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November 2020



## Good News from Our Redeemer!

From the Pastor...

One King, Two Kingdoms

We are living during historic times. As you read these words, we are in the days leading up to a presidential election (or if reading later it has just passed). In an email to pastors and churches Rev. Franklin Graham, son of the late Dr. Billy Graham says, this election is “the most critical one of our lifetime. Secular forces are at work to completely change this country and remake it into a godless, lawless place.” He tells of the Prayer March 2020 in Washington D.C. which he organized a few weeks ago and how amazing it was to see “tens of thousands of Christians from all across America come together for one purpose—to humble ourselves before the Lord and pray for our nation.” I encourage you to pray for our nation too and to vote for those candidates who will support Biblical morality, defend our religious liberties, and seek to honor God in all that they do. In his Decision Magazine Graham identifies some of the key issues at stake in this presidential election. As conservative Christians and members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we share Graham’s values: opposition to abortion on demand, religious liberty, strong national defense, law and order, the defense of traditional marriage and family, Biblical views of human sexuality, judges who follow our constitution, an economic policy which puts American’s back to work. These and many other issues will be decided on November 3rd. We know that many people will be disappointed with the results. Others will rejoice that their candidates are victorious. Fear of the consequences for our nation and families is great and division in society is higher than most of us can remember. We need God’s help!

The August issue of the LCMS magazine the Lutheran Witness (which was placed in your church mailbox) begins with an article entitled, “One King—Two Kingdoms”. I encourage you to read it. It speaks of “the two ways which God reigns, “exclusively through the law with his left hand and through both law and Gospel with His right.” The author, Robert Benne, states his desire that we have our Christian identity rooted “in the work of God’s right-hand Kingdom, the Church’ proclamation of the Gospel, the free gift of grace in Christ to the repentant soul.” He says there is “great comfort and solidarity in uniting around the One King, Jesus Christ. He is the work of God’s right hand. He is our first loyalty, the guarantee of our eternal destiny with God.”

The point of this is that God continues to rule in this world through the governments that he has established or has allowed to exist (Kingdom of the Left) and also graciously rules his kingdom family, the Christian on earth and in heaven (Kingdom of the Right). We are to pray to God, as Martin Luther says in his explanation to the 4th petition of the Lord’s Prayer for “devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health” and the other blessings which we need as we live and serve Him in this world. God’s providential care is the reason that we need not worry but rather trust the Lord to be with us and help us, regardless of who is elected. St. Peter reminds us to “Cast your cares on Him for He cares for you”. Jesus rules over all things for the sake of his Church. This is an important truth as we go past the election and deal with the consequences or changes which it may bring.

So take heart in knowing that the Lord continues to rule over this world, the Left Hand Kingdom. In this earthly kingdom people know both victory and defeat, deal with elected officials that often fail to do what they should, and too often disappoint us. Trust the Lord to bless and help you and to answer our prayers for our country. In the Kingdom of the Right Hand, the Holy Christian Church on earth and in heaven, the victory has already been won. By his death and resurrection Jesus has defeated sin, death, and the devil. He will come again to take us from this troubled world to enjoy the perfect life with God in heaven. Encourage one another with these words and remember to love one another as God in Christ has loved us. We come together at the cross where we worship One King who is over Two Kingdoms.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill Reister

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sunday's at 8:30 a.m. November 8, 15, 2 & 29 only	<b>Drive-In Devotional Service</b> Join us for a 30-minute drive-in brief devotional service behind the church featuring abbreviated liturgy, 2 hymns, message, and communion (5th Sunday).
Sunday's at 9:00 a.m. November 8, 15, & 22 (concludes on 22)	<b>Adult Bible Class (No class November 1)</b> Beginning with fellowship & prayer and theme of series "Fear Not!": Bible stories to inspire and encourage. Each week we look at a story and a promise with the words "Fear Not!". A new series will begin on November 29, the first Sunday in Advent.
Sunday's at 10:00 a.m.	<b>Worship Service</b> Join us for "In-Person" worship with social distancing. The Elders (after sanitizing) will be serving Communion at the Altar using individual cups. New individual Communion kits with wine will be available with the bulletins for those who wish to stay in their seat.
<b>Sunday, November 1</b> 10:00 a.m.  4:00 p.m.  5:30 p.m.	All Saints Sunday Worship with Holy Communion. The reading of the names of the dear departed who have gone to be with the Lord during the last year. ----- 60th Anniversary Celebration & the Reformation Festival Service of the First Coast Circuit (The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod). ----- Light refreshments provided in the Fellowship Hall.
<b>Sunday, November 8, 22</b>  8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	<b>Stewardship Challenge Sunday</b>  Drive-In Devotional Service Bible Class Worship—22rd Sunday After Pentecost Board of Elder's Meeting
<b>Sunday, November 15, 23</b>  8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	<b>Stewardship Commitment Sunday</b>  Devotional Drive-In Service (No Communion) Bible Class Worship—23rd Sunday After Pentecost
<b>Sunday, November 22</b>  8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	<b>Thanksgiving Worship</b> Last Sunday of the Church Year Stewardship Celebration Sunday  Drive-In Devotional Service Bible Class Worship—Thanksgiving Service Congregational Thanksgiving Planned Potluck Dinner
<b>Sunday, November 29</b>  8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	<b>The First Sunday in Advent</b>  Drive-In Devotional Service Bible Class Worship—1st Sunday in Advent (Holy Communion)

