



RLC Newsletter

May
2025

HE IS RISEN

A Message from Pastor Allman

“When God Builds the Church” Pastor Bob Russell, Principle #9: Stewardship: Give Generously of God’s Resources as a Church and as Individuals.

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly 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 in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8, NRSV)

Nothing will generate more emotional responses from people in the Church than sermons about money and/or stewardship talks. Many Christians would be happy if the church never talked about money. Those same people would never be upset by a sermon about heaven or about prayer. Yet Jesus spoke more about money and possessions than he did about heaven and prayer combined. The only thing Jesus talked more about than money and possessions is the kingdom of God.

Brian Sluth, President of Christian Stewardship Association wrote: *There are 2,350 passages in the Bible dealing with money and material possessions – more than any other subject – but it’s the least talked about subject in the church. The church has been silent for so long that the people don’t understand the responsibilities that undergird a generous lifestyle.*

An article in a finance magazine states that the average Christian gives of their income proportionately less today than the average Christian did immediately following World War II. The result is that churches today are giving 50% less toward mission and outreach. Financial advisor and talk show host, Dave Ramsey, once said that if every Christian tithed (10%) *“There would be no more welfare in North America. In ninety days there would be no more existing church or hospital debts. In the next ninety days, the entire world could be evangelized. There would be prayer in schools, because Christians would buy all the schools.”*

Bob Russell writes, “Wise stewardship of God’s resources is an important part of a healthy church. We live in a materialistic culture where people are

battling daily the god of money. Biblical stewardship and generous giving can transform lives and significantly advance the Kingdom of God" (page 231).

Southeast Christian Church, with their tens of thousands of members, is large enough to have a full time Stewardship Minister that helps people who are suffering from out-of-control debt. Russell states that people do not think they can give to the church as they might wish because they are caught in the grips of debt. They feel the burden of house debt, car(s) debt, credit card debt, etc. and it robs them of the joy of giving and leaves only guilt and bondage.

Stewardship is about more than giving money away. It is a way of life. It is about how we use the time God has given us on earth, how we use the talents God has given us, and how we use the money and possessions God has entrusted to us. God is interested in more than a percentage of each. God is interested in the whole you. God does not demand that we give back to God what God has first given to us. God encourages cheerful giving in a sense of gratitude out of the abundance God has given us. Please prayerfully reflect on your own stewardship of life in God.

Pastor Allman 

Bible Study

Pastor Allman is discussing Revelation in his current Online Bible Study. Videos are available every Thursday. Prior bible study videos on Prayer will remain online along with Acts of the Apostles videos for you to view at your convenience.

Our YouTube channel is:

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
Sun City Center Florida**



News from the Office Administrator May 2025

As you are reading this, I will be exploring Europe with my dad. My email will be monitored by Mike while I am out of the office. As soon as I return will begin the June newsletter. If you are sending me items for the newsletter, please note that in the emails memo line so I can identify them easily. While I am away, please do not send work related text messages, use email instead.

A special thank you to my bird friend(s), you know who you are, for a very special delivery. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

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 to make a donation, please write Pastor's discretionary fund on the memo line.

Upcoming Activities:

