



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

April 2024

Redeemer Gets a ‘Facelift’

Exciting things are happening around Redeemer, and we have a new ‘face’ to present to our community. We’ve been working on it for a while. First we renewed our parking lot, providing a welcoming and upgraded surface to greet those who come and which also tells those in our community that we are people who care about our church.

Next came the new sign out front to convey messages about and invitations to our ministries, all the while subtly implying that we are not stuck in the past and are moving into the future.

Then, the landscaping all across the front of our building has been renewed. Again, proclaiming that we care about the place God has given us, this renewal adds beauty and a welcome for those who attend and those who pass by on the road.



And then there are the trees. First the large cryptomeria tree was trimmed to prevent it impinging on our roof, and while the arborists were here, we took down an old, dead tree near where the bus is parked, removing a safety hazard as well as an eyesore. Then, the central courtyard had two crepe myrtles which had grown very large and were beginning to cause problems to pavers and almost reaching the foundation of the building. These two trees have also been removed.

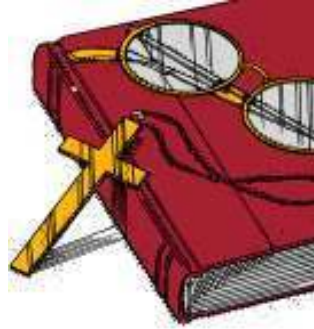
On the inside, the Dominion lighting project is finally complete. In case you have forgotten, over the past five or six years, we have been taking advantage of a special program for non-profits offered by Dominion Energy to convert our fluorescent lighting to LED fluorescent. Dominion has paid between 85-95 percent of the costs, and what little we have paid will be recouped with electric bill savings. In late March, the last phase was completed meaning that all our fluorescent lights have been converted.

What all this says to our community is that things are happening here at Redeemer. These are things our community can see and not only do they improve our campus, but they also invite others to be part of an active, happening church community.

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They all agree on this: the gospel writers describe the women going to the tomb early on Sunday morning, and when they got there, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.



Sightings

I should have known. The point was to reveal Jesus fully risen, fully alive. Maybe you never thought about it, but if the Jewish authorities wanted to put down all this talk about a resurrected Jesus, all they had to do was to go to the tomb and roll away the stone and point to his body. But they never did that. They couldn't do that. Jesus had risen. The stone was rolled away so that we could all see that.

I should have known. You see, for many years as I grew up, I assumed that that first Easter morning dawned and Jesus rose and the stone was rolled away so that Jesus could come out and be revealed in victory and glory. But somewhere along the way, I learned something different. The stone wasn't rolled away so that Jesus could come out. No, the stone was rolled away so that we could go in.

I should have known. Jesus doesn't need to be let out: as the risen, victorious Lord, he can go anywhere he pleases. Indeed, there are stories just verses later where Jesus appears behind locked doors or on the way to Emmaus or in Galilee by the lake. Jesus doesn't need to be let out. But we need to be let in. We need to see.

That's why the tomb was opened: so that we could see the absence of his body and be filled with the presence of Jesus

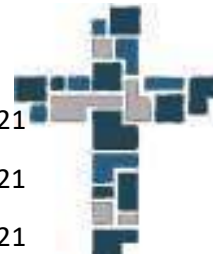
I should have known. His body wasn't there. That's why the tomb was opened: so that we could see the absence of his body and be filled with the presence of Jesus risen. It's hard to believe the second without the first. They had seen him dead on a cross; now, we needed to see the reality of the miracle. Their visions were not mass hysteria or some kind of ghost — no, the body was gone. Jesus was risen indeed.

I should have known. God made it clear at the moment Jesus died: the curtain in the temple was torn in two. This was the curtain that marked the Holy of Holies, the center of the temple where the ark of the covenant was, where all the people believed that God's real presence dwelled in a special way. And when Jesus died, that curtain was torn in two, not to let God out, but to express to us that in Jesus, we had unfettered access to God. It was torn to show us that God was no longer hidden in any way. It was torn to tell us that God is love and that his love had just been revealed in its full extent on a hill just outside of town. As Jesus died, God was revealed.

I should have known. The same thing happens when we celebrate Holy Communion on Sundays. Maybe you miss it because you're busy doing other things. During the offering, I go up and "dress" the table, making things ready. The various cloths and vessels we use there on the altar have certain names and meanings, and the large white covering over everything is called the veil. And when we reach that part of the service where we remember Christ's sacrificial gift of love, the first thing I do is "un-veil" the elements. The covering that had hidden the body and blood of Christ from us is removed. As I do it, it's supposed to remind us of that curtain in the temple, torn in two. As I do it, it's supposed to remind us of that stone rolled away. God — Christ — is revealed among us in love, his presence no longer hidden away, his grace plain for all to see. The body and blood of Christ is given for us. Hidden no longer.

