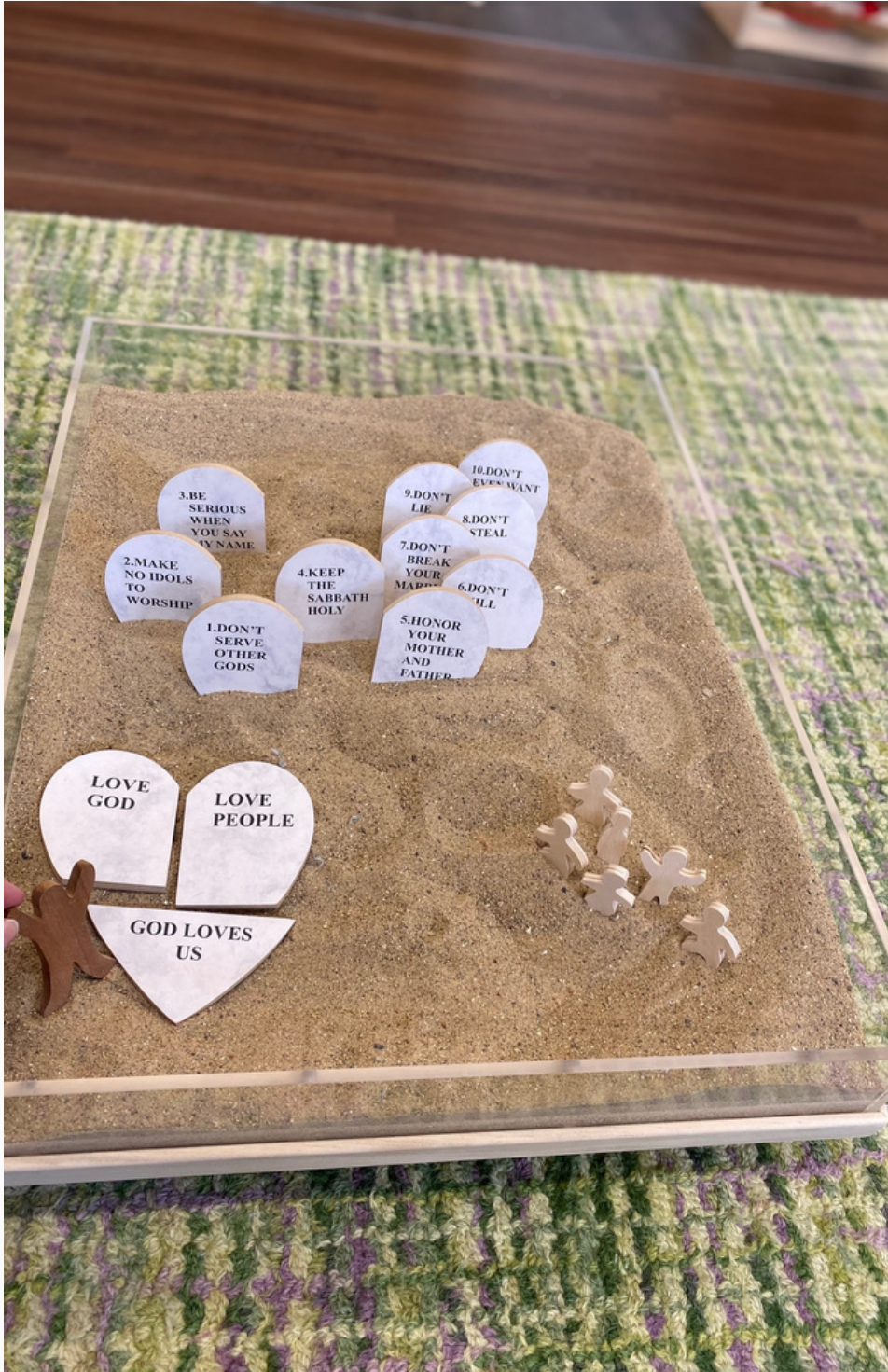


Redeemer Record



PASTOR'S COLUMN

A Christian is first and foremost, to be a disciple – and disciple is just a fancy word for student.

Read More on Page 2

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Godly play is a way to share the stories of scripture with children and youth, so they are remembered by heart and given space and tools to encourage deep wonder.

Read More on Page 7

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

We are returning to using bread during communion this fall!

Read More on Page 13

Pastor's Column

BY PASTOR KATIE HINES-SHAH



.....

This has been an extra special back to school year in the Hines-Shah household. Not only is our 11-year-old Betty starting the 6th Grade at the middle school, but our son John is going off to Carleton College in Northfield Minnesota. While there's a lot John is looking forward to at college he knows his main task for these next four years is to be a student. Everything else that he does will be in support of this singular calling.

It's like that for us too.

A Christian is first and foremost, to be a disciple – and disciple is just a fancy word for student. Living out our baptism calls us to regular worship, listening and learning, gathering in fellowship, and serving others. The role of the church is to provide opportunities for members of our community to learn and grow. But the disciple must engage with these opportunities for them to work.

Redeemer has many ways to support you in your discipleship:

Join us for worship Sundays at 8:30 or 11AM! Worship is the heart of what we do and is one of the best ways for you to grow your faith.

Be part of a music group! Children's Choir (9:45AM Sundays), Handbells (6PM Wednesdays) Chancel Choir (7:30 PM Wednesdays) are all great ways to give praise to God and to connect with others.

