

LAFF - Life After Fifty-Five

Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church
October 2017 Newsletter

This month we commemorate the 500th anniversary of that pivotal moment when Martin Luther proclaimed his belief that neither tradition nor earthly authority and teaching should interfere with the Biblical Word. Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church's recent sermon series explores Biblical truths that God is omnipresent, almighty, omniscient and everlasting. Is there no approaching God? Mark Rein offers these thoughts on...

CONNECTION WITH GOD

What is the most attractive of God's attributes? His love? His grace? Maybe it's his forgiveness, mercy, patience or justice.

I bet you didn't respond with "his holiness."

As Martin Luther was celebrating his first Roman Catholic mass, his father, Hans Luther, was coming to terms with the fact that his son was not going to be a lawyer. "My son, the priest," had a certain dignified ring to it, even if it meant a life of poverty. That day, Martin had done a very good job with the Catholic liturgy, displaying great poise, reverence and confidence. He already had a great reputation as a public speaker. But when it came time for the prayer of consecration, the time when Roman Catholics believe the bread and wine literally change to Jesus' flesh and blood, he wavered.



Actually he froze at the altar. He wanted the words of consecration to come forth, but they wouldn't. He had done a thorough job of preparing for this important moment; any German Catholic seminarian would have done that. But his lip trembled, his stomach tightened, and he stood mute.

Humiliated, he took a seat with his father and the rest of the family, who had come to attend Martin's first mass. Hans Luther, who had moments earlier convinced himself that his boy was on the right path, was furious. In the eyes of the Roman Catholic church, the mass was ruined.

So what happened to Martin Luther at that altar in 1507? He would later write:



“At these words I was utterly stupefied and terror-stricken. I thought to myself, ‘With what tongue shall I address such Majesty, seeing that all men ought to tremble in the presence of even an earthly prince? Who am I, that I should lift up mine eyes or raise my hands to the divine Majesty? The angels surround Him. At his nod the earth trembles. And shall a miserable little pigmy say, ‘I want this, I ask for that’? For I am dust and ashes and full of sin and I am speaking to the living eternal and the true God.”

Martin Luther was struck by God’s holiness.

Have you encountered his holiness? For me, it comes from time to time, and my usual reaction is emotional; tears flow, my voice cracks, I tremble, I get choked-up. I sense the enormity of a holy God pressing in on me.

The apostle Peter was overwhelmed by Jesus’ holiness. He wanted to run from it.

We read about it in Luke 5. Simon Peter and his friends had been fishing all night and caught nothing. Jesus grants a miracle and their nets become full. In verse 5 we read, “When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!’”

God’s holiness.

Let me encourage you in three ways.

First, acknowledge God’s holiness. He is set apart, unique, one-of-a-kind. There is no other like him. He is beyond reproach, comparison and criticism. He has always been and always will be. God transcends our understanding. His ways are not our ways.

Second, have a reverent fear of his holiness. Like Peter, Isaiah encountered God’s holiness and it scared him. In the Old Testament account, the prophet has a unique vision of his holy Yahweh. And we read his response in Isaiah 6:5, “‘Woe to me!’ I cried. ‘I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.’”

Finally, lean into it. I want to be careful here, because I don’t want to treat God’s holiness in a vulgar or common way. But God puts his holiness on display for us to witness, and he actually calls us to be holy as he is holy. (1 Peter 1:16.) Allow the sanctification that is taking place in you, through Jesus’ death and resurrection and the working of the Holy Spirit, to draw you into his holiness.

Mark Rein

ROYAL REDEEMER'S SENIORS SERVE

As follow-up to Senior Pastor John Zahrté's advocacy to serve the Lord [see "It is Fun To Serve God" in the August issue of LAFF — Life After Fifty-Five], the Royal Seniors investigated this question: How extensive is voluntary ministry service among senior members of the RRLC congregation?

This is not about the great generosity of our congregants in weekly offerings, special gifts, Helping Hand box, Food Pantry or Redeemer Crisis Center donations, etc. We limited the scope to participation in groups operating under the RRLC ministry umbrella. Christian service outside RRLC and civic service was not included. Nor did we include seasonal events like the Thanksgiving Care-And-Share dinner or the Missions Garage Sale or even Servant Saturdays, all of which bring out the servant heart. We tried to count instances of seniors who committed year-round to an RRLC ministry.

