



Redeemer Lutheran Church

# Crossroads

October 2024

## Vibrant Family, Vibrant Faith

There is a pulsating energy that can be felt in our Redeemer family. It is apparent on Sunday mornings when children squeal with excitement during Faith Launch as they learn a new song or when they hear a story that expands their horizons. It is apparent in the adult Sunday School classes when someone has an ah-haa! moment when a familiar passage of scripture suddenly takes on a new meaning. It is apparent in the narthex when we have the opportunity to catch-up with our friends and meet new ones who come to visit. It is apparent when our choir leads us in singing familiar songs and when they teach us something new. What word would best describe Redeemer on Sunday mornings? One could make a good case for “confusion”. How about “vibrant”?



There is a pulsating energy that can be felt in our Redeemer family. It is apparent when our faith grows and manifests itself in our ministries. It is apparent when we provide material support for Family Promise of the Midlands. It is apparent when we load trucks destined for our neighbors in Williamsburg County. It is apparent when we support and encourage young people in our youth groups. What word would best describe our faith based ministries? One could make a good case for “exhausting”. How about “vibrant”?

Redeemer is a place that is pulsating with energy, pulsating with faith and pulsating with active and relevant ministries. God has led us and has called us to do his work in the world. What word would best describe our zeal for doing this work? One could make a case for “insane”. How about “vibrant”?

On October 6, we will have Consecration Sunday, and you are invited to bring your 2025 Estimate of Giving cards to the altar in response to God’s vibrant grace. May we be thankful for all of God’s love and blessings to us.

### Mark Your Calendars for Two Events

- November 10: Annual Congregational Meeting after worship
- November 24: Special Meal of Thanks after worship.

Watch for more details!

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When I was a child, we simply called it tic-tac-toe. Nowadays it is most commonly called a hashtag (#). I'm so old, I remember when it became known as a pound sign. In fact, I'm so old, I remember that before that, the official name of this symbol is octothorpe. There are eight points to that sign (which is where the octo part comes from) and the 'thorpe' part means 'field, hamlet, or small village.' So if I call it an octothorpe instead of a hashtag, please forgive me.

All that came to mind as I was thinking about this article and what I might write for this October newsletter. I looked at the word October and wondered why we call this month October and what it might have to do with the number eight. Well, I looked that up, and before we began with our current Gregorian calendar, we were using the Julian calendar given to us by the Romans. In their calendar, this month was the eighth month, which is where the name came from.

The number eight has a powerful significance in the Bible, and it starts in Genesis when God created everything. I'm sure you are familiar with the story of God creating everything in six days and then resting on the seventh. From that, seven days was stipulated as a full or complete week, and seven became the number of fullness or completion. When something got to seven, it was complete and full. Nothing more was expected.

Then God gets involved. One of the primary stories where this all comes to play is found in 1 Samuel when God rejects King Saul and decides to choose another king. God sends Samuel to Jesse in Bethlehem and Jesse parades seven of his sons before Samuel. The first was tall and strong and a good looking young man, but God didn't choose him or any of the other



six, which gave Samuel a bit of consternation. Seven sons — the full number — had come before him, and none of them were chosen. Still, God had said this was the family he was to choose from. Finally, with no other option, Samuel asked Jesse, "Do you have any other sons?" Sure enough, there was an eighth son, and God's was was go-

ing to go forward through David. In the seven sons, our human expectation was full and complete and empty, but in an eighth son, God was doing something new. It was a new beginning, far beyond what we expected.

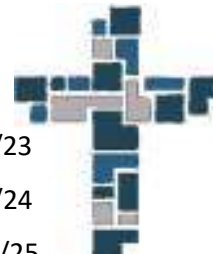
The number eight shows up even more powerfully about 700 Or 800 years later. The Jews' calendar looked a bit like ours in that Sunday was the first day of the week, and Saturday was the last day of the week: their Sabbath. Maybe you've never noticed that Jesus was crucified and died on Friday and rested in the tomb on Saturday. First, there's a connection to creation. On Friday, the sixth day of the week, the work of Jesus was finished, and on the seventh day he rested in the tomb. Everyone — all the people, all the disciples — thought that that comprised the fullness of all Jesus was. Things were complete and finished.

Sunday is the eighth day of the Passion story, and on that day God does something incredibly new. It's Easter! Jesus rose! Not only do we have a new beginning, the whole world gets a new genesis too. God's incredible grace and love is made known on the eighth day.

