



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

January/February, 2024

Pastor Ponderings

Pastor Jack Way

The light of the world, Jesus, is revealed and becomes more known to us during January in the church season of Epiphany. We have been reminded of the early stories of the life of Jesus. His presentation at the Temple, his Baptism, and the visit and gifts of the Magi. Then, in the Gospel of Mark with nearly breath taking speed, the adult Jesus is divinely proclaimed as God’s beloved Son as he emerges from the baptismal waters of the Jordan River. The Holy Spirit drives him into the wilderness. There he is tempted by Satan. Upon faithfully resisting the temptations, he steps immediately into his calling as Savior. Jesus’ ministry begins with proclamation of what God has done and will continue to do for humans. With authority in his teaching, with repeated healings of those in need and with casting out the demons from within the people he meets on the way, Jesus is Immanuel – God with us.

In the ongoing stories it is in Jesus’ words and by his actions his ministry continues to be revealed. As the Epiphany season comes to its conclusion, we are re-engaged with the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountaintop. This is where God distinctly identifies this beloved son as the one who is beyond extraordinary. God provides for Jesus’ disciples a tiny glimpse of his only Son’s heavenly nature. They have a brief experience of the realities of Jesus’ divine character and abilities.

We turn straight from these “beyond human” revelations in his ministry to the reality of Jesus’ humanity that arrives in the start of the church’s season of Lent. Ash Wednesday comes with a stark, almost brutal reality. The truth of mortality is exposed from within our human form. “Remember that you are dust. To dust you shall return.” This is proclaimed to those who receive the black ashes upon their flesh. Solemnly reminding us from where God formed the initial human creatures from whom we descend. Lent calls upon us to practice forms of discipleship. Prayer, almsgiving (giving to the poor and needy) and fasting. Living toward creating in us daily habits for each of these three acts of faithfulness as a sign of confession and repentance to our Creator and Redeemer.

There is a distinct difference in Lent for how the followers of Jesus move with him by our imitating, as only we are able, the obedience he has in fulfilling his journey to the cross. The cross of suffering and death for Jesus which completes its fullness through the empty tomb and resurrection. Our suffering God in and through Jesus reveals that it is only in dying and rising that new life begins.

You are invited to join in sharing the journey of Lent with its slowed down, pared back worship services that allow an opportunity for additional silence. This “wilderness theme” allows us space for prayer, for confession, for repentance, for absolution. We will fast from using “Alleluia’s” during Lent worship services. Lent’s conclusion is though Holy Week with the Passion Narrative of Christ Jesus.

With you a brother in Christ, for you a shepherd of Christ

Pastor Jack

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I sit down to write my last newsletter article as your Council President, I feel I have put all the important recent and summary information in my Annual Report.

What I would like to share is a direct quote of an article published in the Portage Daily Register on January 4, 1969, written by Special Daily Reporter Writer Dorothy G. McCarthy. It is from the column "Tales of Old Portage," and the headline reads: RIO MAN RECORDED CIVIL WAR MEMORIES. Below is the text.

One of the most fascinating and intimate accounts to come out of the Civil War is a series of biographical sketches and personal reminiscences of a Rio veteran, Charles John Lindquist, who served with the 12th Wisconsin Volunteers during the four years of the war's duration.

The sketches were written by his daughter, Mrs. Vernetta Lindquist Bennett, in tribute to her father, a Swedish emigrant to this country in 1852, but who served his adopted country with loyalty and devotion, both on the battlefield and in his chosen rural community of Rio. Mrs. Bennett's vivid descriptions of army life, its tragic suffering and death; her interest in the Grand Army of the Republic of which her father was an enthusiastic member, and her lively accounts drawn from her memory of their recital by her father over the years, make for intensely interesting reading.

Before her death in 1955 at the age of 89, she presented a copy of this biography to Dr. William A. Taylor, of Portage, who had cared for her parents professionally for many years and who was an honorary pallbearer at her father's funeral in 1927. The late Roy Tongen was also a pallbearer.

The bound booklet is now in the possession of the Columbia County Historical Society. It represents many descriptive pages of the hunger, heat, disease and physical suffering endured by the armies of both North and South during those four years which General William Tecumseh Sherman described so vividly in his immortal words: "There is many a boy here today who looks upon war as all glory, but boys, it is all Hell."

