



## Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

September, 2025

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### From Pastor Anne Wickland

Can you believe that it's already September? It feels like just a couple weeks ago we started summer! While the school year starts this week for many, that also means that many things are starting again at Redeemer. Senior Choir will return this month, as well as the Bell Choir, Confirmation starts up again next week. I'm hopeful to get a Bible study set up, even if it's just once a month because I always have interesting conversations after worship with people about the Gospel or my sermon, so it would be great to offer a space to dive deeper into scripture, whether that be the weekly texts or following a book of the Bible.

I did not lead worship this past Sunday, but at our Worship Team meeting I heard about how it went – we didn't have a musician so we broke out the chimes. Chimes and music were dispersed to the crowd and all of *you* were the musicians for Sunday worship. I was told that it took a little bit to get the hang of it, but that you all came together to worship God. To worship God and to do what was needed to have "the show go on". Even when I first started preaching here, one of the things I admired was that even when faced with not having a musician or having a supply pastor, you all adapted and all that you could to bring worship together. If there's a flub by me forgetting my place in the reading, needing to use my laptop because I could get my sermon to print, or the music starting too early in the communion liturgy, you've all laughed along and moved onto the next part of worship! Because at the end of the day, no matter what happens, we have all worshiped God together. I feel like by embracing our need for creativity, we've broken down walls of what worship is "supposed" to look like, and welcomed worship for what it truly is—a group of people gathering together to praise God, give thanks for God, ask God for forgiveness, pray to God. A community coming together to love God, learn from Jesus, and work towards bringing the Kingdom of God to us here on Earth. Sometimes focusing on where to stand or which candle needs to be lit detracts from worshiping God. When we focus on being "perfect" for God, we lose sight of who God really is. Our God is gracious—we are saved by faith through grace and thank God for that! We don't need to be perfect, we just need to love God, love others, and do our best to help our neighbors with open hearts and open minds.

This is the first newsletter where we will include our Ongoing Prayer List here and just have listed our Immediate Concerns Prayer List in our worship bulletin. We are not getting rid of our ongoing prayer list, it will just be in this newsletter and our newsletters to follow while immediate concerns will stay in our weekly worship. Please contact Kristi or myself if you would like to add/take off anyone on the ongoing and/or immediate prayer lists.

Blessings,

*Pastor Anne*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is back to school time. Which also means some activities that took a break for the summer are starting up again at Redeemer. Confirmation classes will begin Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The Senior Choir and Bell Choir start practicing and sharing their talents.

On Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in celebration of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, we will assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief after the worship service in the fellowship hall. Please come and join us. Fellowship will be served in the Fellowship Hall once the kits have been assembled.

Thank you to everyone that came out to Texas Roadhouse to support the Boiler Fundraiser. As of 9/2/2025, I do not know how much was raised but will share that information once it becomes available. Also, thank you to everyone who helped with the Street Dance Parade Float and handed out fliers to advertise the event.

Work continues on the new boiler system. As of 9/2/2025 we still need to raise \$3,603 to meet our \$15,000 donation and fundraising goal. See additional information in the newsletter around ongoing efforts to raise funds. If you have not already donated or would like to donate more to the boiler project, please get that in ASAP. We hope the new boilers will be fully installed and operational very soon, as the heating season is quickly approaching.



Not sure if many of you are aware, but part of the church's electrical system still uses fuses. We have multiple fuse and circuit breaker boxes. Two of the boxes with fuses are being updated soon however we will still have other boxes that have fuses. We are anticipating having to update the remaining fuse boxes in the not-so-distant future due to requirements by insurance companies. Many companies will not insure buildings that are still using fuses.

Soon it will be time to start the nominating process for Council, Bennett Mutual Fund Treasurer, and Memorial Fund Treasurer positions. If you are interested in being a part of the Nominating Committee this fall or filling one of these positions please come forward. See more information in the newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact myself or any council member. Additionally, we would love to hear anything you really like, celebrate, or appreciate about Redeemer.

Before I end my update, I want to share how proud I am to be part of Redeemer and the greater Rio Community. Just like when my brother passed away in 1998, the community came together to support the Tomlinson Family after the tragic passing of their son. A vigil was held in which members of the local faith community participated, including Pastor Anne. Others mobilized to raise funds to help support the family financially. A basket raffle with over 70 donated baskets was put together in just a few short days that raised over \$18,000. God's love flows strong in the Rio Community.

God's Blessings,

*Beth Laufenberg*

Council President

## FROM A MEMBER

September is upon us! There hasn't been a chill in the air yet, but the calendar tells us something different. I pray that everyone had a good summer and is ready for what lies ahead for the last quarter of 2025!

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." MARK 6:31

I have been trying to listen to this Bible verse and use it in my life to think, to pray, and to rest. If all of God's children would do this, could we and would we have a better world to live in?

I think of my own family and my church family and pray that we will be there for each other as the need arises. In this day and age it is so important to care about others because that is what God tells us to do. Compassion and love are important elements in being a child of God. If people in the world would could remember that "what a wonderful world this would be."

