



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

October 2023

Council Creates Property Assessment Team

Many of us know the aches and pains of growing older, and our building and grounds are experiencing the same thing. As our building ages, repairs are sometimes needed and wear and tear begins to show. Lately, our church staff — mostly the pastors — have been called on to oversee any

repairs that needed happening and these efforts are requiring time they could better spend in ministry. To help with this matter, the Council has created the Property Assessment Team.



Led by Steve Summer, this team will act with responsibilities like what a Property Committee would do. In recent years, Redeemer's property concerns were largely ad-

ressed by Tim Campbell or Greg Cross as individuals, but now this team will first begin to assess our property and what needs immediate attention. Then, they will oversee getting the work done. A second focus will be to begin looking at longer term needs like schedules of replacement for things, or drawings of how different systems in the church operate.

God has entrusted this facility to us, and our care for our property reflects on our response to God's blessings. We need five or six people to help with this Assessment Team. If you are willing to help, please contact Steve Summer, Bill Newmyer, or Pastor Gary.



Annual Congregational Meeting is November 19

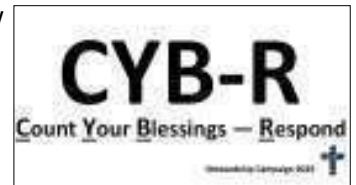
Redeemer's Annual Congregational Meeting will follow worship on November 19. On the agenda is the election of new Council members and approval of the 2024 Spending Plan. Be sure to be here for this important meeting.

CYB-R Consecration

Sunday is October 1

This year's Annual Stewardship Campaign was centered around the theme CYB-R (Count Your Blessings — Respond!) and invites us to think about how

God has blessed us in life and with our



church family and its ministries, and respond with our support.

2024 Estimate of Giving Cards were sent out in the mail and are also available in the narthex. Please give your support careful and prayer-full consideration.

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*"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.*

My phone dinged, and I stared at the message, absorbing it, hardly knowing what to do or how to respond. The text was from a friend telling me that his father had died. I remembered Edd so fondly. Nan and I were a young couple, just starting out and finding our way in ministry. Edd and his wife were the age of our parents, but they 'adopted' us, constantly friendly, often inviting us over to share a meal in their home, bringing us produce from their garden, always supportive and present at church. His wife died several years ago, but Edd, was still going strong, into his 90's. We kept in touch: Edd, his family, and ours.

When I received the text, Nan and I were excited because we were just days away from a trip to Texas to see our granddaughter, Hannah, baptized. That likely meant that we wouldn't be in town to attend Edd's funeral.

*"In the middle
ages of your life,
not too old, no
longer young,
I'll be there to
guide you
through the
night,*



*complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."*

It was an interesting juxtaposition: death and new life together, just days apart. As I reflected on the two



events coming so closely together, I began to think about our funeral pall. The pall is a large white cloth that we use over the casket at a funeral. We have an urn pall as well, and palls to fit youth and child sized caskets if needed. But the thing is: while a pall is used at a funeral, it is actually a baptismal garment. The message of the pall is that as this person was wrapped in the righteousness of Christ at their baptism, this garment is a visible sign that the person is still wrapped in the righteousness of Christ, even in death. With the pall used at every funeral, it says that we are alike in our need for God's grace, and we are alike in receiving it too. Our earthly distinctions don't matter. God was there to hear our borning cry, and God is there when evening closes in with the surprise of new life.

*"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."*

I sat there in the middle of the two: the new birth in Christ of baptism, and the victorious death on the far end of a long and well-lived life. And in one of those moments when God gave me just the right words to say, I responded to my friend that we would "be in Texas for our granddaughter's baptism as she begins the journey that Edd has now completed. "

We are all on that journey. God has blessed us, God will receive us, and God is with us all the way through. Thanks be to God for the surprise of grace.

