



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

February 2025

Redeemer Hires New Music Director: Jefferey Clearman

Redeemer is excited to announce the hiring of our next Music Director: Jefferey Clearman. Jeff will begin his work here at Redeemer with Adult Choir Practice on February 26, and his first Sunday will be March 2. Jeff is currently serving as the Music Director at St. James Lutheran in Lexington.

Jeff also provided us a 'bio' to go on our website that will give you some of his background:

Jefferey Clearman (Jeff) is a native of Mississippi. He holds the Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance from the University of Memphis where he studied with Dr. John David Peterson. Jeff attended the University of Mississippi where he was a member of the Concert Singers, accompanist in the voice department and also accompanist for the Spirit of Ole Miss, the university's show choir. He has sung and played under the baton of Robert Shaw, Alan Balter and Jerry Jordan. Jeff has done additional organ study with Ms. Diane Meredith Belcher and Dr. Jeff McLelland. He has been organist/choirmaster at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Oxford MS, All Saints Episcopal Church in Mobile, AL, All Saints Memorial Church in Navesink, NJ, St. John's Episcopal Church in Somerville, NJ, and St. James Lutheran Church in Lexington, SC. He has an extensive background with accompanying solo voice and instruments and also working with children and youth. Jeff also has been musical director for musical theater; *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Once Upon a Mattress* for the Stone Church Players in Navesink. In Edison, NJ pianist for *Mama Mia*, and in Mobile he was musical director for the Joe Jefferson Players production of *Avenue Q* and the Chickasaw Community Theater's production of *Mary Poppins* and *Oklahoma*. Jeff lives in Columbia with his husband Kevin Davis, who is Director of Music and Organist at Mount Tabor Lutheran Church in West Columbia, and their cat Midnight. They have one daughter, son-in-law, and two grandsons.



While Jeff's hiring may seem quick, coming so soon after Jim's retirement at the end of 2024, our Search Committee began its process back in October. They first revised and updated the job description and got it approved by Council and then designed the interview process that they would use. Each candidate interviewed would face about an hour of question about how they lead choir, use other musicians, etc. Then there was a list of things the committee wanted to hear each candidate play, and then we went to eat with the candidate to see how they related socially as well. The committee interviewed three candidates, and when the interview with Jeff was over, they felt that Jeff was the right 'fit' for Redeemer and that there was no need to continue looking.

Welcome, Jeff!

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I hope you take a long time to read this article. To be more clear, I hope you read this article all the way through in one sitting, and then, I hope you go back and start again. February is the month in which we celebrate Valentine's Day, and so it's a month when we think about love. We think about our sweethearts and our feelings for them. However, that's not the only kind of love there is, and I want to invite you this month to think beyond the candies and cards to consider God's love.

That's where reading this article slowly comes in. I have collected several quotes about God's love, each one urging us to think about God's love in new and powerful ways. I invite you to read the article, and then go back and take them one at a time, one quote per day and think about that day's quote all throughout that day, and then move to the next one.

Here's the paradox. We can fully embrace God's love only when we recognize how completely unworthy of it we are."

—Ann Tatlock

God's Love is unconditional, which means that it has absolutely nothing to do with us. Thankfully, God doesn't love us for who we are, but because of who he is.

—David J. Stewart

There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still.

—Corrie Ten Boom

If God's love is for anybody anywhere, it's for everybody everywhere.

—Edward Lawlo



It's an incredible mystery of God's love that the more you know how deeply you are loved, the more you will see how deeply your sisters and your brothers in the human family are loved.

—Henri Nouwen

I mean, think about the phrase 'love the sinner, hate the sin.' Isn't it like saying, 'I love left-handed people but hate that they're left-handed.' Is that really love? Or is that saying, 'I'm willing to love you as I'd like you to be, not as you are'? Either God's love is unconditional or it's not.

—Alex Sanchez

The truth of God's love is not that He allows bad things to happen, it's his promise that he will be there with us when they do.

—Janette Oke

When someone we love suffers, we suffer with that person, and we would not have it otherwise, because the suffering and the love are one, just as it is with God's love for us.

—Frederick Buechner

In the stories of extravagant grace given to us by Jesus, there are no loopholes disqualifying us from God's love.