In 1968, the Lindquist home in Rio, fondly and nostalgically named "Camp Lindquist" in memory of the family, came into the possession of the Redeemer Lutheran Church of Rio through Mrs. Bennett's will. It had been occupied since 1955 by Miss Gusta Lastico, a housekeeper and companion for the aging Mrs. Bennett, who herself passed away also in 1968. Much valuable and interesting memorabilia of Civil War days were sold at auction and Camp Lindquist has passed into memory, which only the printed pages can bring to life today.

Young Carl Johan Lindquist (who anglicized his name to Charles John) was confirmed in the Lutheran church in his native Grophenhagen, Sweden, when he was 14 and he left the next day with his parents, one sister and two brothers for the promised land of America. After three months on a sailing vessel, the little family reached New York and eventually Lewiston near Portage, with a small amount of baggage and 33 cents in cash.

Charles worked in a lumber camp at Grand Rapids (now Wisconsin Rapids) and ran the river taking rafts down through the Dells of Wisconsin. One fall the camp foreman provided him with money to buy winter supplies at Portage, and Kilbourn for the camp, but he lacked sufficient funds to buy his fare back by stage. So he walked the entire distance, beating the stage by more than an hour. Later he found farm work near Madison where he met his future wife whom he married there in 1861. The day of his wedding also became the day of his enlistment in the 12th Volunteer Infantry of Wisconsin, which was being mustered at Camp Randall. The young bride took a room near the camp and the next three weeks were her only honeymoon. The soldiers were ordered South and although the few women living close to their menfolk in camp were willing to accompany them and to share or at least try to alleviate their hardships, the Government ordered them to remain in the

North because of the shortage of food. The "Boys in Blue" were about to invade the enemy's country and every ounce of food-stuffs had to be conserved.

Lindquist served four years, marched over 4,000 miles on foot, took part in every battle in which his regiment was assigned. By his own accounting, he took part in 27 maneuvers and engagements including the Siege of Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi, the Battle of Atlanta, Sherman's March to the Sea, and Gen. Johnston's surrender on April 26, 1865 which ended the war.

At the close of the war, he with the remnants of this regiment of poor, thin, emaciated, broken, half-starved and all but naked bunch of men, marched in an unforgettable review before President Lincoln in Washington. His uniform consisted of a shirt with one sleeve, a torn blanket, a pair of battered trousers with one leg off at the knee, no socks or cap, and a pair of Rebel shoes with the toe end cut off because they were too short.

During these four years, the hardships were so intense that the soldiers were prepared to go any length for a small amount of food. Pay was only \$13.00 a month. They foraged off the countryside where they found some vegetables, wild berries and corn. They often resorted to eating mule meat. During one protracted period of hunger, the soldiers routed a wagonload of ripe field corn intended for the mules, but which found their way over campfires as fresh roasting ears before the wagonload reached the corral. The monotony of army rations, poorly prepared, plus the intense heat and a country swept nearly bare of any kind of forage, resulted in dysentery, fever and malaria.

Near Savannah, they were encamped near an irrigation ditch which supplies them with water for the mules, for washing dishes, washing clothes, such as they were, and washing themselves. Finally, they used the ditch water to cook their rice. Naturally, dysentery flourished. It was unbearably hot. Mosquitoes, flies, and vermin were familiar bedfellows. Temperatures ranged from 100 to 120, making mid-day activity almost impossible. The troops contrived coverings for themselves from the burning rays by peeling bark from trees up as far as arms could reach and using the slabs to make covers for bark houses.

Another complication arose in the lines in the form of groups of Negroes who had lost their homes and the paternal protection provided by their masters, many of whom had lost their own homes to flames and devastation. These refugees wandered into camp, not knowing where to go or what to do. They were poor, miserable, dejected, half-naked, illiterate, seeking help from the northern "sojers." The solution to this problem lay in making a separate camp for them and providing as best they could as much food and shelter as could be spared. History has told us that many of these refugees were organized into their own regiments who fought side by side with their white brothers for freedom they eventually won through the Emancipation Proclamation.

Now and then a Rebel soldier appeared in the "no man's land" between the ranks, asking for exchange of food. Frequently Rebel and Feds sat down together over limited rations only to pour shells into each other the next day.

At the close of the war, Lindquist and his wife decided to settle in Rio, where they built their first and only home, at a cost of about \$1500 which he had worked long and hard to save. Their daughter Vernetta, familiarly known as Nettie, was born in 1866. She later married the Rev. Robert C. Bennett of the Congregational Church. A truly more harmonious and affectionate foursome would be hard to find if one is to judge by the reports of townsfolk who knew them well as neighbors and friends.

