



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

June 2024

Parish Secretary Betty Pearce Reluctantly Resigns

Redeemer’s Parish Secretary, Betty Peace submitted her resignation to Pastor Gary and a few days later, he and Pastor Amanda visited with Betty and accepted her resignation. This was not something Betty wanted to do, but she also wanted to be fair to the church and its needs. Betty’s health concerns began in November and she often felt too ill to come in to work. Redeemer’s staff has been working to cover her absence with various staff members taking on some of her roles along with Diane Hunt who has been acting as a financial secretary for contributions. With her health concerns continuing, Betty is seeing no end to the situation in the near future and thought that the needs of the church could now be better met by someone else in the position.



Pastors Gary and Amanda affirmed all that Betty had brought to Redeemer. Not only did she do the tasks that were needed, but she also brought a joy to the relationships she had with staff and congregational members. She will certainly be missed.

The Church Council is directing the search for Betty’s replacement.

Entire Church Building to be Rekeyed

If you have tried to get into the church building with your key recently, particularly the double doors to the Fellowship Center, then you already know the problem. Often, particularly at that door, the key often doesn't work, and certainly doesn't work well. This is a symptom of a larger problem all over the building. Over time, the brass key on the brass lock wears tumblers down and keys don't work any longer.



There are currently three keys that must be used to access different parts of the building. The plan is to create a master key that will open everything in the building including the office for those who need access there, and then a related key that will open everything except the office area.

It’s a big job. There are 25 exterior doors with locks and 65 interior doors with locks.

Keys will be made available to replace the key or keys you have: we want you to have access just like you have always had. Watch for more information for when this will happen and how to get a new key.

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If you don't know Artie, you should. Artie is Mike and Lurah Shealy's grandson, and he is here at worship with us most weeks.

It is Artie who begged to be our crucifer so much that we began offering the opportunity to carry smaller, less heavy crosses to the children of our church. Artie started that.

It is Artie who finds me as many Sunday mornings as he can to ask if he can light the candles for worship.

It is Artie who asks Pastor Amanda and me after worship for the bulletins we used that day because they have extra prayers that were used during worship and he needs those. You see, on Sunday afternoons, Artie practices and 'plays' the whole worship service again.

It is Artie who gets our printed copies of our sermons so that his Sunday afternoon 'church' will be complete.

It is Artie who often joins his grandfather in the choir on Sunday mornings. We used to be able to hear Artie when he was younger. He would sing over the whole congregation, and it was noticeable because Artie hadn't yet learned to match pitch.



You could hear him louder and pitched above everyone, going wherever he thought the melody ought to go, and no one minded at all because Artie was singing from his heart. At that point, he couldn't read either, so the words weren't there either. Still, it didn't matter.

We don't hear Artie as much anymore. In recent times, Artie has learned to match pitch a lot better and has learned a lot about reading words, so he blends in with the rest of the congregation pretty well. But still, he's out there, singing from his heart.

That became abundantly clear the week after Easter



this year. We were celebrating Holy Communion together, and people were coming forward to receive the sacrament. Artie came too. The thing was, the congregation was singing a hymn while communion was going on, and when it was Artie's turn to come to the rail, he wasn't through singing the hymn.

Most folks are quiet at the rail, but Artie had brought his bulletin and as he approached the rail, he was still singing boldly.

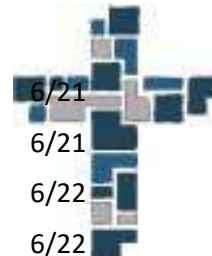
I moved along the rail distributing the bread: "The body of Christ, given for you." Meanwhile, as I drew close to Artie, he was singing.

The communion hymn that day was Here is Bread. It's a perfect communion song. The first verse opens with the words, "Here is bread, here is wine. Christ is with us, he is with us." This was actually the Second Sunday of Easter so the gospel had been about the appearance of the risen Jesus to his disciples. The day was about Christ with us. Each verse of the hymn begins that way. Verse two begins: "Here is grace, here is peace. Christ is with us. He is with us." The final verse begins: "Here we are, joined in one. Christ is with us. He is with us."

Anyway, I approached Artie with the bread, and as I did, he continued to sing. It so happened that the timing worked out perfectly. As I approached, Artie was singing from his heart, "Christ is with us. He is with us." And when Artie finished that phrase, I said to him, "The body of Christ, given for you."

I don't know if Artie caught how it all came together, but I did. As Artie sang about the assurance of the resurrection, we shared a moment when the risen Christ was truly present. Right there. Right then. In bread and wine. Christ is with us. He is with us.

Artie, thank you for making my Second Sunday of Easter as powerful and as meaningful as Easter Day. Thanks for the reminder that in the meal, every day, all day, "Christ is with us. He is with us."



Kenny Newmyer	6/1
Bob Beaver	6/2
Kathleen Harrell	6/2
Ben Edenfield	6/4
Olivia Edenfield	6/4
Tori May	6/4
Kelsey Carlsen	6/5
James Murphy	6/5
Johnny Breedlove	6/6
Patricia Drake	6/6
Kristen Mingus	6/6
Jillian Newmyer	6/6
Eric Wells	6/6
Smith Austin	6/11
Kyle Burgess	6/13
Wally Schultz	6/13
Cathy Stutts	6/13

Barbara Bronson	6/14
Jane Eleazer	6/14
Colletta Longshore	6/15
Austin Pell	6/15
Carole Mikkelsen	6/17
Angela Lagroon	6/18
Lyn Metzler	6/18
Hettie Cross	6/19
Robert Pell	6/19
Estela Coggins	6/20
Becky Lass	6/20
Marty Davis	6/21

Denise Mulkey	6/21
Alden Schaller	6/21
John Baker	6/22
Gail Huckaby	6/22
Rebecca McKeown	6/22
Davis Rosdahl	6/23
Elizabeth Davis	6/24
Tony Everett	6/24
Aleda Anderson	6/25
Martha Dowd	6/25
Lauren Libet	6/25
Patricia Wessinger	6/26
Tom Lass	6/28
Edwyn Mahan	6/28
Madeline Miracle	6/26
Matthew Weeks	6/29
Tommy Burgess	6/30

An Abundance of Grace

As we enter June, we find ourselves in the long season after Pentecost where the paraments in our sanctuary



will be green. The parament on our altar shows five loaves and three fish, which is confusing since the story of the feeding of the 5000 has five loaves and two fish.

After repeated attempts asking seminary professors and liturgical arts professionals, Pastor Gary finally stumbled on the answer. As he says, "I suddenly realized the parament wasn't about the miracle; it was about the leftovers. The parament is about the abundance of God's grace."

Our Blessing Box exists to share the abundance of grace we have received with those who are currently struggling to make their way. Please fill the box so that those who come in need know the abundance of God's grace for them through us.



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 and Martha Summer for coordinating the reception for our confirmands,

Kevin Burke who cleaned up and detailed the bus after squirrels were found nesting inside,

Sammy and Lisa Mathias for hosting the Easter Breakfast, and to

Connie Davis and Donna Nunamaker for coordinating the reception for the graduates in our church family.



Leisure Timers **Summer Schedule**

This is a busy time of the year! Graduations, weddings, vacations, and still try to make time for worship and fellowship at church!.

Our "LT's" attendance drops off during the summer months, so we are trying something new. In lieu of our regular monthly meeting on the 3rd Thursday, we are going to have lunch at a different restaurant or venue on that date instead. We tried this in May. It worked beautifully! Twenty



people attended. Mark your calendar for Thursday, June 20th . We will be going to lunch at **Brookland Baptist Church - 1066 Sunset Blvd, West Columbia, 29169 . (Prices:**

\$12.99 - ADULTS OR \$11.99 - SENIORS 65+.

We pay at the door.) Everyone attending needs to sign up in the Narthex. This is necessary for the restaurant staff. Please print your email and phone number so I can contact you. The church bus capacity is 14. The over-



flow can car-pool from the church or just meet us there. Our reservation is for 12:00 on the 20th. Questions or if you need me to add or remove you from the list, Contact Connie Davis, call or text (803)317-7631 or email conniedavis@sc.rr.com.

Hope that you can join us!

Invest in our Youth!

'Stock' Sale Supports Trip to New Orleans

The Value of **Stock in Redeemer's Youth** is Rising! In July Redeemer will send 17 youth and 4 adults to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. This event will bring thousands of youth from all over the country and the world together for faith formation, service, learning, and fun. Our youth have the opportunity to hear speakers that will challenge them, music that will inspire them, and experiences that will bring them closer to God. We'd like to invite you to be a part of making this happen for the Redeemer Family's young people.

During June we will sell stock in the youth group. Each share of stock is \$20 and the money will go toward the meals for the group while traveling and in New Orleans. \$40 per day per person should

cover this. We have a lofty goal of raising \$280 per person. If you choose to purchase one or more shares of stock in the Redeemer youth you'll hear from our youth and adults while they are in New Orleans. You'll also be invited to a dinner hosted by the youth where they will share their experiences and how it has impacted their lives. Thank you for your continuous and generous support of the Redeemer Youth.



"I have no idea who he is. All this time I thought you invited him."



Father's Day Thoughts: Homage to my Dad....My Daddy

For reasons I don't understand I've thought a lot about my Dad these last few weeks.

Okay, maybe I do know why.

It's no secret that I had hand surgery.

I've brought it up the last two articles. But indulge me for one more article.

My hand surgery temporarily disabled my left hand.

My dad's left hand was permanently disfigured due to a gun accident years before I was born. It was only recently when Janet and I were visiting one of my favorite cousins that my cousin told us how my daddy's hand became disfigured. My dad never talked about it. Not once.

But that disfigured left hand never stopped my dad, or even slowed him down a whole lot.

He was not a good recipient of sympathy.

He and I worked together in his garage while I was in high school and even some of my college years. It was all I could do to keep up with him. In fact, I couldn't. Even with his disfigured left hand he outworked me, out maneuvered me, was stronger than me, out did me in almost every endeavor—except, of course, piano playing.

So, one evening while Janet was still with our adorable granddaughter, Penny, (have you seen the pictures? Janet has a few---hundred!) I returned home.

I was at home by myself. Incredibly, while sitting on our backyard patio, my daddy paid me a visit. And even though he's been gone for (gasp!!) 50 years, his presence seemed as real to me as if he were actually sitting in the chair across from me.

Daddy: So, I guess you've gotten a taste of what I dealt with.

Jim: I guess so; only you coped better than I did, I'm afraid.

Daddy: Don't sell yourself short. I had years to learn to adjust.

Jim: Yeah. I guess I see what you mean. I did start learning how to do things with my gimpy left hand.

Daddy: And you'd keep learning until you stop thinking about your gimpy hand, and you would just live your life.

Jim: You always knew how to cut to the chase.

Daddy: It's not what you have or don't have, it's what you do with what you do have.

Jim: That's pretty platitudinous, Dad.

Daddy: Give me a break! I've been dead half a century. I thought it was pretty good.

Jim: Sorry. It actually was.

In all candor, the conversation got a bit grittier than that, but some things are best left between friends.





Both my parents loved music, and that's a big part of my becoming a musician.

My mother's side of the family were technically accurate musicians. My grandmother was church organist at Union Lutheran ages ago; my grandfather led singing school way back when there were singing schools. (That might be my next article!) My mothers' side of the family were dedicated and disciplined in their art, and insisted my sister, Angela and I were, too.

But my daddy's side were free-wheeling, ragtime, honkey-tonk, play-it-by-ear musicians who were way more concerned with sounding cool and having fun. I have cousins who could make a piano roll and yet couldn't read a note of music.

My daddy reminded me of that during our visit.

Daddy: Son, you remember when you were a senior in high school, and I told you I was proud of you?

Jim: Of course, I do! That was one of the most treasured memories of you I hold in my 70-year-old head.

Daddy: What? You're 70! Heck [not the word he used], you're older than me! But anyway, here's the point--I was proud of you, and here's what I

meant: You got your technique and discipline from your mom; but you got your passion from you dad. I love hearing you play with passion. So, who cares if you make a few mistakes.

Keep living your life with fire and passion. That's the way the Good Lord made you.

Lean into it, son.

Own it.

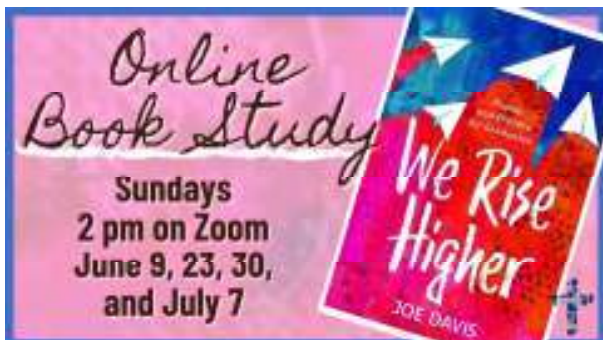
Jim: I may never play the same again, Dad.

Daddy: Just keep your passion, son. Play with passion. Don't reach for perfection, reach for passion.



Something New with Our Online Book Study

We're stepping out with a different genre for our summer book study. *We Rise Higher* by Joe Davis is a collection of his original poetry and prayers. Joe has been involved in ELCA youth ministry for years through youth gathering, as a speaker at Lutheridge, and a poet in residence. This book is for everyone, but especially for those going through milestones such as graduation. We're excited to explore Joe's poetry on Sundays June 9, 23, 30, and July 7. Because of the nature of this collection and discussion each Sunday stands on its own. In addition, the beauty of using Zoom allows us to have participants from a wide area. <https://relu.link/BookStudy>. Feel free to invite friends to join us! If you need assistance in ordering a book please contact Pastor Amanda, aburke2002@gmail.com or 803.465.3773.





**Memorials Received
January 1st thru May 19th 2024
In Memory of:**

Buddy Champion

Allyn Bedenbaugh
Lyn Metzler
Robert & Jane Long
Cornelia Collins
Barbara Burgess
Kathy Harrell
Donna Gilbert
Pawnee Schumpert
Linna Wells
Elizabeth Selkinghaus
James Nunamaker
Evelyn Abel
Connie Rollins
Ethel Stillabower
Helen Morris
Diane Hunt
Bonnie Berley
Nancy McKinney
Betty Singletary
Mary Sue Lee
John Hanson
Sue Vinson
Barbara Weaver
Charlotte Brooks
Jean Cook
Cynthia Peek
Angela Lagroon
Cathy Stutts
Catherine Gleaton
Trish Matthey
Barbara Lindley
Dan S. Judd
Susan Bridwell

Jane Keller
Allyn Bedenbaugh.

Carl Lee
Mary Sue Lee.

Melvin Dominick
Marie Baughman
Helen Morris
Buddy & Carolyn Champion
Hugh & Connie Davis
Kathy Harrell
Margreat Larson
Cornelia Collin.
Lyn & Micheal Metzler
Brenda Miller
James Nunamaker
Larry & Jane Higgins
Robert & Jane Long

Jane Armstrong
Kathy Harrell.

Jim Kiser
William & Linda Wells
Nancy McKinney

Carson Lowe
James Nunamaker

George Selkinghaus
George & Elizabeth Selkinghaus



Dear Redeemer Family:

Thank you very much for the card you sent for my heart surgery. I appreciated the well-wishes, and, most importantly, your prayers. You again showed why Redeemer is a true family of caring people. Two weeks out and all is going according to plan. I miss you all.

Matt Bernthal



Youth Support is One 'Core Value' of Redeemer

This Spring, the Council has been attending a Synod sponsored Council Training. One key focus has been to help the Council begin to focus on the 'core values' of our congregation. One of those became evident in May. Redeemer is sending 17 youth and 4 adults to the National Youth Gathering this summer, and while we budget money each year to put away to help afford this trip, the costs may well overrun what we have saved up. In May, the council committed up to \$7000 additional for this life changing event for our youth to experience, demonstrating that supporting our youth is one of our core values.

The Council also approved a job description for a 'Property Manager' position (5-20 hours a month) to help oversee repairs to our campus and relieve the pastors and staff of this responsibility. The Property Assessment Team can proceed with seeking to fill that position.

Pastors Gary and Amanda provided a recommendation for updated Church Management Software. Church 360, a web based software that is the update of the software we already use, will be purchased as soon as our current records are cleaned and accurate.

Pastor Gary informed the Council about the project that will soon rekey the building. Our old locks are worn out and our keys are worn down, making access to our building difficult. There will be a master key that opens everything, and a second key that opens everything except

the office. Keys will be made available as soon as this project is in place.

Likewise, we have two doors (one at the Fellowship Center entrance) that are in need of repair. Council approved the repairs.

Finally, Pastor Gary announced that Parish Secretary Betty Pearce has resigned due to her ongoing health concerns. The Council advised that we advertise with the synod and also pursue filling the position through the Temp agency we used to find our Financial Administrator, Yvonne.

Synod Assembly voting members will be Shannon Smith, Donna Nunamaker, Jim Nunamaker, Mike Parker, and Kai Jørgensen.

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



- Support for Youth going to National Gathering provided
- Property Manager job description approved
- Church Management software upgrade planned
- Building to be re-keyed
- Two doors to be repaired
- Parish Secretary resigns; how to move forward planned
- Synod Assembly voting members

By the Numbers

	April YTD 2024	April YTD 2023	April YTD 2022
Total income	\$ 152,754	\$138,240	\$ 135,678
Total expenses	<u>\$178,994</u>	<u>\$172,652</u>	<u>\$165,162</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (34,412)</u>	<u>\$ (29,484)</u>
Balance on mortgage loan	\$-	\$-	\$ 2,591
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 234,242	\$153,679	\$ 159,637
Attendance	Online 82 Onsite 101	Online 106 On site 122	Online 104 On Site 133

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Graduate	27	28	29 4pm - Graduation for 6:30pm - Choir Practice	30 12pm - Graduation for	31 6pm - Agape Myanmar	1 10am - Agape Myanmar
2 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:15am - Worship &	3 10:30am - Staff Meeting	4	5 6:30pm - Choir Practice	6 6pm - MS/HS Youth 6pm - NAMI support	7 6pm - Agape Myanmar	8 10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
9 Graceworks (6th-12th) @ Downtown	10	11	12	13	14 6pm - Agape Myanmar	15 10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
16 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar	17 10:30am - Staff Meeting	18	19 6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice	20 6pm - MS Youth Group	21 Camp HUGG	22 10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
23 Camp HUGG	24	25	26	27	28	29 10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
30 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship	1 10:30am - Staff Meeting	2	3 6pm - MS Youth Group 6:30pm - Choir Practice	4 6pm - NAMI support	5 6pm - Agape Myanmar	6 10am - Agape Myanmar
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - ELCA Youth 10am - Worship	10:30am - Staff Meeting	6pm - NAMI support 6:30pm - Choir Practice	6pm - NAMI support	6pm - NAMI support	6pm - Agape Myanmar	10am - Agape Myanmar



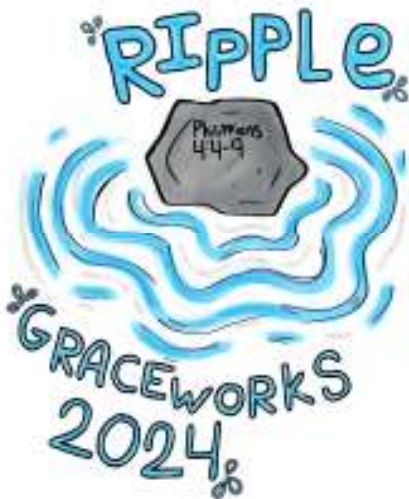
GraceWorks is a local servant day camp for Midlands Youth who are rising 6th graders through recently graduated 12th graders. It's also a camp for adult volunteers who want to support and encourage these young people in Christ-like service.

Ebenezer Lutheran Church will be our home base this year and most of our service experiences will involve traveling offsite via bus or by foot.

Each day Monday through Thursday, June 10th-13th, we will gather between 8:00 and 8:15am to start our day and will be finished and ready for pickup at 5:00pm.

We hope you'll join us! Registration:

<https://forms.gle/TUby4B7s7PzmkjQv8>



Calendar

Always subject to change!

Sun, June 2 and 30, 2024
ELCA Youth Gathering Prep
10:00 am-1:00 pm

Thurs, June 6, 2024
MS/HS Youth Group & Dinner, 6th-12th
6:00-8:00 pm

Sun, June 9, 2024
OK Youth Group, Littles-K (and parents)
Elementary Youth Group, 1st-6th
Pool Party @ Summers
11:30 am-2:30 pm

June 10-13, 2024 Graceworks, 6th-12th

Th June 13, & Wed Jun 26, 2024
MS Youth Group, 5th-8th
6:00-8:00 pm

Wed, June 19, 2024
HS Youth Group, 9th-12th
6:00-8:00 pm

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