## Stewardship Series

### "Encouragement for Christian Stewards"

November 8—Stewardship Challenge Sunday

November 15—Stewardship Commitment Sunday

November 22—Stewardship Celebration Sunday



## Bible Class Series

### "Fear Not!" Bible Stories to Encourage & Inspire

Each week we will discuss one or more Bible stories or verses which include the words "Fear Not!". We will find ample evidence that God still protects and helps His people in any and every situation.

Sunday's at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall



## NEW Bible Study

“Prepare Ye!”

Begins: Sunday, 11/29  
Concludes: Sunday, 12/27  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Where: Fellowship Hall

This new, informal Bible study is for the Advent season. Please join us as we prepare to welcome our Savior and celebrate His birth.



## Livestreaming

If you are not able to join us for In-person Worship, please join the service at [www.facebook.com/orlcjax](http://www.facebook.com/orlcjax). Or visit our website at [www.https://ourredeemerjax.org](https://ourredeemerjax.org) to watch the recorded services. We thank Joe and Jeremy Fisher for making the livestreaming of Worship possible. Tell your friends and invite others to join us for our services.



## Anniversary Celebration!

*Please join us as we celebrate our 60th Anniversary—On Our Way Rejoicing!*



When: Sunday, November 1, 2020  
Time: 4:00 p.m.—Service of Celebration with Reception following  
Where: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
5401 Dunn Avenue; Jacksonville, FL 32218

Rev. William Reister, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Leon Roberts, Pastoral Assistant

Please RSVP your attendance to the Church Office at 904-766-4728 or by email, text or in-person. We look forward to having you celebrate with us!

## Pastor's Front Porch Visits

Pastor Bill is starting another series of “Front Porch Visits” with our members who are unable to join us for in-person worship and Holy Communion. He assures you that he will follow all necessary safety procedures, will avoid physical contact, and will even bring his own lawn chair. The individual communion kit and devotional material will be placed in a ziplock bag which he will leave on your doorstep as he rings the bell and then takes a seat at a safe distance.

If you would like to have him come for a visit, please call him to schedule a time. Otherwise, he will call you and is also happy to visit the members who have been able to attend.

Pastor William Reister  
904-608-9174



*Front Porch Visits*

## NEW Newsletter Format and Distribution

For the last 29 years, it has been our pleasure to provide you with a monthly newsletter which has been sent out using bulk mail requiring a minimum of 200 sent items. I have enjoyed being the Editor for 20+ years but admit the format hasn't changed much during this time. We pray that you will enjoy this easy-to-read format going forward and will have a few copies at the Church available for you. This newsletter can be found on our website ([www.https://ourredeemerjax.org](https://ourredeemerjax.org)) or it can be emailed to you. Please provide your email to Pastor Reister at: [revbillreister@aol.com](mailto:revbillreister@aol.com) to receive your copy. For those that don't have email, a copy will be mailed to you. Thank you for your support!



# On-Line Christian Growth Opportunities

We look forward to resuming our Tuesday Adult Bible Classes and other Christian Education opportunities including Sunday School when it is possible. We encourage you to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” through our on-line devotions and study opportunities. Please visit our website at [www.https://ourredeemerjax.org](https://ourredeemerjax.org).

- Sunday: Livestreaming of the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service as it happens or later in the day.  
Monday: Prayer Moments written by Pastor Leon Roberts.  
Tuesday: Pastor Bill’s Sunday sermon is emailed and can be found on website.  
Wednesday: The Word for Wednesday devotion and midweek update by Ann Beltran.  
Thursday: Mission news and encouragement by Church President, Adrian Beltran.  
Friday: Bible Fast Food devotion based on the appointed readings from the Sunday service by Pastor Bill.  
Saturday: A Saturday Psalm for meditation and preparation for Sunday Worship.



Pastor Leon Roberts

## Awaiting a Call

Pastor Roberts has completed the Pastoral Colloquy Program and is awaiting his first call as a Pastor in the LCMS District. We will have a celebration of his certification for ministry and of his first call when it is received. A date will be announced. Please continue to pray for God’s direction during this time.

## November Bell Choir & Church Choir

Please join us as we use our musical gifts to glorify God and edify those who join us for Worship. Due to travel schedules we will not be able to have rehearsal on the Wednesdays in November. Please join us for these rehearsals:

- Sunday, November 8 at 11:15 a.m. (Bell Choir)
- Sunday, November 29 at 11:30 a.m. (Church Choir)



Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:28



## News from our Organizations

**Dorcas Society:** Meets Tuesday, November 10 at 12:00 p.m. Please bring your own lunch and join us for the fellowship and meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

**Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML):** Join us on Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m. for our supper and meeting. We are building sub sandwiches!

