



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter
April/May, 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I pondered what to write for this article, thankfulness came to mind. So many things have happened in April to be thankful for. On a personal level, I am thankful for the trip to California I was able to take with my family. I am thankful for the community support re-electing me to the Rio School Board. I am also thankful for the help and support I have received since becoming Council President, especially during the months of March and April.

Redeemer also has many things to be thankful for.

- We started out the month of April celebrating and thanking Pastor Jack and Valerie for their time with us. So many people stepped up and helped with the service and potluck.
- Pastor Ken Schaub and Pastor David Berggren joined us to lead worship.
- We celebrated the baptism of little Walker Schrader.
- A well-attended, welcoming meet and greet was held with Pastor Kalen Barkholz and her husband.
- Our many musicians once again shared their talents during Music Sunday. The Sprouts, Choir, Bell Choir, Accompanists, and Soloists showcased Redeemer's long-standing tradition of music.
- We ended the month by having a congregational meeting voting unanimously to call Pastor Kalen to be our next pastor.

Looking forward, I am thankful and excited for the opportunities the future holds at Redeemer.

God's Blessings,

Beth Laufenberg

Council President

FROM A MEMBER

It is very hard to believe that April and its rain will come to an end this week and hopefully May will bring us flowers.

There is a briskness in the air but oh so wonderful to see the sunshine. We know that God is at work in our world and for that we are so grateful.

“The candidate presented herself with enthusiasm and a strong spiritual sense. The candidate quickly agreed to lead us in prayer and was very comfortable sharing her prayerful thoughts throughout the meeting. The candidate was outgoing, easy to speak to and had a fun personality. Much laughter was heard that night during our time together. The candidate’s thoughts and ideas align with Redeemer’s current needs and I can easily see that the candidate would fit well within our congregation. I am excited for what the candidate has to offer.”

The Call Committee requested council’s approval to move forward with this candidate.

A motion was made by Nancy Washington for the call committee to move on to the next phase of the call process with the current candidate. Seconded by Barb VonAhsen. Motion carried. A roll call vote was taken. 6 votes yes, opposed – none. Beth Laufenberg and Pastor Jack Way abstained.

Financial Reports for:

- a. **General Fund:** Nancy Washington
See report. There was a shortfall of \$4,500 in the General Fund Checking for January. Money was transferred from: \$3,444.02 Bennett Investment Savings and \$1,055.98 Memorial Fund. End of month balance in General Fund checking: \$57.83
- b. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** Nancy Washington
See report. \$25,187.37
- c. **Memorial Fund:** Nancy Washington
See report. \$15,050.36

Motion was made by Kristi Fehrman to approve financial reports. Seconded by Renee Miles. Motion carried. All were in favor. Beth Laufenberg abstained.

Identify and Approve Authorized Signers for:

- a. General Fund Checking
- b. General Fund Savings
- c. Mission Investment Fund

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to approve three people as signer(s) for General Fund Checking, General Savings and Mission Investment Fund. They are: Beth Laufenberg, Bookkeeper; Kristi Fehrman, Administrative Assistant; Nancy Washington, Treasurer. Seconded by Debbie Reiersen. Motion carried. All were in favor. Beth Laufenberg abstained.

Standing Committee Reports for February 2024 (Appoint Standing Committee Representatives)

- a. **Property**– Written report. A hail claim payment from Acuity (insurance) was made to Right Choice (contractor). Some money was held back as more work needs to be confirmed as complete.
- b. **WELCA** – No report.
- c. **Social Concerns** – Not meeting.
- d. **Outreach** – Not meeting.
- e. **Stewardship** – Not meeting.
- f. **Lay Ministry** – Not meeting.
- g. **Education** – Not meeting.
- h. **Worship team** – Kristi Fehrman – March worship has been decided. They will meet again in early April. Still looking for permanent accompanists.
- i. **Policy Committee** – Not meeting.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve standing committee reports. Seconded by Pastor Jack Way. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Appoint Council Standing Committee Representative

The following appointments were made:

- a. **Property** – Dean Roberts
- b. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen
- c. **Social Concerns** – Open – Not actively meeting.
- d. **Outreach** – Steve Gilbert
- e. **Stewardship** – Nancy Washington
- f. **Lay Ministry** – Open – Not actively meeting.
- g. **Education** – Open – Not actively meeting.
- h. **Worship team** – Kristi Fehrman
- i. **Policy Committee** – Steve Gilbert

Staff Reports:

a. Pastor's Report:

Pastor Jack Way gave a verbal report.

