



## Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

February, 2025

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### From Pastor Anne Wickland

Hello all! I am excited to be back with you all starting February 10th. Since I last worshiped with you all, I traveled to India with our synod and moved out of my apartment. My cats are still getting used to their new stomping grounds, but they are loving all the space!

Our travel group had such a great time in India learning more about what it means to be companions with our partner synod in India (NELC—North Evangelical Lutheran Church of India). There are 4 ELCA synods that have partner synods in India and we all met together in Hyderabad for a conference to get to know each other and learn how we can learn from and support each other. We all then went out and travelled to our partner synods—NELC's headquarters is in Dumka, north of Calcutta.

Everywhere we went we were graciously welcomed by flowers or scarves, songs, dances. Their hospitality was overwhelming!

It was amazing hearing that while our contexts are quite different, many of our struggles and joys are similar. It was also interesting to learn more about the ministry NELC does—from a nursing school and hospital, to many schools and a strong presence of women in ministry. Due to the political climate, we were unable to visit churches, but we still got to meet some of the people doing amazing things in the name of Christ. The first mission church started by the Norwegian and Danish missionaries back in the 1860s has between 800-1000 people worshipping together every Sunday, some people traveling from miles and miles away.

I look forward to seeing you all soon and sharing more about my trip to India!

Blessings,

*Anne Wickland*  
she/her/hers



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here we are in February. Jimmy the Groundhog didn't see his shadow so I guess spring will be early... at least I can hope it will be. I should be thankful for the rather mild winter we have had with the exception of a few very cold days.

January was rather uneventful at Redeemer. We have had supply pastors leading worship as we await Pastor Anne's return in February. Our annual meeting, held on January 26<sup>th</sup>, went well. Thank you to everyone that attended.

The 2025 Council was installed on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. I am very excited to welcome Ben Brusveen and Lynn Bubolz to the council.

Pastor Anne Wickland will be returning to Redeemer on February 10<sup>th</sup> on a contract basis. Like before, she will be working 15 hours a week. This contract goes through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Feel free to reach out to the church office or Pastor Anne directly (once she is back) for any of your pastoral needs.

Grace Lutheran Church and Plymouth United Church of Christ in Dodgeville are hosting a free workshop on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> titled Boundary Keeping as Shared Responsibility in the Church. See additional information in newsletter. It looks interesting to me. I'm not sure if I will go but I wanted to share with you. Sorry about the short notice.

While conversing with a member recently, I was asked: "Would you please refresh my memory about the last good thing happening [at Redeemer]?" I was surprised by this question as I see good things happening all the time. With this question in mind, I started the annual meeting by asking the congregation to share what they celebrate or are thankful for at Redeemer. Answers included, quilting, Senior and Bell Choirs, individuals that help keep things moving along at Redeemer, and help provided to the property committee. These are all good things happening at Redeemer. I choose to celebrate the good happening every day and the possibilities ahead. I believe God has plans for us even if we don't have a clear picture of what that is yet.

Until next month....

God's Blessings,

*Beth Laufenberg*

Council President

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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*

FROM A MEMBER

We have been navigating some frigid weather and terrible high winds! I guess it is January and anything goes but where is the beautiful white, fluffy snow? I am sure I may be one of a few who loves to watch it snow. We do live in Wisconsin after all.

As we start another new year our music programs are in full swing with practices. It certainly is wonderful to hear the church proper filled with the beautiful sounds of music!

As I write this I am reminded of a song the Children's Choir sang from time to time. "We are The Church." The first verse said it all, "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together," If we agree with this verse then we have it made! We will do what it takes to work together for the good of God and our church!

In Christ service,

*Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock*

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## REDEEMER SCHOLARSHIPS

The new year brings forth opportunities for Redeemer members that are, or are planning to, further their education. Check out the following available scholarships by contacting the church office for applications and further details.

- Just completed your first semester of college? Check out the **Willis Hinzman Scholarship**.
- Will you be a 2025 high school graduate? The **Redeemer General Scholarship** may be for you. Application deadline is April 1. If you receive this scholarship, you may reapply for a second year.
- Planning on attending a Lutheran college? Be sure to ask about the **Bennett Trust Scholarship**.
- Are you a Rio High School alumnus, or will you be a 2025 Rio High School graduate? Then contact the high school guidance counselor for details about the **Viola Jurgerson Baker Scholarship**.

We at Redeemer Lutheran encourage all qualified members to apply for these generous available opportunities.

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.**

**Approved Minutes 1-14-25**

**Present:** **President** - Beth Laufenberg, **Secretary** - Debbie Reiersen, **Treasurer**, Nancy Washington, **Trustees:** Steve Gilbert, Renee Miles, Austin Dahnke, Kristi Fehrman, Pastor Anne Wickland.

