



Redeemer
L u t h e r a n C h u r c h

JUNE 2024
News Letter

Teach | Equip | Serve



Summer Schedule
June 1 - August 31

Weds. bible class 9:30am
Weds. worship 7pm
Sunday worship 9am
Sunday adult bible class
10:30am
No kids Sunday school
for the summer

520 Thayer Drive, Richland, WA 99352
www.richlandredeemer.org
office@richlandredeemer.org
office: 509-943-4967
office hours: Tues - Thurs 7:30 am - 4pm
Friday 7:30 am - 12:00 pm
Closed for lunch 12-1 daily

FROM THE PASTOR

OUR BEST INTENTIONS

"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" (Romans 7:15), so spoke the Apostle Paul. Somehow, he could not translate his best intentions into the actions he wished to do. This is the dilemma that has afflicted all Christians who sincerely want to do God's will.

Peter experienced it too. *"Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death"* (Luke 22:33), he declared, and he meant it. His best intentions were to stick with his Lord, no matter what. Yet Peter denied knowing his Lord, and, along with all the disciples, fled in fear the night of Jesus' betrayal (Mark 14:50). What he wanted to do, he failed to do. What he wanted not to do, that is what he did. We understand the dilemma well. Like Peter, we weep when faced with our failures. But we do not despair, for we have learned that, while on our own we fail, but with God we can do great things.

Christ went to His death on Calvary in order to buy us back from sin, death, and the devil. We are no longer captive to sin and immobilized by it. *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us"* (Romans 8:37). Jesus lived the perfect life for us; He shed His blood in payment for our sins; He suffered in our places; and He gives us grace that forgives our failures and gives us more opportunities to bear the fruit He called us and chose us to bear. Truly, with God we can do great things.

ELDERS CORNER – JUNE 2024

For at least the last 30 years there has been an addition to the primary reasons parents choose to send their children to a Christian school.

Our country and our world have become increasingly unfriendly to Christians, if not blatantly anti-Christian. The Judeo/Christian culture that guided the morals and laws of our country is being eroded. People who hold values consistent with a Biblical worldview are considered on the periphery and inconsistent with the culture's values. Political leaders and other leaders who claim strong Christian beliefs are perceived negatively and are often marginalized, or we can see that they are Christians in name only. Not only does this mean that our children must have excellent knowledge of God's word and a strong personal commitment in their personal lives, but they must also have greater tools to defend their faith in their adult years. In addition to having knowledge of all the subjects they learned in school, they must also have clear answers to complex questions they will face. With an increasing number of our children choosing to go to schools other than Christian colleges where they might grow and mature as Christian adults, they will be in classes with professors who, in most cases, think Christianity is for weak-minded people. And for those children not choosing to go to college, they immediately enter a secular world largely unfriendly to their Christian beliefs.

So, how do we deal with our world becoming more secular and antagonistic to our Christian belief? We must continue to support strong Christian-based schools that not only teach knowledge but also help students articulate their knowledge of all areas of life in a Christian way and are ready to defend their faith as consistent with their knowledge and academic life. This includes Christian day schools but also strong Sunday school programs in our churches.

Christian schools are not the only answer to this problem but are a huge part of preparing students for a world increasingly unfriendly to the Christian faith. Our church through the efforts of the Redeemer Lutheran School Exploratory Committee is examining all of the steps necessary to determine whether Redeemer should take on the responsibility of starting a Christian day school.

Please pray for the members of this committee and for our congregation as we consider expanding our mission at Redeemer to include a Christian day school. Also, please pray for a revitalization of our Sunday school program.

Jon Lindberg, Elder

Redeemer Lutheran School Exploratory Committee

Envisioning Redeemer Lutheran Elementary School

The school committee envisions Redeemer Lutheran Elementary as a K-5 Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) school located on Redeemer Lutheran Church property.



The committee envisions the Christ-centered private school employing a mix of LCMS and LCMS-trained Christian teachers who are joyful, knowledgeable, and experienced. The committee envisions the schools' teachers using individualized and group learning techniques that meet children at their points of need

to maximize learning and graduate students who exceed state and national public school standards.

The committee envisions the school delivering its professional LCMS-based teaching services in a secure and conducive learning environment – with teaching staff endeavoring to meet or exceed student and parent expectations. At Redeemer Lutheran Elementary, students' best interests would come first, and all decisions would be guided by professional ethics and faith in Jesus Christ.

