



Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

April, 2026

From Pastor Anne Wickland

There's a lot that goes into making one worship service happen, let alone four in one week. I would like to thank all of the people who made Redeemer Lutheran Church's Holy Week happen. To all of the readers on the palm/passion Sunday, and Good Friday. To the senior choir for singing at every service. To Geri and Gayle and Kristi for being a part of our worship team. To the altar guild who helped strip the altar on Maundy Thursday. To those who helped with the Good Friday service and those who helped prepare our sanctuary for Easter Sunday with all of the flowers and everything. And of course, thank you to those who helped with our Easter breakfast. The egg bakes, the pastries, the fruit...everything was fantastic and it was a great way to begin our Easter morning.

Holy Week is a special time where we go through the end of days of our Lord Jesus Christ. The low lows that that entails and we end with an empty tomb on Easter Sunday. Normally finding something empty isn't a good thing, but here it is a sign. A sign of new life and resurrection. A sign that even in the midst of our grief, of our hard times, death has lost its sting. Death is not the end because even when we feel we are in a forever Good Friday there will always be an Easter morning.

We can always trust that the leaves will change, that day will turn into night, that the earth will continue to spin. These are fundamental truths of our world. So is God's love. We see it, feel it, all around us. So this month, let us hold onto this Easter hope. Hold onto the Good News of Jesus Christ. Happy Easter, everyone.

Blessings,

Pastor Anne

FROM THE PRESIDENT

He has Risen! After a somewhat gloomy few days, we were greeted by sun in the morning on Easter Sunday. For me, the sun made the day feel even more special. Thank you to everyone that helped or participated in any way during Holy Week. The flowers were beautiful Sunday morning.

Property Improvement Donations

This year, a free will offering was be taken during the Easter Breakfast to help cover the anticipated costs for property improvements such as: elevator updates, new basement windows in the fellowship hall, electrical updates at the church, water softener for the church, and water heaters for the church and parsonage.

A total of \$196 was donated at the breakfast. An additional \$430 has been received from designated offerings. Due to the generous donations made, we will also receive a \$250 match from Thrivent. This brings the grand total to \$876. Thank you to everyone that donated.

You are still welcome to donate towards property improvements, please indicate on your check or envelope that the funds are for "property improvements".

Synod Assembly Delegates Needed



We are still looking for a male and female member to attend the Synod Assembly being held Friday & Saturday, May 15th and 16th at the Woodman's Center in Janesville. You would only need to attend on Saturday. This year will include voting for the Synod Bishop. Attending the Synod

Assembly is a great way to learn more about the Synod as well as Redeemer's opportunity to vote for Synod leaders and on topics that provide direction for the Synod moving forward. See <https://scswelcaassembly2026.my.canva.site/> for more information. Please let me know if you would be willing to attend on Redeemer's behalf. The registration deadline is April 20th.

Lutherdale Confirmation Retreat

Pastor Anne and I had the pleasure of attending the Confirmation Retreat held March 6th – 8th at Lutherdale with our three Confirmation students – Amelia, Emily, & Emma. It was great to see the girls interacting with their peers at an event like this. They spent time worshipping, volunteering, learning, and having fun.

Until next month...

God's Blessings,

Beth Laufenberg

Council President



More pictures from the Lutherdale Confirmation Retreat



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FEBURARY 17, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

Approved Minutes

Present: President - Beth Laufenberg, Vice President – Ben Brusveen, Secretary – Kristi Fehrman, Trustee: Rick Olson; and Pastor Anne Wickland.

Absent: Treasurer: Austin Dahnke and Trustee: Lynn Bubolz. Both Excused.

1) Meeting was called to order by President Beth Laufenberg at 6:02 p.m.

2) Approve Agenda

Motion was made by Kristi Fehrman to approve the agenda. Seconded by Ben Brusveen. All were in favor. Motion carried by voice vote.

3) Devotions were given by Ben Brusveen. Pastor Anne will have devotions for March 17, 2026.

4) Review/Approve Minutes from: January 13, 2026 council meeting.

Motion was made by Rick Olson to approve the minutes with one change. In Item 1) the time the meeting was called to order was listed as 6:04 am. That should be corrected to 6:04 pm. Seconded by Pastor Anne. Motion carried by voice vote. ****Note:** Corrected minutes have been sent to the President and Secretary for the permanent record.

5) Correspondence and/or Guest Comments: None.

