



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

November 2023

Annual Congregational Meeting Scheduled for November 19

Redeemer’s Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled to follow worship on November 19. On the agenda is the approval of the 2024 Spending Plan and the election of new Council members.

Printed information about the 2024 Spending Plan will be available at least by November 5 (sooner if it is ready) as well as biographical information for those who were nominated for Council by the nominating committee. We are thankful for the hard work of the Finance Committee and the Nominating Committee to prepare us for this important meeting.

Mark your calendars to be here for this important meeting!



Bring Desserts to Share

Catered Congregational Dinner Following the Annual Meeting

One of the things that has been very clear here at Redeemer: we enjoy being together. This has been especially in evidence since the pandemic has eased.



As Pastor Gary told the Council: “There seems to be a hunger among our members to be together. We’ve noticed that people are staying longer in the narthex after worship in order to visit with one another.”

So the Council has decided that we will have a catered congregational dinner following the Annual Meeting on November 19. Exact details are still being worked out, but you can expect a “meat and three” meal such as you might get from Lizard’s Thicket. Council does ask that you bring a dessert to share (Can’t you just imagine what that table will look like? Yum! Yum!). Everything else will be provided.

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I often write about the sermons that my dogs preach to me. Lately, however, I've gotten more sermons from my grandchildren, and this month is no exception.

On a recent weekend, Nan and I had our 3 year old grandson in the car on our way to Newberry to attend the funeral for Nan's father, whom we called Pops. On the way, we were talking about Pops and Lincoln commented, "I miss Pops."

Now, truth be told, for most of Lincoln's life, Pops has been pretty ill, so it's unlikely that Lincoln has many memories. But one of Lincoln's dogs died about a year ago, and so he has an idea of death and the absence that comes after that.

We assured Lincoln that Pops was in heaven and was well and happy, and that he was there with Destiny (Lincoln's dog) and was probably throwing a stick for Destiny to chase. We talked about him being with God and seeing other family and friends who are there, and as we covered the many things that Pops was enjoying in heaven, Lincoln, who is well aware of Trick or Treating, said, "And eating candy." We said, "Probably so." After a moment's pause, Lincoln said, "There's no candy in heaven."

I have to admit that I had never thought about whether or not there was candy in heaven. I don't remember exactly how we answered that one, but I'm sure we said something about how if God wanted candy in heaven, there was candy in heaven and Pops was enjoying it. Nevertheless, his comment got me to thinking about what we expect heaven to be like.

Newsweek magazine reported several years ago that 77% of Americans believe there is a heaven and 76% believe they have an excellent or good chance of getting there. It seems that just about everyone who believes in heaven at all, believes they will get there.

What will heaven be like? November begins with All Saints Day, so it is a timely question to ask.

Some see heaven as a great, jewel studded city with buildings of emerald and streets of gold, and gates of



pearl with fields of flowers surrounding it on all sides with a glorious sun shining down its warmth and light. Indeed, this idea seems similar to the vision John had of the new Jerusalem at the end of the book of Revelation.

Another view of heaven is that life there will be just like it is here, only there will be no pain. There will be

no illness, no disease, no heartache, no sorrow, no loneliness, no war, no handicaps: everything and everyone will be made perfect and whole. Whatever we most enjoyed here on earth, we will be able to endlessly enjoy in heaven.

Perhaps another favorite view of heaven, and one of the most Biblical, is that in heaven, there will be a great continuing wedding banquet. Jesus himself seems to draw that picture of heaven. Jesus often talked about banquets and feasting when he referred to heaven, and even in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, that's how heaven is described. And of course, if anyone knows what heaven is like, it would be Jesus.



Some people view heaven with fear and picture it as a great throne room where judgment happens.

It's also interesting that the words heaven and haven look so similar. In heaven, we will find our haven from our troubles and struggles and live in joy and peace forever.

Two final thoughts. Most people, when they think of heaven believe they will be rejoined with family and friends.