*"I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.*



Donna Gilbert 10/01
 Rachael Sprinkle 10/01
 James Turner 10/01
 Robert Wright Jr. 10/01
 Michael Gleaton 10/02
 Madeleine Gilli 10/04
 Meghan Murphy 10/04
 Everett Schaller 10/04
 Peggy Strawhorn 10/05
 Theresa Courtney 10/07
 Elijah Griffin 10/07
 Linda Wells 10/07
 Wendy Williams 10/08
 Anna Marie Stohs 10/09
 Evelyn Abel 10/10



Jim Boatwright 10/10
 Judy Urso 10/10
 Mason Burgess 10/12
 Andrew Stohs 10/13
 Mary Sue Lee 10/15
 Jordan Knight 10/17
 Varner Richards 10/17
 Stephen Epting 10/18
 Janet Glenn 10/18

Ursula Ellis 10/22
 Jim Pappas 10/22
 Cindy Peek 10/22
 Connie Rollins 10/23
 Emily Knight 10/24
 Larry Higgins Sr. 10/25
 Andrew Richards 10/25
 Nancy Beaver 10/26
 Kare Burke 10/26
 George Faller 10/26
 Fauni Lowe 10/28
 William Newmyer 10/29
 James Epting Jr. 10/30
 Jonah Griffin 10/30

Food Box Give Away Update

It's just October, but the holidays will be here before we know it. Redeemer is partnering with Seven Oaks Elementary School again this year to provide Holiday Food Boxes for families in need. There will be an opportunity to give toward this ministry coming soon! Thanks for loving the neighbors around us!



In the Mail

Dear Redeemer friends,
 Thank you so much for the cards, calls and prayers that you have given me during this challenging time. I'm feeling great and know with wonderful people like you in my corner, I've got this!

In Christ's Love
 Betty Pearce



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:

Connie Davis and Preston Smith for inviting our faithful response to God's blessings in our stewardship campaign,



The members of our altar guild who week after week prepare God's table for us, and to

Tom Lass who oversees the gifts of furniture to outfit the new homes for Ukrainian and Afghan refugees being settled in our community.



Are You Ready to Hear Something Different? Guest Preachers Scheduled

This Fall, Redeemer will receive some guest preachers for our Sunday worship services.

On October 8, Kevin Burke will be the preacher for the day. You may not be aware of it, but Pastor Amanda's husband, Kevin, is also in seminary. He is seeking ordination as a deacon, and is currently doing his internship. While preaching isn't the major thrust of his roster, it is a good thing for him to "show" his supervisor and internship committee that he can do this function as well as the other things he is called to do. So, we are giving him that opportunity.



This past summer, Pastor Gary and Pastor Amanda were reflecting on the Sunday that Rev. Emily Hartmann, South Carolina Assistant to the Bishop (and member of Redeemer) had preached here and that it would be nice if we invited the other Assistant to the Bishop to come preach here as well. So, on Reformation Sunday, October 29, we will welcome Rev. Rick Carter as our preacher.

In an effort to offer support and develop closer ties with Campus Ministry in South Carolina, we received an offer from Rev. Jesse Caniff-Kuhn, pastor of Lutheran Campus Ministry at USC, to come and preach. We have him scheduled on the first Sunday in December (December 3).

We look forward to these guest preachers as we give them a warm welcome and a listening ear.

Trunk or Treat October 29th



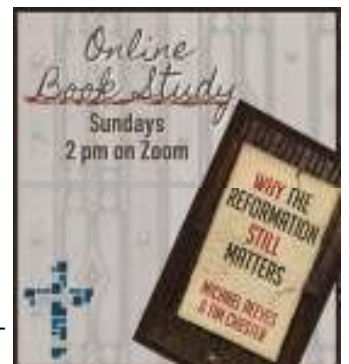
Hear Ye, Hear Ye! The Community Trunk or Treat at Redeemer will be on October 29th from 3:00-4:30 pm. You're invited! Invite others too! We are looking for Trunks... folks who would be willing to come at 2:40 and park in the front lot. Talk with Pastor Amanda. The trunks or back hatches of the vehicles would be open, and you can decorate if you'd like. There might even be prizes for the most creative decor. Be ready to pass out wrapped candy, small toys, or stickers to those who come by. If you'd like to help, but can't be in person we'd welcome candy donations. The Redeemer Family, Friends, Neighbors, and Community are welcome to dress up and come to Trunk or Treating between 3:00-4:30 pm. Last year was so much fun... this year will be too!

