

June 2021 Newsletter

Sponsored by

Deb Rieck & Kevin Rosenow

In Loving Memory of Their Fathers

Richard Semrow & Ron Rosenow

“Ubuntu”

This has been one long year!! (Year and a half!) So much upheaval in so many lives – families, communities, and churches. Some claim a loss of freedom to go and do what they want! We long to see our loved ones, to travel, to sing to our heart’s content in worship, and to have a potluck again! We long for carefree days, don’t we? For church to be back to normal.... with no restrictions! You don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone!

As your pastor, I long for time to just “Be together”. Time to fellowship, to play and dream together. Time to share our stories and wonder together about the ministry that God has in mind for each of our churches and for our new parish. A simple, happy time would be a breath of fresh air, a good place to start!

This article, written by my friend Marilyn Jozwik caught my eye. She shares a story about an anthropologist in Africa who offered a fruit basket to a group of boys. To win this prize, they had to be first in a race to the finish line! The boys lined up. The man blew the whistle. To his surprise, they all linked arms and walked together to the basket! When he asked why, they said “Ubuntu”. Translated that means “How can we be happy if the rest are not happy?”

I had learned this beautiful word earlier from my South African friends who our Tomorrow River Church Conference (Wausau area ELCA) hosted several years. They taught us that “Ubuntu” means, “I am because you are.” What a great word to describe how to be God’s church in the world! I pray that Zion-Redeemer Lutheran Parish, continues to link arms and walk together!

I believe, that being the church will bring more than “success” or “happiness”. We can learn who and what God has called us to do and to be. As we share our own joy in belonging to one another, others will be blessed. In serving others, God will help us bear much fruit. In the process of sharing, we become who God intends us to be. When we engage in speech and action that lifts others up, we are lifted up. The church is the body of Christ gathered as one so that all can know “complete joy!” Goodness for more than one, for every color, culture, skill, and nation will feed a hungry and hurting world.

We know the world’s tempting idea of happiness can be very short-sighted and ego-centric: Look, everyone! You need this: the latest truck for your hunting and fishing trips; the vacation of your dreams - all perks included; a deck to die for; a proven diet and fitness program to give you abs, the envy of your friends; the latest gadget that will change your life! This sort of happiness is fleeting – here and gone! Compassion and community can bring long lived happiness!

You and I have been created to “bear fruit”. As God’s church we are on a journey of love together! “Ubuntu”! “You are because we are!” God, in Jesus calls us into one body, moved by the Holy Spirit. This God of hope brings life out of death and offers “complete joy” to all people. We are on a mission, linking our arms and hearts together as we share God’s gift of abundant life. In Jesus, the race is already won - joy enough to give and to receive, now and forevermore! In Jesus, we lack nothing!

Ubuntu from Pastor Sharon

MASKS ARE NOW OPTIONAL

After discussions from the Worship, Music and Arts committee and the Council, and reviewing the survey results, beginning June 6, we will follow CDC guidelines and have mask wearing optional for people who have been fully vaccinated. We will continue singing the last hymn and ask that masks be worn during singing as per WI Council of Churches guidelines. People are still encouraged to wear a mask if they feel compromised. Please use your best judgement for the benefit of all.



ELCA WORLD HUNGER

**“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”**

(Hebrews 13:16)

Dear Friends,

Hala is a 37-year-old mother of four young children and a refugee from Sudan living in Cairo, Egypt. Hala’s husband died when COVID-19 first hit Africa, and she was left to support her four children alone. COVID-19 safety measures had temporarily closed many of the nongovernmental organizations that normally support refugees. Without her husband’s income, Hala couldn’t afford rent, and she and her young children risked eviction.

Thankfully, St. Andrew’s Refugee Services (StARS) – supported by ELCA World Hunger – continued its work during the early days of the pandemic. Hala reached out to one of the community-based organizations StARS supports and was connected to a caseworker, who helped her get an emergency grant to cover her rent for the next month and resources to find a job.

When you donate to ELCA World Hunger, you support programs such as this one that help people during times of crisis. This is one pillar of our shared work as church to end hunger and poverty in nearly 60 countries around the world, including in the United States. Your gifts fund programs focusing on education; health, water and sanitation; agriculture and nutrition; income and savings; peace, justice and human rights; and advocacy and community organizing. This is part of Jesus Christ’s call on our church. And to answer the call, we need you.