As Christians we need to embrace how wise, strong, loving and always good Jesus is and that he is the example we need to follow!

As the Senior Choir and the Bell Choir start to practice we thank them for what they add to our church services when they perform. Their gifts, entrusted to them, are truly gifts from God!

We pray for those who are ill. We pray for those who have lost loved ones. We pray for those who suffer from violence. We know that God listens and his will be done!

Enjoy the Fall season that is upon us. Take time to think, pray and rest.

God's blessings,  
Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock

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## Boiler Funding Update

As of 9/2/2025, \$11,397 has been raised toward the \$15,000



fundraising/donations goal. We are still waiting to find out how much was raised from the Texas Roadhouse fundraiser and will have additional funds from the peanut sales. See the breakdown on the right of what has been received so far.

Donations	\$7,595
Easter Breakfast	\$1,400
Cobalt Glass, Woodworking, and Pew Sales	\$1,949
Culvers & Texas Roadhouse (including peanuts sales)	\$453
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$11,397</b>

We are 76% of the way there. **We still need \$3,603 to reach the goal of \$15,000.** If you are still waiting to make your donation, please get that in soon. We are so close.

How We Plan to Pay for the Boilers	
Source of Funds	\$
Fundraising & Donations	\$15,000
Thrivent Choice Matching	\$5,000
Existing Church Funds	\$21,500
Total Boiler Project Cost:	\$41,500

As a reminder, here is a breakdown of how we plan to pay for the new boiler system.



Are you interested in any of the positions below that will be voted on at the annual meeting in January 2026 or would you be willing to be on the Nominating Committee this fall to help find members to fill the following positions? If so, please contact Beth Laufenberg or Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock by Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> as we prepare for the official kickoff of nominating season.

Position	Currently Held By	Commitment	Eligible for Re-Election in 2026
President	Beth Laufenberg	2 year term	Yes
Secretary	Debbie Reiersen	2 year term	No
Trustee	Renee Miles	2 year term	Yes
Memorial Fund Treasurer	Geri Gorman	1 year term	Yes
Bennett Mutual Fund Treasurer	Bob Risgaard	1 year term	Yes
Nominating Committee	Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock	1 year term	No
Nominating Committee	Open	1 year term	No
Nominating Committee	Open	1 year term	No

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## Texas Roadhouse Peanut Sales Continues...



We continue to sell Texas Roadhouse Peanuts. They are \$5 a bag and include a coupon good for a free appetizer. They are available in the Narthex at church. For more information, please contact Lynn Bubolz.

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## 2025 LUNCH ON THE LIBRARY LAWN

On July 21, 23, and 25 Redeemer paired with Bonnet Prairie to provide lunches for the Summer Library Lunch program. We served 104 lunches that week - 34 on Monday, 40 on Wednesday, and 34 on Friday.

Bonnet Prairie provided workers, as did Redeemer: Ellen, Sandy, Connie, Linda, Marge, Don, and Phyllis from Bonnet Prairie; and Joan, Bonnie, Sandy K., Steve, Melanie, Linda O., Darlene, Kevin, Darcy, Pastor Anne, and Judy Sandberg from Redeemer.

The library staff was wonderful to set up for us and guide us through the week. I think we all enjoyed the children and camaraderie.

A special thanks to the Brewer family for the yummy desserts, and to Mark from Mark's Market for keeping us supplied with food.

Many thanks to all for helping!

**Submitted by: Judy Sandberg**





**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.**

**Approved Minutes – 8-19-2025**

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

**Absent:** Austin Dahnke, Treasurer, excused.

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

**Approve Agenda**

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

**Devotions** were given by Debbie Reiersen. Austin Dahnke will have devotions for Aug. 19, 2025.

**Review/Approve Minutes from: June 17, 2025 council meeting.**

Motion was made by Pastor Anne Wickland to approve the June 17, 2025 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Lynn Bubolz. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

**Financial Reports –**

- a. **General Fund:** Beth Laufenberg - See report. Doing well.
- b. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** Beth Laufenberg - See report.
- c. **Memorial Fund:** Beth Laufenberg - 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 – Review/Approve:**

- a. **Property**– See report.
- b. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen – Not actively meeting. Bags for school kits were purchased with WELCA funds.
- c. **Social Concerns** – Lynn Bubolz - Not actively meeting.
- d. **Outreach** – Steve Gilbert - Not meeting.
- e. **Stewardship** – Austin Dahnke – Not actively meeting.
- f. **Lay Ministry** – Renee Miles. Not actively meeting.
- g. **Education** – Beth Laufenberg - Not actively meeting.
- h. **Worship team** – Pastor Anne Wickland – Met recently to plan services for August. Redeemer will be celebrating our 122<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, August 10 with a brunch after church in fellowship hall.
- i. **Policy Committee** – Steve Gilbert – Not meeting.

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

**Staff Reports:**

- a. **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Anne Wickland has been doing visits, worship, communion. Redeemer and Bonnet Prairie are joining us to serve lunches at the Rio Library on July 21, 23, 25. Green Stem Floral is donating flowers for Redeemer's August 10 Anniversary service.
- b. **Other Staff – None.**

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to approve staff reports. Seconded by Lynn Bubolz. All were in favor.  
Motion carried.

