



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

September 2024

Church Council Takes Initial Steps for Musician Search

The news of Jim Boatwright’s retirement at the end of the year took everyone by surprise, and it’s pretty clear that whomever comes next to Redeemer will have big shoes to fill. Jim may be followed, but he cannot be replaced. The reality is, however, that we need to take some steps now as we anticipate his retirement.

First, we need to celebrate Jim and his ministry among us. Council has begun the discussion of how that might happen, so be sure to watch for more information about that.

Council has also begun putting a Search Committee in place. The first task the Search Committee will have is to consider the needs of Redeemer and the gifts we are looking for in a new musician. That may involve discussions with groups or individuals from the choir, handbell choir, etc. With that information, they will begin work on a Job Description, and finally after that, it will be time to begin our search.

Meanwhile, Council will begin working on questions like: Is the position full time or part time? Do we search for one person to fill the Music Director role and one to accompany, or do we search for two people? Can we afford two people? How much can we offer in terms of salary? Of course, some of this, like whether it’s one person or two may depend on the candidates who apply.

So, as you can surmise, all of this will take some time to get in place before the actual search begins. The new person might well not be in place by the time Jim leaves, and there may be some months of substitutes until the new person is found.

When Bill Newmyer announced Jim’s resignation to the Congregation on a Sunday, Artie asked if Lois could take the job. Lois has been consulted, and prefers to keep her role as it is now, and subject to the new person desiring to have her in her role.

Please be patient and continue to pray for Redeemer in its search for a musician.



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Most Sunday mornings, I try to listen to the choir's anthem during worship. I have to admit, I can't always do it. Frankly, there are some Sundays when something has happened in worship or something is about to happen that I need to be thinking about, and it takes away my ability to focus on the anthem. Frankly, there's a lot going on up front, even in what may appear to be the quiet times.

However, on a recent Sunday, there was no mid-worship crisis, things were progressing smoothly, and I thought I was going to be able to focus on the anthem. All of a sudden, as I sat there, I noticed Pastor Amanda dressing the altar for Holy Communion.

You might not be familiar with that term: dressing the altar, but that's what it is called as we 'set the table' for the meal to come. In fact, you may not have been aware of it, but there are two styles of altars that churches have. Some churches have a chest altar that rests against the front wall. These altars are reminiscent of the Ark of the Covenant from the Old Testament. More modern churches have altars that resemble a table to emphasize the Last Supper and the meal of Holy

Communion, and these altars are pulled away from the wall so that God's family may gather



around them. Redeemer's altar is an interesting mix of these two styles. We have a table in box form that proclaims God both ways. We gather around God's table, and also remember God's covenant promises to us.

I watched Pastor Amanda dressing the altar for communion, making things ready, and I noticed that she was doing it a bit differently than I do when it is my turn to dress the altar. We don't do things in the same order or in the same way. Let me be clear: both ways are right and neither way is wrong. Our ways are



just...different.

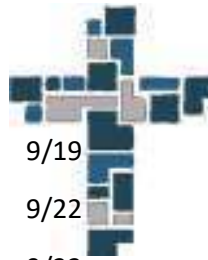
Suddenly, I thought about dinner parties at my house. Whenever we have guests for dinner or need to place trays of finger foods on the table, Nan does all the work of getting the food ready, but it's my job to place it all on the table. As she grew up, Nan's family didn't

often entertain this way, but my family did. As I grew up, my mother taught me some guidelines for how to set the table for guests. For example, the main entrée is placed near where the guests will be seated instead of near where the host is seated. This shows honor to your guests. She taught me to place foods after that by putting foods of different colors next to each other and spreading out things of similar colors so that the table is attractive and interesting. Of course, you need to do things like put the chips before the dip or make sure the toothpicks are handy for meatballs. In other words, you think of it from your guests' perspective.

There's more going on during the dressing of the altar than you might have imagined. We aren't just getting the table ready, and I have mentioned a few times that perhaps my favorite moment in worship happens as we dress the altar. I think it is a powerful moment when we unveil the bread and wine at the center of the table. When that happens the body and blood of Jesus is being revealed right there among us. It is a powerful, dramatic moment in worship. We encourage those running the cameras for our worship to keep the focus on the altar until this is done, and then to switch to the choir singing the anthem. In that moment, it is made clear that Jesus is among us in his sacrificial love.

As we gather around the table like a family, you may never have realized that the altar rail becomes an extension of the altar itself. As you kneel at the rail, you are kneeling at the altar. You are truly gathered with God's family around God's table.

