



**The Monthly Messenger
Redeemer Lutheran Church**

**June
2024**



*Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you."
Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father
or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news,
who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children,
and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.
But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."*

– Mark 10:28-31

Dear friends in Christ,

Many years ago, I was sitting next to Bishop Peter Strommen of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod in a meeting, and I noticed that when we got ready to open the meeting with prayer, he placed both of his hands, open and palms up, on the table in front of him. I'd never seen anyone assume that posture for prayer before, so when the meeting was over, I asked him about it. He told me that it was because that posture reflected the attitude he tried to bring to prayer: hands open to let go of whatever God wanted to remove from him, hands open to receive whatever God wanted to give to him. To this day, I think that is one of the most profound things I have ever heard about prayer and about the Christian life.

I don't know about anyone else, but I know that I need to be reminded on a regular basis of the deep truth behind that attitude of prayer: we can't open our hands to receive the new thing God wants to give us if we are holding so tightly to the things we have that we're not willing to let go.

Letting go is hard. When a person, a practice, an experience, or a belief has been a blessing to us, letting go feels both painful and scary. Who will I be if I let go of this thing? What will take the central place this thing has held in my life? What will life be like without this? Ironically, even things that have been harmful to us can be difficult to let go of, for the same reason. Past hurts, griefs, or resentments can continue to poison us because letting go of them seems so difficult to imagine.

The good news is that Jesus promises that the things we give up for his sake will be replaced. The space those things take up will not remain empty, but will become an opening for new blessings. And even if the new blessings don't feel like blessings in the moment, we can believe and trust the Christ is with us even in the midst of the letting go and the receiving. That promise, that gospel, is something we can hold fast to even as we work towards opening our hands and letting go. If we are willing to open our hands, our heads, and our hearts, God may take some things from us, but we are promised that even as we let go, we will also receive so much more, purely as a gift of God's grace. All we have to do is be willing to open our hands and let go.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob

**OUT
OF
OFFICE**

Pastor Bob will be having shoulder surgery on Tuesday, June 4th. On the advice of his surgeon, he will be out on medical leave for two full weeks and will return to the office on Monday, June 17th. In order to continue his healing from that surgery and from a recently diagnosed ulcer, Pastor Bob will be working a reduced schedule for the remainder of the summer. His work days from June 17th through August 31st will be Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, with the goal of reducing his weekly work schedule from his current 50-60 hours per week to roughly 32 hours per week. He will still be available 24/7 for pastoral emergencies, and will still arrange for pulpit supply and for pastoral emergency coverage if he is away for vacation or continuing education.



The Seminarian Report

Greetings all,

First, I want to express my gratitude for it being June! My day job working for the School District of Lancaster in the Special Education department is officially done for the academic year. I will be trying my best to enjoy these next couple of months as much as I can and relax before hitting the ground running once again with the emotional support students I have the honor and privilege to work with.

Academically, the spring semester is all complete. The literature was very thought-provoking, especially for my course on the environmental history of Christianity. My professor enjoyed my 20-page term paper for the course titled, *What Can Be Done With Environmental Degradation In Liturgy And Pastoral Ministry, And How Can People Be Helped To Recognize It?* For my other course, analyzing the New Testament beyond the Gospels, I recently completed an exegesis on Romans 12:9-21 (*Marks of the True Christian*). I summarized my findings and results in a podcast, which was pretty enjoyable. It reminded me of my college radio days during my undergrad.

I have officially started my summer unit of CPE at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. I was and still am blown away by the facility, and all that is entailed in a chaplain role...it is certainly a lot more than just sitting down with people and praying with them. My director said that I would not be the same person when this unit is completed, and after a short experience so far, he sure wasn't kidding. I can certainly use some prayers and positive thoughts for this unit given the plethora of experiences, long nights, and weekends ahead.

“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

Peace,
Tiger Sprout



WORSHIP

One Sunday Service

There will be only one Sunday morning service this summer, starting June 2, 2024.

The service will be at 9:30am, followed by an education hour at 11:00am.



Saturday Evening Service to be Discontinued

On May 21st, after much deliberation and discussion, Redeemer's council made the difficult decision to discontinue the Saturday evening worship service. Based on declining attendance at that service and the cost of providing substitutes for the pastor and organist when they need to be away, it was felt that this service was not the best use of resources for Redeemer's current mission and ministry. If there is clear interest and need, an afternoon or evening service could be instituted on Sundays in the future. The last Saturday evening service will be on Saturday, June 29th.