Please support people such as Hala by making a gift to ELCA World Hunger today. All gifts will be matched – dollar for dollar – until we reach \$125,000.

With gratitude,
The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and
Lutheran Disaster Response Funding
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Communion Changes

Communion will be given on the 1st & 3rd weeks of worship during the summer months.

Tentative plans in the making to join together for worship on the 4th of July. Watch your e-mails and bulletins and July newsletter for final decisions of place and time!

Summary of ELCA Churchwide Synod Assembly Report 2020 -21

Pastor Sharon, Gary and Laura Clark attended via Zoom. Bishop Anne Edison-Albright and VP Bill Horne came across loud and clear; others were difficult to hear. These two reports made my heart sing about the leadership and work of our larger church during this Covid Year. Your prayers and financial support are making a difference here, in our nation, and world!

Our congregations in the East Central Synod of WI gave \$674,832.

Our congregations across the USA gave \$40,739,221.

Like us and all congregations this past year, our leadership in Chicago had to think out of the box. They decided to help pastors and other leaders by raising more funds - \$1,8 million - which served 400,000 people. This funded 830 ministries, some right here. My salary and custodians' paychecks at both Zion and Redeemer were covered for several months. Church of the Wilderness and Crossways Camping Ministry benefitted along with Pilgrim in Wausau for their Domestic Hunger Program.

Here is how we made a difference in the world: Lutheran Disaster Relief was there aiding 49 countries; seminaries were given \$2.8 million to train much needed pastors. The ELCA supports missionaries in Kenya, Tanzania, Japan, South Africa. Our ELCA is deeply involved with hunger advocacy and education around the world (14% hungry) and around the corner (1 out of 4 children in the USA). Your donations provide food and other resources: medical needs, shelter, access to clean water, sustainable agriculture, livestock, loans for women to work or start a business, medical care, and education with it all! We can all be proud of this mission work.

The High School Youth Gathering is set for July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis. The theme is "Boundless – God Beyond Measure" I would love to go with a group from our Parish. It is incredible worshipping with 20,000 voices, listening to speakers who inspire youth, and witnessing the faith of teens come alive! Who wants to be a chaperone with me?

Redeemer Kids

**Zion Lutheran Church in Tigerton is inviting you to
ROAR with them at their VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL**

July 26-29 6:00pm-8:00pm

Your friends are welcome too!





ARLA, LOIS & ANN LAY MINISTRY GRADUATES!!!

Summary of Lay Ministry School

June, 2021

Thank you to the congregation for sponsoring us (Arla Block, Lois Anderson, and Ann Hawley) for two years so we could attend the East Central Synod of Wisconsin Lay School of Ministry. We learned so much and feel more confident in our abilities to lead services and/or teach Sunday School. (The cost is \$525/year for the core classes including the books.)

Classes were held Friday evening and Saturday morning one weekend a month from September through May. This year classes met virtually using Zoom. Next year there will be a virtual option, but we all agreed that we liked meeting in person at St. Andrew Church in Wausau better, so hopefully that will be available too.

Last year's courses were 1) Old Testament, 2) Systematic Theology, 3) Liturgy and Life, and 4) Faith and Spirituality. This year's courses were 1) New Testament, 2) Lutheran Confessions, 3) Faith and Spirituality, and 4) Church History. Continuing education courses are also offered. According to their website, the subject of these courses often encompass more timely events or dive deeper in conversations that students are pondering. Students are not required to have completed the core classes to participate in the continuing education courses. These courses vary from year to year. This year they were 1) Liberation Theology (a movement that looks at the good news through the lens of the least, the marginalized, the exploited, the oppressed); 2) Christ at the Center (explore the Hebrew Bible-upon which the Old Testament is based, and show how these writers were preparing people for the coming of Christ); 3) A Return from Exile-Marks of the Church in a Pandemic Age (what the new normal will look like: in-person and virtual); and 4) Homiletics: Preaching and Practice (crafting a faithful, inspirational sermon). The cost is \$100 per class or all four for \$300.