I should have known. God is all about revealing himself to us: revealing himself in our daily lives, revealing himself in love, revealing himself in grace. I should be looking to find him all around me. He's there.

I should have known.



James Wise 4/2
 Dot Corley 4/4
 Jacob Sprankle 4/5
 Ernest Ashby 4/6
 Angela Braun 4/6
 Helen Epting 4/6
 Emma Libet 4/6
 Christine Nix 4/9
 Margaret Murphy 4/10
 Dylan Richards 4/10
 Barbara Burgess 4/11
 Grant Small 4/11
 Robert Sprankle 4/13
 Trey Turner 4/13
 Kurt Braun 4/15



Jane Higgins 4/15
 Gavin Richards 4/15
 Tyler Crooks 4/16
 Lillian Faller 4/16
 Sydney Bachman 4/18
 Judy Everett 4/18
 Richard Kitko 4/18
 Stan Morgan 4/18
 Alex Bryan 4/19

Charles Cook 4/21
 Donald Knight 4/21
 Erica Wells 4/21
 Nan Loadholdt 4/22
 Bonnie Berley 4/23
 Dawn Martin 4/23
 Kathleen Chartier 4/27
 Brian Metz Jr. 4/27
 Carl Mahon 4/28
 Whitney Metz 4/28
 Mark Burgess 4/29
 Patricia Crosby 4/29
 Herbert McKinney 4/29
 Paul McGuffin 4/30



**It Was an ‘Egg’stra
 ‘Egg’cellent ‘Egg’stravaganza!**

Thank you to all those who made the Community Easter Egg Extravaganza extra excellent! We had folks from the Redeemer Family, the community, Sharing God’s Love, and Camp HUGG join in the fun! Thank you for donating candy, helping with crafts, setting up, cleaning up, and supporting this ministry!



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:

Steve Summer for overseeing and coordinating the removal of the crepe myrtles from the central courtyard,

Jean Cook, Jane Long, and Mike Parker who planned and oversaw the installation of the new landscaping across the front of our campus,

The Altar Guild for all the extra work during the Easter season and the decorators who made our sanctuary so festive for Easter,

The **musicians** who added so much to our observance of Lent and our Easter celebration, and to

Donna Nunamaker and Connie Davis who coordinated the SASS self-defense class for our congregation.



FAQ's: The Go and Serve Prayer List

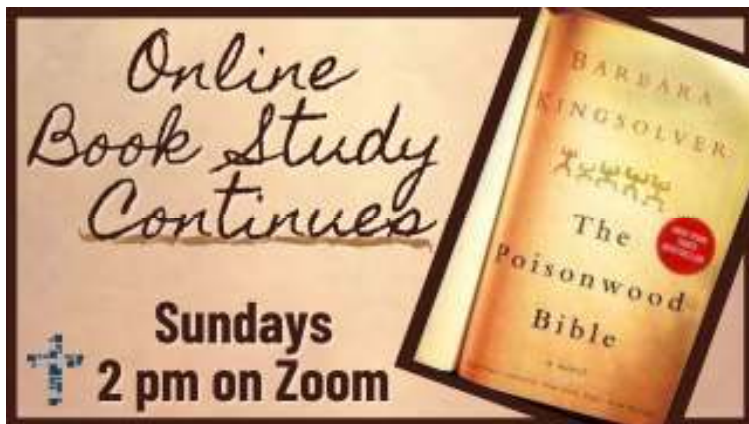
The prayer list in the Go and Serve is an important way for us to keep abreast of prayer needs and concerns among our congregational members, their families, and their friends. One of the joys of being the family of God is how we join in support for one another through prayer.

If we know of a church member who is ill, hospitalized, or has experienced the death of a close family member, we will list that automatically. We also list those who are in care facilities the same way.

If you have family or friends whom you would like listed, they are placed on the list for six weeks (you may have noticed the very small date after their names to indicate when they were put on the list to help us keep track). After six weeks, they are removed. If the need is continuing and you would like them to be put back on the list, just contact the church office to have them put back on.



Thank you for your prayers. They are felt, and they make a difference



Not Just a Day

Each Lenten season, we put up a cross outside and drape it with a purple cloth.



A cloth like that was used under the arms of a crucified person to lower them down from the cross after they had died. We use a purple cloth since that's the color of Lent. Then, on Good Friday, the color of the cloth changes to black to express our sorrow over Jesus' death. On Holy

Saturday (the day between Good Friday and Easter), the cross is bare with no drape to mark the time Jesus is in the tomb. Then on Easter, the cross is draped in white to remind us of Christ's victory.

