



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

April, 2025

From Pastor Anne Wickland

We're halfway through Lent and Holy Week is on the horizon! Thank you to all of those who have provided food (or signed up for future weeks!) for our soup suppers, and to those who have helped lead our Holden Evening Prayer! I've enjoyed our time together in community and worship.

Our first soup supper, I was unsure if I would be able to make it in time—I was juror number 4 in a trial that Wednesday. Monday, I spent the majority of the day at the Dane County Courthouse for *jury duty*, the thing that most citizens groan at. I first thought that because I waited all morning and was the last group called up, that I would be asked to go home, that all the spots were filled! Oh, no. There was one more trial needing a jury for the week – I was then in “the box” being asked questions by the lawyers, thinking that surely the lawyers wouldn't want *me* on the jury! Oh, no. I then had to report for court on Wednesday morning – we were told that it should only last a day, but depending on our deliberation, it might go into the evening. And, not only was I picked to be on a jury, I ended up being the foreperson who led the deliberation, talking through the three counts, organizing the vote, and signing my name confirming what we decided on. Something that I dreaded doing earlier that week, I embraced.

Lent is a time where we self-reflect, repent, pray, fast, sacrificially give and do works of love. While I don't think of me doing jury duty as me sacrificially giving my time, it did make me pause and think of how most of us did not want to be in that room, but we knew that it was something that needed to be done. We were serious about the power given to us, and thought hard about our judgement. It was a space of reflection, of difficult choices, and showing love for our neighbors by making sure justice was served.

It seems a little silly to think of jury duty as a Lenten practice, but the journey made me pause and reflect on how we as citizens were asked to be there for our neighbor in a way that no one really wants to do, but understand how important it is. Lent is our journey towards Jesus' death and resurrection, where we know that Jesus *will* be crucified by the Roman Empire, something we certainly don't want to happen, but we also know that three days later he will rise from the dead. And there is that Easter hope and joy just around the corner that is so important.

We have a few more weeks of our soup suppers and Wednesday worship, and then there's Holy Week. Maundy Thursday (April 17) and Good Friday (April 18) services are both at 7pm. Easter Sunday (April 20), we will have an Easter breakfast 7:30am-8:45am with Easter service at 9am. I look forward to worshipping with you all the rest of our Lenten season and Holy Week.

Blessings,

Anne Wickland

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to April. This time of year always makes me think of new beginnings with things like the birds returning and flowers starting to pop out of the ground. I noticed today that my crocuses are starting to flower. Easter also makes me feel this way.

Redeemer is also in a place of potential new beginnings. The Council, at the Call Committee's recommendation, has voted to move forward with Pastor Anne Wickland. We hope to be ready to have a congregational meeting at the end of the month to vote to call Pastor Anne to be our next pastor. Please watch for an announcement related to this.

The Property Committee is busy obtaining additional quotes for the boiler replacement we hope to have completed this summer. Once we have at least three quotes, the council will review them and make a recommendation to the congregation for final approval at a congregational meeting.

I am anticipating needing to have a day of cleaning at the parsonage to get it ready for our next pastor. I am thinking we will do it on a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon later in the month or very early May. The more help we have, the faster we will get it done. Please keep an eye out for the date to complete this.

Ben Brusveen, Austin Dahnke, and myself met with Owen Landsverk and Phyllis Baumgartner from Bonnett Prairie in March to discuss where each church is at in the call process. We shared with them that we had interviewed Pastor Anne for a 50% position and reaffirmed our commitment to sharing a pastor with them if the right opportunity were to materialize. If we call Pastor Anne for a 50% position and she decides in the future that she would like to also serve Bonnett Prairie, we would coordinate with Bonnett Prairie to make the shared call work.

We met with Owen and Phyllis at Redeemer. They arrived before we did and did not know how to park in our parking lot. This affirms our need to get the parking lot updates completed. The updates will be done this summer. The earliest this could happen is June due to the need for the weather to be warm enough for the tar. I look forward to the parking lot being updated and presenting a much more welcoming experience for potential new members and visitors.

Do you have a musical talent you would like to share? We would love to have some special music on Sunday mornings. Please contact the office. Due to our music director recovering from a broken arm, the senior choir and bell choir are on hiatus.

The Sprouts and Confirmation students will be serving Easter Breakfast this year. Please come out and support them. They will be taking a free will offering to be used for the new boiler.

We will be participating in the Columbia County Public Health Hygiene Drive throughout April. See more details in the newsletter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or another council member.

God's Blessings,

Beth Laufenberg

Council President

FROM A MEMBER

I have spent the last three days at UW Hospital with a family member. There has been testing and appointments scheduled. This will continue until the end of this week into next week.

