



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

July 2023

Congregational Meeting to Consider New Electronic Sign Set for July 23

Mark your calendars for an important Congregational Meeting following worship on July 23 as we consider a new sign as our face to the community. The Council is working hard to finalize a proposal for a new electronic sign to the congregation for consideration.

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. 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. **Continued on Page 8.**



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I really enjoy words. There's a standing joke around the church office that if something has numbers on it, it goes to Yvonne's desk. It's not that I can't do math or work with numbers, it's just that I don't really enjoy that. I enjoy working with words.

So you can bet that I enjoy a podcast I found recently called 'A Way With Words,' where people call in and ask about origins or meanings of unusual phrases or words. Nan rolls her eyes, but I'm fascinated.

A topic that comes up rather often is something called unpaired words. For example, you can be disconsolate, but you never hear of someone being consolate. The prefix 'dis' means 'not' so you would expect that if you could be disconsolate, you could be its opposite, consolate, too. But no — consolate is not a word. Disconsolate is called an unpaired word. Another good example of that is the word 'inept.' You can't be ept. These are examples of unpaired words: the word exists, but not its opposite.

Now, before you start to roll your eyes, I'm going to move rather quickly to the point. Someone called the show and asked about the word ruthless and questioned that they had never heard of its opposite: *ruthful*. I chuckled

and thought to myself, "That's another example of an unpaired word. There is no word: *ruthful*." But I was wrong.

(By the way, as I type this, spell check does not recognize *consolate* or *ept*, but does recognize *ruthful*.)

We know that *ruthless* means pitiless, merciless, devoid of compassion. *Ruthful* fell out of common use about 200 years ago, and it means the opposite: compassionate, tender-hearted, full of *ruth*.

"Full of *ruth*?" What does that mean? Well, that's



where this gets very interesting. Both *ruthful* and *ruthless* share the root word 'ruth,' and that word comes from the name of Ruth and her story is told in the Bible.

Perhaps you know Ruth's story. A woman named Naomi left Israel to marry a man from the neighboring country of Moab. She had three sons who all took wives from the women of Moab. Unfortunately, all three sons died, as did Naomi's husband. Naomi determined to return to her homeland in Israel, and told her daughters-in-law to return to their families of origin. But one of them, Ruth, vowed to stay with Naomi. "Entreat me not to leave you," she said, "Where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge." Ruth was expressing her love and compassion for Naomi not just with words, but with her actions.

Now there's a lot more to the Ruth story, but this characteristic of hers: her love, compassion, and tender-heartedness became so well known and such a clear example, that it led to those who were like her being called *ruthful*, (full of Ruth) and those who were not tender-hearted or compassionate to be called *ruthless*. One could be full of the character of Ruth, or not.

Sometimes in our world, being *ruthless* is celebrated. We sometimes lift up those who stridently push their way regardless of who or what is in the way. In the Church, however, we lift up those who are *ruthful*. We are called to be like Ruth: compassionate, tender-hearted, and full of *ruth*.

And I might dare say, we need more *ruthfulness* in our world. I might dare say that being *ruthful* is who God calls us to be. I might dare say that Jesus called living in *ruthful* ways the Kingdom of God.

I call this article "Sightings" because most months, I try to tell you some place or way I have seen God in unexpected ways. In doing that, I hope to invite you to see God in your lives too. Maybe this month, I want to turn that around. Hear the call to be *ruthful*. Let others have a 'sighting' of God in you.





