



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

August 2023

Thursday Bible Study Returns August 24

Pastor Gary's Thursday Bible Study will return on August 24 after its summer break. The Bible Study is offered each Thursday morning at 10:00am and then repeated each Thursday evening at 7:00pm. Both classes are also offered online as well. The link to join in online is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/213945174>

Our initial topic this Fall will be Psalms. Pastor Gary commented, "I have long wanted to engage folks in a study of the Psalms, but it's such a big book that it's hard to get a handle on or find a way to present the Psalms in a meaningful way. Recently, I found a resource that has been very helpful in doing that, and I am already at work preparing the material for the Fall. Psalms are an



interesting part of scripture. They are our words to God through which we hear God's word to us. They express our feelings, our fears, sometimes our anger at God, and our joys, hopes, and dreams."

He continued, "Someone recently said to me, 'I have never been excited by the Psalms.' I get that, but I think for a lot of us, that is true because we don't understand what we are looking at. Frankly, as I have been preparing the material, I have gotten so excited about what I am encountering and can hardly wait to share it with you. I think you will be surprised."

The Thursday Bible Study won't look at all 150 Psalms, but will focus on a thematic approach and look at some of the Psalms and how they express the theme we will be talking about. We will discover profound insights and meaning and grow in our faith and trust in God. You might find that part of worship that uses the Psalms to be enriched too.

Again, the Thursday Bible Study will resume on August 24 at both 10:00am and 7:00pm. Come in person or online and join us.

New Sign Approved at Congregational Meeting

"We've been talking about this for a long time," Pastor Gary said. "I was recently looking back at some old



Council minutes and came across a discussion of a new sign with electronic capabilities twelve years ago."

In a congregational meeting on July 23, Redeemer approved the purchase of a new sign for the front of our property. It will take about five or six months to arrive and we are working on finalizing the design as we communicate to our community about all our ministries.

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My plane landed in Dallas on a Wednesday. The young lady seated in my row asked me if this was my final destination and I explained that I was coming to Ft. Worth to meet my brand new granddaughter for the first time. "Oh, that's so sweet," she gushed over and over. I agreed.

Michael picked me up at the airport, and we wove through the Dallas-Ft. Worth traffic as I tried to contain my building excitement. When we got to his house, this precious, tiny bundle was placed in my arms. I looked down on her as she slept so peacefully and serenely in my arms. So trustingly.

That day, and the next, just about any time Hannah needed to be held, I was honored with the task. I certainly didn't complain.

But sometime that afternoon, I had her in my arms and needed to put a pillow under my elbow. Nan said, "She can get heavy after a while, can't she?"

Well, no. I looked at her sleeping there again so trustingly in my arms. Her whole tiny weight was yielded to me unreservedly,



and I remembered a story about an old farmer who had the opportunity to fly in an early airplane. He was very hesitant and reluctant, not understanding this new contraption that had no visible means of support. Eventually he was convinced to give it a try. When the flight was over his friends asked him what he thought and he answered, "It was

alright." Then after a few steps, he added: "But I'll tell you, I didn't put my whole weight down."

My new-to-this-world tiny granddaughter didn't have that problem. In trust, she put her whole weight down on me. Suddenly I thought, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we trusted God that way? Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put our whole weight down for God to hold and care for, knowing that we can't do anything for ourselves, knowing that we don't have to do anything for ourselves, trusting completely that we belong to God and are in God's care? What peace we might have if we dared put our whole weight down on God."

My new baby granddaughter is so tiny. She doesn't weigh very much, but still, maybe after a while....

No. Arms of love don't get tired. Mine didn't. God's don't either.

Put your whole weight down.



Why Do We Have a New, Tall Chair?

For the past few weeks, you may have noticed a new chair in the narthex that is taller than regular chairs. More and more, people are having funeral visitations at the church, and a chair like this allows those who are bereaved and have mobility concerns to sit through the visitation and still greet people (and hug people) without standing or constantly getting up and down.



It's Time to Renew Background Checks

When we were unable to worship during the pandemic, we got away from doing background checks because there was no need for nursery volunteers. With everything back up and running, watch for more information soon about renewing your background check (needed every two years).