May 13: (Tue) Ladies Brunch



5/21

Last month on YouTube

8 New Subscribers

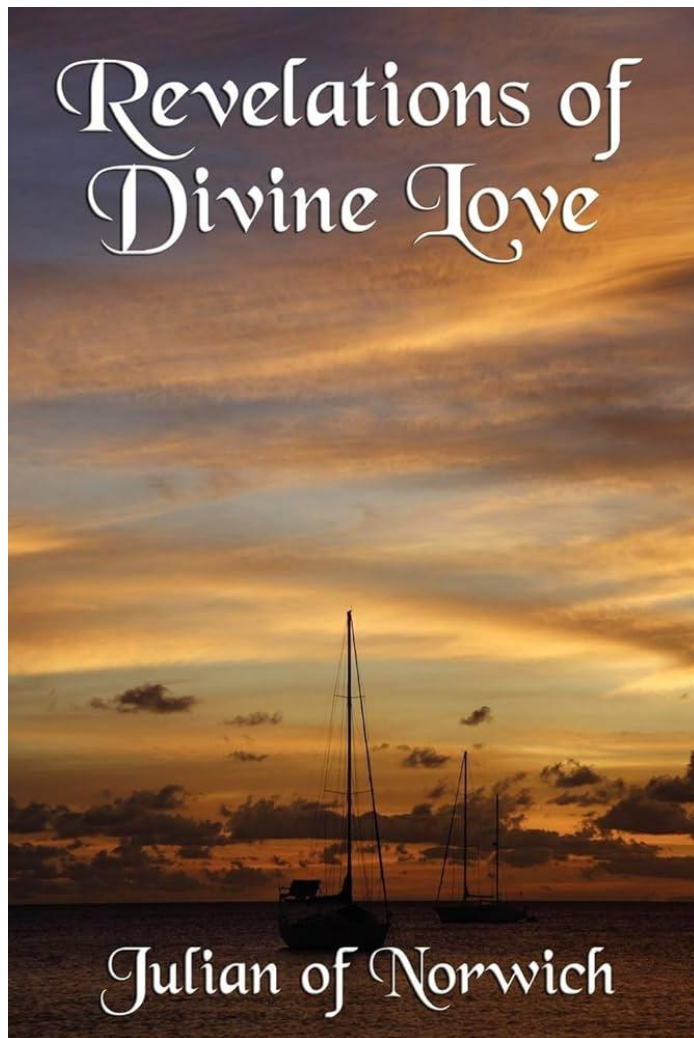
1,089 total views

12.2 minutes watched



GROWING IN FAITH

Julian of Norwich, was an English anchoress (i.e., lived a solitary life of prayer and devotion) of the Middle Ages (1342-1416 AD) in Norwich, United Kingdom. Her writings, now known as Revelations of Divine Love, are the earliest surviving English-language works attributed to a woman. I do not think she ever desired to be a published author, although her contemplations (which she calls showings) have been found to be deep and convicting. If you have not heard of her before, do not be too dismayed, even some currently living in Norwich do not know who she was.



A friend of mine, a retired Methodist Pastor, is an Associate of the Order of Julian, who feels called to the contemplative life in the world. He, his wife, and people from around the world, have made an annual pilgrimage to Norwich to honor Julian. When we meet, he often shares something with me in relation to his readings, prayers, etc. Note: one does not need to be part of the Order of Julian to practice contemplative prayer. If you are interest in contemplative prayer, please come and talk with me.

In our most recent time together, he shared from a chapter of Julian's writings. One part struck me, and I have been contemplating its meaning, which I will also share with you as we all continue to Grow in Faith. Julian writes, *"I am also well aware that the soul that truly accepts the teachings of the Holy Spirit, hates sin more for its vileness and horribleness than it does all the pain that is in hell."*

I encourage you to contemplate what that means to you, even as I have this week. What do you "hate" more – your own sin or all the pain that is in hell? I wonder if sin becomes less important, so to speak, perhaps because we are assured forgiveness through the Cross, or because we downplay our own sin in comparison to the sin of others (i.e., our sin is not as bad as some others). I try to remember and remind Redeemer folks that to God a sin is a sin is a sin. We humans tend to rank sins from bad to worse, perhaps to justify ourselves by comparison to someone worse. God considers every sin to be vile and horrible. At least that is my take-away from Julian's thought (above).



I do not mean to suggest that Julian thinks we should not hate *"all the pain that is in hell."* I think she is telling her readers about what God has showed her – that as much as one hates, *"all the pain that is in hell,"* the soul that truly accepts the teaching of the Holy Spirit, hates her/his own sin even more.

From our Parish Nurse Team

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act as we cope with life. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, including as we age.



Many older adults are at risk for mental health problems. But this does not mean that mental health problems are a normal part of aging. Studies show that most older adults feel satisfied with their lives, even though they may have more illnesses or physical problems.

Sometimes, however, important life changes can make you feel uneasy, stressed, and sad. These changes could include the death of a loved one, retirement, or dealing with a serious illness. Many older adults will eventually adjust to the changes. But some people will have more trouble adjusting. This can put them at risk for **mental disorders** such as **depression** and **anxiety**.

It's important to recognize and treat mental disorders in older adults. These disorders don't just cause mental suffering. They can also make it harder for you to manage other health problems. This is especially true if those health problems are chronic.

Some of the warning signs of mental disorders in older adults include:

- Changes in mood or energy level
- A change in your eating or sleeping habits
- Withdrawing from the people and activities you enjoy
- Feeling unusually confused, forgetful, angry, upset, worried, or scared
- Feeling numb or like nothing matters
- Having unexplained aches and pains
- Feeling sadness or hopelessness
- Smoking, drinking, or using drugs more than usual
- Anger, irritability, or aggressiveness
- Having thoughts and memories that you can't get out of your head
- Hearing voices or believing things that are not true
- Thinking of harming yourself or others

If you think that you may have a mental health problem, get help. Talk therapy and/or medicines can treat mental disorders. If you don't know where to start, contact your primary care provider.

<https://medlineplus.gov/olderadultmentalhealth.html>

MAY BIRTHDAYS

3rd – Carolyn Cole
4th – Cal Adams, Paula Simenson
6th – Barbara Kargol, Dorothy Warke
7th – Karin Meredith
9th – Mike Sigler
10th – Eleanor Jurgens
12th – Joan Wessinger
14th – Lee Johnson
21st – Chuck Kovacik
26th – Judith Lavallee
27th – Kathy Westerman
30th – Martha Viohl



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

7th – Joseph & Audrey Ercegovich
9th – Rosalie & Jerry Kelleher
15th – Mike & Nancy Almaguer
18th – Mike & Sherri Knaub
19th – David & Candy Allman
27th – Tim & Theresa McKee
28th – Bob & Delores Casper



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

Easter gift bag thank you!

