



## Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

June, 2024

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT

As a child, were you ever disappointed when that one gift you were hoping to get for Christmas wasn't under the tree Christmas morning? You had done everything you knew of to ensure that perfect gift would be there.

Since you knew Christmas was coming you started scoping out all the new toys to determine what would be perfect for you. You are a planner so you start in September. Since you are a little bit of an unusual child, you make a list of what is important to you. You ask your friends what toys they like this year and why. After much research, you decide that doll with the blonde hair, pink dress, and lovely accessories is just what you want.

Now you need to make sure everyone knows what you want. As you walk by the doll in the store you mention to your mom that this doll looks really nice. You spend the next few months dropping other hints in hopes everyone around you would take note.

Finally, December comes. You know there is that one big guy that you need to make sure knows what you want. You stand in line at the store for your chance to share with Santa exactly what you want this year. You sit on his lap and he asks if you have been good this year. Of course, you say yes (even if mom and dad might disagree). He then asks you what you would like for Christmas. You whisper in his ear - the doll with the blonde hair, pink dress, and lovely accessories. He tells you he will see what he can do and hands you a candy cane as you are led off by the elf.

Having shared with Santa what you would like you are sure it will happen. To be on the safe side you decide you better pray about it. After all, you had heard something at Sunday School about "ask and it shall be given to you."

Christmas Eve comes. You are sitting in church with your family for the candle light service. Your mom is wrestling with your baby brother to make sure he doesn't burn down the church. You like singing Silent Night by candle light however what you are really thinking about is that doll that will be waiting for you under the tree in the morning.

Christmas morning comes. You run out of your room to find lots of presents under the tree. You locate yours and find the one that looks like it could be the doll you wanted. You shake it. It sounds and feels right. You can't wait to open it.

Finally, mom and dad get up and say it's time to open presents. You rip open the one you think is the doll you have been waiting for only to find it is something totally different. A huge feeling of disappointment comes over you. You had done everything you knew of to ensure you got just the right gift. You are thankful for the presents you received but still are upset that you didn't get the doll with the blonde hair, pink dress, and lovely accessories. You move on and within a couple weeks you have long forgotten about the doll.

A few months later your birthday comes around. Again, you had done your research on what you wanted. You had found an even better doll and made sure your mom knew exactly what you wanted. You were beyond excited when you opened your birthday gift to find the doll you had wanted.

As many of you already know, Pastor Kalen has decided to not accept our call. Like the girl in the story, the Call Committee had done research to determine what we wanted in a pastor. We completed the Ministry Site Profile provided to potential candidates sharing who we are and what we are looking for. The Call Committee interviewed Pastor Kalen and decided she was the right one for us. They recommended her to the council. With council's approval, we moved forward with Pastor Kalen working out a reasonable compensation package and holding a meet and greet allowing the congregation to meet her. We then held a congregational meeting to vote to approve calling her. Everyone in attendance agreed that she was the one for us. There was great excitement in getting to this stage. It felt like a done deal. We were going to have our next permanent pastor.

However, that was not meant to be. Due to forces outside of our control, Pastor Kalen decided that it was not the right time for her family to make the move.

Like many of you, I felt shock and disappointment at this news. I was sure she just needed time to get everything worked out for her husband and then would be saying yes to our call. Like the girl in the story, I needed time to process the disappointment.

So where do we go from here? The Call Committee will be meeting this month to regroup and review the Ministry Site Profile to determine if any updates are needed. The Synod put me in contact with Pastor Anne Wickland, who is available to help us in July and August. I will continue to work with the Synod and council to determine what is next for Redeemer. I ask that you please pray for Redeemer as we work through this.

My hope is that our next candidate will be even better than the first.

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer" (Romans 26: 20-22).

God's Blessings,

*Beth Laufenberg*

Council President

### Call Update

Pastor Kalen Barkholtz has decided to not accept our call. As many of you are aware, her husband Tom is also a pastor and was hoping to get a call at a church near us. He had been working with a church in our area however negotiations did not come together as he had hoped and so they decided this was not the right time to make a move. Please see the letter below from Pastor Kalen.