**Absent:** Barb VonAhsen, excused.

**Meeting was called to order by President Beth Laufenberg at 6:06 p.m.**

**Approve Agenda**

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

**Devotions** were given by Renee Miles. Beth Laufenberg will have devotions for Jan. 14, 2025.

**Review/Approve Minutes from: Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024 council meeting minutes.**

Add Pastor Anne Wickland to those present.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve the Nov. 19, 2024 council meeting minutes with the addition. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

**Financial Reports –**

- a. **General Fund:** Nancy Washington - See report. No shortfall for November 2024.
- b. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** Nancy Washington - See report.
- c. **Memorial Fund:** Nancy Washington - See report.

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

**Bennett CD** - The CD is coming due soon.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to reinvest the CD at 3.9% at Farmers & Merchants Union Bank with Beth Laufenberg and Bob Risgaard as signers. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

- a. **Property**– Written report. Per Alliant Energy, gas line from outside to basement is not wrapped properly. Committee wants to wait until spring to fix it when the heat is off.
  - b. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen - No report.
  - c. **Social Concerns** – Open - Not actively meeting.
  - d. **Outreach** – Steve Gilbert - Not meeting.
  - e. **Stewardship** – Nancy Washington –Budget Committee is Beth Laufenberg, Rick Olson, Nancy Washington, Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock.
  - f. **Lay Ministry** – Open. Not actively meeting.
  - g. **Education** – Open - Not actively meeting.
  - h. **Worship team** – Kristi Fehrman – Worship team is meeting on a regular basis. Christmas Eve until the end of December is planned out. January is also planned.
  - i. **Policy Committee** – Steve Gilbert - No meeting.
- Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to approve standing committee reports. Seconded by Nancy Washington. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Staff Reports:**

**Administrative Assistant** – Meet with Pastor Anne Wickland to plan worship. Will be preparing Annual Report. Hope to have the report ready by January 12, 2025.

**Pastor Anne** – Pastor is working on bulletins and worship with Kristi Fehrman using Sanctified Art resource.

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to approve the staff reports. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Pastor Contract – Review/Approve**

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve a new contract for Pastor Anne Wickland for February 10 – April 30, 2025 as presented. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman.

**2025 Spending Plan – Review/Approve** - Council reviewed the 2025 spending plan.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve the 2025 Spending Plan as presented. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Shared Pastor Update** – Nothing at this time.

**Call Committee Update** – No update.

**Nominating Committee Update** – No update.

**Thanksgivings:**

- Thank you to Austin Dahnke and David Laufenberg for installing 5 new fans/lights at the parsonage.
- Thank you to all our musicians and directors who worked hard to present a wonderful Music Sunday.

**Adjourn/Closing Prayer**

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

**Dates to Remember:**

- Music Sunday: December 15, 2024
- Christmas Eve Service – December 24, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
- Next Council Meeting – January 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
- Annual Meeting – January 26, 2025 after worship in fellowship hall.

Debbie Reiersen, Council Secretary

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**TENTATIVE LENT AND EASTER PLANS**

With Lent just around the corner, this is to inform you of our tentative Redeemer plan:

1. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and all mid-week Lenten Services will be held at 7:00 p.m. Mid-week services will be the Holden Evening Prayer.
2. The imposition of ashes will be part of the Ash Wednesday service.
3. A Soup Supper will be held prior to each of the mid-week Lenten services following Ash Wednesday, meaning on March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and 9.
  - Soup suppers will be served between 6:00 and 6:45.
  - Kristi will be routing a sign-up sheet for folks to indicate what and when they might like to donate food for the soup suppers. Besides soup we would like to serve cheese and crackers, fruit, and a dessert (bars or cookies).
  - A free-will offering will be applied to future Fellowship expenses.
  - Beverages will be provided.
4. We are looking for volunteers to help plan and coordinate an Easter breakfast prior to the 9:00 service on April 20.



**Submitted by Geri Gorman**

## NOTICE REGARDING CHANGES TO COMMUNION

Recently a member of our congregation brought forward two suggestions regarding how we do communion at Redeemer. The first suggestion has already been implemented and seems to be working well: that being that we do NOT put in the center part of the rail for communion.

The reasoning behind this is that

- it causes a certain amount of disruption in the service
- we are a small group of people and can wait to kneel at the rail if that is our choice
- more and more of us prefer to stand anyway, so the center of the “table” works for those folks.

The other suggestion, or I should probably say question is, “Do we really need communion every Sunday?” Most of us remember when we only had communion once a month.

When the question was taken to Council, they deferred the decision to the Worship Team. The Worship Team has decided to offer communion on the FIRST and THIRD Sunday of the month, beginning in March. We will do this on a trial basis. So, we will have communion on March 2, March 5 (Ash Wednesday), and March 16. In April we will commune on April 6 and April 20, which is Easter. Kristi will post the schedule in the bulletin to help everyone remember.

