



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

January, 2025

From Pastor Anne Wickland

Happy New Year to you all! I started preaching here at Redeemer July 7th and can you believe it's been six months?! I'm thankful to you all that we could spend these past six months worshiping and dwelling in God's word together. Seeing our partnership evolve has been wonderful. This started with me just preaching for July and August, to being asked back for another month, and another... until we all decided to listen a little closer to what God was nudging us towards and I started a 15 hour/week contract to spend more time with you, to teach confirmation, to do home visits and be more involved in planning worship. I've certainly enjoyed my time here and I look forward to seeing you in 2025!

I will be gone for the next few weeks, but I am returning to Redeemer February 10th and will stay with you until April 30th (for now). And while I will be away from you for a few weeks, that doesn't mean I'll just be chilling at home, twiddling my thumbs!

Some of you may know that I will be traveling abroad with our synod to India for parts of January to visit with our companion synod in Northeast India, along with meeting other ELCA synods that have partnerships in India. This will be my 3rd time traveling to India and I'm excited to of course eat all the good Indian food, but also to spend time with our Lutheran friends in India who have a very different experience as Christians compared to us.

The first time I traveled to India, I was a senior in High School and went with our synod, along with a handful of other high schoolers, to explore India and meet with our companion synod. Much has changed since then, for myself and for the social/political landscape of India so I'm interested to experience this trip now. Now as an ordained pastor and not the 17 year old kid I was who didn't really know what she wanted to do. Please pray for all of our travels, and that we survive the *very* long days of travel. We'll be traveling for like 24 hours each way and I just know my head will hit the pillow as soon as possible on those travel days. I wish you all (again) a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you in February!

Blessings,

Pastor Anne Wickland

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe its 2025 already.

Looking back at the highlights in December:

- Our annual December Music Sunday was held. It is amazing the amount of musical talent we have. The Sprouts also showed their talents by presenting an entertaining puppet show.
- The Council approved a new contract for Pastor Anne Wickland. The new contract begins February 10th and ends April 30th. The terms of the contract are the same as the contract that ended December 31st. We will have supply pastors to lead worship in January and the first two Sundays in February.
- The Christmas Eve service was well attended. It was nice to see people in most of the pews.

We recently received information from Lutherdale Camp regarding their summer camps. If you have a student(s) that is interested in attending the camp, the church would provide financial assistance. For those unaware, Lutherdale isn't just for kids. They offer programs for adults and families as well. Check out their website: www.lutherdale.org

The LEAD conference hosted by the Synod is coming up on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at The Grove/New Heights Lutheran (Mazomanie) from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. I have attended this conference in the past and have found the various workshops to be very interesting. More details should be available on this website once updated: scsw-elca.org/engage/events/

I invite everyone to attend the annual meeting after the service on Sunday, January 26th. If anyone has any questions regarding the proposed constitution changes, spending plan (budget), or nominations for the various positions to be voted on, feel free to contact me.

God's Blessings,

Beth Laufenberg

Council President

FROM A MEMBER

The Christmas season has come and gone and we have shared the good news, in a manger far away a baby has been born who will be the Savior for us all! We celebrate this birthday like no other. As we gathered with family and friends to experience many different traditions I pray your time was heartfelt and wonderful with Jesus Christ as the center!

As we journey into 2025 we have hope. Hope for our families, friends, community, our nation and our church.

Redeemer Lutheran Church has been on a journey of its own over the past four and a half years. We know that God will not forsake us and because of our faith in him all things will work together for good to those who love and trust him.

It is important that all members be able to express how they feel with each other and if we are a community of Christians who care about each other, as God cares for us, we should all pray that what has happened in the last four years is where it belongs, in the past.

We should keep in our hearts and prayers those who are ill or suffering in any way. We need to do this always but at this time of year it always seems a little harder. Please pray for family, friends and all peoples because sometimes we don't know when prayers are needed!

