



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

June, 2023

Pastor Ponderings

Pastor Jack Way

It has been a busy spring and Easter season. The bell choir, Sprouts and senior choir concluded their regular participation within worship services until they plan to return in September. The South Central Synod of Wisconsin held a one day Synod Assembly at ELC in Mt. Horeb. It was well attended with an efficiently executed business meeting. I felt the music, especially the duet who led those gathered, in songs of glory and praise to God, were just fantastic! The worship was faithful and uplifting with the Gospel preaching of our Bishop Joy Mortenson-Weibe, and the majestic mystery of the Eucharist being shared.

Here at Redeemer, or, in the Grasse funeral home, plus another service that was held in the Rio Fireman's Park, we have had a series of funerals or memorial services. I believe the next one coming up is the seventh funeral/memorial service in the past eleven weeks. These began in late March and still continue through mid-June. Your prayers for grieving family members, relatives, neighbors and friends are still of holy significance for those who are grieving. Your prayers for your very part time staff and pastor are welcomed, too.

Also, with the last Sunday in May being a Sunday without Pastor Jack working, our members were invited and some chose to join with their sisters and brothers in Christ as Redeemer celebrated with Bonnet Prairie at the Memorial Day service they held. At the Sunday May 28th worship service they observed, and shared remembrances of those who served the nation and who are now deceased, along with singing music that focused on the primary theme of Memorial Day. Those who gathered at the Bonnet Prairie cemetery commemorated together those people whose service have helped keep alive our nation's lofty ambitions of freedom and justice for all.

This Sunday June 18th will be a hymn sing at worship as Pastor Jack will be off. Upcoming and of importance is the recognition and honoring of the youth of this congregation. On Sunday June 25th during worship, we will celebrate the individuals who have participated in our faith formation program called Sprouts. Each of those who have come to learn about Jesus,

learn about the Bible, work together on crafts related to the lessons, played games, sung and danced are being invited to come and receive the gift of an "age appropriate" Bible. These young disciples , along with their parents in supporting them, are a blessing to our faith community and to the surrounding community. We thank them for their curiosity, energy, focus and care as a part of this portion of the body of Christ. You are encouraged to join in celebrating this ministry being done in the name of the Savior, Jesus.

Additionally, on Sunday June 25th during our service we are inviting the three recently graduated high school seniors, who have been connected with Redeemer through their faith formation years, to be honored during worship. Gifts will be presented to them which will be reminders of their bond with Redeemer, both from their past, and they will carry these small presents on with them into the future. All of your prayers, offered on behalf of these young adults, as well as, your lifting of prayers for their parents and extended families are welcome, as these young women prepare to expand their individual horizons into the wide world. Plus, one of the graduates has applied for and has received two scholarships available from and through Redeemer. Those scholarships will be also publicly acknowledged and presented during the June 25th worship.

On Sunday July 2nd the worship team has reached out to a community service organization to provide a speaker for Redeemer. They will give the message on that day when Pastor Jack is not working. If the speaker/date is unable to be arranged, a member is on deck to present the message on that Sunday. The RACA (Rio Area Clergy Association) plans for worship in the Rio Fireman's Park is scheduled for July 23rd. There is a start on the initial plans for an outdoor worship along with a Luau on the first Sunday in August. Watch for more information in the coming weeks that will be in the weekly bulletins or in the July newsletter. Pray for God to provide a potential pastor for Redeemer. Pray for the call committee and pray for the Synod staff in their work on Redeemer's behalf.

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

Pastor Jack

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 17, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.

Approved Minutes 5-15-2023

Present: Larry Gorman, Barb VonAhsen, Debbie Reierson, Rick Olson, Dean Roberts, Steve Gilbert, Pastor Jack Way.

Absent: Kristi Fehrman, Lynn Bubolz, excused.

Meeting was called to order by President Larry Gorman at 6:00 p.m.

Approve Agenda

Dean Roberts made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Devotions were given by Pastor Jack Way. Lynn Bubolz will have devotions for May 15, 2023.

Review/Approve Minutes from: 3-20-2023 council minutes.

Motion was made by Rick Olson to approve the March 20, 2023 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Pastor Jack Way. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Correspondence and/or Guest Comments

None.

