



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

September, 2026

From Pastor Anne Wickland

For many the school year has already begun or about to; and Fall will soon be among us! I hope you all had a wonderful summer. With the school beginning, that means that confirmation classes will begin again and I'm excited that we're always getting new kids involved. Plus, on Reformation Sunday, October 25th, we will have Amelia and Emily confirmed! It has been so fun to see them the past few years grow in their faith.

Also, I have shared with some of you that I will be gone September 14th - October 1st, and will be back in the office October 5th. I am going to Scotland and Ireland with my mom and around 30 other family members! We'll be starting in Belfast and going counter-clockwise along the coast with a coach bus full of family and friends. I'm excited to spend time with family and explore a new country (Scotland) and revisit Ireland after a decade away. Please pray for me for safe travels and that it doesn't rain too much!

As Bob Risgaard shared in worship on Sunday, our giving does not align with what it costs to keep Redeemer going. Beth will share more on the actual numbers, but I want to share a little about what stewardship is. Stewardship begins with God. It begins with God creating the whole world in abundance and blessing us with the responsibility to steward, or manage, the land and all it entails. Stewardship, not just of money, is one of the main ways that we live out Jesus' commandment to love God and love our neighbor with our whole beings. According to Clarence Stoughton, former president of Wittenberg University, stewardship is everything we do after we say "I believe." We are working on being more transparent on our financial situation so going forward we will include in our bulletins (and newsletters) what we spent in the previous month and what we took in. This is to give everyone a clear picture on what it takes to keep Redeemer going.

Anyway, thank you for being a part of Redeemer Lutheran Church and for together being the Body of Christ.

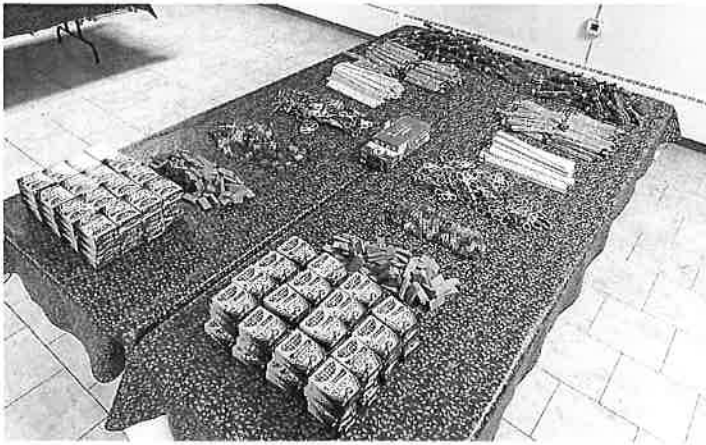
Blessings,

Pastor Anne

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lutheran World Relief – School Kits

Due to the very generous monetary donations received this year for School Kits, we will be putting together more than 150 School Kits on **Sunday, September 6th** following the church service, in the fellowship hall. Fellowship will also be provided.



2027 Council 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).

- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Trustee

Ben Brusveen has agreed to run again for Vice-President unless someone has a wish to have this position. 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.

Expense Highlight

One of the largest annual expenses here at Redeemer is property and liability insurance. The insurance was just renewed with Acuity for the period of 9/17/2026 thru 9/17/2027 at an annual cost of \$10,909. This is payable in 11 monthly payments of \$991.73.

Acuity has also notified us that they will not renew our policy next year (September 2027) unless we replace the roof on the main part of the church and the education wing by 8/1/2027. Replacing the roof on the main part of the church has been on our radar for the last several years as it was last done in 1999. We anticipate this will be very expensive (\$60,000+) and will likely need to take money out of the Bennett Investment account to pay for it. We will be working on getting estimates for this work in the coming months with plans to have it done next spring/summer.

(Expense Highlights continued)

August 2026		
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Giving:	\$	6,675.00
Expenses:	\$	(8,820.79)
Difference:	\$	(2,145.79)

Giving in August did not cover the total expenses for the month.

