



PAR FOR THE CHORUS AT OUR WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

# RLC Newsletter

January  
2025

## A Message from Pastor Allman

“When God Builds the Church” Pastor Bob Russell, Principle #5: Faith: Be Willing to Step Out with a Bold Faith and Take Risks

*Jesus looked at (his disciples) intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.” (Matthew 19:26, NLT)*

God blesses those who trust God enough to follow God’s guidance even when it appears risky. Abraham packed up his family and all his belongings on God’s command to start heading off to the place that God would show him when Abraham got there. Moses convinced the Pharaoh to release the Hebrews and led them to the Red Sea without knowing how they would get across. After Jesus ascended into heaven the disciples proclaimed the gospel, knowing that they could be arrested, beaten, crucified or all three. Paul proclaimed God’s word to the Gentiles (anyone not Jewish) not knowing that the majority of our New Testament would be made up of his letters to the churches Paul started.

I would guess that the original charter members of Redeemer here in Sun City Center did not know God’s plans for the current sanctuary, offices, choir

room, kitchen, and fellowship hall. They stepped out with a bold faith and took a risk when God called them to come together and start a Lutheran presence here. They were people who looked to the future more than the present and that is what God is calling us to do as well.

The great hockey player Wayne Gretzky was once asked why he was so successful on the ice. He answered, *“I skate to where the puck is going to be.”* God needs people of bold faith who are willing to head toward the future where God is going to be. I have a sign in my office that reads, *“The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to step beyond them into the impossible.”*


Pastor Russell writes about a “Youth Night” worship service in 1983 when their average attendance was 1000 people and one young man said that he looked forward to a future when Southeast would worship 10,000 people which made everyone laugh. They now average in the tens of thousands of people each weekend. Pastor Russell asks, *“How small was our faith that we laughed?”* When God told Abraham that Sarah (then 90-years-old) would have a son within the year, she laughed. Abraham

named their son Isaac, which in Hebrew means, “to laugh.”

If Redeemer is going to do big things for God in Sun City Center, it will only be because our people do not laugh at God’s vision. Instead, we need to pray that God grant our leaders the vision and our people the courage to step out in bold faith and take risks.

The mission of Redeemer Lutheran Church is to proclaim Jesus Christ, grow in faith through the Holy Spirit and share God's Word and Love with all people. For each of us, individually, to think about sharing God’s Word and Love with all people we would probably be frightened off by the magnitude of the concept. I imagine the original twelve apostles were frightened when Jesus told them to take God’s Word to the whole world. “Jesus looked at (his disciples) intently and said, ‘Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.’” (Matthew 19:26, NLT)

If stepping out in bold faith sounds like a risk, then you have a correct understanding of what it means to have faith in God. The question to ask should never be, “Can we do this?” The question to ask should always be, “Can God do this through us?”

Pastor Allman 

**2024 on YouTube**  
**71 New Subscribers**  
**12.3k total views**



## News from the Office Administrator January 2025

Happy New Year everyone. This past year went by so quickly. We look forward to many fun things in the new year as usual be sure you check the Welcome Table in the narthex for upcoming events. We will post flyers and signup sheets there for many different activities so come and choose some fun and informative things to do!

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.

***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.***



# JANUARY 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 91 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” 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 would be the latest Smart Phones to hit the market a couple of weeks before Christmas. I do not believe that anyone could justify these gadgets as a “need,” yet people were lined up early to spend between \$1500.00 and \$2000.00 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 us 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 the 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 5,000 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

*"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Romans 15:7 NRSV).*

When you come into the church building, what do you do? Do you walk up and sit in your pew? Do you speak to anyone? Do you speak only to those you already know? How many other church folks do you know? Do you speak only to those who speak to you first? Do you stay for an hour and then leave? Do you stay for refreshments and conversation? If so, do you always sit at the same table with the same people? Do you ever walk around and greet others?