Sorry, choir, but I missed most of the anthem that day. I hope none of us miss that the table is made ready. Come, gather with God's family for the meal of love and grace.



Sherry Lindler 9/1
 Sharon Mathias 9/1
 Claire Rapp 9/1
 Peri Baker 9/2
 Emily Wessinger 9/2
 Brandon Hawkins 9/3
 Meskerem Burke 9/5
 Linda Andersen 9/6
 Kay Burns 9/6
 Rebecca Clark 9/6
 Catherine Gleaton 9/10
 Grace Shealy 9/10

English Gallery 9/12
 Annette Lindsay 9/12
 Sarah McKeown 9/13
 Spencer Redfern 9/14
 R Bedenbaugh 9/15
 Kelly Stohs 9/15
 Nancy McKinney 9/16
 Amy Gilli 9/17

Lynda Keisler 9/18
 Carmen Plemmons 9/19
 Denise Anderson 9/22
 Tess Isaacson 9/22
 Jane Long 9/24
 Thomas Yeoman IV 9/25
 Thomas Ketchen 9/26
 Kelsey Busch 9/27
 Andrew Shealy 9/27
 Eric Sturgeon 9/29
 Edwin Honeycutt 9/30
 Joseph Wilkes 9/30

It's Time to Renew Your Background Check

One of the most important goals we can have is to keep our children safe. To that end, more than ten years ago, Redeemer put a child protection policy in place, and one requirement of that policy is that we have background



checks on file for anyone who works with children as part of our ministries. However, when everything shut down for the pandemic, these background checks were not kept up to date since we weren't having these ongoing ministries. Since these background checks are good only for two years, everyone who had done one previously is in need of doing another one. If you volunteer in any of our youth ministry programs, or volunteer in the nursery, please get a form from the table in the narthex and turn it in so that we can do the check and have these forms on file. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.



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:

Herb McKinney, Kevin Burke, and Kare Burke who have worked to remove tape marks and paint and stain in the preschool rooms,

Carol Valovcin for her leadership of the Altar Guild,

Our Redeemer **Youth and Adult Leaders** for the wonderful Shareholder's Dinner, and to,

Judy Urso who proofreads our bulletin each week.



Vibrant Family, Vibrant Faith

Each year, our Fall Stewardship Campaign helps us to focus on our plans for the new year. It is a time to reflect and respond to the many blessings that God has bestowed upon us! This year's theme is called Vibrant and invites us to consider the Vibrant church family we have here at Redeemer, and also the Vibrant faith that is so evident in the ministries of Redeemer. All these point to our Vibrant God and our faithful response to God's blessings. On Sunday, September 22nd and 29th, we'll highlight a few of the many ways that we serve, worships and praise our vibrant God. On Sunday, October 6th, Consecration Sunday, we'll return our completed Estimate of Giving cards in response to God's amazing and vibrant Grace for all.



Pastor's Thursday Bible Study Begins Looking at James

Our Thursday Bible Study has been on break for the summer, but resumed on August 29. Come join us for learning and laughter together as we begin this fall with a

study of the book of James. James invites us into a faith that is lived out in love.

The Bible Study happens each Thursday at 10:00am and is repeated at 7:00pm. Both sessions are available to participate in by Zoom as



well. Here's the link: <https://relu.link/ThursdayBibleStudy>.

Celebrating Communion in September

Home Communion Team! September 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.



Rev. Emily Hartmann to be Installed

The installations service for Rev. Emily Hartmann as the new pastor at Zion Lutheran Church

in Lexington will be September 15 at 3:00pm at Zion. Zion's address is 226 Corley Mill Rd, Lexington, SC 29072. All are invited to attend.





It was a terrific Summer Music Camp! We learned some great new songs, formed a Bucket Brigade, played bells, made fun crafts, enjoyed healthy snacks, and played lots of games. But most of all, we reached out to others in service. We learned that we make a difference in our world today. So, I'd like to say--

Music: **Lois McLeod and Amanda Walker**; Bucket Brigade: **Bailey Walker and Nelson Addison**; Arts and Crafts: **Lillie Free and Pat Itter**; Snacks: **Martha Summer and Wally and Alma Schultz**; Shepherds: **Donna Gilbert, Becky Lass, and Kathy Chartier**; Story Time and Administrative: **Pastor Amanda Burke**; Camp Registrar: **Janet Boatwright**, Camp Co-

Director: **Martie Newmyer**.

