



# RLC Newsletter

## September 2024

### A Message from Pastor Allman

Have you looked around lately on Sunday morning and thought, "I do not know as many people as I used to?" If so, you are not alone. God appears to be sending new people to Redeemer. In 2023 we had 24 people become members. I wonder if God will top that in 2024. I hope so.

I see Redeemer growing and growth means change, which will make some people feel uncomfortable. As we tell our son, change is our friend. In Redeemer's case, it is a result of God bringing new people into His Church. If God is doing it, how can it be a bad thing?

Pastor Bob Russell is now a retired pastor from Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Southeast began in 1962 with 53 charter members, and today includes multiple campuses spread throughout the region. God has grown that first congregation to tens of thousands in attendance every weekend, and nearly 40,000 for Christmas and Easter. Many people like to say, "*For God all things are possible*" (Matthew 19:26b), although I am not sure any of those 53 charter members or Pastor Russell had anything like the current churches in mind when they submitted their will to God's Will. In the year 2000 Pastor Russell wrote,

"*When God Builds a Church,*" listing 10 principles for growing a dynamic church. In the subsequent series of newsletter articles, I will give you my impression of his book, starting now.

I met Pastor Russell shortly after he wrote this book, when their weekend worship attendance was only about 13,000. My first impression was that he was a truly humble man, and I believe that he loves God with all his heart – the center of obedience to God's Will as I have mentioned before. In the fore mentioned book's introduction Pastor Russell wrote, "*God does not define success in the same terms that we do. Although we rejoice over our numerical growth, we know that God does not measure success in terms of attendance, offerings, or size of buildings. He measures effectiveness in terms of faithfulness to His Word, conformity to Jesus Christ, and ministry to those in need*" (page 8).

In my estimation growth is a by-product of being obedient to God's Will. Many people in the world today are following whatever spiritual path they can to "find their center." As Christians our center is Jesus Christ and what Jesus has revealed to us about God. Jesus said, "*I am the way, and the truth,*"

and the life" (John 14:6, emphasis added). The first of ten principles that Pastor Russell writes about is "Truth: Proclaim God's Word as Truth and Apply It to People's Lives." Pastor Russell writes, "*Truth without love is dogmatism. Love without truth is sentimentality. Speaking the truth in love is Christianity*" (page 13).

Part of speaking that truth in love includes speaking truth to ourselves, that our very nature makes us sinful in need of a Savior and rebellious in need of a Lord. Loving God with all our hearts, means being obedient to God's truth lived out in Jesus Christ. 1 John 2:24-25 reads, "*Stay with what you heard from the beginning, the original message. Let it sink into your life. If what you heard from the beginning lives deeply in you, you will live deeply in both Son and Father. This is exactly what Christ promised: eternal life, real life!*"

As we grow in Christ, whether numerically or not, we need to understand God's Grace in relationship to God's Truth: "*Speaking the truth in love is Christianity.*" As we move forward into the future, however our ministries take shape, we must find a way to deepen our understanding of God's truths so that as Christ-followers we will be equipped to face a changing world with the one thing that does not change: God's love for the world.

Pastor Allman 

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



**July on YouTube  
8 New Subscribers  
1.3K total views  
196.3 hours watched**



## **News from the Office Administrator September 2024**

Next month we will be celebrating our new members. Please consider baking cookies to share during fellowship on October 13th.

In case you had not heard Mike is a Notary Public, he will be offering this service to our congregation. If you have 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.



# SEPTEMBER STEWARDSHIP

It is time to start thinking about and planning for 2025 expenses and offerings. Traditionally October is Stewardship Month in Lutheran congregations, and maybe other denominations. To plan for October, we start in late July or early August. While many do not want to talk about money in the Church, it is necessary.

Financial Advisor Dave Ramsey writes to individuals: *“‘Work like it all depends on you, but pray like it all depends on God.’ When making and living by your budget, prayer is the key that unlocks your ability to join God in what He is doing. **That’s not an excuse to sit back and do nothing.** It’s simply the admission that no matter how hard we work, it’s God’s power that fuels every good work, and it’s God who crowns our efforts with success.”*

Shortly after I became Pastor at Redeemer, I started encouraging Redeemer’s leadership and congregation to think in terms of a “Spending Plan” for the next fiscal year, rather than a budget. Each Council Member and Ministry Team Leader has been strongly encouraged to develop a well thought out and prayed about spending plan for their respective ministry. We then present that “Spending Plan” to the congregation at the December Annual “Financial Meeting” for a vote.



It quite honestly stretches the thinking and comfort levels of some of our people. Old habits die hard, and many will still call it the “budget.” Why not call it a budget? Budgets are drafted to allocate money that a person knows will be incoming for the next year. How much Redeemer will receive in offerings over the next year is never known; so, our finance and stewardship ministry team drafts a spending plan based on previous years, and expected increases in cost of living, in hopes that people will respond and give.

Redeemer has taken seriously our leaderships’ work and faith in God. The staff and leadership live out these words by Dave Ramsey, *“Work like it all depends on you, but pray like it all depends on God.”*

Because of God’s faithfulness and abundant blessings; because of your commitment to God’s work and your trust in God’s promise to provide your needs; because of the staff and leadership’s commitment to wisely use your offerings; I am blessed to say that offerings have exceeded expenditures almost every year over the nearly twelve years I have been pastor here. That is not because of me, that is because of all of you and our leadership folks.

Thank you all for your generosity and trust in God. Thank you, Council and Ministry Team Leaders, for your commitment to strive toward God’s preferred future for Redeemer. Thank you to the staff for keeping this ship on course. Thank you all for your continuing prayers. Thank you, God, for being so faithful, generous, and gracious. We are definitely blessed to be a blessing.





# GROWING IN FAITH

Did you do what I did when I was young? I remember seeing those wonderful yellow flowers (dandelions) growing in my parents' grass. Sometimes we would pick them and hold them under someone's chin to "see if they liked butter." Other times those flowers would turn white and fluffy, and when I picked them and blew on them parts of them would fly all over the yard – my parents' yard. I did not understand at the time that I was spreading weeds when I blew those fragments all over the yard. I am now sure my dad would not have appreciated my efforts.



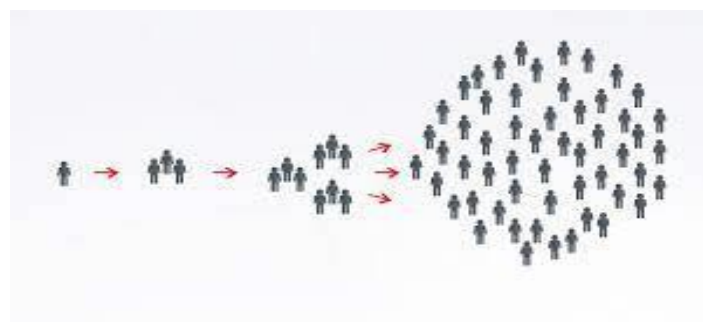
When people are excited about the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Word spreads like those dandelion seeds. Even when Jesus told others not to say anything, they often told people anyway. They simply could not contain their excitement. The good news spread from person to person, family to family, community to community and soon the crowds following Jesus numbered, in some cases, 10,000-15,000.



Have you ever wondered what prevents that spread of the good news today? When you consider your current age, and how long you have been going to church, how many times would you say you have heard the good news? One hundred? One thousand? Ten thousand? A hundred thousand? More? If asked, could you explain the gospel to someone?

On any given weekend less than 35% of Americans attend worship of any kind. Do you care about the "other 65%?" I have had a few people ask, "Why should I care?" Most would say that they care. So, what keeps us from talking to them about Jesus? Is fear the bottom-line? Fear of biblical ignorance? Fear of rejection? Fear of being laughed at? Fear of being labeled a fanatic? Fear of losing friends? Or, some other fear?

Jesus' final words to all Christ-followers were "Go and make disciples..." So, how do we overcome the obstacles of complacency toward the good news, apathy toward non-church-goers, or any number of fears? As with everything we do as Christians we start with prayer, because apart from God none of it would be possible. Pray daily for non-church-goers. Pray daily for strength and knowledge to share the gospel. Pray daily for God to show you someone who is open to hearing the gospel. Afterward pray for them to receive God's Holy Spirit. Then start all over again and repeat.



## ***From Parish Nurse Team***

# **HOW TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FALLS**

September is Fall Prevention month. The following are comments and suggestions from my perspective as a physical therapist, a member of the emergency squad, and as an older adult.

Don't assume that falls are a normal part of aging. Fall risks do increase with age and there are risk factors that make us more likely to fall. Environmental risk factors include throw rugs and clutter, wet or slippery surfaces, footwear, and obstacles such as pets, corners, or furniture. All of these are similar in that they change stability when attempting to stand on one foot and move the other foot. Socks without non-skid surfaces and flip flops or sandals without a heel strap allow the foot to slip.



Personal habits, such as dressing while standing up, climbing on furniture, footstools, or ladders, or walking barefooted can put us at risk. Check your shoes to make sure they are in good repair, particularly if they are your favorite old shoes.

Medicines and/or medical diagnoses may create problems such as decreased blood pressure when standing or dizziness. If you know these are problems, be particularly careful as you walk.

The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) has recommendations for exercise. A substantial amount of research verifies that exercise is one of the best ways to reduce risk of falls and maintain your flexibility, strength, coordination, and endurance. High intensity exercise of any type has been proven to improve balance. Specific balance exercises also improve balance and reduce the risk of falls. Studies have shown that doing balance exercise 10 minutes a day will reduce your risk of falls. One study said as much as a 62% reduction and another study said a 43% reduction.

Plan to attend our program on balance exercises on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. A light lunch will follow.

By Linda Eargle

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**4<sup>th</sup> – Noah Allman, Jack Kitzman**  
**8<sup>th</sup> – Ted Wilson**  
**9<sup>th</sup> – Barry Matchette**  
**12<sup>th</sup> – Margaret Hilarides, Hal Wold**  
**14<sup>th</sup> – Mary Christiano**  
**17<sup>th</sup> – Robert Turner**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> – Edie Moose**  
**24<sup>th</sup> – Sandra Glenner, Paula Lickfeldt,  
Elaine Wiseman**  
**27<sup>th</sup> – Mike Almaguer, Dottie Drouin,  
Joan Matchette**  
**28<sup>th</sup>– Joyce Kuzmick**



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

**8<sup>th</sup>– Harry & Heidi Oelgart**  
**10<sup>th</sup> –Chuck & Sue Kovacik**  
**13<sup>th</sup>– Justin & Maureen Hill**  
**17<sup>th</sup>– Anne & Richard Doerfler**  
**19<sup>th</sup>– Laura & Larry Akins**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> – Walter & Esther Geissler**  
**30<sup>th</sup>– Howard & Darlene Baker**



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. Sept 1 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin, Jay German, Judy Buskirk</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>
<b>Sun. Sept 8 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>		<b>Chuck Kovacik</b>
<b>Sun. Sept 15 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>	<b>Sharon &amp; Bill Horiszny, Joyce Kuzmick</b>	<b>Chuck Buskirk</b>
<b>Sun. Sept 22 10:00 AM</b>	<b>David Lickfeldt</b>		<b>Bill Horiszny</b>
<b>Sun. Sept 29 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>		<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>

<b>Sept Usher Team</b>	<b>Sept Altar Guild</b>	<b>Sound &amp; Camera</b>
<b>Chuck Kovacik Team</b>	<b>Carolyn Cole &amp; Arlene Hansen</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>



<b>Time</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Lector</b>
<b>Sun. Oct 6 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin, Jenise German, Judy Buskirk</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>
<b>Sun. Oct 13 10:00 AM</b>	<b>David Lickfeldt</b>		<b>Sherri Knaub</b>
<b>Sun. Oct 20 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick, Wendy Kitzman, Arlene Hansen</b>	<b>Wendy Kitzman</b>
<b>Sun. Oct 27 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>		<b>Jim Schwartz</b>

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.







## Falls Prevention

September is Falls Prevention month. Join us for a Falls Prevention program in Buhr Hall on **Tuesday, September 17th at 10:30 AM**. Dr. Linda Eargle will share her expertise as a physical therapist and her experience as a member of the SCC EMS as well as an 80-year-old adult who has fallen. Come learn about what to do and not do to reduce your risks of falls in this fun and interactive discussion of what can be a life changing problem. A light lunch will be served following the presentation. The event is free. If you will be attending, please sign the sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex.

## WELCA Book Club is Back!

Please join us for the **Thursday, September 19 meeting at 1:00 PM** in Buhr Hall. We will be getting reacquainted and hearing from each other about the summer break and what we read. Did you try the summer reading challenge? I found it helped me pick titles and genres I would have easily passed without a second thought. I had to search for ideas on what to pick to "fill a square" on the bingo card. Also, we will be selecting what to read and discuss at the October meeting. Hope to see you soon!



Diane



## Ways to Support Redeemer's Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Volunteer

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet on Fridays (10 a.m. -11:30a.m.) in Buhr Hall. We welcome you to join us in knitting or crocheting

items to share with our members and their loved ones. This year we have already distributed over one hundred shawls and lap blankets!

### Donate

A common question we hear is "Do you sell the shawls?" No, we do not sell them. We are able to gift these items because of the generosity of our crafters, WELCA, and individuals donating funds and materials. Are you considering a gift to support growing this ministry? WELCA will gratefully accept your donation! Please make a check out to **WELCA** and put **Prayer Shawl Ministry** in the memo line. Also, a gift registry was recently established on the Walmart website. Please visit the registry to view the wishlist at

<https://www.walmart.com/registry/er/94644236-6e26-4e22-bb90-7c73a061f1ee> or search for SCC Redeemer Prayer Shawl Ministry on the Walmart app or website.

### Pray

Please keep the crafters and those who receive the shawls and lap blankets in your prayers. May this ministry continue to provide love and comfort to others.

### Request

Don't be shy to let us know your needs. There is a signup sheet for requests on the Welcome table in the Narthex or take a moment to speak with one of our crafters. May you be lifted up in hope, surrounded by joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love.



Prayer Shawl Ministry: Front L to R: Vicki Weiss, Wendy Kitzman, Diane Brace, Maureen Hill, Mary Ann Sigler. Back L to R: Jeanne Pruett, Kathy Schwartz, MaryAnn Sigler. Not pictured: Beverly Bassette.



## Christmas Sale

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 4th. Items can then be dropped off in Buhr Hall week days between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM. Do not leave items outside. The Christmas Sale will run on Sundays from November 10th through December 15th in Buhr Hall.

## Rummage Sale

The Fundraising Team is in the process of planning our annual rummage sale for Friday, February 7 and Saturday, February 8, 2025. Additional details will be announced in the upcoming months.

## New Member Sunday

We are happy to have added quite a few new members since the last New Member Sunday. We would like to celebrate on Sunday, October 13, 2024, at our 10:00 AM Worship Service. If you have joined us since October of 2023, please plan to stand with the group (optional) so you can be recognized by the congregation. We would like to take a photo of you for our office records and give you a new member folder. Photos can be emailed to the office if you prefer or we can take one for you on Sunday.

We will meet in the fellowship hall for cookies and coffee after worship to celebrate new members. We would love to have some of our bakers to bake cookies for this event. Please use the sign up sheet for baked goods on the welcome counter.

It is always a good time to join. If you would like to become a member, you can find a membership form on the welcome counter. Forms can be returned to any member of the office staff.

## Bakers Needed!!

We will be selling baked goods at this year's Arts & Crafts Fair, just like we have done in the past. We are looking for our bakers to help us raise money by making their baked treats and bringing them to the church on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM, noon. If you are making an item that contains nuts, please be sure to note it on the item. There will be a sign-up sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex.

**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday, November 2nd<sup>h</sup>**  
**9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**



This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> Arts and Crafts Fair that Redeemer will be hosting. There will be a variety of arts & crafts, a raffle for gift baskets, 50/50 raffle, bake sale, and a food truck. Please save the date and come to support Redeemer and local vendors.



**Day September 23 at 5:00 PM**

Join us for movie night this month on September 23. The movie will be *Red Dog* with Josh Lucas and Rachel Taylor. Doors will open at 5:00 PM. Potluck dinner will begin at 5:30 PM, bring a dish 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. Please include what type of item you plan to share so we don't all bring desserts. The movie will begin at 6:00 PM

The movie is based on the legendary true story of the Red Dog who united a disparate local community while roaming the Australian outback in search of his long lost master.



## Oktoberfest Hymn Sing

On Wednesday, October 16th, Buhr Hall will host our Oktoberfest event. 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 5:00 PM until 7:00 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 23rd on your calendar for an enjoyable evening.



## 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 Hobratchk.



## Choir Members needed

Now is the time to join in singing with our choir. If you have previously sung in a choir, or you read music, or just love to sing we welcome you! Please join us every Thursday at 6:30 PM for Choir practice. Call Sandy Gundacker at 813-335-4969 for more information.



## Fellowship

Many of us look forward to fellowship and coffee/refreshments following the service, but do you know the volunteers who make this possible? They are here early and stay late EVERY SUNDAY setting up, serving, and cleaning up. We owe them our gratitude. When you see them, you may want to share your appreciation. Pictured from left to right are Jim Fredrickson, Jack Kitzman, Myrna Strom (coordinator), Rick Robillard, Wendy Kitzman, Honey Ashley, Keith Kovac, and Geri Julian.

Also, thanks to those who donate or provide those good home baked items. And thanks to Thrivent which has helped us purchase some individually wrapped items.



# September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>2</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>3</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>6</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>8</b> 10:00 AM-Worship  Blessing of the quilts & shawls	<b>9</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>10</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Finance Team Mtg 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM-Parish Nurses 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>14</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>15</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>16</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>17</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 10:30 AM-Presentation on Falls 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>19</b> 1:00 PM-Book Club 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>20</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>22</b> 10:00 AM-Worship	<b>23</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 2:00 PM- WELCA Board 5:00 PM- Movie Night 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>24</b> 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>27</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>29</b> 10:00 AM-Worship	<b>30</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg					



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Office Email: [sccredeemerlc@gmail.com](mailto:sccredeemerlc@gmail.com)