—Philip Yancey

God doesn't love us because of our worth, we are of worth because God loves us

—Martin Luther

Now go back and read one per day. Invest ten days. Think about them deeply. Remember, God's love is for you.



Pat Dabels	2/2
Steven Harmon	2/2
Marilyn Overcash	2/2
Janet Boatwright	2/4
Chase Davis	2/4
Mattox Davis	2/4
Tyler Richards	2/4
Martha Shealey	2/5
Brenda Owens	2/6
Dottie Eirten	2/7
Lynn Flood	2/7



Jim Bryan	2/8
Diane Davis	2/10
Preston Smith	2/11
Zakary Thomas	2/11

James Derrick	2/14
Lily Thomas	2/16
Amanda Burke	2/17
James Cowan	2/17
Patsy Matthey	2/17
Merri Lewis	2/18
Andrew Carter	2/20
Philip Urso	2/20
Trent Morgan	2/21
Diane Hunt	2/23
Chelsea Miracle	2/23
Jordan Crooks	2/27



Souper Bowl Gets Underway!

Redeemer youth will once again be collecting dona-



tions in soup pots for the "Soup-er Bowl of Caring." Each week (1/26 through 2/9) you can place change in the soup pot of your pick to

win the playoffs and Superbowl. All money collected at Redeemer will be used for the Redeemer Blessing Box and to provide meal boxes for families in need at Seven Oaks Elementary School. This effort to support those who are hungry was started right here in Columbia back in 1990. The money collected stays in local communities to fight hunger and the amounts are reported to the nationwide organization. It all started right here in Columbia, SC. The Redeemer Family is happy to continue supporting this effort and thus supporting the community around us!



In Appreciation

Each month the Church Council recognizes and thanks those among us who have offered themselves to the work of the church in special ways. This month the council appreciated:

Those who planned and set up for the 'Roast' honoring Jim Boatwright on his retirement,

Those who planned, set up, and put together our Choral Scholars Gala,

Our youth, who have been so willing lately to set up for events, and with some adult supervision, set up and took down our Chrismon Tree,

Pat Blackwell, Kathy Chartier, Dan Lowe, Martie Newmyer, Jason Roddey, and Skip Smith who served as the Search Committee for our new Music Director.



This Is THE Book! Leisure Timer's in February

Leisure Timer's invite you to join us for our monthly meeting and program. The date is Thursday, February 20th at 12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be "This is the book". Our Presenter is our very own Jean Taylor.



February is the month of showing people that you care! Our program deals with that. The death of a special person in our lives is just the beginning of a long road.

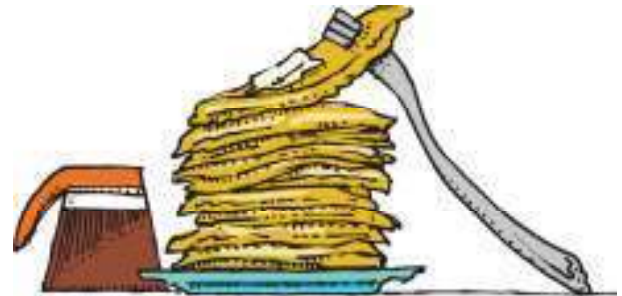
We are blessed with wonderful Pastors, family, and friends that offer so much comfort and support. However, a lot of responsibility suddenly falls into the laps of those left behind. This will be a very informative program that will prove to be very helpful when you are faced with this situation.. who plan to attend need to sign up in the Narthex or contact Connie Davis. If you have questions, email, Conniedavis@sc.rr.com or call/text (803)317-7631.

(Menu and lunch cost will be announced at a later date.)

Sign up deadline will be Sunday February 16th.

Ash Wednesday is March 5

Mark your calendars! Ash Wednesday will be March 5. We will have drive by Imposition of Ashes that morning, Mid-Day Quiet Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 12:15pm, and Worship with Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00pm.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00pm. Come enjoy pancakes as we prepare for Lent. The entertainment for the evening is still under development, but expect a fun evening. Mark your calendars!