6) Financial Reports – Review/Approve

- a. **General Fund:** See report. We were short in January. A total of \$3,164.46 was transferred from Undesignated Memorials and the Bennett Savings Account to cover the shortfall.
- b. **Bennett Mutual Fund:** See report.
- c. **Memorial Fund:** See report.

Motion was made by Kristi Fehrman to approve financial reports. Seconded by Rick Olson. Motion carried by voice vote.

7) Standing Committee Reports – Review/Approve:

- a. **Property**– See report. Need to check with Paul’s Heating & Cooling to finish up our furnace installation. Lynn Bubloz is currently corresponding with Paul for regular updates. ** See Item 10 on the Agenda.
- b. **WELCA** –Not actively meeting.
- c. **Social Concerns** – Not actively meeting.
- d. **Outreach** – Not actively meeting. Beth reported that Darlene Cutsforth is occasionally meeting with the residents at Covenant House.
- e. **Stewardship** – Not actively meeting. A suggestion was made to look at possibly bringing back the Time and Talents sheets that were used in the past.
- f. **Lay Ministry** – Not actively meeting.
- g. **Education** – Beth Laufenberg - Not actively meeting.
- h. **Worship team** – Pastor Anne Wickland – Met recently to plan services for the remainder of Lent. She spoke about using Liturgy from A Sanctified Art during the Lenten season. Kristi reported that the order for Easter flowers has a very early deadline (Tuesday, February 24 – Order forms are available as of Ash Wednesday (February 18) and Sunday, February 22 in order to get the orders in on time. Forms were also sent out this week with the bulletin e-mail. Sign-up sheets are out for Leaders/Readers, Uber for Barb Nelson, food for Soup Suppers, and Food/Kitchen help for Easter Breakfast.
- i. **Policy Committee** – Not actively meeting.

Motion was made by Pastor Anne to approve standing committee reports. Seconded by Ben Brusveen. Motion carried by voice vote.

8) Appoint Council Standing Committee Representatives

President, Beth Laufenberg, asked that this item be put on hold until the Council has an opportunity to discuss the Standing Committees. It might be time for a re-vamp of the committees.

9) Staff Reports:

- a. **Pastor’s Report** – Pastor Anne Wickland gave a verbal report. She continues visits with Redeemer members who are unable to attend worship. She reported that she, Beth and Kristi met recently with Owen and Phyllis from Bonnet Prairie to discuss the possibility of Pastor Anne helping out with home visits, weddings, and funerals. A proposal was put together and BP’s council voted to move forward with it. Pastor Anne is working with Phyllis to obtain names/locations of the individuals who are in need of home visits/communion. The confirmation students made 30 valentines to be delivered to At Home Again residents. Pastor and Beth will be taking the confirmation students on a Confirmation retreat at Lutherdale the 1st week-end in March.
- b. **Other Staff** – None.

Motion was made by Kristi Fehrman to approve staff reports. Seconded by Rick Olson. Motion carried by voice vote.

10) Boiler Update - Discussion

Lynn sent an e-mail prior to tonight’s meeting as an update, which included the following:

- Paul is coming over during the week of Feb. 23 (next week) to install the new intake hood.

- The Gas Company is coming during the first week in March to install the gas meter and stand.

11) Easter Breakfast Free Will Offering – Discuss/Approve

There are several items that could be addressed with the monies from the Easter Breakfast Free Will offering: Hot Water Heaters at both the Parsonage and Church; 2 new windows in the basement of the Church; the Elevator; and Electrical Updates for the Church. All were in agreement that any funds gained from the Easter Breakfast should go towards future property improvement expenses.

12) Rio Shopper Ad – Discuss and Approve

There was discussion around whether or not the cost of our bi-weekly ad (\$20 per publication date) is providing any benefit to Redeemer. With Facebook and other social media being more primary methods of communication, along with the information on our outdoor sign being updated regularly – it was suggested that we eliminate the ads on a regular basis, and reserve Shopper ads for special events.

Motion was made by Pastor Anne to stop running ads in the Shopper on a regular basis and run ads in the Shopper for special events. Seconded by Rick Olson. Motion carried by voice vote.

13) Thanksgivings:

- Thank you to all the individuals who are stepping up for Leader/Reader spots, Uber for Barb Nelson, and providing food for our upcoming events.
- Thank you to our newly-elected council members: **President:** Beth Laufenberg, **Secretary:** Kristi Fehrman and **Trustee:** Rick Olson.

