



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

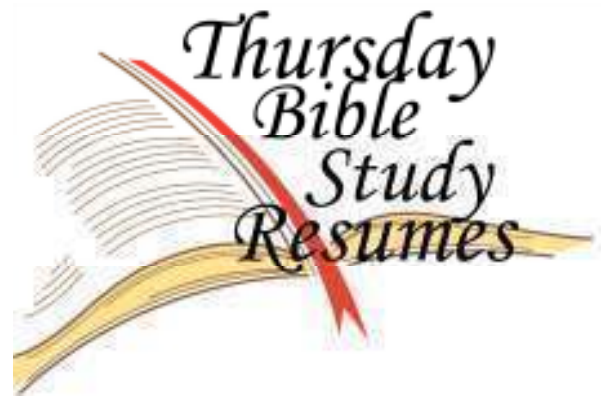
August 2024

Onsite and online 10:00am and 7:00pm

Thursday Bible Study Resumes August 29

- It's a book in the New Testament that doesn't talk about Christ—so why is it there?
- Martin Luther disliked this book and thought it didn't belong in the Bible.
- It wasn't accepted as part of the New Testament until very late in the process, and yet there is evidence that the early church used this book.

The summer break is drawing to an end. Pastor Gary's Thursday Bible Study will resume on August 29 with classes offered each Thursday at 10:00am and repeated at 7:00pm. The classes will be available onsite here at Redeemer, and online through Zoom at <https://relu.link/ThursdayBibleStudy>.



Our opening study this Fall will be the book of James. In many ways far beyond the bullet points above, it is unique among New Testament literature, and in it we will find a strong call to moral living. Long range, when our study of James is over, we will move to Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. First Thessalonians urges believers to a life based in faith, hope, and love, and is probably the first letter Paul wrote, and therefore the earliest written words about Jesus we have.

We laugh, we learn, we listen, we share. Come join us as our Thursday Bible Study resumes!

New Building Keys Still Available

Maybe your key didn't work smoothly or it needed to be jigged for it to work. Redeemer's keys and locks were old and wearing out, so this summer the entire building was rekeyed. Now the keys are smooth and work easily. New keys are available to any member who wants one. Keys must be signed out and are available in the church office. Get yours today!



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It wasn't working right.

A couple of years ago, Nan and I expanded our deck and added a screened in porch to the back of our house. One of my favorite things to do is to spend time out there in the evenings. Even here in the heat of the summer, if there's a bit of a breeze, it's comfortable out there once the sun goes down. We have some really comfortable chairs too, and it's a nice way to relax and to wind down after my day. Often, I'll read while I'm out there. Best of all is if I can be out there when it rains. I love the sound of a summer shower.

To help me wind down and get ready to go to sleep, I also have a small Bluetooth speaker so that I can play some gentle, relaxing music softly while I'm on the porch. Sometimes, especially on the really pretty evenings, it's hard not to fall asleep.

Falling asleep was far from my experience on a recent evening, however. I turned on my Bluetooth speaker and then got the music I wanted on my phone and sat back, ready to relax. Only...the music was coming from my phone and not my speaker. "Something must have gone wrong with the connection," I thought, so I pushed the button that attempts a new Bluetooth connection. The music was still coming from my phone.

I pressed it again. And again. I powered off the speaker, and then powered it back on. Still, the music played from my phone and not the speaker. I turned my phone off completely, and then restarted. The problem persisted, but since I had restarted my phone, I tried all that again with my speaker. Still, it didn't work.

"Maybe the speaker has a loose connection," I thought, and so I smacked it in my palm a few times. (it's not a very expensive speaker). Nope, that didn't fix it either. Finally, I decided that since it wasn't an expensive speaker, perhaps something had gone



wrong, and my best solution was to order another one, and until it came, I'd just listen on my phone. I was frustrated. I don't like it when things don't work right.

I did have a little nagging worry that my phone might be the problem, but my phone connected to my other Bluetooth speaker at the office just fine.

After a day or two, I was on the porch again and tried again. This time I noticed my phone telling me that it needed to pair with my speaker again like when it was first set up. Somehow the pairing had been lost. The whole problem was that the phone and the speaker had become unpaired. There was no connection, and things didn't work like they were supposed to.

