

Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

November, 2026

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From Pastor Anne Wickland

Happy November everyone! I hope you all had a fun Halloween season. Since our last newsletter we had our 2nd annual Chilli Cook-off, Emily and Amelia were confirmed, and we honored the four Saints who left Redeemer this year. What a busy month!

Also, many thanks to Trish McNeil who is directing our Senior Choir and Bell Choir while Geri is recovering from surgery! We *will* have a Music Sunday this December (12/13) and I'm excited to see it all come together. Similar to a Lessons & Carols, we will have multiple readings telling the story of Christmas and have the choirs perform songs that bring the story to life.

Again, we'll have our Rio Community Thanksgiving Eve service–this year Living Gospel is hosting. It will be ***Wednesday, November 25th at 6:30pm***. There will be treats and fellowship to follow the service. Also, we are encouraging people to bring non-perishable food items for us to donate to the Rio Area Food Bank. We are giving thanks for God through worship, and giving thanks for all God has given to us through food donations to our neighbors.

And with Thanksgiving this month, gratitude will be at the forefront of many people's minds. There have been studies done on gratitude– that giving thanks makes people happier, or basically that being grateful boosts a person's happiness, optimism, and empathy. It can also relieve stress, improve your sleep and your heart health. And by "practicing gratitude", that doesn't just mean saying thank you, or "I am thankful for my family" but focusing on the positives in your life, in thinking of specific people or actions you're thankful for, and putting your heart into it, can really make an impact.

During communion, we say "it is right to give our thanks and praise" "it is our duty and delight that we should at all times and in places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God…"
In worship, we praise God, we thank God, for all that God does for us and the world and in doing this spiritual practice, we continue to open our hearts to God. I pray that during this season of Thanksgiving, we take the time to not only give thanks for the abundance in our lives, but remember that it is from God that we receive this abundance. Because it is through God's never-ending love and grace that we have so much to be thankful for.

Blessings,
Pastor Anne

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Financial Update

October giving increased and expenses decreased compared to September. While we still ended the month with a shortfall, it was less than the previous month's deficit. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our church's ministry.

To cover the remaining shortfall, $1,700 was transferred from the Bennett Investment savings account.

At its October meeting, the Church Council discussed ways to reduce expenses moving forward in 2027. One change we plan to implement is having lay leaders lead worship one Sunday each month when Pastor Anne is off, rather than using a supply pastor. This adjustment is expected to save approximately $210 per month.

The Council also discussed using recorded music for a couple Sundays each month instead of having a pianist or organist every Sunday. Currently, musicians are compensated $102 per service.

October 2026			
10/1/2026 General Fund Balance:	$	58.83	
October Giving:	$	5,986.00	
From Bennett Savings Designated*:	$	-	
Other Revenue:	$	132.54	
October Expenses:	$	(7,836.23)	
Difference:	**$**	**(1,658.86)**	**Shortfall**
From Bennett Savings to Cover Shortfall:	$	1,700.00	
10/31/2026 General Fund Balance:	$	41.14	

1/1/2026 Thru 10/31/2026			
1/1/2026 General Fund Balance:	$	86.98	
2026 Giving:	$	65,086.25	
From Bennett Savings Designated*:	$	1,613.30	
From General Savings Designated:	$	148.96	
Other Revenue:	$	278.07	
2026 Expenses:	$	(90,435.37)	
Difference:	**$**	**(23,221.81)**	**Shortfall**
From Bennett Savings to Cover Shortfall:	$	17,735.00	
From Memorial Savings to Cover Shortfall:	$	879.46	
Mission Investment Fund Certificate Closed:	$	4,648.49	
10/31/2026 General Fund Balance:	$	41.14	

* or Council Approved

Please keep our church in your prayers as we work to be responsible stewards of our resources and continue to plan wisely for the future.

10/31/2026 Account Balances

Account Name	YTD Balance	Previous Period Balance	Amount Diff Period
F&M General Fund Checking Account	41.14	58.83	(17.69)
F & M Business Savings Account	43,442.87	43,442.87	0.00
Redeemer Lutheran Memorial Fund	12,020.37	12,020.37	0.00
Bennett Investment Savings Fund	15,773.14	17,305.34	(1,532.20)
Total Assets	**$71,277.52**	**$72,827.41**	**($1,549.89)**

2027 Nominations

We are currently seeking members who are interested in being nominated for the following church leadership positions:

- Council Vice-President **or** Treasurer (2-year term)
- Council Trustee (2-year term)
- Nominating Committee members (1-year- term)

If you are interested in being nominated or would like to learn more about any of these positions, please contact the church office or Beth Laufenberg at 608-572-2051 or bethlaufenberg@centurytel.net.

Until next month…

God's Blessings,

Beth Laufenberg

Council President

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REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

Approved Minutes

Present: President – Beth Laufenberg; **Vice President** – Ben Brusveen; **Secretary** – Kristi Fehrman; **Trustee** – Rick Olson

Absent: **Treasurer** – Austin Dahnke; **Trustee** – Lynn Bubolz; and Pastor Anne Wickland

1) Meeting was called to order by President, Beth Laufenberg, at 6:00 pm
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 Ben Brusveen. Pastor Anne will have devotions for October 20, 2026..