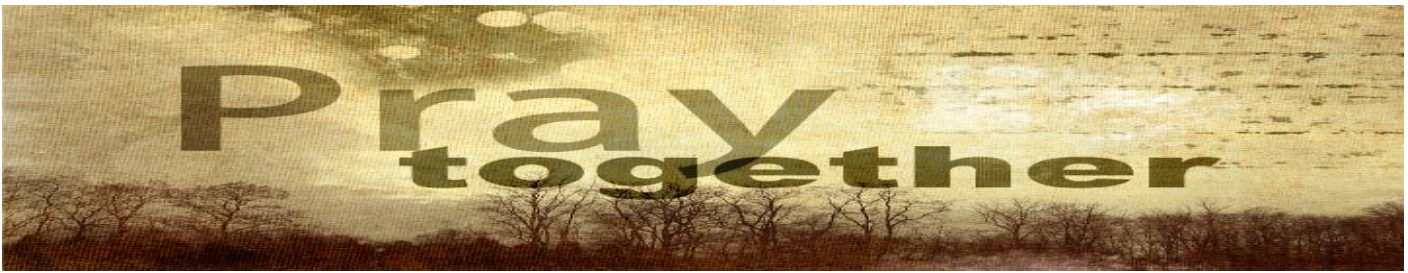
If interested in attending Lay Ministry School check out their website (www.ecswLaySchool.org) or ask Arla, Lois or Ann. It would really be beneficial for your own personal knowledge and for our congregation.

Personal Reflections:

Ann-I enjoyed the monthly readings and the in-depth discussions. One of the things on my "bucket list" was to read the entire Bible, and I did it because of Lay Ministry School!

Lois-I also enjoyed the monthly readings. It was an opportunity to see things I thought I knew about in a new, in-depth perspective. I particularly liked the Old and New Testament courses, the Faith and Spirituality courses and Liturgy and Life.

Arla-I enjoyed the study of the Old and New Testament especially the discussions that went beyond actual fact as some words are symbols of what they describe. I enjoyed the fellowship when we were able to meet in person the first year. Having class via "zoom" was necessary but not as rewarding.



THE POWER OF PRAYER WORKS!!

Please remember in your prayers our homebound members...

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Ann Block | Kay & Reuben Carlson | Gert Schmidt |
| Grace Hartleben | Arletta Crowell | Maggie Guestchow |
| Ann Johnson | Vian Kersten | June Norrbom |
| Verna Tellock | Donna Kubiacyk | Marcia Tellock |
| Gordon & Agnes Schlender | Audrey Hartleben | |
| Lorna Alberg | Eugene & Joanne Pruess | |

Your calls and visits are greatly appreciated. Pastor Sharon tries to visit monthly. She would welcome a volunteer to help. If you'd like to add a prayer request to this list please call the prayer chain below or the church at 715-253-2590 and leave a message.

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 | 6) Lee & JoAnn Innerebner
715-253-2200 |
| 2) Ida Brekke 715-253-2734 | 7) Mary Netzler 715-253-6290 |
| 3) Audrey Hartleben 715-253-2416 | |
| 4) Gail Koehler 715-253-6275 | |
| 5) Faith Kristof 715-253-2637 | |

Our Monetary Discipleship for May 2021

Worship Date	Worship Attend	General Fund	Missions	Building Fund	Sunday School Offering	Other Income	Total
5-2	24	\$1275.00	\$50.00				\$1325.00
5-9	45	\$2030.00					\$2030.00
5-16	23	\$1785.00				\$60.00 Newsletter for March 2022 - Norrbom	\$1846.00
5-23	26	\$1065.00					\$1065.00
5-31	22	\$1520.00					\$1520.00
Total		\$7716.00	\$50.00			\$60.00	\$7826.00

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.

Using the envelopes insures you get credit for monies given to the church and helps with the accounting.

ALTAR GUILD:

May & June: Linda Evje & Judy Boda

July: Lois Anderson & Nancy Pehlke

August: Miriam Nelson

September: Peggy Hartleben & Peggy Emmel

October: Deb Rieck

November: Lori Hartleben & Fay Rosenow

December: Linda Evje

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



Arianna Cismoski	6-3
James Clark	6-5
Sharon Fox Bogen	6-6
Kimberly Backes	6-6
Nicole Peterson	6-6
Brad Block	6-8
Andy Peterson	6-9
Fay Rosenow	6-11
Audrey Hartleben	6-12
Laylah Horne	6-16
Jeff Philipp	6-16
Jackie Berndt	6-18
Jill Kristof	6-18
Chris Benson	6-21
Miriam Nelson	6-23
Gail Koehler	6-28
Mary Mattes	6-30

Mike & Kim Gilbertson	6-3
Ryan & Heather Buntrock	6-4
Lee & JoAnn Innerebner	6-19
Jim & Mary Netzler	6-21
Chris & Kaylee Benson	6-23
Jeff & Sandra Lang	6-28
Ann & John Powers	6-29
Calon & Ann Hawley	6-30
Darwin & Betty Zeinert	6-30

June 14th



June 20th



PIE IN THE PARK

**Third Thursday of the Month - June 17, July 15, August 19
at the Tilleda Shelter, 6:00pm-8:00pm**

Pie, Ice Cream & Music - \$2

Music will be provided.