- On Sunday, February 25, 2024 there will be a congregational meeting to vote on a change to the by-law so that in extreme circumstances, the Redeemer Council has the right to adjust the date of the Annual Meeting.
- Hand mics are now available.
- Wednesday Lent suppers will be held each Wednesday before 7 p.m. service from 6:00-6:45 p.m. We will be using Holden Evening Prayer for the service.
- Drive-thru ashes were given on Ash Wednesday. Six people came for drive through ashes.
- All is set for Easter.
- Pastor reminded council that confidentiality is important in all things.

b. Other Staff Members:

Kristi Fehrman informed council that they are still looking for someone to organize the Easter Breakfast. Beth Laufenberg shared that there is \$165 available to use for Easter Breakfast expenses.

We've been asked to participate in the summer library lunches again. We will be joining Bonnet Prairie in this effort. It will be the week of swimming lessons – July 15, 2024, (M, W, F).

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to accept all staff reports. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Lutherdale Bible Camp Annual Meeting – Redeemer Representatives

There was no interest.

Synod Assembly Representatives

Item was discussed. Will continue to look for volunteers to attend.

Determine Council Devotion Schedule

March devotions will be given by Renee Miles. Beth Laufenberg will create a devotion list.

Thanksgivings:

- Many thanks to the Call Committee for their work on getting a new Pastor.
- Thank you to all who agreed to be on council.
- Nancy Washington would like to thank all for welcoming she and Don to the church.

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Seconded by Nancy Washington. Motion carried. Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Sunday, February 25, 2024 – Congregational meeting.
- May 17-18, 2024, Synod Assembly at First Lutheran - Janesville

Debbie Reiersen
Council Secretary

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.**

Approved Minutes 4-15-2024

Present: President - Beth Laufenberg, V.P. - Barb VonAhsen, Secretary - Debbie Reiersen, Treasurer, Nancy Washington, Trustees: Steve Gilbert, Kristi Fehrman, Renee Miles; Pastor Jack Way.

Meeting was called to order by President Beth Laufenberg at 6:00 p.m.

Approve Agenda

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve the agenda. Seconded by Debbie Reiersen. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Devotions were given by Renee Miles. Beth Laufenberg will have devotions for April 15, 2024.

Review/Approve Minutes from: Monday, February 19, 2024 council meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve the February 19, 2024 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Correspondence and/or Guest Comments:

Council members received an email from Dean Roberts indicating he is resigning from the council effective immediately.

Financial Reports – Review/Approve:

- d. **General Fund:** Nancy Washington
See report. No shortfall for February 2024. End of month balance in General Fund checking: \$312.49.
- e. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** Nancy Washington
See report. \$25,355.16

f. **Memorial Fund:** Nancy Washington

See report. \$15,050.36

Motion was made by Renee Miles to approve financial reports. Seconded by Nancy Washington. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Standing Committee Reports for February 2024 – Review/Approve:

- j. **Property**– Written report. The final payment has been made to Right Choice for the repairs related to the hail claim. All repairs have been completed.
- k. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen - No report. Beth Laufenberg, WELCA Treasurer, reported there is \$1,550 in the WOC checking account.
- l. **Social Concerns** – Open - Not actively meeting.
- m. **Outreach** – Steve Gilbert - Not meeting.
- n. **Stewardship** – Nancy Washington - No meeting.
- o. **Lay Ministry** – Open. Not actively meeting.
- p. **Education** – Open - Not actively meeting.
- q. **Worship team** – Kristi Fehrman – April worship has been decided. There will be a baptism on Sunday, April 21, 2024.
- r. **Policy Committee** – Steve Gilbert - No meeting.

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to approve standing committee reports. Seconded by Renee Miles. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Staff Reports:

c. **Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Jack Way gave a verbal report.

- March 20, 2024 is the last Wednesday service for Lent with soup supper from 6-6:45 p.m., service at 7 p.m.
- March 24, 2024 is Palm Passion Sunday. 8 people will be doing the reading.
- March 28, 2024 Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m. service with wine/bread in basement – seder type thing, Passover meal, scripture, strip altar.
- March 29, 2024 Good Friday, 7 p.m. – last words of Jesus, ends in silence.
- There will be a baptism on April 21, 2024.
- Possible wedding in the future.
- Pastor Jack Way gave council members a letter indicating that he will be leaving our church as interim Pastor with his last Sunday being April 7, 2024.

d. **Other Staff Members:** None.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to accept all staff reports. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Call Committee Update

Beth Laufenberg (call committee chair) led a discussion about next steps for a new Pastor. Beth met with the Council Executive Committee recently to share proposed compensations and benefits packages. The committee felt that we are working in the right direction and to continue to work with the Pastor candidate. Beth will be meeting with Marie Leafblad from synod and the candidate soon to discuss things further. When ready, the council will vote on the Pastor candidate's compensation and benefits package and then have a Congregational meeting in May to vote on the Pastor candidate.

