



March 2020 Newsletter
Sponsored by
June Norrbom in memory of
Carl and Loren

From Pastor Sharon - Blessings to you as we enter the season of Lent,

This past week we had 3 deaths in our 2 congregations. How quickly our lives changed! The families of Donna Mae Rosenow, Mary Ann Peters, and Roma Verg-Milligan kept vigil while these precious and incredible women passed from life to death. Along with Bob and Benjy, our capable funeral directors, Redeemer and Zion church volunteers began funeral preparations to honor these beloved members. Thank you for your love and practice of being the church, together in joy and in sorrow.

As your pastor I am privileged to work with you in such holy times and give witness with you to God who brings life out of death. We need God all the time but when death confounds us, we often come to realize that there is nowhere else to turn. In Christ Jesus, we find hope and life here on earth and in the life to come. In the cross, where Jesus dies, we are given the victory of new life. It is so fitting that we begin this Lent with repentance, ashes on our forehead, and the gift of Holy Communion to fill us for the journey ahead.

Here are portions of an interesting article I read written by Leah D. Schade, Asst. Prof. at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky.

“Our society does not like to think about death. We do everything we can to keep death and decay at bay. We try to present a clean face to the world through our Facebook pictures, our Tweets, our status updates. It’s important to show that we are happy, that life is in order. Our consumer capitalist system is constructed around the task of selling you products to keep life upbeat, exciting, driven, sweet, delicious, and growing.

But the reality is that dirt and death, loss and sorrow are an integral part of our lives. **That’s why a ritual like Ash Wednesday is so important – because it fuses together two very powerful symbols: ashes and the cross.**

This ritual of marking you with a cross made of ashes links you to the biblical memory of your spiritual ancestors who covered themselves in ashes as a sign of repentance. Ashes remind us that we are made from earth. And someday we will return to earth. Our span of life on this planet is so very, very short. A ritual like this helps us to ask important questions. **Am I really making the most of this limited time I have? Am I doing something meaningful with my life? Or am I frittering it away in shallow pursuits of ephemeral pleasures?**

That's why attending worship and participating in rituals like Ash Wednesday and Baptism and Communion are so powerful. They give us access to rituals of healing and wholeness. These are all rituals that revolve around the theme of death and rebirth. We die to our old lives and are reborn to the new. Such rituals have the power to remake us, reform us, and renew us. **Ours is, as Douglas might describe it, a *composting religion*. "That which is rejected is ploughed back for a renewal of life," (168).**

So I invite you to welcome the dirt and ash on your forehead. Embrace this symbol of death as a kind of shield against the false promises that create madness within us and in our relationships with each other. Embracing the cross of Jesus is embracing the truth of our fragility and vulnerability. It's being honest about how brief our lives are, so that we can find meaning and make the most of these bodies and minds and relationships.

As you begin this Lenten journey, I invite you to release the false and empty promises. Let them blow away like ashes from the purifying fire. Take hold of the life-giving truth, even in the midst of the dirtiness, loss, and death that surrounds us. **In this cross is where we find the God we seek, hidden in the swipe of ashes."**

Looking forward to our regular worship together as we wait, wonder and watch for God in our midst!

Volunteers are the Heart of Hospice!



The start of a new year is full of festivities and excitement, with many people looking forward to the promise of twelve months ahead to make positive changes; many of us call these New Year's resolutions. However, in the case of hospice patients, they may not always be promised 12 more months... Hospice volunteers can make a positive difference in the time that those patients have left on their journey. In the case of being a hospice volunteer, you are one who accompanies another on their journey at the end of life. This is not only a ministry to the dying, but also one of the most sacred journeys that you will ever take with another person.

Give a piece of your heart and become a trained Hospice Volunteer. For a small amount of time, you can make a BIG difference in someone's life. Aspirus Comfort Care & Hospice Services are in need of loving and caring individuals to work with terminally ill patients and their families. There are many opportunities available. To become an Aspirus Hospice Volunteer or to find out more information, please call Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Service's Volunteer Coordinator at #715-847-2424 or toll free #1-866-331-2467 or visit our website www.aspirus.org/volunteers.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
February 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Weisensel

Members present:

President: Dan Weisensel Vice-President: Arla Block
Secretary: Deb Rieck Treasurer/WMA: Peggy Emmel
Education: Ann Hawley, Shondel Hansen
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 Netzler, to approve the agenda.
Carried.

Council visitors: None

Motion made by Paul Pehlke, seconded by Arla Block, to approve the January 2020 Meeting Minutes. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report shows an account balance of \$83,261.94 as of January 31, 2020. Of that amount, \$43,287.24 is non-budget, and the budget has a balance of \$39,974.70.