And the second belief, is that most people believe that in heaven, we will be with God. What comfort and hope there is in that belief: eternally surrounded and embraced in the love and grace of God. Don't be surprised to find the pearly gates made in the shape of a heart.

Lincoln, that's even better than candy.



Svend-Roald Jorgensen 11/2
 Gary Loadholdt 11/2
 Dorothy Park 11/5
 Lois Fernberg 11/6
 Marsha Morgan 11/6
 Margaret Davis 11/7
 Paulette Bachman 11/9
 Caitlin McGuffin 11/10
 Phyllis Bray Huffman 11/11
 Doris Addy 11/12
 Carolyn Champion 11/12
 Henry Vander Voort 11/12
 Carli Baker 11/14
 Michelle Knight 11/14
 Amelia Honeycutt 11/15
 Laurel Cowen 11/16
 Jackson Hardee 11/17



Faith Thomas 11/17
 Kevin Burke 11/18
 Courtney White 11/18
 Bailey Johnson 11/20
 Martie Newmyer 11/20
 Marilyn Bedenbaugh 11/21

Croft Griffin 11/21
 Donna Nunamaker 11/22
 Haley Sprankle 11/22
 Robert Austin 11/23
 Everly Russell 11/23
 Ellus Burns 11/26
 Suzanne McGuffin 11/27
 Marcella Burke 11/28
 Siri Burke 11/28
 Earl Wells 11/28
 Barbara Martens 11/30

To Our Redeemer Family,

Words alone cannot express our gratitude for all of the cards, meals, calls, visits, and offers to help in any capacity during mom's illness. The expressions of love and constant prayers were a tremendous comfort to our entire family and the reception following the funeral was a beautiful testament to the love this congregation has for each other.

We are truly blessed to be part of this family in Christ.

Peace be with you all.

Lane, Michele, Greg, and Kristen.

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:

Artie Shealy who takes messages from Mr. Jim to the film crew in the tower room and who takes the unused communion bread and feeds it to the birds,

Todd Anderson, treasurer, and the rest of the **Finance Committee** for working so hard to present the 2024 Proposed Spending Plan for us, and to

Kathy Chartier, Jim Epting, and Preston Smith who served as the nominating committee to secure nominees for Church Council.



Property Assessment Team

Begins Work

It's been a while since we've had a functioning Property Committee at Redeemer. At first, Tim Campbell managed things as they came up, Mike Parker oversaw the renovations a few years back, and most recently, Greg Cross has responded to our property needs. Recently, Council saw the need for more of an intentional approach to assess the state of our property overall and to strategize on what needs to be repaired and when, to be proactive about our property, and also to develop resources that may help future property needs.

Recently, most property issues have fallen to Pastor Gary to oversee, but now this team will take more responsibility for things. Their first task will be to assess our building and grounds to see what needs doing now. Then they will



begin to develop a schedule for maintenance of equipment, building and yard needs. They are even considering developing written diagrams of things like irrigation systems and how they work, location of interior air handlers, which HVAC unit does what part of the building, etc., that will help with future needs that may arise.

If you see something that needs attention, be sure to mention it. Current members of this team are: Steve Summer, chair, Janet Boatwright, Kevin Burke, Greg Cross, Martie Newmyer, and Mike Parker.

New Computers Purchased

"I remember when my first congregation purchased its first computer," Pastor Gary reminisced. "The secretary methodically worked through the instruction book, but I just got on and played at figuring it out. At first I could do more than she could, but pretty soon, she passed me and left me behind."

Well, that was many years ago, and there are probably many of us who remember



back even further to those days of mimeograph machines and stencils before computers even came into being.

Nevertheless, computers are essential now, and Redeemer has been in a patter of updating its computers every five or so years. Our current computers were purchased in 2017 (the one in Pastor Amanda's office is five years older than that and still tries to run Windows 7 (not very successfully)), so the Council has approved the purchase of new computers to help our staff do their work



Mark Your Calendar for Leisure Timers Holiday Events

November 16th at 12:00 - Potluck luncheon and program.