Greg Cross 8/1
 Sandra Devold 8/1
 Lisa Mathias 8/1
 Johanna Griffin 8/3
 Michael Shealy 8/3
 Lauren Willhoit 8/5
 Tim Rollins 8/6
 Larry Stohs 8/8
 Bertrand Gilli 8/10
 Chelsea Redfern 8/11
 Betty Singletary 8/12
 Lin Longshore 8/13



Julie Pell 8/13
 Amy Coggins 8/14
 Julie Crooks 8/14
 Robert Long 8/14
 Timothy Flood 8/15

Jennifer Griffin 8/15
 Kelly Plemmons 8/15
 Helen Morris 8/17
 Debra Mingus 8/20
 David Peek 8/20
 Candace Prince 8/21
 Allyn Bedenbaugh 8/22
 Emily Edenfield 8/23
 Donna Willingham 8/25
 Taylor Griffin 8/27
 Cheryl Millitello 8/27
 Larry Nelson 8/30
 Elizabeth Selkinghaus 8/30
 Kathy Burgess 8/31

**Redeemer’s Hidden Treasure:
 relu.church**

If you haven’t visited Redeemer’s web site in a while, perhaps you’ve forgotten all the information you can find there.

- Can’t remember when that church event is? The calendar is available on the home page.
- Forgot the details of something you saw in the most recent Crossroads newsletter? It’s there too, and if you need to check something you saw a while back, all the issues are there back to 2016.
- Do you want to hear Sunday’s sermon again while you work around the house? Worship service audio recordings are posted each week.
- Saw something in the E-Newsletter that you’d like to take another look at? All issues of the E-Newsletter can be found on the home page.
- Can’t find your Go and Serve from Sunday and need to look at it? It’s there too.
- Going to be out of town for the weekend? There’s a link for online giving available for you too.



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:

Pat and Steve Blackwell and Jane and Bob Long for their work in cleaning up and caring for the central courtyard just off the narthex,

The **525 Players** for representing Redeemer so well at the SC Synod Assembly as they presented selections from the Cotton Patch Gospels in support of the Assembly’s theme of seeing Jesus in unexpected places,

And to the **many volunteers** who came out to help **load two trucks full** of donations for Williamsburg County.

This is only the start. Visit relu.church often.



Here's How to Be Most Helpful With Your Donations to Williamsburg County

We are so appreciative of all your continuous donations for those folks in need down in Williamsburg County. When you look at the poorest counties in SC, Allendale and Williamsburg Counties top the list, and we are doing all this work in Williamsburg County since we have a trusted distribution site there. Please know that your donations truly make a difference.



As you bring your items, here are some ways to be most helpful:

Please have everything in boxes or bags. No small loose items (we have to pack them).

If you use a box, please don't overstuff. We must stack our boxes to maximize our space and you can't stack on an overstuffed box. Please close the flaps on top so that we can stack on top of each box.

If you use a bag, please tie it shut so things don't tumble out.

When you put items in the room, you will see that there are bags in one place and boxes in another. Please put your items on the right pile. Please stack as high as you can. Large, odd items also have a place in the room.



School Supplies Deadline Nears

It's time for Redeemer's annual **School Supply Drive** to help students (kindergarten through high school) from Williamsburg and Sharing God's Love. Our donations are always greatly appreciated by the families.

1. First day of school: Williamsburg Aug 16 and Irmo (dist. 5) Aug. 15. Please bring supplies no later than Sunday, August 13.

2. **Important Change** — Williamsburg schools are requesting clear backpacks this year for safety reasons. Typical backpacks are fine for Irmo schools.

3. A donation box is located in the Narthex.
4. Monetary donations are welcome. Please indicate the donation is for school supplies.

5. Easier shopping--order online and ship to Redeemer.



**GAMECOCK LUTHERAN
Alumni & Friends**

BBQ DINNER
August 12th @ 5:30



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
1416 Broad River Rd. Columbia, SC 29210

RSVP Appreciated!

Join us for an evening of BBQ, reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones, and learning more about what's happening in campus ministry! Pastor Jesse and students will share stories about what's going on at Gamecock Lutheran.

There's no cost, but a free will offering will be collected to support the ministry. RSVP is not required, but is appreciated. You can do so at GamecockLutheran.com/bbq or by scanning this QR code.