Charles Lindquist, often called Carl by his family, was countly, considerate, and popular. One of his well-kept secrets throughout his life was that he carried royal blood in his veins. If royal blood shows outwardly, certainly

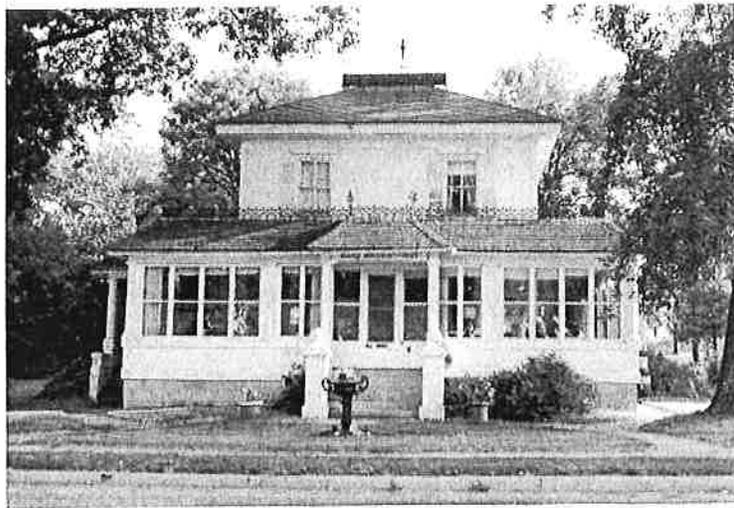
Charles Lindquist's did. He was appointed the Rio postmaster by President McKinley, a post he served for 17 years. He was also associated in business in a general store as well as the drug business. He became an early stockholder in the First National Bank of Rio, a churchman, a Republican all his life (his first vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln) and an ardent American.

But his enduring love was the G.A.R. both in spirit and sentiment, where he was a conspicuous figure until his death. Camp Lindquist is in some small measure a testimonial to his patriotism and loyalty to the land of his adoption.

Camp Lindquist was the name given affectionately to this home in Rio, where returning Civil War veterans could be housed and fed by their generous and gracious owners.

At the time of this newspaper article, the home was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Oehlert. It is still in the Oehlert family.

This story is part of our story, Redeemer's story. This is the family from which we received funds that are the Bennett Investment Fund.



**Camp Landquist
125 West Rio Street**

In God's Service,
Larry Gorman
Council President

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.**

Approved Minutes 12-18-2023

Present: Larry Gorman, Debbie Reiersen, Rick Olson, Steve Gilbert, Dean Roberts, Lynn Bubolz, Kristi Fehrman, Pastor Jack Way.

Late: Barb VonAhsen, excused.

Meeting was called to order by President Larry Gorman at 6:08 p.m.

Approve Agenda

Add under Policy Committee: 6. Bookkeeper Job Description.

Add under New Business: Each had a Discussion item: Lynn Bubolz, Dean Roberts, Pastor Jack Way.

Rick Olson made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Lynn Bubolz. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Devotions were given by Rick Olson. Debbie Reiersen will have devotions for December 18, 2023.

Review/Approve Minutes from: Monday, October 16, 2023 council meeting minutes

Motion was made by Kristi Fehrman to approve the October 16, 2023 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Correspondence and/or Guest Comments: Geri Gorman (policies).

Call Committee Report:

Nothing new.

Consent Agenda (below items approved in one motion)

Financial Reports for:

- a. **General Fund:** Rick Olson
\$1450. needed for October shortfalls. \$38.55 was taken from memorials and \$1411.45 from Bennett Savings. Balance of \$52.59 in checking account. (The checking account also includes the insurance proceeds that have not been spent yet of \$24,261.72. Actual checkbook balance end of October is \$24,314.31.)
- b. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** Rick Olson
See report. Balance about the same (includes a CD).
- c. **Memorial Fund:** Rick Olson
See report. Larry Gorman said that the Memorial Fund Fellowship Improvements fund is no longer needed.
Dean Roberts made a motion to move what is left in the memorial Fellowship Improvements fund to the General Fund. Lynn Bubolz seconded the motion. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Standing Committee Reports for September 2023:

- d. **Property** – Dean Roberts – Written report.
- e. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen – Not meeting.