**Altar Guild:** The ladies and men of the Altar Guild care for the Sanctuary and prepare for services of Communion. We thank Tim and Judy Paster for serving in October. Serving in November are Dan and Linda Mattingly.

**Prayer Phone Chain for Prayer Requests:** Call Judy Paster (316-0618) or Pastor Bill (608-9174) to share the request.

**Prayer Email Chain, Emails, Website and Facebook requests:** Call Joe Fisher (450-3553) or email him at [fjosephfisher@hotmail.com](mailto:fjosephfisher@hotmail.com). Joe sends an inspiring prayer and Bible reading to the person in need of prayer (if we have an email address). Sometimes these requests or devotional verses are posted on Facebook. Let Joe know if you DO NOT wish to have them shared on Facebook. You may also call your Elder or the Pastor with any prayer requests. There is a Prayer Request Form on our website as well.



## Christian Education—Looking Ahead

**Weekday Bible Class:** We plan to resume our classes in January on Tuesday's. The topic and dates will be announced.

**Youth and Adult Catechism Class:** We will be starting a new series of lessons on the teachings of the Lutheran Christian faith. This study of the Scriptures and the Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther will be called, Enduring Faith. Bi-Monthly group gatherings will be held with safe social distancing in the Fellowship Hall with the Pastor making a presentation on the topic for the day. Participants will continue to work on the lessons at home, completing workbook assignments, and also readings from the Bible, Catechism, and text. There will also be DVD assignments which the participants may view at home. This semi-self-paced approach will offer youth and adults the opportunity to review the teachings of the church and prepare for confirmed membership. It will also be an excellent review of the historic doctrines of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Youth will be required to have one parent or grandparent in attendance with them at every class. There will also be fellowship events and outings for the youth and their families as well as in-home devotions and family nights. For more information or to enroll in the classes, please contact Pastor Reister at 904-608-9174 or speak to him personally. Watch for the January dates in upcoming newsletters and Sunday bulletins.

### SINCERE THANKS!

Thank you to all who have helped with the 60th Anniversary and Circuit Reformation Service preparations. We thank those who have assisted with beautification projects at the Church including those who attended the work day on October 17th. We thank those who have assisted with the refreshments for the day and say a special thank you to Karen Kerner for having the lovely invitations prepared. We also thank Terry Brown and the LWML for ordering and giving commemorative medallions for November 1st. We also thank the Renewal 60 Anniversary Committee: Bill & Terry Brown, Sam Brocato, Karen Kerner, Adrian and Ann Beltran, Susan Reister, Claudia Witcher, Joe Fisher, Dan Mattingly, and Pastor Reister (Advisory).



# November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b> 10AM All Saints Sunday Worship with Communion 4PM 60th Anniversary and Circuit Reformation Service 5:15PM Light refreshments</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> <b>PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> <b>Polling Place</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> Pastor's Day Off <i>(No Wednesday choir rehearsals in November)</i></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p>Stewardship Challenge Sunday</p> <p><b>8:30 Drive-in Service</b> 9AM Bible Class: "Fear Not!" 10AM Worship 11:15AM Bell Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>9</b> 6:30PM Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p><b>10 Noon; Dorcas Society "Bring your Lunch" &amp; meeting</b> <b>6:00PM LWML</b> supper &amp; meeting <b>6:30PM BSA</b> Adventurers</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> 2PM Girl Scouts</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Commitment Sunday</p> <p><b>8:30 Drive-in Service</b> 9AM Bible Class: <b>10AM Worship</b> <i>(no communion)</i></p>	<p><b>16</b> 6:30PM Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>17</b> 6:30PM BSA Venturers 6:30PM Boy Scouts scouts</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> 9AM-3PM First Coast Circuit Pastors Meeting and luncheon</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Celebration Sunday</p> <p>8:30AM Drive-in Service 9AM Bible Class: Fear Not <b>10AM THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE</b> 11:30AM Planned Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner</p>	<p><b>23</b> 6:30PM Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts</p>	<p><b>24</b> 6:30PM BSA Adventurers</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> Happy Thanksgiving!</p>	<p><b>27</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p><b>28</b> Pastor's Day Off</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b></p> <p><b>8:30AM Drive-in Service</b> 9AM Bible Class: Prepare Ye! <b>10AM Worship for the 1st Sunday in Advent</b> 11:15AM Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>39</b> 6:30PM Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts</p>	<p><i>Advent Midweek Services begin on Wednesday December 2nd at 7PM. We will have a potluck supper at 6PM. The bell choir will rehearse at 6:30PM and the choir at 7:45PM.</i></p>	<p><i>Pastor's office hours are Tuesday-Friday 9AM- 1PM and Sunday 8:30AM -1:30PM unless otherwise indicated.</i></p>			