**Street Dance Parade Float expense – Discuss/Approve**

Discussed the Rio Street Dance which will be held on Saturday, August 16, 2025. It was decided to have a float in the parade with a budget of \$100 for float expenses.

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to put in a budget of \$100 for float expenses. Seconded by Renee Miles. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Church/Parsonage: Hazard, Liability, & Workman's Comp Insurance** - This item was discussed.

**Redeemer Shirts – Discuss/Approve** - Discussed and will go ahead with offering Redeemer T-shirts for purchase.

**Boiler Project – Update/Review/Approve**

**a. Donations/Fundraising update**

Donations are coming in. We will have Texas Roadhouse peanuts to sell at the Rio Street Dance. Fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse–Madison set for August 20, 2025. Need to show a flyer or mention the fundraiser for Redeemer. 10% of the meal will be donated to Redeemer. All are encouraged to attend.

**b. Other Fundraising Ideas**

Tossed around some other ideas.

**Other updates**

- a. **AED** – The AED is here and paid for. We will get training.
- b. **Parking Lot** – Waiting for the job to be done.
- c. **Pew Sales** – Six 12 footers are still for sale.
- d. **School Kits & other LWR Kits** – School kits, etc. will be assembled for our “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, September 7, 2025 in fellowship hall after church. Will need to set up collection boxes for school kit donations.

**Thanksgivings:**

- Thanks to those who helped with Pastor Anne’s installation and brunch.
- Thank you to Pastor Peter Heide for being our fill in Pastor.

**Adjourn/Closing Prayer**

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Seconded by Pastor Anne Wickland. All were in favor. Motion carried. Closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

**Dates to Remember:**

- Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Debbie Reiersen

Council Secretary

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**September Birthdays**

David Laufenberg	9/1
Emily Laufenberg	9/2
Matthew Porter	9/6
Abby Dahnke	9/7
Richard Swiggum	9/12
Alex Brewer	9/17
Delores Erstad	9/18
Spencer Wescott	9/18
Bernie Spink	9/27

**September Anniversaries**

Craig & Rhonda Corning	9/11
Roger & Kristi Fehrman	9/16
Scott & Julie Swiggum	9/28

**On-Going Prayers**

**We continue to hold in prayer those who have requested ongoing prayer:** Pastor Jerome Pribbenow; Pastor Jack Way; Kim Huber Ross; Geri Gorman; Jane Roberts; Wayne and Norma Nelson; Janet Corning; Jeff Hendrickson (Nancy Washington’s brother); Carter Schultz (age 6, great grandson of Nancy Wescott’s cousin, Caryn Schultz and her husband, Carl); JoAnne Husom Dilley (Cooper Husom’s grandmother); Kay Meier (Susan Brusveen’s sister); Knute Nelson (Susan Brusveen’s brother); LeRoy Zimmerman (Helen Risgaard’s brother-in-law); Dave and Grace Hinzman; Stacie Wheeler; Nancy Drehmel; April Landphier; Bob Adams; Bev Stankiewicz; Bob Strauss; Gloria Lang; Sue Pulver; Brenda Vogeler (Harry Thompson’s daughter); Virginia Olson; Ken Wescott; and Raymond Endres.

## Redeemer Celebrated 122 Years!

On Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Redeemer's 122<sup>nd</sup> "Birthday" with a brunch after worship. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food, the photos from the past, and the fellowship of sharing food together.

While we did have one uninvited and unwelcome guest, he was quickly escorted to an exit door, unharmed. So, before any rumors get started about that statement – to clarify, he was a little black bat who had found his way into Fellowship Hall. He has been returned to his natural habitat - outside.

The photo below is some of the creative artwork by Linda (and Rick) Olson, who decorate our entryway from the parking lot to the office and sanctuary. This one was in celebration of Redeemer's 122 years. We appreciate all of the work that is done to keep the hallway updated with inspirational messages and artwork.

Thanks to all who were able to attend this celebration and to those who provided food!

***\*\* Please be sure to check out the back hallway to see the latest decorations! \*\****



# SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon  Labor Day Holiday	2 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon  Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00 9:15 am – Worship Team	3	4 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	5	6
7 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7  Assemble School Kits after worship	8 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon  5:30 – Bell Practice	9 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon  Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	10 7:00 pm- Confirmation	11 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	12	13
14 9:00 Worship/Communion Birthday Brunch Facebook FM 101.7	15 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon  5:30 – Bell Practice	16 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon  Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00 6:00 pm - Council	17 1:00 pm - Senior Choir	18 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	19	20
21 9:00 Worship/Communion Baptism: Mariah Elizabeth Anderson Facebook FM 101.7	22 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon  5:30 – Bell Practice	23 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon  Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	24 1:00 pm - Senior Choir 7:00 pm- Confirmation <i>October Newsletter Articles Due</i>	25 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	26	27
28 9:00 Worship No Communion Facebook FM 101.7	29 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon  5:30 – Bell Practice	30 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon  Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00				