A school committee member spoke recently with a 5-year-old Christian school student to better understand a few things from a child's perspective. The conversation follows.

1. Committee Member: My friends and I are working together to start a new Christian school. Do you have time to answer a few questions about the Christian school you attend?
Kindergartener: Yes, it would be fun!
2. Committee Member: Thanks! Here's the first question. After you wake up and get dressed and ready in the morning, do you feel happy or sad to be going to school? And why?
Kindergartener: Well, I go to afternoon Kindergarten, but I feel happy going to school, because it is my favorite place to be. I like my teachers. I get to learn things. We have a playground, and I play a bunch of games with my friends.
3. Committee Member: Sounds wonderful! Here's the second question. What kinds of things do you learn at school? And do you learn about Jesus?

Kindergartener: At school I learn to write my letters, to read books (but I can only read the paper books at school right now, not my books at home), to say sounds with 2 vowels (like for "ei" you just cross out the "i" and say "e"...it was very confusing the first time I learned it)... and I learn about Jesus.

4. Committee Member: How nice! Here is the third question. Who is Jesus? And why is it important to know Him?

Kindergartener: He is the Lord...Jesus Christ. It is important to know Him, because he is our Father, our Shepherd. Did you know we are his Sheep?

5. Committee Member: Yes, I did know that. Here's the fourth question. Have you ever been afraid or sad about something? If so, did you ask Jesus to help you? And did He help you?

Kindergartener: Well, I was afraid of dogs, and I was sad when my Boppa (Grandfather) died. I asked Jesus to help me not be afraid and not be sad. I'm not afraid of dogs anymore, but I still miss my Boppa.

6. Committee Member: I understand. Here's the fifth question. What would you say to people who don't want us to start a Christian School...maybe because it's too expensive?

Kindergartener: Earn the money. You have to have one. They (schools) are the only ones that teach about Jesus.

7. Committee Member: You're right! Here's the sixth question. Do you go to Sunday School? If not, why not?

Kindergartener: I go to church, but not to Sunday School. On Sunday, I get a day off. The weekend is the only time I don't have school.

8. Committee Member: I see. Here's the seventh and final question. Do you say a prayer before dinner? Can you say the Lord's Prayer? Do you have a favorite Bible verse?

Kindergartener: At dinner I make the cross and say, "Father, Son, Holy Spirit" then I say, "Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen." I can't say the Lord's Prayer, but my brother can. He's in First Grade. I can only sing the Lord's Prayer in Hawaiian. My favorite Bible verse is, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" Psalm 139, verse 14.

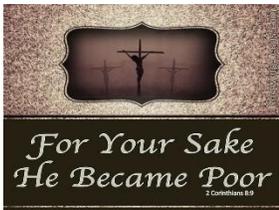
9. Committee Member: Wow! Very impressive! Anything else you would like to tell me about your Christian school?

Kindergartener: I have a church in my school. The other kids go to it, but I go to the Catholic Church. I have 14 kids in my class. I know, because one time I counted them. My favorite time is Bible Time, because we learn Bible stories then.

Committee Member: God bless you, beautiful child. Thank you for helping me.

Redeemer Lutheran Elementary School would reach/teach about one hundred K-5 children a year.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER



"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Without question, Jesus is the Chief Steward. None can compare to His example of selflessness and giving. He laid aside His rights as the Son of God in order to be the Son of Man. He was willing to endure ignominious death on the cross so that we could be rescued from sin, death, and the power of the devil. He taught us to think and live a new way – as servants available to serve, not to be served.



Friday, June 7 is the first Friday lunch at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome! Bring your appetite.

VOTERS' MEETING, SUNDAY JUNE 23

(immediately following service)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS IS ON THE AGENDA

OPEN POSITIONS

There are several positions at Redeemer that are open for FY24-25. The term will begin July 1, 2024. We will vote on the positions at the June Voters' meeting. There are copies of the duties of each position on the tables in the Narthex. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of the following positions:

Vice President (2 year term)

Treasurer (2 year term)

Secretary (2 year term)

Facilities Trustee (1 year term)

Offering Recording Secretary (1 year term)

Offering Counting Secretary (1 year term; 2 positions open)

Standby Treasurer (1 year term)

Memorials Point of Contact (2 year term)

Communications Point of Contact (2 year term)

Stewardship (2 year term)

Two Elders (3 year term)

OVERVIEW OF REDEEMER OPEN POSITION DUTIES

Vice President (2-year term, first as vice president, second as president)

Duties: Assume the president's duties in the absence of the president: Ensure the Redeemer Lutheran Church Constitution Purpose is faithfully executed; coordinate actions of officers, standing boards, and committees; preside over Council Meetings and Voters' Meetings; and sign or countersign legal documents, as the Business Trustee requests. Position currently filled by Sash Eirich.

