



## Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

December, 2024

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### From Pastor Anne Wickland

Advent is upon us, a time where we prepare ourselves for the birth of baby Jesus, while houses are covered in lights and stores are filled with Christmas decorations. Mariah Carey has been singing about how all she wants for Christmas is \*yooooouuu\* for what feels like forever...

It feels like getting a new book and reading the last chapter before even beginning. A movie that just came out and having the big twist spoiled.

And hey, I also work part time in retail, so I've been dealing with holiday items since Labor Day, and started selling them as soon as Halloween was over. I know that our society is already in the Christmas Mood, but Sundays are a time for us to anticipate, prepare, for what is to come.

I'm excited that we are using a new resource for Advent by A Sanctified Art. The theme is "Words for the Beginning". Because Advent is full of endings and beginnings. Advent is the beginning of a new church year, but also marks the end of our calendar year. Christ was born and his beginning offered hope to the shepherds, to all people, but King Herod was trying to dash that hope and put an end to Jesus' story.

As A Sanctified Art puts it, "We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown."

We'll hear from Mary and the angel Gabriel, how this ordinary woman is "blessed among women" and we too are blessings. From John the Baptist, where in the midst of all the mess in the world, we ask, "what should we do?". From Ruth and Naomi, that we are not alone. From Joseph and Mary again, where trust and hope in God, though risky, is worth it.

So, I hope that our time on Sunday can be that steady ground, that fresh breath needed in the midst of all the go-go-go and long to-do lists.

You are a blessing. We can't go alone. Do the good that is yours to do. And hope is worth the risk.

*Anne Wickland*

she/her/hers

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is nice to not be the first article in the newsletter. It is refreshing to have an article from the pastor. Thank you Pastor Anne.

I hope you take a moment to notice all the work put in to decorate and prepare the church for Christmas. Thank you to everyone that helped with this. Its looking very festive and welcoming.

The property committee continues to work on the list of parsonage improvements. We are hoping to get a new front door and storm door installed this month. Additionally, new ceiling fans with lights have been purchased for the four bedrooms and dining room. These should be installed soon. We have a very nice parsonage and these improvements will make it an even more appealing home for our next pastor.

At our last council meeting, the council approved a proposal from Davis Construction to complete parking lot improvements next spring/summer. This will include crack filling and seal coating as well as repainting the lines. This will help make our church more welcoming to non-members (they will know how and where to park).

The council also approved presenting two proposed Constitution changes related to the number of council trustees and the Nominating Committee to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. See additional information on these proposed changes in the newsletter. Note that to incorporate these changes into our Constitution, we will need to vote on it at the annual meeting in 2025 and 2026.

I invite everyone to attend Music Sunday on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The choirs as well as several others have been working hard to get ready to share their talents with you. I encourage you to invite your family and friends to attend.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas! Happy Birthday Jesus!

God's Blessings,

*Beth Laufenberg*

Council President

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## FROM A MEMBER

Beautiful leaves are falling from trees, brisk winds move the cold air and the singing of birds becomes less audible as they prepare to find a Winter home! People will be celebrating Thanksgiving in a week and a half. TIME MARCHES ON!

As we near the end of the year of 2024 we at Redeemer are still without a dedicated Pastor. Thank you to Pastor Ann Wicklund for taking the reins at Redeemer. It is difficult as we move forward and don't know which direction we are moving. Prayer is a very important part of our Lives and we can use it to walk in the ways of God. This may help us in finding our direction. If we continue in the way of Christ we cannot be afraid of what the future holds for Redeemer's members or our church. We have probably felt fear as human beings but the presence of Jesus brings calm, whether we walk toward our Savior or invite him into our midst where we experience the unknown. Our help needs to be in the name of the Lord.

As you come together with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving we pray:

*Thank you for our health  
Our family and*

friends,  
the roof over our heads  
Our faith  
food on our table and  
everything we have.  
In Jesus name. Amen

My prayer for each of us is that there be peace and love among all people, not only in our nation but also in our church. God has truly been good to us.

Merry Christmas to All,  
**Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock**

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## **\*\* Notice to Congregation of Proposed Constitution Changes \*\***

We are proposing two changes to the Constitution to be initially voted on at the annual meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Excerpts from the Constitution with the proposed changes are included. Please contact the church office if you would like a complete copy of the Constitution.