You can even see this expressed in our baptismal font. Some baptismal fonts have six sides to represent Jesus crucified on the sixth day, and others have eight sides to point to the day of resurrection. Here's some homework: how many sides does the Redeemer font have?

So maybe in this month, we can think about the number eight and remember that we have a God who does the unexpected, who goes beyond what we see as full and complete, whose grace exceeds our imaginations. May October be a time for us to look for the new beginnings God is doing among us.





Donna Gilbert 10/1  
 Rachael Sprankle 10/1  
 JimTurner 10/1  
 Robert Wright Jr. 10/1  
 Michael Gleaton 10/2  
 Madeleine Gilli 10/4  
 Meghan Murphy 10/4  
 Everett Schaller 10/4  
 Peggy Strawhorn 10/5  
 Theresa Courtney 10/7  
 Eli Griffin 10/7  
 Linda Wells 10/7  
 Wendy Williams 10/8  
 Anna Marie Stohs 10/9  
 Evelyn Abel 10/10  
 Jim Boatwright 10/10



Judy Urso 10/10  
 Mason Burgess 10/12  
 Andrew Stohs 10/13  
 Mary Sue Lee 10/15  
 Jordan Knight 10/17  
 Varner Richards 10/17  
 Stephen Epting 10/18  
 Janet Glenn 10/18  
 Ursula Ellis 10/22  
 Jim Pappas 10/22  
 Cindy Peek 10/22

Connie Rollins 10/23  
 Emily Knight 10/24  
 Larry Higgins Sr. 10/25  
 Andrew Richards 10/25  
 Nancy Beaver 10/26  
 Kare Burke 10/26  
 George Faller 10/26  
 Fauni Lowe 10/28  
 Bill Newmyer 10/29  
 Jim Epting Jr. 10/30  
 Jonah Griffin 10/30



**A Parade of Plays An Evening of Short Plays**

November 9, 10  
 7:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.  
 Fellowship Center

**The Most Wonderful Time of the Year  
 A Celebration of Christmas Music**

December 8—4:00 P.M.  
 Fellowship Center



**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:

**Pat and Steve Blackwell** who have worked diligently in Redeemer’s courtyard. They continue to look for more was to make that space beautiful and useful for our faith family,

**Connie Davis** who tirelessly finds new opportunities for the Leisure Timer’s to learn, fellowship, and have a lot of fun. She works wonders with the variety of experiences we’ve been able to have.

Thank you Pat, Steve, and Connie!



## Annual Congregational Meeting is November 10

Some people know the date as the birth date of the US Marine Corps.

Others know the date as Martin Luther's birthday (his 541<sup>st</sup>). For us at Redeemer, this date is important because it marks our Annual Congregational Meeting!

Following worship on November 10, please join us as we approve the Proposed 2025 Spending Plan and elect new Council members. The Proposed Spending Plan and information about nominees will be available in the weeks leading up to the meeting.



## Share the Warmth Coat Drive Begins

It's time once again for our *"Share the Warmth"* Coat Challenge! Beginning Sunday, October 6th, we invite you, your family and friends to help share God's loving warmth with our neighbors in need. New or gently used coats for men, women and children, as well as hats, gloves and scarves, may be placed in the *"Share the Warmth"* box in the Narthex. This is our 21st year of helping make a difference in our community.



As of last year, we have donated more than 1,500 coats for distribution by *"Sharing God's Love"*. This year's challenge is 100 coats. Our challenge

will end on Sunday, January 26th. It will be cold soon! So let's get started! [\(Matthew 25-31-40\)](#)

The Stewardship Committee

## All Saints Sunday Remembrance

It's time to submit names of loved ones and friends who have died since last November 1 to be remembered on All Saints Sunday.



This year All Saints Sunday is on November 3. Redeemer members who have entered the Church Triumphant will automatically be listed, but you are invited to submit names of those close to you who have died in the past year to be remembered as well. The deadline for submitting names is October 27.

## Community Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 27, 3:00-4:30 pm in the front Redeemer parking lot. It will be here before we know it! This is a great opportunity to get to know our neighbors! There are multiple ways to participate.



If you're available, bring your vehicle and treats at 2:30 pm. Park in the front Redeemer lot.

