

#### **Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter**

January, 2023

Pastor Ponderings Pastor Jack Way \*\*\*\*\*\*

"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying. "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Matthew 2:1-12 NRSV Updated Edition

The day of Epiphany and the season of Epiphany follow the season of Christmas. Let's remind ourselves that the Christmas Season starts on Christmas day, December 25th. The Christmas Season is completed twelve days later when, on January 6th, the Day of Epiphany arrives.

Epiphany means "manifestation" - I also tend to define Epiphany/manifestation as a sign, or a display. It occurs where something is unexpectedly revealed or is shockingly enlightened. The day of Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. That is to say, Jesus is revealed to all nations and therefore to all humanity. Some theologians would go so far as to claim that Jesus has been revealed to the entire cosmos. I prefer that perspective. On this day of Epiphany there are often three great displays (epiphanies), that are, in some Christian traditions, revealed and celebrated: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and Jesus' first miracle where he changes water into wine.

Within our modern Julian calendar we look forward to the arrival of a new year as it is celebrated between Christmas Day and the day of Epiphany. 2023 arrives with the burdens to be shaken off from 2022 and the yet to be unexpected revelations of the coming 365 days. There is joy of anticipation. There are fears about the possible manipulations of others, perhaps even comparable to the dastardly deeds as done by King Herod, who ordered the murder of babies and toddlers in Bethlehem. Also to consider are the stars and galaxies and maybe universes being viewed anew which are brought to us by some shockingly new enlightenment coming from the technology of the James Webb telescope, moving at hyper-speed out in space. The same age old issues of humanity exist: famine, enslaved humans, pestilence, violence, natural disasters, greed, refugees, disease, inequity, war....

Into this very world God amazingly continues to create, enlighten and transform the world using every bit of all that exists, in order for us to act toward others as God's love would have us do. Living out in us every iota of God's revealed love. Doing so for the sake of all creation. May a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a Glorious Epiphany be yours.

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

**Pastor Jack** 

For all of the caring, kind and faithful acts of love toward Valerie and myself in this Christmas season, we give you our thankful appreciation. Your variety of gifts, your meaningful words, and your generous loving-care hold significant meaning for us. May the Lord bless you and keep you. Thank you.

#### Pastor Jack and Valerie Way

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we embark on a new year we reflect on the past and think how far we have come. Closed doors we members worshipping remotely to fully opened doors, choirs bell choirs, committees, fellowship and special events. May we never take anything for granted again!

I think the pandemic has taught us the meaning of hugs,

One parishioner commented, it used to bother me to hear children whisper in church now I welcome it...It brings a smile to my face knowing children are attending the service!

There are many cultures that focus on the Day of the Magi in which the remember kings, Wisemen or Magi, seeking out Jesus by following the Bethlehem star.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi[a] from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel. [b]"

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.(Matthew 2:1-12).

Much like the Wisemen or Magi we may have originally had marching orders to go to church as children, but then when we found Him (Jesus) we realized it was more than just an order by another, but rather a call from above.

This calling, becomes a desire and yearning to know Jesus to be closer to him and to share this love with others. In this new year of 2023, may we be led as a congregation to love one another, and teach others about the love of Christ.

Wise men (and wise women) still seek Him.

Fund Raising

The Giving Tree of Joy is in the back of the church in the fellowship area. Anyone desiring to donate may still do so. Additionally, Artisan Bob Skare has hand carved beautiful works of art which are displayed in the back of the church. All proceeds go to the general funds of the church.

2023 General Membership Meeting

Our annual membership meeting will be held after church Sunday January 29, 10 am. All are welcome to attend

#### 5 Prayers for 2023

- 1. Lord Jesus, give each of us the confidence to reach out into our communities, sharing the love of Christ and inviting our friends, family and neighbors to Redeemer Lutheran Church
- 2. Jesus, guide the Call Committee and Council to find a permanent pastor that is a good fit for our church.
- 3. Lord, inspire each Redeemer member to join a committee to give of their time and talents.
- 4. Lord, protect and guide all employees and volunteers of the church to do your will.
- 5. Jesus, inspire each of us to know you deeper, read your bible regularly, and love one another as Christ loves the Church.