The first change would be in Chapter 12 – Congregation Council. We are proposing to remove “to four” to limit the number of council trustees to two. The current Constitution allows for “two to four council trustees.” We have historically had four trustees. With the decrease in membership, it is felt that we no longer need four trustees.

### **Chapter 12**

#### **CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

C12.01. [01/29/18] The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), officers of the congregation, and two **to four** council trustees. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the State of Wisconsin, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

The second change would be in Chapter 13 – Congregational Standing Committees. We are proposing to change the word “shall” to “may” so we are not required to have a Nominating Committee. It is our understanding that not all congregations have Nominating Committees and we are finding it very difficult to find members willing to serve on the Nominating Committee.

### **Chapter 13**

#### **CONGREGATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES**

C13.02. [01/29/18] A Nominating Committee of three voting members of this congregation, two of who, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council, **may shall** be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.

## REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

### Approved Minutes 11-19-2024

**Present:** **President** - Beth Laufenberg, **V.P.** - Barb VonAhsen, **Secretary** - Debbie Reiersen, **Treasurer**, Nancy Washington, **Trustees:** Steve Gilbert, Renee Miles, Austin Dahnke, Kristi Fehrman.

**Meeting was called to order by President Beth Laufenberg at 6:04 p.m.**

### Approve Agenda

An additional item was added. "14. Nominating Committee"

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

**Devotions** were given by Beth Laufenberg. Debbie Reiersen will have devotions for Nov. 19, 2024.

### Review/Approve Minutes from: Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024 council meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to approve the Sept. 17, 2024 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Nancy Washington. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Correspondence and/or Guest Comments:** Redeemer was nominated for a South Central Library System award for helping to provide summer lunches at the Rio Library.

### Financial Reports –

- a. **General Fund:** Nancy Washington - See report. No shortfall for September 2024. Rick and Linda Olson will do the 2024 audit.
- b. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** Nancy Washington - See report.
- c. **Memorial Fund:** Nancy Washington - See report.

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to approve financial reports. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### Standing Committee Reports for February 2024 – Review/Approve:

- a. **Property**– Written report.
- b. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen - No report.
- c. **Social Concerns** – Open - Not actively meeting.
- d. **Outreach** – Steve Gilbert - Not meeting. Visit Covenant House once a month.
- e. **Stewardship** – Nancy Washington – Meeting October 28, 2024 to start budget. Committee is Rick Olson, Nancy Washington, Beth Laufenberg, Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock.
- f. **Lay Ministry** – Open. Not actively meeting.
- g. **Education** – Open - Not actively meeting.
- h. **Worship team** – Kristi Fehrman – All Saints Sunday is November 3, 2024. Families of those who have died in the last year are invited to come to the service and light a special candle in honor of their loved one. Other members are also invited to light a candle in memory of their family/friends. Worship team is meeting on a regular basis with Kristi, Pastor Anne Wickland, and Geri Gorman and Gayle Krueger to plan services.
- i. **Policy Committee** – Steve Gilbert - No meeting.

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

**Staff Reports:** Working on a contract with Pastor Anne Wickland through December 2024.

### RACA (Rio Area Clergy Association) Update

Beth Laufenberg met with RACA to help plan the Thanksgiving Eve service at Bedrock Church. RACA gave money to an individual in need.

### **Shared Pastor Update**

We are in conversation with Bonnet Prairie around the idea of sharing a Pastor. Beth Laufenberg, Nancy Washington, and Barb VonAhsen have been meeting with Bonnet Prairie to discuss sharing a pastor, and how this might work.

**Call Committee Update** – Nothing at this time.

**Parking Lot Repairs** - The parking lot is in need of repair. Property Committee is working on getting bids to repair it. So far, we have a couple of bids to consider from Davis Construction and Tri-County Paving.

**Elevator Repairs Update** - Item was discussed. Another “board” problem has occurred. Need to send it back for additional repair.

**Nominating Committee** – Nominating committee has all positions filled except for next year’s nominating committee. Will propose to congregation at annual meeting to have one less trustee in 2025 and one less in 2026 on council.

### **Thanksgivings:**

- Thankful to those that cleaned up the rain water in the basement from the hole Spectrum left when adding Spectrum to the church by the furnace room. Spectrum has since filled in the hole.
- Thank you to Steve Gilbert, Bob Risgaard, Geri Gorman and Kristi Fehrman who help lead services. Thanks to April and Skyler Severson who fill in for projector.