Motion by Arla Block, seconded by Linda Evje, to approve the Treasurer's Report and the bills as presented to be paid. Carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastoral Care: Made calls to Homme Residents and Home Visits and enjoyed her time meeting everyone. Thanks to Arla for taking her around and introducing her to congregational members.
- Working well with Lois to build routine in the office.
- Attended Game Night and enjoyed it.
- Met with the Education/Teachers: Sunday School-Ann H. & Shondel H., Confirmation-Laura C.
- ~~Thanked Council for the help and guidance and gave her appreciation for all work done by all members of the church.~~
- Pastor Sharon was asked by council what she was looking for from Council:
Pastor's Response: What is the outlook for technology? Computer updates?
Possible office updates? (Computer Updates to be addressed at this meeting under New Business)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parish Life No Report

Parish Education

Met on 2-13-20

- Discussed possible ideas for future activities: Pool Party, Food Pantry visit, Fundraiser for Heifer International, Adult Bible Studies, song ideas for the kids
- 2 girls going to Confirmation Camp at Waypost this year.

Trustees

- 3 new lights in office, 3 more to go in office. 1 spare light possibly to be put in the furnace room
- Furnace room cleaned out
- Furnace committee: Still need members. Zion just went through this bid process. Contacting them for ideas might be helpful
- Arla has been in contact with Andy Reynolds. He will come look at gutters and give us ideas and estimates.
- Metro Fire: Checked fire extinguishers and the batteries have been replaced in the smoke detectors.

Worship/Music/Arts

- Easter coming up-Starting to make plans
- During cold & flu season we will try to use an Intinction line with small cup trays
- Maribeth N. is lining up a Prayer Chain
- Planning the hymns to be sung
- Discussing the possibility of having service outside when the weather gets nice
- Ash Wednesday February 26 with Soup/Sandwich Supper 5:00pm at Zion, 6:30 at Redeemer. Maundy Thursday service will be at Zion. Good Friday service at Redeemer.

OLD BUSINESS

February 19 there will be a meeting at Zion at 5:30 with a small assembly of council members from both churches.

Synod meeting moved to February 16 at 1:30 at Faith Lutheran in Clintonville.

NEW BUSINESS

Audit Committee recommended that the office computer be updated since the software is outdated and will no longer be supported. This computer is used by the Secretary and Treasurer. Windows 10 computer needed with a larger monitor. It was suggested we look into updating Quickbooks as well. Pastor also needs a computer. Currently there is not a computer for the Pastor's use in the office.

Motion made by Linda Evje, seconded by Maribeth Netzler, to have Paul, Lois, and Peggy get quotes on updating and purchasing the office computer systems. Motion Carried.

Council Contact sheet was updated.

Membership list needs to be updated. Council and Pastor will look into drafting a letter to inactive members. Pastor will contact the Synod office to see if there is a template letter we could use for this.

Church Closing due to Weather: WAOW, Fox 11, Church Website, and Emails

Council will be reviewing church policies for Weddings and Funerals with Pastor Sharon at a future meeting.

Lois: Walls of Wittenberg 2nd Tuesday Summer Concerts are once again looking for food sponsors. Lois will sign Redeemer up for the month of August. Looking for a committee or church member to lead this up.

Arla: Conference March 14th in Shawano. Several workshops offered. \$25 includes lunch. Arla is planning on attending if there is anyone else interested in going let her know.

Thank you letter shared from Lutheran Social Services.

Next Council meeting, Thursday, March 12 at 6:00pm.

Devotions led by Pastor Sharon.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Rieck
Council Secretary

2020 Redeemer Church Council Members

	EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
Dan Weisensel, President	Dan.Weisensel@co.shawano.wi.us	715-881-0505
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Our Monetary Discipleship for February 2020

Worship Date	Worship Attend	General Fund (Budget)	Building Fund (Non-Budget)	Sunday School Offering (Budget)	Other Income
2/2	40	\$ 1304			
2/9	Services cancelled				
2/16	51	\$ 3556.60	\$10	\$31.41	WPS Refund \$10.51
2/23	46	1580	\$14		\$25 -Greater Wausau Christian Services
2/26	41	\$ 384			Soup & Sandwich \$85

Total amount collected in February, 2020:

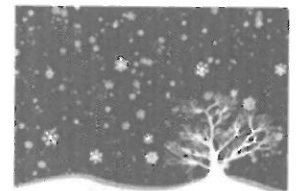
General Fund:	\$6,824.60
Building Fund:	\$ 24.00
Sunday School	\$ 31.41
Other	<u>\$ 120.51</u>
Total	\$7,000.52

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.

THIS WINTER ... Please use your best judgment when it comes to traveling. We want to see you in worship and at other church activities, but *above all* we want to see you SAFE.

WORSHIP or CHURCH ACTIVITIES will be CANCELLED if weather is too bad.