Trunk decorations or costumes are encouraged, but not required. There will be Community Trunk or Treat

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If you're available, bring your vehicle and treats at 2:30 pm. Park in the front Redeemer lot. Trunk decorations or costumes are encouraged, but not required. There will be prizes for creativity!

Or... donated some candy or treats ahead of time. We're looking for candy that is individually wrapped, allergy friendly (no nuts) and, if it is warm, will not melt. Other treats that are a big hit are small toys, pencils, and stickers. And... we hope you'll come to the Trunk or Treat on Oct 27. Bring your friends and neighbors. Feel free to invite others!

For more information or to sign up to bring your trunk contact Pastor Amanda 803.465.3773 or [aburke@relu.church](mailto:aburke@relu.church). prizes for creativity!



Janet and I just returned from a whirlwind visit with our daughter, Ashlyn (aka Lucy) in New York City. To our great relief, New York’s summer-long oppressive heat wave had broken, and we were able to enjoy nearly ideal weather conditions. And, to our surprise, upon our return to the Palmetto State, we were greeted with pleasant temperatures and lower humidity. Fall is in the air.

Jack-o-lanterns, pumpkin-spice lattes, and football are, for better or worse, here.

**But wait! There’s more! In addition to all the lattes and football.....**

**JUST TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT’S UP FOR FALL!**



**PRESENTS**

A Parade of Plays

An Evening of Short Plays and Musicals

November 9, 10

7:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Fellowship Center

This year the 525 Players are mixing it up. Instead of one big production we’ll be presenting five 10-minute plays. Included in the bunch will be Randall Cook’s delightful “Box Office Blues.”

Randall is a son of our congregation who is now a playwright living in New York. We are so proud of him and his accomplishments, including this award-winning play.

Here’s a list of the other shows—

The Garage Sale

The Suitcase

The Keys to Life

Two Ships

The Garage Sale of Amazing Items

And as we approach the Christmas season our choral scholars are busily preparing for something we think you’ll really like—a lot! You might say we found a loophole in the whole “no-Christmas-music-before-Christmas Eve commandment. Yes, you heard that right.

On December 8, not even halfway through Advent, we’re going to give a full-blown program of.....

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

It’s okay, Pastor Gary and Pastor Amanda have given us the okay on this. After all, it’s a concert, not a worship service. And there’s the loophole. We’re gleefully leaping through it.

You’ll hear secular favorites, sacred carols, and up-tempo, fun tunes all guaranteed to put you in that Christmas spirit. It’ll be a sure-fire way to get you ready to do all that Christmas shopping, holiday decorating, the flurry of activities around this festive season.

**This isn’t our annual Choral Scholars Gala.** That will happen in January. More on that big blow-out later.

One-hundred percent of all proceeds from this event will go directly to the ELCA Good Gifts program. We are going to give all proceeds from this show to help support the ELCA’s outreach to displaced youth who are homeless. It’s not a category that gets a lot of attention, but our scholars feel strongly that they want to help these young people, who for a variety of reasons are without adequate housing.

So, please, come see this show and give generously. Your financial generosity might mean a struggling teenager can have a home for Christmas. And, maybe, they’ll feel that somebody cares, that they are loved and accepted.

What a great way to live like Jesus.

What an incredible way to celebrate the birth of the one who loves unconditionally.





## Breaking Down Big Churchy Words... and Ideas

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 *InterFaith*

There are times that we may get comfy, maybe a little too comfy, in our Lutheran Faith bubble. There is nothing wrong with that at all from time to time. It is a great joy to celebrate the Reformation by wearing red and channeling the wisdom of Martin Luther. When we begin to look outside our bubble at the surrounding community, we're reminded that there is a vast variety of other Christian denominations. The Catholic Church has different days that focus on particular saints. The Methodist Church has special times for reverence toward John Wesley. And within the Christian realm we share many of the same holy days and celebrations.

One of the beautiful pieces of our world is the opportunity to learn about others as well. In our Sunday Book Study, we're reading a book that reminds us that love is at the core of faith around the world. While that is not always lived out properly, by Christians and other faiths, at the heart of the world's religions is love. I find it comforting that we can all have that in common and use that cornerstone as a foundation for building *InterFaith* relationships.

With all of that in mind, you might see our electronic sign wishing our Jewish neighbors a blessed Rosh Hashana. There may be a graphic that celebrates Diwali with our Hindu neighbors. It is one way that the Redeemer Family can care for others in our community. By showing love and care for what is important to other faiths around us, we have the possibility of creating dialogue and mutual understanding. What a great opportunity to share love with others in our *InterFaith* community.