November - *tour of the Ann Frank Center* at USC. We'll have lunch while we are out. Ten of you signed up at our September meeting. If you didn't sign up, but would like to go, please contact me as soon as possible

December 21st, at 12:00 - Catered Luncheon and Christmas program.

I welcome your suggestions for a Caterer. Please let me know.



Please watch for details in the "eNews" and the "Go and Serve". Questions? Contact Conniedavis@sc.rr.com, text (803) 317-7631 or call my home (803)356-0560 Look forward to seeing you!



As I sit here at my desk, a cool Autumn rain continues.

It feels like Fall is finally here.

Leaves are starting to turn those autumnal hues of bright orange, flaming red, and even the subtle and subdued brown.

The nights are chilly, the mornings brisk, and the days a constant shift of bright blue skies with warm sun one day; cloudy, dark, and rainy the next.

Today is one of those cloudy, dark, and rainy days.

But despite the cloudy and darker weather, it's a comfortable feeling, though. After the hot and humid South Carolina summer, Fall's arrival seems as welcomed as an old friend or comfortable easy chair; a good book; a crackling fire.

So, on the eve of November I realized that this year, our November will be one of variety—at least, looking at the themes of the Sundays in November. Each Sunday will bring its own special emphasis—its own unique character.

November 5—All Saints' Sunday. On this first Sunday in November, we recall and remember those saints who've died and left behind their heritage of faith. Our music that day reflects this observance.

For All The Saints; Sing With All the Saints in Glory; Jerusalem, My Happy Home,

Shall We Gather at the River. The anthem will be *There is a Happy Land.*

November 12—On this day our Gospel reading recalls the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins.

Often, this text is read during Advent, but this year we read this parable at the end of the Pentecost season. So our music will reflect this reading.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers; O Happy Day When We Shall Stand; Blessed Assurance; and

Let Justice Flow Like Streams. The anthem is *Keep Your Lamps*

November 19—It was decided that there would be no Community Thanksgiving Service this year, so we've decided to use this Sunday to give thanks and recall all that we've been blessed with.

We Praise You, O God; Now Thank We All Our God; Thine the Amen; Let All Things Now

Living. The anthem will be *Autumn Carol* and will be presented differently.

November 26—Christ the King Sunday; the last Sunday in Pentecost.

Crown Him with Many Crowns; O Christ, What Can It Mean For Us; The King of Love;

Rejoice, for Christ is King. The anthem will be *Hail to the Lords Anointed.*

And, just like that, it'll be Advent. Such is the cycle of life.





An Update on Family Promise:

During Covid Family Promise had to pivot to house those experiencing homelessness, they rented a triplex to house 3 families, during the last year or two they have added a Clayton mobile home that was donated. FP has found this model of housing families is working and gives stable living vs congregations hosting families and the families having to change locations each week. You may have seen on local or national NBC news that Craig Melvin supports Family Promise of the Midlands and its mission, he and his family are in the process of donating a home bringing the available homes to five.

Family Promise is always looking for a way to help families before they experience homelessness and out of that they have developed Tomorrow's Promise which serves 30-40 families by providing support including resume and job seeking skills, monetary help to ward off eviction, speaking with landlords on families behalf, help getting a car repairs to prevent loss of transportation, budgeting and financial planning, hosting job fairs, supporting students who are part of families having housing stability issues with enrichment activities including athletics, music and art and many other support services.



How do congregations still support Family Promise? Family Promise has some congregations host job fairs, some congregations have experts in budgeting/financial planning and host workshops and provide a meal and childcare while parents attend or invite families to community events like trunk or treat, Easter egg hunts, others provide financial support to cover the cost of utilities and rent for the triplex and Clayton home.

