



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

June 2023

Congregational Meeting to Consider New Electronic Sign Set for July 23

We have talked about it for a long time. A few years ago, the need for a new roof took precedence, and then last year, the priority became the parking lot. At long last, the Council is ready to bring a proposal for a new electronic sign to the congregation for consideration in a Congregational meeting following worship on July 23.

In 2015, we had a mold issue behind the front wall of the sanctuary, and as we looked at that repair, we asked, "Why not put back what we would like instead of just replacing what was there?" We are in a similar situation with the sign. As our current sign has aged, we have reached a point where repairs are needed, especially to the top, and so the time has come to do something, and a new electronic sign will be a new face to our community and allow us to reach out into our community with information about our congregation.



The current message board on our sign has served us well, but it is also very limiting. Not only can the messages be difficult to read at 40mph as you go down St. Andrews Rd., but it can also make us appear to be stuck in the past. Changing the sign is a significant undertaking, allowing us only one message a week. An electronic message board can offer us much more flexibility and a variety of ways to communicate with our community. The message board will offer attractive messages, and dims during the hours of darkness so it isn't too bright for drivers or our neighbors in the apartments.

The cost of the sign is approximately \$48,000 including the removal of our old sign. There are some additional expenses to get electricity to the area as well. The Council is proposing that we pay for the sign by combining two funding areas. First, you may remember that when we undertook the parking lot, we borrowed from our cash reserves to pay for it, promising to pay ourselves back and replace that money. We have done that, and have also accrued about \$26,000 in a property contingency fund by continuing to set aside our regular mortgage payment, even though the mortgage was paid off last year. For the second half of the money, Council is proposing using the remainder of the Edna Corley bequest. This bequest was made to our congregation about 20 years ago, and the unrestricted money has been used up for a while. **Continued on page 4.**

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What is it about Redeemer?

Not too long ago, I was visiting with someone relatively new to our family of faith who commented to me that even though she had been part of numerous churches throughout her life, she had never experienced the sense of love in a church that she found at Redeemer.

Then, just last week, someone told me that in their experience, liturgical churches typically exuded an air of “what can you do for the church,” but that’s not what they found here at Redeemer. Here, they said, they found a family of faith that was concerned for and about each other, and about being present in our community and making a difference.

What is it about Redeemer?

The pandemic has eased enough that we were able to have a reception following Susan Lorick’s funeral, and whenever one of those after-funeral receptions happens, I hear from our church members over and over again how their friends who are not part of our congregation comment repeatedly on the reception and the incredible outpouring of love that represents.

On a recent Sunday during the announcements, Pastor Amanda was talking about the need for some funds to pay for providing a book for each of the students at Seven Oaks Elementary to have their own book over the summer. This project is an outgrowth of the S.A.V.E. initiative we have begun (S.A.V.E. stands for St. Andrews Visioning Event where we provide a forum for as many churches in our community to come together to look at the needs of our community, how we are meeting those needs, how we can cooperate, explore what we are missing, and how we can make a difference in our community). At the last meeting, we perceived that if a child is given a book as their own, they are likely to take pride in it and be encouraged to read it. Reading is a step to improved education and better life outcomes. So if we want to make a difference in our community, this is a small step — a place to start. As Pastor Amanda was



making that announcement, I was standing in the back beside Emily Hartmann (Assistant to the Bishop) who said to me, “We’d like to tell this story at the Synod Assembly.” If that works out, it would mark two years in a row. Last year, they told the story of the children carrying the wooden processional cross. In being who we are, Redeemer is setting an example for other congregations.

What is it about Redeemer?

Pastor Amanda and I never tire of trying to tell you what a special place and family of faith this is. I think in several ways, it’s hard for you to realize this. You don’t regularly hear from other congregations across the synod. We aren’t in the habit of comparing our church to other congregations, and indeed, other congregations have special things going on too.

But that’s one of those things about Redeemer: we are simply going about being who we are as God’s people. It’s not done with pride or pretense or for a show: it’s simply whom God has called us to be. It’s simply us responding to God’s call. It’s faith lived out among us.

The joy and love found here is truly special. At times we may disagree about an issue, but the disagreement doesn’t divide us. This is a place of care, compassion, and understanding. This is a place where the joy of God’s love is lived out and shared. This is a place where all are welcome in, and we are about welcoming out into our community. We are striving to make a difference in people’s lives for good, because of God. Maybe that’s what it is about Redeemer.

