



April 2020 Newsletter

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**Hello, beloved church!** I miss you and look forward with eagerness to the time when we will gather together again in the flesh. I doubt that will be soon or even by Easter, based on Governor Evers ruling to stay at home. We will let you know via Facebook, phone tree, or e-mail. Please, if you have not already done so, send Lois Anderson or Susan Drews an e-mail so that they will be able to add you to their lists. Remember that you can always call us or Pastor Sharon at 715-507-0618. Although we are isolated, we can still stay in contact....

**Worship:** I hope you have been able to worship with us on Facebook live. Pastor Phil, my husband and I, have worked together to lead worship for our 4 congregations. We are learning the ropes of preaching to our computer camera while trying to envision you dear souls in your homes. The "loving you" part is easy for both of us, the technical part, not so much! Have fun with the bloopers and pray that compassion wins and God's word is heard! You can help share the Word by "sharing" online. I am also posting devotions led by some of my pastor friends; give them a listen.... You can get the readings and prayers each week from the ELCA website.

**Connecting:** The days have been challenging in the Bogen household as we try to practice a new normal. We are unable to visit our homebound, trying to reach out by phone and grateful that some of you are calling and sending cards or drawings to our loved ones. Many of you have friended me on FB, so you know I am on it regularly to see what you are doing and listening for how I might be encouraging during this time. Glad to hear your responses and to see what your life is like. Proud to be church together: sewers who are busy making masks for our medical staff; crafters of all ages making hearts on your windows and doors, drawers who write chalk sayings to uplift their neighbors, FB users who bring hope and good cheer to each other. How touching for me to see you lift up small businesses in Tigerton and Wittenberg area. It makes me want to drive there to get some delicious take out. Thanks, parents and teachers, for all the creative ways you are loving on our children. Keep sending me pictures; they make me smile and cause me to pray out of gratefulness and trust that you and God will keep them safe and growing in mind, body and soul! Take note of the terrific resources on each of our websites (like each other's sites and enjoy the bountiful ideas).

**Feelings:** Discombobulated, overwhelmed, out of control....what shall I do first? Days are difficult to organize and keep on task. Maybe you feel this, too. Reminds me of the time our family went through the disastrous flood in ND, 1997. Every house and church and business had basements full of water. Our whole city of over 100,000 had to evacuate. We stayed with members of our church for one whole month until we could finally go home. How would you like to house your pastor's family with a 3-year-old and me, 43 years old, due with my baby any day? The hospitals were not open. What an experience! By the way, Adam was born a day after the hospital opened and the Holien family is still our dear friends 22 years later! That flood and this pandemic will affect us for years to come. "Normal" will keep evolving and it will change us. We pray that it will change us and our world for the better! **Your feelings are important; listen carefully and acknowledge your questions, worries, fears, confusion. Talk these feelings out with each other.** Use me as a sounding board. Open conversations with your spouse and with your children are crucial as you live in tight quarters. Phil and I have shed a few tears together and had some good laughs, too. We are beginning to trust that retirement will be a workable phase in our life....even if we have no clue where we will live or what our finances will be...that's another story and set of feelings. Pray for us as we will for you!

**Wilderness Journey:** That's what Lent is. And what a hike we are on - winding down trails we never expected or ever dreamed of - uncharted territory. What are you learning? God is teaching me that I do not know as much as I think. I am not in control. I need to ask for help. I need to trust others to share my load. It's ok to

slow down. It's necessary to take breaks. And most importantly, relationships are what makes us rich and what gives us purpose. They make us human with those who are close and with those who are far. My heart is pulled first by family, then by my church families and colleagues; but it also has capacity to feel for strangers in our hospitals and in the current most devastated places like New York, Italy, and China.

When you form your opinions about what matters in life, open your hearts wider than any "self-help" thinking. We truly are in this together...we always have been, but now we are faced with reality head on. We as God's church have a message to claim. **God loves the whole world.** God will not let us go, neither should we let one person be forgotten. Prayers that you and I will continue to make this difference in each other's lives!!! We live and walk on a Good Friday trail for now, but, my friends, Easter is coming!!!! It will be glorious whether we worship in our homes or our church. As the body of Christ, we live an Easter life every day!