Jane Keller 7/1
 Don Courtney 7/2
 Kelly Davis 7/3
 Ryan Lagroon 7/3
 Annelise Schaller 7/3
 Shannon Smith 7/3
 Cheryl Ann Had 7/5
 Evelyn Ashby 7/6
 Addison Gfell 7/6
 Charlotte Brooks 7/7
 Matthew Flood 7/8
 Gil Vander Voort 7/8
 Robyn Wells 7/8
 Courtney Lindler 7/9
 Dominic Leonardi 7/10
 Andrew Peek 7/11



Alicia Plemmons 7/12
 Savanna Thomas 7/12
 Jacob Lowe 7/14
 Casey Roe 7/14
 Steven Isaacson 7/17
 Mike Parker 7/17
 Fred Splittgerber 7/17
 Melvin Amundson 7/18
 Ross Kiser 7/18
 Herb Shealy 7/18

Bill Harmon 7/19
 Lane Cross 7/19
 Camden Audette 7/20
 Wendy McCarthy 7/20
 Jim Nunamaker 7/20
 Alma Schultz 7/20
 Pawnee Schumpert 7/20
 Eric Valocvin 7/20
 Lucia Coggins 7/22
 Todd Anderson 7/23
 James Kiser 7/24
 David Mulkey 7/24
 Don Owens 7/25
 Lynne Richards 7/25
 Allie Drake 7/27
 Karen Manni 7/27

Adult Sunday School Online

As the pandemic has waned, we've been inviting you to come home to worship with us again. Interestingly, the same is true for adult Sunday School too. Every week, the pastor's Adult Sunday School class is presented in a hybrid model that allows for those who are present onsite and those who prefer to be online to interact together as we learn. Pastor Gary's class focuses on the gospel reading for the day and discusses insights. Many have commented on how much their worship in enhanced by being in the class.



Sunday School ends at 9:30, giving most of us time to watch the class online and still make it to worship in person if we desire. Or you can attend both in person. Or watch Sunday School and worship online. Options abound!

No Church Council Meeting in June

The Church Council did not meet in June, so there is no report in this newsletter.





Redeemer Lutheran Music Camp

July 31 - August 4

Be a part of this fun-filled week of singing, games, playing instruments, and FUN!



Each day campers will—



- Sing great songs
- Play instruments
- Participate in fun music activities
- Do Arts and Crafts
- Play music games

Merri Lewis Elected to the SC WELCA Board

The 2023 SC WELCA convention met June 23-24, 2023 at Zion Lutheran Church in Lexington, SC. There was a total of 154 in attendance.

Redeemer-Ruth circle sent delegates, Merri Lewis and Wendy Williams plus one guest, Jean Taylor.

Congratulations to Merri Lewis for being elected to the SCWELCA Board. She also was chairperson of the committee on reference and counsel. This committee recommended approval of a resolution on teen suicide and mental health. The resolution passed

Collections for our convention projects were, Camp Kinard \$9,557.46 and Tanzania \$410.00 plus 1,069 personal item kits.



The Camp Kinard retreat will be February 16-17, 2024. The Isle of Palms retreat is May 17-19, 2024 and the 2024 SCWELCA convention will be June 21-22, 2024 at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Summerville, SC.

We saw a film on the future buildings at Camp Kinard such as the Chapel and the new swimming pool.

Each unit received a new manual explaining the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA). This explains the duties for National, State, Conference and Church unit (CU). There is much flexibility to do some things that suit our congregations.

We attended the workshop, "How to revive your unit". This was led by our church wide representative Joy Michalick. She explained what was in the manual; therefore we have it in writing.

Come Join our Ruth circle and help us revive our WELCA unit!



Last month I shared the story of how I wound up devoting my life to choral music. It's a story of the powerful influence teachers can have on their students. And it's a story of the power of music.

This month I'd like to share with you the first half of the list of my favorite and most beloved choral pieces. They are in no specific order. I've included a link to one performance of each piece of music.