The full Mission Statement of our congregation is “Redeemer Lutheran Church is an open congregation of believers in Jesus Christ. Our mission is to witness to the Gospel of God’s grace and to respond to human needs in love and understanding as Christ’s disciples in the Church, the community, and the world.’ Our slogan is “Making Christ Known in Word and Deed.”

That’s who we are. That’s what we do. Maybe that’s what it is about Redeemer.



Kenny Newmyer	6/1
Bob Beaver	6/2
Kathleen Harrell	6/2
Ben Edenfield	6/4
Olivia Edenfield	6/4
Victoria May	6/4
Kelsey Carlsen	6/5
James Murphy	6/5
Johnny Breedlove	6/6
Patricia Drake	6/6
Kristen Mingus	6/6
Jillian Newmyer	6/6
Eric Wells	6/6
Smith Austin	6/11
Kyle Burgess	6/13
Wally Schultz	6/13
Cathy Stutts	6/13
Barbara Bronson	6/14



Jane Eleazer	6/14
Colletta Longshore	6/15
Austin Pell	6/15
Carole Mikkelsen	6/17
Angela Lagroon	6/18
Lyn Metzler	6/18
Hettie Cross	6/19
Robert Pell	6/19
Estela Coggins	6/20
Becky Lass	6/20

Marty Davis	6/21
Denis Mulkey	6/21
Alden Schaller	6/21
John Baker	6/22
Gail Huckaby	6/22
Rebecca McKeown	6/22
Davis Rosdahl	6/23
Elizabeth Davis	6/24
Tony Everett	6/24
Aleda Anderson	6/25
Martha Dowd	6/25
Lauren Libet	6/25
Patricia Wessinger	6/26
Tom Lass	6/28
Edwyn Mahan	6/28
Madeline Miracle	6/26
Matthew Weeks	6/29
Tommy Burgess	6/30

Redeemer's COVID Protocols

Relaxed

Following the CDC announcing that the emergency stage of the pandemic was over, the Redeemer Council acted to relax some of Redeemer's COVID protocols. The signs indicating the current level will come down, and the announcement in the Go and Serve about the current COVID level will be removed.



However, the congregation is encouraged to remember that COVID is still out there and poses a risk. If you are not feeling well, the Council advises you to stay home and watch worship online. Masks and hand sanitizer will remain available in the narthex for those who choose to use them.



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:

Joanne Shrigley who serves as the choir librarian, coming each week to put away music and new anthems and help the choir to run smoothly,

Tom Lass and his friend Mike.... Who collect and distribute furniture for Afghan and Ukrainian refugees,

Greg and Lane Cross who removed our outdoor cross,

And **Philip and Judy Urso** who treated our lawn for fire ants.



Redeemer's New Electronic Sign

Continued from Page 1:

However, there are funds remaining there (about \$25,000) that are designated for certain areas of ministry. Frankly, in the years since, and especially since the pandemic, our church ministries have changed and it is unlikely that the ministries that the money was intended for are viable or needed any more. The world has changed and so have the needs of the church. The Council believes that Ms. Corley would prefer her money to be used rather than to languish in a bank account.

Pastor Gary consulted with Mickey Epting, the lawyer Ms. Corley used to set up the bequest, and he has advised that we are free to change these designations and use this money for the sign. The Council believes combining the Property Contingency money and the Corley money will cover the cost of the sign.



What will the sign look like? Design plans are currently underway. The Council has established a committee to consider the 'branding' of our congregation to put on the sign. Perhaps one example of a similar sign to what we expect might be the sign in front of Dutch Fork Church on Highway 6 near the fork in Ballentine. The colors would match and blend with our building. As the design becomes more developed, the Council will keep you well informed.

Once our order is placed, there is a lag time of about 5-6 months before work on the sign is completed and it can be installed.

Plan to join us for this important meeting on July 23.

Instant Church Directory Needs You!

We continue to slowly roll out the Instant Church Directory. If you have not had the chance to sign up yet here are the steps you can take... (don't worry, tech support is always willing to help!)



- Send your name and the email address you wish to use with the church to aburke@relu.church
- Pastor Amanda will input your information (give her a day or so.)
- If you're using your smart phone to access the directory go to your app store and download Instant Church Directory. It will have an icon with a white church silhouette and green background.

