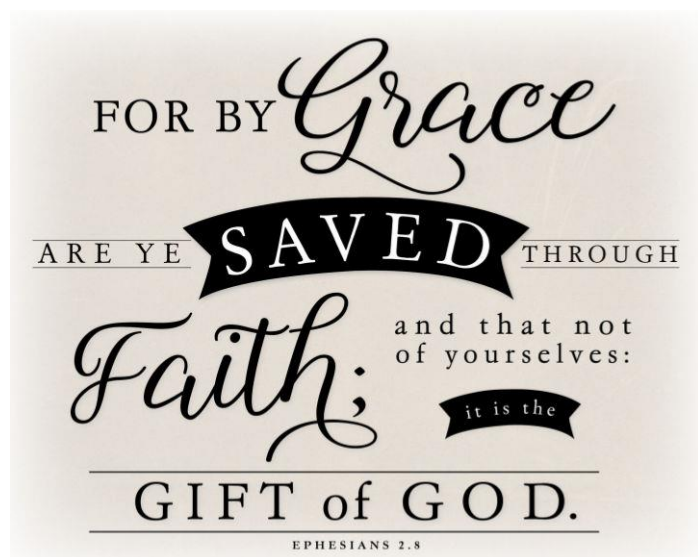
Prosperity theology says that if you give to God, then God is obligated to give back more money. That is not how trusting God works; that sounds more like manipulating God. I am talking about seed-faith giving. This type of giving is a way of honoring God as the source of all that we have. We give to God as a way of expressing our faith and trust that God will bless us. God is not obligated to bless us in a financial way. God will honor our faith. God may choose to bless us with relationships, or healing, or simply God's presence and strength.



Giving is not a matter of money. It is a matter of faith and trusting in a God who wants to bless us more than we could ever imagine. Giving to God opens our hearts to receive all that God wants to give us in return.

GROWING IN FAITH

Ephesians 2:8 reads, “...by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”



Everything that a Christ-follower does involves faith. Maybe you decided for yourself to become a Christ-follower, which was a faith decision. Maybe you were born into a family of Christ-followers, which meant you were raised in a faith-based family.

Too often Christ-followers become trapped in thinking that it is what we do that truly makes us acceptable to God. We must attend church, must be a good person, must say our prayers, must read our Bible. We hope we will do enough good things to outweigh the bad things. God is not keeping score; there is no spreadsheet; the Church is not made up of winners and losers.

Growing as a Christian continues to be a matter of growing by grace through faith. Growth is not a matter of self-effort, any more than being saved is a matter of self-effort. We trust by faith that the Holy Spirit will change and mold us into the image of Christ. By faith, we learn to trust God's guidance as we grow. Those who lack faith, try to direct their own lives. They constantly worry about things. What if something happens that I cannot handle? What if I

make a wrong decision and the consequences are devastating? Growing as a Christian means trusting that God is in control, guiding and directing. Our job is to listen and follow.

The pathways that enable us to grow spiritually are based on grace and faith. They enable us to be open to God. And there is a progression toward maturing in the pathways. Our pathway toward spiritual growth begins with prayer and the personal spiritual disciplines of Bible study, quiet time, and worship. This is the inner dimension of our faith. Next, we grow by participating in study and relational groups. We get together with other Christians and grow more than we could alone. Next, we grow through serving others and getting involved in ministry. By faith we reach out to others.

What ways can you become more involved at Redeemer? Perhaps first, discover your God-given gifts, sometimes called spiritual gifts. There are inventories that one can take to help make these discoveries. A simpler way would be to consider what you are passionate about, and what service opportunity fills you with energy rather than drains your energy. You likely have multiple gifts, although one will be stronger than the others. For example, my dominant gift is teaching more than preaching, even though I enjoy both. Pray for God to help reveal your gifts, and ways in which your passions can serve others at Redeemer and/or in the South Shore community.



From Parish Nurse Team

Cataract in a nutshell

What is cataract?

A condition whereby the natural lens in the eye becomes progressively cloudy, preventing sufficient light from entering the eye and thus reducing vision.



