

The H e r a l d

January 2026



Our Core Values drive everything we do towards accomplishing our mission of serving all through spirituality and God's Love.

Redeemer Lutheran Church * ELCA

255 W. Lincoln Avenue * Hartford, WI 53027 * 262-673-2550 * redeemerhartford@gmail.com

Pastor's Note

Dear fellow redeemed,

Happy New Year! And so we begin another year. Most of us reading this have been through enough years to know that just because it is a new year does not mean that everything is going to change for the better. The problems of last year seem to just continue and even get worse in the new year. New Year resolutions last for how long...a week, month, or a few days?!

Perhaps you've seen the cartoon of two tall buildings in a city. Both are on fire. And the fire dept has a trampoline between the two buildings, allowing the people in the burning buildings to jump and not be hurt. But when they jump from one burning building, they hit the trampoline, and bounced back into the other building, also on fire. And so they were in no better situation than before.

I think we often experience similar situations. Last year I had this problem. And next year I'll have another problem. Last year I lost... And next year I'll lose...

Now, that can also be turned positive. I think it was a "Seinfeld" episode entitled, "Even Steven", where Jerry lost \$20, but later in the same episode found \$20, and so it went in several situations, what was lost was matched by what was found.

Last year I had a few corrective surgeries: replacement of two knees, and a heart procedure that has corrected my racing heart problems. I'd like to think that in this new year, I won't have those problems. After all, I only have two knees. But I've been reminded that I have other joints that may have problems. And one heart problem corrected doesn't mean I won't have another problem with my heart, or my kidneys, or my liver, etc.

Whew! I'm not sounding very happy in this new year!! So where can I find happiness and joy, even when problems and trials continue? My Mom used to always say, "Count your blessings. You can either see a glass as half empty, or half full". And every year, day, breath, that I have is a blessing!

We also have another very big and powerful way to see every circumstance, by allowing God to be seen and heard in our lives. So I have a problem. And God is with me and will be with me no matter what happens. I may lose something important in my life. Yet I will never lose the most precious gift of God's grace and mercy!

A favorite verse of Scripture is in Nehemiah 8:10, "The joy of the Lord is my strength". The joy that God brings, and that I can have in Him, comes no matter what else is happening in life!

So bring on the new year! May I see the good in my life in 2026. And most of all, may we all see God's presence and blessings upon us each and every day of life. And may I say it again, with faith in God: Happy New Year!

In God's grace with you,

Pastor Steve

Pastor's Note (continued)



Pastor Steve's Office Hours:

For January, Pastor Steve plans to be at the RLC office from 9am - Noon. If possible, he asks that you please call ahead for an appointment.

:

Wednesday, January 7th

Thursday, January 15th

Thursday, January 22nd

Thursday, January 29th

He will be in town at other times for visits, meetings, etc. He is also available at other places, by phone or email, whichever is most convenient for you.

You can call or text him at: 715-271-3028.

Or email him at: pastorsteve25redeemer@gmail.com.

President's Message

President's Update

Greetings,

I'm very pleased that our Outreach Ministry is growing. In early December we announced a new partnership with the Joint #1 School District at Lincoln School (our neighbor). We will become a safe haven for kids and staff if they have a situation that requires evacuation of the school. We're also going to provide winter clothing, age-appropriate snacks and food pantry items. You can see the specific items of need on the Giving Tree in the hallway leading to the Gathering Room. Thanks in advance for your contributions.

We will also be expanding our partnership with Casa Guadalupe in January and beyond. Watch for an announcement from Sheila Corwin with more information.

One of Redeemer's hallmarks has been our outreach ministry over the years. We have a great track record of identifying and meeting community needs.

I want to remind you of our annual meeting, scheduled for Sunday, February 1. This will be an opportunity for you to hear more about the accomplishments of 2025 and our plans for 2026 and beyond. It will also be a time to thank our many volunteers for their contributions of time, talent and treasure. We are blessed that so many care so deeply about Redeemer.

Forward in Faith,

Tom Hostad
Council President

THE CHURCH'S FOUNDATION

Redeemer Lutheran Church Foundation: BLESSING, or CURSE?

I'm sure you have some familiarity with the endowment arm of your church, THE FOUNDATION. It's been a complement to the operation and enhancement of our ministry for 40 years!

2026 marks the 40th anniversary since the inception of the Foundation by several forward-thinking members of our 1986 congregation.

Hopefully you're aware of the purpose of the Foundation, to accept donations to hold intact, invested to provide an ongoing stream of income for the needs of RLC. It's the interest and earnings that enable the Foundation to make a consistent impact when special needs arise, and in recent history to distribute quarterly proceeds to help balance our income and expense ledger.