- When you open the app, you will use your email address and create a login password.
- An email will be sent to you for verification of your email. Click on the link provided.
- Login to Instant Church Directory. Feel free to explore the different pages and information.
- To add your household's specific information go to the "families" tab. You will have the option to "edit my family." From there you should be able to add household members and their information. You can also upload a photograph of your family.
- The information will be approved by an administrator before it goes live on the app. If you need assistance please reach out to Pastor Amanda or someone that is already signed up for assistance.



First let me share with you a very personal and life-changing story.

I was a “know-it-all” high school freshman at Gilbert High School. I knew without a doubt that I loved being in our high school band. I was assigned the French horn and was in love with its sound and the musical challenge it presented.

I also figured I didn’t want to be or need to be in chorus.

Sometimes the adults in our lives have to do things to help us see the error in our ways—that’s a nice way of saying they need to help us see how stupid we sometimes act. Such was my case.

That semester I was assigned to study hall. (For another article—Why study halls should never be a thing.) My study hall period was the same time the high school chorus met.

Mrs. Margaret Eargle, our high school choir teacher, realized the foolishness of my decision so she did something that changed my life. She requested my study hall teacher to send me to the choir room to deliver a message to her.

As I walked down the long hallway to the choir room, I could clearly hear the choir singing. To this day I remember what they were singing, but I’ll save that for later.

I remember leaning against the walls listening to the choir sing. It was sublime. I was mesmerized by that choral sound. And in that moment I fell in love. I can’t begin to describe how I felt—just that I was in love.

Once the group finished their song, I walked in and handed Mrs. Eargle the note. For some reason it didn’t seem odd that she didn’t even look at it. She placed it on the piano and looked up at me.

“Would you like to stay a little longer,” she asked knowing the answer.

“Sure!” I quickly responded.

“Great, here’s the music we’re doing next. Why don’t you sit with the tenors.”

I don’t know what heaven’s like; but that rehearsal was probably as close as I’ll get on this side of life.

After the rehearsal ended, I went to Mrs. Eargle. Handing her the music I said simply, “I think I’ve made a big mistake.”

“I know,” she said, not condescendingly, but lovingly.

“Let’s go talk to the guidance counselor. We can change your schedule.”

That little incident changed my life forever. It is the reason I am where I am today. It is the reason I am still to this day in love with choral music and have devoted my life to this wonderful art form.

Never underestimate the power of a teacher.

The piece the choir was singing was “How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place” from Brahms exquisite *Ein Deutsches Requiem*.

Here’s a link to a wonderful recording of that piece by the incomparable Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwnZ748e3CA>





Fund it or Fix it List Update

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...

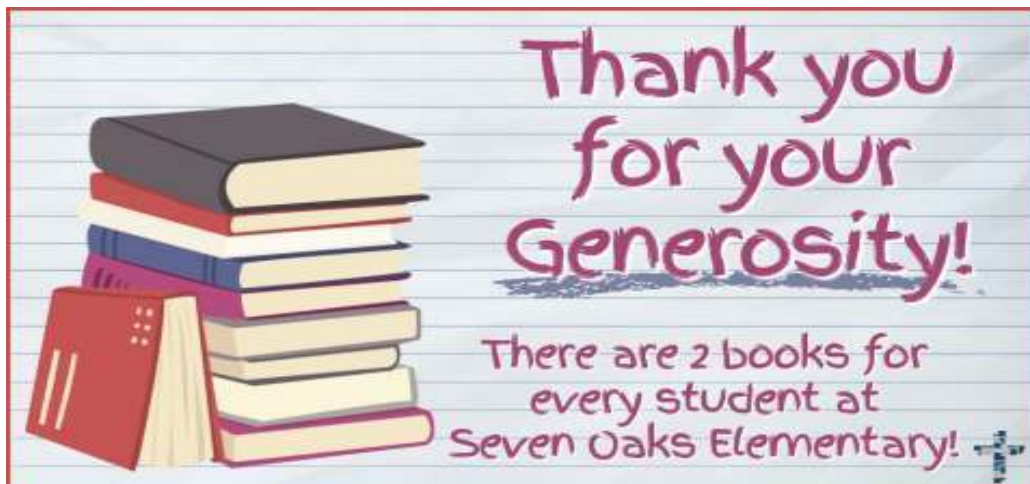
1. If you see something around the church building let us know. Contact Pastor Amanda with the issue, location, and contact person for more information about it.
2. If you are the handy type that could address an item on the list contact one of the pastors or the individual and take care of the issue.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

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

- New woodchips for the playground (talk with Pastor Gary)
- Dig up rosebushes in the courtyard (talk with Pat Blackwell)
- Plant azaleas in the courtyard (talk with Pat Blackwell)
- Paint green wall on the end of the fellowship hall (talk with a pastor or Janet Boatwright)
- More mulch for flower beds in the courtyard (talk with Pat Blackwell)





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 is it so easy for God to forgive, and I can’t?