Memorials Received

December 23th 2024 thru February 21st 2025

In Memory of:

Carol Valovcin

Larry & Jane Higgins

Robert Gants

James & Donna Nunamaker

Dot Corley

Carolyn Champion



Barbara Sides (Lynne Flood's Sister)

Carol Champion
Marie Baughman
Kathy Harrell

Erna Aderholdt

Carolyn Champion

David Abel

Nancy Mckinney
Carolyn Champion
Pawnee Schumpert

Cornelia Collins

James & Donna Nunamaker
Larry & Jane Higgins
Lyle & Mary Lou Campbell
Olga Watsch
Zack Henson
Martha Gounc
Mary Beth Abel
Bonnie Berley
Donna Gilbert
Glenn D Leath
Amelia Dowd



A Final ‘Thank You’ from a Roasted Jim

I admit it freely and honestly. I approached my “roast” with more than a shred of apprehension. In fact, you might say I was low-key dreading it. After all, I am keenly aware of all the embarrassing things that could have been said. I was also concerned the event would get all schmaltzy and sentimental—embarrassingly so. But, as it turned out, I had nothing to fear. The Roast was delightful, fun, funny, and so very well done.

I want to give Pastor Amanda and her committee a shout-out for all her work with the event. I know it took hours and hours to put it all together and I deeply appreciate the effort it took and am humbled by the experience. But in so doing, Pastor Amanda has unwittingly put herself on the potential directors’ list for future 525 Players productions. Watch out, PAB, here we come!



For all those who spoke: Dan and Fauni Lowe; Judy Urso; Bill and Martie Newmyer; my wife, Janet, Desirée Richardson; Pastor Gary; and Pastor Amanda—I will treasure your words forever, and I sincerely thank you for the time and effort you took on my behalf. To say I felt loved would be an understatement. I was overwhelmed. I felt surrounded by lots and lots of love.

I don’t have powerful enough words to express my gratitude for Redeemer’s generous retirement gift. It was beyond generous, it was extravagant. So let me humbly say THANK YOU, ALL!

The ten years I’ve been at Redeemer have been exciting, rewarding, challenging, but mostly just plain fun. There’s no congregation quite like Redeemer Lutheran. Your unconditional love and support, your unselfish giving of time and money, your willingness to try new things, your tolerance when things go wrong, and your understanding when mistakes happened are nothing short of remarkable. A lot of people talk about their faith, Redeemer folks live their faith, and they live it out loud. If the Spirit of God is anywhere that Spirit is certainly at Redeemer.

I retire as a fulfilled person, knowing I leave behind a wonderful, dedicated choir, a talented Handbell Choir, and a vibrant Community Music Camp program. I have the Redeemer family to thank for that.

May God continue to richly bless Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Communication Card Wisdom

Each Sunday there is a communication card in your bulletin. We really do read all of those communication cards each week! We’ve found that our faith family has a lot of wisdom to share. Here is just a bit...

For you, what is the most meaningful thing about this congregation? All the love and support for each other. We are a church family. Our Sunday school classes. I can come and be with Jesus. Friendliness. Sharing the peace and love of Christ. Caring for one another. The beautiful and meaningful choir and music ministry. The willingness to rise to any challenge we’re presented with. The presence of the Holy Spirit is undeniable.





Thank You from Evelyn Abel

Dear Redeemer Family,

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank Pastor Gary, Pastor Amanda and all of you for the overwhelming love, support, comforting words, prayers, cards, and presence during David's illness and ultimately his passing into the Church Triumphant.

Beginning the service with Military Honors was special for David, who was honored and proud to serve his country in the U.S. Navy.

When the memorial service began, it was so fitting to have Preston Smith carry the cross, given his close connection with David.

David planned his memorial service, and he would have been smiling and so proud of our children — Mary Beth as she gave the eulogy, and of David and Claire as they read the scriptures.

The sermon was next, given by Pastor Gary, and what a perfect picture of how David lived, loved, smiled, and enjoyed life.

Many thanks to Jim, our talented choir members, and congregation, who also brought peace and joy as they sang several of David's favorite hymns that were so meaningful to him.

The delicious refreshments, provided by the bereavement team, were thoroughly enjoyed and gave us a perfect time to express how close we are to you, and a chance to meet our amazing and extremely supportive family.

The altar flowers were beautiful and have been on display at Wellmore for my wonderful, supportive neighbors to enjoy.

The gathering of good friends, family members, and close neighbors, in our beloved church, was a blessing, but when David's ashes were scattered around the statue of Jesus and the little children in the prayer garden, it became a perfect way of celebrating his life as he entered into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Love, Evelyn Abel and my family



It takes Us All. How Can You Help?