**Psalm 131: My prayer for you and for me:** (Message Bible) God, I'm not trying to rule the roost, I don't want to be king of the mountain. I haven't meddled where I have no business or fantasized grandiose plans. (my insert – "well maybe a little in our dreams for retirement...") I've kept my feet on the ground; I've cultivated a quiet heart. Like a baby content in its mother's arms, my soul is a baby content. **Wait, Israel, for God. Wait with hope. Hope now; hope always!**

#### Offerings

It is our duty and delight that we should, at all times and all places, give thanks to you, O God! Giving offerings in worship is what we do, an integral part of who we are in relationship with God. All that we have and are comes from God. Thus, we give of our first fruits to say thank you and to contribute to the work of the church, the ministry that happens through our local efforts, but also through the work of our Synod and our Church wide organization. Your gifts help in far-reaching ways. I am writing my check to each congregation today. I pray that you will do the same for your church. Please send them to your treasurer:

Zion - Jan Thompson

P.O. Box 238

Wittenberg, WI 54499

Redeemer – attention Peggy Hartleben

P.O. Box 220

Wittenberg, WI 54499

### Pastor Sharon Fox Bogen

If you have any needs our church could help you with, please contact:

*Pastor Sharon Fox-Bogen ~ 715-507-0618*

*Church Office ~ 253-2590*

[redeemerwitt@gmail.com](mailto:redeemerwitt@gmail.com) ~ Church office

[sfoxbogen@gmail.com](mailto:sfoxbogen@gmail.com) ~ Pastor Sharon

On Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/RedeemerWittenberg](http://www.facebook.com/RedeemerWittenberg)

On the web at: [redeemerlutheranwittenberg.weebly.com](http://redeemerlutheranwittenberg.weebly.com)

Services may be accessed on our Redeemer website by clicking on the this month at Redeemer button and then the service.

**A poem adapted from St. Teresa of Avila**

God has no body on earth but yours,  
No hands but yours, No feet but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which God looks,  
God's compassion on the world.  
Yours are the feet with which God goes about doing good.  
Yours are the hands with which God blesses all.  
Yours are the eyes, yours are the feet, yours are the hands,  
God's compassion on the world.  
God has no body on earth but yours.

**Prayers during this Pandemic**

For whom shall we pray?  
For doctors and nurses, all hospital staff, pharmacists, those who are working towards cures  
For firefighters, police, grocery store workers, truck drivers, garbage collectors  
For those who care for our elderly and for our children  
For parents and teachers  
For our government - locally, nationally and worldwide  
For custodians everywhere  
For pastors and bishops and church members  
For postal workers and technicians and social media creators  
For musicians and artists  
For the lonely, lost, homeless, forgotten, hopeless  
For all those suffering from any sickness, especially in these uncertain days with Covid 19  
For all who whose loved ones have died  
For our world as we hear the cries of the earth itself and its people world-wide  
For whom do you offer prayer?.....

**LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER!**

## Redeemer Prayer Chain

Please call anyone on this list with the name(s) of the person for whom you would like prayers. That person will call the next one on the list, etc. etc.

- 1) Lorna Alberg.....715-253-2721
- 2) Ruth Bowers.....715-253-2845
- 3) Ida Brekke.....715-253-2734
- 4) Audrey Hartleben.....715-253-2416
- 5) Gail Koehler.....715-253-2637
- 6) Faith Kristof.....715-253-2637
- 7) Lee and JoAnn Innerebner.....715-253-2200
- 8) Mary Netzler.....715-253-6290

- If you cannot reach the person on the list after your name, skip to the next person, please.
- If anyone else would like to be added to the prayer chain to pray for others in need, please let Pastor Sharon, Lois Anderson, or someone on the chain know.

Thank you everyone,  
Worship, Music and Arts Committee

Pastor Sharon Fox Bogen.....715-507-0618

Lois Anderson.....715-253-2603

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
March 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Arla Block

Members present:

Vice-President: Arla Block

Secretary: Deb Rieck                      Treasurer/WMA: Peggy Emmel

Education: Ann Hawley, Shondel Hansen, Mary Peterson

Parish Life: Lois Anderson

Trustee: Paul Pehlke

Worship, Music, & Arts: Maribeth Netzler, Linda Evje

Pastor Sharon Fox Bogen

A quorum was present.

Motion made by Linda Evje, seconded by Maribeth Peterson, to approve the agenda.  
Carried.

Council visitors: None

Motion made by Paul Pehlke, seconded by Lois Anderson, to approve the February 2020 Meeting Minutes. Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer's report shows an account balance of \$84,386.48 as of February 29, 2020. Of that amount, \$42,551.75 is non-budget, and the budget has a balance of \$41,834.73.

Motion by Mary Peterson, seconded by Shondel Hansen, to approve the Treasurer's Report and the bills as presented to be paid. Carried.

Discussion was had on moving some money out of the checking account and into a higher yielding interest CD.

Motion by Linda Evje, seconded by Lois Anderson, to pay off Benevolence lines 203, 204, 205, 210 for a total amount of \$1,500. Motion carried.