Come and relax while the kids try out the playground.

Sponsored by Tilleda Advancement Assoc.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES May 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Arla Block

Members present:

President: Arla Block

Vice President: Paul Norrbom

Secretary: Deb Rieck

Treasurer/WMA: Peggy Emmel

Parish Life: Gail Koehler, Judy Boda

Pastor Sharon Fox Bogen

Trustee: Paul Pehlke, Clint Horn

Worship, Music, & Arts: Linda Evje, Kim Timm

A quorum was present. Opening Devotions by Kim Timm

Motion made by Linda Evje, seconded by Paul Pehlke, to approve the agenda. Carried.

Council Visitors: None

Motion made by Paul Pehlke, seconded by Linda Evje, to approve the April 8, 2021 Minutes. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report shows an account balance of \$62,242.62 as of April 30, 2021. Of that amount, \$23,553.26 is non-budget, and the budget has a balance of \$38,689.36. Peggy noted that April was over budget due to insurance payments, and that the Compassion donations are down so that fund is already short.

Motion made by Kim Timm, seconded by Paul Pehlke, to approve the Treasurer's Report and the bills as presented to be paid. Carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor thanked and noted many individuals who have been giving of their time and service.
- Attended a wedding counseling meeting as well as Parish Life and Joint Council. Joint Council President is Dave U'ren, and Secretary is Peggy Emmel.
- Synod Assembly is May 14 and 15. She will be attending via Zoom with the Clarks.
- Funeral service for Ruth Bowers April 10.
- Working with Education to help plan VBS, fall confirmation classes, First Communion, Sunday School curriculum.
- Made home visits/phone calls to parishioners.
- Vacation in the Dells was wonderful.
- She noted that attendance at worship is improving, confirmation at both churches was rewarding, McKenna's Confirmation took place May 9, and there is a sense of turning the corner with covid demands.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parish Life

- Provided Mother's Day Carnations to Moms at church on Mother's Day.
- Will plan for doughnuts and coffee after service on May 23, Pentecost.

Trustees

- Paul P., Paul N. and Clint did a walk-through of the church and grounds to assess upkeep needs. Currently working on getting quotes.

Parish Education No Report

Worship/Music/Arts

- Starting in June Communion will be on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. No communion May 30.
- 4th Sunday of the month will be Service of the Word starting May 30.
- Church will be decorated in red May 23 for Pentecost. Wear red that Sunday.
- Discussing options for changing the singing and mask requirements for the summer months.
- July 4 this year is on a Sunday. Will talk with Zion about possibly combining and having only one service that day instead of two due to historically low numbers over that holiday weekend.

OLD BUSINESS

- New iPad for live streaming has been purchased. Working on getting it set-up on a Facebook Business account. Volunteers will be needed to assist each week.
- Wireless headsets have been purchased but still need to be hooked up.
- Still do not have enough volunteers signing up for money counting each week.

NEW BUSINESS

- A/C wiring is done. Thanks to Kevin Rosenow for his generous gift of paying for this service to be completed.
- Shondel Hansen has resigned from the Council Education Committee. Thank you Shondel for your years of service on Council and teaching Sunday School.
- Cemetery committee/association needs to reorganize/meet to review and organize record keeping procedures and cemetery upkeep needs.

Next Council meeting, Thursday, June 10 at 5:30pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. Motion made by Linda Evje, seconded by Kim Timm, to adjourn. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Rieck

Council Secretary

Redeemer Lutheran Church
W18205 College Avenue
P.O. Box 220
Wittenberg, WI 54499
(715) 253-2590
redeemerwitt@gmail.com



***The mission of Redeemer Lutheran Church
is to care for all people through the proclamation of the Gospel,
celebration of the sacraments, and service to our neighbor.***

***We strive to accomplish this by our witness at church, home, school,
work and play, all to the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.***

Bringing people to Christ ~ Bringing Christ to people