Let’s be really honest with ourselves. Forgiveness is hard.

We could look at this from the lens of science. Over time, humanity developed the need to remember negative events more clearly for survival. Our brains are wired to be able to recall negative situations more easily than positive situations. In many instances, the act of forgiveness asks us to put aside those negative memories. At times our society has also pushed the idea of “forgive and forget.” Not only does that go against the wiring of our brains, it can also be a way to dismiss the hurt we cause each other.

This is one of those times that I am thankful that God is God, and I am not. In the book of Romans, we hear Paul telling the people, “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” It is a powerful statement. Nothing, absolutely nothing, will separate us from the love of God. God is bigger than anything we could ever do to warrant forgiveness. God’s goodness overshadows and overcomes anything else.



While I’m not sure if it is “easy” for God to forgive, I know that God does. God’s love for each and every person is beyond measure. There is nothing we can do for God to love us any more, and there is certainly nothing we can do for God to love us any less. God’s love is just that big.

When it comes to forgiveness among each other, that is a constant work in progress. People are capable of doing some really horrible things to one another. Working through the process of forgiveness can be a long and difficult journey. In many cases, it becomes a matter of releasing ourselves from the negativity we hold against someone else. No matter where you are on that path, I hope you can lean into the love God has for you and the community of faith that surrounds you.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Amanda

No Leisure Timers’ Meeting in June



Leisure Timers *will not meet in June*. Rest up so you can join us in July! Plans will be announced upon completion. Our next meeting will be on *Thursday, July 20th at 12:00!* Watch for details.



Council Proposes New Sign; Calls Congregational Meeting for July 23

The Church Council has called a congregational meeting on July 23 to consider a proposal for a new electronic sign to replace our old sign on St. Andrews Rd. The cost of the sign is approximately \$48,000 plus some installation costs, and the proposal includes the source of funds (the property contingency fund with moneys collected after the parking lot expense, and the remainder of the Edna Corley bequest to our congregation). The Council established a sub committee to work on the details of the sign design.

In addition to this topic, the Council also learned that the HVAC unit for over the preschool wing should be installed in the next few weeks.

Council also decided to remove the signs indicating the current Covid level. The government is no longer reporting the Covid Level as often, so this is not a useful tool for our congregation at this time. Council advises the congregation that Covid is still out there and anyone who doesn't feel well is encouraged to view the worship from home. Masks and hand sanitizer will remain available in our narthex for those who desire to use them.

Pastor Gary reported that we are eligible to do another phase of our lighting conversion to energy efficient LED fluorescent lights. This program is offered through Dominion Energy and covers 85-90% of the costs up to \$6000 to convert these lights, and we have been doing it

in phases each year to take advantage of this. The costs we incur are also recouped over the years through energy savings. We have completed four phases, and have two remaining. Council has pinpointed our Fellowship Center for this next phase, leaving only some very seldom used classrooms for our final phase next year.

Pastor Gary also highlighted two sets of restrooms where the exhaust fan isn't working, and Council will have an electrician look into this.

Council also approved exploring replacing computers in the church office.

A couple of youth representatives attended the Council meeting to share about their activities and how our congregation could offer greater support to our youth ministry program.



- Congregational Meeting July 23 to consider new sign
- HVAC Unit to be installed soon
- Covid restrictions relaxed
- Next light conversion phase to begin
- Exhaust Fans investigated
- Time to replace church computers
- Council focuses on helping youth program

By the Numbers

	April YTD 2023	April YTD 2022	April YTD 2021
Total income	\$138,240	\$135,678	\$146,215
Total expenses	\$172,652	\$165,162	\$162,592
Income less expense	\$ (34,412)	\$ (29,484)	\$ (16,377)
Balance on mortgage loan	\$ -	\$ 2,591	\$ 129,440
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 153,679	\$159,367	\$ 190,145

