



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

September 2023

Activities Resume After Summer Break

As the summer draws to a close, many of Redeemer’s ministries are getting rolling again after their summer break.

- You’ve been hearing about the Instant Church Directory, and now you’re going to hear even more. This is an easy app that allows church members to have a directory available on their phone to list and find other church members. Information can be shared with groups like the choir or a WELCA circle, and we can even have pictures of our members. There’s a lot of information on “how to “ in this issue of the Crossroads. Please sign up or contact Pastor Amanda who can help you.



- Youth programs are getting underway again with many planned activities and Bible studies coming soon. You can keep up with all their happenings on the RELU Youth page in the Crossroads each month.

- The Thursday Bible study has begun again, this time with a study of Psalms. Pastor Gary is very excited about all he is learning and can hardly wait to share it with those who come. The Bible Study happens each Thursday at 10:00am and is repeated at 7:00pm. You can be here in person, or attend online. Here’s the link: <https://relu.link/ThursdayBibleStudy>

- Regular Wednesday Choir practice is back up and

running too. Lift your voice in song of praise to God every Wednesday at 7:00pm.

- Confirmation classes will begin soon too. Like last year, we’ll meet on the first Sundays of the month after worship, beginning with October 1, And of course, we have Sunday School and worship every week. Sunday School starts at 8:45 and Worship is at 10:00am. Come, worship and praise God with us! Worship is also available online: <https://relu.link/Facebook> or <https://relu.link/YouTube>

Join us for all these activities and more!

Inside-	
Birthdays	3
Shopping Cart	4
Background Checks	4
Music Camp	5
Instant Church Dir.	7-9
Council Report	10
RELU Youth	11



It happens, oh, maybe two or three times a year. I guess I've never shared it with you or mentioned it because we don't really have a good means to do it. We don't really have a clear place to post something like this, so there's nowhere you would notice it either.

Nevertheless, a few times a year, there will come in the mail an envelope with a single sheet of paper in it that is covered in signatures. It is something akin to our Red Cards of Caring that we do each week for our shut-ins and folks who are ill. A few congregations in our synod put out a paper like that, but instead of sending it to their own shut-ins, they send it to another congregation in the synod.

The one I got last week said, "Sisters and brothers in Christ, as partners in sharing the Gospel, we prayed for you, your pastor, your leadership, and your ministries during our worship service today." And then, the members who were there, signed the card.

Now, like I said, there are a few churches in the synod that are doing this, and we get one a few times a year from one congregation or another. What made this one special—at least to me — was that it happened to be from the first congregation I served as pastor. While some of the membership has changed in the thirty or so years since I was there, I still recognized and know many of those folks who prayed for us.

How nice to be prayed for in this way! I think we pray for one another, particularly if one of us is sick or bereaved or in crisis, but what a joy it is to know that one of our sister congregations has prayed for us, for our ministries, and remembered our partnership in the



gospel. I don't think we do that kind of thing often enough.

We are supposed to. In fact, it was just a Sunday or two ago that I began thinking of making a minor change in something in our worship bulletin. It's a minor change, but it makes a major difference. When it's time for the prayers of interces-

sion, Pastor Amanda or I invite you to pray by saying, "With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation." And for some reason, one Sunday recently, I noticed that the word 'church' in that line wasn't capitalized. You see, small letter 'c' is typically understood to mean the local congregation, and we should pray for our church. But capital 'C' means the wider

church at large. That means our congregation, our sister congregations in the synod, our national ELCA, and congregations of other denominations and Church bodies too. In the gospel of John, Jesus prays a long prayer for just this thing: for the Church and for unity among believers. Probably, we should pray that way too.

It's good to pray for individuals we care about too. I can't tell you how often someone in a hospital or facing a death or some crisis will tell me how they feel the prayers of our congregation supporting and helping them. With Nan's recent health concern, I can add my own affirmation of that as well. Your prayers mean so much, so

very much, to those in these needs, and you offer them so generously, so freely, so compassionately.

We are partners sharing in the gospel. Pray for the church. Pray for the Church. Pray for one another. Your prayers make a difference. You make a difference.