Call Committee Report:

The call committee will be meeting with Marie Leafblad from Synod on Thursday, April 20, 2023, to understand how the interview process works.

Consent Agenda (below items approved in one motion)

Financial Reports for:

- a. **General Fund:** Rick Olson
Insurance is paid through September; Youth Money was moved to Checking Account
- b. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** Rick Olson
- c. **Memorial Fund:** Rick Olson

Standing Committee Reports:

- d. **Property** – Dean Roberts – Written report. Suggested items for upstairs fellowship area. Seems to be a leak by the steeple. Possible need to reroof steeple.
- e. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen – No activity.
- f. **Social Concerns** – Lynn Bubolz
- g. **Outreach** – Steve Gilbert – Met with Pastor – discussed friendly souls, etc.
- h. **Stewardship** – Rick Olson
- i. **Lay Ministry** – Barb VonAhsen
- j. **Education** – Debbie Reiersen – Sprouts singing on April 30th and May 7, 2023 – Music Sunday.
- k. **Worship team** – Kristi Fehrman
- l. **Policy Committee** – Steve Gilbert

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

Staff Reports:

a. Pastor's Report:

Pastor Jack Way gave a verbal report.

- Barb Brewer funeral by supply Pastor Shelly Nelson from Baraboo on Wed., 4-12-2023. Barb passed away on Sat., April 8, 2023.
- Funeral for Marie Nobbs on Mon., 4-17-2023. Marie passed away on Fri., 4-7-2023.

- Were not able to do a February, March newsletter. Will try to get one out soon.
- Discussion on bullying/conflict.
- Pastor thought Beth Laufenberg did a great Easter Sprouts program.
- Possible tolling bell at funerals.

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

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

Old Business:

a. **Neighborhood Table**

Still in process Pastor Jack Way says. RACA needs to take some more responsibility.

b. **Friendly Souls**

Talked about starting this up again where some members visit shut-ins, etc. to visit and give communion.

c. **Pew Cards**

Rick Olson looked into this. This is an electronic way to give by scanning a QVC screen with a cell phone that could be in each pew. Through Vanco Services. Seems cost prohibitive for the few people who would use it. There would be a charge of \$20./mo. and we would need an on-line account and someone to maintain it. It was felt we should not do this, but more information is needed. Pastor will look further into this. Tabled for now.

d. **Gift Cards Fundraiser – Lynn Bubolz**

Table for now as Lynn was absent.

e. **Master Calendar**

Council discussed calendar items. Debbie Reiersen will type up new list to review at the May 2023 council meeting.

f. **Update on Sound System.**

Waiting for speakers and components to come.

New Business:

a. **Future Council Meetings**

May 15, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.; June 19, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.; July 17, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.; Aug. 21, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. Currently the third Monday of the month.

Motion by Steve Gilbert to hold council meetings on the third Monday of the month in 2023. Seconded by Rick Olson. All were in favor.

b. **Items to be loaned out:**

A request was made to borrow amplifier, mic w/stand, podium for Don Hohlstein memorial; projector to Steve Gilbert and Geri Gorman for the Columbia County Retired Teachers. They will need to fill out a "Property Use Agreement" form to be reviewed and signed by a church representative.

c. **Approve expenditures for new Fellowship area in the back of the church.**

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to go ahead with Property Committee proposal to purchase items from their list – tables, chairs, flooring, etc. from contributions, donations, Thrivent funds. Possible fundraising for items. Seconded by Rick Olson. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Thanksgivings:

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Seconded by Larry Gorman. Motion carried. Followed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- May 7, 2023 – Music Sunday – Sprouts, Choir, Bell Choir
- May 14, 2023 – Mother’s Day
- May 15, 2023 – Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- May 28, 2023 – Service at Bonnet Prairie Cemetery 9:30 a.m.

Debbie Reiersen
Council Secretary

June Birthdays

Ashley Laufenberg	June 1
Jack Risgaard	June 4
Nancy Wescott	June 5
Rick Olson	June 13
Kory Falk	June 17
Nancy Washington	June 17
Randy Baerwolf	June 18
Samantha Jaynes	June 19
Ryan Risgaard	June 26
Sharon Wismar	June 30

June Anniversaries

Scott and Trish McNeill	June14
Randy and Jennifer Baerwolf	June24
Rick and Linda Olson	June 26

Call Committee Corner

The Call Committee has been working on preparing a list of interview questions. The Committee will complete a mock interview in early June with a local pastor to help us improve our interview skills.

As of 6/5/2023 we do not have any potential candidates. The committee is working hard to be prepared for when we do have a candidate in the future.

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

Submitted by Beth Laufenberg

FINANCIAL UPDATE

	Actual		Spending Plan (Budget)	
	May 2023	Year-to-Date 2023	Monthly 2023	Year-to-Date 2023
Beginning Checking Balance:	\$991.43	\$467.45	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sources of Funds:				
Offering:	\$7,439.00	\$40,322.57	\$11,093.75	\$55,468.75
Bennett Investment Savings:	\$0.00	\$228.45	\$195.83	\$979.17
General Savings:	\$44.25	\$25,945.59	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Savings:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$7,483.25	\$66,496.61	\$11,289.58	\$56,447.92
Expenses:	\$8,794.70	\$70,734.08	\$11,289.58	\$56,447.92
Shortfall/Surplus:	-\$320.02	-\$3,770.02	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Savings to Cover Shortfall:	\$400.00	\$3,850.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending Checking Balance:	\$79.98	\$79.98	\$0.00	\$0.00

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
<i>Assets</i>		
1.000.2000	F&M General Fund Checking Account	79.98
1.000.4000	ELCA Mission Investment Fund	4,055.05
1.000.5000	F & M Business Savings Account	71,957.35
1.000.6000	Redeemer Lutheran Memorial Fund	20,948.57
1.955.0000	Bennett Investment Savings Fund	27,176.35
	Total Assets	\$124,217.30

***PLEASE SHARE THE NEWS FROM ELCA (found on the next 2 pages)
WITH THOSE THAT MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING:***



Help us spread the word about RECLAIM!

RECLAIM is a gathering for people of African descent, brought to you by African Descent Ministries. Participants will build a tool kit for ministry as we move through a pandemic, climate change and an era of preserving healers' spiritual and emotional wellness. The church needs healthy and whole preachers, teachers, professionals and young adults, all well-equipped with culturally relevant approaches to the word. Grounded in Scripture, RECLAIM will help participants feel embodied, emboldened and liberated in their identities.

Please share this email and the registration link with your friends, neighbors and community members of African descent.

When: Sept. 14-17, 2023

Where: Minneapolis, Minn.

Who: People of African descent of all ages and gender identities

Registration deadlines: Standard registration

(\$300) and young adult registration (\$200) end 6/30. Late registration (\$350) ends 8/15.

REGISTER NOW

Participants will engage in workshops, shared meals, praise and worship that will enable us to build community, learn new skills, share resources and rejuvenate weary souls.

A Men in Mission cohort will meet alongside the RECLAIM gathering. Facilitated by the Rev. Jonathan Hemphill of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, this is an opportunity for collegiality, community and connection for Black men. Candidates for ministry, first-call pastors, and lay, African-descent men in ministry are invited into this intentional space.

For more information about the gathering, visit ELCA.org/ReclaimGathering. Follow us on [social media](#) as we announce our workshop leaders and keynote speakers.

The African-descent community thrives most when gathered. Thank you for your support as we come together to grow across generations!

In peace,

Rev. Nicolette Marie Peñaranda
Program Director for African Descent Ministries

JUNE

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

				1 Pastor available By appointment 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	2 Pastor's Sabbath Day
4 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	5 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon	6 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30	7	8 Pastor available By appointment 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	9 Pastor's Sabbath Day
11 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7 New Members	12 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 – Noon	13 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30	14	15 Pastor available By appointment 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	16 Pastor's Sabbath Day
18 9:00 Worship <i>Hymn Sing</i> Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	19 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon Council Meeting 6:00	20 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30 <i>Articles due for July Newsletter</i>	21	22 Pastor available By appointment <i>Covenant Place 10:30</i> 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	23 Pastor's Sabbath Day
25 9:00 Worship <i>Youth Recognition</i> Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	26 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon	27 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30	28	29 Pastor available By appointment 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	30 Pastor's Sabbath Day

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

“To Live and tell the story of Jesus”

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

Kristi Fehrman – Interim Administrative

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