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

- John 8:31



Come to Adult Forum or Bible Study! This fall we will be joined by Kurt Hendel, our own Graeme Shields and others as we explore what it means to enjoy Abundance. Bible Study will be offered on Tuesdays starting September 12th both in person at 10AM and online at 7PM.

Be part of Sunday School or Confirmation or Youth Group. Our new Godly Play Classroom, provided by a generous donor, gives us a new way help our kids to grow. Sunday school will happen during the 11AM service this year. Confirmation for 6th-8th graders meets Wednesdays from 6-7:30PM. Our Youth will be going to the National Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans.

Come to the Progressive Dinner Saturday September 30th! This Redeemer tradition is a great way to make new friends and rekindle old acquaintances. Take part in Church and Community meetings to take on important issues from a Christian perspective.

Support our Mission Partners! Quilters meet Wednesdays mornings in the Fellowship Hall. LWR school kits are due back September 10th. Redeemer Engaging Refugees is continuing to explore ways to serve newcomers to our community.



This is just a sampling of all the things we do. But if we are missing something important to you, please talk to me, Redeemer's staff members, or council. We know that when you engage your faith you can grow in discipleship and also have a fuller life. Jesus promises that his way is truth. Like college, church membership isn't always easy, but it is worthwhile, and oftentimes a lot of fun.

Blessings on our new school year as disciples!

Thanks be to God!

Amen

Hello! From Vicar Brent

BY VICAR BRENT ELLERBEE



Hello everyone at Redeemer! I cannot put into words how excited I am to be serving as your new Vicar for the next year. I am very honored that I have been invited to serve in what I can already tell is a truly special community.

I would like to spend my first article in the Redeemer Record telling you all a little bit about myself and my family. I was born and raised mostly in Texas, but my father was in the military so I've lived all over. If I had anything resembling a home town, it would either be San Antonio, TX or Beaumont, TX where my dad's side of the family lives. After graduating high school, I enlisted in the US Air Force as an avionics technician. I was stationed in Las Vegas, NV for those four years. The primary impact that my time in the Air Force had on my life is that it is where I discovered my faith, and dedicated my life to serving God.

After separating from the Air Force, I pursued my Bachelor's Degree at Texas Lutheran University, a small liberal arts school about 45 minutes east of San Antonio. Studying theology there helped refine my faith from a more general non-denominational emphasis to a much more Lutheran-based theology. After graduating from TLU I was accepted into the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM), where I served in South Africa, in the cities of Durban and Pietermaritzburg.



My time in South Africa was incredibly formational. It is both where I first started discerning my call to ministry and where I met my wife Elle, who was also serving in YAGM.

After YAGM, I spent several years working in special education as a paraprofessional. This work helped further awaken my love of service, and working with such an amazing student population also helped shape my theology as well. Still, that call to ministry was constantly present, whispering in the back of my mind. After much discernment, I enrolled in Luther Seminary's Master of Divinity program, seeking ordination in the ELCA. While I started my studies living in Minneapolis, we moved to Glen Ellyn about two years ago in order to be closer to my wife's family.



Of course, I could not have done any of this work alone. My family has been there supporting me throughout my vocational journey. First there is Elle, my wife of six years. She was raised in Wheaton and went to college at Augustana in Rock Island. After serving in YAGM and doing another service year in Minneapolis, she now works as a manager at the West Suburban Community Pantry in Woodbridge. My son, River, is 3 years old and attending preschool in Glen Ellyn. He loves Transformers, Paw Patrol, and anything related to Halloween. My daughter, Jade, is 15 months old and truly a force of nature. She adores animals of all varieties, and loves books and stuffies. Finally, there is our dog Haddie, a six-year-old Pitbull and Terrier mix who loves naps and playing with other dogs.

Well, hopefully you know me a bit better by now, although there is always plenty more to discover. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you a bit better, as well. If you have any questions, feel free to ask. I am always just a phone call, email, or door knock away.

Thank you & Looking Ahead

BY VICAR KELSEY JOHNSON



Thank you for supporting and forming me throughout my internship year, and for the generous gift marking the end of my internship time is something I'm deeply grateful for.

I'm looking forward to what's next, and serving Redeemer as interim program coordinator while moving forward in the call process. I'm excited for the start of the Christian education programming year, and I hope you are as well!

There are so many groups starting, and there is a place for everyone. If you have ideas for any of these groups, please share them! God is at work in so many ways in our community, and I'm looking forward to another great year of community-building together.



Fall Programming

BY VICAR KELSEY JOHNSON



Godly Play

A few weeks ago, I traveled to Grand Rapids Michigan for an intensive training in the philosophy of “Godly Play.” You may remember Godly Play stories from VBS this year, or during the early Christmas Eve services. Godly play is a way to share the stories of scripture with children and youth, so they are remembered by heart and given space and tools to encourage deep wonder.

Pastor Katie and I have been setting up an intentional Godly Play room to begin a new style of Sunday school. During the 11am service, kids up to 6th grade have the option to join a storyteller in the Godly Play space before returning to worship for communion. During this time, there will be a story and brief time for reflection through art, quiet play, or reading. The Godly Play program is very intentional about creating a one-classroom space for our children and kids to discover God and grow in faith. I am honored and excited to be one of the storytellers to lead this program change to meet the needs of Redeemer’s youngest community members.

Confirmation Corner

Remember to sign up to acolyte at least twice a month! Your leadership is important for worship.



