



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

June 2025

Register Now!

Summer Music Camp June 23-28

Redeemer's Summer Music Camp is coming soon! The dates are June 23-27 so register your children and grandchildren right away! Our theme this year is Seeing Jesus Around the World. Each day from 9:00am-12:00pm, the children will learn and enjoy songs from Africa, Latin America, American Folk Song, and



Asia. Their activities will include singing, bells, bucket drumming, arts and crafts, and of course, there will be snacks. All children ages 4—completing 5th grade are welcome. Registration is open online. <https://relu.link/MusicCamp2025>

If you'd like to experience about half an hour of pure joy, don't miss the closing program on Friday at 11:00am. Parents, grandparents, siblings, neighbors, church members — all are welcome!

Adult and teen volunteers are also needed. Contact Pastor Amanda, Jeff Clearman, or Martie Newmyer for more information or to volunteer.

Redeemer Summer Music Camp is a week of energy, joy, music, fun, and love.

At a Glance:

Redeemer Summer Music Camp

- June 23-27
- 9:00am –12:00n
- Theme: Seeing Jesus Around the World.
- Closing Program on Friday, June 28 at 11:00am
- Volunteer: Adults and Teens needed to help!

Laurel Cowan to be Confirmed June 8

Redeemer is excited to celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism by Laurel Cowan on June 8. Laurel is the daughter of Travis and Stephanie Cowan and has completed two years of catechetical studies to prepare to take responsibility for her own baptismal promises. A reception in Laurel's honor will be held after worship.

Redeemer confirms on Pentecost Sunday. As the Holy Spirit came on the disciples and energized their faith, so our prayer is that the same thing will happen for Laurel.



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We got Chance from the pound. I think they call it the animal shelter now. I've told you about Chance before, usually in connection with our other dog, Angel. Unfortunately, Angel died this past summer, so now Chance lives in our yard alone. Nan and I are both from home traditions where dogs didn't live in the house, so Chance is a yard dog.

As I said, we got Chance from the pound. Our previous dog, Boo, had died, leaving Angel all alone, and Angel was too social a dog to be without a companion. I went to the shelter and was introduced to a black lab mix. You might find it interesting to know that shelters have a much more difficult time placing black dogs than those of other colors. His color didn't matter to me. They took me out to a small 6x6 foot fenced enclosure and then brought this dog out for me to test drive.

I was immediately struck by his curiosity about me. He was engaged with life and the world around him. Without fear, he stood up with his front legs on mine and looked at me deeply in the eyes. I petted him a while, then left the shelter and called Nan. "You've got to come back with me and meet this dog," I said. She did, and we took him home. We named him Chance because he was an unwanted dog from the pound, facing being put down, and we gave him a second 'chance.'



Then came the interesting part. We got Chance home,



but he wasn't yet 'home.' He sniffed Angel and explored the yard, but it was obvious that he felt like a stranger in a strange land. That lasted about a month or two, and then we saw something of a change. We saw the first few signs of Chance beginning to belong. At about six months, Chance knew he was part of our family and embraced it exuberantly.

Now, after several years not only is Chance our dog: Chance is my dog.

Pets sometimes gravitate to a particular person in a special way, and Chance has clearly chosen me as his human. He loves Nan, to be sure, but we have noticed some things he does only to me. If I go out to sit on our screened in porch, Chance will find a spot where he can lie down against the screen as closely to me as he can get. If I go out to pet him, I sit in a chair and we talk and pay each other attention and when he's had enough, he turns his back to me and sits down on my foot. It's like, even if we aren't actively engaged with each other, he hungers for contact with me. He wants to be in touch, and he stays there on my foot until I finally get up.

Lately when he does that, I think about us and God. Don't we hunger for those same things: a sense of connection, a closeness, a bond, a belonging with God? We know that we don't deserve an exalted place, but maybe we can draw close to God's foot and stay there. Maybe in the making it through our days, be they sunshine or rain, we still seek, we still want, we still have that connection. We want to be as near to God as we can get.

I think Chance sitting on my foot is a way that he claims me as his. May we draw near to the God who loves and claims us. Forever.