I wonder if some of our difficulties in life happen because we have become unpaired from God.

Perhaps when our worries get so big they are all we can see, perhaps when we are puffed up with ourselves and 'how great we art,' perhaps in those times when we don't really want God to see or know about what we are doing and would rather keep it hidden — in times like those, our connection with God, our pairing with God, somehow seems lost and we find ourselves bereft and frustrated.

It is precisely in times like those that we most need to be re-paired. Reconnecting with God repairs us, centers us, adheres us, and makes us whole again.

The best way to connect with God is not through Bluetooth, but through prayer. Not just the simple spouting off of a wish list to God, but time spent with God, being together, sharing, listening, opening yourself up to God. In giving yourself to God this way, you will find God, and yourself. Life falls more closely into place. Frustrations ease. Jesus often went off with his disciples for time like this to pray. The Psalmist says, "Be still, and know that I am God."

Find time to pray, really pray. Get re-paired.





Gregory Cross	8/1
Sandra DeVold	8/1
Lisa Mathias	8/1
Johanna Griffin	8/3
Michael Shealy	8/3
Lauren Willhoit	8/5
Tim Rollins	8/6
Larry Stohs	8/8
Bertrand Gilli	8/10
Chelsea Redfern	8/11
Betty Singletary	8/12
Lin Longshore	8/13



Julie Pell	8/13
Amy Coggins	8/14
Julie Crooks	8/14
Robert Long	8/14
Timothy Flood	8/15

Jennifer Griffin	8/15
Kelly Plemmons	8/15
Helen Morris	8/17
Debra Mingus	8/20
David Peek	8/20
Candace Prince	8/21
Allyn Bedenbaugh	8/22
Emily Edenfield	8/23
Donna Willingham	8/25
Taylor Griffin	8/27
Cheryl Militello	8/27
Elizabeth Selkinghaus	8/30
Kathy Burgess	8/31

Some Reminders About the Prayer List in the Go and Serve



The prayer list in the Go and Serve is an important way for us to keep up with concerns for our church family members and to offer our prayers in support of them and their loved ones. We invite you to give us names of folks you would like on the prayer list, and names will remain on the list for six weeks. If the need continues and you'd like them

reinstated to the list, simply call the church office. Likewise, we may from time to time miss removing someone who is now well (on earth or in heaven), and if so, please call to let us know. And keep praying!

Pr. Gary Has a New Phone Number

As many of you have already done, Pastor Gary and Nan finally retired their land line. Pastor Gary is reachable at the church at 803-882-5419 (the same number), and now on his mobile phone: 803-528-5693.



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:

Tom Lass who works with Lutheran Services of the Carolinas and other groups to help distribute furniture to set up homes for Afghan and Ukrainian refugees arriving in our area,

Holly May, Greg Cross, and Jennifer Griffin for helping transport our youth to and from Atlanta airport for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, and to

Brian and Michaela Metz and Belle Coffman for serving as adults for the National Youth Gathering trip along with Pastor Amanda.



School Supplies Deadline Nears

It's time for Redeemer's annual **School Supply Drive** to help students

(kindergarten through high school) from Williamsburg and Sharing God's Love. Our donations are always greatly appreciated by the families.

1. First day of school: Williamsburg Aug 16 and Irmo (dist. 5) Aug. 15. Please bring supplies no later than Sunday, August 13.

2. **Important Change** — Williamsburg schools are requesting clear backpacks this year for safety reasons. Typical backpacks are fine for Irmo schools.

3. A donation box is located in the Narthex.

4. Monetary donations are welcome. Please indicate the donation is for school supplies.

5. Easier shopping--order online and ship to Redeemer.



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time to time miss removing someone who is now well (on earth or in heaven), and if so, please call to let us know. And keep praying!



Leisure Timers Visits Golden Bay

Join the Leisure Timers on Thursday, August 15th at the Golden Bay Seafood Restaurant. Meet us there at 12:00. They have a wide variety of menu items in addition to great seafood! They are located at 6164 St. Andrews Rd. I will need a headcount for the Chef. So please sign up in the Narthex no later than Sunday, August 12th. Look forward to "sea-ing" you there! Questions or help with signing up contact conniedavis@sc.rr.com or text me (803)317-7631.