4) **Review and approve minutes – August 18, 2026**
Motion by Rick Olson 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 – transferred $1,000 from the Bennett Fund in August to cover the shortage. Beth reported that she, Larry Gorman, and Bob Risgaard met with a representative from US Bank's Wealth Management to review the current investments.
   b. Bennett Mutual Fund – See Report
   c. Memorial Fund – See Report

Motion by Rick Olson to approve the Financial Reports. Second by Kristi Fehrman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7) **Standing Committee Reports – Review/Approve**
   a. Property – Report provided
   b. Worship Team – Kristi reported that the Worship Team would like to host another Chili Cook-off. Will poll the congregation regarding interest.
   c. Other

Motion by Ben Brusveen to approve the Standing Committee Reports. Second by Rick Olson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

8) **Staff Reports – Review/Approve**
   a. Pastor's Report – Report provided
   b. Other Staff – Kristi Fehrman reported on behalf of Geri Gorman, Director of voice and bell choirs, that all is on hold now due to Geri's current medical situation. There will be no Music Sunday in December or in the Spring. She has reached out to members of both choirs to see if anyone has an interest in putting small groups together to provide special music. As of this date, there have been no applicants for an accompanist.

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

9) **Elevator Load Test – MEI Total Elevator Solutions – Approve Payment Source**
President, Beth Laufenberg, asked the council members what source should be used for the payment of the MEI Elevator load test.

Motion by Rick Olson to pay for the invoice out of the Memorial Funds and to be coded as Property Maintenance. Second by Ben Brusveen. All were in favor. Motion carried.

10) **2027 Health Insurance Plan – Review/Approve**
President, Beth Laufenberg, presented the options for selecting a Health Insurance Plan for Pastor Anne. All options were reviewed and discussed.

Motion by Ben Brusveen to stay with the current plan: Select Co-Pay. Second by Kristi Fehrman. All were in favor. Motion carried.

11) **Lutheran World Relief – Quilts & School Kits update**
President, Beth Laufenberg, provided an update. These items are no longer dropped off at the train station – they are now taken to Good Shepherd Church in Madison – the process has been simplified. Redeemer donated 172 School Kits and 50 Quilts.

12) **Thanksgivings**
Thanksgivings were given for everyone who helped with the School Kits and to the Quilters for all of their dedication and hard work.

13) Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion by Kristi Fehrman to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. Seconded by Rick Olson. All were in favor. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Next Council Meeting: October 20th, 2026 at 6pm

Kristi Fehrman
Council Secretary
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November Birthdays

Don Washington	Nov. 4
Alisa Porter	Nov. 13
Nancy Drehmel	Nov. 20
Trish McNeill	Nov. 23

November Anniversaries

Bob & Joann Skare	Nov. 9
Steve & Melanie Gilbert	Nov. 26

Confirmation

Confirmation took place on Sunday, October 25, which was also, Reformation Sunday. Congratulations to Emily and Amelia on their Confirmation.

Many thanks to Trish McNeill for the beautiful cross cake made from cupcakes – and the additional Cupcakes!





All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, November 1, we remembered the Saints we have lost since November, 2025:

Kathleen Johnson, Beverly Stankiewicz, Norma Nelson, and Jean Staveness

Family members were invited to light a candle in remembrance of the 4 individuals we lost from Redeemer.

In addition, everyone was invited to display photos and light candles for those who had previously joined the "Communion of Saints".



Those Requesting On-Going Prayers:

We continue to hold in prayer those who have requested ongoing prayer: Bev Hepler; 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 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); Dave Hinzman; Stacie Wheeler; Nancy Drehmel; April Landphier; Bob Adams; Bob Strauss; Gloria Lang; Sue Pulver; Virginia Olson; Ken Wescott; and Raymond Endres.

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Worship/Communion **YouTube via Facebook** **FM 101.7** ***All Saints Sunday***	2 **Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon**	3 **Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon** **Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00**	4 ***Confirmation 6:30 –7:30*** ***Sr. Choir – 1:00*** ***Bells – 6:00***	5 **6:00 pm- AA Meeting**	6	7
8 9:00 Worship/Communion **YouTube via Facebook** **FM 101.7**	9 **Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon**	10 **Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon** **Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00**	11 ***Sr. Choir – 1:00*** ***Bells – 6:00***	12 **6:00 pm- AA Meeting**	13	14
15 9:00 Worship/Communion **YouTube via Facebook** **FM 101.7**	16 **Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon**	17 **Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon** **Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00** **6:00 pm Council**	18 ***Confirmation 6:30 –7:30*** ***Sr. Choir – 1:00*** ***Bells – 6:00***	19 **6:00 pm- AA Meeting**	20	21
22 9:00 Worship/Communion *Guest Pastor* **YouTube via Facebook** **FM 101.7**	23 **Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon**	24 **Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon** **Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00**	25 ***Thanksgiving Eve Service*** Living Gospel Church 6:30 pm	26 ***Thanksgiving*** **6:00 pm- AA Meeting**	27	28
29 9:00 Worship/Communion *Guest Pastor* **YouTube via Facebook** **FM 101.7**	30 **Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon**					

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
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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
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Kristi Fehrman – Administrative Assistant -
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Beth Laufenberg - Bookkeeper
April Severson - Custodian
Kurt Johnson - Yard Maintenance
Geri Gorman - Music Director
Worship Music Provided by Multiple Musicians