Why the Reformation Still Matters? Sunday Afternoon Book Study

Redeemer's Sunday afternoon book study will continue into October. We are currently reading "Why the Reformation Still Matters" by Michael Reeves and Tim Chester. Folks are welcome to jump in at any time! We meet online through Zoom on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm. Zoom Link: <https://relu.link/BookStudy>

Here's our tentative schedule...

- Sun, Oct 1 - Chapter 7, The Spirit: Can we Truly Know God?
- Sun, Oct 8 - Chapter 8, The Sacraments: Why Do We Take Bread and Wine?
- Sun, Oct 29 - Chapter 9, The Church: Which Congregation Should I Join?
- Sun, Nov 5 - Chapter 10, Everyday Life: What Different Does God Make on Monday Mornings?
- Sun, Nov 12 - Chapter 11, Joy and Glory: Does the Reformation Still Matter?





“That first breath that a choir or orchestra takes together, a breath filled with focus, intention and emotion, a breath unified for no other reason than to make something beautiful together... that is the reason we do what we do.”

--Eric Whitacre

I started our Fall Choir Workshop with that quote from the American composer, Eric Whitacre.

The choir pondered that quotation for a while as we collectively recognized what it was saying—as a choir we know that moment, we’ve lived it, and we all sort of live for it—that communal breath.

We focus on breathing a lot in choir practice. Well, you have to breathe to sing; and, of course, you have to breathe to live!

But there’s something about a unified communal breath—a full-bodied inhalation—that by its very nature unites us. Ask anyone who’s taken a Yoga class. Breathing is so much more than taking in sufficient gases to sustain life.

Just like a finely prepared and presented meal is so much more than nutrients to feed our physical bodies.

That communal choral breath before singing is a powerful moment full of anticipation, excitement, and togetherness.

Even as listeners, you can feel that anticipation and excitement.

The choir takes that breath together for the purpose of making beautiful sounds.

It’s a moment that has no parallel; at least, not in my world.

But suppose we do press a bit on Mr. Whitacre’s observation.



What would it mean if the Church breathes God’s spirit for no other reason than to make something beautiful together.

And, like music, that response varies from song to song, from situation to situation.

That communal breath of God might be to worship with honesty and humility; to experience God together in community.

But maybe that divine breath might mean a commitment to understanding others, listening to others, serving others, letting go of those ways of thinking and living that hinder our relationships with others...and even our relationship with God.

May we breathe together for the sole purpose of loving God and God’s creation.



I Owe You!

That's right, I owe you the titles of some more of my most beloved pieces of choral music. Instead of overloading you with a bunch of songs, I'm going to give you one a month. That seems more practical to me.

So this month's selection, appropriately enough, is written by Eric Whitacre.

Whitacre described his own experience with his first choral rehearsal as a turning point in his life, saying, "In my entire life I had seen in black and white, and suddenly everything was in shocking Technicolor. It was the most transformative experience I've ever had—in that single moment, hearing dissonance and harmony, and people singing..."



Eric Whitacre,
American Composer

Lux Aurumque ("Light and Gold", sometimes "Light of Gold") is a Christmas piece based on a Latin poem of the same name, which translates as "Light, warm and heavy as pure gold, and the angels sing softly to the newborn baby".

Here's a link to the piece. In this link, you can see the actual music as the choir sings. Two significant things you'll notice:

1. All parts are subdivided—Soprano 1 and soprano 2; alto 1 and alto 2, and so on. This gives this work such depth and sonorous richness. It's the choral equivalent of some decadently rich chocolate dessert.
2. It's unaccompanied. There are dissonances that would be jarring as instrumental music, but when sung it's absolutely the sound of heaven. Such breath-taking sounds!! Indeed, the sound of angels.