Motion by Paul Pehlke, seconded by Maribeth Netzler, to move \$35,000 from checking and \$5,000 from Thrivent fund to a higher yielding interest CD. Motion carried.

**PASTOR'S REPORT**

- Pastor expressed her gratitude to the many people that have been a great help during her transition. She thanked all those that helped with and during the 3 funerals and all those that have helped with organizing services and activities for the church.

- Pastoral Care: Visited members in the hospital and Homme Home. There are 24 homebound members. It would be nice to have 2 or 3 visiting helpers that would be willing to make connections with our members that are unable to get to church but who would like to stay connected.
- Newsletter: Provided articles for 2 months
- WMA Committee: Would appreciate if settings and song choices were in to Lois one month prior to each quarter in order to have things proofed and prepared well in advance. Pastor would appreciate any feedback or suggestions for special services such as Ash Wednesday, Lent, etc.
- Pastor asked if we could get summer and fall dates on our calendars soon.
- Opening and Locking of Church Building on special occasions seems to be a concern.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Parish Life

- Reviewed letters regarding membership. Will revise a new letter for council and Pastor to review.
- Game night was in February.

### Parish Education

- Early service is making it difficult for parents to get students to church.
- Volunteers needed for Easter Breakfast.
- Still discussing this years end date.
- Activity Day planned for Sunday after Easter “The Incredible Church Fun Day” for both youth and adults.

### Trustees

- Paul has started to look at new computers. Need one with a CD drive.
- Furnace Committee: Brad Zeinert, Ryan Buntrock, Paul Pehlke, Kevin Rosenow

### Worship/Music/Arts

- Collected flowers for Easter Cross.
- Palms are ordered.
- Prayer chain is put together.
- Ann will purchase flowers for Easter service like she did at Christmas (which can then be purchased by members of the congregation).

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Securities Regulation change: New rules established for managing accounts. Must deal directly with the holder of the funds. Motion made by Mary Peterson, seconded by Maribeth Netzler, to have Edward Jones hold all church accounts. Motion carried.

Church is getting \$250 from Thrivent for Easter Breakfast.

Sharing of Peace during service will be eliminated for a few months.

Next Council meeting, Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00pm. Note date change due to Maundy Thursday.

Devotions led by Pastor Sharon.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion made by Peggy Emmel, seconded by Linda Evje, to adjourn. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Rieck  
Council Secretary

## Our Monetary Discipleship for March 2020

Worship Date	Worship Attend	General Fund (Budget)	Building Fund (Non-Budget)	Sunday School Offering (Budget)	Other Income
3/1	31	\$ 1285			\$125 Greater Wausau Christian Services
3/4	23	\$776			\$38 Soup & Sandwich
3/8	38	\$ 1100.26			
3/11	?	\$102			\$39 Soup & Sandwich
3/15	42	\$ 1341			\$20 Missions

Offering envelopes are available in the wall rack near the main entrance door in the Gathering Space. Please use an envelope with your offering and **write your name and amount on the envelope** if you include cash. Using the envelopes insures you get credit for monies given to the church.

### ALTAR GUILD:

January & February: Gail Koehler & Ruthie Olsen  
 March & April: Dianne Long & Kari Zeinert  
 May & June: Dave & Shirley Schmidt & Linda Evje  
 July: Lois Anderson & Nancy Pehlke      August: Miriam Nelson  
 September: Peggy Hartleben & Peggy Emmel      October: Deb Rieck  
 November & December: Lori Hartleben & Fay Rosenow

**The duties include set up and clean up of communion, changing the altar cloths (when needed) and watering the plants.**

### NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Thank you to all the newsletter sponsors:

January, 2020    **Carleton & Jean Benz** – In honor of their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and in memory of sons Larry and Brian

**Arletta Crowell** – In memory of her husband, Elmer

February, 2020    **Roland & Karen Hendrikson** – In memory of Roland's sisters Margaret, Carol and Karen

March, 2020    **June Norrbom** – In memory of Carl and Loren

June, 2020    **Lee & JoAnn Innerebner**

August, 2020    **Carol Klinner and family** – In memory of Hilbert Klinner

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter for 2019, please make a check payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church for \$60.00 and write a note with your name and the month you would like to sponsor. Please include on the note in honor of or in memory of (if you wish).

This can be put in with the weekly offering or mailed to the church office.

The monthly sponsorship covers the cost of those newsletters being mailed, along with the monthly fee for our website. Thank you to all who sponsor the monthly newsletter!



## Redeemer Youth News

Things seem to be changing frequently due to the coronavirus, but the following is the schedule we hope to have for the month of April.