Lutheridge Music Week

Week In Review



I've been attending Lutheridge Music Week off and on since 1978.

That year, 1978, was the year the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) came out, so that year was devoted to the introduction of our "green book".



Wow, that was a long time ago!

We thought we were as modern and up-to-date as possible! And we were. We were current and relevant for the late 70's. I think there was a bit of hubris in thinking that we'd finally "arrived." In fact, we possessed far too much hubris to be circumspect, and we failed to recognize that life is nothing if it is not changing constantly.

Fast forward to 2023. The Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW; "red" book) is not only the LBW's replacement, but the ELW itself has a new supplement "All Creation Sings!" The ELW is getting old! And, once again, we are faced with that never-ending river of change that sweeps away our ideas of stability and permanence.

In fact, it's safe to say that **SO MUCH HAS CHANGED!**

We church musicians are learning that change is inevitable and is already here. With that in mind here are my thoughts from Lutheridge Music Week 2023.

Tom Trenney, our terrific choral director, brought a youthful dynamic to us aging Lutheran musicians. Terms like "contemporary worship" and "traditional style" are pointless at best and divisive at worst. **Today's church music composers are finding ways to create new music that is neither contemporary nor traditional yet the music is fresh, yet anchored in the significant parts of our shared heritage.** Trenney shared a small portion of this music with us. After all, we only had a week! You can only sing so much. But, to his credit, Trenney made the most of it and gave us so many things to think about and some great songs and resources.



Tom Trenney



Mary and Frank Anderson. Our Chaplains, Rev. Frank Anderson and Rev. Mary Anderson, using the week's theme, *Living Breath of God*, led us in thought-provoking worship experiences. From elegantly simple to profoundly majestic, our worship times gave us fresh ways of seeing God's grace and presence, to feel the living breath of God.

Pastor Mary's Bible study focused on the book of Acts. That book gives us an opportunity to talk about change, the Church's response to change, and the importance of engaging with the world around us genuinely and compassionately.



Like the first church, the church today needs to be willing and able to pivot in response to a changing world and a culture in flux. If we feel and function like a 1950's institution, we will not be in a very good position to meet a new generation of God's children who are desperately in need of what we can offer: love, grace, acceptance, and most importantly, a community trying to live like Jesus. But, if we simply imitate the latest worship experimentation in an effort to appear relevant and current, we risk losing our genuineness and authenticity. I wish I had answers, but I don't. I hope we can find common ground and ways of reaching a new generation.

That new generation may not hold to some traditions we find comforting and uplifting, and in fact may introduce new things that might make us old traditionalist a bit uneasy.

Uneasy would be the word that describes the early church. The book of Acts is a kind of diary of abrupt change and sharp pivots. Uneasy and unsettled. Sound familiar? Yup. The church today is going through another seismic shift. So, at some point we ask ourselves a critical question: Which is more important, style or gospel; traditions or grace; protocol or love? **There is, by God's love and grace, room at the table for all!**

Now that I've written this article, I realize that this year, though I learned a great deal about church music, and I got some great resources that we'll be using in the future, this week at Lutheridge, **challenged me to envision the Church in a world that's rapidly and sometimes frighteningly changing.**

I was gently reminded that our job is about proclaiming God's grace, and not about us and our clever performances as good as they can be. Notes and songs, hymns and organ selections are well and good (and we'll continue to try to do them well—even with excellence) but it's all just clanging cymbals and noisy gongs without the love and grace of God.

A Special Way of Caring: Home Communion

September will be the next month for our homebound members to receive communion from the Home Communion Team. If you're not familiar with this ministry, we'd love to share...

"Who is a homebound member?"

This is anyone that is connected to Redeemer Lutheran Church that has mobility trouble or is unable to leave their home and join us for in-person worship and Holy Communion.

"What is the Home Communion Team?"

This is a group of people that take Communion to the homebound members. Each person has a small communion kit and copies of a very brief home communion service. The team refills their kits with wine and wafers as needed. They are placed on the altar to be blessed with the elements on a Sunday morning.

"How often does the Team take home communion out?"

