



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

March, 2025

From Pastor Anne Wickland

We have reached that time of year where we reflect on life and death, but also resurrection. We remember Jesus' passover from death to life and our lives renewed in Christ. March 5th is Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent officially begins. I've always found Lent interesting because it's a time for self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love. Just like Advent is a journey towards the birth of Jesus, Lent is a journey to Jesus' death and how we as humans view death as final, but through Jesus' resurrection death has lost its sting. We repent for all the ways that we separate ourselves from the love of God, seeking God's mercy. And we rejoice in God's steadfast love.

This Lenten season begins with our Ash Wednesday service March 5th at 7pm. After that, every Wednesday, starting March 12th, we will have Soup Suppers before our Wednesday night services. Soup will be served at 6pm and our worship service using Holden Evening Prayer will start at 7pm. If you would like to volunteer to bring food for our suppers (like soup, bread/crackers, cheese, fruit, or bars,) we have a sign-up sheet! I love that while Lent is a time for self-reflection, it is also a time where we come together as a community to support each other.

I look forward to worshipping with you this Lenten season and no worries, everyone, my hair will be dyed purple (for Lent) just after Ash Wednesday!

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I don't have much to share this month so I'll keep my article short.

The first meeting of the 2025 Council, held in February, went well. I enjoyed hearing the various perspectives shared. No big topics to discuss.

We had some excitement with twins baptized in February. It was great to see all the family and friends in attendance supporting them.

Volunteer(s) Needed: I anticipate hearing from the Rio Library in April regarding sponsoring a week of lunches for the kids this summer. In the past we have teamed up with Bonnett Prairie to sponsor a week. Kristi Fehrman has headed this up for the last few years on behalf of Redeemer and I thank her for her willingness to serve in this capacity. She has shared that she is stepping down this year and letting someone else take the lead. If you are interested in heading this up for Redeemer, please let me or Kristi know. I am sure Kristi would be happy to share what she has done in the past. If no one comes forward to lead this, Redeemer may opt to not participate this year.

Until next month...

God's Blessings,

Beth Laufenberg
Council President

Baptism

On Sunday, February 23rd we celebrated the baptism of Quinn and Sophia. Austin and Stacy Dahnke's twin daughters.



FROM A MEMBER

The sun shines but it is freezing outside. After all we do live in Wisconsin! We do know that warmer weather is on the way for the last week in February but we do not know if March will come in like a lamb or a lion. We will all be surprised together!

When I think of our church, Redeemer Lutheran, one word comes to mind for me and that isLOVE. We know, as Christians that GOD is love. In 1John4:16 we read, And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. We know, as Christians that God's love is always with us. We read in Psalm 23: 6, surely Goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. We know, as Christians that because of God's love we are to love one another. In John 13: 34 we read, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

There are many more examples of God's love for us in the Bible and how we should respond to each and every one of them.

If we walk in the ways of our heavenly Father many blessings will be bestowed upon us! God is great, God is good. Thanks be to God!

In loving service,
Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock

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.

Willis Hinzman Scholarship Award

Annalynn Benisch, a 2024 Rio High School graduate, has successfully completed her first semester of college at Madison College. With this successful completion, she has been awarded the Willis Hinzman Scholarship. Annalynn has begun her spring semester at Concordia University. Congratulations, Annalynn! May God bless you and guide you as you continue in your studies

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

Approved Minutes – February 18, 2025

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

Absent:

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 Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Devotions were given by Beth Laufenberg. Steve Gilbert will have devotions for Feb. 18, 2025.

Review/Approve Minutes from: Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024 council meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Nancy Washington to approve the Dec. 10, 2024 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence and/or Guest Comments: Beth shared a thank you for the gift at Christmas time. She was surprised and happy.

Financial Reports –

a. **General Fund:** Nancy Washington - See report. No shortfall for December 2024.

It was a good year and ended very well.

b. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** Nancy Washington - See report. Renewed a CD at F&M bank.

c. **Memorial Fund:** Nancy Washington - See report.

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

Standing Committee Reports for December 2024 – Review/Approve:

a. **Property**– Written report.

b. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen – Not actively meeting.

c. **Social Concerns** – Open - Not actively meeting.

d. **Outreach** – Steve Gilbert - Not meeting.

e. **Stewardship** – Nancy Washington – Not actively meeting.

f. **Lay Ministry** – Open. Not actively meeting.

g. **Education** – Open - Not actively meeting.

h. **Worship team** – Kristi Fehrman – Worship team has worship planned for February and March.

i. **Policy Committee** – Steve Gilbert - No meeting.

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

Staff Reports:

Administrative Assistant – See Worship Committee report.

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

Review annual Meeting Report/Packet

The Council discussed the Annual Meeting report/packet.

Shared Pastor Update – Nothing at this time.

Call Committee Update – No update.

Nominating Committee Update – No update.

Thanksgivings:

- Thank you to our outgoing council members, Kristi Fehrman, Nancy Washington and Barb VonAhsen, for their years of service to our congregation.

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. All were in favor. Motion carried. Closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 26, 2025
- Tentative Installation of Council Members: February 2, 2025.
- Next Council Meeting – February 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Debbie Reiersen, Council Secretary

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



Call Committee Corner

The Call Committee is hoping to interview a candidate in March. 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

March Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| Isaac Severson | Mar. 1 |
| Gloria Lang | Mar.3 |
| Kristi Fehrman | Mar. 7 |
| Bob Risgaard | Mar. 10 |
| Camron Pribbenow | Mar. 12 |
| Roger Fehrman | Mar. 14 |
| Cindy Drehmel | Mar. 14 |
| Terry Tarpley | Mar. 15 |
| Chad Risgaard | Mar. 16 |
| Norma Nelson | Mar. 20 |
| Jennifer Swiggum | Mar. 24 |

March Anniversaries

None that we are aware of

MARCH

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7	3 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	4 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 - Noon	5 Confirmation Time: TBD <i>7:00 Worship with</i> <i>Ash Imposition</i>	6 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	7	8
9 9:00 Worship Facebook FM 101.7	10 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	11 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 - Noon	12 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship	13 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	14	15
16 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7	17 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Bell Practice – 5:00 pm	18 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 - Noon	19 Sr. Choir – 1:00 pm Confirmation - Time: TBD 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship	20 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	21	22
23 9:00 Worship Facebook FM 101.7	24 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon Bell Practice – 5:00 pm <i>April Newsletter</i> <i>Articles Due</i>	25 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 - Noon	26 Sr. Choir – 1:00 pm 6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship	27 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	28	29
30 9:00 Worship Facebook FM 101.7	31 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon Bell Practice – 5:00 pm					

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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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) 992-3494
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

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