



Redeemer Lutheran Church

# Crossroads

May 2023

## Council Proposes New Electronic Sign

After more than two years of thinking, planning, discussing, and exploring options, in April the Redeemer Church Council decided the time has come to make a proposal to the congregation for a new electronic sign. Council is still working out some details regarding design, source of funds, and some other issues, but has scheduled a special meeting of the Church Council in early May to finalize those details before calling a congregational meeting. The anticipated cost of a sign is around \$50,000.

Our current sign has been in need of repair for some time. The top cabinet has needed repair several times and is barely hanging together at this point. The brick work has some things wrong with it too.



By far the most significant need involves the message board. The message board that we currently have is difficult to read at 40 mph on St. Andrews Road, and limits the messages that we can put out to our community. As we more and more become a church that is inviting our community to our events, the electronic capability will allow us to use creativity and flexibility as well as the ability to get several messages out rather than just one static message.

Council will meet in early May to finalize the proposal and then call a congregational meeting probably in late May or early June. Please watch for more information about this proposal and give thought to how this sign will help us tell our story, increase our mission, and invite our community to be part of the special thing God is doing among us.

### Instant Church Directory: Remember to Upload Your Picture

If you've already signed up for the Instant Church Directory and uploaded your information, please add your picture to make this directory the most helpful. Only our church members can see it. Contact Pastor Amanda for help.

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Recently, the Thursday Bible Study I lead here at the church has been looking at the short New Testament book of 1 John. We just finished a long study of Genesis, which was full of stories and narrative, and 1 John is a bit different from that. It's a letter that John wrote to one of his churches, encouraging them not to be led astray by false preaching and also to live in love for one another. Although the book is short, we've had some very interesting and profound discussions already.

In one recent class, John was urging his readers to "abide in Christ Jesus." So, I asked the class, "What do you think that means? What does it mean to 'abide in Jesus?'"

Quite a discussion followed. There were some initial comments that mentioned living like Christ wants us to, caring for others, living life as a servant. Those are great answers.

Then someone said, "When I think of abiding in Christ, I think of rest." And so we started to discuss that idea, thinking about leaning back into Jesus' arms, trusting, safe, secure, and loved. We talked about trust and how



if we abided in Christ we wouldn't have to worry or be filled with fears and anxiety. We'd have that peace that surpasses all understanding. What a gift that is!

So then we began to talk about the sense of the word 'abide' meaning 'to dwell.' I shared with the class that in the early days of the Old Testament, as the people wandered about with the ark of the covenant, whenever they stopped at a certain place for a while, they put up a tent as a worship center. Later, they built the Temple, but early on, the ark was kept in a tent. That



tent was called a tabernacle, and it literally meant, 'place of dwelling.' In other words, this sanctuary in their midst was the place where God dwelled with them: never far from them, always right in their midst. In fact, even today in Roman Catholic churches, they save the leftover communion elements in a box on the wall near the altar,

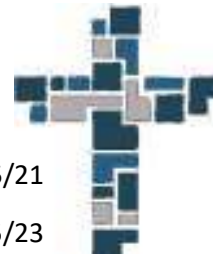
and that box is called the tabernacle — the place where God dwells.

Maybe 'abiding in Christ Jesus' has something to do with that: with having God close by and right in the midst of us. Maybe it means to be constantly reminded that God is with us and to make every effort to make sure we are with God. Life with God: maybe that's what 'abiding in Christ Jesus' means.

Typically I offer this Bible Study twice each Thursday. I offer it in the morning for those who don't like to come out at night, and I offer it in the evening for those who work or who prefer to come then. We cover the same material in both classes, Sometimes I can take ideas from the morning class to the evening one, enriching our discussion. But also, by the time the evening comes, I've been thinking about what we are talking about all day, and sometimes something surfaces in the evening class that I didn't think of in the morning class.

So, as we were talking about 'abiding in Christ Jesus' that Thursday evening, I suddenly found myself saying, "What if it's this?" I held out my left hand. "On one side we have who we really are." Then I held out my right hand, "On the other side, we've got who we are supposed to be, who God would have us be." Then I moved my hands so that one was on top of the other. "What if abiding in Christ Jesus is when who we are supposed to be and who we are become the same thing?"

This Easter season, rejoice in the risen Christ! Abide in him.