An important part of our Sunday morning worship services are the ways in which the congregation assists and participates in leadership. Most Sundays there are opportunities to acolyte (lighting the candles before service and extinguishing after), crucifer (carrying one of the crosses in the procession in and out of the sanctuary), lector (reading the scripture and psalms), 2nd adult in the nursery (spending time with our little ones in the nursery assisting Carmen, our paid nursery worker), camera crew (operating our cameras and streaming the worship service for those that worship with us online), communion wine (distribute wine during Holy Communion), communion cups (gather the communion cups during Holy Communion). Adults, teens, and children are all invited to assist as they are able. Use the link below to access Redeemer's online sign up or contact Pastor Amanda to sign up or for more information (aburke@relu.church.)



[Redeemer Lutheran Church: Redeemer Worship Assistants, Camera, and Nursery](#)



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 Mercy

We seem to hear about God's love, God's grace, and God's mercy a lot. What exactly is mercy? How does God bestow that on us? How are we called to be merciful to others?

Mercy is "compassionate or kindly forbearance shown toward an offender, an enemy, or other person in one's power; compassion, pity, or benevolence." Compassion. Kindness. Care for someone else.

One of the most memorable ways that Jesus taught about mercy was with the beatitudes during the Sermon on the Mount. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy." (Matthew 5:7) In Greek, the original language of the New



Testament, the word for mercy is ἐλεέω (eleeó.) With the same meaning that we use in English, ἐλεέω in scripture

expresses the act of compassion toward someone else. It often implies a deep sense of empathy and a desire to alleviate the suffering or need of another.

In the society that held power in Jesus's day, mercy was not always considered a virtue. Strength and power were highly valued. However, in the Jewish faith and the emerging following of Jesus, mercy is a central way of describing God. In scripture, it is also a key ethical principle for being people of God and a follower of Jesus.

We all receive mercy from God. Jesus taught and lived out mercy. The Holy Spirit works in our hearts to be merciful toward others, all others.

Blessings,
Pastor Amanda

Sunday Book Study Resumes

Redeemer's online book study will start a new book in February! The Search to Belong by Joseph R Myers. We'll chat about community, outreach, and how we develop a sense of belonging. Anyone and everyone is welcome to join in. Invite others. We meet via Zoom at 2 pm on Sundays. <https://relu.link/BookStudy>. For more information contact Pastor Amanda at aburke@relu.church.

February 16 - Forward, Intro, Ch 1 The Myths of Belonging

February 23 - Ch 2 Longing to Belong, Ch 3 "Give Me Some Space"

March 9 - Ch 4 Group Chemistry

March 16 - Ch 5 Trading Spaces

March 23 - Ch 6 Searching for a Front Porch

March 30 - Ch 7 What Now? Finding Harmony





Council Ratifies the Hiring of New Music Director

The new 2025 Council met in January under the leadership of Kai Jørgensen and with our newly elected members present. They approved the minutes and heard reports from both pastors and the treasurer. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, Redeemer finished the year in the black financially.

Council members were excited about the hiring of Jeff Clearman as our new Music Director and quickly ratified the hiring that had been offered by the Search Committee. Jeff's first Sunday with us will be March 2, although he will also lead Adult Choir practice on February 26. Pastor Gary passed out some biographical information about Jeff (see page 1). Council also decided to give Bailey Walker a stipend above his usual Choral Scholars pay to thank him for coordinating and directing the choir on Sundays for the two months from Jim's retirement to Jeff's arrival.

Under New business, the Council brainstormed for a while about how we may go about reaching and inviting new members to Redeemer. This will be an ongoing discussion.

Mike Parker spoke about our new property maintenance person, Karl Thompson, and some of his activities. A process for the congregation and staff to alert Karl to things needing repair, etc. is under development. The congregation is encouraged to report property needs that they notice.



Since the pandemic, churches have not been asked to house families like they had previously done, but instead to offer financial support. January is Redeemer's month, and the Council decided that Family Promise would be the recipient of our Lenten offerings this year.

There was some discussion of planning for this year's Shrove Tuesday, and that is underway.