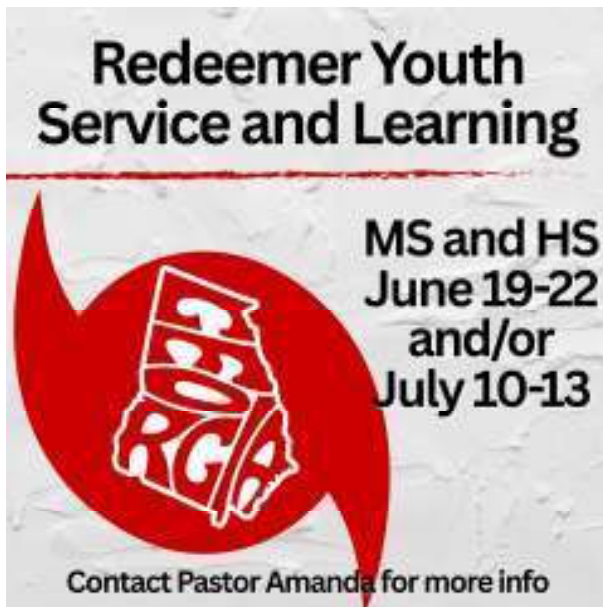


Kenneth Newmyer 6/1
 Bob Beaver 6/2
 Kathleen Harrell 6/2
 Victoria May 6/4
 James Murphy 6/5
 Patricia Drake 6/6
 Kristen Mingus 6/6
 Eric Wells 6/6
 Smith Austin 6/11
 Kyle Burgess 6/13
 Wallace Schultz 6/13
 Catherine Stutts 6/13
 Barbara Bronson 6/14



Jane Eleazer 6/14
 Colletta Longshore 6/15
 Austin Pell 6/15
 Angela Lagroon 6/18
 Lyn Metzler 6/18
 Robert Pell 6/19
 Rebecca Lass 6/20
 Marty Davis 6/21

Denise Mulkey 6/21
 John Baker 6/22
 Gail Huckaby 6/22
 Rebecca McKeown 6/22
 Elizabeth Davis 6/24
 Tony Everett 6/24
 Amelia Dowd 6/25
 Patricia Wessinger 6/26
 Tom Lass 6/28
 Edwyn Mahon 6/28
 Madeline Miracle 6/29
 Matthew Weeks 6/29
 Tommy Burgess 6/30



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:**

Judy Urso who proofreads our Sunday Worship bulletin every week,



Pat and Steve Blackwell who tend to and water the plants in our interior courtyard,

And to **Greg Cross** who puts up, takes down, and drapes our outside cross during the Lenten and Easter seasons.



Communication Cards

We love it when you share your thoughts and experiences on the weekly Communication Cards! 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? Many folks mentioned the friendly and loving people. Alongside that feeling people talked about this congregation being compassion, welcoming, affirming, supportive, and like a family. For some the most meaningful part of Redeemer is that we don't shy away from the truth that is Jesus. Likewise others appreciate that we make a good attempt at being the hands of Christ in this community and world. What do you find meaningful about our faith community?

What wisdom would you share with someone in an earlier stage of life than you? I would share how to show love to others. If you can do things now, do them. Don't wait. The future is not guaranteed. God has things under control, really. Enjoy each day and find pleasure in every day. Trust, allow God to give you the answers you may need. Your value doesn't decrease because of what someone else thinks of you! (A quote from poet, Joe Davis) If you can, stay close to your parents and family. Pray and believe. Enjoy one day at a time! Never grieve over making mistakes... everyone makes them... and it's the way we learn, the way we grow. Learn from your mistakes. And finally, this too shall pass!

There is a different question each week that relates to the sermon for that day. This is a great way to prepare for and/or respond with what the sermon meant to you.



What Has Pastor Gary Been Talking About Lately?

If you haven't been watching Pastor Gary Live! recently, here are some of the topics he's been addressing lately. After Mother's Day, he spent two weeks talking about mothers in the Bible, some of whom were good and some who were bad. One week was spent talking about five Psalms between 87 and 100 that all served as the basis for some well-known hymns that we sing regularly. There was the week when he led through Jesus' suffering and death and showed how the altar cloths point to and remind us of those stories each week. One recent week was on animal sacrifices in the Bible, what they were, how they were done, and what they meant. Each month this year, he is spending a week highlighting the stories of men and women the Church remembers and commemorates to inspire us in our faithful living.



Pastor Gary Live! Is presented Monday-Friday at 8:15 on Facebook, and appears on YouTube around 8:25am. On Facebook, go to Join us on [Facebook.com/relu.church](https://www.facebook.com/relu.church), and on YouTube it is found at <https://youtu.be/relu.link/YouTube>. Join people from across the United States (and sometimes internationally) who tune in!



By the time you are reading this we will be nearing the end of the Great Fifty Days of Easter. I would like to share with you some of the music that the choir will sing on the Seventh Sunday of Easter (June 1) and The Day of Pentecost (June 8).