Treasurer (2-year term)

Duties: Serve as principal financial officer of the congregation: Keep and disburse congregational money and sign all checks for the congregation; keep an accurate account of all congregational money received and disbursed; issue a written report of the congregation's financial status at each Church Council Meeting and each Voters' Meeting; and ensure a written yearly financial report is available to all members of the congregation. Position currently filled by Ronda Wolfe.

Secretary (2-year term)

Duties: Attend and document Voters' Meeting and Church Council Meeting proceedings. Formalize and forward Voters' Meeting, Church Council Meeting, and other formal meeting minutes, including "handout" attachments, to the Church Office Manager's permanent records. Keep electronic and hardcopy versions. Post review copies of the prior Voters' Meeting minutes in the church narthex at least two weeks before the next Voters' Meeting. Maintain a roster of Voting Members and a list of Voters' Meeting attendees and provide them to the Church Office Manager. Retain a current copy of the Redeemer Lutheran Church Constitution, Redeemer Lutheran Church Bylaws, and Redeemer Lutheran Church Policies and Procedures, and make them available at meetings. Position currently filled by Karin Nickola.

Facilities Trustee (1-year term)

Duties: Supervise the upkeep of the church and its grounds; including hiring and supervising custodial and yardwork services, as required. Supervise the upkeep of all buildings and properties; evaluate these buildings for maintenance needs twice per year and make repair recommendations to Church Council. Arrange for the semi-annual cleaning of the church and Sunday School facilities. Position currently filled by Mark Reeder.

Offering Recording Secretary (1-year term)

Duties: Maintain records of individual contributions and offerings to Redeemer Lutheran Church. Keep an accurate record of all offerings by envelope number and name and hold all such information confidential. Prepare and distribute year-end contribution summaries for each contributing member of the congregation. Secretary receives authority, guidance, and priorities from and remains accountable to Church Council. The Offering Recording and Offering Counting Secretaries may not be related. Position currently filled by Mark Rogers.

Offering Counting Secretaries (Two Needed; 1-year term)

Duties: Count cash, checks, and other donations given to Redeemer Lutheran Church via offerings and other collections and deposit collections in the bank. Provide weekly contribution records to the Treasurer and Offering Recording Secretary. Ensure all records are the congregation's property. Receive authority, guidance, and priorities from and remain accountable to Church Council. The Offering Recording and Offering Counting Secretaries may not be related. Position currently filled by Elmer Peterson and Becky Redeker.

Standby Treasurer (1-year term)

Duties: Assume the duties of the Treasurer when, for any reason, the Treasurer cannot perform assigned duties. Position currently vacant.

Memorials Point of Contact (2-year term)

Duties: Manage and recommend to Church Council how best to use Memorial Funds donated to the congregation to improve church property and/or fulfill Redeemer Constitution Purpose. Solicit input from the congregation and organize a list of worthwhile projects. Consider the wishes and/or desires of individuals associated with a given Memorial Fund, but remain solely responsible for recommendations to the Church Council of its use. Approve expenditures, within scope. Attend Church Council meetings, when request or recommendation approval is necessary. Position currently filled by Dan Niebuhr.

Communications Point of Contact (2-year term)

Duties: Manage the internal and external communications, public relations, and advertising of the congregation. Develop draft internal and external communications content for printed or electronic distribution. (e.g., newsletters, ads, and mailers). Review photographs for suggested general public release. Approve expenditures, within scope. Coordinate all actions with the Church Office Manager. Attend Church Council meetings, when request or recommendation approval is necessary. Position currently vacant.

