



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

January, 2026

From Pastor Anne Wickland

Grace and peace to you all, and a Happy New Year!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas Eve service happen—to those who decorated, who played, who sang, who attended, who helped take down the decorations this past Sunday, thank you. It was great to see so many people worshipping and celebrating the birth of our Lord.

Let's talk about Lent. I know this seems soon, but Lent and Easter are a little early this year! Ash Wednesday is **February 18th**, with our service at **7pm**. And throughout Lent we will have our Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer like normal, but I will also be leading a Bible study. The Wednesday schedule will look like: **6pm-Soup supper, 6:15pm-Bible study, 7pm-Holden**. For those interested in joining the Bible study, this gives us enough time to get our food and then we'll meet at a table in the Fellowship Hall. You don't need to "sign up" for the Bible study, but if you are interested in attending, please let me or Kristi know! It's helpful to have a rough estimate when preparing.

Another new thing this Lent is that we will have a beautiful puzzle of Davinci's The Last Supper to work on as a congregation. It will be set up in Fellowship Hall. Many thanks to Geri Gorman for donating this! We'll work on it the whole of Lent and once it's finished, it will be framed and placed somewhere in the sanctuary or narthex.

Next month I'll tell y'all a little more about our theme for Advent because we are using 'A Sanctified Art' as a resource. We used them for Advent in 2024 and we actually used their confession and forgiveness for Advent this year. Along with weekly themes, we will also have a Lenten devotional booklet. This devotional will more than likely be what helps guide our Bible study but anyone can have a booklet.

In this week's bulletin it mentions that I will be on vacation January 21-31 and if you have any pastoral care needs, etc., to contact the office phone. One of my colleagues has volunteered to be "on-call" for us while I am gone. I am going to Disney World with my mom and visiting some of my trivia team friends! But don't worry, I'll be back in time for our Annual Meeting, I just won't be leading worship that morning. Anyways, I am excited for all that is to come this year and to be Christ's church with you all.

Blessings,

Pastor Anne

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I hope everyone was able to spend time with family and friends in celebration of Jesus' birth. While I wasn't in attendance, I heard that the Christmas Eve service was well attended.

Thank you to everyone that made Music Sunday a great success once again. We have many very talented individuals in our community that share their musical gifts.

A reminder that the 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting will be on February 1st following the church service. Please plan to attend.

We are still looking for anyone that would like to be on the Nominating Committee in 2026. If you are interested, please let me know.

Are you looking for ways to help out around Redeemer? The **Property Committee** is always looking for new members. You can help with individual projects or take a regular active role. Contact Larry Gorman, Bob Risgaard, or myself if you would like more information or to join the committee.



The day long **LEAD** event hosted annually by the Synod is Saturday, February 7th at Messiah Lutheran Church in Madison. If you are interested in attending, please let me know and I can help you get signed up. The cost is \$35 and includes lunch. See more information in the newsletter.

Synod Assembly is May 15th & 16th this year in Janesville. Let me know if you would like to represent Redeemer at this event. It will include an election for the Bishop.

Lastly, I want to thank Steve Gilbert and Renee Miles for their service as trustees on the Council. They will be stepping down at the end of their terms this month.

God's Blessings,

Beth Laufenberg

Council President

FROM A MEMBER

As I believe, when you plan something and want it to happen, life sometimes gets in the way. I was planning on starting articles with a theme. Well, after all it is December and not only that but I have been dealing with a few people in my family who have had serious health issues! So please stay tuned.....

On a more joyful note, I pray that as the birthday of our Lord and Savior was celebrated by each of you, the love, peace and joy of the holiday was a blessing to all as you gathered with family and friends.

With a new year on the horizon let us all pray that Redeemer, our members and staff continue to grow amongst ourselves and in our community.

Dear Lord,

We pray that we find peace, love and purpose by turning to you in all things. We ask for renewed spirit trusting in your plan. We ask this in your name. Amen

God's blessings to all, *Bonnie Pribbenow-Paddock*

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes – 12-14-2025

Call meeting to order – Meeting was called to order by Beth Laufenberg at 6:04 pm.

Present: Beth Laufenberg - **President**, Ben Brusveen – **Vice President**, Austin Dahnke - **Treasurer**, Steve Gilbert – **Trustee**, Lynn Bubolz - **Trustee**, Renee Miles – **Trustee**, and Pastor Anne Wickland.

Absent: Debbie Reiersen, **Secretary** arrived late at 6:20 p.m., excused.

Approve Agenda – A motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Lynn Bubolz and seconded by Ben Brusveen. Motion carried by voice vote.

Devotions – Pastor Anne Wickland led devotions. Beth Laufenberg will have Dec. 14 devotions.

Review and approve minutes – Oct. 21, 2025 – A motion was made by Lynn Bubolz and seconded by Austin Dahnke to approve the Oct. 21, 2025 minutes as presented with a correction: there are 3 Confirmation students, not 2 under Standing Committee Reports, g. Education. Motion carried by voice vote.

Correspondence or guest comments. - None

Financial Reports –

- a. General Fund: We were short \$1600 in October
- b. Bennett Mutual Fund: Austin Dahnke
- c. Memorial Fund: Austin Dahnke

A motion was made by Renee Miles and seconded by Pastor Anne Wickland to approve the financial reports. Motion carried by voice vote.

Standing Committee Reports –

- a. Property – Report provided.
- b. WELCA – no update
- c. Social Concerns – no update
- d. Outreach – no update
- e. Stewardship – no update.
- f. Lay Ministry – no update
- g. Education – no update
- h. Worship Team – December planning, Thanksgiving Community Service.
- i. Policy Committee – no update

A motion was made by Steve Gilbert and seconded by Austin Dahnke to approve the Standing Committee Reports as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

Staff Reports – Review/Approve

- a. Pastor's Report – Provided verbally

Pastor Anne Wickland shared that she continues to do visits, teach Confirmation, recent funeral, All Saints Day, Thanksgiving and Ecumenical services, etc.

- b. Other staff – No report.

A motion was made by Debbie Reiersen and seconded by Renee Miles to approve the staff reports. Motion carried by voice vote.

Boiler Project – Update/Review/Approve

- a. **Donations/Fundraising update**

The donations from the congregation totaled \$16,000 which exceeded our goal of \$15,000.

- b. **Zone Valves – payment**

The cost for replacing 13 zone valves is \$2,600. This is not included in the boiler replacement project.

A motion was made by Lynn Bubolz to take \$2,554.79 from parsonage HVAC fund in the General Savings account to pay for the valves. Seconded by Pastor Anne Wickland. Motion carried by voice vote.

AED Training & First Aid Kit items – discuss

Lynn Bubolz has been working on this with the Rio EMS director. Training options for the new AED were discussed. Tentative dates for this training are on January 11 or 18.

2026 Spending Plan/Budget – Discuss

Beth Laufenberg presented the draft spending plan for 2026 to the Council for discussion. Updates will be made to the draft spending plan based on the discussion and the plan will be presented to the Council for approval in December.

Nominating Committee update – Discuss

Bonnie Pribbenow/Paddock has been working on finding nominees for the vacant council and other elected positions for 2026.

Auditors – Discuss

In January 2026, our 2025 church books need to be audited. Rick and Linda Olson did it last year (January 2025 for 2024). Austin Danhke will contact members to find auditors for this year. The Council will vote to elect the auditors in December.

Annual Meeting Date – Discuss/Approve

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to hold the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 1, 2026. Seconded by Renee Miles. Motion carried by voice vote.

December and January Council Meeting Dates

We discussed when to have our December and January council meetings due to some conflicts. Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to hold our December 2025 meeting on Sunday, December 14, after church and to meet on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, for our January council meeting. Seconded by Renee Miles. Motion carried by voice vote.

Thanksgivings

- Many thanks to Kristi Fehrman for all her work on the recent funeral.

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion was made by Pastor Anne Wickland to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Seconded by Lynn Bubolz. Motion carried by voice vote. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Community Thanksgiving Eve Service – 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at Redeemer
- Next Council Meeting: Sunday, December 14, 2025 after church

Debbie Reierson
Council Secretary

January Birthdays

Kelsey Wismar	Jan. 2
Amelia Maynard	Jan. 7
Bob Adams	Jan. 7
Kathy Johnson	Jan. 13
Debbie Reierson	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
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FEBRUARY 7, 2026

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
5202 COTTAGE GROVE ROAD, MADISON**

The South-Central Synod of Wisconsin is thrilled to host our annual **LEAD event** on **Saturday, February 7, 2026, from 9:00am to 3:30pm. at Messiah Lutheran Church in Madison** (5202 Cottage Grove Rd., Madison).

LEAD is an annual gathering presented by the synod for rostered leaders and lay leaders of the church to gather for worship, fellowship, and learning.

This year's theme is *Forward*, rooted in the reality that we are being pulled in many directions and not always sure where we will land. **For us in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, "forward" is not a solo hustle, it is a communal calling.** We are the Church, together, called and sent in our varied vocations for the sake of the world God loves. **Forward** is a commitment to stay grounded in the gospel, to keep showing up for one another, and to take the next faithful step, even when we cannot yet see the whole road.

Click the button below to learn more and to register. **Registration closes on January 26, 2026.**

Our Presenter



This year's presenter is Grace Duddy Pomroy, the Director of the Stewardship Leaders Program at Luther Seminary.

Grace is a lay, millennial stewardship leader, speaker, and financial educator based in Allyn, WA. She is the co-author of the stewardship book, *Embracing Stewardship: How to Put Stewardship at the Heart of Your Congregation's Life*, as well as author of the free 2013 ELCA stewardship resource, "[Stewards of God's Love.](#)"

Her latest book, *Funding Forward: A Pathway to More Sustainable Models for Ministry*, was released September 2024. Grace is also a consultant with **Relèven**, a charitable organization that lovingly preserves, restores, and repurposes under-utilized churches into community hubs and affordable housing.

We are excited to welcome Grace and are looking forward to learning from and with her at the 2026 LEAD conference.

Synod Assembly



South-Central Synod
of Wisconsin

Mark your calendars!

**The 2026 SCSW Synod Assembly is May 15 and 16, 2026
at the Woodmans Center in Janesville, WI.**

The Assembly will open on the evening of Friday, May 15
and will continue through the day on Saturday, May 16.

Redeemer is looking for a female, male, and young adult member to represent us at the annual Synod Assembly. Please let Beth Laufenberg know if you would like to be nominated for this.

In addition to the usual business meeting topics, this year there is an election for the Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. This is Redeemer's opportunity to have a vote(s) regarding who will lead the synod for the next several years.

Photos from Music Sunday and Other Local Events



On-Going Prayers

We continue to hold in prayer those who have requested ongoing prayer: Clint Chadwick (Tom & Gayle Krueger's son-in-law); Nancy Drehmel; 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; Don Washington; Pastor Jerome Pribbenow; Kim Huber Ross; 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 Dille (Cooper Husom's grandmother); 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.



The annual meeting is being held on Sunday, **February 1st, 2026** following the church service. All members are invited to attend.

* Notice to Congregation of Proposed Constitution Changes *

At the last annual meeting on January 26th, 2025 an initial vote to approve the following Constitution changes was taken and the changes approved. Per our Constitution, a second vote to ratify the changes needs to be held at our next annual meeting. Once the changes have been ratified, they will go into effect. 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.

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00		1 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	2	3
4 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7	5 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	6 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	7 Confirmation – 7:00	8 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	9	10
11 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7	12 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	13 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	14 Confirmation – 7:00	15 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	16	17
18 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7	19 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	20 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	21 Pastor on Vacation until January 31. <i>February Newsletter Articles Due</i>	22 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	23	24
25 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7	26 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	27 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	28	29 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	30	31

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

“To Live and tell the story of Jesus”

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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) 992-349
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