Fall Programming

BY VICAR KELSEY JOHNSON



The poster has a blue background with a white sunburst in the top right and a white apple icon in the top left. The text is white and yellow. The title 'FYC' is in a white rounded rectangle. Below it, 'Faith Youth Collective of Hinsdale' is in large white letters. The subtitle 'monthly middle + high school events for friends of Redeemer Lutheran, Hinsdale United Methodist Church, Union UCC, and Community Presbyterian of Clarendon Hills' is in smaller white letters. The 'Fall Events:' section is in a yellow rounded rectangle with a white border. The events listed are: September 24: community dinner + games, October 15: Crop Walk, Downers Grove, November: Enchanted Castle Lock-in date TBD, and December 1: Hinsdale Christmas Walk.

FYC

Faith Youth Collective of Hinsdale

monthly middle + high school events for friends of
Redeemer Lutheran, Hinsdale United Methodist Church,
Union UCC, and Community Presbyterian of Clarendon Hills

Fall Events:

September 24: community dinner + games

October 15: Crop Walk, Downers Grove

**November: Enchanted Castle Lock-in
date TBD**

December 1: Hinsdale Christmas Walk

Please join the Hinsdale-area Faith Youth Collective on Sunday September 24th from 5-7pm for dinner and games. This is open to middle and high school youth. We will meet at the Hinsdale United Methodist Church. Please RSVP to Vr. Kelsey by September 20th.

Fall Programming

BY VICAR KELSEY JOHNSON



CREATED TO BE

2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
New Orleans JULY 16-20, 2024

 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

MYLE Multicultural Youth Leadership Event of the ELCA JULY 13-16, 2024	the tAble An ELCA Gathering of Youth with Disabilities JULY 13-16, 2024	Young Adult Gathering A new ELCA Gathering for Young Adults JULY 16-20, 2024
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 fb.com/youthgathering     @elcagathering  elca.org/gathering

Redeemer's plans for attending the National Youth gathering are in the works! We will be meeting monthly to organize a group for this event. Vr Kelsey will send out a survey in September with possible monthly meeting times. Please be in touch with her if you are interested. All youth entering 9th grade in 2024 through 2024 high school seniors are encouraged to join our group. **Remember to mark your calendars for July 16th-20th!**

Fall Programming

BY VICAR KELSEY JOHNSON



Adult Education

We are blessed with an abundance of many gifts from God! Please join adult education this fall to explore the topic of 'abundance' in many aspects of life together. Education hour is from 9:45-10:45 am in the Parish Room. All are welcome!

Small group information will be available in the eblast and bulletin board outside the parish room. There are selected readings to accompany each topic, for deeper contemplation and discussion.

October 1- Abundance of Joy: Music + Moments of Worship, Graeme Shields

October 8- Abundance of Grace: Connecting with the Cross + Sacraments, Dr Kurt Hendel

October 15- Abundance of Time and Gifts: Perspectives on Volunteering + Community, Vr Kelsey

October 22- Abundance of Generosity: Panel on Stewardship, led by the stewardship committee



Music & Worship

BY GRAEME SHIELDS



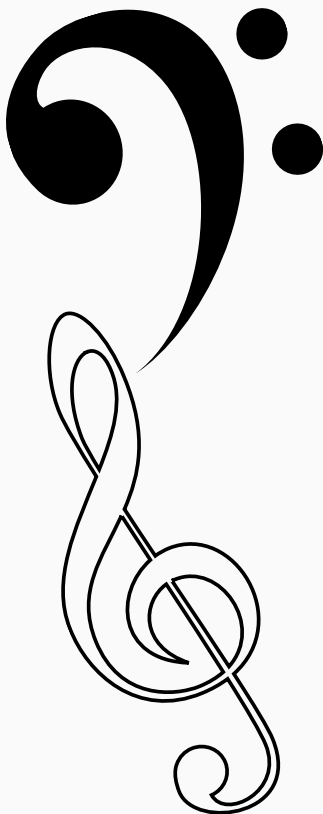
Hello Redeemer!

It's time to get back into the groove of fall programming. But not before reflecting on the busy summer we've had at Redeemer. We leaned into the Parables of Jesus for Wednesday worship this summer. We saw great attendance (we may have broken a record during VBS week!), heard thoughtful sermons, and watched with joy as the capacity for this service grew with Wednesday Worship's first ever Baptism in June and Confirmation in August.

The Parables of Jesus was also the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School. Redeemer tried something different this summer and held VBS in the evening! We began with family dinner (organized and expertly catered by our own Nathan Will) and split into two groups: adults and children.



While the children learned about the parables through stories, games, scavenger hunts, and other activities, the adults worked through Amy Jill Levine's book *Short Stories by Jesus*. After staff heard the comment "are we doing this again next week?", we knew this schedule turned out to be a hit for this congregation. We may try it again next year!



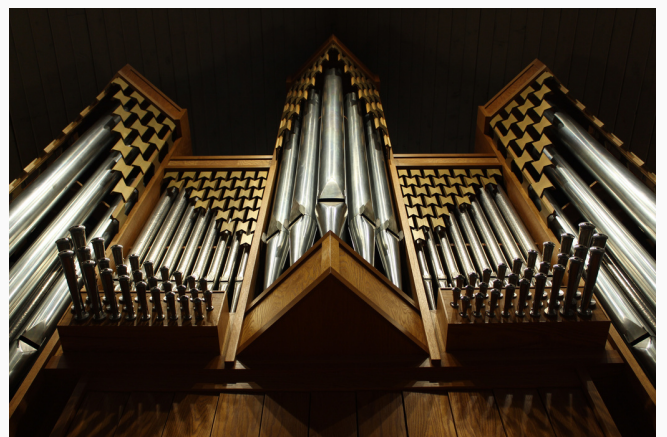


A group of Redeemer's musicians celebrating a job well done in May. Come join this happy, hard-working bunch this fall!