Positives with this change are a reduced workload for the Altar Guild workers and less waste of the communion elements, communion cups, etc. More important though is the idea that perhaps we will think about what communion means if we do it less often and it is not just rote behavior.

We appreciate people coming forward with suggestions from their perspective. We are all in this together.

On behalf of the Worship Team,  
**Geri Gorman**



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### February Birthdays

Sandy Brewer	Feb. 5
Barb Nelson	Feb. 7
Lauri Porter	Feb. 12
Cooper Husom	Feb. 14
Lynn Bubolz	Feb. 17
Kurt Johnson	Feb. 18
Kelly Falk	Feb. 20
Timothy Jaynes	Feb. 25

### February Anniversaries

Norm & Donna Kearney	Feb. 6
Don & Nancy Washington	Feb. 16
Spencer & Nancy Wescott	Feb. 27

## Boundary Keeping Workshop - February 8

Church councils, church staff, rostered ministers, and other leaders are invited to a free workshop on Saturday, February 8, 9:00am to noon.

The workshop will be led by **the Rev. Dr. Craig Nesson**, co-author of *The Integrity of the Body of Christ*.

The workshop, "**Boundary Keeping as Shared Responsibility in the Church**" is co-sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church and Plymouth United Church of Christ, both in Dodgeville, with support of a grant from Thrivent.



**The event will be at Plymouth UCC (115 Merrimac St., Dodgeville, WI).**

From the event flyer: *For religious communities to have integrity and credibility they must flourish as places of love and respect. Every aspect of church life is defined by essential boundaries around space, time, thought, speech, will, emotion, and behavior – both for clergy and church members. In a flourishing Christian community, a wide array of boundaries must be recognized, celebrated, and navigated. Lessons from the emerging field of behavioral ethics are applied to the rich and rewarding complexity of boundaries in church life, helping us to be more loving and responsible in how we think, speak, and act, so that the church can be true to its identity and mission.*

For more information or to sign up, please follow this link:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/a3f91056801/95029cd9-9234-4fae-a700-93ee7c450e04.pdf>

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Karrie Landsverk, Pastor at Living Gospel Church, asked that we share information about an upcoming 5-stones Dodge County event on sextortion being held at the Beaver Dam High School on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Living Gospel Church hosted an event for 5-stones last June related to human trafficking. The offering collected at the ecumenical service in the park last summer was donated to 5-stones. Checkout 5-stones' website for information about their mission and other upcoming events.

[www.5-stonesdodgecounty.org](http://www.5-stonesdodgecounty.org)

## SUICIDE BY SEXTORTION

*A Father's Story*



**COMMUNITY EVENT**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**MARCH 12**  
**6:30 - 8:00 PM**

**BEAVER DAM HIGH SCHOOL**  
500 GOULD ST, BEAVER DAM

PRESENTATION BY 5-STONES DODGE COUNTY  
PANEL DISCUSSION INCLUDING BEAVER DAM POLICE

First 100 to enter will receive \$10 cash!  
All in attendance will be eligible to win raffle prizes

**Jordan DeMay was a typical and outgoing 17 year-old. This event will include a father's heartbreaking story that impacted an entire family and community.**

TRACY SCHEFFLER, 5-stones Dodge County, will present on sextortion and how youth can fall prey to the schemes of online predators. JOHN DEMAY, former law-enforcement officer and father of Jordan, will describe how his son spent the last few hours of his life going down a dark road in fear, feeling humiliated, alone, and afraid to ask for help. A panel discussion will include JOHN KREUZIGER, Beaver Dam Chief of Police.



**PARENTAL DISCRETION IS ADVISED**  
**NO CHILD UNDER 10 YEARS OLD ALLOWED**

# FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Worship Installation of Council  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	3 Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>  <b>Bell Practice – 5:00 pm</b>	4 Office Hours: <b>9:00 - Noon</b>  <b>Pastor Out of Office</b>	5 <b>Sr. Choir – 1:00 pm</b>  <b>Confirmation</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	6 <b>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</b>	7	8
9 9:00 Worship  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	10 Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>  <b>Bell Practice – 5:00 pm</b>	11 Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>  <b>Pastor Out of Office</b>	12 <b>Sr. Choir – 1:00 pm</b>	13  <b>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</b>	14	15
16 9:00 Worship  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	17 Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>	18 Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>  <b>Pastor’s Hours</b> <b>9:00 - Noon</b>	19  <b>Confirmation</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	20  <b>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</b>	21	22
23 9:00 Worship/Baptism  <b>Facebook</b> <b>FM 101.7</b>	24 Office Hours: <b>9:00 - Noon</b>  <b>March</b> <b>Newsletter</b> <b>Articles Due</b>	25 Office Hours: <b>9:00 – Noon</b>  <b>Pastor’s Hours</b> <b>9:00 - Noon</b>	26	27  <b>7:00 pm- AA Meeting</b>	28	



**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)

**“Like Us” on Facebook**  
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) 992-3494
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