We ask that each homebound member is taken home communion at least once every odd month (January, March, etc.) But if you wish to visit and take communion more often that is certainly welcome. Pastor Gary and Pastor Amanda take communion out on the even months.

"Is there an opportunity for more people to join the Home Communion Team?"

Absolutely! We would love to have more people involved in this ministry! If you are interested in more information or if you know of a member that might benefit from home communion please contact Pastor Amanda, aburke@relu.church, 803.465.3773.





If you watch television or check out social media you may have run into various posts, videos, and memes about the generations. The silent generation, the baby boomers, generation X, millennials, generation z, and the upcoming alpha generation. Many of these categories and differentiations are subjective and filled

with stereotypes. At the same time, it is helpful to acknowledge the experiences and wisdom of each and every age group.

Our Redeemer Family is made up of all of these generations. Depending on which congregational activities and faith practices you partake in, you may or may not see all of these generations represented. However, our congregation truly has a vibrant expression across this spectrum.



There is definitely a time and place for age-appropriate ministry for each group. At the same time, community development and faith formation have the greatest success in a multi-generational environment.

As we look toward a new ministry season to begin this fall, where will we find opportunities to grow together in community? How will we intentionally reach out to others that have more experience in life? In what ways will we create space to join with those more youthful? How will we be the Redeemer Family, a community together in Christ?

Pastor Amanda

Lutheranism 101: A Four Part Series



Dates & Times: Tuesdays @ 7-8:30pm ET / 6-7:30pm CT on the following topics:

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 sessions will be on Zoom. All sessions will be recorded and posted to the Southeastern Synod Formation landing page on the synod website, and a digest of videos and resources will be emailed to all at the end of the series.

Cost: FREE

The Southeastern Synod is engaging laity in Fall 2023 to enter into a series called "LUTHERANISM 101, a 4-part series." There will be four, 1.5 hour online classes to help our laity (and perhaps rostered ministers) to engage in learning about the basics of the Lutheran faith and tradition.

Register just ONCE for all 4 sessions. Attend as many as you can

<https://se-reg.brtaapp.com/Lutheranism101>



Council Prepares for Congregational Meeting about the Sign; Considers Financial Review

The July meeting of the Church Council was focused on finalizing things for the Congregational Meeting on July 23 to consider a new electronic sign for our campus. Council looked again at a “somewhat like” design and prepared for the congregational meeting.

The meeting began with approval of the agenda for the day and approval of the minutes from the May meeting (there was no June meeting). Pastor Gary and Pastor Amanda offered reports. Todd Anderson, treasurer, informed the Council that at this point our income is behind expenses by about \$39,000 but we have cash reserves to cover that.

Council also considered that the project to replace the HVAC units in need of replacing has been completed. Council decided not to replace the exhaust fans in the restrooms near the narthex and preschool. Ongoing projects include lights in the Fellowship Center, replacing outdated computers, and exploring updated church management software.

Todd Anderson presented a recommendation from the Finance Committee that we undertake an outside financial review. This hasn’t been done for the Church finances since 2013, and we’ve had some transition in personnel since that time. It’s a good idea to have this done from time to time as the outside group can look at things overall and make recommendations for better processes and accountability. Council spent a long time talking about the kind of review that would be most helpful and

Todd is going to get some more information and pricing. One consideration was to delay this review until early in 2024 in order that we have opportunity to budget for it and then 2023 would be included in the review.

Pastor Gary pointed out that the playground was in bad shape with weeds and needed some attention. The Council asked Pastor Gary to consult with his son Jeremy who is certified to apply herbicides to see if there was a problem using them on the playground. Todd Anderson was tasked to get a price from a person who does this kind of clean up and removal.

Finally, Pastor Gary presented a request from a new charter school to use our parking lot for pick up and drop off of students, and, concerned with liability and other issues, the council declined.