We have been hearing stories from the Revelation to St. John the Divine over the Easter Season. Michael Costello has composed a beautiful setting based on Revelation chapters 21 and 22. "I am the Alpha and the

Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more; for the first things have passed away. God will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. I am making all things new. I am coming soon! Amen, come, Lord Jesus!" This is a relatively new anthem composed in 2024.



Some of you may be familiar with Michael Costello. Born in 1979 he is an ordained minister in the ELCA. He currently is the Cantor at Grace Church and School in River Forest, Illinois and Artistic Director of Chicago Choral Artists. Michael has served in parishes in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and South Carolina as a church musician and also served as assistant pastor at St. Andrew's Church on Broad River Road, which is where he might be familiar to some. You can read more about Michael at <https://www.morningstarmusic.com/composers/c/michael-d-costello.html>



On the Day of Pentecost, the Choral Scholars will sing a short anthem by Christopher Tye (c.1505-1573) titled *Come, Holy Ghost*. Christopher Tye was an English Renaissance composer and organist. He trained at the University of Cambridge and became the master of the choir at Ely Cathedral. He is noted as the music teacher of King Edward VI. During communion we will sing the Taizé chant *Veni Sancte Spiritus* while the Choral Scholars sing verses over the chant.

Our community music camp will be June 23-27 and our theme this year is "Seeing Jesus Around the World" Music the

campers will be learning will be a Spanish song *Tuya es, Dios, la gloria*, an African Work Song, a Dakota Indian Chant, and *In Great Calcutta Christ is Known*. Our theme song will be *In Christ There is No East or West*.





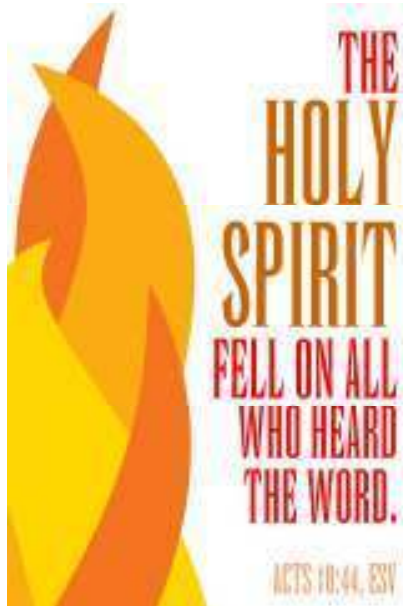
When I went to seminary I felt like one of my primary textbooks should be a dictionary. There were so many long words that often had a much simpler meaning. There are also many concepts that I had to wrap my mind around as well. So, I figured we could look at these words and ideas together in a monthly newsletter article.

Let's look at Pentecost

Pentecost is both a day and a season in the church year. The Day of Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday, and it marks the end of the Easter season. After Pentecost Sunday, we move into the "Time after Pentecost"—which lasts all the way until Advent.

So what does Pentecost mean? The word itself comes from a Greek word meaning "fiftieth." Pretty straightforward! But the meaning behind it is anything but simple.

Pentecost is often called the "birthday of the Church." This is the day we remember how the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples like a rush of wind and flames of fire, empowering them to speak in languages they didn't know—so that everyone, regardless of where they came from, could hear the good news of Jesus.



"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." – Acts 2:4

Imagine that. People from all over the world, different languages, cultures, and backgrounds—suddenly able to hear the same message of hope in a way they could understand. This is no small thing. Pentecost shows us that the Holy Spirit is not about building walls between people—it's about breaking them down.

The Spirit didn't wait until the disciples were perfect. The Spirit didn't ask them to go to seminary first. The Spirit didn't require everyone to speak the same language or dress the same way. The Holy Spirit met people right where they were—and created something brand new.

That's part of the reason many churches, including ours, celebrate the Rite of Confirmation on Pentecost. Just as the Spirit empowered the disciples to step into their calling and proclaim the good news, our confirmands stand before the congregation and affirm the promises made at their baptism. It's a powerful moment when young people say, "Yes, this faith is mine!"

So when we wear red on Pentecost Sunday, it's more than just a tradition. It's a reminder that the Church is alive, Spirit-filled, and called into the world. It's a celebration that God is still speaking, still moving, and still forming us into something new—together.

Blessings,
Pastor Amanda



Leisure Timer's Summer Fun

Let the *Leisure Timers* help you fight the heat and humidity during the summer. Check out the 3 simple ways listed below:

1) Join us in the cool Fellowship Hall on Thursday, June 19th at 12:00. After a delicious lunch, Our guest, Carol Kay, will present our program entitled, "*The Real*

James Bond: Ian Fleming".



2) Escape the heat on Thursday, July 17th at 12:00! Enjoy time with some cool friends and another great lunch.

