



**Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter**

August, 2023

**Pastor Ponderings**

**Pastor Jack Way**

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My goodness! The heat we are expecting is going to be oppressive. Perhaps in your family, like it is within our family, there will be some members that will enjoy this scorching weather. There are also others in our family who will seek to be in air conditioning at all times, if that is possible for them.

Half of my lifetime ago, when I used to pitch fast-pitch softball, I loved to throw on those hot, humid and muggy evenings. Once I had warmed up for the game, when the muscles had gotten loose and everything was smoothly working well, hurling to the catcher, my best friend Jack Mapes, felt so rhythmic. It almost seemed like there was unwritten music to the pitching, where the common wavelength for that portion of the game was somewhat like dancing. Amazing concentration. Meshing on exactly which pitch to throw to what part of the plate to this particular batter. All while sweat rolled down the back of the jersey.

Now almost three decades later, there are few activities I choose to do when the temperatures are so high. Being in our pontoon on the lake is one thing that comes to mind. As does, getting out of our pontoon and into the lake to keep even cooler. Whether just Val and me, or with family, friends, and neighbors, it is a blessing to get relief from such weather. Let's all be careful and wise. Suggestion: We can check in on our neighbors, family and friends to learn whether they are also protected from the dangers of such excessive heat.

In chapter five of the book of Galatians, we are reminded of the fruits of the Spirit. There, St. Paul writes in his letter to the church in Galatia that those fruits of the Spirit are: love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. All are wondrous gifts of our Creator. All these are useful gifts to us and necessary for us in attempting to imitate the grace of God in and through Christ Jesus. Especially so, when we are struggling to live and use those spiritual gifts of God in those times when you and I fail to be loving, we are not peaceful, when we are impatient, as we lack kindness, when we lack generosity, as we grapple to be faithful, when we are not gentle, or we lose self-control.

Maybe you feel some amount of impatience while Redeemer waits for the person who God wills to be divinely called as the next faith leader here. In the meantime, may you and I spend time in praying for those fruits of the Spirit to fill us with hope. May the, yet to be revealed, leader be led to pray faithfully through those same fruits of the Spirit. May those serving through Synod office(s) discern God's will and through those generous fruits of the Spirit provide to the church of Jesus Christ known as, Redeemer in Rio, the destined rostered servant of God. May these prayers arise to the Almighty.

*With you a brother in Christ, for you a shepherd of Christ*

*Pastor Jack*

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

What's Happening at Redeemer Lutheran Church?

Well, we are entering the month of August and the year is slipping by fast. Before you know it, Redeemer will be moving into its fall and winter schedule.

We need to give thanks to the Lord for the recent rain that we have had in the Rio area, and we also must give thanks that we have been spared severe damaging storms. A few of our members have had some tree damage and some power outages.

I heard that the Community Church Service in the Park on July 23rd was well attended. RACA had designated the offering this year to the Rio Area Food Pantry. The total amount collected for the Food Pantry was \$658.00.

Your Redeemer Council has been busy creating a Master Calendar for events and deadlines for the Council and Redeemer's staff. This calendar will be updated twice a year. We are planning to adopt it at our August meeting.

At our August meeting we will finalize our plans for "God's Work Our Hands Sunday" which is a designated Sunday in September.

Your Redeemer Council and Property Committee have been dealing with issues regarding the hail damage we suffered on April 19 and decided to hold an **Informational Meeting** immediately following the worship service on Sunday, August 13. This was only an **Informational** meeting.

On Sunday, August 27, immediately following the worship service, we will be conducting a meeting so the congregation can **VOTE** on the issue of whether, or not, to hire an outside public insurance adjuster. The meeting will be held in the church Sanctuary.

Lynn Bubolz has been busy updating our member list. She has had a good response from our members in updating addresses and phone numbers. Thank you, Lynn.

On August 3 and 4, eight of the Redeemer Bell Choir members attended a two-day bell clinic in Madison. Those participating were: Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock, Kathy Olson, Kristi Fehrman, Linda Olson, Debbie Reiersen, Joleen Frank, Melanie Gilbert, and Geri Gorman. The Council approved funding the clinic with money from the Benett Investment Fund.