Nancy Amundson	5/1
Valerie Marshall	5/1
Sammy Mathias	5/1
David Abel	5/2
Dwayne Schumpert	5/3
Erna Aderholdt	5/6
Dan Lowe	5/6
Mary Roddey	5/7
Mabel Trexler	5/7
Kyle Bedenbaugh	5/8
Brenda Brunson	5/8
Ethel Stillabower	5/9
Lynn Davis	5/10
Leanne Lagroon	5/10



Jerry Martin	5/11
Helen Sands	5/11
Tarika Burke	5/14
Helen Kitko	5/14
Hayden Hennessy	5/16
Paul Bodie	5/17
James Mingus	5/19
Cornelia Collins	5/20

Ryan Epting	5/21
Nicholas Comfort	5/23
Thomas Suydam	5/23
Michael Bedenbaugh	5/24
Kayla Audette	5/25
Alan Davis	5/25
Karma Fazzio	5/26
Ryleigh Knight	5/27
Josephine May	5/27
James Epting III	5/29
Bryan Jehlen	5/30
Andie Lowe	5/30

***Women of the ELCA (WELCA)***

**Opinions Needed!**

Whether you are familiar with the Women of the ELCA or not (*ESPECIALLY NOT*), please go to the link below. Give us 5 minutes to know why you do or do not participate in that organization.

Help us to learn what Lutheran women need and want to help them grow in faith, support one another, and engage in ministry and action.

Our survey is short and will only take a couple minutes. We need to hear from YOU!

Please share this link with other members of your congregation, especially if they are not involved in your WELCA unit.

Your church does not have a WELCA unit? All the more reason to take this survey. We are here to serve you! Help us, help you!

[https://www.scwelca.com/files/ugd/e0e406\\_f1188d0e77a54fffb38f7ced6678671b.pdf](https://www.scwelca.com/files/ugd/e0e406_f1188d0e77a54fffb38f7ced6678671b.pdf)



**In Appreciation**

Each month the Church Council recognizes and thanks those among us who have offered themselves to the work of the church in special ways. This month the council appreciated:

Those who decorated our sanctuary for Easter, and in particular, Juanita Wilson for the High Altar, and Alma Schultz who guided the placement of lilies and decorated the torches,

All our vocal and instrumental musicians for their hard work in presenting such inspirational music as we celebrated Easter, and to

Martha Summer, Annie Liss, Michelle Knight, and Jessica Yamin who teach our children's Sunday School class.



## Fund It or Fix It

The Redeemer Family is working to keep our building and property in good condition. So many in the Redeemer Family ask, "How can we help?" Here is an opportunity! A "Fund it or Fix it" list is being compiled. There are multiple opportunities to participate in this...

1. If you see something around the church building let us know. Contact Pastor Amanda with the issue, location, and contact person for more information about it.
2. If you are the handy type that could address an item on the list contact the individual and take care of the issue.
3. If you are interested in funding the repair or the fix contact the individual and work out a solution.

When a task is completed be sure to let Pastor Amanda know so that we can keep our list updated! This past month we had mulch provided for the courtyard! Thank you!

Here are the projects that are currently on the list and who to contact...

Help youth paint a youth room (talk with Pastor Amanda)

New woodchips for the playground (talk with Pastor Gary)

Plant azaleas in the courtyard (talk with Pat Blackwell)

Replace lock on the outside choir room door (talk with Janet Boatwright) (Fund it only)

Paint green wall on the end of fellowship hall (talk with Janet Boatwright)



## More Information about the Instant Church Directory

We continue to slowly roll out the Instant Church Directory. One of the best parts is that you are able to add and update your own information. Pastor Amanda continues to meet with groups in the congregation to help set things up. If you haven't had the opportunity yet and are ready to get started feel free to contact Pastor Amanda. If this makes you worry about how it all works, don't fret. Like the other pieces of technology we've begun to use, plenty of people will gladly help you access and learn to use it.



Look for more information to come and feel free to ask questions!

## Where Have You Seen God?

In the last month, the Redeemer Family has seen God present in the beauty of the dogwood trees.

Our community has also felt God's love in the stunning sunrise and in all of nature that surrounds us.

God's love has also been seen through the care of a friend who is struggling with illness.

Where have you felt God's love lately? Where do you see God in the world around you?







## Thank you, Redeemer Musicians The Easter Music was beautiful!

I know it seems I say this every Easter and every Christmas Eve; but I just can't let it go unsaid how very much we appreciate the hard work and dedication of our Redeemer musicians (don't miss Miss Edith's article on this topic elsewhere in the issue! She's a feisty one, she is!)

Let me begin by saying what a wonderful Choir we have here at Redeemer. If you aren't aware, let me fill you in on something. This season our choir was truly riddled with illness, injury, emergencies, births, deaths, and other issues that made it quite difficult or impossible for us to have fully attended rehearsals. So we did our best to forge ahead.