Rev. Tim Morgan Announces Retirement



Rev. Tim Morgan, one of Redeemer's vicars about 15 years ago, has announced his retirement. Facing some health concerns of his own, and the realities of caring for older family members who have relocated near Jeanne and him, led Pastor Tim to this decision. His retirement will be effective at the end of August. Please pray for God's blessing to be on Tim and Jeanne as they enter this new phase of their lives.

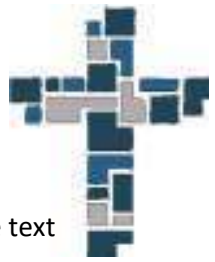
Online Book Study

Redeemer's Online Book Study is on a break until September. The next book has not been picked yet. However, look for more information to come soon. Make plans to join us online at 2 pm on Sundays this fall.



The Long and Winding Path:

The Tortuous Road Every Anthem Has to Make



This past July 14th, the choir sang one of my compositions—a setting of the text “Creating God, Your Fingers Trace,” by Jeffrey Rowthorn.

Since I am the composer for the music of this piece I could consider the long, creative journey of an anthem.

As I listened to Lois practicing the accompaniment on Monday prior to that Sunday’s performance of the piece I started thinking about the life of a typical anthem from the lyricist pen, through the composer’s creativity, passing through the accompanist’s hands, the director’s score prep, the choir’s hours of rehearsal and ultimately to the listeners’ ears. I realized few of us take the time to appreciate what all goes into the process.

I know this gets a bit arcane, so I understand if you’d rather just skip “Grace Notes” this month, but I think this little overview might give appreciation for the brief moments of our weekly anthem and what all is behind those little gems of musical expressions.

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

Though not always, an anthem will usually begin with a text. Somebody had an idea, sketched it out in poetic form, revised it, re-revised it, and finalized it. Editors then pondered it, red-lined it, commented on it, and likely argued with the author over it. Ultimately, we had a poem—a text—the lyrics.

THEN COMES A TUNE

Then a musician decided to set it to music—sometimes the music is completely original music as mine on the July 14th anthem. Sometimes the musician will arrange a preexisting tune—like when we sing “Gather at the River” that blends “Shall We Gather at the River” and “It is Well with My Soul.”



That process goes through its own journey. First the composer drafts it out, then revises and edits until he/she gets it the way they think best.

Then the music manuscript must all be entered into some kind of music writing computer program—I use Sibelius™, many use Finale™, almost all of us use MuseScore™.

THEN IT GETS ALL LEGAL

The finished product is sometimes submitted to a publisher or a bunch of publishers. If the composer is lucky enough a publisher agrees to publish the anthem. That entails a new round of edits, revisions, arguments, and ultimately resolution. Copyrights are applied for and granted then the publisher makes thousands of copies hoping churches will buy the anthem so they can make enough money to continue the whole endless process.

Alternatively, the composer can be a bit independent and go it alone, as I frequently do.



NOW IT GETS LOCAL AND CLOSE TO HOME

So once an anthem's been selected a process begins--

The director does score preparation, which is when he/she does a deep dive into the piece, learns it thoroughly, analyzes it in light of the choir's strength and weaknesses, and prepares a schedule for teaching the piece to the choir.

The accompanist must completely master the music before the choir begins rehearsals.

Once the director and accompanist have mastered the anthem, then the choir can start rehearsals. Typically, it takes the choir four to eight weeks to prepare the anthem, depending on the difficulty of the music. Notes, rhythms, and texts are learned, then the director leads the choir to making all those notes, rhythms, and texts come alive musically. Louds and softs (dynamics), phrasing, blending, text-painting, and many other subtle aspects must be mastered to make each anthem a musical expression that touches the listener.



THEN IT'S SHOW TIME--

And you get to hear the result of all this creative labor.

The choir works hard at leading our worship music and for the most part loves doing it. All art is demanding.

As Eric Nelson, director of the Atlanta Symphony Chorus once said, "Never underestimate the difficulty of your art."

So, sometime soon, thank a choir member.

What Is Mutual Ministry?

It's been a few years since Redeemer had an active Mutual Ministry Committee, so as the Council and pastors work to get this Team reestablished, perhaps it's a good time for some reminders about its function and purpose.