And a big shout-out to a group of amazing young people who assisted with grace, dedication, and joy: **Tarika Burke, Laurel Cowen, Wesley Cowen, Eli Griffin, Jonah Griffin, Lila Taylor, and Lily Thomas**.

FIVE THINGS ABOUT MY RETIREMENT

- It gives Redeemer an opportunity to envision, re-evaluate, look to the future, and consider new directions.
- It means Pastor Gary and I aren't retiring at the same time. That would be a challenging situation.
- Even though it's true that we're all replaceable, I encourage you not to try to find another "Jim"; instead look for a person that will be the future of Redeemer, not the past.
- Be open to the new, but also be true to your authentic identity. A big part of Redeemer's identity is that of a congregation willing to go in new directions, try new things, embrace emerging ideas—in the words of Pastor Amanda in a recent sermon we are willing to taste the living bread that finds new expressions and is fresh every day—manna, as it were.
- Consider Tony Everett's oft quoted saying, "Where is God in all of this?"



Janet and I are most appreciative of our time here at Redeemer Lutheran. They have been wonderfully rewarding and fulfilling. You gave us the chance to delve into community theatre, revitalize Summer Music Camp, and a host of musical adventures. We are blessed to have been a part of this wonderful congregation.



But now is the chance to devote time to family, to pursue new passions, and to reflect on the very exciting life we've had the privilege of living.

Keep your eyes open for two things on the horizon. One of my passions is writing. Two novels are in various stages of production, so hopefully soon you'll have an opportunity to read them.

Unintended Consequences: The Unpredictable Tale of Nathan Erskine.

In this light-hearted account of a hapless first year teacher's failure, you'll be taken on an unpredictable maze of a whirlwind of events. You'll be swept up in Nathan's path from bumbling teacher to dedicated innovative leader. And you'll see that even the worst of us can become instruments of unbelievable good. Even though the novel is light-hearted, it contains some darker, more profound issues that hopefully make you think.



The Refiner's Fire

Follow the journey of a peach farmer's son, a farmer's daughter, and a poor black boy in this historical fiction as they learn to deal with systemic racism in the south. The novel has its dramatic culmination in the tragic events of the Orangeburg Massacre of 1968.



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. There are also many concepts that I had to wrap my mind around as well. So, I figured we could look at these words and ideas together in a monthly newsletter article.

Let's look at *Core Values*

Many organizations and nonprofits have a set of phrases or sentences that describe the foundational concepts that make them who they are.

Habitat for Humanity has a short list...

1. Demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ.
2. Focus on shelter.
3. Advocate for affordable housing.

4. Prompt dignity and hope.

5. Support sustainable and transformative development.

The idea is that everything that Habitat for Humanity does is connected with at least one of these core values.

The company, Nike, has its own set of core values.

1. Community.
2. Sustainability.
3. Diversity.
4. Social responsibility.

Ideally, all of Nike's development, production, marketing, and sales relate to at least one of these fundamental ideas.

Churches, families of faith, are similar. The community that makes up the congregation operates on a set of core values. Some may be obvious and others more subtle. However, it is important to consider, name, and promote what is at the core of our ministry and identity.

Our church council has started to consider what some of Redeemer's core values may be. They are also working to bring this conversation out into the congregation. Don't be surprised if someone asks what words describe Redeemer before you begin choir practice. There will hopefully be a little time taken during our Bible Studies. We'll have a couple of special conversations available before and after worship during September.

All of this is an effort to further discern who we are as a family of faith and what God is calling us to do. None of these conversations create dramatic change in our ministry. They do, however, give us a platform to further explore our role in the world around us and to be intentional about using our gifts, talents, and resources for God's work in the world.

Thanks for joining in and exploring who we are as Redeemer Lutheran Church!

Blessings, Pastor Amanda





Council Continues Work to Determine 'Core Values'

- Council Works to define Core Values
- Sets process for the search for a new musician after Jim retires.

With a lighter agenda in August, the Council took more time than usual to work on a project they began in the spring to help determine Redeemer's Core Values. Last Spring, the Redeemer Council hosted Councils from across the synod in a multi-session workshop focused on helping congregations be more focused on the mission of their congregations. The first step in that is to determine the Core Values of the congregation.

Soon, this process will be pushed out to the congregation. You may be asked things like, "What words come to your mind when you think of Redeemer?" "What do you like best about Redeemer?" "What words do you think characterize Redeemer?"