- f. **Social Concerns** – Lynn Bubolz – Not meeting.
- g. **Outreach** – Steve Gilbert – Not meeting.
- h. **Stewardship** – Rick Olson – An updated budget for 2024 was presented.
- i. **Lay Ministry** – Barb VonAhsen – Not meeting.
- j. **Education** – Debbie Reiersen – Sprouts are getting ready for their Christmas program on Sunday, December 10, 2023 which takes the place of the sermon. There will be readings and songs.
- k. **Worship team** – Kristi Fehrman – Everything is planned out for December. Sunday, December 10 – Sprouts. Music Sunday – Dec. 17. Sunday, December 24 - Christmas eve, will be a service at 4:00 p.m. only. No morning service. Sunday, Dec. 31 will be lessons and carols.

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to approve Consent Agenda a. through k.: financial and standing committee reports. Seconded by Debbie Reiersen. Motion carried. All were in favor.

l. Policy Committee – Steve Gilbert

Steve and Geri Gorman presented several items for council approval. They are:

- Organist
- Senior Choir Director
- Senior Choir Accompanist
- Handbell Choir Director
- Music Director
- Administrative Assistant
- Bookkeeper Job Description

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to approve policy/job description updates as presented by the Policy Committee. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Staff Reports:

a. Pastor's Report:

Pastor Jack Way gave a verbal report.

- December 10 – Sprouts Service
- December 17 – Music Sunday
- December 24 – One service only at 4:00 p.m.
- December 31 – Lessons and carols
- Bonnet Prairie Pastor Yvonne Marshall is retiring the end of November 2023.
- Attended synod meeting which spoke to different ways to share a Pastor, merger, consolidation, etc.
- Funeral for Sally Hohlstein
- Met with Policy Committee, Worship team, sermon prep, interim meeting with area churches via zoom, stewardship information, met with Sprouts, met with Larry Gorman about council agenda.
- RACA Thanksgiving money goes into RACA funds for area needs – gas cards, heat, rent, etc.
- Bob Risgaard will give sermon on the Rio Food Pantry, Sunday, November 26. We are asked to bring food for the pantry. A list of needs was made available.

Motion was made by Rick Olson to accept Pastor Jack Way's report. Seconded by Lynn Bubolz. Motion carried. All were in favor.

- b. **Other Staff Members:**
None.

Master Calendar: Review attached Calendar for future events on the bottom of Agenda.

Old Business:

- a. **Portable Microphones**
Table to December.
- b. **Pictorial Directory (Tabled)**
- c. **Ham/Chicken Giveaway Nov. 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**
Went fairly well. Close to \$700. was spent for 30 chickens and 30 hams. There were a few left, which were donated to the Rio Food Pantry.
- d. **Staff Reviews**
All Staff reviews have been done and the review and job descriptions have been given to Beth Laufenberg, bookkeeper, to put in their personnel files.
- e. **Proposed Spending Plan for 2024**
The Electrical Service Upgrade proposed amount will be removed and a revised budget will be presented in December.
- f. **By-Law Change on Annual Meeting Date**
The proposed by-law change in regard to a change in the Annual Meeting Date will be voted on at the January 2024 Annual Meeting. The council motioned and seconded at our October 16, 2023 meeting to accept proposed changes to the Bylaw. The congregation needs to be notified 60 days before the Annual Meeting about the Bylaw change, in regard to when our annual meeting could be held, in order for it to be voted on at the January 2024 Annual Meeting for approval.

New Business:

- 1. **Pastor's Contract**
Pastor's six month interim contract was discussed for January 2024 to June 2024. A new contract will be drafted for Pastor Jack to sign for another six month interim contract. A motion was made by Dean Roberts to accept the proposed contract for Pastor Jack Way. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. Motion carried. All were in favor.
- 2. **December Meeting Date**
The December Council Meeting Date will be Monday, December 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- 3. **Auditors – Lola Bortz and Austin Dahnke**
Scheduled for Monday, January 15, 2024.
- 4. **Approve New Counter –**
Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to approve Judy Sandberg as a new church counter. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. Motion carried. All were in favor.
- 5. Lynn Bubolz shared some concerns expressed by church members. More information is needed.
- 6. Dean Roberts shared a discussion he had with a member of Bonnet Prairie in regard to sharing a Pastor.

Thanksgivings:

- Thanks to everyone who secured and distributed the chicken and ham giveaway.
- Thankful for Council members.