The Mutual Ministry Team stands with both the congregation and the rostered staff (pastors). They represent the congregation to the pastors, expressing any concerns or issues in our shared ministry together that need to be addressed. At the same time, they support and hear any concerns the pastors may have that need to be brought to the congregation. Concerns from the congregation that may need to be expressed anonymously, or concerns of whether we are providing the resources needed for our ministry to happen can be addressed. Conflict can be respectfully heard and addressed. Is there an unmet passion for ministry in the congregation or for one of the pastors that isn't being met? How do we best work together in doing God's will for us here and now?

The Mutual Ministry Team will do this and more. Terms on the committee are two years, but half the committee will rotate off each year. As the members of this committee are chosen, the congregation will be made aware of who these members are.



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 *Ecumenical*.

Ecumenical – Literally describes the idea of something being general or universal. It can also lean into the idea of including or containing a mixture of diverse elements or styles. In Christianity it often refers to Christian unity throughout the world or ministry done with a diverse

group of denominations.

Ecumenicism shows up when ministry happens in collaboration with other Christian traditions. Pastor Gary and I participate in a group of seven oaks area clergy once a month. Pastors from the ELCA, Presbyterian church, Episcopal, and AME all join in to talk and share support for the ministry we all do in our neighborhood.

Even though there are differences in doctrine, worship, organization and more we can all come together to do God's work in the world. All of these congregations and many more support Sharing God's Love in Irmo. There have been shared worship services and opportunities to serve our neighbors together.

The wisdom of Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 teaches us, "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help." We do God's work better when we work with others. We can maintain our individual traditions without isolating ourselves from other Christians. What possibilities do you see for ecumenical ministry in the future?



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

Blessings,
Pastor Amanda



Council Reestablishes Mutual Ministry Team and Creates Memorial Committee

In the July meetin of the Church Council, steps were taken to reestablish the Mutual Ministry Team for our congregation and pastors. The Mutual Ministry Team is a congregational committee mandated by our constitution and it has languished for a few years now. This team is intended to serve as a trusted means of communication and problem solving for the pastors and congregation. As this Team is being set up, plans are for Pastor Gary to choose two members, Pastor Amanda two members, and the Council will choose two members of the congregation. Watch for more information.

The Council also began to establish a Memorial Committee. When someone dies, for example, often the church receives memorial donations. Sometimes the family makes a designation for how to use those monies from the beginning, and at other times, that money sits in a designated fund waiting for an appropriate way to use the money. The pastors will then contact the family for approval to use the money in that particular way. Because Redeemer is so blessed with many things, needs aren't often presenting themselves, and some memorial gifts sit there unused for years. After a time, the Council has in the past rolled some of those funds into the Program Fund: a collection of funds used for unbudgeted needs and ministry that arise during a year. In many cases, families are likely not aware the monies are still sitting there. The hope is that a memorial committee could be created to keep an active eye out for needs around the church that these funds could be used for, as well as consult with families about how to use the designated funds. Options may include purchasing something

for the church, or even just turning the money to the general fund for operations at the church.

The Council also adjusted the amount to cover Pastor Gary's trip to Tucson, AZ for Louis Liss' ordination.

Finally, the Council approved several recommendations from the Finance committee including the purchase of another 1 year CD with the funds from a recently matured CD, upped the deductible on our insurance to \$15,000, and decided that the Thrivent Choice dollars we have received in the past will be moved to the Program Fund for unanticipated ministries and programs, and any new Thrivent Choice dollars from this point forward will go to the General Fund.

The meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Gary and the sharing of the peace.