The bible states clearly when we come to God in prayer He listens and acts. Pick a prayer or two or more and "Let go and let God" do the rest.

Happy New Year !, Your Council President, Cindy Drehmel

#### **Keeping Christ in Christmas**

In a straw laden stable, surrounded by ox, ass, and lamb, were a mother and father, witnessing the birth of the "Great I Am"

Surmising He would arrive as a great warrior, with bellowing voice and great armor of gold. Failing to listen to Isaiah's proclamation, He would come as an infant, the sacrificial lamb, foretold.

Many misunderstood the significance of that night, when angels sang hallelujah and the world stood still. Others listened intently, seeking, following. Peace had been born to earth, God's omnipotent will.

While rushing for travel and gifts, take a moment to reflect the love given that night. Knowing God loved us so unconditionally, He become human, one of us, and experienced our plight.

So when someone writes Xmas or insists on Seasons Greetings or Happy Holidays; Politely explain that the greatest gift ever given Is the very reason why we celebrate. As you see, it is "Christ"mas, His birthday. Therefore, we follow as shepherds, bow humbly as kings, rejoice as angels with glee.

For in Him, Through Him, and With Him, We shall live eternally.

Cindy Drehmel, 2012

#### Faithfully submitted, Cindy Drehmel, Council President

#### FROM A MEMBER

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given."

On a cold night, far away, a baby is born. Born to a virgin who was not married but who was given the most important job in the world. Mary was entrusted to carry a baby, who we all know was identified as Jesus Christ and would be the Savior of the world. Some theologians say that a baby was born for the purpose of saving the world as a sacrifice for all of our sins. Humanity couldn't have come up with a better scenario if we tried.

At Christmas time we do much preparation for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Lights on a tree, presents, food and decorating. We celebrate Advent by lighting candles in church for four weeks before Christmas and we spend one hour, maybe two, in church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Somehow it doesn't quite seem like enough.

This year we are worrying about a big snow storm, very cold temperatures and maybe even a looming blizzard. It just so happens to be taking place at Christmas time. Would we rather see this storm happen at a different time? Certainly. With the help of God, we will get through this and we will remember that it is Christmas and we have much to celebrate.

My prayer for each and every one of you is that you had a joyous holiday spent with family and friends, celebrating the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

Happy New Year to all,

#### Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL November 8, 2022 6:00 pm

these meeting minutes approved on December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting

Present: Lynn Bubolz Larry Gorman Joan Reierson Cindy Drehmel Rick Olson Skyler Severson Steve Gilbert Debra Reierson Pastor Jack Way

Meeting was called to order by President Cindy Drehmel at 6:10 PM

#### Approve Agenda:

- 1. move discussion about Pastoral contract Term vs Non-Term to the end of the meeting and how it relates to call committee
- 2. Add Discussion about Property usage 4H, AA, etc
- 3. Add discussion about Ad in Rio Shopper cost and covering it

motion to accept revised agenda by Skyler Severson, seconded by Lynn Bubolz, motion passed

Devotion: Lynn Bubolz gave Thanksgiving devotion

#### Review and approve prior minutes from 10/11/2022:

Secretary report given by Skyler Severson on the 10/11/2022 council meetings. corrections made, Debra Reierson made a motion to accept it with corrections, Larry Gorman seconded. Motion passed

**Treasurer's report** (Rick) \$13,000 shortfall for the year, giving was the same as 2021. difference in expenses from last year partly because Choir Director/Bell Director was not paid in 2021, and Pastor salary was increased in 2022. The church is insured by Acuity for full replacement, cost roughly \$1,000,000 (this is not something you can get from another insurance company), and grandfathered in with our contract. Parsonage is insured at \$400,000. Property insurance increased by \$900. Discussion on where to take money from when running short. During shortfall funds are taken out of memorial funds, then the Bennet fund motion made by Lynn to accept the treasurer report motion seconded by Deb Reierson. Motion passed

