



**The Monthly Messenger
Redeemer Lutheran Church**

**August
2024**



Dear friends in Christ,

On Tuesday, July 23, 2024, treasurer Steve Raugh presented the congregation council with the following facts about our financial situation:

- From January 2023 through June 2024, we have run an average monthly deficit of \$10, 819.76
- Our current cash on hand balance is \$112,351.45
- Based on these numbers **and** without significant action to address our income and expenses, **we can expect to run out of cash reserves and be unable to pay our bills in approximately ten months**

Obviously, this situation is a matter of grave concern for the future of our congregation. Council is already exploring options to increase our revenue and/or trim our expenses. Many options are being considered, including the possibility of renting or selling the current office building at 818 5th Street. Any suggestions for addressing this situation, and any offers of help in researching options, will be warmly welcomed. Right now, there are a lot of unanswered questions, and we are hard at work running down answers to those questions. However, we felt it was important to get this information to you as soon as possible, so that we can all be aware of the situation and the need to move quickly to address it.

I would like to ask every member of Redeemer to do three things:

1. Make plans now to attend an informational forum on the current state of our finances and possible paths forward on **Sunday, August 11th at 11 am in the sanctuary**
2. Make plans now to attend a second informational forum on information gathered by the Building Use Task Force on **Sunday, August 25th at 11 am in the sanctuary**
3. **Pray.** Pray for wisdom, insight, and guidance. Pray for our treasurer as he works hard to clarify our financial picture. Pray for our council members as they gather information and synthesize that for the congregation. Pray for our Building Use Task Force as they work to develop options for the best and most faithful use of our property. And pray for our congregation as we all work together to be good and faithful stewards of the ministry entrusted to us.

Finally, there is one thing I would like to ask you to avoid, to the best of your ability. Don't panic. Yes, the situation is serious. Yes, there is a lot of hard work to be done and tough questions to answer. Yes, we will likely have to make some difficult decisions in the months ahead. We must remember, however, that disciple of Jesus have faced much tougher challenges than this down through the centuries, and more importantly, we must remember that we do not face them alone. Christ has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age, and he has promised that the gates of hell will not prevail against his church. Next to those promises, a budget deficit pales in comparison. We have a rocky path to walk in the months ahead, but we do not walk it alone.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob



Connecting With Our Neighbors

One of the most important things we can do for the health of Redeemer is to build better connections with our neighbors and better support families in our community. With a new school year about to begin, here are two hands-on opportunities to do that:

Choices will resume on Wednesday, September 11th. Students from Smith-Wade-El Elementary come to Redeemer on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, for learning, enrichment, and fun. The commitment is four hours, once a month. **We particularly need male volunteers.** For more information, please see Judy Miller.

After-school clubs at Wheatland Middle School are in need of sponsors/leaders. Do you have a hobby, a craft, or a skill that you could share for one hour per week during the school year? Do you love to garden, knit, or cook? Are you into Star Wars, anime, or woodworking? Do you draw or paint, make jewelry, or read poetry? Chances are, if you love it, some of Wheatland's students will love it, too. Clubs meet at the school for one hour after school one day per week, and facilities for a variety of interests are available. If you are interested or would like more information, please see Pastor Bob.



Pathways of Prayer

Prayer is one of the most important parts of our life with God, but it can also be one of the most challenging. Despite our best efforts, we can find ourselves in a rut, or simply at a loss for how to pray. Pastor Bob will be offering a five session exploration of prayer this August and September. Drawing on scripture, the Large Catechism, and the rich history of two thousand years of Christian prayer, this offering will include reflection on the theology of prayer, opportunities to experience new prayer practices, and maybe even a field trip! There will be two opportunities to participate, on Sunday mornings at 11 or on Monday evenings at 6:30, and portions will be recorded and available online where appropriate. Group meeting dates will be August 4th/5th, August 18th/19th, September 1st/2nd, September 8th/9th, and September 22nd/23rd. Questions? Please see Pastor Bob.



Bishop's Election Listening Sessions

In the ELCA, synodical bishops serve as spiritual and administrative leaders for the work of the gospel in each synod. In June 2025, we in the Lower Susquehanna Synod will elect a new bishop. Any pastor in the ELCA is eligible to be elected. As a first step in the process of discerning who God is calling to serve in this office, listening sessions are being offered around the synod. The closest listening session to us will be held at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 3131 Columbia Avenue on Sunday, August 18th from 2-4 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. A list of dates and locations of alternative listening sessions, along with additional information about the process of electing a new bishop, is available at <https://www.lss-elca.org/lower-susquehanna-synod-2025-bishops-election/>. Please hold our synod and all pastors of the ELCA in prayer as together we seek to hear God's calling for the next bishop of our synod.



LADIES SAVE THIS DATE

We are planning a retreat September 13-15 at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Retreat Center in Ocean City MD.

Look for the poster on the Women’s Ministries bulletin board by the front door of the lobby.
Pick up an information sheet, which will give you more details about our weekend.
We hope you will plan to join us; we always have fun with our “sisters”.