Sherry Lindler 9/1
 Sharon Mathias 9/1
 Claire Rapp 9/1
 Jesse Richards 9/1
 Peri Baker 9/2
 Emily Wessinger 9/2
 Brandon Hawkins 9/3
 Meskerem Burke 9/5
 Kay Burns 9/6
 Rebecca Clark 9/6
 Catherine Gleaton 9/10
 Grace Shealy 9/10
 English Gallery 9/12
 Annette Lindsay 9/12



Sarah McKeown 9/13
 Spencer Redfern 9/14
 Kent Bedenbaugh 9/15
 Kelly Stohs 9/15
 Nancy McKinney 9/16

Amy Gilli 9/17
 Lynda Keisler 9/18
 Carmen Plemmons 9/19
 Denise Anderson 9/22
 Tess Isaacson 9/22
 Jane Long 9/24
 Ty Yeoman 9/25
 Thomas Ketchen 9/26
 Kelsey Busch 9/27
 Drew Shealy 9/27
 Eric Sturgeon 9/29
 Edwin Honeycutt 9/30
 Joseph Wilkes 9/30



In the Mail

Dear Ladies of the Church,

Thank you for the wonderful reception you put together for my father's memorial service. Also, thank you for making care packages for is to take home. The food provided us great treats for our two cars back to Virginia and one to Tennessee. We appreciate all you did!

Sincerely,

Catherine S. Bost (Daughter of Bill and Bonnie Schneider)



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:

Our **Bereavement Teams** who respond with such love though food for the bereaved families of our members,

Tim Rollins, Martha Summer, and Michelle Knight, who have served and continue to serve as our Sunday School teachers,

And to **Kevin Burke and Rev. Kathy Chartier** for filling in for Pastor Gary and Pastor Amanda when an emergency and illness had them away on a Sunday morning.



Don't Forget the Shopping Cart for Sharing God's Love!

It sits lonely and forlorn in our narthex. Before the pandemic, we

had an active ministry supporting Sharing God's Love with gifts of non-perishable food items in our shopping cart. During the pandemic, while we couldn't come to worship, the shopping cart got largely forgotten. In addition, many of us began to support the Blessing Box outside instead. The truth is that both the Blessing Box and Sharing God's Love need our support and help for the many in our community in need. So here's a reminder to support the blessing Box, but to remember the shopping cart for Sharing God's Love too. Make a difference!



It's Time to Renew Your Background Check

One of the most important goals we can have is to keep our children safe. To that end, more than ten years ago, Redeemer put a child protection policy in place, and one requirement of that policy is that we have background



checks on file for anyone who works with children as part of our ministries. However, when everything shut down for the pandemic, these background checks were not kept up to date since we weren't having

these ongoing ministries. Since these background checks are good only for two years, everyone who had done one previously is in need of doing another one. If you volunteer in any of our youth ministry programs, or volunteer in the nursery, please get a form from the table in the narthex and turn it in so that we can do the check and have these forms on file. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

Thursday Bible Study Begins Study of Psalms

"I can't wait to show you what I am learning," Pastor Gary says about the Thursday Bible Study topic for this Fall. "The Psalms are our words to God through which we hear God's Word to us, and they reflect so much of life and faith. They are honest and reflect our life together with God."

Come join us for learning together, laughing with one another, and sharing God's Word in new and exciting ways.



Bible Study meets each Thursday at 10:00am and the class is repeat-

ed at 7:00pm. It is available in person or online.

Here's the online link: <https://relu.link/ThursdayBibleStudy>

A Friendly Reminder

Our Redeemer building is open to our members to use for meetings and events, but it is important that you schedule such activities with the church office. We maintain a calendar and we will put it on the calendar along with what room you want to use. Scheduling your meeting will help us avoid conflicts like two groups wanting to use the same room at the same time, or incompatible activities at the same time. Thank you!

Got a Little Time? Need Some Exercise?

You may not be aware of it, but it's almost a quarter of a mile to walk the outside of our parking lot.

That would be great exercise! And while you are at it, particularly on a Friday or Saturday, we'd love it if you'd like to carry along a trash back and pick up the litter and



trash that blows onto our campus through the week. Help us look our best to the community! Thanks!



Summer Music Camp Was a Big Success!



Thirty-six children from all over our community gathered to sing, drum, create arts projects, learn Bible stories, enjoy snacks, and play together for our Redeemer Summer Music Camp.

The kids had a great time singing about all the critters in creation. When the theme is "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir" you get to meet a lot of interesting critters.



Of course all the campers and staff enjoyed singing that fun song "All God's Critters", but we learned that it goes a lot deeper than that.

God made a beautiful planet as home to all those critters, and it's our job to take care of this planet and protect the world God made for us.

The kids learned about how we should love our neighbors, near and far. We celebrated God's love for us as individuals and how we are all special.

NEXT YEAR'S SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

JULY 29-AUGUST 2





One of the things that made this year’s camp successful was the huge support from the Redeemer congregation. To say Redeemer stepped up would be a bit of an understatement.

I think these people deserve a big “thank-you” and a hearty pat on the back.

Martie Newmyer—Co-Director and Arts and Crafts

Pastor Amanda—Co-Director and Story Time

Janet Boatwright--Registrar

Lois McLeod—Music

Amanda Walker--Music

Denise Anderson—Admin. Asst.