When used as a verb, welcome is defined as greeting someone in a glad, polite, or friendly way. Imagine how it would feel to walk into the church building and have everyone make you feel welcome. Imagine how it would feel to walk into the church building and have no one speak to you. Imagine how it would feel to stay for refreshments, and while you are picking out your food and beverage someone comes up and invites you to sit with them. Imagine how it would feel if you walked up to a table and were told you cannot sit there; or, you sit down and everyone at the table ignores you.



All the above has happened at Redeemer at one time or another. On one of the Sundays when I was away recently, we had first time visitors who filled out the sheet asking for a call from the Pastor. Since I was away, Kadie called the people. They told her that when they filled out that sheet they were interested in membership, although no one talked to them or welcomed them, so they were no longer interested. They were looking for a church, although they wanted one that felt welcoming, so they would keep looking.



The Apostle Paul did not say, *"Tolerate one another, therefore, just as Christ has tolerated you, for the glory of God."* I am not sure that anyone wants to feel tolerated. I am not sure any of us would like to feel tolerated by the Christ. It is much better to feel welcomed. Has someone at Redeemer made you feel welcomed? That is wonderful and brings glory to God. Have you made someone at Redeemer feel welcomed? That is wonderful and brings glory to God. It truly is wonderful to welcome and feel welcomed, yet ultimately it is about bringing glory to God. Let's work on that together, shall we?



## Depression and Older Adults *From our Parish Nurse Team*

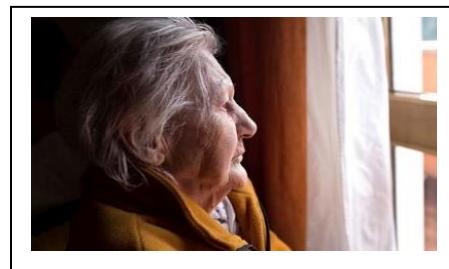
Depression is more than just feeling sad or blue. It is a common but serious mood disorder that needs treatment. It causes severe symptoms that affect how you feel, think, and handle daily activities, such as sleeping, eating, and working. When you have depression, you have trouble with daily life for weeks at a time. Depression is a real illness. You can't "snap out of" clinical depression. Most people who experience depression need treatment to get better.

Depression is a common problem among older adults, but it is not a normal part of aging. Studies show that most older adults feel satisfied with their lives, despite having more physical problems. Important life changes that happen as we get older may cause uneasiness, stress, and sadness. For instance, the death of a loved one, retirement, or dealing with illness can leave people feeling sad. After a period of adjustment, many older adults can regain their emotional balance, but others do not and may develop depression.

**Depression Can Co-Occur with Other Illnesses** Depression, especially in middle-aged or older adults, can co-occur with other serious medical illnesses such as diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and Parkinson's disease. Depression can make these conditions worse and vice versa. Some medications taken for these illnesses may cause side effects that contribute to depression.

**Common Symptoms of Depression** Depression in older adults may be difficult to recognize. For some older adults, sadness is not their main symptom. They may have other, less obvious symptoms of depression, or they may not be willing to talk about their feelings. Some of the most common symptoms are listed below. If you have several of these symptoms for more than 2 weeks, you may have depression.

- Persistent sad, anxious, "empty" mood, or frequent crying
- Feelings of hopelessness, guilt, worthlessness, or helplessness
- Irritability, restlessness, or having trouble sitting still
- Loss of interest in once pleasurable activities
- Decreased energy or fatigue
- Moving or talking more slowly
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering, making decisions
- Difficulty sleeping, early-morning awakening, or oversleeping
- Eating more or less than usual, usually with unplanned weight gain or loss
- Thoughts of death or suicide, or suicide attempts
- Aches, pains, or digestive problems without a physical cause that do not get better with treatment