#### Standing committee reports

#### **Property Committee report**

Larry Gorman presented property report:

asked that council approve that information about a sound system replacement be presented at the annual meeting for a congregational vote, anticipated funds for replacement would come out of memorial funds. Anticipated cost was 28,000 to 30,000, the firm they are recommending is "Audio Contractors"

Rick Olson made a motion to have the property committee proceed with a explore proposal to be presented at the annual meeting for purchasing speaker system \$28,000 - \$30,000 and be presented at the annual meeting; funds for the project come out of memorial funds.

Steve second, motion passed. Property committee will publish information in the January newsletter so that congregation has adequate notice before the annual meeting, and the company with the proposal will be available at the annual meeting.

Request to take 4 pews out on the back southside and move them to the parsonage, Lynn Bubolz made the motion to do so, Rick Olson seconded, Motion passed. Folding tables and chairs will be placed back there for fellowship after church service. Note discussion held about keeping the pews on church premises so easily found if needed.

Church usage form discussion. There is a form that is to be filled out by organizations or individuals requesting to use the church building/property. The 4H club has filled out one, AA has been given a copy of the form to fill out, the red cross will be contacted, and the middle/high school will be contacted to fill out the form. This form is used for insurance purposes and so we have current contact information of the organization. Form should be filled out yearly so contact information is accurate.

Larry Gorman made motion that we approve AA, 4H, Red Cross, and schools and the forms be completed by those organizations, and the policy committee update the wording on the form to state it needs to be renewed every year in September. Rick Olson second, motion passed.

#### Outreach

Cindy Drehmel presented: We had new families come to the October campfire night (weather was not ideal, cold and rainy) and there was also one non-Christian friend of the family that was interested in learning more. So overall it was a success to introduce more people to the church. One family has been bringing their kids to sprouts since then.

Advertisement cost for the campfire, 2 quarter page adds (\$180) were ran instead of a full page (\$220), Skyler Severson made a motion to pay for those adds out of the advertisement budget, Steve Gilbert seconded. Motion passed

#### **Pastor Report**

- November 13<sup>th</sup> we will have a baptism, communion at the rail for those interested, 1<sup>st</sup> communion for youth, offering plates will be passed. Also the turkey/ham give away will occur after church
- Email scam occurred where somebody impersonated Pastor Jack sending an email to two staff members asking for gift cards, they caught it, but it is important to double check if any emails look suspicious with the person who it supposedly was sent from, if there is an urgent issue pastor would text/call us with a separate email. The synod also had this occur recently. Information will be shared in the newsletter warning people of phishing attempts.
- Sprouts will be lighting candles during the advent season and singing songs some Sundays. Christmas Eve service will be at 4pm (it is on a Saturday). There will be no Christmas Day Service.

Deb Reierson made a motion to approve the pastor report, Steve Gilbert second, motion passed

Steve Gilbert made a motion to accept committee reports, Larry Gorman seconded and motion approved

Discussion on status of new computer for office. Skyler reported at the last budget meeting permission was given to the book keeper (Beth Laufenberg) to order a new laptop similar what she had ordered for her position, sounds like microsoft office can be pre-loaded on it.

Discussion on stewardship (giving to the church to help reduce financial shortfall) ideas shared included:

- Christmas Joy Tree (that would have baulbles (ball/bulb ornaments) and snowflakes people could attach for items on the budget they are willing to help fund
- Giving Tiers: showing how many families are at what giving tier and where your family is in those tiers, and if possible to move up one or two tiers.
- Other informative education such as auto withdraw, services and advantages of using retirement funds to avoid taxes.

