



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

September, 2023

Pastor Ponderings

Pastor Jack Way

As I've generally shared with you since being here at Redeemer in mid-late September, the first of October is the time of year when our pontoon has to come off the lift so that the lifts can be removed from the water and stored on shore for the winter. Let's be honest, it's when I whine about that needing to be done. The anticipation, the preparation, and my whining are a part of the routine. There is significant irony between how resistant I feel about the end of pontooning for the year along, with the generally wonderful weather and the pleasures of being on the boat and in the lake with beloved company.

Yet, the beginning of fall arrives as my lifelong favorite time of the year. The flowers still in bloom and sharing their bounty with the hummingbirds. The approach of harvest of crop lands, the magnificent smell of mown hay ending and the fresh smell of chopped silage, the dust and almost musky scent of soybeans drifting across the land. The sounds of combines and corn pickers as the snap of the cornstalks, along with the deep guttural roaring moan and growl of heavy equipment reap the yellow gold for the feeding of the world. Those cool early fall nights which, for me, bring some new level of deeper, more restful sleep. The shimmering of the daily changing colors of the canopies of leaves in the trees accompanied, by the rattling of them contacting one another. The sun's rays that arrive later each morn, then also vanish earlier each day. They wane day by day and week by week until darkness extends more hours than the rays of light. Apples, pumpkins, squash and gourds complete their brief summer existence. Freezers, basements, root cellars, shelves of jars of a cacophony of colors of juices, vegetables, fruits glow in awaiting their usefulness for nourishment, replenishment and connection among hungry gathered people. The outdoor activities with their corresponding clothing changes drift along with the Fall season from short sleeves to long sleeves, from light sweaters and jackets, to woolen sweaters and weighty jackets. Then gloves, hats and boots. In the chill, all of which cause us to move slower, as we are limited in our movement by the additional heaviness and stiffness and bulkiness of the necessary garb of late Fall.

How wondrous are the works of the Lord through the seasons of the year. As are the wonders of the seasons of life. In the approach of the churches end of its seasons of the year, we will celebrate Reformation Sunday on the last Sunday in October. We will remember, grieve, honor and celebrate the lives of Redeemer's beloved saints on the first Sunday of November for All Saints Sunday. We will celebrate the amazing bounty of God's fantastic cosmos, which is abundantly harvested within our world. Along with that, we will recognize our vocation to (till) Serve and (keep) Protect this earthly garden as stewards of the will of God our Creator.

We will do so as we celebrate here at Rio on Thanksgiving Eve with the neighboring congregations of the Rio Area Clergy Association (RACA).

Come. Gather. Worship Almighty God, who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, and the end.

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

Pastor Jack

FROM THE PRESIDENT

What's Happening at Redeemer Lutheran Church?

It was a pleasure to have our Senior choir back singing during worship this Sunday morning, September 10th.

WOW !! Here is what Redeemer Lutheran Church has gathered for Lutheran World Relief this year:

Relief this year:

- Our Quilters this year have completed 80 quilts to be sent off to needed countries.
- Today after church, we did a project for God's Work Our hands. During fellowship this morning we assembled 99 school kits, and 3 personal care/health kits which will also be shipped with the quilts.
- The quilts, school kits and personal care/health kits will be loaded up into pickups next Friday and then they will be driven to Madiion Southern Railroad Depot next Saturday morning and then loaded into railroad cars.
- Thank you, Lynn Bubolz and Lola Bortz, for faithfully hauling the kits to Madison each year.
- This is a Big Accomplishment for a little congregation from Rio, Wisconsin.

We need to give everyone who volunteered their time toward this project a Big Thank You!

Another project that Redeemer is doing for God's Work our Hands this year we will be painting the playground equipment at the Firemen's Park. The date has not yet been announced.

The Property committee is busy finalizing the new fellowship area. We have received four new tables and twelve new padded folding chairs along with two new Stainless Steel Airpot Thermal Coffee carafes. A crew of Dean Roberts, Bob Risgaard, Bob Skare, Skylar Severson, and Larry Gorman installed the new laminate floor on September 16th. This project would not be able to be completed if it was not for our designated offerings and Memorials that have been given to Redeemer.

To complete the fellowship area the Property committee plans to install a counter and cupboards under windows on the back wall.

On August 27th Redeemer had a special congregational meeting to **VOTE** on whether or not to go with a public insurance adjuster. (They would help us to see if we could get more money from our insurance company, Acuity, to repair our church roof from storm/hail damage that occurred on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.) The roof did not have any significant hail damage, but is showing its age.

Thirty-two voting members were present at the meeting. ***"A motion was made by Council to "Decline" hiring an outside public claims adjuster regarding the hail damage the church suffered on April 19, 2023."*** Thirty-two ballots were in favor of not hiring an outside public adjuster.

We are looking forward to having our Sprouts return to class the first and third Wednesday night each month, and we look forward to having them in church again.

Redeemer's Ding-a-Lings will also be back beginning in October.

Our Stewardship committee has started preparing a new spending plan for the year 2024.

The nominating committee has received a letter with the list of the Church council members that need to be replaced for 2024. Please help them out when you are asked to fill a position on the council.