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion was made by Lynn Bubolz to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. Motion carried.

Dates to Remember:

- Ecumenical (RACA) Thanksgiving Eve Service at Redeemer – November 22, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 10, 2023 – Sprouts – Readings and songs for sermon
- Music Sunday, December 17, 2023 – Sprouts, Choir, Bells
- Council Meeting, Monday, December 18, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve Service only – 4:00 p.m.

Debbie Reiersen, Council Secretary

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2023**

Approved Minutes 12-18-2023

An email motion was made by Kristi Fehrman to hold a special congregational meeting after church sometime in February 2024 in regard to the proposed By-Law Change regarding Annual Meeting Date. Seconded by Rick Olson. Motion carried.

The congregation must be notified 60 days before the Annual Meeting to consider this By-Law change. The deadline to notify the congregation did not happen in time for the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024.

Email vote responses are as follows:

Barb Von Ahsen – yes

Debbie Reiersen – yes

Rick Olson – yes

Steve Gilbert – yes

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.**

Approved Minutes – 1-15-2024

Present: Larry Gorman, Barb VonAhsen, Debbie Reiersen, Rick Olson, Steve Gilbert, Dean Roberts, Kristi Fehrman, Pastor Jack Way.

Absent: Lynn Bubolz, excused.

Meeting was called to order by President Larry Gorman at 6:00 p.m.

Approve Agenda

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to approve the agenda. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman, Motion carried. All were in favor.

Devotions were given by Debbie Reiersen. Barb VonAhsen will have devotions for January 15, 2024.

Review/Approve Minutes from: Monday, November 20, 2023 council meeting minutes and December 8, 2023 electronic minutes.

Motion was made by Pastor Jack Way to approve the November 20, 2023 council meeting minutes. Seconded by Dean Roberts. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to approve the December 8, 2023 electronic/email minutes. Seconded by Rick Olson. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Correspondence and/or Guest Comments:

Kristi Fehrman received a card from Ken Youra whose wife, Patti Youra, passed away recently. He gave a donation to Redeemer in memory of Patti.

Call Committee Report:

The Call Committee has received a candidate profile and will begin interviewing in early January. The Call Committee requests prayers for them and the candidate as they engage in the next step of the process.

Consent Agenda (below items approved in one motion)

Financial Reports for:

m. **General Fund:** Rick Olson

There was a shortfall in November. \$500 was transferred to cover the shortfall. \$105 from Memorial Fund and \$395 from the Bennett savings account.

There is a \$10,000. CD coming due from part of the Hinzman money from the general savings account on January 16, 2024.

Motion was made by Rick Olson to put this money into a 7 month CD at 5.25% with Farmer's and Merchant's Union Bank. Seconded by Dean Roberts. Motion carried. All were in favor. Authorized signers would remain the same for now.

n. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** Rick Olson

See report. Balance about the same (includes a CD).

o. **Memorial Fund:** Rick Olson

See report.

Standing Committee Reports for September 2023:

p. **Property** – Dean Roberts – Written report. The steeple and siding work is done. There are some questions remaining and they will be talking to the contractor.

q. **WELCA** – Debbie Reiersen – Not meeting.

r. **Social Concerns** – Lynn Bubolz – Not meeting.

s. **Outreach** – Steve Gilbert – Not meeting. Money from Outreach will be used to pay for the chicken and hams that were given away.

t. **Stewardship** – Rick Olson – An updated budget for 2024 was presented.

- u. **Lay Ministry** – Barb VonAhsen – Not meeting.
- v. **Education** – Debbie Reiersen – Sprouts (and assistants) gave the message telling the Christmas Story at the Sun., Dec. 10, 2023 service during sermon time. They will meet Wed., Dec. 20th for a fun night. Then continue meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.
- w. **Worship team** – Kristi Fehrman – January worship is planned out. January 7, 2024 will be organist/pianist, Claudine Hanson's, last Sunday at Redeemer. We plan to honor her with a cake and gift, etc. during the service and fellowship that morning.
- x. **Policy Committee** – Steve Gilbert – Did not meet.

Motion was made by Debbie Reiersen to approve Consent Agenda a. through l.: financial and standing committee reports. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. Motion carried. All were in favor.

Staff Reports:

c. Pastor's Report:

Pastor Jack Way gave a verbal report.