Christmas Joy Tree - Joan Reierson made a motion to have a Christmas Joy Tree, Steve Gilbert second, motion passed

At this point in the meeting. council went into a closed door meeting without pastor to discuss pastoral contract terms for the next year. The synod had two options a "TERM CONTRACT" and doing the standard 6 Month interim contract. Pro's and con's where discussed and how that would affect the call committee. No decision was made, council felt more information was needed from the synod so we are all on the same page.

Meeting ended at 8:52 P.M.

minutes submitted by Skyler Severson with the help of Debra Reierson & Joan Reierson

January Birthdays		January Anniversaries	
Kelsey Wismar	Jan. 2	Tom & Gayle Krueger	Jan. 16
Donna Kearney	Jan. 13		
Kathy Johnson	Jan. 13		
Debbie Reierson	Jan. 19		
Ben Wismar	Jan. 22		
David Hinzman	Jan. 3		
Kristie Falk	Jan. 24		
Marilyn Rowley	Jan. 29		

#### NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Going forward in 2023, articles for the Newsletter are due on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the Newsletter. For example, articles for the February Newsletter are due on January 15. Thank You!

#### SPECIAL REQUEST FROM MARY CIRCLE

Mary Circle will again be responsible for cleaning the kitchen in 2023.

We will appreciate everyone's help in keeping our kitchen clean and tidy by doing the following:

- Please clean up after yourself. Do not leave extra supplies all over the counter. Either take them with you or put them in their proper places for others to use in the future.
- Please make sure the cupboard doors are shut tightly. Remember, rodents scamper everywhere, and we are trying to keep things uncontaminated.
- Please do not drop off donations of your unwanted things from home.
- Please do not donate expired food and drink.

Many Thanks, Mary Circle

#### **REDEEMER SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Redeemer is fortunate to be able to offer scholarship opportunities to many of its members. If you are furthering your education, be sure to check out the following scholarships:

• The **Redeemer General Scholarship** is for Redeemer's graduating high school seniors.

If you received this scholarship as a graduating senior, you may also reapply for a second-year scholarship. Request the same **Redeemer General Scholarship** form.

- The **Willis Hinzman Scholarship** is available to participating Redeemer members who are current year high school graduates and have completed their first semester of college.
- The **Bennett Trust Fund Scholarship** is open to members of Redeemer Lutheran who are continuing their education at an ELCA Lutheran College.

For details and applications for the above mentioned scholarships, please contact the church office.

• The **Viola Jurgerson Baker Scholarship** is offered to graduating Rio High School seniors and past Rio High School graduates who are members of Redeemer Lutheran or Bonnet Prairie Lutheran. Please contact the Rio High School Guidance Counselor for this application.

#### **December 2022 Financial Report**

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

For December, we started the month with \$34.69 in the checking account. We took in \$11,728.65 in offerings including Giving Tree donations and used \$1,481.24 of funds designated to pay certain expenses. This provided \$13,209.89 in funds to pay our monthly expenses. Our expenses for the month totaled \$12,777.13. Since our expenses were lower than our funds to pay them, we had a surplus of \$467.45.

	Actual		Spending Plan (Budget)	
	December	Year-to-Date	Monthly	Year-to-Date
	2022	2022	2022	2022
Beginning Checking Balance:	\$34.69	\$4,304.38	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sources of Funds:				
Offering:	\$11,728.65	\$97,642.45	\$10,847.67	\$108,476.70
Bennett Investment Savings:	\$174.96	\$1,780.13	\$170.83	\$1,708.30
General Savings:	\$1,306.28	\$3,817.13	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Savings:	\$0.00	\$5,198.25	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other:	\$0.00	\$60.25	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$13,209.89	\$108,498.21	\$11,018.50	\$110,185.00
Expenses:	\$12,777.13	\$125,935.14	\$11,018.50	\$110, <mark>1</mark> 85.00
Shortfall/Surplus:	\$467.45	-\$13,132.55	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Savings to				
Cover Shortfall:	\$0.00	\$13,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending Checking Balance:	\$467.45	\$467.45	\$0.00	\$0.00