Going forward Redeemer has been partnered with Ashland UMC and Seven Oak Pres, our assigned month is January, each year we are asked to develop an activity during the assigned month that all FP and TP families will be invited to, Seven Oak Pres has an opportunity already planned for January 2024 more information to follow. Another opportunity during January is provide pre-made meals or casseroles for up to 5 individual families in the temporary housing, this would look like Redeemer members making a meal/s that would be delivered to FP, by no means is the ask to cover each day of the whole month just a couple of nights to give the families some relief as all FP families do receive SNAP benefits.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Family and Tomorrow's Promise in this new model and are excited for future opportunities. Questions? Contact Shannon Smith or Michelle Knight.



Home Communion Team!

November 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.

Dear Redeemer Family,
You have given me such a great gift! They told me at my rehab hospital that the support of family and friends is a powerful aid in healing, and that support is what you have lavished on me, and it has made such a difference for me. I am making progress each day and your continued prayers and support mean more than I can say. Thank you for your love and being a people I call family and a place I call home.
Much love,
Nan Loadholdt





What is abundance?

As October has rolled into November, we are, once again, in a societal trend toward thinking about holidays. The jack-o-lanterns fade into cornucopias and the trick-or-treating melds into pumpkin pie. Often the thoughts

of giving thanks well up as the days go by.

Thanks. Gratitude. Recognition. Acknowledgment. Appreciation. Gratefulness.

So many times the Thanksgiving holiday has snuck up on me among all the planning for family visits, meals, house cleaning, and the girls being home from school. Don't get me wrong, Thanksgiving happens. However, there have been years in which my mind is not fully wrapped around the idea of giving thanks.

It is in those times that I think of a little book that Kevin gave me as a gift many years ago. The Art of Abundance. The author, Candy Paull, uses the idea of abundance to illicit feelings of gratitude in her readers. The pages are simple. Each one has an idea or two of what abundance is.

"Abundance is . . . not how much you own but how much you appreciate". Abundance is noticing the crunch of the fall leaves and the sweet taste of a tree-ripened apple. It is letting the laughter of children ring in your ears. It is opening your front door to loved ones coming for a visit.

Each idea is simple. Each page gives us a reason to pause. Each phrase calls us to notice something else in our lives that emanates abundance... and in that abundance a spirit of thankfulness.

I pray that as this season unfolds we can recognize more and more abundance in our lives. Perhaps out of that abundance, a sense of gratitude will fill our hearts. Hopefully, that fullness of gratitude will also spill over into sharing our abundance with others.

Thanksgiving/Christmas Food Boxes

Redeemer will once again provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner boxes to families at Seven Oak Elementary School, if you'd like to sponsor a whole meal the price is \$55.00 per family. Any donations amounts are accepted, please mark them Thanksgiving/Christmas meal and put in the offering plate, mail or drop off to Betty in the office. We are also collecting those recycled fabric type shopping bags to deliver the meals to Seven Oaks, please place on the counter/island in the fellowship kitchen. Michelle Knight can answer any questions. Thank you for your support.



Share the Warmth

"Share the Warmth" Coat Drive is well underway! Our beginning date was Sunday, October 2nd. As of the 18th, we have donated 21 gently used and new coats to Sharing God's Love for distribution in our community! Last year, even with the Pandemic, we collected 119 coats! Imagine what we can do this year! Invite your family and friends to participate! Thanks for helping to "Share the Warmth" of God's Love in such a special way!

The Stewardship Committee



Council Recommends 2024 Spending Plan to Annual Meeting

Much of the October Council meeting was taken up with the approval of a proposed 2024 Spending Plan to be recommended to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The Annual meeting will follow worship on November 19, and the congregation will consider this Spending Plan and elect new members of the Church Council. The Spending Plan and Council Nominees are being prepared and will be available by the end of October.

Pastor Gary reported that he had heard from the Nominating Committee and that they had found six nominees for the three Council spots available.