Normal

Cataract



Causes

Most common cause: Ageing

2 preventable causes of cataract formation:

▶ Smoking



▶ Ultraviolet radiation exposure (from sunlight)



Cataract can also occur at a younger age if you:

▶ Have poorly controlled diabetes



▶ Take certain types of medication, such as corticosteroids



▶ Are born with it (congenital)



▶ Have experienced previous trauma to the eye



Symptoms

Most common ones include:



▶ Cloudy or blurry vision



▶ Poor night vision



▶ Colours look faded



▶ Glare and haloes



▶ Frequent prescription changes in your glasses or contact lenses

Detection

Cataract is detected through a comprehensive eye examination by an ophthalmologist. Visit an eye doctor if you experience any of the above symptoms.



Vision through a cataract



Normal vision

Cataract surgery is a common and effective procedure where the cloudy lens is removed and replaced with a new artificial one. The procedure may have a transformative impact on your vision and improve your life and happiness.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1st – Roberts Viohl Jr., Tom Wakefield
2nd – Cindy Helter
3rd – Jennie Flietner, Margery Ruse
4th – Anne Doerfler, Marty Gifford,
Nancy Hayes, Judith Kiel
5th – Julie Lange
6th – Joe Demellier, Audrey Ercegovich
7th – Dan Pollert
8th – Jenise German
10th – Denise Fitzpatrick
12th – Nancy McIntosh
14th – Betty Morrison, Pat Stark
22nd – Maureen Hill
23rd – Beverly Bassette
25th – John Vogelsang
26th – Richard Johnston
27th – Grace Springer
28th – Ginny Acker, Terry Hood
29th – Hans Barfels, Pete Moose



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

1st– Sally & Michael Trenski
3rd– Kurt & Elfi Nolden
4th– Marion & Bill Giblin
13th –John & Pam Vogelsang
19th– George & Susan Grosskopf,
Pat & Gary Stark
21st– Sally & David Morse
22nd – Dianne & Joe Good
27th– Keith & Linda Kovach
29th– Jerry & Carrie DeCarbo
31st– Valerie & Bob Southwell Jr.

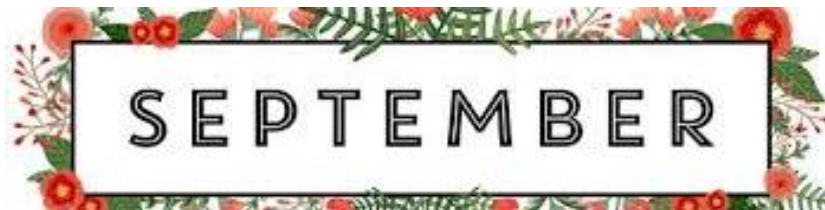


We ask if you notice information is missing or incorrect, please let us know. Thank you!



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Aug 4 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Kathy Schwartz, Joyce Kuzmick, Judy Buskirk	Joyce Kuzmick
Sun. Aug 11 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Jim Schwartz
Sun. Aug 18 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin	Paul Ó Braonáin, Wendy Kitzman, Arlene Hansen	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. Aug 25 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz		Jim Schwartz

August Usher Team	August Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Shari Fleming Team	Erika Barfels and Doris Hahn	Volunteers



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Sept 1 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin	Paul Ó Braonáin, Jay German, Judy Buskirk	Paul Ó Braonáin
Sun. Sept 8 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Chuck Kovacik
Sun. Sept 15 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick, Sharon & Bill Horiszny	Bill Horiszny
Sun. Sept 22 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Chuck Buskirk
Sun. Sept 29 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz		Jim Schwartz

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.





Thank you from Sandy

Thank you to the Redeemer staff, choir, and congregation for making my birthday so very very special.

WELCA Fall Gathering

Did you spend time at church camp when you were young? Do you remember camp songs and crafts? Join the Florida-Bahamas Women of the ELCA at our 2024 Fall Gathering at the Warren Willis Conference Center in Fruitland Park November 8 - 10. The theme of this year's Fall Gathering is **He's Got the Whole World in His Hands**. The week-end will be a wonderful time of fellowship, Bible study, worship, learning, singing, and more.

Registration information along with a listing of workshops is on the welcome counter in the narthex. Registration deadline is September 5th. Carpooling may be an option. For more information see Lois Hobratchsk.



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.