Account # Account Name

YTD Balance

Assets		
1.000.2000	F&M General Fund Checking Account	467.45
1.000.4000	ELCA Mission Investment Fund	4,041.98
1.000.5000	F & M Business Savings Account	97,045.86
1.000.6000	Redeemer Lutheran Memorial Fund	22,635.94
1.955.0000	Bennett Investment Savings Fund	25,636.35
	Total Assets	\$149,827.58

\*Contact the Bennett Investment Fund Treasurer for more information about the US Bank investment account not included above

### Call Committee Corner

The Call Committee team is working well together as we progress through the task of completing Redeemer's Ministry Profile.

The results of the Congregation's view of five most important tasks for our new Pastor to focus on are:

- Preaching/Worship
- Youth and Family Ministry
- Pastoral Care and Visitation
- Communication
- Ministry with Seniors

The Call Committee asks for your continued support and Prayers.

Call Committee Members:

Beth Laufenberg Austin Dahnke Bob Risgaard Bob Skare Darlene Cutsforth Judy Sandberg Trish McNeill Pam Jaynes (alternate)

Submitted by Bob Risgaard

# **ANNUAL MEETING**

# NOTE: The Redeemer Annual Meeting will be held following the 9:00 am worship service on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 20, beginning at about 10:00 am.

All confirmed voting members are eligible to participate in voting. Per Redeemer's current Constitution – C8.02.c, "... Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied those basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation, as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this Constitution and its by-laws."

## JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	2 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon	<ul> <li>3 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30</li> <li>9:15 Worship Team</li> <li>Bell Choir – 5:30</li> </ul>	4 Sprouts 6:00 – 7:00 Sr. Choir – 1:00	5 Pastor available By appointment 9:30 am North Conference Meeting 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	б Pastor's Sabbath Day
8 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	9 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon	10 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30 Council Meeting 6:00	1 1 Sr. Choir – 1:00 Bell Choir 6:00	<ul><li>12 Pastor available By appointment</li><li>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</li></ul>	13 Pastor's Sabbath Day
15 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7 February Newsletter Articles Due	16 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon	17 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30 Bell Choir – 5:30	1 8 Sr. Choir – 1:00 Sprouts 6:00 – 7:00	19 Pastor available By appointment 10:30 – Covenant Place Worship 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	20 Pastor's Sabbath Day
22 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	Hours: 9:30 - Noon	24 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30 Bell Choir – 5:30	25 Sr. Choir – 1:00	26 Pastor available By appointment 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	27 Pastor's Sabbath Day
29 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7 ANNUAL MEETING 10:00	30 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 – Noon	31 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30 Bell Choir – 5:30			

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

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#### Staff & Council Contacts REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### **THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

Cindy Drehmel (President)	(414) 573-8520
Larry Gorman (Vice-President)	(920) 992-3213
Skyler Severson (Secretary)	(920) 992-3860
Rick Olson (Treasurer)	(920) 992-5418
Debbie Reierson (Trustee)	(608) 347-1952
Joan Reierson (Trustee)	(608) 516-8368
Steve Gilbert (Trustee)	(920) 992-5219
Lynn Bubolz (Trustee)	(920) 992-3494
Robert Risgaard (Bennett Treasurer)	(920) 992-5258
Geri Gorman (Memorial Treasurer)	(920) 992-3213

Interim Pastor Jack Way
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E-mail: office@rioredeemerlutheran.org
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Assistant - Office # (920) 992-3553
E-mail: office@rioredeemerLutheran.org
Beth Laufenberg- Bookkeeper
April Severson- Custodian
Kurt Johnson- Yard Maintenance
Geri Gorman- Music Director
Gayle Krueger- Choir accompanist
Claudine Hanson-Organist