



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

October, 2026

From Pastor Anne Wickland

Hello everyone!

I just got back on October 1st and had a wonderful time traveling throughout Ireland and part of Scotland. I'm still trying to get over some jetlag, but I'm so thankful for this trip and the time I got to spend with family. One of the things that struck me is how old everything is. Edinburgh Castle, which is built on volcanic rock overlooking the bay, is at least 1000 years old. Just walking down the street, you have a historic graveyard next to a shop with silly stickers. The mountains of Scotland are the same mountains of Appalachia. And in Ireland, the land itself is so beautiful, that it's hard to believe it's real. Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland has these hexagonal columns that range from stepping stone height to almost 40 feet tall.

The natural beauty on display made me marvel not just at how cool nature and science can be, but also that God created this world full of complex and awe inspiring scenes *and* created us. There's this quote, "How cool is it that the same God that created mountains and oceans and galaxies looked at you and thought the world needed one of you too?" And this quote has always uplifted me and humbled me. Because what do you mean there are these beautiful things like the Cliffs of Moher *and* God thought the world needed me too?! It's hard to compare myself to the beauty of a coastline, but just because it's hard to believe doesn't mean it's not true! May you all see the beauty around us and embrace the beauty of each other and yourselves. I have a photo of Giant's Causeway and my mom and I at the Cliffs of Moher!

Blessings,

Pastor Anne

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

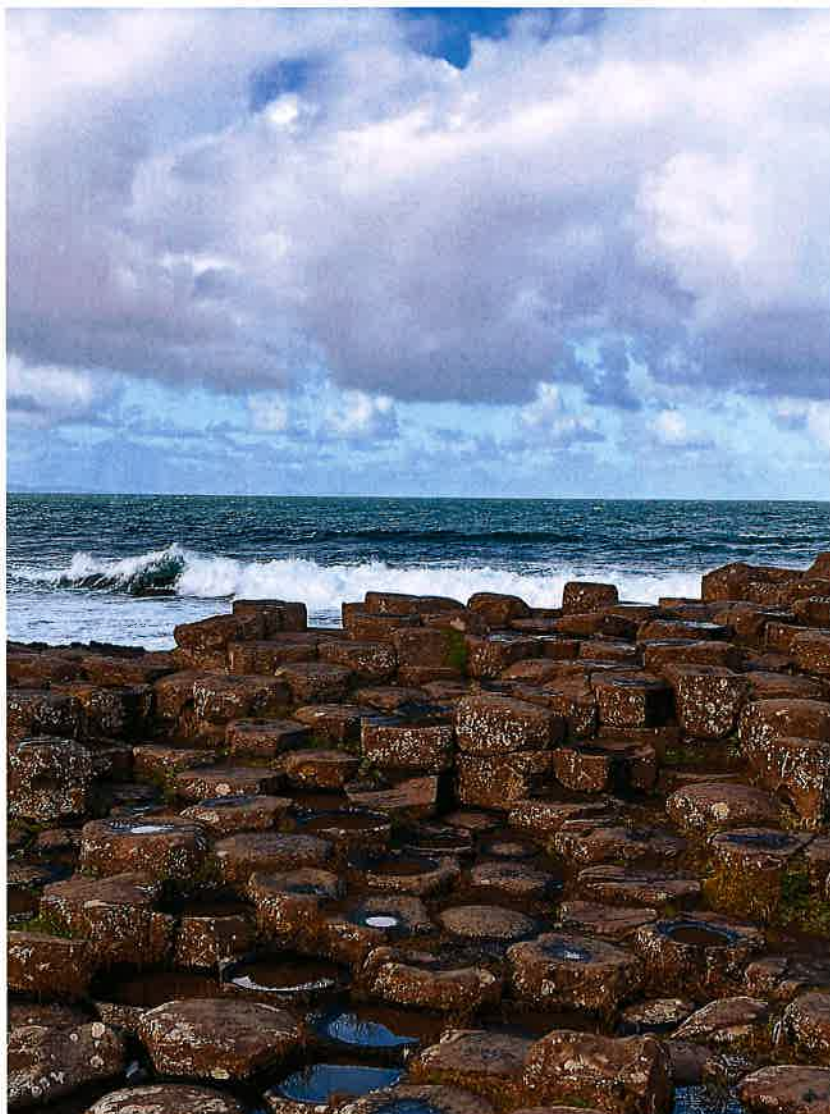
TUESDAY, August 18, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

Approved Minutes

Present: **President** – Beth Laufenberg, **Vice President** – Ben Brusveen, **Secretary**- Kristi Fehrman;
Trustees Rick Olson and Lynn Bubolz, and Pastor Anne Wickland.

