



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

August, 2026

From Pastor Anne Wickland

Hello everyone,

I hope you all have had a good summer so far! I know the weather has been...interesting with the heat and the smoke, so I pray that you all were able to stay cool and stay indoors when needed.

I had a fantastic time at the ELCA's Rostered Ministers Gathering in the beginning of July. It was in Indianapolis, Indiana and I did indeed have to deal with Chicago traffic but what was worse was the construction on the drive back!

The theme of the conference was "Woven Together" with daily themes of Woven Together...With God, For Creation, and As Community. The new Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry planned and led worship for the conference and it was beautiful to see so many pastors and deacons and others involved in the ELCA come together. Every single synod was represented.

The workshops offered ranged from information on certain ministries the ELCA is doing, but also the different resources the ELCA offers. One of the workshops I attended was all about the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund and the property resource hub. ELCA's lawyers have helped put together things like property rental agreements that don't mess with our non-profit status. Or stories of what congregations are doing creatively with their church space.

I also attended a workshop on fostering stewardship in a congregation that doesn't entail money. Like, how we care for and connect with our community, or during offering time, not just thinking of it as a time to uplift monetary gifts, but also gifts of time, of resources. Making "thank you" of volunteers more visible.

Anyway, I am thankful to the ELCA for giving me a scholarship for this event, making it possible for me to attend. The registration fee was waived and part of my hotel payment will be reimbursed! And thank you to all of you here at Redeemer for supporting this congregation and this pastor.

Blessings,

Pastor Anne

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to August. The month that gets me thinking about school starting. Over the weekend we helped our oldest daughter, Ashley, move most of her stuff up to her new apartment in Menomonie, WI. She will be going to UW-Stout in the fall to study School Psychology. This week I have to register my baby for high school. My girls are six years apart in age and it feels very odd to think Emily will be a high school freshman this year.

For the last several years, the Rio Community Library has partnered with multiple groups from the Rio area to provide lunch for children three days a week in June and July. Redeemer and Bonnet Prairie teamed up the week of July 20th to provide and serve lunch at the library on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We served between 40 and 50 meals each day. It is a great opportunity for us to share God's love with the community by helping to ensure children have full tummies during the summer. Thank you to those who volunteered to help and to the Brewer Sisters who have provided deserts all summer.



We will be doing school kits for Lutheran World Relief again this year. Please see article regarding this.

Thank you to everyone that donated earlier in the year for future property improvements. The water heater at the parsonage was recently replaced using some of the funds raised.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone to please keep Redeemer in mind when planning and paying your monthly expenses. (Personally, I think of my offering like any other monthly expense I need to pay). We have not taken in enough money the last couple months to cover expenses and have used funds from the Bennett savings account to cover the shortfalls. Please consider increasing your offerings or donating to the church on a regular basis. (I personally donate at the beginning of each month and increased earlier in the year the amount I give each month). Offerings can be made in person on Sundays or dropped off in the office when open, mailed, or we can set you up with Simply Giving for automatic monthly withdrawals from your bank account.

Until next month...

God's Blessings,

Beth Laufenberg

Council President

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

May 19, 2026

Approved Minutes

Present: **President** – Beth Laufenberg, **Vice President** – Ben Brusveen, **Treasurer** – Austin Dahnke, **Secretary** – Kristi Fehrman, **Trustee** – Rick Olson, and Pastor Anne Wickland.

Absent: **Trustee** – Lynn Bubolz

- 1) Meeting was called to order by President Beth Laufenberg at 6:01 P.M.
- 2) **Approve Agenda**
Motion by Kristi Fehrman to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Rick Olson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- 3) **Devotions** – Given by Beth Laufenberg, in the absence of Lynn Bubolz. Rick Olson will have devotions for June 16, 2026.
- 4) **Review and approve minutes from April 21st, 2026**
Motion by Pastor Anne Wickland to approve the minutes. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- 5) **Correspondence or guest comments.**
None.
- 6) **Financial Reports – Review/Approve**
 - a. **General Fund** – See Report. We were short last month (April)
 - b. **Bennett Mutual Fund** – See Report
 - c. **Memorial Fund** – See ReportBeth Laufenberg noted that the CD has been renewed for 13 months at 4% interest.
With the warmer weather, the Alliant Energy bill has decreased.
Motion by Austin Dahnke to approve the Financial Reports. Seconded by Ben Brusveen.
All were in favor. Motion carried.
- 7) **Standing Committee Reports – Review/Approve**
 - a. **Property** – Report provided. The completion of the installation of the new boiler is still WIP. It was also noted that the liner inside the brick planter under the drive-through is in need of being replaced.
 - b. **Worship Team** – Pastor Anne Wickland reported that the team has just finished planning for June.
 - c. **Other**Motion by Ben Brusveen to approve the Standing Committee reports. Seconded by Pastor Anne Wickland. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- 8) **Staff Reports – Review/Approve**
 - a. **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Anne reported that she had recently attended the Synod Assembly and that Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe was re-elected Bishop. She also reported that she has made several visits during the month of May. The last night of confirmation is tomorrow night – Wednesday, May 20.
 - b. **Other Staff**Motion by Rick Olson to approve the Staff Reports. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried.