Tarike Burke—Shepherd

Elaine Bouknight—Shepherd

Maria Bullis—Shepherd

Kathy Chartier—Shepherd

Becky Lass—Shepherd

Donna Gilbert—Playground Supervisor

Lillie Free—Arts and Crafts

Bailey Walker—Bucket Brigade

Donna Nunamaker—Arts and Crafts

Martha Summer—Snacks

Alma Schultz—Snacks

Wally Schultz—Snacks

Lily Thomas—Youth Guide

Jonah Griffin-- Youth Guide

Laurel Cowen-- Youth Guide

Wesley Cowen-- Youth Guide

Andrew Lindler-- Youth Guide

Siang Sung-- Youth Guide

Gladdy Chin-- Youth Guide

Reily Googe-- Youth Guide

Brady Patel-- Youth Guide

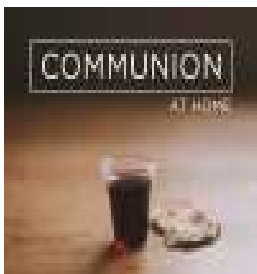
And a very special thank you to **Mike Parker** who cleaned up the playground equipment for our campers. Our playground has not been used for years now, and it was in foul shape.

So, as you can see, a whole lot of people came together to make this year’s Music Camp happen and be a big success.



Thank you all!

Home Communion Team!



September is your month to take communion to the Redeemer Family's homebound members. Please refill your communion kits if needed. On the first or second Sunday this month place your kits on the altar to be blessed. If you have any needs or questions please contact Pastor Amanda.



Quick Questions

with Pastor Amanda

Redeemer Family! As we launch our fall ministry season, it is time to get the Instant Church Directory out to everyone! Here are step-by-step instructions. These are based on an android phone. Access on an iPhone will be very similar. If you would like to access it through a computer the

website is... www.instantchurchdirectory.com

You will be able to input your own information and picture. In addition, if your information changes at any point you are able to edit your own entry. All additions, edits, and changes do have to be approved. They will not appear immediately.

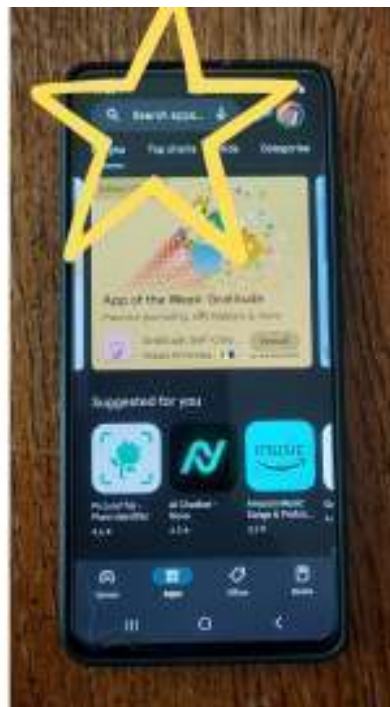
As always, if you would like assistance with this process I am happy to help! Feel free to give me a call, text, or email. I look forward to the Instant Church Directory being a tool that helps the Redeemer Family have improved communication and connection.

Pastor Amanda

Step 1
Find the Play Store on your android smart phone.



Step 2
When the Play Store opens find the search bar. Type Instant Church Directory and search.

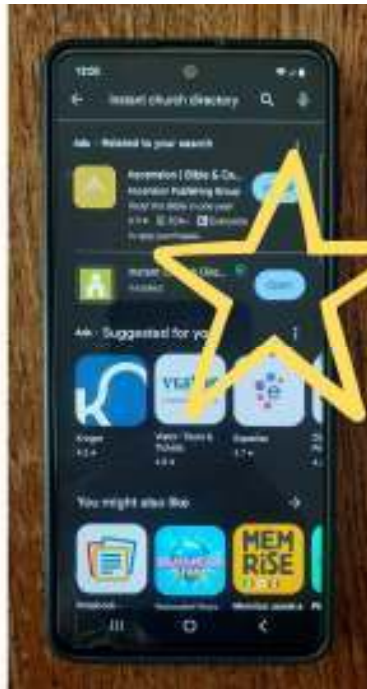


Step 3
The icon you are looking for is the white silhouette of a church with a green-ish yellow background. Tap install.





Step 4
After the app has loaded onto your phone the Open icon will appear. Tap open.



Step 5
The Instant Church Directory App will open. Tap Create Login.