1. First on the list is Randall Thompson's exquisite **"Alleluia"**.

This piece was composed in 1940 for the Tanglewood Festival at the Berkshire Music Center. Although the festival's director wanted a fanfare for voices, Thompson chose to write a quiet and introspective piece. The text of the work consists of the word "alleluia" repeated over and over again, creating a nearly hypnotic mantra. Here's a link to a recording of "Alleluia" performed by the University of Oklahoma Choir.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XeQu-te2fgk> (Alleluia. Randall Thompson)

2. Next on my list is the fiery and fierce and dramatic **"Dies Irae" from the Requiem** by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. "Dies Irae" means "day of wrath" or day of judgment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Tb9HmlPuVI> (Dies Irae (from Requiem. W. A. Mozart)

3. **Let All the World in Every Corner Sing** by the British composer Ralph Vaughn Williams is third on my list. This wonderful exuberant piece is the fifth song in a collection called Five Mystical Songs. The words are by the Anglican priest George Herbert. Vaughn Williams wrote these songs between 1906 and 1911.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7qh9ZMhj-o> (Let All the World in Every Corner Sing)

[This performance is by King's College Cambridge. And, my oh my, the ORGAN!!](#)

4. **Hallelujah from Christ on the Mount of Olives** by Ludwig Van Beethoven is another big, exuberant piece that thrills my soul every time I hear it. This piece is the only [oratorio written by Beethoven. It is a more humanistic view of the life, death, and passion of Jesus.](#)

Here the Mormon Tabernacle performs this piece.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xK-IHpN1HBs> (Hallelujah from Christ on the Mount of Olives)

5. Contrasting the Beethoven is J. S. Bach's perennial favorite, the **Magnificat (first movement)**.

Okay, let's be honest the entire Magnificat could be included here because it is just that wonderful. But for this list we'll listen to only the first movement. In the link I've provided, notice the outstanding orchestra. Much care was taken to re-create as much as possible, Bach's original orchestral sound—and it's glorious!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUt88ImPV-E> (Magnificat (First Movement))

Okay, that's our time for this month. Next month we'll conclude this list. Some modern composers will be included—a couple of them are the age of my children!





Ask Miss Edith:



Dear Miss Edith,
 I miss the Children's Choir! I remember when all the children wore those adorable white robes and red tops and bows. They were just precious. What happened?

Missing the children

Dear Missing,

Miss Edith is, as you are aware, elderly. So, yes, I fondly remember those Children's Choirs. The white robes and red tops are still somewhere in the attic or basement or closet or somewhere. But age does give one a certain perspective on life. Our culture has radically changed and continues to experience seismic shifts. Consequently, our churches have had to pivot to accommodate these societal realities. Parents today are bombarded with all sorts of demands. Their children face a host of opportunities. Miss Edith would love a children's choir, but better that our churches find other ways to engage our children and young people than to lose them entirely. In today's world, that seems a frightening possibility! Maybe the season of white-robed children's choir has ended. I'm reluctantly okay with that. I just pray the season of children and youth in churches is not over. I hope we can find ways to keep our children active and involved in church. If Children's Choir is not doing that, let's find something that is.

Jesus still loves the little children, with or without robes.

Your Help Is Needed!

Two Trucks Planned for Williamsburg County

It's the best kind of problem to have. Your generosity has been so bountiful that we are overwhelmed with donations.



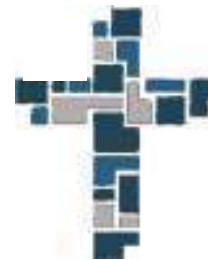
In fact, we have so many donations, that we are planning to load two trucks on July 7, starting about 5:00pm. Please, please, come and help.

It is important to note, however, that this is not the time to bring more donations. We already have more than we can take. Please hold any new donations until after July 8 and then we can start to build a new collection to take down. Right now, we simply don't have any more room.

What we do need is your help. As we always say, if you can come around 5:00, that's great. If you can't come until later, please still come to help give those who began early a respite. We'll have one truck at the Connex box out back, and one loading from the room in the church and the items in the Fellowship Center. Thanks!

