



## Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

July, 2024

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT

June 30, 2024

After many days of on and off rain, I woke up this morning to a beautiful sunny, cooler day. I stepped out of my comfort zone this morning and led the church service. As part of the sermon, I shared a video created by Rev. Dr. Lorenzo Lebrija (keynote speaker at the synod assembly this year) about what Christianity might look like in the future. For anyone interested in watching it, it can be found at this website:

<https://vimeo.com/755695509> I found it to be very thought provoking. He stresses the need to meet people where they are at.

This morning, we celebrated the recent high school graduation of Annalynn Benisch and Ryan Risgaard. Anna was in attendance and was presented with a hymnal and her choice of a fleece blanket. Additionally, Linda Olson presented the second-year general scholarship to Ashley Laufenberg. It is very exciting to watch these young adults grow and see what the future holds for them.

Last week Nancy Washington, Barb VonAhsen, and myself met with the following members from Bonnett Prairie: Owen Landsverk, Doug Waterworth, and Lori Larson to discuss the possibility of sharing a pastor. This was our first meeting in what we hope to be several. We used this meeting to talk at a high level and share ideas of what could be possible. We envision both churches still maintaining their own independence and identity. No decisions were made at this meeting. We believe along with the Synod that being able to present a potential candidate with a full-time equivalent position split between the two churches would make it easier to find a new pastor for both congregations. We plan to meet again in July. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please reach out to Nancy, Barb, or myself. We would love to hear from you.

Yesterday I recruited my husband to help pick up some new blinds the property committee had ordered for the church. We hope to get them installed soon. The blinds are for the office, pastor's office, and window near the bathrooms upstairs. We are all lucky to have a property committee that cares about details like this.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the lunches at the library the week of July 15<sup>th</sup>. Lunches are served at 11:15 am on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the food, serve the food, and clean up afterwards. If you can assist in any way, on any or all of those days, please contact Kristi in the office. If we cannot get volunteers this year, we are considering not participating in the lunches at the library next year.

I invite everyone to come out to the Fireman's Park on July 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 am for the ecumenical service and potluck. Volunteers are needed to help set up prior to the service at 9 am.

That's all for now.

God's Blessings,

*Beth Laufenberg*

Council President

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**FROM A MEMBER**

Redeemer Lutheran has been going through some challenging times as we all know. As members we wonder if and when this will come to some sort of a conclusion. There are questions to be answered and healing to be done.

We continue to have services every Sunday and starting in July we will welcome a Pastor who will be with us for July and August. Thanks be to God!

As I write this article and think about our challenges I think of the church in Argyle, Apple Valley, and I can see them acting so positively by worshipping together at the site of their church and its rubble the day after the tornado, sitting on chairs brought from home. What a witness!

I believe God has a plan for Redeemer and our members. Positive prayer and working together is a wonderful way to start our regrowth.

God's Blessings and prayers for all,  
*Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock*

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## **July 28<sup>th</sup> at 10AM**

RACA Ecumenical Service at the Rio Firemen's Park Shelter.  
Potluck to follow.

*\*\*Assistance helping to move picnic tables and set up chairs at 9 AM prior to the service would be greatly appreciated.\*\**

## **High School Graduate Recognition and Awarding of the Second Year General Scholarship**

On Sunday, June 30, we recognized our 2 High School Graduates, Annalynn Benisch and Ryan Risgaard. Ryan was unable to be with us on that date, but below are some photos of Annalynn and Council President, Beth Laufenberg.



On Sunday, June 30, Ashley Laufenberg was awarded the second year General Scholarship. Below are some photos of Linda Olson presenting the scholarship to Ashley.



**July Birthdays**

<b>Jeremy Jaynes</b>	<b>July 5</b>
<b>April Severson</b>	<b>July 5</b>
<b>Emma Dahnke</b>	<b>July 6</b>
<b>Dennis Brusveen</b>	<b>July 10</b>
<b>Benjamin Brusveen</b>	<b>July 16</b>
<b>Brian Brewer</b>	<b>July 17</b>
<b>Rhonda Corning</b>	<b>July 17</b>
<b>Chainey Brewer</b>	<b>July 21</b>

**July Anniversaries**

**None that we are aware of**

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**Call Committee Corner**

The Call Committee met on June 25<sup>th</sup> to debrief on how the interview and call process went with Pastor Kalen and to review the Ministry Site Profile. Updates to the Ministry Site Profile have been submitted to the ELCA. At this point, we are in a holding pattern waiting for a candidate to be interested in us.

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*

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**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, May 21, 2024 – 6:00 p.m.**

Approved Minutes

**Present:** **President**, Beth Laufenberg; **Secretary**, Debbie Reiersen; **Treasurer**, Nancy Washington; Steve Gilbert, Kristi Fehrman, Renee Miles, Austin Dahnke

**Absent:** Barb VonAhsen, excused.

**Meeting was called to order by President Beth Laufenberg at 6:01 pm**

**Approve Agenda:**

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Devotions** were given by Steve Gilbert. Nancy Washington will give devotions on June 18.

**Review/Approve Minutes from Monday, April 15, 2024 Council Meeting**

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to approve the April 15, 2024 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Nancy Washington. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Correspondence and/or Guest Comments** – None.

**Appoint Council Trustee**

Motion was made by Beth Laufenberg to approve Austin Dahnke to fill the vacant trustee position on the council. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Financial Reports – Review/Approve:**

- a. **General Fund:** Nancy Washington
- b. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** Nancy Washington
- c. **Memorial Fund:** Nancy Washington

See individual financial reports.