13) Adjourn/Closing Prayer

Motion was made by Ben Brusveem to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Seconded by Kristi Fehrman. Motion carried by voice vote. Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Dates to Remember:

- Next Council Meeting – March 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Kristi Fehrman
Council Secretary

Columbia County Public Health 3rd Annual Community Hygiene Drive

There is a flyer included in this Newsletter that gives an overview of the 2026 Columbia County Public Health Community Hygiene Drive. If you wish to donate anything from the list of items or donate cash, there is information on how to do so and a contact number to call should you have any questions or wish to have items picked up. Here in Rio, there is a **drop-off location at Studio 115, located at 115 Lincoln Avenue**. Donations will be accepted through the month of April.

On-Going Prayers

We continue to hold in prayer those who have requested ongoing prayer: Mary Risgaard (sister-in-law of Bob and Helen Risgaard); Laura Johnsrud (Nancy Washington's daughter); Justin Yonkie (relative of Helen Risgaard); June Bennett (friend of Barbara Nelson); Brian Von Ahsen (Barb Von Ahsen's son); Alfred & Barb Nelson; Nancy and Spencer Wescott; Kim Huber Ross; Jane Roberts, Wayne and Norma Nelson; Janet Corning; Carter Schultz (age 6, great grandson of Nancy Wescott's cousin, Caryn Schultz and her husband, Carl); Kay Meier (Susan Brusveen's sister); Knute Nelson (Susan Brusveen's brother); Dave Hinzman; Stacie Wheeler; Nancy Drehmel; April Landphier; Bob Adams; Bev Stankiewicz; Bob Strauss; Gloria Lang; Sue Pulver; Virginia Olson; Ken Wescott; and Raymond Endres.

April Birthdays

Jane Risgaard	April 9
Jeffrey Corning	April 27
Loreli Jenkins	April 28
Skyler Severson	April 30
Linda Olson	April 30

April Anniversaries

Daniel & Lynn Bubolz	April 17
Ron & Debbie Reiersen	April 28

HANDBELL CHOIR - BRUNCH AT COVENANT PLACE

On Saturday, March 21, 2026 Redeemer's Handbell Choir did another outreach program when they provided a huge, delicious buffet of food as a Brunch for the residents of Covenant Place.

When everyone had finished eating, the "Ding-a-Lings" led the residents in singing Christian Lenten and Easter songs while they rang the choir chimes. They ended their visit with rousing choruses of "The Easter Parade" and "Here Comes Peter Cottontail."

As director of Redeemer's Handbell Choir, I want to compliment this group of musicians for their willingness to reach out to others and for their generosity of heart. You can be proud of how they represent our congregation.

Sincerely,
Geri Gorman

EASTER MORNING AT REDEEMER



APRIL

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4
				6	7	8
5 Easter Sunday Breakfast 7:45 – 8:45 am 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>Pastor Out of Office</i>	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>Pastor Out of Office</i>	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>Pastor Out of Office</i>	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>Pastor Out of Office</i>	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>Pastor Out of Office</i>	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon <i>Pastor Out of Office</i>
12 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00
19 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00 7:00 – Council Mtg.	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00
26 MUSIC SUNDAY 9:00 Worship/Communion YouTube via Facebook FM 101.7	Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	Office and Pastor's Hours: 9:00 – Noon	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00	Office Hours: 9:00 – Noon Pastor's Hours 9:00 – 3:00
			15	16	17	18
			22	23	24	25
			7pm- Confirmation <i>May Newsletter Articles Due</i>	6:00 pm- AA Meeting	6:00 pm- AA Meeting	6:00 pm- AA Meeting
			29	30		

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
610 LINCOLN AVE
RIO, WISCONSIN 53960
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

“To Live and tell the story of Jesus”
www.rioredeemerlutheran.org

“Like Us” on Facebook
Redeemer Lutheran Church-Rio, WI

Staff & Council Contacts
REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
If you have any comments or needs that should
be addressed, please contact our leadership:

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Beth Laufenberg (President)	(608) 572-2051
Ben Brusveen (Vice President)	(608) 469-3479
Kristi Fehrman (Secretary)	(608) 837-8144
Austin Dahnke (Treasurer)	(608) 408-0018
Rick Olson (Trustee)	(920) 992-5418
Lynn Bubolz (Trustee)	(920) 210-4432
Robert Risgaard (Bennett Treasurer)	(920) 992-5258
Geri Gorman (Memorial Treasurer)	(920) 992-3213