Stewardship Point of Contact (2-year term)

Duties: Manage, plan, and carry out a continuing Christian stewardship education program. Encourage church members to use their time, talents, and treasures to help non-believers open their hearts to the Holy Spirit and become committed Disciples of Christ. Develop or update a strategic annual stewardship plan

identifying sources of revenue for completing simple, short-term goals and complex, long-term goals. Periodically report progress to Church Council members and the Voters' Assembly. Approve expenditures, within scope. Attend Church Council meetings, when request or recommendation approval is necessary. Position currently vacant.

Elder (Two Needed; 3-year term)

Duties: Ensure worship services, teaching, and other activities at Redeemer Lutheran Church are consistent with the Word of God, the church constitution, the church bylaws, and the church policies and procedures; advise the congregation in matters of doctrine and faith, and intercede with members who require admonition. Work with offices, boards, and committees to execute the Redeemer Lutheran Church Constitution Purpose. Work with the Altar Guild, ushers, acolytes, and others to ensure the altar and sanctuary are appropriately prepared and funded, and the church is suitably staffed for worship services. Provide pastoral services, if there is a pastoral vacancy. Oversee and arrange instruction for the youth confirmation class. Prepare written reports for each Church Council meeting and each Voters' meeting.

Positions are currently filled by Will Landrum (current head elder), Roy Wolfe, Jon Lindberg, Matt Schorzman, Rick Stutheit (outgoing), and Paul Julson (outgoing).

Please contact Sash Eirich at 509-430-3454 or sash.eirich@charter.net to express your interest in any of these open positions!

NEHLM UPDATE

Greetings,

"God is in control of everything!" exclaimed Rev. Paul with his delight in honoring mothers on Haiti's Mothers' Day (fourth Sunday of May). The ministry was able to provide a bag of food items to send home with each family because of receiving funds from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). Funds were distributed to a "sister" organization in Jacmael who then shared with other Lutheran churches. The attached pictures provide visuals of that joyous celebration.



June is planned to be a busy time for the ministry with June 5-9 being International Children's Days." The Haitian operated system that oversees the care of children will be involved with the children of Rev. Paul's ministry. I inquired how this system still functions with the Haitian government presently not operating. He responded, "Oh, they are supported by many international agencies who care and support children. They are operating because people from around the world are supporting them through many organizations." These International Children's Days usually involve presentations for the children, visits of "diplomats," and many other activities

that keep them all very busy.

Later in June there will be a special worship service at the Baja Church (about five miles from the main facilities). There will be choirs performing, meals, etc. with as many people as they can transport (or they get there themselves however they can, some walking).

They are navigating through the instability of the border and country without a government with steadfastness and care for people in the midst of all this. Praise God; surely, "God is in control of everything!"

God's peace,

Rev. Samuel Wiseman, NEHLM Pastoral Adviser



A FINAL NOTE FROM PRESIDENT LINNEMANN. . . .MAY 2024

Dear Friends in Jesus,

I am addressing you this way advisedly – you are my dear friends in Christ. That’s a reality I’ve been considering and cherishing during my final days as your District President. My heart swells as I think of the times we have shared together at conventions and conferences and in your congregations. I am deeply grateful for the trust you placed in me at five District conventions. I am also very thankful for the personal support so many have given to me over the years.



While I have many concerns regarding the state of the Synod, I see God working here at home in powerful ways. There are so many ministries in the Northwest District that have embraced their calling to their community and are being a blessing to those around them. I see joy in ministry in so many congregations, large and small – and it is inspiring to me to witness your dedication to the calling of sharing the love of God in Jesus Christ. You are a blessing to me, and I look forward to that blessing continuing well into the future.

I especially want to thank you for your support as we got word of Cindy’s cancer. So many of you have reached out and supported us in so many ways. There is good news on this front. Cindy is recovering well from her surgery, and all indications at this point are that the cancer has not returned. We continue regular scans to see what’s happening, and we are prepared for the future – whatever that may hold. God has blessed us through this journey, and so many of you have been His instruments of those blessings. We step into this next chapter from a position of strength.

I am also asking you to join me in prayer for our new President, Mike Von Behren. It is with no hesitation whatsoever that I turn the reins over to him on May 1. Mike is a gifted leader who will serve the District and the Synod well. Yet this calling is a challenging one, especially in the times we are in. Please join me

in asking our Lord for a special measure of His Spirit and strength for Mike and for Jen as they take on these responsibilities. I am convinced God will use them well.