Cancellations will be announced via **e-mail**, on **Redeemer's Facebook page** and/or **website**. **We will be on the closings listed on WAOW and Fox 11.**



Shawano Conference Annual Meeting Highlights

Feb. 16, 2020 at Faith-Clintonville (Pastor Sharon & Ann Hawley attended from Redeemer.)

Under Conference Dean's Report by Pastor Lois Graper

- Our churches need to be mission focused and also encourage the youth to be more involved-possibly by having them attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in June 29-July 3, 2021.
- The synod needs to communicate better with congregations.
- At the Synod Assembly May 15-16, a bishop will be elected. Characteristics should include being a pastor's pastor, good communication, & maintains confidentiality. It will be for a 6-year term (and could be reelected up to 3 times.) Each of the 6 conferences in our synod can submit up to 3 names of ordained ministers to be considered for bishop. On the 1st ballot, a candidate would need 75% of the vote to become bishop. On the 2nd ballot, out of any names not removed by the candidates, 75% is still needed. On the 3rd ballot, the top 7 finishers continue with 66.6% needed to be bishop. On the 4th ballot, out of the top 3 finishers, 60% is needed. On the 5th ballot, whoever gets the most votes out of the top 2 finishers will be bishop. (Later in the meeting, the following were nominated: Pastor Jim Honig-Shepherd of the Bay Church in Door County, Pastor Lloyd-St. John's Lutheran in Morgan, and Pastor Brad Dokken-Peace Lutheran in Oshkosh.)

Under Conference Council Report by Jim Hanson, Council Chairperson:

- After introductions, it was announced that several pastors have left our conference for calls elsewhere and others will soon be retiring. We want to keep our congregations going and our pastors happy. It was suggested that we check into seminaries to see if there are programs to have interested persons take classes online & go through the candidacy program for seminary or have internships in some congregations. We need to share our resources with congregations who don't have pastors currently.
- A high priority for some congregations is to get a paid youth pastor. A representative from Church of the Wilderness said that he had his confirmation class visit other church services, and he brought in speakers. He also encouraged them to help each other and help in the community. Another church rep. mentioned that they were no longer requiring sermon notes or homework for confirmation since the kids were already overworked with school work.
- A concern shared by a number of churches were sport leagues that met on Sunday mornings.

Under Old Business:

- There are 16 South African visitors coming to our synod this summer, but none for our conference at this time. We had 6 congregations who volunteered to sponsor them. It's possible that our conference might still get someone if there is an overflow from another conference.

Under New Business:

- Nancy Schultz and Jim Hanson were reelected to two 2-year terms on the board. Pastor Paul Johnson from Church of the Wilderness was elected to be our Synod rep.-meets quarterly for a 3-year term.
- Conference dues stayed at \$0.25 per baptized member.
- **The Shawano Conference needs to collect soap (ivory soap would be good) for Lutheran World Relief layettes for our representatives to bring to the Synod Assembly on May 15-16.**
- EPIC (Equipping People in Congregations) will be Sat. March 14 at Zion in Shawano. For more info: ecsw.org/
- Aug. 7-9 will be the 44th Annual Veteran Pow Wow by Church of the Wilderness. All are invited. Great food!
- Sat. April 25 at 8:00 am is a breakfast, music, and workshop sponsored by Shawano Co. Women of the Church at St. John's Lutheran in Morgan. All are invited.
- St. John's-Morgan will host for next year.

March Anniversaries

Charlie & Bonnie Sparr 3-13



March Birthdays

Emily Norrbom 3-1
Paige Norrbom 3-1
Olivia Starr 3-5
Tim Backes 3-6
Andrea Nelson 3-6
Evie Low 3-11
Izzi Schmalfus 3-11
Jordan Hull 3-13
June Norrbom 3-14
Bernice Sickler 3-18
Kayla Hanke 3-19
Mary Anderson 3-20
Tommy Froom 3-21
Faith Kristof 3-22
Maggie Guetschow 3-25
Mike Mattes 3-29
Richard Olsen 3-31



Do You Want to Fast This Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent as you listen.

(note from Pastor Sharon: These are wise words that first express our human condition and then list God's gifts to us.

Which one might you work on this Lent with God's help?

For me, I commit to more silence as I listen.)

MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am Sunday School and Confirmation Choir	2	3	4 5:00-6:10 Lenten Supper 6:30 Worship	5	6	7
8 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School and Confirmation Choir	9	10	11 5:00-6:10 Lenten Supper 6:30 Worship	12 6:00 Church Council	13	14
15 8:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am Sunday School and Confirmation Choir	16	17	18 5:00-6:10 Lenten Supper 6:30 Worship	19	20	21
22 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School and Confirmation Choir	23	24	25 5:00-6:10 Lenten Supper 6:30 Worship	26	27	28
29 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School and Confirmation Choir	30	31	1	2	3	4