It is the time of the year when the Congregation is gathering items for the School Kits, Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits. Thank you, Beth Laufenberg, for assuming chairmanship for organizing the projects. We will be assembling the school kits after our church service on September 10. Cash donations are appreciated.

We cannot forget our quilters who have been assembling quilts throughout the year.

All these Kits and Quilts will be taken to Madison and sent to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you, Lynn Bubolz and Lola Bortz, for graciously volunteering to deliver the quilts and kits to Madison.

Sincerely,

*Larry Gorman*

Council President

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## FROM A MEMBER

WOW! It is now August, and we certainly have been feeling the HEAT!!!! As we experience each of the seasons we have something to say about all of them and this month we are saying, WOW, feel the HEAT!!



### Financial Reports for:

- a. **General Fund:** Rick Olson  
Shortfall of \$320.02. Money was taken from Bennett to pay our bills.
- b. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** Rick Olson  
Cash Balance - \$27,176.; \$10,000. went into a CD purchase; \$1,080 went for a handbell clinic; \$59.75 – Christ in our Home. Ending amount - \$16,187.23
- c. **Memorial Fund:** Rick Olson  
Some memorial money was received.

### Standing Committee Reports for June 2023:

- d. **Property** – Dean Roberts – Written report.
  1. Request for a larger mailbox –need to research what size is needed
  2. Update Key List (Kristi) – Kristi will look into this.
  3. Hail Damage to the Church (April 19, 2023) - Our insurance company has been contacted and a roofer checked the church roof. Working on submitting an insurance claim for hail damage to the church. Need to look at parsonage roof.
- e. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen – Meeting held on Sunday, June 4, 2023 mainly to replace Dianna Pryse, treasurer, who passed away recently.
- f. **Social Concerns** – Lynn Bubolz – don't meet on a consistent basis.
- g. **Outreach** – Steve Gilbert – Not meeting.
- h. **Stewardship** – Rick Olson – (Rick, Beth Laufenberg, Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock) Not meeting.
- i. **Lay Ministry** – Barb VonAhsen – Not meeting.
- j. **Education** – Debbie Reiersen – Sprouts did a wonderful job on music Sunday, 5-7-2023. On summer break now. On Sunday, June 25, 2023, Sprouts will receive an age appropriate Bible. They are Leslie Berndt, Amelia Maynard, Emily Laufenberg, Cooper Husom, Emma Dahnke, Abby Dahnke, Odessa Roat, Luisa Roat, and Brenwyn Moe. Ashley Laufenberg will receive the Willis Hinzman and Redeemer General Scholarship. Ashley will be attending UW-Whitewater studying psychology.
- k. **Worship team** – Kristi Fehrman – meet once a month to plan services – Pastor Jack Way, Claudine Hanson, Geri Gorman and Kristi. Possible service on the lawn in Aug.; Sept./Oct. spaghetti meal, etc.
- l. **Policy Committee** – Not meeting.

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to approve financial and standing committee reports. Seconded by Rick Olson. Motion carried. All were in favor.

### Staff Reports:

- a. **Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Jack Way gave a verbal report.

  - Pastor has done 7 funerals since Easter. Recently for Dianna Pryse and Judy Huber.
  - Discussed what to do on Sunday's Pastor is not here. Possible speakers.
  - Synod Assembly – the one day event went well. Worship and wonderful music. Had a business meeting. Pastor Jack Way was voted synod counsel person.
  - Pew Cards – Venmo – still looking into this as a way of giving to the church.
  - Still waiting for prepackaged communion grape juice.

- Looking into conflict books. Pastor downloading one of the books – looking into process of how it works.
- July 23, 2023 Community Service at the park with potluck. Pastor Jack preaching.
- Possible outdoor service in August with a luau theme.
- There is an interim Pastor at Family Life on Hwy 16.
- On Sunday, June 25, 2023, 3 versions of Bibles for the Sprouts will be given out – age appropriate. Three High School graduates will receive a hymnal with their name on it and a blanket from the quilt group. – Ashley Laufenberg, Lily Walker and Morgan Reiersen.
- Pastor on vacation from Sat., August 5 to Sat., Aug. 12, 2023.