6/6/2024

*Dear Redeemer Lutheran,*

*Thank you for your kindness as we explored the possibility of doing ministry together. Even though I am not accepting the call to serve as your pastor, I want you to know that I experienced your congregation as welcoming and faithful. As I discerned this call, I felt there would be many blessings in being your pastor—most of all the people. My husband's family, as you know, has a connection to you. They remember Rio as a good place, and when I met all of you, I could see why.*

*I spent lots of time in prayer and conversation, and in the end, even though it was a difficult decision, my husband felt that that making this transition was not right for our family at this time.*

*This process took several months. You invested faith in God, prayer, many conversations, and time. When our family made the decision to remain at our current churches, all your work was not lost on me. I appreciate all you did to help me learn about your congregation and community and to make me feel welcome.*

*The Holy Spirit is at work in your congregation, and I am certain that God has some specific work for you to do in the village of Rio. During this process, you graciously shared your hopes and your struggles as we got to know each other. I will be holding all those things in prayer, and I am also hoping for you and your future. I also trust that God has work for me to do, and that God is using our congregations to share the love of Jesus and to be communities of Good News for others. May God guide you as you continue the call process, and as you continue to grow in faith and serve others in Jesus' name.*

*God's peace,  
Pastor Kalen Barkholtz*



## **Pastoral Coverage for July and August**

Pastor Anne Wickland will be leading our worship in July and August. She will also be available for anyone that would like pastoral support during July and August. Please let the office (Kristi) know if you would like a visit from Pastor Anne.

## **Call Committee Corner**

The Call Committee will be meeting in June to debrief on how the interview and call process went with Pastor Kalen and to review the Ministry Site Profile provided to potential candidates.

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**  
**Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

Approved Minutes 5-21-2024

**Present:** Beth Laufenberg, Barb VonAhsen, Steve Gilbert, Kristi Fehrman, Nancy Washington, and Renee Miles. **Guest:** Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock.

**Absent:** Debbie Reiersen, excused.

**Meeting was called to order by President Beth Laufenberg at 6:05 pm**

**Approve Agenda:**

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

**Devotions** were given by Beth Laufenberg. Barb Von Ahsen will give devotions on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Review/Approve Minutes from: 3-19-2024 and 4-7-2024 council minutes**

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve both sets of minutes. Seconded by Renee Miles. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Correspondence and/or Guest Comments.**

Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock presented some individual concerns to the Council.

**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 Barb Von Ahsen. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

- d. **Property:** There was some discussion regarding the remaining items to either update or repair at the Parsonage, in preparation for a new Pastor to reside there.
- 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 she has been working directly with the supply Pastors that have been scheduled through the end of May. Our first service was Sunday, April 14. There is a Baptism this week (April 21). All has gone well, so far.
- l. **Policy Committee:** Steve Gilbert – No meeting since February.

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

#### **8. Staff Reports:**

##### **a. Other Staff Members:**

None

#### **9. Call Update**

Beth reported that the name of our Pastoral Candidate will be revealed this Sunday, April 21 at worship. We will meet the candidate at a Meet and Greet from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m on that date. A congregational meeting will be held after worship on April 28 to vote on budget impacts and calling our Pastoral Candidate.

#### **10. Synod Assembly Representatives**

Beth Laufenberg expressed an interest in attending, no one else has come forward.

Motion by Kristi Fehrman to nominate Beth Laufenberg as our Representative. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. All were in favor. Beth Laufenberg abstained. Motion carried.

#### **11. Parsonage Improvements**

Covered under Property report.

#### **12. Open Council Trustee Position**

Tabled

#### **13. Meeting Dates**

Due to Beth being on the School Board, the Monday night Council meetings are in conflict with the School Board meetings. The group agreed to meet on the third Tuesday of each Month – next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, at 6:00 pm

#### **14. Thanksgivings:**

- Thankful for having Supply Pastors through the end of May.
- Thankful for the recent beautiful weather.

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

Motion was made by Beth Laufenberg to Adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Seconded by Nancy Washington. Followed by the Lord's Prayer.