We've also been treated to wonderful soloists in the congregation and community this summer! You've heard flute, saxophone, Native American flute, harp, and oboe, but there's no reason it needs to stop now! If you have any interest in playing an instrument or singing as a soloist in worship, let Graeme know.

Redeemer is restarting its concert series once again! Dr. Peter Douglas will present Beyond Canon in D: the Organ Works of Pachelbel on Saturday, October 14th at 7:00pm. Dr. Douglas has established a career as a versatile musician performing as collaborative pianist, solo pianist, organist, conductor, countertenor, and vocal coach. He currently serves as Assistant Professor of Piano at University of Tennessee Southern and holds degrees from Ball State University and Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music. His organ recitals have taken him abroad to give performances in Curitiba, Brazil.

There's a lot of music to look forward to at Redeemer this fall, and here are some of the ways that you can get involved. **Festival Choir** is our adult choir and meets downstairs in the Choir Room on Wednesdays from 7:30pm-9:00pm. They sing an average of 3 services a month, alternating between the early and late services. **Alleluia Ringers** is Redeemer's handbell choir and they meet on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-7:00pm. They play in worship an average of once a month, playing at both the early and late services. The bells now have their own dedicated bell space at the end of the downstairs hall (room 106D)! Come downstairs to check it out. Finally, the **Children's Choir** meets on Sundays downstairs in the Choir Room from 9:45am-10:30am. This group is open to children from 1st thru 5th grade (get in touch with Graeme for details and exceptions) and sings an average of one service per month, always at the late service.



The new staple Bach Around the Block will continue this October on following day, October 15th, beginning at 12:30pm at Union Church. Peter Douglas will return to play Bach's Keyboard Concerto in A Major, BWV 1055 at Redeemer, accompanied by Graeme Shields.

Worship this fall is expanding in many new ways. First, Redeemer is bringing **Assisting Minsters** back to worship beginning September 10th. There has long been a misunderstanding that only ordained ministers can lead a majority of worship, but this is not so.



Anyone can enact this role which includes reading the prayers of the people, preparing the altar for communion, and much more. If you are interested, get in touch with Graeme to schedule a training and get on the schedule. I know many members are excited to see this up and running again!

We are returning to using bread during communion this fall! We have six bakers and one dedicated gluten-free bread baker. Our Master Baker, Sue Coughlin, has agreed to lead a **Communion Bread Demonstration** on Sunday, September 17th downstairs in Fellowship Hall after worship. This is not just for bakers and Altar Guild members, but indeed anyone else who might be interested to see how it's done.

Altar Guild has been incredibly flexible with all of the changing communion methods as Redeemer navigated its way out of the worst of COVID. We are very happy to see two new members join Altar Guild and would be happy to take in more this fall. If you have any interest, please reach out to Bruce Forbush or Graeme Shields for more information. We just acquired two new tools to help fill the trays of individual cups we use every Sunday and we're hearing it makes the job much easier.

Finally, we've noticed the altar flower schedule has quite a few holes. Did you know that you don't need to spend \$100 to donate flowers for Sunday morning worship? While this \$100 goes towards Phillip's crafting a beautiful bouquet according to your preferences and dropping it off at the church themselves, there are other avenues. When you sign up to provide altar flowers, donating is the easiest way to make that happen. However, you are welcome to pick up flowers from other vendors yourself, or even pick flowers from your own garden! When Sunday services are finished, you are encouraged to take the flowers home for your own enjoyment or bring them to someone you know would appreciate them. We'd love to see more flowers from congregation members during services! We hope that this knowledge of flexibility removes a hurdle and encourages some inspiration. Sign up in the hallway **today!**

Weekly Bible Study Returns!

BY PASTOR KATIE HINES-SHAH



Bible Study Returns Tuesday September 12th!

A wise person once said that the key to a healthy church was a church that studies the Bible together. For many years Redeemer has had a robust Bible Study group that met at 10AM on Tuesdays to study the texts assigned for the next week. Our preachers have found the group helpful as they prepare their weekly sermons. More than once ideas and questions from Tuesday have found their way into the Sunday sermon!

During COVID our Bible Study moved online. While this was a wonderful opportunity for some, for others found it less rewarding to gather virtually. Still others became curious about Bible Study and expressed interest in joining, but not during working hours.

To try to accommodate different needs we are going to try gathering BOTH ways. Join us Tuesdays 10AM in person in the Gathering Room or 7PM on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85049406771>. The preacher for the next Sunday (Pr. Katie, Vr. Kelsey, or Vr. Brent) will lead us in an exploration of the texts assigned for the week. No experience required and no need to prepare.

**Come with your Bibles, your questions,
and your open hearts.**

Everyone is welcome!

If you have questions, please ask Pr.
Katie!



Redeemer Engaging Refugees (RER)

BY KRIS MAHON



In 2022, Redeemer members created a vision for our church that included alleviating food insecurity and

Improving access to more stable housing. With this in mind, the RER committee was formed to help refugees coming to our area.

The committee last January offered the congregation opportunities to learn more about local refugees and participate in activities that help us to understand their lives. Several members have gone off to individually tutor refugees and supply home goods and groceries. We look forward to continuing this mission going forward. Please join us at our next meeting on **Sunday, October 1st at noon. Please join us!**



As our partner Exodus explains:

Refugees are people who are forced to flee their country due to war or persecution. They want to return home, but they can't. A refugee's fleeing is sudden and unplanned. They often leave behind family, friends, homes, belongings, jobs and everything that is familiar in order to save their lives. Most refugees flee to a neighboring country, where they end up in refugee camps or urban areas where they may be unwelcome and experience continued hardship and suffering.

Less than 1 percent of all refugees are resettled to a new country per year. Refugees invited by the U.S. government to resettle in America are the most thoroughly vetted individuals allowed in our country. Once approved to resettle in the U.S., refugees pay for their own flight through a revolving loan fund and enter the U.S. as legal residents.

Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world...I was a stranger and you invited me in."

- Matthew 25:34-35

Refugees start their lives over in the U.S. with next to nothing and face the difficult challenge of learning a new culture and language. What's more, refugees' deepest wounds are often emotional. Even after reaching safety in the U.S., many refugees still struggle with fear and loneliness. They need welcome, friendship and a place to belong.

Finance

BY KIM ENDERS



Redeemer Lutheran 2022-23 Fiscal Year End Financial Review

Redeemer ended the Income/Expense fiscal year under budget on the Revenue side (\$18,171 deficit) and on the Expense side (\$57,017 reduction), which resulted in a Net Surplus of \$24,929. The finance committee produced a conservative budget for FY 22-23, with slight increases in Revenue and Expenses. However, neither materialized. The Expense reduction was due mainly to the open Program Administrator position and property expenses that were not incurred due to project delays. On its Balance Sheet, an additional \$144,000 of designated funds were given to Redeemer this Fiscal Year, offsetting some market fluctuation with our investments and increasing Redeemer's total assets.

The budget for Fiscal Year 23-24 is aspirational. The Finance Committee has set a goal of total revenue of \$621,900, which is an eight percent increase over the Fiscal Year 22-23 goal of \$575,600. This is an increase in total income of \$46,300. Total expenses are projected to be \$621,775 for Fiscal Year 23-24, which is a five and a half percent increase over the Fiscal Year 22-23 goal of \$589,516. This budget includes a salary for a Program Administrator.

After much investigation, the Search Committee recommended the role of Program Administrator be changed to that of an Associate Pastor, and in June, Redeemer's Council voted to recommend calling our current intern, Vr. Kelsey Johnson as our Associate Pastor for an initial three-year term. The process is on-going and may be completed with a Congregational Vote in the early fall. In the interim, Kelsey Johnson is serving as Program Administrator. If Redeemer chooses to call Vr. Kelsey as an Associate Pastor, we anticipate an increase in income needed by about \$35,000, for a total budget of \$656,900. While, thanks to special gifts, Redeemer does have sufficient balance sheet funds to cover a potential shortfall in the short-term, it is vital that Redeemer members give generously to ensure that our staffing models are sustainable for years to come.

2022-23 Financial Results Summary

Fiscal Year End Income and Expense	Revenue (All Sources)	Expenses	Net Surplus/Deficit
July 2022 - June 2023	\$557,429	\$532,501	\$24,928
July 2021 - June 2022	\$631,180	\$560,153	\$71,027
2022-23 % of Budget	96.84%	89.94%	
2022-23 Total Budget	\$575,600	\$589,516	

Fiscal Year End Balance Sheet	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023
Total Assets	\$1,335,335	\$1,227,873

2023-2024 Council Highlights

BY LINDA CARPENTER



June 22

- In light of the recent \$3.5 million bequest, Council voted to form an Investment Committee, chaired by Dave Mahon, to find a professional Financial Advisor.
- Council voted to recommend to the Congregation that a closed call, 3-year term position be offered to Vicar Kelsy as Associate Pastor. A July 23 date was set for a special Congregational meeting to elect a call committee.
- Council voted to offer an internship to Brent Ellerbee, beginning August 21.

July 20

- Newly-elected Council began its term.
- The new Sunday School program Godly Play was approved, to begin this fall during the 11:00 service. An expenditure of up to \$6500 for supplies and training was approved.
- Sarah Charles and Erik Held were elected to be the Council representatives on the Call Committee.
- Dave Mahon, Deborah Boling, Erik Held and Joe Kinahan were approved as members of the new Investment Committee.
- Council approved a compensation package for the Interim Program Administrator, Vicar Kelsy Johnson, beginning August 1.
- The agenda for the Special Congregational Meeting on July 23 was approved.

July 23 Special Congregational Meeting

- The Congregation elected Aria Greenwald (youth member), Karen Burns, Susie Metzler, Steve Patterson, and Mark Rosland to the Call Committee. They will be joined by Council representatives Sarah Charles and Erik Held.



August 17

- It was reported that the court has awarded the bequest from Susan Behnke entirely to Redeemer. There were no appeals.
- Council approved the ELCA Ministry Site Profile required for calling an Associate Pastor.
- Funds were approved for purchasing office furniture for the Associate Pastor.
- 2022/23 net income (surplus) of \$24,928.72 was distributed. Mission received 3% and the remainder was moved to Unrestricted Funds on our Balance Sheet.
- Unused Church 100th Anniversary funds were transferred to the Women's Connection account.

Ask any Council member if you have questions concerning Council meetings. Minutes from all Council meetings are available for your review in a black binder in the credenza outside Pastor Katie's office.