### **Adjourn/Closing Prayer**

Motion was made by Kristi Fehrman to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Seconded by Nancy Washington. All were in favor. Motion carried. Closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

### **Dates to Remember:**

- Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, November 19, 2024
- Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service at Bedrock Church – Wednesday, November 27, 2024

Debbie Reiersen  
Council Secretary

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## **REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024 10:00 A.M.**

### **Approved Minutes 11-19-2024**

**Present:** **President** – Beth Laufenberg, **V.P.** – Barb VonAhsen, **Secretary** – Debbie Reiersen; **Treasurer** – Nancy Washington; **Trustees** – Steve Gilbert, Kristi Fehrman, Renee Miles, Austin Dahnke.

**Meeting was called to order by President Beth Laufenberg at 10:08 a.m.**

### **Approve Agenda**

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

### **Pastor Contract**

Motion was made by Kristi Fehrman to approve Pastor Anne Wickland’s contract with Redeemer for November and December 2024 as presented. Seconded by Nancy Washington. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Adjourn/Closing Prayer**

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman.

Debbie Reiersen  
Council Secretary

**December Birthdays**

<b>Staci Pribbenow</b>	<b>Dec. 1</b>
<b>Scott Swiggum</b>	<b>Dec. 2</b>
<b>Bev Stankiewicz</b>	<b>Dec. 2</b>
<b>Norman Nobbs</b>	<b>Dec. 10</b>
<b>Helen Risgaard</b>	<b>Dec. 15</b>
<b>Norman Kearney</b>	<b>Dec. 15</b>
<b>Wayne Nelson</b>	<b>Dec. 20</b>
<b>Pam Jaynes</b>	<b>Dec. 22</b>
<b>Barb Von Ahsen</b>	<b>Dec. 24</b>
<b>Judy Sandberg</b>	<b>Dec. 24</b>
<b>Marigrace Roberts</b>	<b>Dec. 27</b>

**December Anniversaries**

<b>William &amp; Marilyn Rowley</b>	<b>Dec. 11</b>
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**Call Committee Corner**

The Call Committee is still in a holding pattern until a candidate comes forward to interview. We ask that you continue to pray for everyone involved in this process.

**Call Committee Members:**

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

*Submitted by Beth Laufenberg*

# DECEMBER

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<b>1</b> 9:00 Worship  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	<b>2</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>  <b>5:00 – Bell Practice</b>	<b>3</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 - Noon</b>  <b>Pastor’s Hours:</b> <b>9:00 – Noon</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>Sr. Choir – 1:00 pm</b>  <b>Sprouts and</b> <b>Confirmation</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 Worship  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	<b>9</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>  <b>5:00 – Bell Practice</b>	<b>10</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 - Noon</b>  <b>Pastor’s Hours:</b> <b>9:00 – Noon</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>Sr. Choir – 1:00 pm</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>Combined Choir</b> <b>Practice 6:00 pm</b>  <b>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 Worship Music Sunday  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	<b>16</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>	<b>17</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 - Noon</b> <b>Pastor’s Hours:</b> <b>9:00 – Noon</b> <b>Council Meeting</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>Sr. Choir – 1:00 pm</b>  <b>Sprouts and</b> <b>Confirmation</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>Worship at</b> <b>Covenant Place</b> <b>10:00 am</b>  <b>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 Worship  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	<b>23</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 - Noon</b>  <b>January</b> <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Articles Due</b>	<b>24</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 - Noon</b> <b>Pastor’s Hours:</b> <b>9:00 - Noon</b>  <b>4:00 pm Candlelight</b> <b>Service</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 Worship  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	<b>30</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>	<b>31</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 - Noon</b>  <b>Pastor’s Hours:</b> <b>9:00 – Noon</b>				

**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**

Beth Laufenberg (President)	(608) 572-2051
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
Austin Dahnke (Trustee)	(608) 408-0018
Robert Risgaard (Bennett Treasurer)	(920) 992-5258
Geri Gorman (Memorial Treasurer)	(920) 992-3213

**Pastor Anne Wickland**

Church # (920) 992-3553

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

**Kristi Fehrman – Administrative Assistant -**

Office: (920) 992-3553 Cell: (608) 837-8144

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

Worship Music Provided by Multiple Musicians