Attendance Online 106 In person 122 Online 104 In person 133 Online 183

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:15am - Community 11:30am - Handbell Choir	29 Church Office Closed 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible	30	31 7pm - Choir Practice	1 6pm - NAMI support	2 6pm - Private Event @	3
4 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:15am - Worship & 11:30am - Handbell Choir	5 10am - Staff Meeting @ 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible	6	7 7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	8 SC Synod Assembly @	9 6pm - Private Event @	10
11 Elementary Youth Pool 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:30am - Handbell Choir	12 9am - Gardendale Garden 10am - Staff Meeting @ 2pm - Ruth Circle @ back 4pm - Finance Committee 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible	13	14 7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	15 12pm - Leisure Timers @ 6pm - NAMI support	16 SCLCY Convention 6pm - Private Event @	17
18 SCLCY Convention 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:30am - Handbell Choir	19 10am - Staff Meeting @ 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible	20	21 7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	22 6pm - NAMI support	23 6pm - Private Event @	24 Camp HUGG
25 Camp HUGG 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:30am - Handbell Choir	26 10am - Staff Meeting @ 4pm - Finance Committee 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible	27	28 7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	29 6pm - NAMI support	30 6pm - Private Event @	31



Memorials Received

March 13 through May 21, 2023

In Memory Of

Bob Wilber

Allyn Bedenbaugh
Marie Baughman
Cornelia Collins
Lane and Hettie Cross
Dianne Chinnes
Fairfield Electric
Herman Kammer
Charles Reeves
David and Cindy Peek
Bonnie Berley
Nancy Scott
Sally & Stevens Elliott
Retired Officers Association
Barry & Catherine Stutts
Scott & Co LLC

Susan Lorick

David and Evelyn Abel
Tommy & Bobbie Burgess
Earl & Linda Wells
Preston Smith
Allyn Bedenbaugh
Kathy Harrell
Nancy McKinney
Marie Baughman
Lane & Hettie Cross
Alfred & Cynthia Jones
Tim Rollins
Cindy & David Peek
Connie Davis
Barry & Catherine Stutts
Robert & Jane Long
Cornelia Collins

Evelyn Nunamaker (Jim Nunamaker's sister)

Buddy & Carolyn Champion
Cornelia Collins
Connie Davis
Marie Baughman

Bill Schneider

Allyn Bedenbaugh
Bonnie Berley

George Selkinghaus

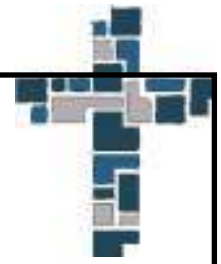
Connie Davis
Marie Baughman
Lane and Hettie Cross
Barry & Catherine Stutts
Alfred & Cynthia Jones
Robert & Jane Long
Pawnee Schumpert
Cornelia Collins
Diane Hunt
Buddy & Carolyn Champion

Melissa Smith (Julie Crooks' Sister)

Cornelia Collins
Diane Hunt
Buddy & Carolyn Champion
Pawnee Schumpert
Lane and Hettie Cross
Marie Baughman



RELU YOUTH



Calendar

Always subject to change!

Sundays—Faith Launch
3yo-2nd, 3rd-6th

June 26-30—Camp HUGG
8th-12th grades

July 7-11—HS Service Learning Trip

July 13-16—MS Service Learning Trip

July 31-Aug 4—Music Camp!!!

July 13-16, 2024—ELCA Multicultural
Youth Leadership Event
(rising 8th-12th grades)

July 16-20, 2024—ELCA Youth
Gathering (rising 8th-12th grades)

July 16-20, 2024—ELCA Young Adult
Gathering (18-34 year olds)





Redeemer Lutheran Church

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(803) 772-5419
www.relu.church

Address Service Requested

Rev. Gary Loadholdt, Senior Pastor

Cell Telephone: 803-528-5693

pastorgary@relu.church

Rev. Amanda Burke, Associate Pastor

aburke@relu.church

Yvonne Krouse, Parish Financial

Administrator

ykrouse@relu.church

Jim Boatwright, Director of Music

jboat@relu.church

Betty Pearce parish Secretary

bpearce@relu.church

Sunday Services

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

2023 Congregation

Term Expires End of 2023

Carroll Lorick

Steve Summer

Julie Crooks

Term Expires End of 2024

Bill Newmyer

Carol Valovcin

Linda Wells

Term Expires End of 2025

Kai Jørgensen

Fauni Lowe

Mike Parker

Executive Committee

President

Bill Newmyer

Vice President

Steve Summer

Treasurer

Todd Anderson

Secretary

Kai Jørgensen

Online Giving

Scan this symbol with your
smart phone to be con-
nected to our online giving