Redeemer Receives \$3.5 Million Bequest

BY LINDA CARPENTER



[The following is the transcript of the Temple Talk Council President Linda Carpenter presented on August 6. It has been edited to make it current with information we have to date.]



Back in early April, Pastor received notice that Redeemer was named as the beneficiary to the estate of Susan Behnke, who was a member in 1994. Some of you long-time members may remember her. She wasn't here long enough apparently to be in one of our picture directories, which we do every 5 to 8 to 10 years. But we do have the record of her transfer into Redeemer from Atlanta. At the time of her death in 2022, she was living in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

At first, there seemed to be no will and a personal representative for the estate was appointed by the court. Then, the will, dated in 1995, was found, along with a codicil. In the will, Susan left her estate to her mother and to a man named as her executor. But in the terms of the will, if they predeceased her, which they did, Redeemer was named as the recipient of the estate -- worth over 3 and a half million dollars.

The reason we didn't bring this news to the congregation back in April was that codicil I mentioned. The codicil was dated in January, 2007, and it left the entire estate to a Ft. Worth Lutheran church, Susan's Green Bay Lutheran church, 2 local Green Bay charities and a national charity. However, the codicil, although signed and dated, was not witnessed, and in Wisconsin, as in many other states, if it is not witnessed, it is not considered valid.

So a hearing was scheduled for last June 1, the court did not accept the codicil and ruled in favor of the estate going to Redeemer. But, there had to be a 60-day waiting period in which appeals could be filed. That period ended at the end of July, and no appeals were filed, and Redeemer was granted the entire estate. And so now, we feel we can safely share this news with the congregation.



This whole matter is going to take some time. We don't know when we will receive this money but it probably won't come to us before the first quarter of 2024, at the earliest. Council has taken some action to get ready for a gift of this magnitude. We have appointed an Investment Committee made up of Dave Mahon as chair, Deborah Boling, Erik Held and Joe Kinahan to advise and to hire a professional financial advisor to help manage the funds. I am certain that Council will be very careful and deliberate in making decisions as to how this money should be used and how it can benefit Redeemer for the greatest length of time.



This gift will not be available for the 2023/24 budget year which we have just begun. And so, we definitely need – and expect – our members to continue to be generous givers. I would remind you that we did not meet our 2022/23 budget income goal. We were short by a little over \$18,000. Fortunately, we wound up in the black because our expenses were lower than budgeted, primarily due to Tyler's departure. We also increased our budget for 2023/24 by \$46,300, and that was before we decided to hire an Associate Pastor. We have set some high goals for ourselves as a congregation and this bequest will not be available to offset spending in this 2023/24 budget year. As always, it will be the generosity and commitment of our members who will support Redeemer.

We hope members will consider this blessing as they consider their own estate plans. I know several members, including myself, have named Redeemer as a beneficiary in their wills and trusts. It allows us to give thanks for blessings Redeemer has given us and helps ensure that Redeemer continues and is financially stable after we are gone. And it doesn't have to be millions of dollars. If you would like to know more about including Redeemer in your estate plans, talk to Deborah Kraus, our Financial Secretary, or to Pastor Katie, or to me. And, of course, to your lawyer. If you have some plans already made, please check them over. Susan Behnke probably thought her estate plans were all set, and yet – they really weren't.

We are amazed and grateful for the opportunity God has provided through Susan. We give thanks for her life and her generosity, and we give thanks to God for all He provides.

Redeemer Bylaw Amendment Proposal

BY LINDA CARPENTER



At the Regular Annual Congregation Meeting, to be held on November 19, 2023, Council will present a proposed amendment to Redeemer's Bylaws. Currently our Bylaws require undesignated gifts to be placed in Redeemer's Endowment Fund. This section was written at a time when church growth was assumed, which is no longer the case nationwide. Member tithes and offerings may not be able to support the expenses of a congregation over the long term. Redeemer's Endowment Fund has very strict requirements for use and specifically states that endowment funds are not to be used for general operating expenses. Neighboring churches, including Union Church Hinsdale, Grace Episcopal Hinsdale, and Grace Lutheran La Grange, have multi-million dollar investment funds that help underwrite operating expenses, in addition to more traditional endowments.

Redeemer's Council believes it is in Redeemer's best interests to be able to be as flexible as possible in using the Behnke bequest – and possible future bequests and other gifts. Therefore, the following amendment will be presented at the November Congregation Meeting:

- The following paragraph shall be inserted immediately following paragraph h. of Section B3.04 Duties of the Council:
 - i. **To accept undesignated gifts received by this Congregation, such as, but not limited to, bequests, life insurance proceeds and remainders from life agreements, which may be used for the annual operating budget of the congregation or held in a reserve fund, which may be separate from the Redeemer Covenant Endowment Fund, as determined by the Congregational Council.**
- The following paragraph shall be deleted from B4.02.05.13 General Provisions governing the operation, administration and management of the Fund(s):
 - h. **The Endowment Fund committee shall accept for the Fund undesignated gifts received by this Congregation, such as, but not limited to, bequests, life insurance proceeds and remainders from life income agreements.**

More information will be made available in the time leading up to the November 19th meeting. Copies of the Bylaws are available in the Church Office. All Council members also have a copy.

Even with this amendment, it will still be possible to direct gifts to the Endowment Fund, as well as to other Redeemer Memorial Funds, but this amendment would open another avenue of support for Redeemer's future. If you have questions, feel free to contact Pastor Katie, Council President Linda Carpenter, or any other Council member.