Just as the cross was draped in purple through the whole Lenten season, the white drape stays up through the whole Easter season. Easter isn't just a day. Easter involves all of life. Every Sunday of the year is a little celebration of Easter and Christ's victory. The drape proclaims our joy and celebration to our community for seven weeks.





HAND, HAND, FINGER, THUMB

You may not be familiar with that little children's book, "Hand, Hand, Finger, Thumb" but it's one of my favorites. I still treasure all those dozens and dozens of times I read this to Drew and Ashlyn.

"Hand, hand, finger, thumb.

One hand, one hand drumming on a drum.

Dum, ditty, dum, ditty, dum, dum, dum."

Well, when it comes to my hands, fingers, and thumbs, there's a problem. And when you're a keyboard person, that can't be good. So, my hand and fingers and thumb are causing a problem.

After spending over two decades dealing with Dupuytren's contractures, I've decided that enough is enough.

For those who don't know, Dupuytren's Contracture is a gradual thickening and tightening of tissue under the skin in the hand. This causes one or more fingers to stay bent toward the palm. It's not painful, but it sure can cause problems, especially for organists and pianists.

Several years ago, I received an injection of a medication called Xiaflex, and it worked perfectly. For years my ring finger and pinky finger were slowly closing into the palm of my hand. Playing became very difficult and frustrating.

The injection remediated that situation.

But since then, several more Dupuytren's contractures have developed. And even though none seem as bad as the one that I had received treatment for, over time those contractures will intensify and worsen. Eventually, I won't be able to play at all.

After consulting with my hand surgeon, I decided to go for it.

Surgery.

Hand surgery.

If the surgery is successful, I can be nearly back to full use of my hand, something I haven't had in over a quarter of a century.

So, on April 8th, conveniently just past Easter, I'll have hand surgery to remove all the contractures in my left hand.

The recuperation time is long and full of physical therapy. With our wonderful music associate, Lois, I feel now's as good a time as any.

Starting April 14 Lois will be playing for all church services. I'll be here (hopefully) but not able to play for a while.





I'm planning on playing a few "big" organ works on Sunday, April 7 because the future is not certain, and if surgery causes permanent damage (which is very remote) I'd like to be able to play these pieces once more.

So, in case you're interested:

Prelude: Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne by Dietrich Buxtehude

Postlude: Fugue in G Major by J. S. Bach

Easter Sunday Prelude: Toccata in G by Theodore Dubois

So, if it seems you're hearing some big organ works, it's because you are.

I'm not too sure how long I'll be unable to play, but hopefully by summer I'm back on the bench.

Around Redeemer





Consub....What?

When I went to seminary I felt like one of my primary textbooks should be a dictionary. There were so many long words that often had a much simpler meaning. But yet, we still use those big fancy words. And here's a little secret... often I *still* have to look up many of these long words to make sure I know exactly what they mean. So, I figured we could look at these words together in a monthly newsletter article.



Let's start with some words that surround Holy Communion.

Transubstantiation - During the consecration of the bread and wine for communion the substance of the bread actually turns into the body of Christ. However, the visible image of the substance of bread remains. The same is described for the wine. The substance is still visibly wine, however, the actual wine has turned into Christ's blood. The Catholic church teaches this belief.

Consubstantiation - During the consecration of bread and wine it is acknowledged that Christ is present "in, with, and under" the physical elements of bread and wine. The substance does not change into flesh and blood. However, Christ is present with the elements that are blessed.

Both of these teachings indicate the Real Presence of Christ. Jesus is with the bread and the wine or grape juice that we share around the communion table. This difference comes with what the substance of the bread and wine actually is. In the ELCA, and here at Redeemer we acknowledge and teach the Real Presence of Christ through consubstantiation. Jesus is most definitely with us "in, with, and under" the bread, wine, and grape juice of Holy Communion.

Are there specific words that you'd like for me to address in future articles? Send them to me!

Blessings,

Pastor Amanda



Council Celebrates Property Actions; Looks to the Future

In March, the Council got lots of updates on recent actions taken with regard to the property God has entrusted to us. A six or seven month process by a groups of folks in our congregation resulted in the relandscaping of the front of our campus. In addition, the large tree in the front was trimmed to prevent it impinging on our roof, a dead tree was taken out, and the two large crepe myrtles in the central courtyard that were threatening our foundation were removed.

In addition, Pastor Gary reported that Steve Summer, Mike Parker, and he had met with Mattox Davis and agreed upon a contract for our lawn care, continuing the role established by his father.