9) Standing Committee Plan – Discussion

Beth handed out copies of duties and responsibilities for the Standing Committees not reported on in Item #7 above. She asked that everyone review the information and be prepared to discuss a plan for those remaining committees at the June 16th Council Meeting.

10) Thanksgivings

Thanksgivings were given for the following:

- All Music Participants in Music Sunday, along with those who helped set up and take down.
- “Uber Driver” volunteers for Barb Nelson.
- Reader/Leader volunteers for Sunday Worship.
- Kristie Falk, K&K Greenhouse and Farmstand, along with April Severson for our beautiful flowers underneath the drive-through.
- Many thanks to Gayle Krueger for her 40 years of dedication to our “live” music here at Redeemer AND for all who helped plan for and those who attended her retirement party.

11) Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion by Pastor Anne Wickland to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm. Seconded by Ben Brusveen. All were in favor. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Next Council Meeting: June 16, 2026 at 6pm

Kristi Fehrman
Council Secretary

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Council Meeting

June 16, 2026

Approved Minutes

Present: President – Beth Laufenberg; **Vice President** – Ben Brusveen; **Treasurer** – Austin Dahnke; **Secretary** – Kristi Fehrman; **Trustee** – Rick Olson; **Trustee** – Lynn Bubolz; Pastor Anne Wickland

1) Call meeting to order

Meeting was called to order by President Beth Laufenberg at 6:06 pm

2) Approve Agenda

Motion by Pastor Anne Wickland to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried.

3) Devotions

Devotions were given by Rick Olson. Austin Dahnke will have devotions for July 21, 2026.

4) Review and approve minutes – May 19th, 2026

Motion by Austin Dahnke to approve the minutes. Seconded by Ben Brusveen. All were in favor. Motion carried.

5) Correspondence or guest comments

None

6) Financial Reports – Review/Approve

- a. General Fund – See Report. Beth Laufenberg reported that there was a shortfall of approximately \$2,800 last month. Funds were taken from the Bennett fund savings account to cover it.
- b. Bennett Mutual Fund
- c. Memorial Fund

Motion by Rick Olson to approve the Financial Reports. Seconded by Pastor Anne WicklaInd. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7) Mission Investment Fund (MIL) Certificate – Review/Approve

President, Beth Laufenberg reported that the certificate will mature on July 2 and that if we take no action, it will automatically renew at the 3-year rate of 3.99%.

Motion by Lynn Bubolz to close the certificate and put the money into the General Checking Account. Seconded by Rick Olson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

8) Standing Committee Reports – Review/Approve

- a. Property – Report provided. Beth reported that she has spoken with Paul within the last week about the completion of the installation of the boiler. It needs to have the gas line done. The estimated completion time is July. After a short discussion about the planter box under the drive-through, Beth indicated she would add it to the list of items to be done in the future.
- b. Worship Team – Pastor Anne reported that we are currently following the summer schedule for communion – when there is a supply Pastor, we will not have communion in June, July, or August.
- c. Other – Kristi reported that an ad is being created for a choir accompanist/pianist. It will be sent to the Synod office to be posted, as well as on Facebook.

Motion by Ben Brusveen to accept the Standing Committee Reports. Seconded by Lynn Bubolz. All were in favor. Motion carried.

9) Staff Reports – Review/Approve

- a. Pastor's Report – Pastor Anne reported that she attended the monthly conference meeting and has conducted shut-in visits. She also reported that she received a Scholarship that covers the registration fee and part of the travel expenses for the ELCA Rostered Ministry Gathering in July. The Council thanked Pastor Anne for applying of the scholarship.
- b. Other Staff - none

Motion by Kristi Fehrman to approve the Staff Reports. Seconded by Lynn Bubolz. All were in favor. Motion carried.