- No Sunday School for the rest of March to match the dates that schools are closed.
- Confirmation students will be getting online lessons to work on.
- April 5 (Palm Sunday), we have been invited to Zion at 9:30 a.m. for a "Donkey Walk." We will be traveling to a nearby hobby farm and visiting the animals. (This may be canceled, but we can always do it next year.)
- No Sunday School on Easter, April 12. There will be no Easter breakfast this year due to planning issues, but we will plan to have a breakfast later this spring.
- On Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have our next regular Sunday School followed by worship and then lunch at Zion for anyone interested. (\$8 for adults, \$4 for children, free for those under 5) In the afternoon on April 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a pool party at the Smith Aquatic Center for Redeemer and Zion from 1:00-5:00 with snacks provided by the Sunday School teachers in the lobby.
- Be sure to check out our church website at <http://redeemerlutheranwittenberg.weebly.com/3-years-old---5th-grade-faith-formation.html> for fun crafts, lessons, songs, and games you can enjoy as a family when we can't meet for Sunday School.

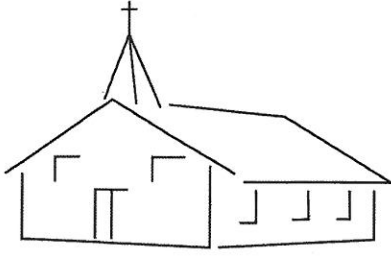
## Flowers for Easter

A variety of flowers will be available April 5<sup>th</sup> in the Gathering Space so we can decorate our church for Easter. Just like we did for the poinsettias at Christmas, you can pay **Ann Hawley** and put a sticker with your name on the flower(s) that you choose. Then put it under the table so we know those flowers are spoken for. There will be a sign-up sheet so we can put your name in the Easter bulletin, with a message if you would like "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one. **Flowers will be sold close to cost, but if there is a slight profit, the money will be saved for Ana Luis, the Compassion International student from Mexico that the Sunday School children sponsor.** There will be a separate sheet if you would like to purchase your own flower(s), but still include your loved one's name in the bulletin. (In case we don't have church on April 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be some flowers available for purchase on Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, and names would be in the following week's bulletin-if we have church on Easter.)

## Greater Wausau Christian Services

Thank you to anyone who donated to Greater Wausau Christian Services. We raised a total of \$200 which is enough for them to purchase about 13 Life Recovery Bibles for inmates at the County Jail and Delinquency Center. Greater Wausau Christian Services also sponsors "Open Door" which provides interview clothes and services to those recently released from jail, Bible studies at nursing homes, and "Kids Kount" which provides gifts for children of those incarcerated. Although Bible studies at the jail and nursing homes are currently canceled due to the coronavirus, they will eventually resume. The money is greatly appreciated!





## **The Incredible Church Fun Day**

Mark your calendars for **April 19**-the Sunday after Easter. Start with worship (and Sunday School) either at Redeemer or Zion. Then enjoy a wonderful buffet lunch at Zion from 11:30-1:30 (their annual fundraiser). Next for those interested (especially the Zion and Redeemer Sunday School children and their families), there will be a fun pool party at the Smith Aquatic Center at Wittenberg-Biramwood High School between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm with treats provided in the lobby by Redeemer's Sunday School teachers. Hope you can join us for this "Incredible Church Fun Day" with our extended church family!

If you're not into swimming, you may want to head to the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point for "Ode to Unity"-a performance of the Wausau Lyric Choir, the Monteverdi Chorale, and Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra at 4:00 pm.

Pool Costs: children under 5 = \$3, students = \$4, individuals = \$5, seniors 60+ = \$4, and family = \$12.  
Lunch at Zion: \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, and free for those 5 or younger.

Choir: \$11.37-\$30.33 For more info go to <https://www.facebook.com/pg/wausaulyrichoir/events/>

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

TOM SCHRANK	4-1
JEAN BENZ	4-3
JULIE OLSON	4-4
JOSH LANG	4-5
KODY EVJE	4-6
RUTHIE OLSEN	4-6
PEGGY EMMEL	4-6
BETTY ZEINERT	4-9
ANN HAWLEY	4-12
ERIN HAWLEY	4-15
CHARLIE SPARR	4-16
KURT EVJE	4-19
JENNIFER SCHRANK	4-20
ANN BLOCK	4-22
GARETH CLARK	4-23
LINDA CLOUGH	4-24
MARY PETERSON	4-24
CHAD PETERSON	4-27



## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

DICK & RUTHIE OLSEN	4-11
BRUCE & JOY HARTLEBEN	4-18
JESSE & CARLA HANKE	4-20
JOEL & PEGGY HARTLEBEN	4-30