As we start on this journey, calling itself 2025, let us be mindful of John 3:16

"for God so loved the world
that he gave his only begotten Son..."

and what joy this brings to all who believe, we know we will be saved because of this very special birth so many years ago.

God's blessings to all as we journey into 2025.

Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock



Synod Assembly Representatives

We are looking for 2 adults and one young adult interested in representing Redeemer at the annual Synod Convention on Saturday, May 17th. Per Redeemer's constitution, we will be voting on the representatives at the annual meeting. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Beth Laufenberg.

Nominating Committee

We are looking for 3 members to be nominated for the 2025 Nominating Committee. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Beth Laufenberg.

.....

Call Committee Corner

The Call Committee continues to be 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



The annual meeting is being held on Sunday, January 26th following the church service. All members are invited to attend.

**** Notice to Congregation of Proposed Constitution Changes ****

We are proposing two changes to the Constitution to be initially voted on at the annual meeting on January 26th, 2025. Excerpts from the Constitution with the proposed changes are included. Please contact the church office if you would like a complete copy of the Constitution.

The first change would be in Chapter 12 – Congregation Council. We are proposing to remove “to four” to limit the number of council trustees to two. The current Constitution allows for “two to four council trustees.” We have historically had four trustees. With the decrease in membership, it is felt that we no longer need four trustees.

Chapter 12

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

C12.01. [01/27/19] The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), officers of the congregation, and two ~~to four~~ council trustees. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the State of Wisconsin, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

The second change would be in Chapter 13 – Congregational Standing Committees. We are proposing to change the word “shall” to “may” so we are not required to have a Nominating Committee. It is our understanding that not all congregations have Nominating Committees and we are finding it very difficult to find members willing to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Chapter 13

CONGREGATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEES

C13.02. [01/27/19] A Nominating Committee of three voting members of this congregation, two of who, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council, ~~may shall~~ be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.**

Approved Minutes 12-10-2024

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

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

Approve Agenda

An additional item was added. "Annual Meeting Date"

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

Devotions were given by Debbie Reiersen. Renee Miles will have devotions for Dec. 10, 2024.

Review/Approve Minutes from: Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024 and Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024 council meeting minutes.

Add Gayle Krueger to Oct. 15 minutes as part of the Worship Team

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve the Oct. 15, 2024 council meeting minutes with the addition. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Renee Miles to approve the minutes from Sun., Oct. 27, 2024. 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 October 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 Renee Miles. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports for November 2024 – Review/Approve:

- a. **Property**– Written report.
- b. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen - No report.
- c. **Social Concerns** – Open - Not actively meeting. Money was given to an individual.
- d. **Outreach** – Steve Gilbert - Not meeting. Visit Covenant House once a month.
- e. **Stewardship** – Nancy Washington – Committee met recently to plan 2025 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.
- i. **Policy Committee** – Steve Gilbert - No meeting.

Motion was made by Austin Dahnke 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 for the annual meeting. The council provided some guidance on items related to the annual meeting.

Pastor Anne – Pastor shared what she has been doing and how things are going.

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

Annual Meeting Date

Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 26, 2025 following services. Proposed constitution changes to be voted on at annual meeting to be included in December newsletter and bulletins.

Preliminary 2025 Spending Plan (Budget) – Review

Council reviewed the draft 2025 spending plan.

2025 Health Insurance Plan – Review/Approve

Portico wants us to make a plan for health insurance for a Pastor even though we do not have a permanent Pastor. It was decided to go with the Gold plan.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to go with the Gold Health insurance plan through Portico. Seconded by Debbie Reiersen. All were in favor. Motion carried.

New Members – Review/Approve

Two new members will be joining our church on Sunday, December 1, 2025. Mary Ellen and Mike Miller.