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to accept Pastor Jack Way's report. Seconded by Lynn Bubolz. Motion carried. All were in favor.

b. **Other Staff Members:** None.

#### **Old Business:**

a. **Master Timetable**

Tabled until July.

b. **Sound System**

Steve Gilbert says microphone and speaker performed beautifully. Audio – Utube not working. Need new headsets. Still having some glitches. Bob has a call in to the company to get our problems straightened out.

c. **Pew Cards**

Discussed in Pastor's report.

d. **Outdoor service August 6, 2023 – Luau.**

Discussed in Pastor's report.

e. **Pastor's Letter of Agreement (Contract)**

The signed contract has been sent in to the Synod for approval.

#### **New Business:**

a. **Church Pictorial Directory**

1. **Develop a committee to review the current directory (Membership List)**

This item was discussed. Think about who would do this (lay ministry?). Lynn Bubolz will meet with Kristi to try to get current names and addresses to look into.

b. **Community worship service in the park Sunday, July 23, 2023.**

Everyone is invited to attend.

c. **Special offering on a Sunday for the Summer Lunch Program at Rio Library.**

Redeemer and Bonnet Prairie will be serving lunches July 10, 12, 14, 2023. There is \$200. available for this. Menu will be hot dogs, chips, mandarin oranges, beverage. Average of 50 children a day. Need 150 of everything. Need to set up. Meet at library by 11 a.m., serve at 12 noon. Contact Kristi Fehrman if you can help out.

#### **Thanksgivings:**

- Thank you to the sound system company and thanks to all the volunteers who have been working on this.
- Thank you to the Property Committee for their unending and ongoing work on our church.

**Adjourn/Closing Prayer**

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. Motion carried. Followed with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Dates to Remember:**

- Sunday, July 16, 2023 – “Christmas in July” service 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, July 17, 2023 – Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, July 23, 2023 – Community Worship Service in Fireman’s Park

Debbie Reiersen  
Council Secretary

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**August Birthdays**

Geri Gorman	Aug. 10
David Pryse	Aug. 11
Lori Lang	Aug. 11
Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock	Aug. 15
Barbara Johnson	Aug. 16
Michael Miles	Aug. 17
Bailey Brewer	Aug. 19
Daniel Bubolz	Aug. 22
Craig Corning	Aug. 23
Kacy Falk	Aug. 26
Susan Brusveen	Aug. 28
Savannah Baerwolf	Aug. 28
Sally Hohlstein	Aug. 30

**August Anniversaries**

Wayne and Norma Nelson	Aug. 3
Dennis and Susan Brusveen	Aug. 5
Dale and Bonnie Paddock	Aug. 20

**Sprouts is Starting Soon**

Sprouts will be starting up again in September. Our first night will be September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Watch for more information on our kickoff night. Sprouts will again be meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 6pm. Sprouts is open to all children 3 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Sprouts is always looking for more adult volunteers to share in the learning and fun. Consider joining us for one night or the whole year.

For more information, please contact Beth Laufenberg at: 608-572-2051 or [blaufenberg@centurytel.net](mailto:blaufenberg@centurytel.net)

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### June 2023 Financial Report

Financial information is being provided for transparency purposes by the Bookkeeper.

	Actual		Spending Plan (Budget)	
	June 2023	Year-to-Date 2023	Monthly 2023	Year-to-Date 2023
<b>Beginning Checking Balance:</b>	<b>\$79.98</b>	<b>\$467.45</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sources of Funds:</b>				
Offering:	\$8,279.00	\$48,601.57	\$11,093.75	\$66,562.50
Bennett Investment Savings:	\$1,247.55	\$1,476.00	\$195.83	\$1,175.00
General Savings:	\$500.00	\$26,445.59	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Savings:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$10,026.55</b>	<b>\$76,523.16</b>	<b>\$11,289.58</b>	<b>\$67,737.50</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$9,456.08</b>	<b>\$80,190.16</b>	<b>\$11,289.58</b>	<b>\$67,737.50</b>
<b>Shortfall/Surplus:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>-\$3,199.55</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Savings to Cover Shortfall:	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,850.00</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Ending Checking Balance:</b>	<b>\$650.45</b>	<b>\$650.45</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
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**Assets**

1.000.2000	F&M General Fund Checking Account	650.45
1.000.4000	ELCA Mission Investment Fund	4,055.05
1.000.5000	F & M Business Savings Account	71,583.03
1.000.6000	Redeemer Lutheran Memorial Fund	20,986.59
1.955.0000	Bennett Investment Savings Fund	27,200.84
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$124,475.96</b>

## July 2023 Financial Report

Financial information is being provided for transparency purposes by the Bookkeeper.