Devotions

Midweek Devotions Moving to Thursdays

Have you ever felt like you could use a “pick me up” for your prayer and devotional life in the middle of the week? Consider joining us for Midweek Devotions, a come-as-you-are time of prayer and dwelling with the Word, held in the parlor at noon on Thursdays. The devotions last about 45 minutes. Questions? See Pastor Bob.



SAVE THE DATE ~ Sunday, June 30

Leigh-Ann Powers announced her retirement for June 30. There will be a retirement party to celebrate Leigh-Ann immediately following the 9:30am service that day in the social hall.

Please come and enjoy food, fellowship, and music, as we celebrate Leigh-Ann and her years at Redeemer.



I want to thank every single member of Redeemer who has made my 16-½ years here such a joy! You have taught me so much, and been so kind and accepting that it hardly seems possible that I have been here so long - or that I was ever anywhere else!

When I came to Redeemer in January, 2008, Marshall Anderson greeted me as though I were a long-lost friend. He showed me where everything was, from the music library to the choir loft and organ. He and every Vocal and Handbell Choir member, past and present, will always hold a special place in my memories.

The Jubilate Ringers (handbell choir, or Ding-a-lings as they say) have been a great deal of fun. I had played handbells for a brief time, so they forgave me any shortcomings that I may have had and we have grown together throughout the years.

And the Matins and Senior Choirs were more than I could have dreamed they would be! Each group had its own personality, strengths, and weaknesses. We certainly had many good times together, while creating music that praised our Lord.

Bill and I will not be going anywhere, although we don't want a new person to feel that we are "looking over their shoulder" so we may not be here every week. But we value the relationships that we have at Redeemer, and the love that we receive. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



That's What Choirs Do

For my last newsletter article as your music director I found a wonderful column that I will excerpt below. The author, Lois Martin, is a retired ELCA ordained minister, organist, choir director, and music director. Currently she lives in the State College, PA, area. This article is from the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians magazine, "in tempo", 2024, No. 1.

"When we engage with others in a real-time setting, with live choirs, with live musicians, it is possible to experience and be moved beyond ourselves, to feel accepted, to experience the love of God from those around us who also feel accepted, valued, loved by God and each other... [We value] being among people, greeting them with real-time smiles, inquiring about their lives, their work, their burdens.

"Music, and the musicians whose talent and craft present for us God's living word in text and tune, offers to us a unique life-giving, life-sustaining opportunity as we worship our Triune God... The prophets and kings of our Holy Scripture knew this, Jesus knew this as he used these sacred texts, and the early Christians knew it as they gathered in word and song. Martin Luther knew it; J.S. Bach knew it. We know it...Not every choir member is the same, not every choir member is perfect in pitch, timing, vocal ability, physical ability, but every choir member is a valued child of God, sings praises, and joins in the acceptance of the love of God in Jesus our Christ.

"That is what choirs do."



Congratulations to Timothy Steinhart and Dylan Benson!

Tim graduated from Shippensburg University with a Masters. His future plan is to be a counselor at Sun Point Foundation and to pursue license requirements. Tim is the son of Bill & Tammy Steinhart.

Dylan graduated from Hempfield High School and will be attending Millersville University. Dylan is the grandson of Bill & Kate Benson.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Redeemer Church Council

Tammy Steinhart – President
Ted Nichols – Vice President
Jody Kunzler – Vice President
Carl Hartman - Treasurer
Cyndy Rineer – Secretary
Barb Sensenig – Audio/Visual
Amy Ebersole – Christian Education
Laura Miller – Evangelism

Ed Kost – Mutual Ministry
Bill Powers – Parish Fellowship
Dave Clayton - Property
Ron Snyder – Social Ministry
Alex Henry – Stewardship/Parish Administration
Megan Snell – Worship & Music
Marissa Sterner – Youth Ministry



Shiloh House Fundraiser

THINK OF REDEEMER WHILE YOU ARE SPRING CLEANING!

We are having a Benefit Yard sale on Sat July 6. All the money raised from the sale will go toward the Shiloh House project. If you have household items you would like to get rid of, we will take them!