## Memorials

July 19-September 10

### In Memory of:

#### Dave Rosdahl

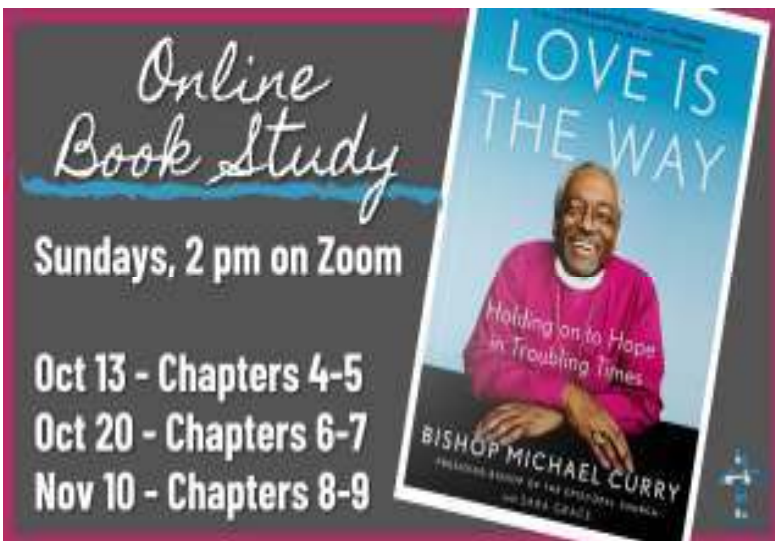
Allyn Bedenbaugh	Rev. Kathy Chartier
Diane Hunt	Connie Davis
Marie Baughman	Carolyn Champion
Kathy Harrell	Dennis & Peggy Rosdahl
Mark & Joan Weaver	Pawnee Schumpert
Bonnie Berley	David & Evelyn Abel
Steve & Pat Blackwell	Patricia Roche
Mike Parker	

#### Rosemary Binsfeld

Kathy Harrell

#### Mark Tenhaken

Kathy Harrell



## Leisure Timer's News

It was so nice to have such a wonderful crowd at our September meeting. I hope that everyone left with at



least one bit of information to protect themselves from Elder Fraud and Scams. Most people are embarrassed to tell anyone that they have been scammed. The only way to prevent this from happening to others is to report it. I

have provided the information that our FBI guests gave us. It's better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it!

[www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov)

1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324)

<http://tips.fbi.gov>

Include:	Name
	First Date of Contact
	Method of Contact

Our next meeting will be October 17th. Our meetings are always on the 3rd Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted. Watch for details so you don't miss out on the fun and fellowship. Friends are always welcome! Questions, contact Connie Davis, call (803)356-0560, text (803)317-7631 or by email, [Conniedavis@sc.rr.com](mailto:Conniedavis@sc.rr.com)

## Come Help Load a Truck

It's way past time to lead a truck full of donations for Williamsburg County.

We are overloaded with donations, and when Pastor Gary called Dottie to schedule this truck, she said, "You don't know how happy I was to see your name come up on my phone!" We have things to give, and they are excited to receive them. The box outside is full and the room inside is overflowing.

Come help us load on October 11. We will start at 4:00pm (so we can beat the dark), but if you can't come then, come later and help those who are getting tired. Cold water and warm hearts provided.



## A Meal of Thanks Planned

On November 24, our church family will enjoy a special 'Meal of Thanks' together following worship. Our regular meal following our Annual Congregational Meeting can't happen this year because our Fel-

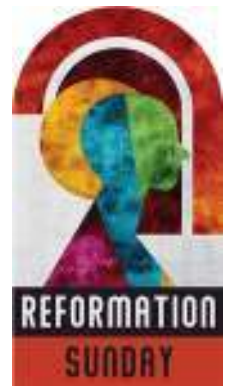


lowship Hall will be set up for the special 525 Players event that afternoon.

However, our church family loves to be together and share a meal, so the Council planned this special event a few weeks later. Meats and drinks will be provided and you are invited to bring sides and desserts to share. Watch for more details.

## Reformation: Wear Red

Reformation Sunday is October 27. Remember to wear red as we think about the Protestant Reformation and our ongoing need to be reformed in God's way!