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to accept two new members to our church. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Elect Auditors

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to elect Rick and Linda Olson as auditors for 2024. Seconded by Nancy Washington. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Constitution Changes – Review/Recommend

Motion was made by Council to accept changes to the constitution as written and presented to change the number of trustees on church council to two and make the nominating committee optional. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Parking Lot Repairs – Review/Approve Bid

Council went over 3 bids to repair the church parking lot.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to go with Davis Construction to crack fill and seal with two coats sealer on the parking lot, and paint parking lines. Seconded by Renee Miles. A roll call vote was taken. 8 votes yes. 0 votes no. Motion carried.

Employee Recognition –

Motion was made by Barb VonAhsen to give a \$100 VISA gift card to each of the six church employees to recognize their dedicated service to Redeemer Lutheran Church. Seconded by Nancy Washington. All were in favor, with Beth, Kristi, and Pastor Anne abstaining. Motion carried.

Synod Benevolence

It was suggested that we send \$500 to synod. Nothing has been given to synod since Pastor Jack Way left.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to send \$500 to the synod for benevolence. Seconded by Barb VonAhsen. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Shared Pastor Update

We are in conversation with Bonnet Prairie around the idea of sharing a Pastor. Beth recently talked to the Bonnet Prairie President, Owen Landsverk. They are still interested in sharing a Pastor.

Call Committee Update – Nothing at this time.

Nominating Committee Update – No update.

Set December and January Council Meeting dates

December council meeting will be Tuesday, December 10, 2024. January council meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

Thanksgivings:

- We are thankful for Pastor Anne Wickland.

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion was made by Kristi Fehrman to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Seconded by Nancy Washington. All were in favor. Motion carried. Closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service at Bedrock Church – Wednesday, November 27, 2024
- Next Council Meeting: December 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
- Music Sunday: December 15, 2024
- Christmas Eve Service – December 24, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Debbie Reiersen
Council Secretary

January Birthdays

Kelsey Wismar	Jan. 2
Bob Adams	Jan. 7
Amelia Maynard	Jan. 7
Donna Kearney	Jan. 13
Kathy Johnson	Jan. 13
Debbie Reiersen	Jan. 19
Lucy Agnew	Jan. 20
Ben Wismar	Jan. 22
David Hinzman	Jan. 23
Kristie Falk	Jan. 24
Marilyn Rowley	Jan. 29

January Anniversaries

Tom & Gayle Krueger	Jan. 16
--------------------------------	----------------

The Things We Hold Onto

An heirloom, a picture, a precious memory. We all have them.
 Quite apart are the articles in the closet that will NEVER be worn again. And yet

This story was in a periodical called Lutheran Women Today, dating back to the mid-nineties.
 A touching story about a pastor serving two rural churches in South Dakota.
 Her young brother had died in a truck accident. His thermos bottle survived, and she used it as
 a reminder of him.

The Things We Hold Onto - Submitted by Bob Skare

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.

JANUARY

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 Sr. Choir – 1:00 pm	2 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	3	4
5 9:00 Worship Facebook FM 101.7	6 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Bell Practice – 5:00 pm	7 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon Pastor is Off	8 Sr. Choir – 1:00 pm	9 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	10	11
12 9:00 Worship Facebook FM 101.7	13 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Bell Practice – 5:00 pm	14 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor is Off Council Meeting 6:00 pm	15 Sr. Choir – 1:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm	16 Worship at Covenant Place 10:00 am 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	17	18
19 9:00 Worship Facebook FM 101.7	20 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Bell Practice – 5:00 pm	21 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor is Off Council Meeting 6:00 pm	22 Sr. Choir – 1:00 pm	23 Worship at Covenant Place 10:00 am 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	24	25
26 9:00 Worship <i>Annual Meeting Right After</i> Facebook FM 101.7	27 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon Bell Practice – 5:00 pm <i>February Newsletter Articles Due</i>	28 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor is Off	29 Sr. Choir – 1:00 pm	30 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	31	

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
610 LINCOLN AVE
RIO, WISCONSIN 53960
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

“To Live and tell the story of Jesus”

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
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

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