Here's how you can help:

DONATE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: Collect items from your home, from your family, neighbors, and coworkers, and bring them to the Snell's house (641 State St in Lancaster) on Friday July 5, the day before the sale. We can arrange to store items at the church if you need to get rid of them sooner. We'll accept anything you would take to Goodwill. Furniture, household items, clothes, toys, books, etc. Please no tvs or anything that is broken or stained. Items do not need to be priced. Please bring them in boxes or bins with lids (easier for stacking).

VOLUNTEER: We will need volunteers on Friday to set up the tables and arrange the items, and on Saturday to sell items and clean up after the sale. We will also need someone with a truck who is willing to drive left over items to be donated after the sale. More details to come. Contact Megan Snell if you are interested or have any questions.

DONATE: If you do not have any items to donate, consider donating some money to go toward lunch and refreshments for the volunteers.

PROMOTE THIS EVENT: Please promote this event through Instagram, Facebook, word of mouth, and email.



Refugee Family

You may recall that Redeemer sponsored an Afghan family in 2019. The family is doing well and continues to feel more comfortable with living in the USA as they become acclimated to school and the workforce. The family is moving from their apartment on Pearl Street to a home in Manheim Township. They have asked for used furniture to help furnish their new home. Examples of items needed include: couch, chair, desk, small closet, area carpets for rooms or dining room table and chairs. If you have furniture that you no longer need, please reach out (with the type of items you have and if possible a photo) to Sharon Wingenroth or Ron Snyder). We will be in touch with the family or their representative so they can coordinate. Thank you for your consideration.



Youth Bake Sale Fundraiser

Youth are planning a Beach Day at Ocean City, NJ. We are raising funds for the day by having a bake sale surrounding the services on May 19, 26, June 2, and 9. Money will go towards beach tags, food, and gas.



Summer Fun With Our Youth Kids

June 14 – Ice Cream social from 6-8 held at the church – all are welcome!

June 23 – Outdoor Fun – 2-5 – Held at Wheatland field, hockey field. (this event is for elementary students and their families)



Vacation Bible School!

Vacation Bible School is back again this summer! Join us Sunday July 14 through Wednesday July 17 from 6:30 - 8:15. Our theme this year is Peacemakers. Please RSVP by July 7 to Amy Ebersoole if your child(ren)/grandchild(ren) are interested in attending this year. We look forward to seeing our future peacemakers!



Restroom Update

In keeping with Redeemer’s Reconciling in Christ guidelines, the RIC task force met on Sunday, April 28 to discuss designating one church restroom as Gender Neutral. Based on very limited use of our second floor men’s room, the task force decided to have this lavatory modified. A few physical alterations will be made to accommodate gender neutral persons. Additionally, a Reconciling Diversity Statement will be posted in every church restroom. Minutes of the April 28th task force meeting are available in the narthex.



Communication with Care

We would like to introduce a new Communication with Care Policy for our paid staff and volunteers. Many times we need to communicate needs or information and I am asking that we be mindful of how we are communicating with the staff while having realistic expectations.

Beginning now --

Pastor Bob's hours of availability for routine matters will be 9am-7pm Sunday through Thursday. He will plan on responding in 24 hours or if the email is sent Thursday-Saturday, then the next business day. Outside of those hours, please email him at pastor@redeemerlutheran.net. In case of an emergency, please call his cellphone.

Kim's office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:30a-4:30p. Closed Fridays. Please make sure to call if you are coming to the office in case she needed to step out for a moment. All email to the office should be sent to redemerluth@yahoo.com

The Council President's email address is: president@redeemerlutheranchurch.net

I only check this email once a week so if there is a pressing issue, please feel free to call me or have Kim reach out to me on your behalf.

The property email is property@redeemerlutheranchurch.net If you observe a property/building need, please email, with specifics, so Dave C. and the property committee can follow up.

Thank you,
Tammy Steinhart



July Messenger

Please have your articles to Kim, by Wednesday, June 19th.



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, June 18th – Board Meetings



June and July - Collection for Baby Care Kits

The Social Ministry Project for June and July will be the collection of items to make Baby Care Kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Baby Care Kits give mothers some basic necessities to care for their little ones. A new baby is a blessing but bringing a baby into the world can also be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. Keeping a baby healthy, clean and comfortable can take a lot of resources. Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits provide some basics a family needs to care for their newest members and introduce them to the world with pride.

There will be an easel placed in the lobby with post-it notes, each with an item needed to make these Kits. Please take the post-it notes of the items you wish to purchase. **Items purchased can be returned to the box by the easel.**

We will assemble all the donations into Kits. These Kits will then be shipped to the Processing Center in New Windsor, MD. From there they will be sent to areas of the world where most needed.