By the Numbers

	May YTD 2023	May YTD 2022	May YTD 2021
Total income	\$ 188,218	\$177,303	\$ Information
Total expenses	\$ 214,845	\$205,553	\$ not
Income less expense	\$ <u>(26,627)</u>	\$ <u>(28,250)</u>	\$ available.
Balance on mortgage loan	\$ - \$ 163,808	\$ - \$151,165	\$ - \$ -
Attendance	On site: 102 Online:71	On site: 94 Online 08	On site: 49 Online: 460



A Rare Opportunity this Fall

There's a wonderful opportunity coming our way this fall. The Southeastern Synod (Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee) is offering a four-week online study called Lutheranism 101. The sessions are from 7:00-8:30 and the dates, topics, and presenters are:

Lutheranism 101



September 5 - "What Do We Believe?" with Rev. Dr. William R. Russell, Coordinator for The Lutheran Confessions' Project, LWF

September 19 - Adult Catechism, with Bishop Emeritus Julian Gordy

October 3 - "Who is Luther?" with Rev. Dr. Justin Nickel, Lenoir Rhyne - LTSS

October 17 - Lutheranism in North America, with Rev. Dr. Susan McArver, Lenoir Rhyne – LTSS

The cost is free, and all you need to do is register one time: <https://se-reg.brtaapp.com/Lutheranism101>

Don't miss these classes! Register soon!

Leisure Timers Meet July 20

Leisure Timers will meet on Thursday, July 20th at 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite Salad to share and the Dessert will be provided. Each month, we try to have a guest to present our program. Sometimes they are from our community, but often times, they are within our church family! They tell us about a special interest, their job, travels or anything that they would like to share with us! This month, our very own Dr. Dan Overcash will



be presenting our program. He and his wife, Marilyn, sing in our choir. There is much more to his story than just loving music!

Here are a few facts: He is a descendent from Lutheran Germans that migrated South and settled in NC. He has been a professional photographer for 50 years. He also taught University Physics and Astronomy for 50 years. Mark your calendar! We'd hate for you to miss an opportunity for fun, great food, an interesting program and wonderful fellowship! Questions? Contact Connie Davis at (803)317-7631 or email, conniedavis@sc.rr.com



We are still working to get everyone on the Instant Church Directory App. Pastor Amanda will send out emails on how to sign up. Feel free to catch her after most worship services for assistance! You can call, text, or email her as well! Once everyone is included this app will make a big difference with our community's communication!



Over the course of life there are times that a running theme becomes apparent. During the month of June I've noticed one of those running themes.



My family and I were traveling around Germany in early June. As we all headed to the train station in Heidelberg, Kåre slowed down to walk with me. The two of us each had a backpack, a purse, and were pulling a rolling suitcase. We approached the entrance to the train station and a young woman rushes over to us speaking another language... not German and definitely not English. Kåre and I look at each other. That must have cued the woman to ask, "Would English be easier?" We replied that yes it would. Then she proceeds to tell us how happy she is that we're here, that we're safe, and that people are ready to help us with anything we need.

Kåre and I looked at each other again. This time the woman asked, "You are refugees from Ukraine, right?" We both giggled a bit out of the sheer predicament of what to say. "No, we're from the US and traveling to Ethiopia," I replied. The woman's face maintained a bright welcoming smile. She proceeded to tell us all about the organization she volunteers with that helps refugees resettle in Germany and other parts of Europe. Her group was in front of the train station that day asking for donations. A lovely conversation ensued.

As our trip continued in Ethiopia we were reminded of refugees again and again. When we would catch a glimpse of television news we heard about Ukrainian refugees, Sudanese refugees, and then one day came the news of the boat of refugees in the Mediterranean Sea. The tragedy. The lives lost. The slow response. Then nothing more.

On the plane home from Chicago to Columbia Tarike, Kevin, and I sat in the seats behind a family of ten. Mom and dad. Three sons. Five daughters. They had very little luggage. All the family members had new sneakers on. The youngest children all had similar athletic wear. As the flight attendant passed by with drinks I heard the father say, "No English." The attendant was so patient as he showed the children their choice of drinks. They all sat quietly. Some stared out the window while others took a nap that seemed much needed.