- Mutual Ministry Team Reestablished
- Memorial Committee Created
- Funds for trip to Tucson, AZ for the Liss ordination adjusted
- 1 Year CD purchased
- Insurance deductible increased
- Future Thrivent Choice dollars directed to the General Fund

By the Numbers

	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2022
Total income	\$ 210,516	\$218,106	\$ 210,299
Total expenses	<u>\$ 259,444</u>	<u>\$257,440</u>	<u>\$ 310,404</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ (48,928)</u>	<u>\$ (39,334)</u>	<u>\$ (100,105)</u>
Balance on mortgage loan	\$ - \$ 208,370	\$ - \$151,679	\$ - \$ 92,798
Attendance	Onsite: 95 Online:91	Onsite: 99 Online: NA	Onsite: 84 Online 81

**Memorials Received
May 20th thru July 19th 2024
In Memory of:**

Buddy Champion

Deborah Suydam
Karma Fazio
Pat Crosby
Marie Baughman
Larry Higgins
Hollis Glover
Brenda Miller
Carl & Edwyn Mahon
Caroll & Reg Brasington
Lynne Flood
Ellus & Kay Burns
Margaret Larson
Betty Olson
Aleda Anderson
Julie Pell

Ruth Wilson

Marie Baughman
Pawnee Shumpert

**An invitation from the
SC Synod...**



You are invited to join in an opportunity to



watch and discuss "Origin" from Ava DuVernay

The event will be held Saturday, September 7, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Williams Chapel AME Church in Orangeburg. The event is free.

Here's what one reviewer said:

Outstanding, Near Perfect Film! Ava DuVernay accomplished an incredible feat depicting social hierarchies or caste, and the ways in which they lead to dehumanization, violence, and mass suffering. Yet, the film was surprisingly uplifting and motivating to resist the forces, so-called "leaders", ideologies, and -ism's that attempt to divide us. Life is so Beautiful - particularly when we allow ourselves to be open to giving and receiving love, warmth, and respect from All of our fellow human beings.



Louis Liss Ordained in Tucson

I hope you are aware of the legacy that you are part of. As you have worked to shape and form students for ministry through this congregation, every person they touch for God, every ministry they are involved in, every sermon they preach, every Bible study they lead, every good they do on behalf of Jesus, you have a part of that. You helped make these pastors and ministers who they are, so you have a part in all that they do. It's a profound legacy.

On July 27, Louis Liss was ordained at his home church – and the church he will serve as Associate Pastor – in Tucson, AZ. While Louis wasn't an official student assigned to Redeemer, while he and his family were here completing his work at the seminary, they became part of our church family. Louis, An-

nie, David, and Kyr-
ie gave themselves
to us and we gave
ourselves to them.



So, the Council saw fit to send Pastor Gary to represent Redeemer at the ordination service. Louis could not express enough to me how much it meant to have Redeemer represented there. Before coming to Columbia, he and his family had been missionaries in Beirut for 9 years, in a foreign world with terrorism, bombings and more, and in his words on the back of the Ordination worship bulletin he wrote: "Thank you to...the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Co-

lumbia, SC. We did not know the depths of healing we needed until God used you to restore our weary hearts and send us out with sanctified spirits."

Redeemer was also the place that saw him through his transition back to American society...and to American ministry. Redeemer's support for him and his family affirmed for him that he was doing the right thing in becoming a pastor. "I saw you coming to the ordination as a sign from God," he said to me. "It means more than I can say."

Redeemer also gave Louis his own home communion kit as an ordination gift from the congregation. As he visits with homebound and hospitalized, he will have this kit as part of the ministry he can offer, and part of the legacy of Redeemer.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Music Camp Setup @ 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:15am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar	Community Music Camp @ Everywhere!			6pm - NAMI support	6pm - Agape Myanmar	10am - Agape Myanmar
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:15am - Worship & 12pm - Agape Myanmar	Private Event @ Fellowship Hall and Kitchen 10:30am - Staff Meeting		6:30pm - Choir Practice		6pm - Agape Myanmar	10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar	10:30am - Staff Meeting		6:30pm - Choir Practice	12pm - Leisure Timers @ 6pm - NAMI support	6pm - Agape Myanmar	10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Church Council @	10:30am - Staff Meeting		6:30pm - Choir Practice	6pm - NAMI support	6pm - Agape Myanmar	10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar	10:30am - Staff Meeting		6:30pm - Choir Practice	10am - Thursday Bible 7pm - Thursday Bible	6pm - Agape Myanmar	10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar

RELU YOUTH

Calendar

Always subject to change!

There may not be much on the calendar right now. However, we are working to make plans for each of the youth groups for the coming school year. Are you interested in working with one of the groups? Contact Pastor Amanda for more information!





Redeemer Lutheran Church

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pastorgary@relu.church

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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