The meeting closed with prayer 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

	June YTD 2023	June YTD 2022	June YTD 2021
Total income	\$ 218,106	\$210,299	\$ NA -
Total expenses	<u>\$ 257,440</u>	<u>\$310,404</u>	<u>- NA</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ (39,334)</u>	<u>\$ (100,105)</u>	<u>\$ NA</u>
Unrestricted Cash Balance	\$ 151,679	\$ 92,798	\$ NA
Attendance	Onsite: 99 Online: NA	Onsite: 84 Online 81	Online only: numbers NA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Music Camp Setup 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:15am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 2pm - Private Event @	Music Camp 10am - Staff Meeting @ 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible		7:30am - Choir Practice	6pm - NAMI support	6pm - Private Event @	
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:15am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:15am - Worship & 2pm - Private Event @	10am - Staff Meeting @ 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible		7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice		6pm - Private Event @	
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:15am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 2pm - Book Study @ 2pm - Private Event @	9am - Gardendale Garden 10am - Staff Meeting @ 2pm - Ruth Circle @ back 4pm - Finance Committee 4pm - Finance Committee 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible		7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	10am - Thursday Bible 12pm - Leisure Timers @ 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	6pm - Private Event @	
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:15am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 2pm - Book Study @ 2pm - Private Event @	10am - Staff Meeting @ 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible		7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	10am - Thursday Bible 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	6pm - Private Event @	
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:15am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 2pm - 9th-12th youth 2pm - Private Event @	10am - Staff Meeting @ 4pm - Finance Committee 5:30pm - Bedtime Bible		7:30am - Choir Practice 7pm - Choir Practice	10am - Thursday Bible 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	6pm - Private Event @	



Memorials Received

June 1, 2023 thur July 16, 2023

In Memory of:

George Selkinghaus

Ellus & Kay Burns
Catherine Gleaton
Margaret Larson
Hugh & Connie Davis
Brenda Stewart

Evelyn Nunamaker (*Jim Nunamaker's sister*)

Hettie & Lane Cross
Joanne Shrigley
Margaret Larson
Charles & Jean Cook

Melissa Smith (*Julie Crooks' sister*)

Charles & Jean Cook
Margaret Larson

Susan Lorick

John Lorick
Margaret Larson
Evelyn Abel

Rev. Earl Loadholdt & Marcia L. Ballentine

Chester Kearse

Elbert Dominick (*Cornelia Collins' brother*)

Cornelia Collins
Carolyn Champion
Marie Baughman
Hugh & Connie Davis

BJ Mishoe (*Jane Long's sister*)

Cornelia Collins
Margaret Larson
Carolyn Champion
Charles & Jean Cook
Kathy Harrell
Marie Baughman
Diane Hunt
Hugh & Connie Davis
Charlotte Brooks

Lee Thomas

Kathy Harrell
Marie Baughman
Diane Hunt
Evelyn Abel
Hettie & Lane Cross
Brian Crooks
Hugh & Connie Davis
Bob & Jane Long
Bonnie Berkley
Sam Mathias
Pat Crosby

Dot Park (*Dottie Park's mother*)

Catherine Stutts



Memorial Service for Bill Schneider

August 9

A memorial service for Bill Schneider is planned for August 9 here at Redeemer at 10:00am. Bill died this past Spring, but the family was unable to have a memorial service at that time.



Calendar

Always subject to change!

Sundays—Faith Launch
3yo-2nd, 3rd-6th

July 31-Aug 4—Music Camp!!!

September 16, 2023—Lutheran Youth Day,
Newberry College, 6th-12th

November 3-5, 2023—SCLCY Hand in Hand
Fall Service Event, 6th-12th

February 9-11, 2024—SCLCY Winter
Retreat, 6th-12th

May 10-12, 2024—SCLCY Spring into Action
Spring Service Event, 6th-12th

June 9-13, 2024—Graceworks, 6th-12th

July 13-16, 2024—ELCA Multicultural Youth
Leadership Event, 8th-12th

July 16-20, 2024—ELCA Youth Gathering,
8th-12th

July 16-20, 2024—ELCA Young Adult
Gathering, 18-35 year olds

Mark your calendars!



- 9 am to 12 pm
- Ages 4 to rising 6th grade
- Singing and Instruments
- Bible Stories
- Crafts
- Snacks and Games
- Parent Program on Fri

Redeemer Lutheran Church Music Camp

July 31-August 4

Register at:

<https://relu.link/MusicCamp2023>



Redeemer Lutheran Church

525 St. Andrews Rd
Columbia, SC 29210
(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