Safety Net Tracking System

Residents of Hillsborough County can now apply for the Safety Net Tracking System which is designed for those at risk of wandering. Safety Net was established with the goal of helping public safety agencies locate and rescue individuals who wander due to cognitive conditions such as autism, Alzheimer's, and dementia. It requires the individual to wear a SafetyNet bracelet with a transmitter. When that person is missing, the caregiver can contact authorities and trained search and rescue teams can track the signal to locate and bring the person home safely. Thanks to a grant, this program is FREE for residents of Hillsborough County for the next two years.

For an application or more information, see Lois Hobratchsk.

HCSO's SafetyNet Team mission is to locate SafetyNet clients quickly and return them to their family safely.

Benefits Those With:

- Cognitive Disability
- Prone to Wander
- No Sense of Danger

HCSO is providing SafetyNet Tracking System to families for two years at **no cost** through our Project Shield Grant.

HCSO SafetyNet Team Phone
813.247.8230

SafetyNet
Tracking Systems
Protecting People and Saving the Cost

HCSO SAFETYNET TRACKING DEVICE



Why SafetyNet Tracking Systems

- Unique Digital ID for Every Person ✓
- Small, Lightweight, Waterproof ✓
- FCC Certified ✓
- Impact Resistant Plastic Housing ✓
- Transmits within a Radio Frequency band allocated by the FCC for locating people at risk ✓

LEARN MORE

For More Information
SafetyNet@teamhcsos.com

Property Team Members Needed

Redeemer is in need of some handy people. We are looking for men or women 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.

Become a member of Redeemer

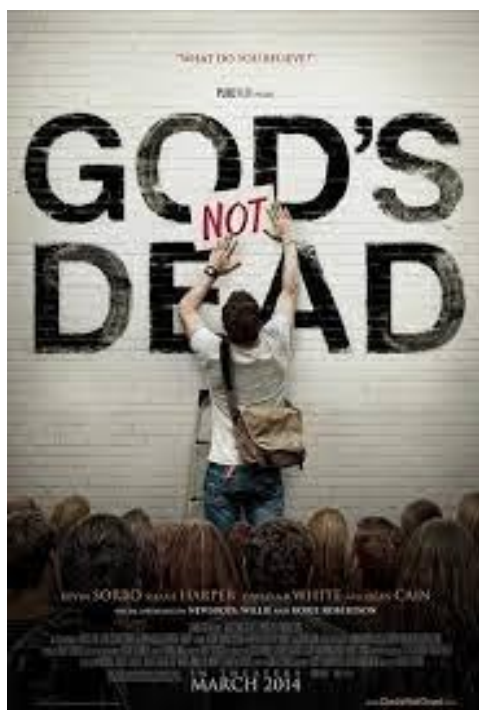
Redeemer is always welcoming new members! If you would like to join, new member forms can be found on the welcome table or stop by the office to learn more.



Monday, August 26 at 5:00 PM

Join us for movie night this month on August 26. Doors will open at 5:00 PM, Dinner will be at 5:30 PM. Bring a potluck item to share. Bring your own beverage and a non-perishable food item to be donated to the food pantry. There is a sign-up sheet on the welcome table. The movie will begin at 6:00 PM.

August's Movie is
God's Not Dead



Book Club News from WELCA

The WELCA book club will be resuming meetings in September. Happy reading! See you in September.

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

Diane



Tile Cleaning & Bathroom Painting

Thank you to the fundraising team for hiring a painter to remove the wallpaper and paint. They also had the tile in our fellowship hall entryway, fellowship restrooms and hallway restrooms professionally cleaned and had the grout sealed.



Tile after cleaning and bathroom after fresh paint.



August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry reserved	3 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice reserved
4 10:00 AM- Holy Communion Worship	5 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	6 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	7 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	8 9:00 AM-Parish Nurses	9 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry reserved	10 11:00 AM- Memorial Service B Hahn reserved
11 10:00 AM- Worship	12 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	13 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:30 PM-Worship & Music Mtg 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	14 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	15	16 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry reserved	17 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice reserved
18 10:00 AM- Holy Communion Worship	19 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	20 10:00 AM-Focus Group (Health) (1pm) 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	21 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg 10:00 AM- Fundraising Mtg	22 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	23 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry reserved	24 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice reserved
25 10:00 AM- Worship	26 10:00 AM-WELCA Board 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 5:00 PM- Movie Night 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	27 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	28 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	29 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	30 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry reserved	31 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice reserved

