



**Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter**  
November, 2024

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Here we are in November already. The year is going by so fast. Just like the year, things continue to move along at Redeemer. I have been very thankful to have Pastor Anne Wickland with us the last few months to lead our worship services providing much-needed continuity.

With that being said, I am excited to share that the Council approved a Letter of Agreement (contract) with Pastor Anne for the months of November and December. Per the agreement, Pastor Anne will be working 15 hours a week through the end of December. This includes, but is not limited to, worship services, office hours, pastoral care/visitation, and teaching Confirmation. She will tentatively be available at Redeemer on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Please feel free to contact Pastor Anne directly at 608-628-6005 or the church office with any pastoral needs.

I would like to invite everyone to the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service being held at Bedrock Church this year on November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

The Stewardship Committee met in October to start the process of putting together a spending plan (budget) for 2025. One of the discussion points was how the congregation will afford the anticipated expenses in the spending plan. The discussion highlighted the need for additional tithing.

The 2024 Nominating Committee has been working hard to find candidates for the various positions. They are still looking for members to nominate for the 2025 Nominating Committee. If you are interested in being on the Nominating Committee in 2025, please contact Kristie Falk, Larry Gorman, or Pam Jaynes.

*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God's Blessings,

*Beth Laufenberg*

Council President

**FROM A MEMBER**

What beautiful weather the Lord has blessed us with at the end of October! It makes me wonder what kind of Winter we are going to be blessed with?

The beautiful blue sky with its dancing clouds tells us we are blessed with such wonder! The stars and the big moon at night and the big warm sun during the day lets us know that the light of the Lord will lead our way.

We have been witnessing much pain in our congregation recently, not only with our situation at Redeemer, but with members who have lost loved ones. There are others who, in the process of dealing with end of life trauma, have to put all their faith and understanding in God!

As members and friends at Redeemer we need to put our hands together, pray to the Lord and try to help others that need our love, caring and compassion. In 1John4:19, we hear "we love because he first loved us." Wonderful words to remember and live by.

My prayer is that everyone share a wonderful time of Thanksgiving with family and friends filled with happiness and love!

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

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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*

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**Aid to Hurricane Helene Victims**

A huge thank you to Redeemer members for their many donations, including money, to the Hurricane Helene victims in Cosby TN. This opportunity was brought to our attention by Karen & Greg Kohler who are members of the Prairie Athletic Club in Sun Prairie who is collecting and delivering the needed supplies.

Opportunities like this help Redeemer to "live and tell the story of Jesus".

Thanks so much.

*Bob & Helen Risgaard*

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**From the Property Committee...**

Our heating contractor has recommended that the boiler be replaced in the next year or so. The Property Committee is exploring options and will likely be starting fundraising in early 2025. A very rough estimate to replace the existing boiler with two smaller boilers is \$40,000.

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.**

**Approved Minutes – 10-15-2024**

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

**Excused Absence:** Trustee – Austin Dahnke, Kristi Fehrman

**Meeting was called to order by President Beth Laufenberg at 6:13 p.m.**

**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. Austin Dahnke will have devotions for Oct. 15, 2024.

**Review/Approve Minutes from: Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024 council meeting minutes.**

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve the Aug. 20, 2024 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Barb VonAhsen. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Correspondence and/or Guest Comments:** Letters from Geri Gorman

- a. Discussion about doing a ham and turkey breast give-away again this year.
- b. Discussed letter from Geri Gorman telling us that both choirs are up and running. Also one of the bell cases is no longer in good shape. The felt fabric liner is torn around most of the bell spaces so the bells are resting on cardboard. Geri ordered a new case from bell financial funds.
- c. A discussion about Welcome and Fabric Seasonal Banners for the sanctuary.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to purchase 5 Fabric Seasonal Banners as requested. Seconded by Renee Miles. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Financial Reports –**

- a. **General Fund:** Nancy Washington - See report. No shortfall for August 2024.
- 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 Steve Gilbert. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

- a. **Property**– Written report.
- b. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen - No report. School kits were assembled Sept. 8, 2024. 130 school kits, 9 personal care kits and 71 quilts. They were all delivered to the depot in Madison, WI on Saturday, September 14, 2024 by Beth and David Laufenberg.
- c. **Social Concerns** – Open - Not actively meeting.
- d. **Outreach** – Steve Gilbert - Not meeting.
- e. **Stewardship** – Nancy Washington - No meeting. Plan to meet in October.
- f. **Lay Ministry** – Open. Not actively meeting.
- g. **Education** – Open - Not actively meeting. Sprouts and confirmation will meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday starting October 2, 2024.
- h. **Worship team** – Kristi Fehrman – No report.
- i. **Policy Committee** – Steve Gilbert - No meeting.

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

**Staff Reports:**

The bell choir is buying a new bell case.