The Core Values will be gathered, thought about, brought together, and formed into a statement that reflects who Redeemer is and what we are about. Even later, these iden-

tified values may help craft a mission statement for our congregation in the present and the future.

In the August meeting, reports were given by both pastors, the treasurer, and Kare Burke represented the Youth and gave a report on their activities and things coming up in the near future.

The other major topic of discussion was the process to use in a search for a new musician after Jim retires at the end of the year. Pastor Gary shared information about how the search process had gone in the past, and suggested that that pattern might be a starting place for us now. A search committee will be formed which will begin by asking individuals and groups like the choir to share thoughts about what we might look for in a new musician. Then, the search committee would begin working on a job description.

Meanwhile, Council will be answering questions like how much we can afford to pay, how many hours, one person or two, and full time or part time? Flexibility and adaptability will be important since we don't know what candidates we might have nor the gifts they will have to meet our needs.

Council is also beginning to discuss plans to celebrate Jim's decade of service to our congregation, so watch for more information.

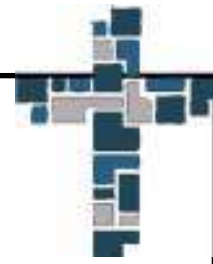
The meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Amanda and the sharing of the Peace.

By the Numbers: July

	July YTD 2024	July YTD 2023	July YTD 2022
Total income	\$ 267,191	\$252,734	\$ 244,923
Total expenses	<u>\$ 300,173</u>	<u>\$302,435</u>	<u>\$ 353,628</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ (32,982)</u>	<u>\$ (49,701)</u>	<u>\$ 108,705</u>
Unrestricted Cash Balance	\$ 218,039	\$146,235	\$ 79,020
Attendance	Onsite 108 Online 87	Onsite: 100 Online 68	Onsite: 69 Online 126

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Camp Gift</p> <p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:15am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Wcrship</p> <p>11:15am - Worship &</p> <p>2pm - Agape Myanmar</p>	<p>SOFA Meeting @ Fellowship Hall and Kitchen</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>10:30am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>6pm - Agape Myanmar</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar</p>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>God's Work, Our Hands</p> <p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:15am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Wcrship</p> <p>11:15am - Property Team</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar</p>	<p>10:30am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6:30pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30pm - Handbell</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>12pm - Leisure Timers @</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>6pm - Agape Myanmar</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar</p>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Wcrship</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar</p> <p>6pm - Church Council @</p>	<p>10:30am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6:30pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30pm - Handbell</p>	<p>6:30pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30pm - Handbell</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>12pm - Leisure Timers @</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>6pm - Agape Myanmar</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Wcrship</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar</p>	<p>10:30am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6:30pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30pm - Handbell</p>	<p>6:30pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30pm - Handbell</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>6pm - Agape Myanmar</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar</p>
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
<p>8:45am - Faith</p> <p>8:45am - Sunday School</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice</p> <p>10am - Wcrship</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar</p>	<p>10:30am - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6:30pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30pm - Handbell</p>	<p>6:30pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>7:30pm - Handbell</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible</p>	<p>6pm - Agape Myanmar</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar</p>

RELU YOUTH

Calendar

Always subject to change!

Sundays, Faith Launch
8:45-9:30 am
Littles-5th grade

Sun, Sept 22, 4-6 pm
0K/Elem Youth Group
Littles-5th grade

Sundays in October
0K/Elem Youth Group
Blessing Box Collection

Sun, Oct 27, 3:00-4:30 pm
Community Trunk or Treat

Sat, Nov 16
Newberry Youth Day
6th-12th grades

Sun, Nov 17, 4-6 pm
0K/Elem Youth Group
Littles-5th grade

Sat, Dec 7
Synod Youth Event
1st-5th grades

Sun, Dec 8, 4-6 pm
0K/Elem Youth Group Caroling
Littles-5th grade

Sat, Jan 11, 1-3 pm
0K/Elem Youth Group to the zoo
Littles-5th grade

Feb 7-9, 1st-5th grades
Synod Elem Retreat
Camp Kinard

Sun, Feb 9
0K/Elem Youth Group
Littles-5th grade

Sun, Mar 23, 12-2 pm
Picnic at Irmo Park
All ages!

Sat, Apr 12, 10:00-11:30 am
Community Easter Egg Extravaganza
All ages!

**Lots more to
be planned!**

**Mark your
calendars!**



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 connected to our online giving