Thank you to all of the wonderful people in our congregation that donated items and delivered gift bags for our homebound members & friends. WELCA Sunshine circle has brought so much Easter joy by making these deliveries.





Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. May 4 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin	Paul Ó Braonáin, Judy Buskirk, Deb Pollert	Dan Pollert
Sun. May 11 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz		Jim Schwartz
Sun. May 18 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz	Kathy Schwartz, Arlene Hansen, Wendy Kitzman	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. May 25 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Chuck Buskirk

May Usher Team	May Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Chuck Kovacik Team	Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk	Volunteers



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. June 1 10:00 AM	Joyce Kuzmick	Joyce Kuzmick, Jay German, Judy Buskirk	Judy Buskirk
Sun. June 8 10:00 AM	Kathy Schwartz		Jim Schwartz
Sun. June 15 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt	Wendy Kitzman, David Lickfeldt, Kathy Schwartz	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. June 22 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin	Kathy Schwartz, David Lickfeldt, Arlene Hansen	Sherri Knaub
Sun. June 29 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Chuck Kovacik

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.



Raffle Basket Creators Needed

Do you remember those fabulous raffle baskets at past Arts & Crafts Fairs? Our thanks to Jeanne Potochny for creating them the last several years. This year, we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to create a basket. We are starting early to give participants time to shop for bargains, plan, and organize their thoughts to come up with amazing baskets. We encourage your creative ideas and past experiences making baskets. This can be fun and an excellent way to share your interests and talents to benefit WELCA.

We would like to have a wide variety of baskets and have suggested several themes, or you may have another idea. If you would be willing to create one, please sign the sheet on the welcome counter. Jeanne will answer any questions you may have and help will also be provided.

Women's Brunch

Another women's brunch has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 13th. Please join us for a fun morning of brunch, bow-making, coffee, & conversation. Bring a brunch item (and recipe card) to share and a non-perishable food item for donation to the local food pantry. Don't worry if you are not crafty, we will be giving instruction and will have bow-making supplies on hand. We will also be raffling a prayer shawl! All ladies are welcome, so bring a friend. Sign-up sheet is available on the welcome table.



SYNOD Service Project – Our Service Project this year is with Hope Partnership in Kissimmee. Formed in 2011 to meet the needs of the growing number of families and children experiencing poverty and living in hotels and motels along Highway 192. They have grown by providing a holistic community to meet the needs of the poor and homeless.

As part of our commitment to serving our community, we will be collecting toiletry items and offering a hands-on volunteer opportunity at Hope Partnership in Kissimmee.

The most needed items are:

Body wipes

Men's boxer briefs (M, L, & XL)

Women's underwear (L, XL, & 2XL)

Travel-size lotion

Unisex T-shirts (L & XL)

Deodorant

Bug Spray

Sunscreen

Razors

We will be collecting items to be taken to the SYNOD assembly in June.

Volunteers Needed – Join Now!

Find purpose and friends by volunteering at Interfaith Council's Nearly New Store. Our volunteers, caring donors and faithful customers help us provide funds to support our houses of worship's food pantries, essential needs and other programs, as well as local nonprofits including SCC Emergency Squad, Security Patrol, and other social service programs. Interfaith Council's Nearly New Store provided \$2,500 to each house of worship that is an Interfaith Council member during the Covid isolation, and \$5,000 in Fall 2024. Funds generated also provide college scholarships to high school seniors graduating from 3 local high schools. We ask for 4 hours a week and have a variety of ways to help – even remote opportunities as well. Pick up an application at the [house of worship] office or at the Nearly New Store, 1515A Sun City Center (rear shopping area), Sun City Center, FL, or call Nearly New at (813) 642-9099 for more information. Your donations are welcome too!

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	2 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	3 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
4 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	5 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 5:00 PM-HOA Mtg 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	6 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	7 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg 10:00 AM-Fundraising Mtg	8 6:00 AM- Parish Nurse Mtg 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	9 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	10
11 10:00 AM-Worship	12 10:00 AM- Executive Team 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	13 10:00 AM-Ladies Brunch 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	14 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg 9:00 AM-Private Memorial Service	15 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	16 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	17 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
18 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	19 10:00 AM-WELCA Board 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	20 11:30 AM-Southshore Coalition 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	21 9:00 AM-Gold Star Mtg	22 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	23 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	24 5:30 PM-AA Birthday Celebration
25 10:00 AM-Worship	26 Office Closed 6:30 PM-AA Mtg	27 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	31

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

Office Email: sccredeemerlc@gmail.com