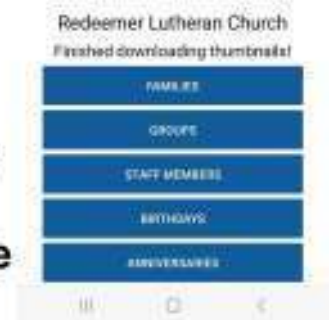
Step 6
Enter your email address at which you receive information from Redeemer. Create your own password for this app. Tap Create Login.



Step 7
You will receive an email allowing you to verify your Instant Church Directory login info.



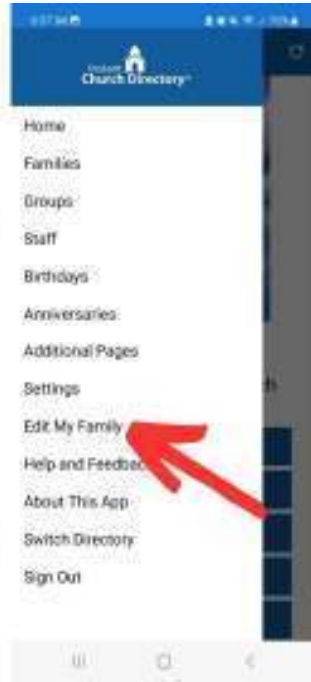
Step 8
Open the app now! The page looks something like this. Click on the lines top left.





Step 9
In order to check and edit your family's information, tap Edit My Family.

You can make changes to the household as a whole and individuals in the family.



Step 10
Upload a picture. Edit your household info. Edit each individual's info. When you are finished tap Submit Edits at the bottom. Your edits will not appear immediately.



Last Chance for Lutheranism 101 Sign Up

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 Discusses Maintenance Issues, Considers Professional Audit

Lights in the Fellowship Center, wood chips for the playground, maintenance on the retention pond, new computers, old servers and more: these are some of the property maintenance issues that came up at the August meeting of the Church Council.

After reviewing the minutes of the last meeting and of the congregational meeting in August, the Council heard reports from the pastors and the treasurer. Pastor Gary reported that the church computers are five years old now, and historically we have looked to replace them about that time. He is working with our tech guy to determine our needs. He also informed the Council that our server hardware is dying (that machine is 10+ years old) but that there is a cloud based option we are migrating to. Finally, Pastor Gary and the staff are looking at Church Management software and are working on a recommendation for what will work well for our church.

Under old business the Council was reminded that the new sign that had been approved at the congregational meeting was under design and that Council would see the design for final approval before construction begins.

Then several maintenance issues were discussed. An ongoing project is the retrofit of our lighting fixtures to LED lights through a special program with Dominion Energy. This will be at least the fourth phase we will undertake, and this phase will change the lights in the Fel-

lowship Center. Dominion pays around 90% of the costs and our part is recouped through energy savings.

Council talked about the need to refurbish the wood chips in the playground so it is safe, and noted that the retention pond needs cleaning out again.

There was a lot of discussion about an outside group doing an audit of our books. We utilize an outside group about once every 10 years or so, especially to spotlight and make recommendations for policies and procedures we need to implement. It isn't a question of whether we do the audit, just a matter of what level audit we need. This topic is still under discussion.

The meeting closed with prayer and the sharing of the peace.



- New sign design underway
- Next phase of LED lighting ready
- Needs: wood chips for playground, retention pond needs attention
- What level outside audit do we need?

By the Numbers: July

	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Total income	\$ 252,734	\$244,923	\$ -
Total expenses	<u>\$ 302,435</u>	<u>\$353,628</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ (49,701)</u>	<u>\$ 108,705</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance on mortgage loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Unrestricted Cash Balance	\$ 146,235	\$ 79,020	\$ -
No information for 2021			

Attendance

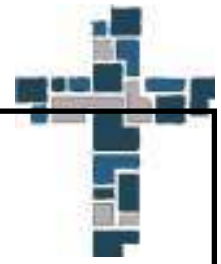
Onsite: 100 Online 68

Onsite:69 Online 126

Onsite 113 Online 364

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

RELU YOUTH



**Mark your calendars!
New dates added!**

Calendar

Always subject to change!

September 10, 2023
OK Youth Group, Littles-K
(and parents), 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

September 10, 2023
Elementary Youth Group, 1st-6th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

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

October 1, 2023
OK Youth Group, Littles-K (and parents)
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

October 1, 2023
Elementary Youth Group, 1st-6th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

October 1, 2023
Confirmation Class, 7th-11th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

October 29, 2023
Community Trunk or Treat
Everyone's invited, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

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

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

March 23, 2024
Community Easter Egg Hunt
Everyone's invited, 10:00 - 11:30 am

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

May 19, 2024
Rite of Confirmation Sunday
9:45 am - 11:15 am

June 9-13, 2024
Graceworks, 6th-12th



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 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. 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.



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