After the plane landed we saw the family in the airport. They all looked lost and in need of help. Kevin and I approached them, asked if we could help, but all the man said was, "No English." Our communication with them was lacking. We were not able to help. However, I sincerely hope that the sense of welcome, kindness, and compassion that a German woman shared with me weeks ago shone through to them.

Welcome home neighbors. We're glad you're here. We're glad you're safe. We're ready to help you.

New Church Sign

Continued from Page 1

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.

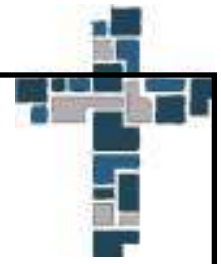


What will the sign look like? Design plans are currently underway. The Council has established a committee to consider the 'branding' of our congregation to put on the sign. Perhaps one example of a similar sign to what we expect might be the sign in front of Dutch Fork Church on Highway 6 near the fork 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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Camp HUGG						
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice	10am - Staff Meeting @ 4pm - Finance Committee 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible		7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	6pm - NAMI support	6pm - Private Event @	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship	10am - Staff Meeting @ 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible		7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	6pm - NAMI support	Youth Group Service Learning Adventures 6pm - Private Event @	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Youth Group Service Learning Adventures						
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:30am - Handbell Choir	9am - Gardendale Garden 10am - Staff Meeting @ 2pm - Ruth Circle @ back 4pm - Finance Committee 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible		7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice		6pm - Private Event @	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Youth Group Service 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship	10am - Staff Meeting @ 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible		7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	12pm - Leisure Timers @ 6pm - NAMI support	6pm - Private Event @	11am - Private Event @ 3:30pm - Prince of
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Prince of Peace, Largo FL						
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship	10am - Staff Meeting @ 4pm - Finance Committee 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible		7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	6pm - NAMI support	6pm - Private Event @	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Music Camp Setup						
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship	10am - Staff Meeting @ 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible		7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	6pm - NAMI support	6pm - Private Event @	
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship	10am - Staff Meeting @ 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible		7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	6pm - NAMI support	6pm - Private Event @	



Calendar

Always subject to change!

Sundays—Faith Launch
3yo-2nd, 3rd-6th

July 7-11—HS Service Learning Trip
(Rising 9th-Recent grads)

July 13-16—MS Service Learning Trip
(Rising 7th-Rising 9th)

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)

**HS Summer
Service Learning**
Rising 9th-Recent Grad
July 7-11
Atlanta, GA

Where We Live

Columbia, SC
July 13-16
Rising 7th-Rising 9th
**MS Summer
Service Learning**

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Music Camp
July 31-August 4

Ages 4 to
rising
6th grade

Register at:
<https://relu.link/MusicCamp2023>





Redeemer Lutheran Church
525 St. Andrews Rd
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 770-5419
www.rlu.church

Address Service Requested

Rev. Gary Loadholt, Senior Pastor
Cell Telephone: 803-528-9693
pastorgary@rlu.church

Rev. Amanda Burles, Associate Pastor
aburles@rlu.church

Yvonne Krouse, Parish Financial
Administrator
ykrouse@rlu.church

Jim Boatwright, Director of Music
jboat@rlu.church

Betty Pearce, Parish Secretary
bpearce@rlu.church

Sunday Services

8:45 am. Sunday School
10:00 am. Worship with Holy Communion

Executive Committee

President	Bill Newmyer
Vice President	Steve Summer
Treasurer	Todd Anderson
Secretary	Kai Jergensen

Online Giving

Scan this symbol with your smart phone to be connected to our online giving page.



Crossroads

2023 Congregation Council Members

Term Expires End of 2023
Carroll Lerick
Steve Summer
Julie Crooks

Term Expires End of 2024
Bill Newmyer
Carol Valovcin
Linda Wells

Term Expires End of 2025
Kai Jergensen
Fawni Lowe
Mike Parker