I also want to say thank you to the staff of the Northwest District. They have been such good friends to me as well as performing their work above and beyond the call of duty. I am so thankful for each of them. The Lord has blessed this District with an outstanding ministry team.

After some time of refreshment and recovery, I am planning to make myself available to serve as an intentional interim pastor in the church. Being a pastor is my sweet spot. I am looking forward to the chance to serve as a pastor again as the Lord leads. In the meantime, know that I leave the past 15 years of ministry with joy in my heart and a confident anticipation for what is next. I pray the same is true for you. God bless each one of you.

Serving the Lord and His church,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Linnemann", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Dr. Paul Linnemann

President of the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

June Birthdays

- 1 Jon Lindberg, Luke Mauth
- 2 Freyja Compton
- 3 Lester Dougherty
- 8 Chris Beach, Lori Bisping, Lynn Bisping, Jamie young
- 9 Carl Garner, Jerrine Gjerdevig
- 11 Hannah Bond
- 12 Bev Kroll
- 13 Kathie Zaloudek, Denise Ritzmann
- 14 Troy Grall
- 16 Steven Rogers
- 19 John Cagle, Curt Gjerdevig
- 21 Dale Groeber
- 25 Beth Ruff
- 26 Rick Engelmann
- 28 Lynn Weldon
- 29 Pam Bobiles



Anniversaries

- 6 Pastor Todd & Gina Schroeder
- 12 Dick & June Jaquish, Ryan & Natalie Whitten
- 14 Chuck & Herm Fordham
- 19 Tom & Marge Valenti
- 23 Dee & Peggy McDorman
- 25 Randy & Kim Dykeman, Jerry & Lynn Weldon

July Birthdays

- 4 Ken Wendland, Taylor Gant
- 5 Dick Jaquish, Ronda Frank
- 6 Ray Boecker
- 7 Marlene Paris-Ufkes
- 8 Kathy Fisher
- 9 John Schug
- 10 Karl Mundt
- 11 Paul Mellick
- 13 Ona Meyer
- 14 Shirley Bigelow, Valarie Milbrath, Bernie Simpkins, Anthony Frank, Riley Yarbrough, Amelia Rebic
- 15 Angela Landrum, Stephanie Milbrath
- 17 Kylie Landrum
- 19 Jody Schug
- 20 Lonnie Turner
- 25 Roland Niemuth, Denise Rogers
- 26 Ginny Wendland
- 29 Ashleigh Beach
- 30 Kim Dykeman



July Anniversaries

- 1 Ed & Beth Ruff
- 3 Thom & Judy Nash
- 7 Brian & Stephanie Milbrath, Howard & Jamie Young
- 10 Will & Angela Landrum
- 12 Vic & Heather Garza
- 15 Robert & Elsa Beppe
- 16 Axel & Mary Gruen
- 18 Rick & Ramona Engelmann
- 25 Riley & Kelsey Yarbrough
- 29 Paul & Deb Werner
- 31 Pastor Laurence & Ona Meyer

PRAYERS – Please let the office know of any changes to the prayer page by calling 943-4967 or emailing office@richlandredeemer.org. *Indicates friends/family.

HOMEBOUND:

Pearl Raabe
Ruth Shook
Reta Siefken
Bernie Simpkins
Eileen Stixrud

CANCER:

Bob Littlejohn
John Schug
Barbara Connell* (sister-in-law of Sandy Guymon)
Phyllis Delvin
Rev. James & Ann Gier* (son & daughter-in-law of Marlene Paris-Ufkes)
Kevin Raabe* (son of Pearl Raabe)
Sandi Sheeley* (sister of Karin Nickola)
Deanna Snider*

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Ray Boecker
Bob & Cheryl Evenson
Chuck Fordham
Sally Grego
Elaine Kutrowski
Marj Littlejohn
Pearl Raabe
Ruth Shook
Reta Siefken
Bernie Simpkins
Eileen Stixrud
Bobbie Van Buren
Bev Wetzler
Gregg Lee* (son of Barbara Lee)
Jody Schug* (wife of John Schug)
Phillip Turner*

MILITARY:

Sam Willhoite
Darion Woodall
Brandin Bunch*
Jacob Cagle*
Brandon Gano*
Byron Gano*
Matthew Gano*
James Hare*
Sean Williams*