Council also discussed the pew racks not having envelopes in them. Pastor Gary explained that Bill Schneider used to print them and that our copier can't handle envelopes that size. Council asked that he let this need be known, and in the meantime, he will be looking into other options.

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

- Ratified hiring of new Music Director, Jeff Clearman
- Approved stipend for Bailey Walker
- New Property Manager process planned
- Lenten Offerings go to Family Promise
- Shrove Tuesday planning underway
- The problem of Pew Racks: need someone to print, other options under consideration

By the Numbers

	December YTD 2024	December YTD 2023	December YTD 2022
Total income	\$ 628,294	\$ 599,814	\$576,534
Total expenses	<u>\$ 548,081</u>	<u>\$ 514,643</u>	<u>\$572,200</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ 80,213</u>	<u>\$ 85,171</u>	<u>\$ 4,334</u>
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 339,183	\$ 289,046	\$199,432
Attendance	Onsite: 93 Online 86	Onsite 113, Online 10	Onsite 74, Online 77

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>26</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</p> <p>9:15am - Choir practice @</p> <p>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>4pm - MLK Celebration and</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10am - Little Learners Lec/Rich 5</p> <p>6pm - HS Youth Group @</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8am - Private Event @ Fellowship</p> <p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>
<p>2</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</p> <p>9:15am - Choir practice @</p> <p>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>11:15am - Worship & Music @</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>1pm - Confirmation Class @</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6pm - HS Youth Group @</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support group @</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</p> <p>9:15am - Choir practice @</p> <p>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6pm - HS Youth Group @</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</p> <p>9:15am - Choir practice @</p> <p>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>6pm - Church Council @ Large</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10am - Little Learners Lec/Rich 5</p> <p>6pm - HS Youth Group @</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @</p> <p>12pm - Leisure Timers @</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support group @</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>22</p> <p>20m Lutheran Council @ Small</p> <p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</p> <p>9:15am - Choir practice @</p> <p>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6pm - HS Youth Group @</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support group @</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Agape Myanmar Christian Church</p> <p>Agape Myanmar Christian Church</p> <p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>



Calendar

Always subject to change!

Faith Launch

Littles-5th Grade

Most Sundays, 8:45-9:30 am

Wednesday Night MS/HS Youth Group

6th-8th and 9th-12th grades

Wed, Feb 5, Mar 5, and Apr 2, 2025

Redeemer Fellowship Hall, 6:00-8:00 pm

Valentine Event

Littles-5th grade and Parents

Date and Time TBD

Confirmation Class

7th-8th grades

Sunday, Feb 2 and Mar 2, 2025

1:00-4:00 pm

Wednesday Night HS Youth Group **9th-12th grades**

Wednesday, Feb 12, 19, and 26, 2025

Redeemer Fellowship Hall, 6:00-8:00 pm

South Carolina Elementary School Retreat **1st-5th grades**

Saturday, Feb 8-Sunday, Feb 9, 2025

Camp Kinard

Picnic in the Park

Everyone!

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Noon-2:00 pm @Irmo Community Park

Community Easter Egg Extravaganza

All Ages Community Easter Event

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Redeemer's fellowship hall, 10:00-11:30 am

SC Synod High School Retreat and Summit **9th-12th grades**

Friday, May 9-Sunday, May 11, 2025

Coastal Retreat Center, Isle of Palms

Meet at Redeemer, Ride bus to IOP

Community Music Camp

4 years-5th grade

Monday, June 23-Friday, June 27, 2025

Redeemer, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Details TBD



Elementary School Retreat at Camp Kinard

Grades 1-5

February 8-9 @Camp Kinard

Join us for fun, fellowship and learning!

LEGO AND LET GOD!

There will also be a track for parents,
so come with your kids and learn
from seasoned teachers.



Cost is \$105 (Family pays \$35, Redeemer pays \$70)

Watch for registration soon!



Redeemer Lutheran Church

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(803) 772-5419
www.relu.church

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

Sunday Services

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Executive Committee

President	Kai Jørgensen
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



2025 Congregation Council

Term Expires End of 2025

Kai Jørgensen

Fauni Lowe

Mike Parker

Term Expires End of 2026

Diane Hunt

Donna Nunamaker

Shannon Smith

Term Expires End of 2027

Gary Byrd

Martie Newmyer

Martha Summer