This has reminded me of what it may have been like for the disciples when they were on the mountain with Jesus until their descent. We know that the happenings on the mountain were many as mine have been this week.

We are in the third week of Lent and it is a time of self-reflection and prayer. I feel that maybe, wherever we are on our Lenten journey it is right where we are supposed to be. This time should remind us of the end of the journey which we all know is Easter Sunday. It may not be easy or fun but we need to remember that we do not travel alone. Just as the disciples and Jesus were on the mountain trip together, Jesus is with us, in our ups and downs, happy times and sad, and our laughter and tears. The great promise we have is Jesus is with us, always, not just on our Lenten journey.

As we are looking forward to new looks at Redeemer let us remember that Jesus will be with us on this journey also! Let us allow him to change our hearts and make them new!

Blessings to all during this holiest of holy seasons.

Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock



Summer Lunches at the Library

Judy Sandberg has volunteered to coordinate Redeemer’s participation in providing Summer Lunches at the Library. THANK YOU, JUDY! Redeemer will be partnering with Bonnet Prairie, as we have in the past. We are providing lunches during the week of July 21. Those dates are: Monday, July 21; Wednesday, July 23; and Friday, July 25.

We will be sharing more information as the dates get closer. If you would like to volunteer to help prepare, transport and/or serve lunch for the kids at the library, please contact Judy.

Submitted by Beth Laufenberg



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

Approved Minutes – 3-18-2025

Present: **President** - Beth Laufenberg, **Vice President**, Ben Brusveen, **Secretary** - Debbie Reiersen, **Treasurer**, Austin Dahnke, **Trustees:** Steve Gilbert, Renee Miles, Lynn Bubolz, Pastor Anne Wickland.

Absent: None.

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

Approve Agenda

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

Devotions were given by Steve Gilbert. Pastor Anne Wickland will have devotions for Mar. 18, 2025.

Review/Approve Minutes from: Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025 council meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Austin Dahnke to approve the Jan. 14, 2025 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Lynn Bubolz. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence and/or Guest Comments:

- Correspondence from a community member asking if she and her family could live in the parsonage for a few months while their house is being renovated. Beth to follow up with the community member with additional questions from the council.
- A member suggested that each council member put a synopsis about themselves in the newsletter.

Financial Reports –

- General Fund:** Austin Dahnke - See report.
- Bennett Mutual Fund:** Austin Dahnke - See report.
- Memorial Fund:** Austin Dahnke - See report.

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

Identify and Approve Authorized Signers for:

- General Fund Checking xxx9069
- General Savings xx1568
- General Savings – CD xxx6596

Motion was made by Lynn Bubolz to approve the following as signers for the General Fund Checking, General Savings and General Savings – CD.

- General Fund Checking and Savings: Beth Laufenberg, Bookkeeper; Kristi Fehrman, Administrative Assistant; Austin Dahnke, Treasurer.
- General Savings - CD: Beth Laufenberg, Bookkeeper; Austin Dahnke, Treasurer

Seconded by Ben Brusveen. All were in favor. Motion carried. Beth Laufenberg abstained.

Standing Committee Reports for January 2025 – Review/Approve:

- Property**– Written report.
- WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen – Not actively meeting.
- Social Concerns** – Lynn Bubolz - Not actively meeting.
- Outreach** – Steve Gilbert - Not meeting.
- Stewardship** – Austin Dahnke – Not actively meeting.
- Lay Ministry** – Renee Miles. Not actively meeting.
- Education** – Beth Laufenberg - Not actively meeting. Confirmation ongoing.
- Worship team** – Pastor Anne Wickland –
- Policy Committee** – Steve Gilbert - No meeting.

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

Appoint Council Standing Committee Representatives

See “Standing Committee Reports”.

Staff Reports:

Pastor’s report –

Good to be back. Working on worship, confirmation, baptism rehearsal, reaching out to do home visits, etc.

Administrative Assistant – Kristi Fehrman provided a brief written report.

Motion was made by Lynn Bubolz to approve staff reports. Seconded by Steve Gilbert.

All were in favor. Motion carried.

Volunteer Recognition – Discuss/Approve

This item was discussed.

Lynn Bubolz made a motion to give a \$100 gift card to our choir pianist for her dedication to the choir. Seconded by Renee Miles. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Davis Construction Downpayment – Approve

The total amount for the parking lot renovation is \$6,235. We need to send a downpayment.

Motion was made by Lynn Bubolz to pay \$3218 as a downpayment for the parking lot renovation out of Hinzman Remodel funds with the rest to be paid from the Hinzman Remodel funds when the work is completed.