Church News and Updates

BY JEFFERY MOSELEY

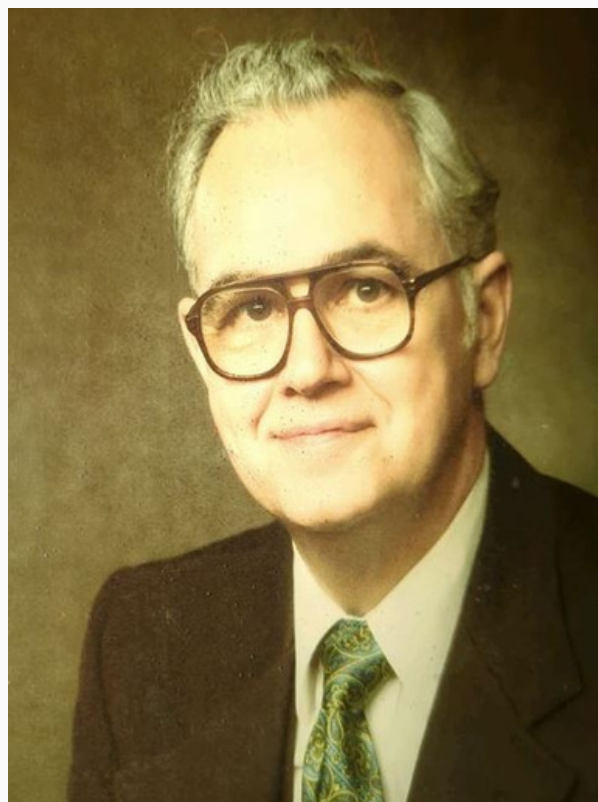


Losses in the Church Family

LaVerne C. Beener

Beverly Beener sadly announced the passing of her beloved husband, the Rev. LaVerne C. Beener ("PB" as he was known), on May 31, 2023, at the age of 96. LaVerne is survived by his wife of 73 years of marriage, Beverly, and his two sons David (Mary Lou) and Jonathan, in addition to four loving granddaughters. He is survived by his brothers Robert and Richard (Vivian), sister Mary, and brother-in-law Steven (Mary).

After his discharge from serving his country in World War II, LaVerne was called to be a Pastor in the Lutheran Church, faithfully serving congregations in Olathe, KS, Anamosa, IA, and Blue Island, IL, where he served from 1968 – 1995 and retired. Upon their retirement LaVerne and Beverly returned to a familiar church and community in Anamosa, IA, reconnecting with friends and parishioners from their service at St. Paul Lutheran Church. They returned to Illinois in 2012, residing in Hinsdale to be closer to family, and joining Redeemer Lutheran Church of Hinsdale as their new spiritual home.



LaVerne and Beverly enjoyed the peace and serenity of the Colorado Rockies throughout their time together, vacationing frequently as a family with their sons and eventually spending two weeks every October in Estes Park closing out the summer tourist season in retirement. LaVerne's love of the Rockies often found its way into his sermons and eventually an annual pilgrimage of First Lutheran members to the YMCA of Rockies near Estes Park ensued for a week of fellowship and hiking in "God's Country." As per his wishes, his remains were cremated and will be eventually returned to nature ("ashes to ashes, dust to dust") at a special location he enjoyed hiking to every year in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Memorials in PB's honor should be directed to the attention of his church – Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Additions to the Church Family



Evelyn Mary Suess was baptized on June 21st. Parents are Elena (Smith) Suess and Jared Suess.



Rory Wilson Scott was baptized on June 25th. Parents are Kaelyn (Malkoski) Scott and Tanner Scott



Hazel Charlotte Cuccaro was baptized on July 30th. Parents are Jennifer Molinaro and Scott Cuccaro Jr.

Marriages



Congratulations to Addison Lee Moeller, daughter of Tom and Jennifer Moeller, who was married to Colin Robert Driscoll on Saturday, May 6, 2023 in Chicago.



Courtney Cimo and Shamus Fitzpatrick were joined in marriage on August 26th



Confirmations



Congratulations to Pierce Wittnebel who was confirmed on August 29th.

Upcoming Ordination



Ordination

BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE CALL OF THE CHURCH

EMILY BAYNTON

WILL BE ORDAINED TO WORD AND SACRAMENT
IN CHRIST'S ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC,
AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH

OCTOBER 7TH @ 2PM PST

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
925 BALOUR DR.
ENCINITAS, CA 92024

LIVE STREAM:
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@BETHLEHEMLUTHERANCHURCHENC2103/STREAMS](https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemplutheranchurchenc2103/streams)

BISHOP DAVE NAGLER
PREACHING & PRESIDING

THE COLOR FOR THE DAY IS RED. CLERGY ARE INVITED
TO VEST IN RED OR RAINBOW.

Update from the Call Committee

BY ERIK HELD



Greetings, Redeemer! We of the Call Committee wanted to give you a progress report on our work, as we have effectively wrapped up our mission. The committee had its final meeting on August 28th, where we also had our “alignment interview” with Vicar Kelsey Johnson. The result was a unanimous recommendation to Redeemer’s Council to call Vicar Kelsey as Redeemer’s associate pastor.

This process began back in October of 2022, after Tyler Parks resigned as Director of Youth and Family Services. A Search Committee was formed that same month and immediately engaged with the congregation for input and clarity on how the church should approach filling this position. After the job description was finalized, the renamed Program Administrator position was posted to various job boards in February 2023.