Pastor Anne Wickland
Church # (920) 992-3553
E-mail: office@rioredeemerlutheran.org
Kristi Fehrman – Administrative Assistant -
Office: (920) 992-3553 Cell: (608) 837-8144
E-mail: office@rioredeemerlutheran.org
Beth Laufenberg - Bookkeeper
April Severson - Custodian
Kurt Johnson - Yard Maintenance
Geri Gorman - Music Director
Gayle Krueger - Choir accompanist
Worship Music Provided by Multiple Musicians

HYGIENE

DRIVE

APRIL 2026

Please join us in helping to stock our FREE community hygiene closet!

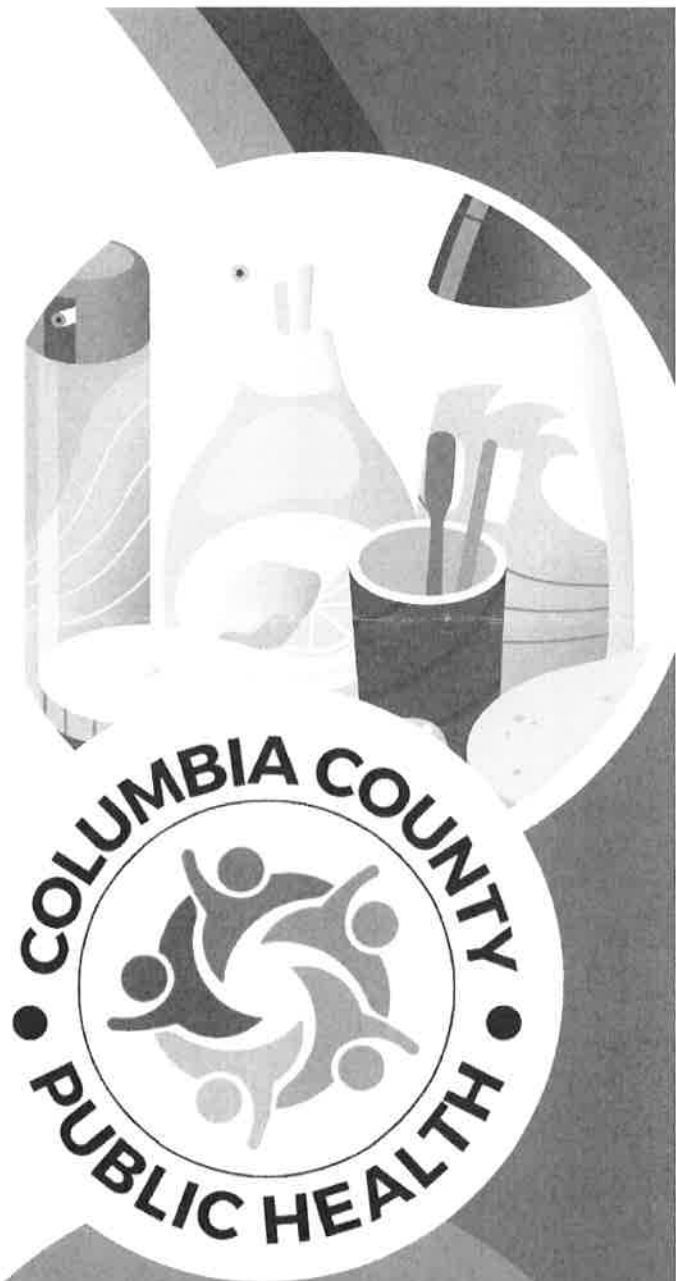
Your donations will make a huge difference by providing essential items to community members in need. Items can be dropped off at Health & Human Services or feel free to collect at your location and we can make arrangements for pick up!

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Monetary donations can be made via check payable to Columbia County Health & Human Services Hygiene Drive. Call 608-742-9227 option 6 for more information.



**Health & Human Services
111 E. Mullett St.
Portage, WI 53901 M-F 8-4:30pm**



Full size items for family use are greatly appreciated!

- body wash & 3 in 1
- towels & washcloths
- nail clippers & razors
- feminine hygiene items
- shampoo & conditioner
- deodorant & lotion
- dental care items
- toilet paper & wet wipes
- first aid supplies