Council has long been considering what to do with the items left over from the times when we hosted Family Promise here at the church, and they are being donated to Family Promise and their ongoing needs as they house folks in a different way. Leftover items from the Redeemer Preschool will be going to a daycare across the street from Family Promise that also seeks to help those in need.

Pastor Amanda and Bill have been meeting to organize and re-energize our Ministry Teams as we do the work of God in our church and community.

Council continues to fine tune a new policy awarding our part time lay staff some paid time off.

After Easter, we will change our Church Management Software (Shepherd's Staff) to their upgraded online version. At the same time, we will make efforts to get corrected information inputted into the system.

Pastor Gary and Pastor Amanda also mentioned that it is time to update — and perhaps streamline — the Redeemer website. Council is exploring options.

Finally, Pastor Gary announced the date of this year's Synod Assembly and the need to find voting members. This year the Assembly is one day and is online.

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



- Front re-landscaped
- Trees trimmed and removed
- Mattox Davis takes over lawn care
- Family Promise and Preschool items donated
- Ministry Team planning underway
- Paid Time off for lay staff considered
- New church management software planned
- Consideration of updating the web site
- Synod Assembly voting members sought

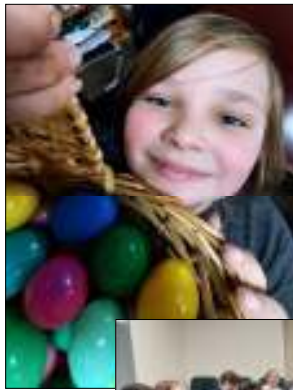
By the Numbers

	February YTD 2023	February YTD 2022	February YTD 2021
Total income	\$ 188,218	\$177,303	\$ -
Total expenses	<u>\$ 214,845</u>	<u>\$205,553</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ (26,627)</u>	<u>\$ (28,250)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 163,808	\$151,165	\$ -
Attendance	onsite 113, online 87	onsite 101, online 119	onsite 90, Online 99,

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:30am - Easter 8:45am - Adult Sunday 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar	10:30am - Staff Meeting			6pm - MS Youth Group 6pm - NAMI support	6pm - Agape Myanmar	10am - Agape Myanmar
8:45am - Faith 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:15am - Worship & 11:30am - Elem Youth 11:30am - O-K Youth	10:30am - Staff Meeting 2pm - Ruth Circle @ back		6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	10am - Thursday Bible 6pm - HS Youth Group @ 7pm - Thursday Bible	6pm - Agape Myanmar	10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
8:45am - Faith 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar 2pm - Book Study @ 4pm - Agape Myanmar	10:30am - Staff Meeting	10am - Private Event @	6pm - MS/HS Youth 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	10am - Thursday Bible 12pm - Leisure Timers @ 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	6pm - Agape Myanmar	GSB Synod Training @ 10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
8:45am - Faith 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - ELCA Youth 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar 2pm - Book Study @ 4pm - Agape Myanmar	10:30am - Staff Meeting		6pm - MS Youth Group 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	10am - Thursday Bible 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	6pm - Agape Myanmar	10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
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RELU YOUTH



Calendar

Always subject to change!

Sun, April 7 and May 5, 2024
OK Youth Group, Littles-K (and parents)
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Sun, April 7 and May 5 2024
Elementary Youth Group, 1st-6th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Wed, April 17 and May 8, 2024
MS/HS Youth Group & Dinner, 6th-12th
6:00-8:00 pm

Thurs, April 4 and Wed April 24, 2024
MS Youth Group, 5th-8th
6:00-8:00 pm

Wed, April 11 and May 1, 2024
HS Youth Group, 9th-12th
6:00-8:00 pm

Sun, April 21 and May 5, 2024
ELCA Youth Gathering Prep
10:00 am-1:00 pm

May 10-12, 2024
SCLCY Spring Into Action Service
Retreat for 6th-12th grades

Sun, May 19, 2024
Rite of Confirmation during Worship
10:00 am

July 15-21, 2024
ELCA Youth Gathering
Current 8th-12th Grades
New Orleans, LA

July 29-Aug 2, 2024
Redeemer's Community Music Camp
4 year olds through rising 6th graders
MS, HS, and adults staff



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

2024 Congregation

Term Expires End of 2024

Bill Newmyer

Carol Valovcin

Linda Wells

Executive Committee

President

Bill Newmyer

Vice President

Steve Summer

Treasurer

Todd Anderson

Secretary

Kai Jørgensen

Term Expires End of 2025

Kai Jørgensen

Fauni Lowe

Mike Parker

Term Expires End of 2026

Diane Hunt

Donna Nunamaker

Shannon Smith

Online Giving

Scan this symbol with your
smart phone to be con-
nected to our online giving