If you want a truly other-worldly experience, listen to this!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5_LSBuPwXs

“Share the Warmth” Coat Challenge Begins



Redeemer's annual "Share the Warmth" Coat Challenge begins on Sunday, October 1st. Gently used coats, hats, scarves and gloves for men, women and children will be collected until Sunday, January 28th. Sharing God's Love, in Irmo, distributes these items for us throughout our community. This is our 19th year of collecting coats. As of January 29, 2023, we have shared 1,477 coats and numerous accessories with our neighbors. Invite your family and friends to join the challenge. Place your items in the wooden box in the Narthex. Questions, email Conniedavis@sc.rr.com, (803) 356-0560. Matthew 25-31-40

The Stewardship Committee



Happy October Redeemer Family!



As we get to this time of year I can't help but think about fall (even though it is still summer in SC), football season, and what it means to continuously be reforming our faith. At the end of October, we will celebrate Reformation. The movement that started over 500 years ago with Martin Luther and many others still affects us today. Luther and the other reformers didn't specifically seek to start a

new type of church, but to reexamine the current church. Still, these debates, writings, and publications ushered in a variety of new denominations and doctrines.

It is tempting to think about this all being in the past. Perhaps it is merely a moment in history that we study and reflect briefly on the roots of our congregation. However, what if this movement is still in play today? What does it look like to continually look at the way we are church in the world? How do we grow in outreach to meet the needs of our community? What would happen if we continue to wrestle with scripture and what will we learn from it in today's society? Where will the church go in the future to share the Gospel and build God's Kingdom on earth?

It is exciting to ponder!

Pastor Amanda

Did You Know? Burmese Christians Meet at Redeemer

The Redeemer Family has hosted multiple groups in their building and on their campus over the years. Relationships with different organizations have come and gone. Right now we have a growing relationship with a developing Burmese Church. Years ago Chosen Chin was affiliated with Redeemer through work with a sponsored refugee family. In the past 2 years he has been involved with Redeemer again. Two of his daughters are very active in our youth ministry. Siang is in 11th grade and participates with the High School Youth. Gladly is in 8th grade and is always at Middle School Youth Group. You'll also see her at worship regularly and helping in the Sunday morning nursery.

Chosen has been working hard to bring the different groups of Burmese refugees and pastors together for joint worship, Bible study, and fellowship. On Sunday afternoons and Friday evenings if you wonder why our parking lot is fairly full... it is this beautiful gathering of the various Burmese groups. And if you happen to be in the building you'll hear the laughter and joy of many children, a sermon given and scripture read in the Chin language, and faith lifted up in vibrant song.



It is a wonderful relationship. This group needs a place to gather, worship, and study. Redeemer has ample space and availability. We've already had ministry crossover with Chosen's children being active in our youth ministry. It will be beautiful to see where else this relationship might lead. Please keep our Burmese friends and neighbors in your prayers!



Council Approves Sign Design; Initiates Property Assessment Team

The new sign is getting closer and closer. In October, the Council approved the design for our sign created by our ‘sign design’ team along with representatives of the sign company. We will soon be signing contracts and really getting things underway (although the process will take several months).

Council also considered the issue of managing our property. Our church staff is often called upon to manage contacting vendors and managing repairs that need completion for the building — often taking time they should be involved with other ministries they are better suited for. Steve Summer will chair a property assessment team — a group of about six or so who will first meet to begin determining needs our facility and grounds have and devising ways to deal with them. This may also begin to look at preventative maintenance, and developing drawings that would help in time of needed repairs.

Council also heard from Kare Burke as a representative of our youth, learning about many youth activities over the summer and the impact those events had in their lives. Council also asked about how our congregation can better support and encourage our youth ministry.

In other reports, Pastor Gary announced that the next phase of the lighting project with Dominion Energy will happen on October 2. This project covers the conversion of our fluorescent lighting to LED lighting which eventual-

ly pays for itself with electricity cost savings. Dominion pays up to \$6000 for each phase we do. This is our fourth (of five) phases and will focus on the Fellowship Center. Redeemer’s cost for this phase will be about \$2000.

The time to replace the Church computers has come, and Redeemer’s Tech Team will assist the office with getting what is needed.

It was discovered that we do have financial policies and procedures, so the outside financial review was tabled until the opportunity to look through the procedures we already have can happen.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for November 19, following worship.