Don’t forget to sign your name. Retreat weekend will be here before you now it.



Join the Redeemer Fellowship Board!

As of now I am the Fellowship Board. Please consider joining this committee to help plan and offer social events for Redeemer. Interested?
Contact Bill Powers at church



National Neighborhood Night Out

August 6, 6-pm. Volunteers will set up at 5pm.
Come join us! There will be hotdogs, fruit, snacks and fun.



Period Poverty

Social Ministry’s special collection of female hygiene products

The collections of sanitary pads and tampons are needed year-round. If possible, please continue donating throughout the year.

There is a huge need for female hygiene products. It’s a fact that they are expensive, and we believe food stamps cannot be used to purchase these products.

Place your purchased items in the cabinet near the lobby elevator or give to a Social Ministry member of storage. Donation will be given to a local charity. In the past we have donated to YWCA, Milagro House and The Clare House. If you have an organization that you wish to have these donations given, please reach out to Ron or Sharon and the recommendations will be reviewed.

Any questions, please see Ron Snyder or Sharon Wingenroth

Thank you.
Blessings and peace to you from the Social Ministry Committee



Redeemer honored with Heifer International Ark Plaque #14

As many of you know, Heifer International is a non-profit organization that fights hunger and poverty throughout the world while caring for the earth.

Redeemer began supporting Heifer in 2002 when we had our first Alternative Gift Fair at which members could select an income- or food- producing animal as a holiday gift for relatives and friends. Also that year, our Sunday School students filled banks. With these two efforts, Redeemer gave a total of \$5,000, thus receiving our first Ark Plaque. Each \$5,000 represents 2 of each animal (male and female) that Heifer currently distributes, thus the Ark idea for the Plaques.

To continue to support Heifer International, annually, we have a Gift Fair and many of you add quarters to our “Quarter Tube” that when filled totals \$100!

The first 13 Ark Plaques, currently hanging in the library, represent Redeemer’s gifts of \$70,000 to Heifer International.

Our church has received Plaque #14 this year! Our 2023 Alternative Gift Fair donations and our Quarter Tube contributions allowed us to send another \$5,000 to Heifer.

Thank you again for your contributions and support of Heifer International!

The Social Ministry Committee.



School Kits

For the months of **August and September**, we will be helping Lutheran World Relief (LWR) by accepting the various contents to make up School Kits. Why School Kits? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies may make the difference between getting and education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford.

There will be a board with Post Notes in the Lobby. Each will contain a needed item. Please take them and supply the item from the note. All items should be new and in good condition and can be placed in the box near the board. Each kit will include:

- Four 70-sheet spiral notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8” X 10½””; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel pens)
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2 ½” eraser

Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please contact Ron Snyder or Sharon Wingenroth



Transportation Board Request

Now that a few more drivers have volunteered, the congregation is asking a member to "step up" and coordinate bus responsibilities until a Transportation Board Director can be identified. Job requirements are minimal and basically only involve scheduling drivers for the Sunday service. Interested? Please speak to Ted Nichols. Thank you!



Save the Date

This year's **CROP WALK** is October 20th.

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen. Additional information to come.

****ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME****



Summer Fun With Our Youth Kids

August 6 – National Neighborhood Night Out/6-8p at the church / ALL are welcome!

August 18 – Outdoor Fun – 2-6 – Held at Wheatland field, hockey field.

(we would like to have a picnic and bless the student's backpacks for back to school)



Youth News!

The youth group helped with the preparation of the yard sale site and with sales on the big day. Two very hot days but we got the work done!



September Messenger

Please have your articles to Kim, by Wednesday, September 25th.



Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, August 13th – Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 20th – Board Meetings

Devotions

Midweek Devotions are on 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.



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.



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!



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.



Tastykake's

The Community Gathering needs Tastykake's. 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!



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 contact Pastor Bob 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 Ted Nichols 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, 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 Levengood, 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

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

Days of Creation

R G K A S U A C I S K Y F A T R X
 K N Z K D D B E E R Z Y Q R H G A
 P I P W W R O T W O L D D M R O E
 W Z U Y S Z F L O W E R S O E D Z
 X X Y E T R E S T G J L K O E X N
 N Y V A N I M A L S A S S N S I X
 T R E E S R D L L I D A E I J A Y
 F I V E F I S H S G C R V Z K V G
 B D M W V D I Y T T P H E L Y U G
 Z T M A N O Y L A B O F N I J C J
 O Z R C Q I T U R O A O A G G T A
 N N X L M S K K S L M U N H D E I
 E L K B N D S G F C R R N T S S H
 S Y V A F A W U J X H E O X N K X
 U O P L Z R O J T E H S A A P C Y
 N K H V F K S B S S R R G R A S S
 B I W B I R D S N D B T X T G A G

Animals	Flowers	Birds	Grass	Light	Seven
Stars	Three	Trees	Dark	Fish	Five
Four	Moon	Rest	God	Man	One
Six	Sky	Sun	Two		