#### **Dates To Remember:**

- Candidate Meet & Greet: April 21<sup>st</sup> 4:00 – 5:30 pm
- Congregational Meeting: April 28<sup>th</sup> following worship
- May Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 pm
- Synod Assembly: May 17-18 at First Lutheran, Janesville

Kristi Fehrman  
Acting Secretary in Debbie Reiersen's absence

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**June Birthdays**

Ashley Laufenberg	June 1
Jack Risgaard	June 4
Nancy Wescott	June 5
Rick Olson	June 13
Nancy Washington	June 17
Kory Falk	June 17
Randy Baerwolf	June 18
Samantha Jaynes	June 19
Ryan Risgaard	June 26
Sharon Wismar	June 20

**June Anniversaries**

Scott & Trish McNeill	June 14
Randy & Jennifer Baerwolf	June 24
Rick & Linda Olson	June 26

**Graduate and Scholarship Recognition**

Recognition will take place on Sunday, June 30 during worship. The 2 individuals being recognized are Annalynn Benisch and Ashley Laufenberg.



**Parsonage  
Improvements  
Update**

As of the end of May, \$1,925 has been donated toward improvements at the parsonage. Additionally, members participating in the Thrivent Choice Dollars program have agreed to donate additional funds if needed.

The Property Committee has purchased and installed a new refrigerator and also repaired a crack in the ceiling. Future projects/improvements include new storm doors, ceiling fans/lights, bathroom faucets, smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, and deck repairs.

Anyone interested in assisting with completing these improvements should contact Larry Gorman or Bob Risgaard. Any help would be welcomed.

## May 2024 Financial Report

Financial information is being provided for transparency purposes by the Bookkeeper.

	Actual		Spending Plan (Budget)	
	May 2024	Year-to- Date 2024	Monthly 2024	Year-to- Date 2024
<b>Beginning Checking Balance:</b>	<b>\$56.34</b>	<b>\$288.60</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sources of Funds:</b>				
Offering:	\$6,370.00	\$40,100.00	\$11,581.83	\$57,909.17
Bennett Investment Savings:	\$0.00	\$138.41	\$212.50	\$1,062.50
General Savings:	\$0.00	\$25,034.56	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Savings:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,370.00</b>	<b>\$65,272.97</b>	\$11,794.33	\$58,971.67
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$5,034.95</b>	<b>\$71,898.99</b>	\$11,794.33	\$58,971.67
<b>Shortfall/Surplus:</b>	<b>\$1,391.39</b>	<b>-\$6,337.42</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>To Cover Shortfalls:</b>				
Memorial Savings:	\$0.00	\$1,084.79	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bennett Investment Savings:	\$0.00	\$6,644.02	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$7,728.81</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Ending Checking Balance:</b>	<b>\$1,391.39</b>	<b>\$1,391.39</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00

***Assets***

1.000.2000	F&M General Fund Checking Account	1,391.39
1.000.4000	ELCA Mission Investment Fund	4,154.38
1.000.5000	F & M Business Savings Account	60,413.67
1.000.6000	Redeemer Lutheran Memorial Fund	15,050.36
1.955.0000	Bennett Investment Savings Fund	24,062.42
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$105,072.22</b>

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

## REDEEMER VETERANS ON BADGER HONOR FLIGHT

June 1, 2024 was an exciting day for two of our Redeemer Viet Nam Veterans when ***Richard Reiersen and Larry Gorman*** had the experience of a lifetime traveling to Washington D.C. on the Badger Honor Flight. We thank them for their service.



## **Save the Date**

RACA Ecumenical Service at the Rio Firemen's Park Shelter

July 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM • Potluck to follow.

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



# JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p><b>2</b> 9:00 Worship</p> <p>Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7</p>	<p><b>3</b> Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon</p>	<p><b>4</b> Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> 7:00 pm- AA Meeting</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>9</b> 9:00 Worship</p> <p>Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7</p>	<p><b>10</b> Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon</p>	<p><b>11</b> Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> 7:00 pm- AA Meeting</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>16</b> 9:00 Worship</p> <p>Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7</p>	<p><b>17</b> Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon</p>	<p><b>18</b> Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> Worship at Covenant Place 10:00 am</p> <p>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>23</b> 9:00 Worship</p> <p>Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7</p>	<p><b>24</b> Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon</p>	<p><b>25</b> Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon</p> <p>Council Meeting 6:00 pm</p> <p><i>Newsletter Articles Due</i></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 7:00 pm- AA Meeting</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>30</b> 9:00 Worship</p> <p>Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7</p>					

**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