Each Kit will include:

- Two lightweight cotton t-shirts (no onesies)
- Two long- or short- sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- Two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square.
- One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- Two pairs of socks
- Two or three bath-size bars of gentle soap
- One hand towel, dark color recommended

Any questions, please contact Ron Snyder or Sharon Wingenroth.

Thank you for considering participating in this social ministry.

Peace and Blessings to you!
Social Ministry Committee



Disposable Diaper Collection

Just a reminder: The social ministry is continuing to collect disposable diapers of all sizes this year (most needed large sizes 5 & 6).

Examples of organization we deliver diapers to - Milagro House , YWCA, Clare House, Union Community Care.

If you have any other organizations you know of let us know and we will consider them.

Please place your donations in the wooden chest adjacent to elevator at the library windows.
Thanks for your help on this much needed cause.

Social ministry



Thank You

My family and I would like to thank everyone at Redeemer for their prayers for my son, Jeff Eichelman. Your prayers and kind words were a great comfort to us all during Jeff's long battle with cancer, and we thank God for your love and faithfulness. -Ann Brendle



We need how much money?? But I have an idea...

When Pastor Bob told us that Redeemer is running a monthly deficit of a little less than \$3000 each month, we were all a bit surprised. And I'm sure most of you thought, as I did, that I certainly can't donate that amount!

Of course you can't - most people in the US couldn't. BUT I have an idea! If each of us could spare just \$5 a week - that's a coffee and a donut at Turkey Hill or Sheetz - we could make a significant dent in that number. In fact, I'm going to challenge myself to avoid Amazon and try for \$10 per week. That's just \$40 a month. I'm pretty sure that I can spare that - even though I'm retiring at the end of the month. If it's too much, no one will come after me, but I'll be disappointed in myself.

Can you spare just \$5 or \$10 a week more for your church? Let's see what we can do to make a dent in that number! Thanks for considering to do this challenge! Leigh-Ann Powers



Transportation Board Request

The congregation is in need of a few more bus drivers. No experience needed, no CDL needed, just the willingness to transport folks from the Wheatland Middle School parking lot to the church for Sunday services and an occasional wedding, funeral, or celebration. Please see Bill Powers to volunteer or discuss.



First Aid Station

There is now a first aid station with a defibrillator in the cubby in the narthex to the right of the sanctuary entrance doors.



Quilters

We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 9:00am. We welcome all new members.



Tastykakes

The Community Gathering needs Tastykakes. You can bring them to the church office or put them in the kitchen with a note on them, saying Community Gathering. Thank you!



Faith and Life

Faith & Life is studying the book of Genesis. Come join our group for this study. We meet Wednesday nights at 6:00 in the library.



Food Hub needs your used clothing!

The Social Ministry Committee has the continuing project of receiving your used clothing that you no longer want and delivering these items to the Food Hub (formerly the Lancaster County Council of Churches). The clothing bank at the Food Hub is one of the many programs at the Food Hub – in addition to providing food for the hungry, another clothing program is the “Dress for Work” that provides clothing for interviews and for work when jobs begin. And the Food Hub depends on clothing donations from churches to supply their inventory. Although many organizations collect clothing and some even charge for the clothing. The Food Hub provides free of charge needed clothing for Lancaster County residents.

Place your used (or new) items in the left-hand bin of the Social Ministry chest in the lobby near the elevator. Thank you!



Bulletin Sponsors

If you would like to donate towards the cost of paper for the bulletins, by sponsoring the memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one, please let Kim know so she can put it in the bulletin. Thank you!



Electronic Offering

If you would prefer to make your offering electronically, please scan this QR code with your smartphone to be taken to a secure online giving portal through Vanco.



Help Us Care for You

If you or a loved one are hospitalized, please call Pastor Bob or the church office to let us know. If a box on a computer screen gets missed during admission at LGH, they will not notify the church, and the other area hospitals do not notify churches at all. Please feel free to call Pastor Bob at any time to let him know your loved one needs care.



Church Bus Service

Bus service is available between the Wheatland Middle School parking lot (end of 5th St.) and the church on Sunday mornings one-half hour before and after worship services. Board the bus under the canopied entryway on 5th St. Please respect our neighbors' parking spaces by riding the bus. For additional bus usage (weddings, funerals, special events, etc.) please contact Bill Powers or Kim Grabusky in the church office. Thank you.