- One of our members is having trouble hearing in church. He talked to Pastor about this and they tried to see if our sound system could be linked to his hearing aids, but the church microphones don't connect to his phone.
- Sheri Kranz from the nominating committee talked to Pastor Jack Way about nominations for council.
- Pastor Jack will be on vacation from Christmas Eve until after New Year's.

Motion was made by Rick Olson to accept Pastor Jack Way's report. Seconded by Dean Roberts. Motion carried. All were in favor.

d. Other Staff Members:

None.

Master Calendar: Review attached Calendar for future events on the bottom of Agenda.

Old Business:

a. Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is continuing their work on filling council positions for 2024.

g. Pastor's Contract

The Pastor's contract for January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024 has been sent to the synod for the ELCA Bishop's signature.

h. Portable Microphones

Discussion about purchasing 2 handheld microphones. It was felt that we should purchase 2 handheld microphones from Audio Contractors who will update the system and install what is necessary for them and they would be warranted by them. Our current system was installed by Audio Contractors.

A motion was made by Kristi Fehrman to purchase 2 handheld wireless microphones from Audio Contractors which includes rack mount and to have Audio Contractors install them to be paid out of remaining funds that were previously approved for the sound system. Seconded by Steve Gilbert. All were in favor.

i. Pictorial Directory (Tabled)

New Business:

a. Organist and Sr. Choir Pianist Positions

The proposed 2024 budget reflects an organist salary of \$120. per service. There are 62 services a year. If anyone knows of someone who could replace these two positions, please let council know.

b. Audit (Lola Bortz and Austin Dahnke)

The Audit Committee will meet with Bookkeeper, Beth Laufenberg, on Monday, January 15, 2024 at a time to be determined.

c. Discuss date for Special Congregational meeting regarding bylaw change for annual meeting date.

Congregation needs 60 days notice. Therefore, a February date will be determined.

d. Spending plan for 2024.

A motion was made by Rick Olson to approve the 2024 spending plan. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. Motion carried. All were in favor.

j. Annual Meeting

Everyone should be sure to get their reports in to Kristi Fehrman for the Annual Meeting Booklet as soon as possible. The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024 after church.

Thanksgivings:

- Thank you to the Sprouts and Assistants for their wonderful participation in the Sun., Dec. 10, 2023 service.
- Thank you to all our musicians, Choir, Bells, Sprouts, special music, Director, Pianist, Organist, for a wonderful Christmas Music Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023.
- Pastor Jack Way would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts from the congregation at Christmas time.

Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion was made by Steve Gilbert to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Seconded by Debbie Reiersen. Motion carried.

Dates to Remember:

- Sunday, December 24, 2023, Christmas Eve Service only, 4:00 p.m.
- Council Meeting, Monday, January 15, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 28, 2024 – Annual Meeting after church

Debbie Reiersen, Council Secretary

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH E-MAIL MINUTES

JANUARY 3, 2024

Approved Email Minutes 1-15-2024

An email motion was made by Lynn Bubolz to pay Kristi Fehrman \$75.00 for organist/pianist Claudine Hanson's quilt gift for her retirement. Seconded by Rick Olson. Motion carried.

The gift was presented to Claudine Hanson at the church service on Sunday, January 7, 2024 with thanks for her many years of service to Redeemer. A fellowship reception was held for her after church.

Email vote responses are as follows:

- Barb Von Ahsen – yes
- Debbie Reiersen – yes
- Rick Olson – yes
- Steve Gilbert – yes
- Lynn Bubolz – yes
- Dean Roberts – yes

Debbie Reiersen
Council Secretary

2024 Election of Council Members

The following individuals were elected to serve on the 2024 Redeemer Church Council:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>LENGTH OF TERM</u>
PRESIDENT	Beth Laufenberg	2 Years
VICE-PRESIDENT	Barb VonAhsen	1 Year
SECRETARY	Debbie Reiersen	2 Years
TREASURER	Nancy Washington	1 Year
TRUSTEE	Steve Gilbert	2 Years
TRUSTEE	Renee Miles	2 Years
Bennett Trust Secretary	Bob Risgaard	1 Year
Memorial Secretary	Geri Gorman	1 Year
 NOMINATING COMMITTEE		
	Pam Jaynes	1 Year
	Kristi Falk	1 Year
	Larry Gorman	1 Year

Note: Dean Roberts and Kristi Fehrman will be serving their second year as trustees and do not need to be elected.