Recognizing we were approaching Holy Week and Easter we knew we had to make some extraordinary adjustments. So we had extra rehearsals, listened and studied individually, took advantage of on-line recordings and learned the music every way we could think of. Some choir members came in individually, some in small groups to master the music.

And we did!

Beautiful job, choir. Your dedication is remarkable, and your service is truly appreciated.

Likewise, our Handbell Choir dealt with their own challenges, practicing in less-than-ideal situations. But they, too, took their commitment seriously and worked diligently to prepare Holy Week and Easter music. They played beautifully and added so much to our observance of these Holy Days.

A big heart-felt thank you to our instrumental musicians: Bailey Walker, trumpet; Bryce Yamin, trombone, and Jason Roddey, saxophone.

And certainly, a sincere thank you to our music associate, Lois McLeod. What did we do before Lois? Lois is, simply put, one of the best accompanists around, and her organ playing is superb, but what makes Lois so special is her genuine love for people and her tireless willingness to work and serve. We are blessed to have Lois.

And, we are blessed to have all these wonderful musicians.

Thank you all!

Jim



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SERIES AT MCGREGOR

# Elder Fraud

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

MCGREGOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
6505 ST. ANDREWS RD  
COLUMBIA, SC

The FBI Columbia Office is continuing their Elder Fraud Initiative in 2023. This initiative, which launched last year, is designed to provide South Carolina's senior population with presentations on the many forms of financial fraud that are geared to target them.

During this presentation, trained FBI personnel will provide information on various fraud schemes, including romance, lottery and sweepstakes scams, to name a few.

**PRESENTERS:**

**FBI SPECIAL AGENT MARK MCMAHON**  
**FBI OCT ROBERT PRICE**

**This workshop is open to the public.**  
**There is no admission fee.**

THE WORKSHOP SERIES IS BEING OFFERED BY MCGREGOR  
PRESBYTERIAN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON TOPICS OF INTEREST  
TO OUR COMMUNITY.

## Ask Miss Edith:

Dear Miss Edith,

I attended the Easter Sunday service this past Sunday. It was a very nice service!



I particularly enjoyed the musicians who performed. The brass players added so much to the festive spirit. The violinist's offertory was splendid, and, that boy who played the accordion—who knew? I'm so glad to have musicians for these festive services. They added so much to the Easter celebration. I might even consider coming to some more services. Can you tell me when you plan on having musicians in future services?

Dear Gentle Reader,

Miss Edith humbly acknowledges your kind words. We certainly appreciate hearing positive comments from

those who find our services meaningful. We put many hours into preparing our music, and it is very fulfilling to know our work has not been in vain.

However, Miss Edith would be remiss in her duties if she were not to correct a bit of misguided thinking on the kind reader's part.

All those who make music are musicians, this begins with those who weekly prepared anthems, hymns, and special music—your choir.

Please know that singers ARE musicians.

Further, Miss Edith will gently admonish the esteemed reader: church attendance is more than a Christmas/Easter event. Worshiping regularly feeds the soul and strengthens the spirit.

Miss Edith looks forward to seeing you regularly at worship.



# Quick Questions

with Pastor Amanda

Redeemer's Sunday morning communication cards invite everyone to write a question they have about faith or about God. Everyone is welcome to submit questions. Each month, I'll try to answer one of them in my newsletter article. This month's question...

Why do we turn away from church when life brings us turmoil?

I appreciate the honesty that leads to the question for this month. It has two sides to it. People handle turmoil differently. When life gets messy, hard, and complicated some people find themselves comforted by engaging with the church and their church family. This response is normal and valid. When life gets messy, hard, and complicated some people find themselves pulling back from church involvement and their church family. This response is normal and valid.

Each of us handle stress and difficulty in our own way. The type of turmoil we experience, our varied personalities, and our relationship with the church will all factor into our patterns of faith. At times the multiple angles of turmoil we experience leave us exhausted. If it is a crisis situation, we may be working to survive each day and often we have no energy left in order to reach out to others. I have heard from people, after the death of a loved one, that it is challenging to come back to worship and church activities. This is especially true if that loved one attended church with you regularly. In other situations, people tire of all the well-meaning questions. If the turmoil involves someone needing help with substance abuse, domestic violence, or mental health care there might be an element of shame or embarrassment.

The most important piece of this centers around, not the church, but our relationship with God. Regardless of how we reach out or distance ourselves from the church in times of need, God never turns away from us. We may feel like God is far away, but in reality God is with us through every bit of difficulty and turmoil in our lives.