Synod Assembly Representatives

Item was discussed. Will continue to look for volunteers to attend.

Parsonage Improvements

The parsonage is in need of some repairs and updates to prepare for a new Pastor. Some items include: new refrigerator, light fixtures, storm doors, hanging rods/shelving in closets, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. There may be more items that will need attention as we proceed. We will be looking into this and will start a fundraising campaign.

Thanksgivings:

- A very special thanks to Pastor Jack Way for all his four years of service to Redeemer Lutheran Church as our interim Pastor. Also, thanks to Val Way for all she did at Redeemer during those years. They are so appreciated! God's Blessings as they continue their ministry elsewhere.
- Thanks to all who donated food and served the Soup Suppers during Lent.
- Thanks to all who volunteered to help and participated in Holy Week activities.

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Seconded by Nancy Washington. Motion carried. Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- March 24, 2024 – Palm Sunday
- March 31, 2024 – Easter Sunday with a light Easter breakfast – 8-8:45 a.m.
- April 15, 2024 – Next Council Meeting
- May 17-18, 2024 – Synod Assembly at First Lutheran - Janesville

Debbie Reiersen
Council Secretary

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council Minutes Special Meeting Sunday, April 7th, 2024

Present: Beth Laufenberg, Barb VonAhsen, Nancy Washington, Steve Gilbert, Renee Miles, and Kristi Fehrman.

Absent: Debbie Reiersen, excused.

Meeting was called to order by President Beth Laufenberg at 11:40 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve the agenda. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Review and Approve the Document Titled: Definition of Compensation, Benefits, and Responsibilities of the Pastor

After some discussion regarding clarification/re-wording of how vacation was stated, a motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve the Definition of Compensation, Benefits, and Responsibilities of Pastor document with revisions. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Post Interim Compensation

Council President, Beth Laufenberg, presented a clause in Pastor Jack’s contract that reads: “Provide Post-Interim, Full Compensation at 1 week for each 3 months of interim, with a max of 4 weeks.” Pastor Jack had asked that council consider paying part or all of this post employment benefit.

After some discussion, Steve Gilbert made a motion to pay Pastor Jack two weeks of Post-Interim salary. Seconded by Barb VonAhsen. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Exit Interview

Council President, Beth Laufenberg, indicated that she would like to conduct an Exit Interview with Pastor Jack, and would welcome a couple of Council Members to join her, if they wish. Steve Gilbert, Nancy Washington, and Kristi Fehrman volunteered. The date for the Exit Interview is to be determined.

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

There be no further business, Kristi Fehrman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Renee Miles. All were in favor. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer at 12:30 p.m.

Kristi Fehrman
Acting Secretary for Debbie Reiersen

*****:

April Birthdays

Jane Risgaard	April 9
Jeffrey Corning	April 27
Loreli Jenkins	April 28
Skyler Severson	April 30
Linda Olson	April 30

April Anniversaries

David & Grace Hinzman	April 9
Daniel & Lynn Bubolz	April 17
Ron & Debbie Reiersen	April 28

May Birthdays

Larry Wavra	May 8
Beverly Hepler	May 14
Jennifer Baerwolf	May 15
Harper Wittmann	May 19
Jon Pribbenow	May 22
Beth Laufenberg	May 25
Larry Gorman	May 28

May Anniversaries

David & Beth Laufenberg	May 4
Kevin & Kristi Falk	May 15
Skyler & April Severson	May 22
Larry & Geri Gorman	May 24

May Birthdays (continued)

Molly Wittmann	May 29
Scott Nelson	May 29
Joe Severson	May 30
Tom Krueger	May 31
Donovan Selle	May 31

Pastor Jack's Last Day

On April 7th we said goodbye to Pastor Jack and Valerie. To celebrate their time with us, a quilted wall hanging was presented to them from the church. Additionally, a potluck was held following the service.



Music Sunday

On Sunday April 28th Redeemer once again celebrated its long tradition of music. The Choir, Bell Choir, Sprouts, and soloists shared their talents. We are very lucky to have so many individuals sharing their gifts.

In addition to the Vocal and Bell Choirs and Sprouts, several soloists performed



Sprouts

We have started something new with our Sprouts recently. We now have a puppet ministry. The Sprouts shared a song with the puppets on Music Sunday that was enjoyed by all.



As we move into May the school year is winding down and so is Sprouts. Our last night of Sprouts for this school year is May 15th. A pizza party for the Sprouts and their families is being planned for the last night.

THANK YOU, MUSICIANS! **Thank You, Redeemer Congregation!**

I want to again personally thank the many musicians who participated in our April 28, 2024 Music Sunday. And, I want to thank all the friends and parishioners who came to support them by worshipping with us that day. Redeemer is indeed blessed to have so many willing to commit to regular rehearsals, warm-ups before church, and a nine-month regiment every year of providing special music during worship. We couldn't do it without that willing commitment.

Special thanks to organist Claudine Hanson, Choir Accompanist Gayle Krueger, Cello Accompanist Oleg Rudnytsky, Sprouts Puppet Leader Trish McNeill, soloists Sasha Rudnytsky on cello, Trish McNeill on flute, and Nancy Washington on accordion.

We thank our rotating musicians Claudine Hanson, Carla Gerhardt, and Oleg Rudnytsky for their leadership during our worship services. We are currently looking for a full-time organist and a senior choir accompanist. Please help spread the word. Musicians are VERY HARD to come by.

Finally, thank you to each of the Sprouts, their helpers, the Senior Choir, and the Bell Choir. Please see all the participant names below.

Sincerely,
Geri Gorman, Music Director

APRIL 28, 2024 MUSIC SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

SENIOR CHOIR

Bob Risgaard
Kurt Johnson
Steve Gilbert
Trish McNeill
Nancy Washington
Debbie Reiersen
Darlene Cutsforth
Renee Miles
Gayle Krueger, Accompanist
Geri Gorman, Director

BELL CHOIR

Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock
Steve Gilbert
Kathy Olson
Beth Laufenberg
Kristi Fehrman
Trish McNeill
Linda Olson
Debbie Reiersen
Patti Borde
Joleen Frank
Melanie Gilbert
Geri Gorman, Director

SPROUTS

Emma Dahnke
Abby Dahnke
Amelia Maynard, Helper
Emily Laufenberg, Helper
Beth Laufenberg, Trish McNeill, Geri Gorman Leaders

A NOTE FROM CLAUDINE HANSON, ORGANIST

April 28, 2024

I can't go to bed without thanking you for a wonderful morning at Redeemer.

The service was great. The singing was joyous. Responses all around were excellent. Everyone who participated and worshipped, whether as a musician or a parishioner, seemed thankful and happy to be there. The vote resulted in "There is a new pastor at Redeemer!" It was a day to celebrate and be thankful. I was pleased to be a part of it.

Thank you for all you did to prepare and present the service. This is the kind of devotion that makes Redeemer a treasured place. Many times I feel like an honorary member because there is so much friendship and enthusiasm among God's people at the church. I expect others feel this too.

So, I hope you had a good day, rested, and are smiling thinking about the day. Celebrate tomorrow too!

Blessings,

Claudine Hanson

MAY

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

			1 6-7:00 Sprouts	2 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	3
5 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	6 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	7 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	8	9 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	10
12 9:00 Worship Mother's Day Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	13 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	14 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	15 6-7:00 Last Night for Sprouts until Fall Pizza Party for Sprouts & Families	16 Worship at Covenant Place 10:00 am 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	17
19 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	20 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	21 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon Council Meeting 6:00 pm	22	23 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	24
26 <i>No Worship At Redeemer</i> Memorial Day Service At Bonnet Prairie Cemetery 9:30 am	27 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	28 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	29	30 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	31

**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

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Barb Von Ahsen (Vice president)	(920) 992-3666
Debbie Reiersen (Secretary)	(608) 347-1952
Nancy Washington (Treasurer)	(608) 575-1680
Kristi Fehrman (Trustee)	(608) 837-8144
Steve Gilbert (Trustee)	(920) 992-5219
Renee Miles (Trustee)	(920) 992-6220
Robert Risgaard (Bennett Treasurer)	(920) 992-5258
Geri Gorman (Memorial Treasurer)	(920) 992-3213

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April Severson - Custodian
Kurt Johnson - Yard Maintenance
Geri Gorman - Music Director
Gayle Krueger - Choir accompanist
Worship Music Provided by Multiple Musicians