10) Synod Payment – Discuss/Approve

Beth reported that we had budgeted \$1,000 for the Synod Payment. She suggested that we send \$500 at this time. Motion by Lynn Bubolz to send \$500 to the Synod. Seconded by Pastor Anne. All were in favor. Motion carried.

11) Review Standing Committees Responsibilities – Discussion

The following existing committees were discussed and either absorbed by the Council or another committee, or designated as "active" or "inactive":

Education Committee– Absorbed by Council

Stewardship Committee – Absorbed by Council

Outreach Committee – Active – Sub-committee of Council

Finance Committee – Active – Sub-committee of Council

Worship Team – Active

- Lay Ministry – Absorbed by the Worship Team (description needs to be reviewed/revised)

- Altar Guild – Sub-committee of the Worship Team
- Video Team – Sub-committee of the Worship Team

Property Committee – Active

Scholarship Committee – Active

Policy Committee – Inactive

Social Concerns – Inactive

12) Thanksgivings

Given for Kristie Falk and April Severson for the flowers under the drive-through and their care.

13) Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion by Beth Laufenberg to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 pm. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Next Council Meeting: July 21, 2026 at 6pm
- Library Summer Lunch Program: Redeemer & Bonnet Prairie Serve Week of July 20th – MWF

Kristi Fehrman

Council Secretary

August Birthdays

Geri Gorman	August 10
David Pryse	August 11
Lori Lang	August 11
Scott McNeill	August 14
Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock	August 15
Barbara Johnson	August 16
Michael Miles	August 17
Bailey Brewer	August 19
Quinn Dahnke	August 21
Sophia Dahnke	August 21
Daniel Bubolz	August 22
Craig Corning	August 23
Kacy Falk	August 26
Susan Brusveen	August 28
Svannah Baerwolf	August 28.

August Anniversaries

Wayne & Norma Nelson	August 3
Dennis & Susan Brusveen	August 5
Dale & Bonnie Paddock	August 20

Those Requesting On-Going Prayers:

We continue to hold in prayer those who have requested ongoing prayer: Bernie Spink; Kevin Stoddard Mary Risgaard (sister-in-law of Bob and Helen Risgaard); Justin Yonkie (relative of Helen Risgaard); June Bennett (friend of Barbara Nelson); Brian Von Ahsen (Barb Von Ahsen's son); Alfred & Barb Nelson; Nancy and Spencer Wescott; Kim Huber Ross; Wayne and Norma Nelson; Janet Corning; Carter Schultz (age 6, great grandson of Nancy Wescott's cousin, Caryn Schultz and her husband, Carl); Kay Meier (Susan Brusveen's sister); Knute Nelson (Susan Brusveen's brother); Dave Hinzman; Stacie Wheeler; Nancy Drehmel; April Landphier; Bob Adams; Bev Stankiewicz; Bob Strauss; Gloria Lang; Sue Pulver; Virginia Olson; Ken Wescott; and Raymond Endres.



School Kits

for Lutheran World Relief

Once again, we will be assembling school kits for Lutheran World Relief. **This year we are asking that you make a cash donation for school kits which will allow us to buy items in bulk at a discounted price.** Please indicate on your envelope or check that the donation is for "School Kits". To allow time for shopping, we would appreciate cash donations be made by Sunday, August 30th. If you prefer to purchase the items for the school kits yourself, we ask that you provide all of the items needed to complete each kit as listed below. A donation box will be placed in the north (covered) entrance. We will assemble the kits after the church service on September 6th. All are invited to help.

School supplies needed for each kit:

- Four 70-sheet 8"x10½" notebooks, wide or college rule
- One 30-centimeter ruler, can have both inches and centimeters
- One pencil sharpener
- One pair of blunt scissors
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2 ½" eraser



AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	3 Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	4 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	5	6 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	7	8
9 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	10 Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	11 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	12	13 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	14	15
16 9:00 Worship <i>No Communion</i> YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	17 Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	18 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00 6:00 pm - Council	19	20 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	21	22
23 9:00 Worship <i>No Communion</i> YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	24 Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>September Newsletter Articles Due</i>	25 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	26	27 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	28	29
30 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	31 Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon					