



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

March, 2026

From Pastor Anne Wickland

Thank you to everyone who attended our first Lenten Soup Supper last week! We made some good progress on our The Last Supper puzzle. Many thanks to those who brought food last week, and to those who have signed up to bring food to future soup suppers. We still have some spots open to sign up for soup, etc., so look out for the dark blue clipboard!

Towards the end of the month we have Holy Week, starting with Palm/Passion Sunday on March 29th. Just like we did last year, we will have many readers bring alive the last week of Jesus' life, starting with his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. And while his entrance was loud and full of shouts of "Hosanna!", this was the beginning of the end. Then on April 2nd, is Maundy Thursday. Oftentimes we think of this as when Jesus washed his disciple's feet, which *is* important, but it is also Jesus' last supper with his disciples, where even when knowing this was his last "free" night, took the time to be with his disciples, give them communion, and reverse roles and serve *them*...even Judas. Jesus still washed Judas' feet while knowing he had been betrayed. And we end our Maundy Thursday service with Jesus giving the new commandment "...that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you shall love one another." And we strip the altar in silence. There will be no blessing or sending hymn because Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter is one big worship service spread out between multiple days. Good Friday is where we will sing and read and reflect on Jesus' last few hours here on earth. We will slowly extinguish the lights and candles, getting darker and darker, to symbolize that Christ is the light of the world and without Him, our world has lost its light. But, that then leads us to our glorious Easter Sunday, where we loudly proclaim "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" We will sing His praises, worship Jesus Christ, and shake some egg maracas to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

I look forward to experiencing the whole spectrum of emotions from this Lenten season, to Holy Week, and to Easter.

Blessings,

Pastor Anne

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Things continue to move along at Redeemer. The 2026 Council had their first meeting in February.

Lenten services are underway. I attended last Wednesday's soup supper, bible study, and service. It was a great time to share a meal together and explore the week's bible text. Many members also worked together on the "Last Supper" puzzle. I felt a great sense of community while participating.

Our three Confirmation students will be attending a Confirmation Retreat March 6th-8th at Lutherdale. Pastor Anne and I will be chaperoning. I am very excited for our students to have this opportunity to grow in their faith alongside their peers. Lutherdale is estimating 75 students will be participating in the retreat.

Thank you to everyone that has signed up to bring food or other supplies for the Easter Breakfast this year. I invite everyone to attend the breakfast. This year, a free will offering will be taken to help cover the anticipated costs for property improvements such as: elevator updates, new basement windows in the fellowship hall, electrical updates at the church, water softener for the church, and water heaters for the church and parsonage. Funds from Thrivent will be available to match up to \$250 that is donated. If you are not able to attend the breakfast but would like to donate toward the property improvements, please indicate on your check or envelope that the funds are for "property improvements".

We are still looking for a male and female member to attend the Synod Assembly being held Friday & Saturday, May 15th and 16th at the Woodman's Center in Janesville. This year will include voting for the next Synod Bishop. Attending the Synod Assembly is a great way to learn more about the Synod as well as Redeemer's opportunity to vote for Synod leaders and on topics that provide direction for the Synod moving forward. Please let me know if you would be willing to attend on Redeemer's behalf.

For those that regularly read through the Rio Shopper cover to cover, the Council voted at the February meeting to no longer regularly include our ad in the paper. The ad currently costs \$20 for each week it is run which means it costs the church \$40 to \$60 a month depending on if the paper is printed two or three times during the month. It was felt that we are not getting enough bang for the buck. With the increase in use of social media and regular updates to our outdoor sign, the Council felt we are providing the community with notification of our regular activities. The Council is still committed to running ads in the Rio Shopper to advertise special events. We anticipate stopping our regular ad in April.

Anyone use natural gas to heat your home...have you noticed an increase in the cost? Redeemer has. Our natural gas usage has decreased with the new boiler however the cost for what we are using is higher resulting in higher heating bills than in previous years. Heating the church costs a lot without the price going up. The gas bills for January and February were \$1,167 and \$1,185 respectfully. This along with some other expenses has resulted in the church not taking in enough from monthly offerings the last couple of months to cover all of our expenses. If you are looking for a time of year to make an extra donation to the church for general expenses, the winter months are when it is most needed.

Until next month...

God's Blessings,

Beth Laufenberg

Council President

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.**

Approved Minutes – 2-17-2026

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

Absent Trustee: Renee Miles. Excused.

1) Meeting was called to order by President Beth Laufenberg at 6:04 p.m.

2) Approve Agenda

Motion was made by Lynn Bubolz to approve the agenda. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. All were in favor. Motion carried by voice vote.

3) Devotions were given by Lynn Bubolz. Ben Brusveen will have devotions for Feb. 17, 2026.

4) Review/Approve Minutes from: Dec. 14, 2025 council meeting.

Motion was made by Pastor Anne Wickland to approve the Dec. 14, 2025 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. Motion carried by voice vote.

5) Correspondence and/or Guest Comments: None.