Over the next several months, it became apparent to the Committee that finding a qualified, enthusiastic candidate was going to be a challenge due to the nature of the position. Most of the applications received did not meet the position qualifications. The few qualified candidates that did apply and were interviewed remotely withdrew from consideration before reaching the in-person phase of the interview process. Redeemer has not found itself alone in this search challenge, as many other similar openings exist across the ELCA in Chicagoland.

From the beginning, the Search Committee identified Vicar Kelsey’s gifts as being a good fit for the open position. She is passionate about Christian education, family services, and evangelical outreach, and was very interested in the role. Out of respect for her professional goals and the post-seminary process of making decisions best for her faith & career journey, the committee did not immediately suggest the obvious candidate: Vicar Kelsey herself.

As it worked through what it was trying to accomplish, the Search Committee realized the post Redeemer was seeking to fill was that of a true faith leader, an Associate Pastor. Shifting gears at that point, they recommended to Council to call Vicar Kelsey as Associate Pastor, after a bridge hiring as interim Program Administrator – the role that would be subsumed and greatly expanded in the process.

On July 16, the Search Committee held an adult forum and explained its reasoning for the transition, as well as what Council had decided during its June meeting. Council decided to form a call committee for a closed process to call Vicar Kelsey to – initially – a three-year term contract call. A term call/contract can be extended or “opened up” very easily and without a new call process required. The Congregation formally voted on members of the Call Committee on July 23.

Over the past month, we have met several times virtually and in person to complete the relevant Synod paperwork (Ministry Site Profile), formalize a call description and officially recommend to Council that it holds a vote to call Vicar Kelsey to the Associate Pastor role. Per the site profile, we zeroed in on five ministry tasks for the new Associate Pastor:

- Evangelism/Mission
- Christian Education
- Youth and Family Ministry
- Preaching/Worship
- Building a Sense of Community

Many other tasks fall under those broad categories, and we also identified immediate areas of focus, such as working directly with new members to integrate and welcome them, rolling out the new Godly Play Sunday School program this fall, and continuing to work with the Faith Youth Collective to create youth fellowship opportunities.

The final step was an alignment interview with Vicar Kelsey, held August 28, to affirm there was commonality between what Redeemer sought in an Associate Pastor and how Vicar Kelsey viewed the role. The interview was a good exchange that lasted two hours and went deep into our mutual expectations, concerns, and the long-term opportunities for both parties. Our unanimous approval vote followed.

Council will vote on advancing the call to the full congregation at its September meeting. The final congregational vote on calling Vicar Kelsey as an Associate Pastor, initially with a three-year term/contract, will be held on Sunday, September 24. Before that, the Call Committee will hold an adult forum on Sunday, September 17, with Pastor Kyle Severson of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (ELCA) present.

We are excited. Redeemer has not had a true Associate Pastor – full-time – in two decades. There are challenges (primarily financial) but also great potential for how this role can advance our ministry and mission. Thank you for entrusting us with the responsibility to bring this possibility even closer to reality.

–The Call Committee

Karen Burns | Sarah Charles | Aria Greenwald | Erik Held | Susie Metzler | Steve Patterson |
Mark Rosland

Healthy Spiritual Journey

BY LANNY WILSON



A FUTURE WITH HOPE

Jeremiah is a major prophet in the Hebrew Bible; but his writings also hold a place of importance for Christians and Muslims today. About 2,600 years ago, the prophet Jeremiah used the words of the Lord to predict a future with hope. With that hopeful thought in mind, and believing that ‘The Lord helps those who help themselves’, I have been thinking about the concept of a future with hope.

Certainly, those of us who believe in an everlasting paradise, the place many call heaven, envision a future with hope in that space and time. However, very few want to wait until the afterlife to experience a hopeful, joyful life; and I don’t believe that the Lord meant for us to wait until then either. Everything comes from God: free-will and all that exists on this earth are expressions of God’s love for humanity. Using our free-will, we can be fruitful and help God co-create. This is best done if we take what has been given to us and use it in the service of others, of creation, and of life itself.



For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

- Jeremiah 29:11

In ‘The Lord’s Prayer’, we pray “Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” This is challenging since some are born into a life of poverty while others are born into wealth. Also, it is a mystery why some are born healthy and others are born with disabilities; and many have had to endure tragedies while others are seemingly spared. This diversity of riches, poverty, sadness, and joy is beyond any simple explanation; yet, we have the following truisms with which to work:

- “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required...”- Luke 12:48b
- We should care for others the way we want to be cared for. – The Golden Rule
- It’s good to be blessed. It’s better to be a blessing. – Unknown
- People with a purpose, or a ‘why’, can do great things and bear with almost any ‘how’.



The purpose of the faith-based hospital where I work is to extend the healing ministry of Christ. The purpose of the church where I worship is united in Christ, we share God's love in an ever-changing world. I believe in those missions; and so, am motivated to give time, talent, and treasure (in collaboration with them) to help bring a future with hope for many. I trust those places of work and worship to steward my resources for the good of humanity. Giving to those places is an act of faith, hope, and love for God and God's people. Both have been in the business of welcoming, healing, praying, holding the hands of those in need, and sharing God's love in this ever-changing world for more than one hundred years.

As we continue our healthy spiritual journey, let us help provide a future with hope, for ourselves and for those with whom we journey. When we add our time, talent, and treasures to others whose purpose is in harmony with our own, we multiply our ability to provide a future with hope and to live out the words of 'The Lord's Prayer': "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

In God's love,
Lanny F. Wilson, MD