Seconded by Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Newsletter Article Guidelines – Discuss/Approve

Newsletter article guidelines were discussed. Beth Laufenberg will create guidelines to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Shared Pastor Update – Nothing new.

Call Committee Update – Possible interview in March.

Thanksgivings:

- We are happy that Pastor Anne Wickland is back with us.
- We are thankful for our fill-in Pastors – Pastor David Berggren, Pastor Brian Ferguson, and Pastor Ken Schaub.

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion was made by Austin Dahnke to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Seconded by Debbie Reiersen. All were in favor. Motion carried. Closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Next Council Meeting – March 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Debbie Reiersen, Council Secretary

Call Committee Corner

The Call Committee interviewed Pastor Anne Wickland in early March. After a brief discussion following the interview, the Call Committee voted to recommend Pastor Anne to the Council for approval to move forward with her. At the Council meeting on March 18th, the council voted unanimously to approve moving forward with Pastor Anne.

The Council President is working with the candidate and the synod to create a compensation and benefit package. Once completed, the compensation and benefit package will be brought to the full Council for their review and approval. If everything comes together, we hope to be ready for a Special Congregational meeting to vote on calling Pastor Anne at the end of April.

We ask that you continue to pray for everyone involved in this process.

Call Committee Members:

Beth Laufenberg
 Austin Dahnke
 Bob Risgaard
 Bob Skare

Darlene Cutsforth
 Judy Sandberg
 Trish McNeill
 Pam Jaynes (alternate)



Easter Breakfast

The Sprouts and Confirmation students will be serving Easter Breakfast this year in the fellowship hall (basement). We are planning to have pancakes, sausage links, fruit, cinnamon rolls, milk, juice, and coffee.

Please join us Easter Sunday between 7:30 am and 8:45 am. A free will offering will be taken with the funds collected going towards the new boiler. The students are hoping to raise \$500. Even if you do not eat, come on down and donate to help them reach their goal.

We recently received a letter from Columbia County Public Health asking for help promoting their 2nd Annual Hygiene Drive during the month of April. Their drive last year was very successful and allowed them to distribute over 10,000 hygiene items to people in need during 2024. As of early March, they had already distributed of 1,000 items this year.

To help support this effort, we will be collecting hygiene items during the month of April.

Items requested include body wash, shampoo, towels, deodorant, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, first aid supplies, and other daily necessities.

There will be bins set up at church to collect items donated.

* Studio 115 in Rio is also a drop off location for this drive.

HYGIENE DRIVE
APRIL 2025

Please join us in helping to stock our **FREE community hygiene closet!** Your donations will make a huge difference by providing essential items to community members in need. Items can be dropped off at Health & Human Services or feel free to collect at your location and we can make arrangements for pick up!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Monetary donations can be made via check payable to Columbia County Health & Human Services Hygiene Drive. Call 608.742.9227 Option #6 for more information.

Full size items for family use are greatly appreciated!

- body wash & 3 in 1
- towels & washcloths
- nail clippers & razors
- feminine hygiene items
- shampoo & conditioner
- deodorant & lotion
- dental care items
- toilet paper & wet wipes
- first aid supplies

Health & Human Service
111 E. Mullett St.
Portage, WI 53901 M-F 8-4:30pm

April Birthdays

Jane Risgaard	April 9
Jeffrey Corning	April 27
Loreli Jenkins	April 28
Skyler Severson	April 30
Linda Olson	April 39

April Anniversaries

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

APRIL

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 - Noon	2 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship	3 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	4	5
6 9:00 Worship Facebook FM 101.7 Confirmation 10:15 am	7 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	8 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 - Noon	9 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship	10 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	11	12
13 9:00 Worship/Communion Palm Sunday Facebook FM 101.7	14 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	15 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 - Noon	16	17 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Worship 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	18 Good Friday 7:00 Worship	19
20 Easter Sunday 7:30 Breakfast 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7	21 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon <i>May Newsletter</i> <i>Articles Due</i>	22 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 - Noon Council Meeting 6pm	23 Confirmation 6:00 pm	24 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	25	26
27 9:00 Worship Facebook FM 101.7	28 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	29 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 - Noon	30			

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

Beth Laufenberg (President)	(608) 572-2051
Ben Brusveen (Vice President)	(608) 469-3479
Debbie Reiersen (Secretary)	(608) 347-1952
Austin Dahnke (Treasurer)	(608) 408-0018
Steve Gilbert (Trustee)	(920) 992-5219
Renee Miles (Trustee)	(920) 992-6220
Lynn Bubolz (Trustee)	(920) 992-349
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

Kristi Fehrman – Administrative Assistant -

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

E-mail: 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