Because God can and does work through other people, I hope that the Redeemer church family notices when people pull away. Beyond just noticing, I pray that our church family can be one that is willing to sit in the turmoil with each other. Being a compassionate presence, holding space for another's challenges, and shining a light in the darkness can make all the difference to someone in turmoil. Let us be community. Let us care for one another. Let us share God's love, grace, and mercy.

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Amanda



## Council Discusses New Church Sign

For several years now, the Church Council has been thinking about and exploring the possibility of a new sign for our church. Originally, the sign project was combined with the parking lot project, and the parking lot took precedence. Once that was complete, Council chose to take up the sign again. Last Fall, the Council delayed proposing a sign until this Spring.

In April, the Council placed the sign on the agenda again and undertook a long and serious discussion. The current Redeemer sign is in need of repair, and many have observed that the messages on our board are difficult to read at 40 mph and limit the information we can share with our community. For those reasons, the Council voted to pursue an electronic sign and to completely replace our current sign.

This decision will require congregational approval, so the Council anticipates a congregational meeting sometime in May. The Council further set an extra meeting in early May to finalize the proposal for design, technical details, and how we pay for this new sign (probably about \$50,000). Watch for more information as it becomes available.

In further items of business, Pastor Gary informed the Council that our voting members to Synod Assembly this year will be Mike Parker, Martie Newmyer, Earl Wells and Linda Wells. Kai Jorgensen will also attend as a voting member whose primary language is other than English. In addition, Bill Newmyer will be there as a member of Synod Council, and Rev. Emily Hartmann will also be there as a member of Synod staff.

Pastor Gary also reported that the HVAC unit needed for the preschool wing has arrived and the bid for installation was about \$7500. Council approved the installation.

Ongoing items of discussion for the Church council include reflections and action on the Five Year Strategy Plan that came out of a Council retreat earlier this year, the rollout for the Instant Church Directory (an online directory available to church members) and exploration of some new church management software.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Gary and the sharing of the peace.



- Recommends new sign to the congregation; details still being worked out
- Voting members to Synod Assembly chosen
- HVAC Unit to be installed

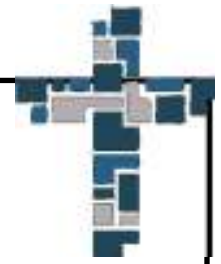
### By the Numbers

	<u>June</u> <u>YTD 2019</u>	<u>June</u> <u>YTD 2018</u>	<u>June</u> <u>YTD 2017</u>
Total income	277,225	262,550	269,266
Total expenses	253,760	274,597	280,098
Income less expense	<u>\$ 23,465</u>	<u>\$ (12,047)</u>	<u>\$ (10,832)</u>
Balance on mortgage loan	\$ 209,101	\$ 252,853	\$ 292,308
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 147,142	\$ 68,979	\$ 18,377
Attendance	183	179	180



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>30</p> <p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:30am - Handbell Choir</p> <p>2pm - Book Study @</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @</p> <p>5:30pm - Bedtime Bible</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30am - Growing</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6pm - Private Event @</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Worship &amp;</p> <p>11:30am - 0-K Youth</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9am - Gardendale Garden</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @</p> <p>2pm - Ruth Circle @ back</p> <p>4pm - Finance Committee</p> <p>5:30pm - Bedtime Bible</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6pm - Private Event @</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11am - Private Event @</p> <p>11:30am - Handbell Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @</p> <p>5:30pm - Bedtime Bible</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30am - Growing</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>12pm - Leisure Timers @</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6pm - Private Event @</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:30am - Handbell Choir</p> <p>2pm - Book Study @</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @</p> <p>5:30pm - Bedtime Bible</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6pm - Private Event @</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Community</p> <p>11:30am - Handbell Choir</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @</p> <p>5:30pm - Bedtime Bible</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6pm - Private Event @</p>	<p>3</p>

# RELU YOUTH



## Redeemer Youth Calendar

Always subject to change!

Sundays—Faith Launch

3yo-2nd, 3rd-6th

May 4—6th-12th Grade Game Night

May 7—0-K Youth Group

May 7—K-5th Youth Group

May 10 or 11—6th-8th Small Group

May 17 or 18—8th-12th Small Group

June 16-18—SCLCY Convention (6th-12th)

June 26-30—Camp HUGG, 8th-12th grades

July 7-16—HS/MS Service Learning Trips

July 31-Aug 4—Music Camp!!!

July 13-16, 2024—ELCA Multicultural

Youth Leadership Event

(current 7th-11th grades)

July 16-20, 2024—ELCA Youth

Gathering