**Treatments for Depression** Depression can be treated. If you think you may have depression, start by seeing your doctor. Certain medications and some medical conditions can cause the same symptoms as depression. If the doctor can find no medical condition that may be causing the depression, the next step is a psychological evaluation. Treatment choices differ for each person, and sometimes multiple treatments must be tried to find one that works. It is important to keep trying until you find something that works for you. The most common forms of treatment for depression are medication and psychotherapy. **Remember, with treatment, most people will begin to feel better. Expect your mood to improve slowly. Feeling better takes time, but it can happen.**

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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**3<sup>rd</sup> – Howie Warfield**  
**6<sup>th</sup> – Michael Ridgeway**  
**8<sup>th</sup> – Richard Meredith**  
**10<sup>th</sup> – Mary Ann Romano**  
**12<sup>th</sup> – Linda Cagle, Shari Fleming**  
**17<sup>th</sup> – Janet Thompson**  
**20<sup>th</sup> – Mary Ihrke**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> – Mariam Zane**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> – Dieter Quitsch, Jane Sturmer**  
**28<sup>th</sup> – Mike Knaub**  
**31<sup>st</sup> – Charles Bennett**



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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**2<sup>nd</sup> – David & Deya Schierenbeck**  
**14<sup>th</sup> – Vern & Verbal Loepp**  
**21<sup>st</sup> - Dale & Kay Lyndahl**  
**27<sup>th</sup> - Bill & Nancy Frey**



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



# JANUARY

<b>Time</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Lector</b>
<b>Sun. Jan 5 10:00 AM</b>	<b>David Lickfeldt</b>	<b>Bill &amp; Sharon Horiszny, David Lickfeldt</b>	<b>Sharon Horiszny</b>
<b>Sun. Jan 12 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>		<b>Jim Schwartz</b>
<b>Sun. Jan 19 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick, Jenise German, Chris Zewin</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>
<b>Sun. Jan 26 10:00 AM</b>	<b>David Lickfeldt</b>		<b>Chuck Kovacik</b>

<b>January Usher Team</b>	<b>January Altar Guild</b>	<b>Sound &amp; Camera</b>
<b>Shari Flemings Team</b>	<b>Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk</b>	<b>Volunteers</b>



<b>Time</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Lector</b>
<b>Sun. Feb 2 10:00 AM</b>	<b>David Lickfeldt</b>	<b>Jay German, Mary Ann Sigler, David Lickfeldt</b>	<b>Dan Pollert</b>
<b>Sun. Feb 9 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Paul Ó Braonáin</b>		<b>Sherri Knaub</b>
<b>Sun. Feb 16 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz</b>	<b>Kathy Schwartz, Judy Buskirk, Joyce Kuzmick</b>	<b>Chuck Buskirk</b>
<b>Sun. Feb 23 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Joyce Kuzmick</b>		<b>Joyce Kuzmick</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.







## Annual Reports

If you are part of a committee, it is almost time to turn in your team's annual report. Please plan to have those in to Kadie no later than January 10<sup>th</sup>. Please reach out to Kadie if you have any questions.



**Plan to attend the Annual Meeting.  
January 26<sup>th</sup> immediately after worship.**

## All About Bees

How much do you know about bees and honey? On Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> we will have a presentation "All About Bees". Sam Goodwin, a licensed Florida beekeeper and Army veteran, will be covering the three types of honey bees found in a hive; their differences and specific jobs. He will talk about pollination, food gathering, honey production, bee removals, reproduction, what it's like to keep bees in Florida, and give hands-on experience. Beekeeping equipment will be on display and participants will be encouraged to touch, explore and ask questions. If interested, his honey will be available after the talk. The program will begin at 9:30 am with a complimentary breakfast. If attending, please sign the sheet on the welcome counter so we know how much food is needed.



## WELCA Book Club News

The Gentle Readers of the WELCA book club are taking a break in December to enjoy the holidays. We are looking forward to 2025!

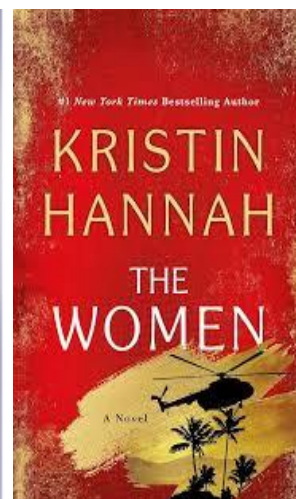
Our regular meeting on Thursday, January 16 at 1 p.m. will be held in the conference room to review comedian Leanne Morgan's new book "What in the World?!: A Southern Woman's Guide to Laughing at Life's Unexpected Curveballs and Beautiful Blessings." If you need a good laugh, you can also check on Netflix to find a recording of Leanne's standup comedy.

Save Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 1 p.m. for a bonus meeting to discuss "The Women: A Novel" by Kristin Hannah. This book has really made an impression on our members who've already read it and has been on many members future read lists. The subject may be difficult for some (you may want to check trigger warnings for this book), so please discern your comfort level reading and/or participating in this discussion.

The Book Club is an open group and we welcome new members.



Diane





## Rummage Sale

The Rummage Sale this year will be on Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM and on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Starting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, donations will be collected Monday to Friday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The items we will be collecting to sell are; clothes (no stains), plastic hangers, household items, jewelry, books (no magazines), puzzles, linens, collectibles, knick knacks, small appliances, tools, DVDs, CDs, toys, office supplies, craft supplies, and home décor.

We will not accept: phones, televisions, vcrs, large exercise equipment, wire hangers, and big furniture such as couches and living room furniture.

Please save newspapers and plastic grocery bags for the sale.



## Rummage Sale Volunteers

It takes many volunteers to make the Rummage Sale a success. We hope that you will help us with the prep as well as on the days of the sale. Prep days will be Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM starting January 20<sup>th</sup> and continuing until the sale. During this time, we will be pricing and sorting. Since our process this year will be different, we are asking all volunteers to attend a meeting on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM in Buhr Hall where everything will be explained.

## Bake Sale

The Rummage Sale will again include a bake sale. We are looking for our bakers to help us raise money by making their baked treats. Please label items, and if anything contains nuts, please be sure to note it. There will be a sign-up sheet on the counter. Drop off times will be listed closer to the date.



## Teacher Supplies

This year we will be collecting school supplies for teachers at Reddick Elementary School during the month of January. Why now? This is the time of year when all the donations from the beginning of the year start to run out. These are the items that were requested by teachers: laminating pouches, playdough, colored pencils, composition books, dry erase markers and erasers, sticky notes, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, folders with pockets, binders, tissues, and bleach wipes. Donations can be left on the table on the side in the narthex. If you would like us to do the shopping for you, please place "school supplies" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope and place it in the offering plate.



## Bible Study

Pastor Allman is discussing Prayer in his newest Online Bible Study. Videos will be available every Thursday. They will remain online along with Acts of the Apostles videos for you to view at your convenience. A list of the many bible verses is also available for you to read if you wish.

Our YouTube channel is:

## Redeemer Lutheran Church Sun City Center Florida



# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>2</b> 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>3</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>5</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>6</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>7</b> 10:30 AM- Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg 9:30 AM- Undecorating day 11:00 AM- Fundraising Mtg	<b>9</b> 9:00 AM-Parish Nurses 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>10</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:30 PM-Wedding Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice 3:00 PM- Ó Braonáin wedding
<b>12</b> 10:00 AM-Worship	<b>13</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM-All about Bees 10:30 AM- Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>16</b> 10:30 AM-RS Volunteer Mtg 1:00 PM-Book club 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>19</b> 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	<b>20</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>21</b> 10:30 AM- Barbershop Quartet 11:30 AM- Southshore Coalition 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>23</b> 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>24</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>25</b> 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
<b>26</b> 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-Annual Meeting	<b>27</b> 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-WELCA Board 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	<b>28</b> 10:30 AM- Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	<b>29</b> 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	<b>30</b> 1:00 PM-Book club 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	<b>31</b> 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	

*God bless our country, our first responders,  
and our military men and women.*

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