	Actual		Spending Plan (Budget)	
	July 2023	Year-to-Date 2023	Monthly 2023	Year-to-Date 2023
<b>Beginning Checking Balance:</b>	<b>\$650.45</b>	<b>\$467.45</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sources of Funds:</b>				
Offering:	\$7,545.00	\$56,146.57	\$11,093.75	\$77,656.25
Bennett Investment Savings:	\$99.40	\$1,575.40	\$195.83	\$1,370.83
General Savings:	\$10,394.84	\$36,840.43	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Savings:	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$18,139.24</b>	<b>\$94,662.40</b>	\$11,289.58	\$79,027.08
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$19,829.74</b>	<b>\$100,019.90</b>	\$11,289.58	\$79,027.08
<b>Shortfall/Surplus:</b>	<b>-\$1,040.05</b>	<b>-\$4,890.05</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Savings to Cover Shortfall:	<b>\$1,100.00</b>	<b>\$4,950.00</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Ending Checking Balance:</b>	<b>\$59.95</b>	<b>\$59.95</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
<b>Assets</b>		
1.000.2000	F&M General Fund Checking Account	59.95
1.000.4000	ELCA Mission Investment Fund	4,061.61
1.000.5000	F & M Business Savings Account	61,217.19
1.000.6000	Redeemer Lutheran Memorial Fund	20,286.59
1.955.0000	Bennett Investment Savings Fund	27,253.90
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$112,879.24</b>



## Call Committee Corner

The Call Committee is patiently waiting to be notified of a candidate interested in being our new Pastor. To date there has not been any candidates. We continue to work with the Synod providing additional information when requested in hopes that we can generate interest.

Please keep Redeemer and the Call Committee in your prayers as we work through the process of calling a new Pastor.

Call Committee Members:

Beth Laufenberg

Austin Dahnke

Bob Risgaard

Bob Skare

Darlene Cutsforth

Judy Sandberg

Trish McNeill

Pam Jaynes (alternate)

*Submitted by Beth Laufenberg*



## School Kits for Lutheran World Relief

Once again, we will be collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief. We are inviting you to donate any or all of the items listed below needed for each school kit by Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. A donation box will be placed in the narthex and north (covered) entrance. If you would prefer, cash donations can be made and we will do the shopping for you. Please indicate on your envelope or check that the donation is for "School Kits". To allow time for shopping, we would appreciate cash donations be made by Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> we will assemble the kits after church (approx. 10:15 am). All are invited to help.

School supplies needed for each kit:

- Four 70-sheet 8"x10½" notebooks, wide or college rule
- One 30-centimeter ruler, can have both inches and centimeters
- One pencil sharpener
- One pair of **blunt** scissors
- Five **unsharpened** #2 pencils with erasers
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2 ½" eraser

**Other Kits for Lutheran World Relief** – Lists of items for each kit are available narthex. Completed kits must be at church by Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

- Fabric Kit
- Baby Care Kit
- Personal Care Kit

## TIME TO SING AND RING!

It is time for the Choirs to reorganize for the 2023-2024 season! We have lots of exciting things in store!

So that we may reorganize and make a plan for our rehearsal schedules to accommodate our participants, let us meet as follows:

**Senior Choir:** Wednesday, September 6 at 1:00 p.m.

**Bell Choir:** Wednesday, September 6 at 6:00 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing all of you!

**WE WOULD LOVE NEW PARTICIPANTS!!**

Please join us if you are at all interested!