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

**Wireless Mic – Discuss/Approve**

It was decided to hold off getting a new wireless mic until we have a new Pastor.

**Council Trustees**

Discussion was held.

**RACA Update**

Beth Laufenberg met with RACA to help plan the Thanksgiving Eve service at Bedrock Church.

**Shared Pastor Update**

We are in conversation with Bonnet Prairie around the idea of sharing a Pastor. Several meetings have been held and they continue to meet. Beth Laufenberg, Nancy Washington, and Barb VonAhsen met with individuals from Bonnet Prairie recently to discuss sharing a pastor, and how this might work financially. There will be another meeting in October at Bonnet Prairie for more discussion.

**Call Committee Update** - No activity.

**Parking Lot Repairs** - The parking lot is in need of repair. Property Committee is working on getting bids to repair it.

**Elevator Repairs Update** - Item was discussed. An elevator repair company is working on the elevator repairs.

**Review Master Calendar** - Went over calendar items for this time of year. Talked about auditors to go over church finances for 2024.

**Thanksgivings:**

- Thankful for everyone who stayed after church to put school kits and health kits together.
- Thank you to all those who contributed supplies for all the kits.
- Thank you to those who set up the school kit assembly line. It went very smoothly.
- Thank you to the quilters who had 71 quilts to send to LWR.

**Adjourn/Closing Prayer**

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 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, October 15, 2024

Debbie Reiersen  
Council Secretary

***We received this from Roxanne Staveness, the Rio Community Library Director:***

Rio Community Library  
SCLS Foundation Awards

They may not wear capes, but they might wear aprons. I am nominating our eight community organizations that have dedicated their time to prepare and serve lunch three times a week to our youth for the past five summers. The creativity they bring to the lunch program is inspiring, and the impact on our youth is profound. The summer lunch program serves fifty to one hundred lunches to anyone who comes to the Library on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for seven weeks. We also serve adults if all the kids are done and food remains. This summer, we enjoyed walking tacos, pancakes, hamburgers, macaroni & cheese, and even a trendy cereal bar to name a few.

As the Director of the Rio Community Library, I am deeply grateful for our volunteer superheroes. Their selfless dedication—from preparing and purchasing to organizing and delivering—demonstrates their love for our community. Their hard work not only strengthens our Library but also provides a safe and enjoyable space for our kids during the summer. Their efforts significantly enhance our Summer Reading Program.

The Volunteer Superhero's

- The Rio P.T.O.
- Rio Area Library Friends (R.A.L.F.)
- Gaskets Inc.
- Hometown Pharmacy
- Redeemer and Bonnet Prairie Lutheran Churches
- Living Gospel
- Bedrock Church

## *All Saints Sunday*

On Sunday, November 3, we celebrated All Saints Sunday at Redeemer. Family members of the saints we lost since November, 2023 were invited to participate in the service. Their name was read, there was a bell toll, and family members came forward to light a candle in honor and in memory of their loved one. In addition, all were invited to come forward and light a candle for any loved ones who joined the "Communion of Saints" prior to November, 2024.

The Saints we lost between November, 2023 and November, 2024:

*Shirley Benzine, Vivian Black, Michael Cutsforth, Janet Jevens,*

*Duane Nelson, Lee Roberts, and Donovan Selle*



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### November Birthdays

Don Washington      Nov. 4  
Alisa Porter          Nov. 13  
Nancy Drehmel      Nov. 20  
Grace Hinzman      Nov. 21  
Trish McNeill        Nov. 23

### November Anniversaries

Bob & Joann Skare      Nov. 9  
Steve & Melanie Gilbert    Nov. 26

# NOVEMBER

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

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<b>3</b> 9:00 Worship  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	<b>4</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>  <b>5:00 – Bell Practice</b>	<b>5</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 - Noon</b>  <b>Pastor’s Hours:</b> <b>9:00 – Noon</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>Sprouts and</b> <b>Confirmation</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 Worship  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	<b>11</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>  <b>5:00 – Bell Practice</b>	<b>12</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 - Noon</b>  <b>Pastor’s Hours:</b> <b>9:00 – Noon</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Worship at</b> <b>Covenant Place</b> <b>10:00 am</b>  <b>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00 Worship  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	<b>18</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 - Noon</b>	<b>19</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>20</b>  <b>Sprouts and</b> <b>Confirmation</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>21</b>  <i><b>December</b></i> <i><b>Newsletter</b></i> <i><b>Articles Due</b></i>  <b>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 Worship  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	<b>25</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>  <b>5:00 – Bell Practice</b>	<b>26</b> Office Hours: <b>9:00 - Noon</b>  <b>Pastor’s Hours:</b> <b>9:00 – Noon</b>	<b>27</b>  <i><b>Thanksgiving Eve</b></i> <i><b>Ecumenical Service @</b></i> <i><b>Bedrock Church 6:30</b></i>	<b>28</b>  <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>  <b>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</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

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