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

**Bennett Fund CD**

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to close the current CD and reinvest \$10,416.62. In a new CD at 5.10% for 7 months at Farmers and Merchants Union Bank. Beth Laufenberg and Robert Risgaard are signers. Seconded by Renee Miles. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Beth Laufenberg indicated that the Hinzman CD of \$10,354.34 will come due in August 2024.

**Standing Committee Reports for March, 2024 – Review/Approve:**

- d. **Property:** see report.
- e. **WELCA:** Debbie Reiersen – No Report
- f. **Social Concerns:** Open – Not actively meeting
- g. **Outreach:** Steve Gilbert – Not actively meeting
- h. **Stewardship:** Nancy Washington – Not actively meeting
- i. **Lay Ministry:** Open – Not actively meeting
- j. **Education:** Open – Not actively meeting
- k. **Worship team:** Kristi Fehrman indicated that things are going well. The worship team will meet June 3 or 4 to plan for July. Talked about installation service for new Pastor.
- l. **Policy Committee:** Steve Gilbert – No meeting since February.

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to accept standing committee reports. Seconded by Nancy Washington. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Staff Reports:**

- a. **Other Staff Members:**  
None

**Bell Choir Clinic Request**

Geri Gorman sent a letter to council requesting financial support for Redeemer's Handbell Choir to attend a handbell clinic in Madison (July 31, Aug. 1 & 2). The cost is \$165/person and suggesting that each participant pay \$65. She is asking for \$100 for each participant and suggesting that funds come from the Bennett Fund as this is an educational event for a maximum of \$900, and mileage for two carpool cars from Redeemer to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Madison.

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to pay \$100 for each participant and mileage for up to two carpool cars from Bennett Funds. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Musician Advertising Request**

Geri Gorman sent a letter to council requesting funding to advertise for an organist and choir pianist. It is very difficult to find anyone to fill these positions.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to place ads in Columbia County Shopper. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Window Blinds Request**

The Property Committee sent council a request for new blinds for Pastor's office, Administrative office, and window near bathrooms and have a quote from Bisbee's Flooring. They would like council to decide which blinds we should purchase. The current blinds are too old to find replacement parts. Should we go ahead with this and what monies could be used.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to go with the property committee's recommendation to buy four blinds from Bisbee's Flooring Center with money out of the

Hinzman remodel money. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **Review Church Calendar**

Council reviewed the calendar and it is fine for now.

### **Call Update**

Pastor Kalen Burkholz may need more time to give us her decision to accept our call. They're trying to figure out what to do for her husband who is also a Pastor. Council was fine with extending our call for more days if needed.

### **Recap Synod Assembly**

Beth Laufenberg was our representative for the Synod Assembly held in Janesville on Saturday, May 18, 2024. Had a good speaker – church will not be as it is now. Bishop talked about sending letters requesting an end to the war in Gaza. Approved 2025 budget. Budget included a deficit. There are 133 churches in our synod. 130 send money to synod.

### **Pastor Exit Interview Take-aways**

Beth Laufenberg went over some of the things discussed in the zoom exit interview with interim Pastor Jack Way with council members.

### **Thanksgivings:**

- Thankful for having Supply Pastors through the end of June.
- Thankful for Music Sunday, April 28, 2024. Sprouts, Choir, Handbell Choirs performed a wonderful musical presentation. Thanks to all participants, choir director, Sprouts directors, pianist, organist. It was a wonderful service.
- Special thanks to our Sprouts and families for their participation in Music Sunday.

### **Adjourn/Closing Prayer.**

Motion was made by Kristi Fehrman to Adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. All were in favor. Motion carried. Followed by the Lord's Prayer.

### **Dates To Remember:**

- Council Meeting, June 18, 2024

Debbie Reiersen  
Council Secretary



## South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Dear Partners in Ministry,

As you are likely already aware, Apple Grove Lutheran Church was destroyed by a tornado on Saturday, June 22.

Below is an update from Pastor Dan Bohlman, including information about how you can help the congregation as they begin the process of clean-up and recovery.

*It is with great love that our congregation at Apple Grove says thank you to everyone who has reached out with prayers, concern for us, and offers to help both physically and with financial gifts.*

*Our initial need right now is to work on our cemetery. We have somewhere in the area of \$30,000 damage. We want to make sure that the tombstones are picked up and restored to their footings.*

*With the needs of the cemetery in mind, if you would like to give a donation to help restore our cemetery, you can send a check written out to "Argyle-Apple Grove Lutheran Church."*

*The mailing address is:*

*Yellowstone/Argyle-Apple Grove Lutheran  
Box 217  
Argyle, WI, 53504*

*If donations exceed the final cost of the cemetery repairs, the extra funds will be placed in a special account and will be used by the church to cover expenses not covered by insurance.*

*We again want to thank everyone for your love and support as our church journeys through this difficult time. We are so blessed that you are taking some of the burden off of our shoulders.*

*God bless you,*

*Pastor Dan Bohlman and our congregation*



# JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	2 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	3	4  7:00 pm- AA Meeting	5
7 9:00 Worship  Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	8 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	9 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	10	11  7:00 pm- AA Meeting	12
14 9:00 Worship  Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	15 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	16 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon  Council Meeting 6:00 pm	17	18  Worship at Covenant Place 10:00 am  7:00 pm- AA Meeting	19
21 9:00 Worship  Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	22 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	23 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	24	25  <i>August Newsletter Articles Due</i>  7:00 pm- AA Meeting	26
28 <i>10:00 Worship in The Park</i> Firemen's Park - Rio No Worship at Redeemer	29 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	30 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	31		

**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

Church # (920) 992-3553  
E-mail: [office@rioredeemerlutheran.org](mailto:office@rioredeemerlutheran.org)  
**Kristi Fehrman – Interim Administrative  
Assistant - Office # (920) 992-3553**  
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