January Birthdays

Kelsey Wismar	January 2
Bob Adams	January 7
Donna Kearney	January 15
Kathy Johnson	January 13
Debbie Reiersen	January 19
Ben Wismar	January 22
David Hinzman	January 23
Kristie Falk	January 24
Marilyn Rowley	January 29

January Anniversaries

Tom & Gayle Krueger	January 16
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February Birthdays

Sandy Brewer	February 5
Barb Nelson	February 7
Cooper Husom	February 12
Lauri Porter	February 12
Valerie Way	February 15
Lynn Bubolz	February 17
Kurt Johnson	February 18
Kelly Falk	February 20
Timothy Jaynes	February 25

February Anniversaries

Norm & Donna Kearney	February 6
Don & Nancy Washington	February 16
Spencer & Nancy Wescott	February 27

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 2024 high school graduate? The **Redeemer General Scholarship** may be for you. Application deadline is April 1. Did you receive this scholarship in 2023? By completing the application again, you may be qualified to receive a second year scholarship.
- Planning on attending a Lutheran college? Be sure to ask about the **Bennett Trust Scholarship**. Forms are available in the Redeemer Office.
- Are you a Rio High School alumnus, or will you be a 2024 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.

Call Committee Corner

The call committee is excited to share that we have begun the interview process with a pastoral candidate. We ask that you pray for the call committee and the pastor as we discern what ministry would look like together.

Call Committee Members:

Beth Laufenberg
Austin Dahnke
Bob Risgaard
Bob Skare

Darlene Cutsforth
Judy Sandberg
Trish McNeill
Pam Jaynes (alternate)

Submitted by Beth Laufenberg

FINANCIAL UPDATE

December 2023 Financial Report

Financial information is being provided for transparency purposes by the Bookkeeper.

	Actual		Spending Plan (Budget)	
	December 2023	Year-to-Date 2023	Monthly 2023	Year-to-Date 2023
Beginning Checking Balance:	\$50.07	\$467.45	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sources of Funds:				
Offering:	\$10,914.24	\$96,030.81	\$11,093.75	\$133,125.00
Bennett Investment Savings:	\$0.00	\$1,768.77	\$195.83	\$2,350.00
General Savings:	\$1,761.54	\$38,687.35	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorial Savings:	\$500.00	\$2,240.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other:	\$0.00	\$30,680.45	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$13,175.78	\$169,407.38	\$11,289.58	\$135,475.00
Expenses:	\$12,937.25	\$180,686.23	\$11,289.58	\$135,475.00
Shortfall/Surplus:	\$238.53	-\$10,811.40	\$0.00	\$0.00
To Cover Shortfalls:				
Memorial Savings:	\$0.00	\$8,339.78	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bennett Investment Savings:	\$0.00	\$2,760.22	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$0.00	\$11,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending Checking Balance:	\$288.60	\$288.60	\$0.00	\$0.00

Assets

1.000.2000	F&M General Fund Checking Account	288.60
1.000.4000	ELCA Mission Investment Fund	4,061.61
1.000.5000	F & M Business Savings Account	83,939.73
1.000.6000	Redeemer Lutheran Memorial Fund	16,106.34
1.955.0000	Bennett Investment Savings Fund	28,467.86
	Total Assets	\$132,864.14

**Contact the Bennett Investment Fund Treasurer for more information about the US Bank investment account not included above.*

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 Pastor available By appointment 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	2 Pastor's Sabbath Day
4 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	5 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon	6 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 - 3:30	7 6-7:00 Sprouts	8 Pastor available By appointment 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	9 Pastor's Sabbath Day
11 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	12 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon	13 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 - 3:30	14 Ash Wednesday Drive-up Ash Imposition: 11-1 pm/4-6 pm Worship at 7:00 pm	15 Pastor available By appointment 10:30 Worship at Covenant Place 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	16 Pastor's Sabbath Day
18 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	19 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon Council Meeting 6:00	20 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 - 3:30 <i>Newsletter Articles Due for March</i>	21 6-6:45 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship 6-7:00 Sprouts	22 Pastor available By appointment 7:00 pm- AA Meeting	23 Pastor's Sabbath Day
25 9:00 Worship Facebook, YouTube FM 101.7	26 Pastor's Office Hours: 9:30 - Noon	27 Pastor's Office Hours: 1:00 - 3:30	28 6-6:45 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship		