



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

May 2024

Twelve to Be Confirmed May 19

Redeemer will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism for twelve of our youth on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. We celebrate this important milestone of faith and life for Kåre Burke, Tarike Burke, Gladly Sung, Dylan Coffman, Wesley Cowan, Reily Googe, Jonah Griffin, Josi May, Brady Patel, Zoey Patel, Gretchen Sorrel, and Lilly Thomas.

Traditionally known as 'Confirmation,' it is now called Affirmation of Baptism because in this rite, these young men and women are affirming and assuming responsibility for the promises their parents made for them in baptism. They promise to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Redeemer confirms on Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Church. On this day, we celebrate the birthday of Church, marked by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. In the same way, we pray for these young men and women that the Holy Spirit might fill their lives with faith and zeal for God.



Guest Preacher for Pentecost Sunday



On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, Rev. David Coffman will be our guest preacher for the day. Pastor Coffman is the Chaplain at Newberry College, so part of his coming will help connect us with Newberry, but there's another reason he will be here. During the worship, David's son, Dylan, will Affirm his baptism with our other students. We welcome Pastor Coffman for this important day his life, and in the life of Redeemer.

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I was struck just before Easter with a line Pastor Amanda had in one of the prayers she wrote and led for worship. She prayed that we might have longer altars in our churches. It was a wonderful prayer, expressed beautifully. The altar is the table around which the family of God gathers. Longer altars can hold more people. In her prayer, she was praying that the altar might be a welcome place for more people, and especially for those who feel isolated and excluded away.

But her words also got me to thinking about how my preference is for large altars that dramatically emphasize that we are a church of Word and Sacrament. And then I began reminiscing about the altars in the churches I have served. I've stood behind many altars for worship, but I was most often behind the altars in those three churches I have served.

The first church I served, Grace, in Prosperity had a fairly large altar, and perhaps laid the foundation for my preference for large altars. That altar was probably about ten feet long, and around that altar, the church family gathered in a strong community of love and worship.



The church I served in Myrtle Beach, however, was about as small an altar as I've ever seen. It needed to be small, however, because the sanctuary was fairly small and we had lots and lots of people crowded in for worship. That altar was probably something like five feet long, and standing behind it I was sandwiched in between the altar and the pulpit behind me.

One of my favorite stories about this altar was that there was storage space underneath that altar, and one All Saints Sunday, I decided to store the missal book and stand under there to free up space on the altar. You see, in that congregation, they placed a rose on the altar for every member who had died in the previous year and with such a small altar and six or seven roses,



plus communion on the altar as well, we really needed more room. I knew I could lead the worship from the hymnbook in my hands: I didn't need the missal book, so I stored it underneath. I should also mention the Bishop was there for the service too.

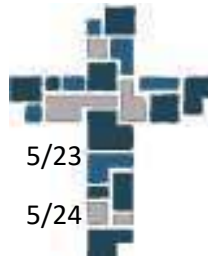
Everything went fine until I came to the Preface. That's the part the pastor sings during communion. That part isn't in the hymnal; it's in the missal book. Suddenly I was there, the book was under the altar, and the only choice I had was to make up a Preface on the spot. Maybe that's why I like big altars.

One way I sometimes think about altars is that they are for sacrifices. With the body and blood of Jesus in communion on the altar, I sometimes find myself thinking of Jesus on the altar, the sacrifice for our sins. Indeed, some of the cloths, for example, the Fair Linnen, points exactly to that. The Fair Linnen is the large cloth that stretches across the altar from end to end, sits directly on the altar surface, and is meant to represent the burial shroud of Jesus. It's not hard to think about Jesus on that altar, bloodied, dying, for us.

That altar at Redeemer is the largest altar of the three churches I have served. It is 12 feet long, which could easily accommodate Jesus dying for us. It's a powerful, dramatic altar.

As we gather for worship on Good Friday each year, the altar is stark and bare. The church gets darker and darker as we make our way slowly through Jesus dying for us. This year, when the sanctuary was completely dark and we were singing *Were You There?*, I happened to look up from where I was kneeling to see the altar. From where I was, the red light from the exit light (that we can't turn off) was reflecting over almost the whole surface of the wood of the altar. Caught up in Jesus' suffering and death, it looked like the altar was covered in blood. His blood: given, shed, for us.

I like large altars. They speak so eloquently of God's amazing, powerful, overwhelming, abundant grace and love.



Nancy Amundson 5/1
 Valerie Marshall 5/1
 Samuel Mathias 5/1
 David Abel 5/2
 Dwayne Schumpert 5/3
 Erna Aderholdt 5/6
 Daniel Lowe 5/6
 Mary Roddey 5/7
 Mabel Trexler 5/7
 Kyle Bedenbaugh 5/8
 Brenda Brunson 5/8
 Ethel Stillabower 5/9
 Lynn Davis 5/10
 Leanne Lagroon 5/10

Jerry Martin 5/11
 Tarike Burke 5/14
 Helen Kitko 5/14
 Hayden Hennessy 5/16
 Paul Bodie 5/17
 James Mingus 5/19
 Cornelia Collins 5/20
 Ryan Epting 5/21
 Nicholas Comfort 5/23

Thomas Suydam 5/23
 Michael Bedenbaugh 5/24
 Kayla Audette 5/25
 Alan Davis 5/25
 Karma Fazzio 5/26
 Ryleigh Knight 5/27
 Josi May 5/27
 Jim Epting III 5/29
 Bryan Jehlen 5/30
 Andie Lowe 5/30



Home Communion

Home Communion Team! May 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. Please check in with Pastor Amanda to make sure that all our information is accurate. Thank you for your ministry! Are you someone who would like more information about receiving or taking home communion? Give Pastor Amanda a call or text 803.465.3773.



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:

Martha Summer, Judy Urso, Donna Gilbert, Trish Matthew, Preston Smith, Becky Lass, Martie Newmyer, Jane Long, Jean Cook, Steve Summer, Jonah Griffin, Brady Patel, Tarike Burke, and Jason Blackburn who helped host, serve, and clean up at the recent Council Training put on by the SC Synod and held here at Redeemer,

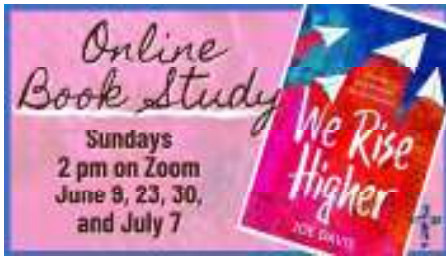
Preston Smith who sorted the Tee shirts given for the unhoused during Lent, Kevin Burke, who has cleaned and patched the walls in some rooms in the preschool area, and to

Herb McKinney and Mike Parker who made the handrails approaching our altar steady and secure.



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,

Redeemer Family Ministry Strawberry Picking

Sat, May 4th

Meet @ Redeemer @ 10 am to carpool

Picking at Lever's 10:30 ish

Lunch at Hawg Heaven, 11:45 ish

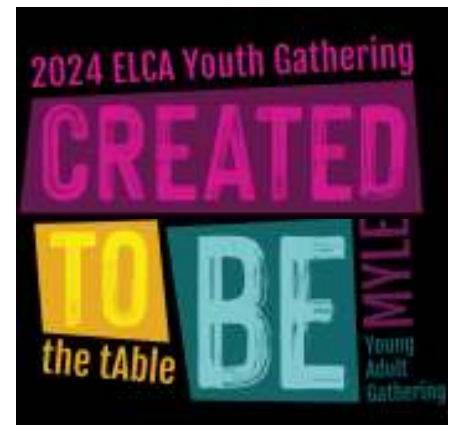
aburke@relu.church for more info and RSVP



New Members: John Overcash, Jessica and Joe Seel

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 May and June we will start the sale of 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 \$480 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.





REPORTING IN.....



Once again, publishing deadlines can create conflicts.

I'm writing this article exactly one week since my hand surgery took place. But you'll be reading it almost a month past surgery, so it's impossible to know with any confidence what healing and recovery has happened by the time we get to the first of May.



My hand in its cozy cast!



My first left hand octave span in nearly 10 years!

However, I can, with confidence report on some things:

The initial results of surgery were very good. Three contractures were all successfully removed.

It took a total of eighteen sutures to close the incisions.

Physical therapy is no fun.

Physical therapy is the only way to fully recuperate.

Recovery takes time.

Recovery takes patience. I have learned that the first thing I do every morning is to put on patience—as someone told me “put on your patience-pants!” Oh, how true!

And speaking of that, it's easier to button your pants if you zip up first.

Not all pain is bad.

My hand feels so much better when it's securely stabilized in my splint—sometimes being still is in itself healing.

Lois McLeod is a true treasure.

Okay, let's go into that a bit more. I deeply appreciate Lois stepping in and playing while I had surgery and for the weeks of rehab. She plays beautifully and has a beautiful spirit.

I am never concerned about the music or if she'll come in right or if she'll play the right thing.

And that leads to—

I am truly enjoying the privilege of worshiping fully and deeply.



Playing the organ at Holy Trinity Lutheran in New York



Right before my surgery, I visited my daughter in New York. While there, I had the privilege of playing this magnificent mechanical action (tracker) organ built by Paul Fritts. It was originally built for Bethany Lutheran Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It's a small world after all!

I felt like I was flying!



Graduation Blessing

The Redeemer Family would like to celebrate and bless our 2024 graduates. If you are graduating from HS, College, Vocational School, Grad School or know someone who is and interested in participating please contact Pastor Amanda. On Sunday, May 26, 2024 there will be a graduate blessing at the beginning of the worship at 10:00 am. Following the service we'll hold a reception for everyone in the fellowship hall.



Easter Breakfast



Easter Worship— Gospel Processional



Breaking Down Big Churchy Words

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 look at *Incarnation*.

Incarnation - Literally this means the embodiment in flesh or something taking on flesh. Within Christianity this is used to describe the embodiment of God in Jesus. God takes on flesh. God embodies humanity.

Most modern denominations of Christianity believe that God became incarnate in Jesus. Jesus is fully God. Jesus is fully human. This belief is one of the central teachings of the Lutheran Church and also among other denominations. There are a few sects of Christianity that have different beliefs about who Jesus is and how he relates to God the Creator and God the Holy Spirit.

Incarnation is an especially important concept when we talk about the resurrection. God took on flesh in the person of Jesus. Jesus died. Jesus was raised from the dead and experienced a

bodily resurrection, not his spirit, not a ghost. Jesus in human flesh was alive again after spending three days dead in the tomb.

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

Blessings,

Pastor Amanda

Building Community with Seven Oaks Elementary



Our congregation has been invited to work with the St. Andrew's Women's Club to support the staff and teachers at Seven Oaks Elementary School. Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week is May 6-10, 2024. We've been invited to provide some homemade goodies and healthy snacks to have available in the teacher/staff lounge during that week. Or, if you are interested in writing a note of encouragement or thanks to a teacher or support staff person they would be greatly welcomed as well. You can contact Barabra Cross from the women's club at 803.553.1139 for more information or talk with Pastor Amanda 803.465.3773 or aburke@relu.church. Thanks for reaching out and supporting those in our neighborhood!



Supporting SOES Families

The social worker at **Seven Oaks Elementary School** is so thankful for Redeemer’s partnership in supporting the community around the school and the church. They will host a financial literacy workshop for parents of SOES students here at Redeemer. They hope to make sure the event is accessible to the parents and that means childcare for the little ones who are not yet in school. We’re looking for 2-4 volunteers who would be willing to watch little ones here at Redeemer Tuesday, April 30, 11:00-1:00 and/or Tuesday, May 7, 11:00-1:00. If you’d like more info about this opportunity for ministry and outreach please contact Pastor Amanda.



Council Continues to Consider ‘Core Values’

Since February, Redeemer’s Church Council has been participating with about ten other congregations in a SC Synod led Council Training course. Part that that course has been focused on developing congregational vision and mission statements. To that end, Redeemer’s Council has been doing some initial work to consider the core values of our ministry together. Eventually, this discussion will expand to the congregation as we work and grow together in serving God and our community.

Over the past few months, the Council has also been working on developing a policy to provide paid time off for our lay staff. In the April meeting, the policy was approved and is based on hours worked and years served.

Pastor Amanda is continuing to explore the costs associated with migrating our church management software to a cloud based system.

Council spent time discussing the financial reports that the council receives. This was brought about when it was discovered that there was money being set aside for the youth to use to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering. The money was there, but doesn’t appear on the reports Council receives. So, there was significant discussion about what is reported and how we can be more transparent in these reports. The Finance Committee will be looking at improvements.

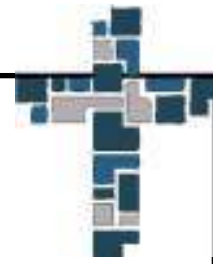


- Work on ‘Core Values’ continues
- Policy for PTO for lay staff approved
- Church Management Software costs explored
- Financial reports to provide more clarity

By the Numbers

	March YTD 2024	March YTD 2023	March YTD 2022
Total income	\$ 88,336	\$ 93,324	\$ 100,161
Total expenses	<u>\$ 133,503</u>	<u>\$134,788</u>	<u>\$ 132,949</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ (45,166)</u>	<u>\$ (41,464)</u>	<u>\$ (32,788)</u>
Balance on mortgage loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,079
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 232,509	\$149,026	\$ 141,128
Attendance	137 in person, 85 online	97 in person 141online	94 in person, 98 online

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8:45am - Faith 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar 2pm - Book Study @ 4pm - Agape Myanmar	29 2pm - Private Event @ Fellowship Center and Nursery 10:30am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Worship	30 2pm - Private Event @ Fellowship Center and Nursery	1 6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	2 10am - Bible study 10am - Thursday Bible 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	3 6pm - Agape Myanmar	4 10am - Agape Myanmar
5 8:45am - Faith 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:15am - Worship & 11:30am - Elem Youth 11:30am - O-K Youth	6 2pm - Private Event @ Fellowship Center and Nursery 10:30am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Worship	7 2pm - Private Event @ Fellowship Center and Nursery	8 6pm - MS/HS Youth 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	9 10am - Bible study 10am - Thursday Bible 7pm - Thursday Bible	10 LCY spring into action 6pm - Agape Myanmar	11 10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
12 LCY spring into action 8:45am - Faith 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar 4pm - Agape Myanmar	13 10:30am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Worship	14	15 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	16 10am - Bible study 10am - Thursday Bible 12pm - Leisure Timers @ 6pm - MS Youth Group 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	17 6pm - Agape Myanmar	18 10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
19 8:45am - Faith 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Rite of 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar 4pm - Agape Myanmar	20 10:30am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Worship	21	22 12pm - Gilbert Graduation 6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	23 10am - Bible study 10am - Thursday Bible 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	24 6pm - Agape Myanmar	25 10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
26 8:45am - Faith 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Graduate 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar 4pm - Agape Myanmar	27 10:30am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Worship	28	29 4pm - Graduation for 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell Choir	30 10am - Bible study 10am - Thursday Bible 12pm - Graduation for 7pm - Thursday Bible	31 6pm - Agape Myanmar	1 10am - Agape Myanmar



Calendar

Always subject to change!

Wed, May 1 and 22, 2024
 HS Youth Group, 9th-12th
 6:00-8:00 pm

Sun, May 5, 2024
 OK Youth Group, Littles-K (and parents)
 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
 Elementary Youth Group, 1st-6th
 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Sun, May 5 and June 2 and 30, 2024
 ELCA Youth Gathering Prep
 10:00 am-1:00 pm

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

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

Th May 16, June 13, & Wd Jun 26, 2024
 MS Youth Group, 5th-8th
 6:00-8:00 pm

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

Wed, May 22, 2024
 Gilbert High School Graduation
 12:00 pm

Wed, May 29, 2024
 Spring Hill High School Graduation
 4:00 pm

Thurs, May 30, 2024
 Dutch Fork High School Graduation
 12:00 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

Spring into Action

SC Lutheran Church Youth Service Retreat
 May 10-12, 2024
 6th-12th Grade
 Total Cost is \$95. Families cover \$35. Redeemer \$60.
 Make checks to Redeemer Lutheran Church

Meet at Redeemer at 5:45 pm on Friday
 Eat before you come
 PAB will drive the bus to Camp Kinard
 We'll arrive back by noon on Sunday

Registration Link— [Spring Into Action! \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com)





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

2024 Congregation

Term Expires End of 2024

Bill Newmyer

Carol Valovcin

Linda Wells

Term Expires End of 2025

Kai Jørgensen

Fauni Lowe

Mike Parker

Term Expires End of 2026

Diane Hunt

Donna Nunamaker

Shannon Smith

Executive Committee

President

Bill Newmyer

Vice President

Diane Hunt

Treasurer

Todd Anderson

Secretary

Donna Nunamaker

Online Giving

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