The Executive Committee will be doing Staff reviews soon.

Unfortunately, I currently have no news on our call committee. The last report from the synod was that there are no new candidates at this time.

The Worship team is planning a Polka service with a special fellowship after the October 1 service. All your questions of what a Polka service is will be answered if you attend the service. You are encouraged to notify the church office if you plan to join in the fellowship so there is adequate food. The menu includes brats and beer, hot dogs and root beer, German Potato Salad, sauerkraut, and some surprise German desserts. Please plan on attending the service. I am sure you will enjoy everything.

Larry Gorman

Redeemer Council President

FROM A MEMBER

Writing messages is always a challenge. The more I think about it, something eventually comes to me.

As I was listening to Enlighten, a religious radio station, something touched me. It was a song by the Collingsworth Family and the words spoke to me. I would like to share them with all of you, the members of Redeemer.

SHOW A LITTLE BIT OF LOVE AND KINDNESS

Show a little bit of love and kindness, never go around with hatred's blindness, take a little time to reach for joy and wear a happy face, sing a little bit when the days are dreary, give a little help to a friend that's weary, that's the way to make the world a happy place.

Sing a song, spread some cheer, there are sad and lonely people everywhere, be a friend, show some love, it will lift them from the dungeons of despair.

Offer help, bring some hope, through the fainting and discourage on life's road, see a need, lend a hand, there are many who are crushed beneath life's load.

Sing a little bit when the days are dreary, give a little help to a friend that's weary, that's the way to make the world a happy place, that's the way to make the world a happy place.

These four are the main verses and the refrain is the same as the first verse.

When I heard this song, I thought about our world and its people and how we don't always show a little love or kindness and for that I am very sad. In today's world, people would rather tear down than build up. That is not what God sent his son for. Jesus is the Son we all long to have in our lives, to show us the way, to show us how to be good people, to show us that love is better than the alternative.

I think this song is a wonderful guide to live by. These words should give us all a moment to take time, to listen to what the words say to us and then, maybe, follow through for others.

- e. **WELCA** – Debbie Reieron – Working on gathering LWR quilts, school kits, etc. for September 16, 2023 delivery to the Madison rail yard for shipping. Beth Laufenberg was appointed WOC treasurer after Dianna Pryse’s passing. WOC maintains their own checking account. Kristie Falk is the backup treasurer. Only one person signs checks – Beth Laufenberg or Kristie Falk.
- 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 – will start in another month.
- i. **Lay Ministry** – Barb VonAhsen – Not meeting. Some have mentioned that they would like to hear more modern music at our services.
- j. **Education** – Debbie Reieron – Two sprouts, Emily Laufenberg and Amelia Maynard participated in the “Christmas in July” Service on July 16, 2023.
- k. **Worship team** – Kristi Fehrman – meet once a month to plan services – Pastor Jack Way, Claudine Hanson, Geri Gorman and Kristi.
Keys – Kristi will contact two people to return their church key.
 There will be a luau service on Sunday, August 6, 2023.
 Organist/pianist, Claudine Hanson, will be gone last week of August and first week of September.
- l. **Policy Committee** – Not meeting.

Motion was made by Debbie Reieron to approve financial and standing committee reports. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Staff Reports:

a. **Pastor’s Report:**

Pastor Jack Way gave a verbal report.

- RACA Community Service at the park with potluck on Sunday, July 23, 2023. Pastor Jack preaching. Churches involved are: Family Life, Living Gospel, Bonnet Prairie, Redeemer Lutheran. Bring a dish to pass. Volunteers to help with set up and cleanup.
- Pastor will be doing a graveside service for Dianna Pryse on Saturday, July 29, 2023.
- Pastor on vacation from Sat., August 5 to Sat., Aug. 12, 2023. Also on vacation Sunday, August 20, 2023. The 20th is his Sunday day off for the month.

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

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

Old Business:

a. **Master Calendar**

Discussed this. Debbie Reieron will update the calendar with items discussed and we will talk about it again at our August meeting.

b. **Pew Cards**

Pastor Jack Way said that we would need an administrator to handle this way of electronic giving. There is a monthly cost. Would need some way to make sure money designated for a specific giving area gets to the right spot. It was decided that we would no longer pursue this way of electronic giving.

c. Pictorial Directory

Lynn Bubolz is continuing to work on getting our membership list up to date with names, addresses, phone, etc. When that is done, we will contact members to do a pictorial directory.

d. Lay service reimbursement

Council discussed possible reimbursement for those who deliver the message/sermon on Sunday's that Pastor Jack Way is not here. Nothing definite was decided at this time.

e. Outdoor services

We will be having a luau service on Sunday, August 6, 2023. Weather permitting, the service will be held outside on the church lawn. Bring lawn chairs and feel free to dress Hawaiian.

New Business:

a. God's Work, Our Hands project

Talked about what we could do for this project. Lynn Bubolz will check with the Fire Department and Community Club to see if they might have a need we could help with. Some ideas were painting picnic tables at the park. Plant a tree... We will talk about this again at our August meeting.

b. AED Maintenance

Lynn Bubolz talked about the need to be sure the AED is working properly. She said that the "pads" need replacing.