Then relax and enjoy "*Norman Rockwell, Part*

II". Deb Gants will bring us more interesting facts about this talented artist. His goal was to make the world a happier place through his creativity. It worked!

3) Come beat the heat on Thursday, August 21st at 12:00. We'll have another great lunch, fellowship and program. This is a "way cool" presentation on "*Hummingbirds*." Our presenter will be Mr. Terry Cox. He is

looking forward to sharing his knowledge about these tiny creatures with us.

This would be a great time to come see what the "*Leisure Timers*" is all about. Guests are always welcome. We have a sign up sheet for each monthly meeting to help Mathias Sandwich Shop plan for our lunch. The menu is announced prior to each meeting. The cost for lunch is \$6.50 per person.

Sometimes, we schedule extra events. They would be posted in the weekly "Go and Serve". You can also be contacted by email if you'd like. If you have any questions, contact, Conniedavis@sc.rr.com, or call/text (803) 317-7631. Please leave your name if you have to leave a message. As we, Leisure Timers say, "Try it, you'll like it!"

200th Anniversary Play to be presented at St. Andrew's Lutheran



All are invited to a second presentation of "Our Broken, Glorious Call," the 45-minute play commissioned by the S.C. Synod to celebrate the Synod's 200th anniversary, on Sunday, June 29, at 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 1416 Broad River Road, Columbia. Admission is free.

The play explores the history and purpose of the S.C. Synod through a variety of scenes spanning 200 years of ministry. The audience may be surprised to learn that many of the joys and challenges the Synod has

faced throughout its history are not unlike those of today.



Synod Assembly attendees will enjoy the play's debut during the Synod banquet on June 13, but the show's writer and director – St. Andrew's Pastor John Trump

and Newberry College professor Pat Gagliano – hope to give others in the Synod an opportunity to enjoy the presentation. They will be available after the play for discussion.

Join us on Sunday, June 29, at 3 p.m., and invite your friends!





Council Begins Talking About How to 'Invest in Redeemer'

Over the past few months, whenever there was time in the agenda, the Church Council has sought to look to the future of Redeemer and how we can effectively tell the story of our ministry and invite others to be part of it. Some of the comments made in this discussion during the May meeting were that we are not like a lot of other churches, that we are community oriented, that it's time to invest in Redeemer itself. In the coming weeks, Council will be exploring how a marketing professional might be of assistance, how to update and freshen up our web page to make it more inviting and informative, how to equip members to tell the story of Redeemer and the many 'God things' that happen here, and how to prepare us for the changes all this might mean. "What I'm hearing you say," Pastor Gary summarized, "is that we are looking for a revitalization." These are just the beginnings of these discussions so watch for more coming soon.

After approval of the Minutes and reports from Pastor Gary, Pastor Amanda, and Treasurer Todd Anderson, the Council was updated that our voting members to Synod Assembly will be Kai Jorgensen, Mike Parker, Steve and Martha Summer, and Kare Burke, along with both Pastor Gary and Pastor Amanda. Synod Assembly is June 12-14 in Charleston.

Pastor Amanda has contacted Church 360 to assist us in the transition of our Church Management Software and that is underway.

Todd and Yvonne (in the office) have been looking into what to do with the many boxes of old records that we

have stored at the church. The Council adopted a policy of Document Retention and Destruction that mandates keeping records for 7 years. Older records will be shredded.

Pastor Gary reported that Parish Secretary Judy Chapman had fulfilled her obligation to the employment agency we found her through and was available for us to hire as a Redeemer employee. Council enthusiastically approved, and then structured her new pay package as our own employee.

The meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Amanda highlighting many of the congregational concerns and the sharing of the Peace.



- Council looks to make Redeemer more inviting and attractive
- Synod Assembly is June 12-14 in Charleston
- Church Management Software transition underway
- Documents to be kept 7 years then shredded
- Judy Chapman officially hired as Redeemer employee

By the Numbers: April

	April YTD 2025	April YTD 2024	April YTD 2023
Total income	\$ 132,568	\$152,754	\$ 138,240
Total expenses	<u>\$167,095</u>	<u>\$178,994</u>	<u>\$172,652</u>
Income less expense	<u>\$ (34,527)</u>	<u>\$ (26,240)</u>	<u>\$ (34,412)</u>
Unrestricted cash balance	\$ 378,679	\$234,242	\$ 153,679