6) Financial Reports – Review/Approve

- a. **General Fund:** See report. We were short in Dec. \$2,250 undesignated funds were used.
- b. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** See report.
- c. **Memorial Fund:** See report.

Motion was made by Lynn Bubolz to approve financial reports. Seconded by Debbie Reiersen. Motion carried by voice vote.

7) Bennett Investment Fund CD – Discuss/Approve

The CD – currently worth \$10,936. is coming due at Farmers & Merchants Union Bank.

Motion was made by Austin Dahnke to renew the CD at the highest rate for 13 months. Seconded by Lynn Bubolz. Motion carried by voice vote.

8) Standing Committee Reports – Review/Approve:

- a. **Property**– See report. Need to check with Paul’s Heating & Cooling to finish up our furnace installation. Lynn Bubolz will look into this with Larry Gorman and Bob Risgaard.
- b. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen – Not actively meeting.
- 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 February. Ash Wed. is on Feb. 18, 2026. Service will be at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday night Lenten activities will include a soup supper, bible study, and service. Maundy Thursday is April 2nd, Good Friday is April 3, 2026.
- i. **Policy Committee** – Steve Gilbert – Not meeting.
Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to approve standing committee reports. Seconded by Debbie Reiersen. Motion carried by voice vote.

9) Staff Reports:

- a. **Pastor’s Report** – Pastor Anne Wickland gave a verbal report. She is doing visits. Did a graveside service. Confirmation has started up again. There was good attendance Christmas Eve with 83 people in attendance. Met with Bonnet Prairie.
- b. **Other Staff** – None.

Motion was made by Lynn Bubolz to approve staff reports. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. Motion carried by voice vote.

10) Parsonage Snow Blower – Discuss/Approve

The parsonage is in need of a snow blower.

Motion was made by Austin Dahnke to talk to congregation to see if anyone has a snowblower to sell/give away for parsonage or spend up to \$1,500 out of Bennett savings for a new snowblower. Seconded by Ben Brusveen. Motion carried by voice vote.

11) Review Annual Meeting Materials

Materials for the annual meeting were reviewed.

12) Thanksgivings:

- Thank you to Steve Gilbert, Debbie Reiersen and Renee Miles for serving on church council.
- Thank you to Ben Waldera, Rio EMS Director for his presentation about how to use our new AED (Automated External Defibrillator) as well as Basic First Aid/Stop the Bleed Training on Sunday, January 11, 2026.

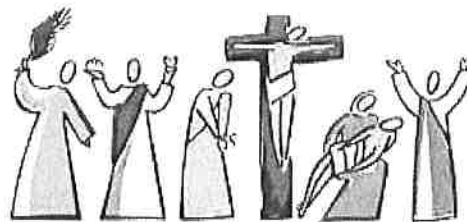
13) Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion was made by Pastor Anne Wickland to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. Motion carried by voice vote. Closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 1, 2026 following church service.
- Next Council Meeting – February 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Debbie Reiersen



Holy Week

<p><u>Palm Sunday</u> March 29th 9 AM Service</p>	<p><u>Maundy Thursday</u> April 2nd 7 PM Service</p>	<p><u>Good Friday</u> April 3rd 7 PM Service</p>	<p><u>Easter Sunday</u> April 5th 7:45-8:45 AM Breakfast* 9 AM Service</p>
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* A free will offering will be taken during the Easter Breakfast to help cover the anticipated costs for property improvements such as: elevator updates, new basement windows in the fellowship hall, electrical updates at the church, water softener for the church, and water heaters for the church and parsonage. Funds from Thrivent will be available to match up to \$250 that is donated.

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

On-Going Prayers

We continue to hold in prayer those who have requested ongoing prayer: Laura Johnsrud (Nancy Washington's daughter); 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; Pastor Jerome Pribbenow; Kim Huber Ross; Jane Roberts, 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.

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 2026 high school graduate? The **Redeemer General Scholarship** may be for you. Application deadline is April 1. If you are awarded this scholarship, you may be eligible to receive a second year scholarship by completing a new application the following 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 2026 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.

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7	2 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	3 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	4 Soup Supper 6:00 Bible Study 6:15 Worship 7:00 Confirmation 7:30	5 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	6	7
8 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7	9 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	10 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	11 Soup Supper 6:00 Bible Study 6:15 Worship 7:00	12 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	13	14
15 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7	16 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	17 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00 Council Meeting 6pm	18 Soup Supper 6:00 Bible Study 6:15 Worship 7:00 Confirmation 7:30	19 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	20	21
22 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7	23 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>PASTOR ANNE IS OUT</i>	24 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	25 Soup Supper 6:00 Bible Study 6:15 Worship 7:00 <i>April Newsletter Articles Due</i>	26 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:00 Worship/Communion Facebook FM 101.7	30 Office Hours: 9:00 - Noon	31 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00				

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

“To Live and tell the story of Jesus”

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
Kristi Fehrman (Secretary)	(608) 837-8144
Austin Dahnke (Treasurer)	(608) 408-0018
Rick Olson (Trustee)	(920) 992-5418
Lynn Bubolz (Trustee)	(920) 210-4432
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