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to approve the purchase of pads for the AED. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Thanksgivings:

- Thank you to all those who organized and helped with the Rio Library lunch on the lawn the week of July 10, 2023 (July 10, 12, and 14, 2023). Bonnet Prairie and Redeemer worked together to serve lunches that week.

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion was made by Kristi Fehrman to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. Seconded by Debbie Reiersen. Motion carried. Followed with the Lord's Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Sunday, July 23, 2023 – Community Worship Service in Fireman's Park (RACA)
- Next Council Meeting – Monday, August 21, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Debbie Reiersen
Council Secretary

Redeemer's Oktoberfest – Sunday, October 1

Join us for a Polka service! **Sunday, October 1st at 9:00 a.m.** Fellowship immediately following the service with German Food: Brats-Hot Dogs-Sauerkraut-German Potato Salad-Root Beer and Beer! **Pre-registration is appreciated.** Please sign up by 9/28 during worship or by contacting the church office: 920-992-3553 or via e-mail: office@rioredeemerlutheran.org

September Birthdays

David Laufenberg	Sept. 1
Emily Laufenberg	Sept. 2
Matthew Porter	Sept. 6
Richard Swiggum	Sept. 12
Alex Brewer	Sept. 17
Delores Erstad	Sept. 18
Spencer Wescott	Sept. 18
Bernie Spink	Sept. 27

September Anniversaries

Craig and Rhonda Corning	Sept. 11
Roger and Kristi Fehrman	Sept. 16
Pastor Jack and Valerie Way	Sept. 23
Scott and Julie Swiggum	Sept. 28

Call Committee Corner

Council President, Larry Gorman, covered in his report.

The Call Committee asks for your continued support and Prayers.

Call Committee Members:

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

Stoughton Norwegian Dancers at Faith Lutheran in Church - Columbus

Hold open the date of **Sunday, October 15** to watch the Stoughton Norwegian Dancers perform and the Columbus High School. The program starts at 2:00 pm and lasts about 45 minutes.

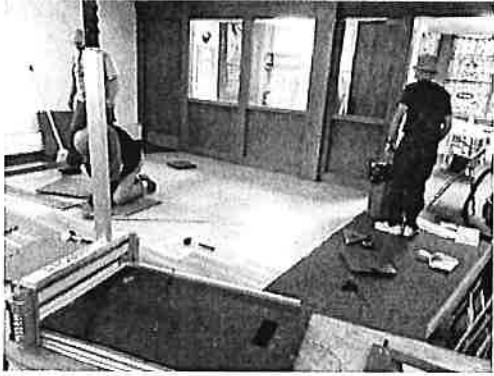
The dancers have toured the world since 1953. This past summer, they were in Norway – on tour.

- **Admission is free** – there will be a free will offering.
- Handicap seating is available.
- The community is invited!

Questions may be directed to one of the following Faith members: Joyce Lienke @ 920-623-9091, Erin Bussian @ 920-210-2342 or by calling the Faith Lutheran office @ 920-623-3610

Our Updated Fellowship Area

A few photos of our updated Fellowship Area. Council President, Larry Gorman gave an update in his report.



August 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
Beginning Checking Balance:	\$59.95	\$467.45	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sources of Funds:				
Offering:	\$7,511.00	\$63,657.57	\$11,093.75	\$88,750.00
Bennett Investment Savings:	\$193.37	\$1,768.77	\$195.83	\$1,566.67
General Savings:	\$0.00	\$36,840.43	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Savings:	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other:	\$1,618.73	\$1,618.73	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$9,323.10	\$103,985.50	\$11,289.58	\$90,316.67
Expenses:	\$9,419.04	\$109,438.94	\$11,289.58	\$90,316.67
Shortfall/Surplus:	-\$95.94	-\$4,985.99	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Savings to Cover Shortfall:	\$100.00	\$5,050.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending Checking Balance:	\$64.01	\$64.01	\$0.00	\$0.00

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
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<i>Assets</i>		
1.000.2000	F&M General Fund Checking Account	64.01
1.000.4000	ELCA Mission Investment Fund	4,061.61
1.000.5000	F & M Business Savings Account	61,246.19
1.000.6000	Redeemer Lutheran Memorial Fund	20,336.59
1.955.0000	Bennett Investment Savings Fund	27,211.80
	Total Assets	\$112,920.20

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

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
					1 Pastor's Sabbath Day
3 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	4 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 – Noon Labor Day Office Closed	5 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30	6	7 Pastor available By appointment 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	8 Pastor's Sabbath Day
10 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	11 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 – Noon	12 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30	13	14 Pastor available By appointment 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	15 Pastor's Sabbath Day
17 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	18 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon Council Meeting 6:00	19 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30	20 <i>Articles due for October Newsletter</i> 6:00 Sprouts	21 Pastor available By appointment 10:00 am Covenant House 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	22 Pastor's Sabbath Day
24 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	25 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon	26 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:30	27	28 Pastor available By appointment 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	29 Pastor's Sabbath Day