Gerri Gorman, Director



## REDEEMER CONTRIBUTES TO COMMUNITY PARK WORSHIP SERVICE

As is usual, Redeemer again contributed in special ways at the 2023 Community Worship Service in Fireman's Park on Sunday, July 23.

The message was delivered by our Pastor, Jack Way. Special Music was provided by our vocal quartet. Bob Risgaard, Kurt Johnson, Steve Gilbert, and Trish McNeill sang "Gentle Stranger," accompanied by Gayle Krueger.

Thank you to all of you! We are THANKFUL FOR YOU!



## REDEEMER HANDBELL CHOIR MEMBERS ATTEND CLINIC

On August 3 and 4 eight members of Redeemer's Handbell Choir had the opportunity to attend a Handbell Clinic at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Madison. Those attending were Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock, Kathy Olson, Kristi Fehrman, Linda Olson, Debbie Reiersen, Joleen Frank, Melanie Gilbert, and Geri Gorman.

Under the direction of Mark Bloedow, Madison, and Anne Kivikko, Illinois, we spent many intense hours of rehearsal, culminating with a concert on Friday afternoon.

Thirty-two ringers from all over the states of Wisconsin and Illinois participated in the event. Just think, Redeemer ringers were one-fourth of the group!

A few participants are primarily handbell choir directors, but most are ringers in their respective musical groups.

Redeemer's Ringers are very grateful to our Church Council for approving funds from the Bennett Investment Savings Fund to enable us to attend this worthwhile educational event.

Sincerely,  
Geri Gorman, Director



# AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30	2  Blood Drive 11:30 – 4:30	3 Pastor available By appointment  7:00 pm- AA Meeting	4 Pastor's Sabbath Day
6 9:00 Outdoor Casual Worship Hawaiian Luau  Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	7 Pastor On Vacation	8 Pastor On Vacation	9 Pastor On Vacation	10 Pastor On Vacation  7:00 pm- AA Meeting	11 Pastor On Vacation
13 9:00 Worship  Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7  New Members	14 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 – Noon	15 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30  9:15 Worship Team	16	17 Pastor available By appointment  10:30 Covenant Place Worship/Communion  7:00 pm- AA Meeting	18 Pastor's Sabbath Day
20 9:00 Worship  Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	21 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon  Council Meeting 6:00	22 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30  <i>Articles due for September Newsletter</i>	23	24 Pastor available By appointment  7:00 pm- AA Meeting	25 Pastor's Sabbath Day
27 9:00 Worship  Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	28 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon	29 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30	30	31 Pastor available By appointment  7:00 pm- AA Meeting	

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**610 LINCOLN AVE**  
**RIO, WISCONSIN 53960**  
**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

*“To Live and tell the story of Jesus”*

[www.rioredeemerlutheran.org](http://www.rioredeemerlutheran.org)

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Redeemer Lutheran Church-Rio, WI

**Staff & Council Contacts**

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**

If you have any comments or needs that should be addressed, please contact our leadership:

**THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

Larry Gorman (President)	(920) 992-3213
Barb Von Ahsen (Vice president)	(920) 992-3860
Debbie Reiersen (Secretary)	(608) 347-1952
Rick Olson (Treasurer)	(920) 992-5418
Kristi Fehrman (Trustee)	(608) 837-8144
Steve Gilbert (Trustee)	(920) 992-5219
Lynn Bubolz (Trustee)	(920) 992-3494
Dean Roberts (Trustee)	920)992-5675
Robert Risgaard (Bennett Treasurer)	(920) 992-5258
Geri Gorman (Memorial Treasurer)	(920) 992-3213

**Interim Pastor Jack Way**

Church # (920) 992-3553

E-mail: [office@rioredeemerlutheran.org](mailto:office@rioredeemerlutheran.org)

**Kristi Fehrman – Interim Administrative**

**Assistant - Office # (920) 992-3553**

E-mail: [office@rioredeemerLutheran.org](mailto:office@rioredeemerLutheran.org)

**Beth Laufenberg - Bookkeeper**

**April Severson - Custodian**

**Kurt Johnson - Yard Maintenance**

**Geri Gorman - Music Director**

**Gayle Krueger - Choir accompanist**

**Claudine Hanson - Organist**