We used the arbitrary definition of "senior" as "a person at least age 55." We did not check driver's licenses or ask "What were you doing when President Kennedy was assassinated?" so forgive us if you weren't counted because your appearance belies your age.

In all, **we counted 315 instances of RRLC ministry service by seniors.** We must say that we counted many individuals multiple times in this impressive total. The following lists of the ministries supported may also be instructive:

Ministries with 10+ seniors involved:

RRLC Worship Assistance, Greeters, Food Transport, Prayer Warriors, Kitchen Ministry, Altar Guild, Redeemer Creations, Green Team.

Ministries with 1-9 seniors involved:

Card Ministry, Adopt-a-Family, Caring Café, Redeemer Crisis Center Delivery, Nursing Home Chapel, Bereavement Team, Cancer Companions, Grief Share, Welcome Center, Breakfast Ministry, Visitor Bread Delivery, Christians for Life, Divorce Care, DC4 Kids, Funeral Team, Wedding Team, Care Team, Food Pantry, Friends of Jesus, Stephen Ministry/Heroes Care/Operation Barnabas, Meals on Wheels.

If any of these ministries seem unfamiliar to you, pick up the latest Ministry Update booklet or other materials from the racks near the welcome centers. For further information or to volunteer, of course, contact Director of Connection & Outreach Bennie Levy (x117, or note your interest on the connection card at weekend services).

LAFF thanks Pat Bauer for assembling information used in this article.

*Cool weather's back, so we bring out wool and fleece.. . .
We keep on track with advice from nurse Pam Ries!*

Rx FROM THE RN



A nurse is available to check Blood Pressures before and after the 9:45 services on the first Sunday of the month, and before and after the 5:00 pm service on the third Saturday of the month. Come to Room 38 (the room behind the main reception desk).

Journey -- A CANCER SUPPORT GROUP -- meets in two separate groups. One meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month, in room 38, from 6:30-8:30 pm. The other group meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month, in room 102, from 1-3 pm. Those who have been diagnosed with cancer, as well as their caregivers and loved ones, are welcome.

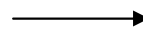
Our annual **Service of Remembrance** will be held Sunday, November 5. This is a time to remember and honor loved ones who have died in the past year (since November 2016). Again this year, there will be a video presentation of pictures of your loved ones. Please submit a picture to Pam Ries **no later than** Friday October 20th. Please label the picture, as it will be returned to you after the service. Please RSVP to Pam Ries if you plan to attend. Include your loved one's name, your name and phone number, and how many will be attending. RSVP **no later than** Friday, October 20th.



We will again offer "**Surviving the Holidays**", sponsored by GriefShare. Learn some good ways to ease the stress that the holidays add to your grieving. We will meet in room 38 on Thursday, November 16, from 6:30-8:00 pm. Please contact Pam if you are interested in attending.

Laughter is the best medicine:

There was an elderly couple who in their old age noticed that they were getting a lot more forgetful, so they decided to go to the doctor. The doctor told them that they should start writing things down so they don't forget. They went home and the old



lady told her husband to get her a bowl of ice cream. "You might want to write it down," she said. The husband said, "No, I can remember that you want a bowl of ice cream." She then told her husband she wanted a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream. "Write it down," she told him, and again he said, "No, no, I can remember: you want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream." Then the old lady said she wants a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top. "Write it down," she told her husband and again he said, "No, I got it. You want a bowl of ice cream with whipped cream and a cherry on top." So he goes to get the ice cream and spends an unusually long time in the kitchen, over 30 minutes. He comes out to his wife and hands her a plate of eggs and bacon. The old wife stares at the plate for a moment, then looks at her husband and asks, "Where's the toast?"

We all have moments of forgetfulness, especially beginning in our 50s. Forgetting something minor from time to time is probably normal. It's not normal when memory changes interfere with day-to-day functioning. If you're making more mistakes than usual at work, having difficulty paying the bills or completing tasks, cooking, or chores, talk to your doctor. There are some things you can do to help boost your memory. (1) Repeat out loud what you hear, such as someone's name. (2) Make a note of people you need to call, appointments, errands to run, etc. (3) Make associations between old and new information. Connect a person's first name to something familiar, or create a story around a shopping list. (4) Divide information into smaller chunks.

"I pray that everything may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as I know you are well in spirit." 3 John 2

Pam Ries, RN, Parish Nurse 440-237-7958 ext 110

Royal Seniors welcomes guests Royal Seniors welcomes guests to our monthly steering committee meetings, on a Monday or Thursday early in the month. We list the meeting (date, time and room #) in the RRLC weekly announcements calendar page.

Royal Seniors *Faith • Friends • Fun*

Look for the Royal Seniors insignia, signaling our communications

ROYAL SENIORS PLANNING AND DOING LIST

URGENT DEADLINE for Military Service Veterans:

- The **71st Anniversary Dinner of the Lutheran Veterans Club** will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 15th, at Royal Redeemer. Why is this area-wide organization holding its event here? Because Ed Ray, President; Dan Hrivnak, Vice President; and John Batsky, Membership Chairman are all RRLC congregants? Because the RRLC Kitchen Ministry will serve a splendid full-course meal? Because presenters will examine Lutheran chaplaincy, highlighted by the recently researched saga of Marcia Luecke's father, WWII chaplain Captain Markus E. Lohrmann? Because the cost can be held to a mere \$15? **ALL OF THE ABOVE!!!**

Reserve a seat by handing or sending a \$15 check to Earl Rondin, 7635 Ragall Parkway, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. For more info, contact one of the above officers or Earl Rondin at 440-243-2773. Earl, by the way, was a founding member, the first president and later executive secretary and manager of the Towne Club --- astonishing!

The LVC is especially eager to see non-member veterans join them for this event! You must make your reservation by Sunday, October 8th.

APPROACHING QUICKLY

- On October 7th Royal Redeemer will again hold a **Servant Saturday** event, with hundreds of volunteers manifesting a Christian spirit. Will you be helping others out in the community, or at the many tasks on campus which launch this effort?
- Likely in **November**, Royal Redeemer will provide a great service to **Project Heaven Train**. This organization takes meals to children attending Sunday School activities in the Cleveland area. Those who volunteer to help will be assembling on Saturday hundreds of bag lunches to be distributed the following day. Date and sign-up will be advertised in the weekly RRLC announcements.
- Another event to watch for is the **Cookie Walk** to take place **December 16th**. Home-made cookies will be sold to benefit Helping Hand --- an aid to those in dire need. Sign-up for those willing to bake will be advertised in the weekly RRLC announcement, and all should be ready to come shop for the best of Christmas cookies and anytime cookies.
- The **Royal Seniors Christmas Party**, on Sunday, **December 17th**, will feature Jim Abraham, Christian magician. The action kicks off with a 1:00PM social time, follows with dinner, and culminates with entertainment, Christmas songs and door prizes. Save the date – get your tickets (still only \$25 per) at the Gathering Room Royal Seniors table. We'll look for you at this traditional year-end event at St. Michael's Woodside in Broadview Heights on December 17th.

Ken Braun's beloved **Bible classes** are in session: **Thurs. mornings** 10:30 – 11:45AM meet in Room 102. **Monday evenings** at 7:00 – 8:45PM meet in the Gathering Room.

CRAFTSPEOPLE YOU MIGHT HIRE

From time to time we seniors need to hire someone to fix something around the house. The Royal Seniors Steering Committee has put together a list of tradesmen whom they have found to be honest, trustworthy and reasonable. Of course, this comes from our experience, and we can not guarantee their work. Please interview them before hiring. Those recommended are:

APPLIANCE REPAIR

Dan Hrivnak - 440/234-9090

ELECTRICIAN

Allen Helms - 440/572-3744

HANDYMAN SERVICES

Keith Godwin – 440/476-0432 (preferred business number)

HEATING and AIR CONDITIONING

Len's Heating and Air Conditioning 440/582-0100

Offers on-line coupons and Senior discounts

PAINTING

Our recommended painter has retired

PLUMBER

Benjamin Franklin—216/741-5131 ~ 24/7 Service

ROOFING

West Side Roofing - Jamie Spacek - 216/898-1900

SNOW PLOWING

A New Image Landscaping: Neil & Deanna Bir—440/238-1612

VETERINARIAN - www.onehealth.org

This organization will connect with a senior to determine if they qualify financially and if they do they will have a veterinary service on wheels that will come and care for the pet.

(If you know of a RELIABLE addition to the list, such as a computer repair or cleaning person or painter, please leave a note in the LAFF mailbox)



Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church
11680 Royalton Road
North Royalton OH 44133
440-237-7958

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Marty Swiatkowski, Editor
Kim Faust, Church Office Administrator