Praying for Our Servicemembers

Michael Dangro, Terry Flanagan, Jimi Griffith, Joel Harding, Michael Marschall, Jim Martin, James Pugh, Nathaniel Riley, Willie Rivera, Tyler Schmid, Doug Snyder, Justin Stoltzfus.



Prayers

Please pray for our homebound members and those who have ongoing health concerns. **Please let Kim know if someone should be added or removed from the prayer list.**

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Steve Adams, Dianne Adelman, Mark Alexander, Marshall Anderson, Jane Aspril, Ron Bachman, Edie Baldwin, Dottie Banner, Dottie Barr, Millie Bechtold, Barbara Becker, Lois Borkowski. Guy Burkholder III, Diane Charles, Cheryl & Dave Clayton, Terri Daniels, Sue Dicely, Denise Dickson, Doug Eshleman, Marlene Fix, Ellie Flickinger, Diane Gegg, Geraldine Gontz, Bonnie Goshen, Richard Hannah, Alvin Harding, Lily Higgins, Margaret Hippey, Annette & Harold Hinerdeer, Becky Horn, John Hughes, Barbara Kahler, Mike Kloss, Gail Kober, Ron & Florence Lentz, Sam & Dawn Leonard, Peter Levensgood, Barry Miller, Shirley Miller, Ryan Miller, Deb Nazarian, Maria Oblender, Stan & Cindy Rambish, Bunny Rambler, Tina Rambler, Pete Riley, Eleanore Rineer, John Sauders, Marie Scheurich, Cleary Benson Schmidt, Doris Schreiner, Betty Spade, Katie Shanley, Donna & Jerry Sherman, Dianne & Harvey Sick, Jack Snyder, Liam Stark, Jane Stehman, Sterner Family, Celeste Stetter, Joy Sutherland, Kathy Vahaly, Janet Wakefield, Janet Williams, Carolyn & Richard Willitts, Sharon Wingenroth, Angelica Zander.

Church Services

Saturday 6:00pm and Sunday 9:30am, Holy Communion

Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30am to 4:30pm.

Fridays CLOSED.

Hours may vary at times, so **Please call first before stopping in.**

Phone Number - 717-394-0651

Email – redeemerluth@yahoo.com

Website – redeemerlutheranchurch.net

Pastor – Pastor Bob Ierien

HAPPY FATHERS DAY

Unscramble the letters to find the words in the word scramble to answer the hidden phrase.

MLAYFI	___	___	○	___	___	○
AERTFH	___	___	___	___	___	___
ENTUURR	___	___	___	___	___	___
IHLOYDA	___	___	___	○	○	___
TFUHGHOULTL	___	___	___	___	___	___
DYDAD	___	___	○	○	___	___
STOLO	___	___	___	___	___	___
SONTGR	___	___	___	___	___	___
OTLFOALB	___	___	___	___	○	___
DCILHNRE	___	___	___	___	___	___
DVOEEDT	___	___	___	___	___	___
PSOSRT	___	___	○	___	___	___
ERLHAUGT	___	___	___	___	___	___
IVGIGN	___	___	○	___	___	___
ESMOREMI	___	___	___	___	○	○
RAVBE	___	___	___	___	___	___
MEHO	___	___	○	___	___	___
FNYUN	___	___	___	___	___	___
TRSPEEC	___	○	___	___	___	___
ARCIGN	___	___	___	___	___	___
LSIPECA	___	___	___	___	___	___

Phrase:

_____!



Greetings!

As many of you know, our organist and music director, Leigh-Ann Powers, will be retiring this year and her last day will be Sunday, June 30th. We are inviting the congregation to attend a retirement brunch in the Social Hall following the 9:30am service, to socialize and to thank her for her many years of service to Redeemer Church.

Please consider contributing to a retirement gift for Leigh-Ann. Place your contribution in a white, pew envelope and put it in the offering plate or send to church office. Please mark the envelope "retirement"

If you are able to attend the Retirement Brunch, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or in Kim Grabusky's mailbox. (It is important to RSVP to this gathering, because we would like to estimate how much food we will need to make.) The church office number is: 717-394-0651.

Reservation slip must be returned by June 23.

_____ I/We will be attending the brunch on Sunday, June 30th.

_____ Number of people in my group.

Please sign your name (s) _____