Absent: Treasurer – Austin Dahnke

- 1) Meeting was called to order by President, Beth Laufenberg, at 6:05 pm



2) Approve Agenda

Motion by Lynn Bubolz to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Ben Brusveen. All were in favor. Motion carried.

3) Devotions – Given by Kristi Fehrman. Ben Brusveen will have devotions for September 15, 2026.

4) Review and approve minutes – July 21, 2026

Motion by Pastor Anne 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 – no shortage last month. It was agreed to cancel the order for the Christ in Our Home daily devotion booklets for the next quarter, due to the expense and the fact that there is a minimum amount that can be ordered and not all of them are being used.
- b. Bennett Mutual Fund – See Report
- c. Memorial Fund – See Report

Motion by Ben Brusveen to approve the Financial Reports. Seconded by Rick Olson. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7) Standing Committee Reports – Review/Approve

- a. Property – Report provided. A new water heater was purchased and installed at the Parsonage in July.
- b. Worship Team – Pastor Anne reported that she recently met with Pastor Karrie from Living Gospel Church and they will host the Thanksgiving Eve service this year.
- c. Other – none

Motion by Lynn Bubolz to approve the Standing Committee Reports. Seconded by Pastor Anne. All were in favor. Motion carried.

8) Staff Reports – Review/Approve

- a. Pastor's Report – Pastor Anne reported that she had presided over 2 funerals in the past 2 weeks and that she had visited with a number of shut-ins.
- b. Other Staff - none

Motion by Rick Olson to approve Staff Reports. Seconded by Ben Brusveen. All were in favor. Motion carried.

9) Thanksgivings

Thanksgivings were given for the individuals who came forward and volunteered to set up, serve and clean up at the luncheon for Beverly Stanciewicz's funeral, which was held at Redeemer in Fellowship Hall on August 17: *Melanie Gilbert, Judy Sandberg, Bob and Helen Risgaard, Rick and Linda Olson.* Without the help of these volunteers, we would not have been able to provide this service for the family.

10) Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion by Lynn Bubolz to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. Seconded by Pastor Anne. All were in favor. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Assemble LWR School Kits: Sunday, September 6th after the church service
- Next Council Meeting: September 15th, 2026 at 6pm

Kristi Fehrman
Council Secretary

October Birthdays

Julie Swiggum	October 2
Renee Miles	October 5
Ron Reiersen	October 8
Tyler Walker	October 8
Kevin Falk	October 10
Alfred Nelson	October 10
Bob Lang	October 11
Bob Skare	October 12
Gayle Krueger	October 13
Sharri Krantz	October 21
Bryan Wittman	October 21
Patti Borde	October 22
Sarah Risgaard	October 29
Gregory Pryse	October 31

October Anniversaries

Bob & Helen Risgaard	October 9
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lutheran World Relief

Thank you to everyone that donated and helped assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Also thank you to the quilters for their work throughout the year. **172 school kits** and **50 quilts** were delivered in September to the Ingathering held at Good Shepard Lutheran Church in Madison where the boxes of kits and quilts were loaded into 2 semi-trailers to be delivered to Lutheran World Relief. (They are no longer using a train car).



Financial Update

September was another challenging month for Redeemer financially. Offerings received during the month did not cover the expenses. **\$3,600 from the Bennett Investment savings account was used to cover the shortfall for the month.** This left a balance of \$6,117.85 in the Bennett Investment savings account as of 9/30/2026. The Bennett Investment savings account has been our primary source during 2026 to cover general fund shortfalls. If the shortfalls continue to be on the larger size, we will likely need to use money currently held in other accounts. It should be noted that we do have \$11,187.49 from the Bennett account currently held in a CD that matures in February 2027.

The Council will be discussing ideas to reduce expenses in 2027 at their next meeting. Please feel free to share any ideas you may have with any Council member. In

the meantime, please consider increasing your monthly giving. Keep in mind the significant cost to heat the church during the winter months.

9/30/2026 Account Balances:

Account Name	YTD Balance	Previous Period Balance	Amount Diff Period
F&M General Fund Checking Account	58.83	50.92	7.91
F & M Business Savings Account	43,442.87	43,382.82	60.05
Redeemer Lutheran Memorial Fund	12,020.37	11,997.73	22.64
Bennett Investment Savings Fund	17,305.34	19,691.52	(2,386.18)
Total Assets	\$72,827.41	\$75,122.99	(\$2,295.58)

September 2026	
9/1/2026 General Fund Balance:	\$ 50.92
September Giving:	\$ 4,694.00
From Bennett Savings Designated*:	\$ 188.31
September Expenses:	\$ (8,474.40)
Difference:	\$ (3,541.17) Shortfall
From Bennett Savings to Cover Shortfall:	\$ 3,600.00
9/30/2026 General Fund Balance:	\$ 58.83