## Holiday Food Boxes

Providing Dinner boxes for Seven Oaks Elem families is one of those "Vibrant" ministries Connie Davis spoke of a couple of weeks ago and Redeemer would once again like to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner boxes, if you'd like to sponsor a whole meal the price is \$60.00 per family. Any donations amounts are accepted, please mark them



Thanksgiving/Christmas meal and put in the offering plate, mail or drop off in the church office. We are also collecting those recycled fabric type shopping bags to deliver the meals to Seven Oaks, please place on the counter/island in the fellowship hall kitchen or hand

to Michelle Knight directly, she'll also be glad to answer any questions. Thank you for your support.



## Council Continues Discussing ‘Core Values’ and Sets Date for Annual Meeting

Council once again had a fairly light agenda that afforded the opportunity to continue the conversation around the Core Value project that continues to develop. 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 faith community. The first step in that is to determine the Core Values of the congregation.

This month brought on the topic of how the congregation will engage with this process as well. In the next month you’ll probably hear from various people wanting to know about words that you would use to describe Redeemer. Perhaps there is also conversation around the way you and others experience our faith community.

The Core Values will be formed into statements that reflect who Redeemer is and will help shape what we hope to be in the future. This is purposefully a long process to give our entire faith family the opportunity to ponder and consider who we are as a congregation.

In the September meeting, reports were given by both pastors, and the treasurer. We also had a guest from the Property Action Team present to discuss the latest projects that they have accomplished and continue to work on. Council was able to hear about progress and give input for the coming months.

The council members were reminded of the timeframe for creating a budget for 2025 as well as the upcoming work of the nominating committee. The agenda was

rounded out with conversation about the date for the annual meeting and a congregational dinner.

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



- Council continues to work toward defining core values of Redeemer
- Received an update from the Property Action Team
- Made plans for the Congregational Meeting and all the work leading up to it

### By the Numbers

	August YTD 2024	August YTD 2023	August YTD 2022
Total income	\$ 294,573	\$ 347,491	\$313,359
Total expenses	<u>\$ 345,475</u>	<u>\$ 346,731</u>	<u>\$397,016</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ (50,902)</u>	<u>\$ 760</u>	<u>\$ (83,657)</u>
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 197,235	\$ 190,365	\$200,435
Attendance	Onsite: 99 Online: 74	Onsite: 96 Online 104	Onsite: 94 Online 98



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar 2pm - Book Study @	30 10:30am - Staff Meeting	1	2 6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell	3 10am - Thursday Bible 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	4 6pm - Agape Myanmar	5 10am - Agape Myanmar
6 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 11:15am - Property Team 11:15am - Worship &	7 10:30am - Staff Meeting	8	9 6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell	10 10am - Thursday Bible 7pm - Thursday Bible	11 6pm - Agape Myanmar	12 10am - Agape Myanmar 2pm - Private Event @ 6pm - Agape Myanmar
13 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar 2pm - Book Study @	14 Private Event @ Fellowship Hall 10:30am - Staff Meeting	15	16 6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell	17 10am - Thursday Bible 12pm - Leisure Timers @ 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	18 6pm - Agape Myanmar	19 9am - Private Event @ 10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
20 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar 2pm - Book Study @	21 10:30am - Staff Meeting	22	23 6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell	24 10am - Thursday Bible 6pm - NAMI support 7pm - Thursday Bible	25 6pm - Agape Myanmar	26 10am - Agape Myanmar 6pm - Agape Myanmar
27 8:45am - Faith 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Choir practice 10am - Worship 12pm - Agape Myanmar 2pm - Book Study @	28 10:30am - Staff Meeting	29	30 6pm - HS Youth Group @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm - Handbell	31 10am - Thursday Bible 7pm - Thursday Bible	1 6pm - Agape Myanmar	2 10am - Agape Myanmar



## 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

Judy Chapman, Parish Secretary

judy@relu.church

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## Sunday Services

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

## 2024 Congregation

Term Expires End of 2024

Bill Newmyer

Carol Valovcin

Linda Wells

## Executive Committee

President

Bill Newmyer

Vice President

Diane Hunt

Treasurer

Todd Anderson

Secretary

Donna Nunamaker

Term Expires End of 2025

Kai Jørgensen

Fauni Lowe

Mike Parker

Term Expires End of 2026

Diane Hunt

Donna Nunamaker

Shannon Smith

## Online Giving

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