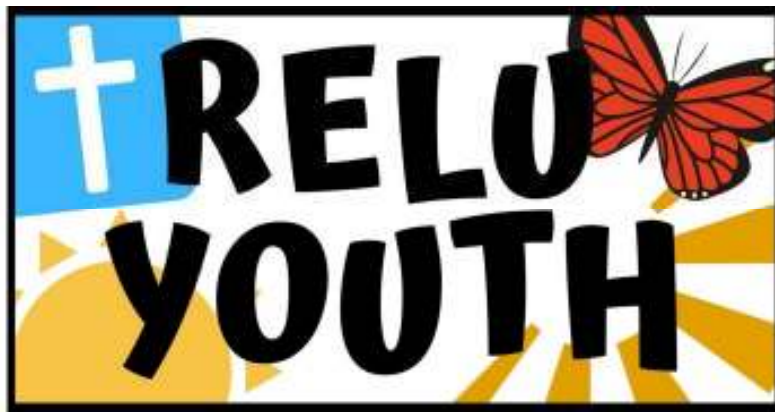
Attendance

Onsite 118 Online 93

Onsite 101 Online 82

On site 122 Online 106

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>1</div> <div>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</div> <div>9:30am - Choir practice @</div> <div>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</div> <div>11:15am - Handbell practice @</div> <div>11:15am - Property Team @</div> <div>11:15am - Worship & Music @</div> <div>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div>	<div>2</div> <div>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</div>	<div>3</div> <div>11am - Private Event @ Fellowship</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>6pm - NAMI support group @</div>	<div>6</div> <div>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div>	<div>7</div> <div>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</div> <div>4pm - Private Event @ Fellowship</div> <div>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div>
<div>8</div> <div>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</div> <div>9:30am - Choir practice @</div> <div>10am - Confirmation</div> <div>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</div> <div>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div>	<div>9</div> <div>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</div>	<div>10</div> <div>11am - Private Event @ Fellowship</div>	<div>11</div> <div>6pm - HS Youth Group @</div>	<div>12</div> <div>SC Synod Assembly @ Columbia</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <div>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</div> <div>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div>
<div>15</div> <div>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</div> <div>9:30am - Choir practice @</div> <div>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</div> <div>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div> <div>6pm - Church Council @ Large</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</div>	<div>17</div> <div>11am - Private Event @ Fellowship</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6pm - HS Youth Group @</div>	<div>19</div> <div>12pm - Leisure Timers @</div> <div>6pm - NAMI support group @</div>	<div>20</div> <div>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div>	<div>21</div> <div>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</div> <div>4pm - Private Event @ Fellowship</div> <div>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div>
<div>22</div> <div>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</div> <div>9:30am - Choir practice @</div> <div>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</div> <div>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Community Music Camp @ Everywhere!</div> <div>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</div>	<div>24</div> <div>11am - Private Event @ Fellowship</div>	<div>25</div> <div>6pm - HS Youth Group @</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Camp HUGG</div> <div>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</div> <div>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div>
<div>29</div> <div>Camp HUGG</div> <div>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</div> <div>9:30am - Choir practice @</div> <div>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</div> <div>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</div>	<div>1</div> <div>11am - Private Event @ Fellowship</div>	<div>2</div> <div>6pm - MSHS Youth Group and</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6pm - NAMI support group @</div>	<div>4</div> <div>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div>	<div>5</div> <div>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</div> <div>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</div>



Calendar

Always subject to change!

Faith Launch

Littles-5th Grade

Most Sundays, 8:45-9:30 am

Rite of Confirmation

Sunday, June 8, 2025

10:00 am

Wednesday Night HS Youth Group

9th-12th grades

Wed, June 11, 18, 25, July 9, 2025

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

MS/HS Summer Service and Learning #1

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

Thursday, June 19-Sunday, June 22, 2025

Augusta, GA

Community Music Camp

4 years-5th grade

Monday, June 23-Friday, June 27, 2025

Redeemer, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Details TBD

Camp HUGG

9th-12th grades, by application process

Saturday, June 28-Friday, July 4, 2025

Camp Kinard

Wednesday Night MS/HS Youth Group

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

Wed, July 2, Aug 6, Sept 3, Oct 1, 2025

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

Dinner provided

MS/HS Summer Service and Learning #2

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

Thursday, July 10-Sunday, July 13, 2025

Augusta, GA

Graceworks (Day Camp)

6th-12th grades

Monday, July 14-Friday, July 18, 2025

Sunday MS/HS Youth Group

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

Sunday, Aug 17, Sept 21, Oct 19, 2025

10:00-1:30 pm, Lunch provided

Redeemer, Small Fellowship Hall





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

Jeff Clearman, Director of Music

jeff@relu.church

Lois McLeod, Music Assistant

Triple_L@sc.rr.com

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 con-
nected to our online giving



Crossroads

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