- New Sign design approved
- Property Assessment Team formed
- Conversation and support for youth and youth ministry
- Next phase of LED lighting project: Fellowship Center
- Outside Financial Review delayed
- Annual Congregational Meeting November 19

By the Numbers

	August YTD 2023	August YTD 2022	August YTD 2021
Total income	\$ 347,491	\$313,359	\$ 373,827
Total expenses	<u>\$ 346,731</u>	<u>\$397,016</u>	<u>\$ 369,017</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ 760</u>	<u>(83,657)</u>	<u>\$ 4,810</u>
Balance on mortgage loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,344
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 190,365	\$105,209	\$ 200,435
Attendance	Onsite: 96 Online 104	Onsite: 94 Online 98	Onsite: 49 Online: 460

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

Memorials Received
July 17th, 2023 thru August 24th, 2023

In Memory of:

Bill Schneider

Catherine Post
Mrs. D Abel
Preston Smith
Amelia Dowd
Connie & Hugh Davis
Karen Hellwig

Bonnie Schneider

Michael & Marie Baughman
Mrs. D Abel
Cornelia Collins
Preston Smith
Amelia Dowd
Cathy & Buddy Champion
Margret Lawson
Connie & Hugh Davis
Karen Hellwig
Mark Roddey

John Pritchett

Michael & Marie Baughman
Earl & Linda Wells

Laddie Riley

Michael & Marie Baughman

Lee Thomas

Julie & Robert Pell

Richard Neel (Nan Loadholdt's
father)

Cornelia Collins
Catherine & Barry Stutts
Pawnee Schumpert

Hettie Cross

Diane Hunt
Earl & Linda Wells
Tim & Connie Rollins
Lyn Metzler
Kathleen Harrell
Lynne Flood
Cathy & Buddy Champion
Trish Matthey
Sandra Moore
Connie & Hugh Davis
Margret Lawson
Nancy McKinney
Cornelia Collins
Amelia Dowd
Carol & James Knoche
Bob & Julie Pell
David & Evelyn Abel
Wendy & Jon Baughman
Bonnie Berley
Julie & Robert Pell
Lyle & Mary Lou Campbell
Marion & Dianne Carroway
Robert & Jane Long
Betty Singletary
Brenda Miller
Deborah Suydam
Helen Morris
Mike & Barbara Parker
Michael & Marie Baughman
Rhonda Collins
Preston Smith
Brian & Julie Crooks
Carl & Edwyn Mahon
Elizabeth Selkinghaus
James Nunemaker
Gloria Hallman

Pat Crosby

Donna Gilbert

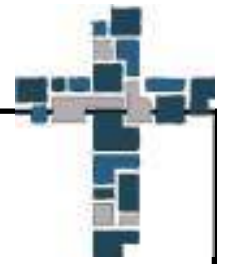
Philip & Judy Urso

Mark Roddey

Cathy & Barry Stutts

BJ Mishoe (Jane Long's Sister)
Pawnee Schumpert





Calendar

Always subject to change!

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

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

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

Sun, October 1, 2023
Youth Gathering Info Meeting #2
Parents and 8th-12th graders
12:30-1:30 pm, small fellowship hall

Th, October 5, 2023
HS Youth Group, 9th-12th grades
6:00-8:00 pm at Redeemer

Sun, October 8, 2023
Youth Gathering Info Meeting #3
Parents and 8th-12th graders
4:00-6:00 pm, small fellowship hall

Wed, October 11, 2023
HS Youth Group, 9th-12th grades
6:00-8:00 pm at Redeemer

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

Sun, October 29, 2023
HS Youth Group, 9th-12th grades
4:30 - 6:30 pm at Redeemer

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

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

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





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
Council Members**

Term Expires End of 2023
Carroll Lorick
Steve Summer
Julie Crooks

Executive Committee

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

Term Expires End of 2024
Bill Newmyer
Carol Valovcin
Linda Wells

Term Expires End of 2025
Kai Jørgensen
Fauni Lowe
Mike Parker

Online Giving

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