1/1/2026 Thru 9/30/2026	
1/1/2026 General Fund Balance:	\$ 86.98
2026 Giving:	\$ 59,100.25
From Bennett Savings Designated*:	\$ 1,613.30
From General Savings Designated:	\$ 148.96
Other Revenue:	\$ 145.53
2026 Expenses:	\$ (82,599.14)
Difference:	\$ (21,504.12) Shortfall
From Bennett Savings to Cover Shortfall:	\$ 16,035.00
From Memorial Savings to Cover Shortfall:	\$ 879.46
Mission Investment Fund Certificate Closed:	\$ 4,648.49
9/30/2026 General Fund Balance:	\$ 58.83
* or Council Approved	

2027 Nominations

Your church needs you. The following positions are up for election at the annual meeting to be held in early 2027 (Usually the last Sunday in January).

- Council Vice-President (2-year term)
- Council Treasurer (2-year term)
- Council Trustee (2-year term)
- Bennett Fund Treasurer (1-year term)
- Memorial Fund Treasurer (1-year term)
- Nominating Committee members (3) (1-year term)

Ben Brusveen has agreed to run again for Vice-President (or Treasurer if needed) unless someone has a wish to have this position. Bob Risgaard has agreed to run again for Bennett Fund Treasurer and Geri Gorman has agreed to run again for Memorial Fund Treasurer. The current Treasurer and Trustee have chosen to not run again so we are looking to fill those positions. Please contact Beth Laufenberg or the Office if you are interested in any of these positions or to learn more.

Until next month...

God's Blessings,

Beth Laufenberg

Council President

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 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; Bob Strauss; Gloria Lang; Sue Pulver; Virginia Olson; Ken Wescott; and Raymond Endres.

A BLESSING AT EVERY TURN

Dear Redeemer Family,

When I first had mobility issues in January I was referred to physical therapy, which due to communication issues, did not begin until the end of February.

Before Easter I reconnected with my PA that I was not improving, so I was referred for x-rays, which led to more tests and an MRI on my back, which diagnosed severe spinal stenosis, scoliosis, and arthritis. Next was a meeting with a back surgeon. After more x-rays he determined that my back issues are common for my age, but I needed a new right hip. PRAISE GOD! I was so thankful that I did not need back surgery.

More x-rays of the hip revealed that my hip was "critical," and even though they were scheduling in October already in June, they gave me a July 20th date because there had been a cancellation. PRAISE GOD! I did not have to wait until October for a new hip.

But the mandatory pre-op physical EKG raised concerns, and all-of-a-sudden I was thrust into multiple heart examinations. A catheterization confirmed that I have one artery blocked at 70% and two at 80%. PRAISE GOD that my hip surgeon would not operate, for fear that I would have died on the table. I had no idea I had heart issues, but in hindsight it runs rampant on my mother's side of the family.

When you go to vote on November 3rd please pray for me, as I will be in a six-hour triple bypass surgery at UW Hospital in Madison.

Usually, triple bypass patients leave the hospital after four days, but because I cannot push or pull with my arms for two months due to having a broken sternum, and that is all I am doing right now in order to get out of a seated position, I will be moved to a rehab center somewhere unknown, and as I call it, will be "incarcerated" for two months until my sternum heals. Beyond the heart healing I have no idea when I will get my hip replaced, but hopefully by March.

Thank you to all who have already reached out with concern, cards, and especially all the prayers. Some of you have been special blessings with all your help.

In the midst of this challenge, I have witnessed SO MANY STRANGERS that have taken the time to hold open a door, plug in an electric shopping cart, carry something for me, and even patiently wait for me to cross the street. It warms my heart to see so many good people filled with kindness in their hearts!
What a blessing!

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!!

In Christian Love,
Geri Gorman

WHERE ARE THE CHOIRS?

Due to my physical limitations, I am unable to direct the choirs at this time. We had absolutely NO RESPONSE to our ads this summer for a new Senior Choir pianist.

Trish McNeill is working on organizing both choirs to do limited special music. The Senior choir is meeting tomorrow, October 7. I need to connect with our ringers before she can work with them and ring at the same time. Please pray for the choirs.

I also have a call in to our organ mechanic. We need to repair and tune the organ. This will be a major expense. We must maintain our beautiful instrument.

Geri Gorman,
Music Director

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	2	3
4 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	5 Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	6 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	7 <i>Confirmation 6:30 – 7:30</i>	8 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	9	10
11 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	12 Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	13 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00 6:00 pm Council	14	15 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	16	17
18 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7 <i>Redeemer's 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off</i>	19 Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>November Newsletter Articles Due</i>	20 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00 Council Mtg. 6:00 pm	21 <i>Confirmation 6:30 – 7:30</i>	22 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	23	24
25 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7 <i>Reformation/Confirmation Sunday</i>	26 Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	29 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	28	29 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	30	31