Council then decided that there would be a congregational dinner following the Annual Congregational Meeting. Watch for more details soon.

Steve Summer reported that the new Property Assessment Team had met and had strategized about how to assess the property and needed repairs or attention.

The contract for the new sign has been signed and fabrication is underway. The sign should be ready in a few months.

Pastor Gary informed the Council that the lighting in the Fellowship Center would soon be updated to new LED Florescent lights as the next phase through Dominion's

Energy Savings plan. Dominion pays 90% of the costs to do this, and over time, we recoup the 10% we pay through lower electricity bills. Most of the church has already gone through this process, and we expect one more phase to complete the building.

Discussion of the outside financial review was tabled until next month.

Michelle Knight presented information about a new way that Family Promise is now operating which uses regular temporary housing instead housing families in churches. Council approved donating the items and funds we have collected for use with this program. Watch for more information about how Family Promise will involve Redeemer soon.

The Council also approved the purchase of new computers for the staff.



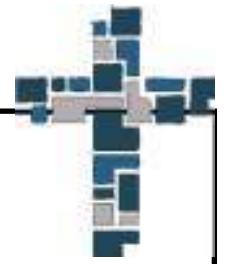
- Recommended 2024 Spending Plan to the Congregation
- There will be a meal following Annual Meeting
- Property Team at work
- New sign contract signed
- Fellowship Center lighting updated
- Family Promise changes
- Computers purchased

By the Numbers

September

	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Total income	\$377,059	\$337,349	\$404,474
Total expenses	\$386,944	\$451,460	\$458,006
Income less expense	(\$9,885)	(\$114,111)	(\$53,532)
Balance on mortgage loan	\$-	\$-	\$21,012
Unrestricted Cash Balance	\$184,273	\$89,823	\$153,062
Attendance	91 in person, 84 online	94 in person, 98 online	49 in person, 460 online

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:15am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:30am - Handbell Choir @ 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom 2pm - Private Event @ Fellowship 3pm - Trunk or Treat @ parking</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @ front</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir @</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 6pm - NAMI support group @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6pm - Private Event @ Large Back</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:15am - Worship & Music @ 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom 2pm - Private Event @ Fellowship</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @ front</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir @</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6pm - Private Event @ Large Back</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom 2pm - Private Event @ Fellowship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @ front 2pm - Ruth Circle @ back 4pm - Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir @</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 12pm - Leisure Timers @ 6pm - NAMI support group @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6pm - Private Event @ Large Back</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11am - Congregational meeting 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom 2pm - Private Event @ Fellowship 6:30pm - Church Council @ large</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @ front</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support group @</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6pm - Private Event @ Large Back</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 2pm - Book Study @ Zoom 2pm - Private Event @ Fellowship</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10am - Staff Meeting @ front</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir @</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @ 6pm - NAMI support group @ 7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6pm - Private Event @ Large Back</p>	<p>2</p>



Calendar

Always subject to change!

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

Sun, November 5, 2023
OK Youth Group, Littles-K (and parents)
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Sun, November 5, 2023
Elementary Youth Group, 1st-6th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Sun, November 5, 2023
Confirmation Class, 7th-11th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Wed, November 8, 2023
HS Youth Group, 9th-12th grades
6:00-8:00 pm

Fri or Sat, Nov 10 or 11
Youth Gathering Learning/Prep
8th-12th+ graders

Sun, November 12
MS/HS Game Night and Dinner
6th-12th, Time TBD

Thur, November 16
MS Youth Group
6th-8th, 6:00-8:00 pm

Wed, November 29
MS/HS Youth Group
6th-12th+, 6:00-8:00 pm

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

Sun, February 11, 2024
MS Superbowl Party, Time TBD
HS Superbowl Party, Time TBD

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

Sun, May 19, 2024
Rite of Confirmation during Worship





Redeemer Lutheran Church

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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.