August 2026		
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8/1/2026 General Fund Balance:	\$	1,196.71
August Giving:	\$	6,675.00
August Expenses:	\$	(8,820.79)
Difference:	\$	(949.08) Shortfall
From Bennett Savings to Cover Shortfall:	\$	1,000.00
8/31/2026 General Fund Balance:	\$	50.92

1/1/2026 Thru 8/31/2026		
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1/1/2026 General Fund Balance:	\$	86.98
2026 Giving:	\$	54,406.25
From Bennett Savings Designated*:	\$	1,424.99
From General Savings Designated:	\$	148.96
Other Revenue:	\$	145.53
2026 Expenses:	\$	(74,124.74)
Difference:	\$	(17,912.03) Shortfall
From Bennett Savings to Cover Shortfall:	\$	12,435.00
From Memorial Savings to Cover Shortfall:	\$	879.46
Mission Investment Fund Certificate Closed:	\$	4,648.49
8/31/2026 General Fund Balance:	\$	50.92

* or Council Approved

Until next month...

God's Blessings,

Beth Laufenberg

Council President

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, July 21, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

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 Pastor Anne to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Austin Dahnke. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- 3) **Devotions** – Given by Austin Dahnke. Kristi Fehrman will have devotions for August 18, 2026
- 4) **Review and approve minutes – June 16, 2026**
Motion by Pastor Anne 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 - Short last month by \$2,350. Funds were taken from Bennett Fund savings
 - b. Bennett Mutual Fund – See Report
 - c. Memorial Fund - See ReportMotion by Rick Olson to approve the Financial Reports. Seconded by Ben Brusveen. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- 7) **Financial condition of church – Discuss**
President, Beth Laufenberg reported that we need to re-roof portion of the roof to comply with requirements of the insurance company.
There was some discussion about how to cut some of the things we do on a regular basis such as not requesting a supply pastor every time Pastor Anne is off, but have lay people lead worship; and not having a musician every Sunday, but use recorded music occasionally. Other ways to cut down on expenses were also discussed.
- 8) **Standing Committee Reports – Review/Approve**
 - a. Property – Report provided. President, Beth Laufenberg, reported there is no update on the completion of the installation of the boiler. We will move forward with purchasing/installation a new water heater in the Parsonage. The repairs to the planter under the drive-through are in motion.
 - b. Worship Team – Pastor Anne reported that August is the last month that we will not have communion when she is out. We will start having communion every week beginning in September.
 - c. OtherMotion by President, Beth Laufenberg to approve the Standing Committee Reports. Seconded by Rick Olson. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- 9) **Staff Reports – Review/Approve**
 - a. Pastor's Report – Pastor Anne reported that she attended the ELCA Gathering in Indianapolis July 6-9 and felt there was good information and resources that we can utilize here at Redeemer.
 - b. Other Staff – NoneMotion by Austin Dahnke to approve the Staff Reports. Second by Ben Brusveen. All were in favor. Motion carried.

10) LWR – School Kits – Discuss

President, Beth Laufenberg will move forward with purchasing the items needed and coordinating a date to stuff the school kits.

11) Property Insurance – Church Roof – Discuss

Covered under Item #7

12) Thanksgivings

Thanksgivings were given for the following:

- For Pastor Anne’s ELCA Scholarship to attend the Gathering and cover some of the travel expenses
- For the cinnamon rolls Ben’s Dad made and sent with him to tonight’s Council Meeting 😊

13) Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion by Kristi Fehrman to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Seconded by Pastor Anne. All were in favor. Motion carried. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Next Council Meeting: August 18th, 2026 at 6pm

Kristi Fehrman
Council Secretary

September Birthdays

David Laufenberg	Sept. 1
Emily Laufenberg	Sept. 2
Matthew Porter	Sept. 6
Abby Dahnke	Sept. 7
Richard Swiggum	Sept. 12
Alex Brewer	Sept. 17
Delores Erstad	Sept. 18
Spencer Wescott	Sept. 18
Bernie Spink	Sept. 27

September Anniversaries

Craig & Rhonda Corning	Sept. 11
Roger & Kristi Fehrman	Sept. 16
Scott & Julie Swiggum	Sept. 28

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.

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	2	3 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	4	5
6 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7 Assemble School Kits	7 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon	8 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	9 <i>Confirmation 6:30 – 7:30</i>	10 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	11	12
13 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	14 Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	15 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00 6:00 pm Council	16	17 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	18	19
20 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	21 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>Pastor Out</i> <i>October Newsletter Articles Due</i>	22 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>Pastor Out</i>	23	24 6:00 pm- AA Meeting	25	26
27 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	28 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>Pastor Out</i>	29 Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>Pastor Out</i>	30			

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

“To Live and tell the story of Jesus”

www.rioredeemerlutheran.org

“Like Us” on Facebook

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

Worship Music Provided by Multiple Musicians