Yes, it appears to be Blessing our Redeemer Ministry in a meaningful way. How then can I possibly consider it a curse?

A curse? Especially now that we've engaged the Foundation to serve as a guarantor for funding our upgraded Pastoral leadership role?

The reason I say it's a potential curse is my fear that a member of our congregation could use the Foundation to reason that they no longer need to personally step up to support our church's special needs... "just let the Foundation do it". The joy of being a grateful giver could be jeopardized by that misguided logic. Hopefully my fears are unfounded. And we can joyfully tout the Blessings our Foundation provides in enhancing our ministry here at Redeemer.

Also, it's easy to forget that the more we tap into the core of the Foundation, the smaller the earnings return becomes.

With that in mind, here's a gentle reminder that donations are always welcome to support the core earnings power of the Foundation. Whether as memorial gifts, or simply a special gift that creates an ongoing stream of income for our Redeemer ministry efforts.

If you were one of those who supported the Foundation in the mid 80's, your gift would have been returned several times over.

Please also consider serving on our board in this new year. Just ask one of our current board members for details.

Here's extending best wishes to you in 2026... the 40th anniversary year of your Redeemer Lutheran Church Foundation.

Your Redeemer Foundation board:

Scott Lopas, President; Lynn Nettesheim Secretary; Laurie Horst Treasurer; Tom Hostad Director;
Gabriele Priesgen Church Treasurer; Kurt Hintz Council Vice-President liason.

What's Up, Bruce?

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a Blessed and Merry Christmas and New Year.

As of now, things have been relatively quiet here at church. Hopefully as you're reading this our furnace that heats the office area downstairs has been repaired (it needed a new heat exchanger). It was covered under warranty, we just needed to pay for the labor.

Thanks to a great group of our members, our church was decorated for the holiday season. Give a thank you to Fran Ward, Jeanine Gable, Don and Stephany Robinson, Tom, Kathy and Jonathan Hostad, Scott Lopas and Nellie, Kurt and Wendy Hintz, Joe Peterson and Laurie and Bruce Horst.

Stay warm everybody.

Bruce Horst
Property Guru



OUTREACH

Sheila Kraeuche-Corwin



MINISTRY OF THE NEST

The Nest has had some changes in the last year. Groups leaving and group growing. At the beginning of the year we had 2 Girl Scout Troops and a Cub Scout Den. These groups follow the school year for advancement. We had one Girl Scout Troop dissolve and a Cub Scout Den move onto Boy Scouts. We still have our original Girl Scout Troop still with us. The girls started when they were in grade school and they have grown up a lot in the last 7 years. Thanks to The Nest they have had a safe and welcoming space to grow.

CASA Guadelupe is gaining more traction here in Hartford. They are using the Fellowship Hall and rooms in The Nest for programs. After a meeting with Casa and Pastor, they shared a need for winter clothing, gently used boots, coats etc. We will be starting a clothing closet for the people CASA is working with. There will be more information coming in the New Year.

We are also glad to be hosting a 12 -Step program in The Nest. AlAnon meets on Thursday nights. For those who do not know Al-Anon is a support group for family and friends of those affected by alcoholism.

We are always looking for new groups to join us in The Nest. If you know of a group needing space to meet and grow. If you do please reach out to Sheila.

Pastor Steve and I have been meeting and looking for other groups to fill the space. Right now we have 2 days and 4 nights a week with groups in The Nest.

Yours in Service

Sheila Kraeuche-Corwin

Special Giving Highlight for January



Hartford COMMUNITY LUNCH

We have chosen the Hartford Community Lunch as our January recipient.

The Hartford Community Lunch is a joint effort of Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Killian Catholic Church, First United Methodist Church and St. Aidan Episcopal Church.

Volunteers from all these churches cook, serve, and clean up after the free lunch for all guests. The lunches are always held on the last Saturday of the month. This was started at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church and moved to First United Methodist Church in October 2018 because they outgrew the space at St. Aidan's. After a break due to COVID, operations resumed in July 2021.

The lunch also includes dessert that is baked fresh by many dedicated volunteers. Besides that, there is usually a variety of bread, buns and other bakery items donated by Piggly Wiggly,

How can you become involved? Drop off a dessert prior to the meal, make a donation, volunteer to help or come as a guest and enjoy a meal and the fellowship. Lunch is served from 11:30am-12:30pm.

Thankful and blessed.

Gabriele Priesgen





The Hartford Senior Center offers free blood sugar and blood pressure checks with a nurse. Please call or stop in the center to schedule an appointment, 262-673-4005

A Community Lunch is served on the last Saturday of each month. It is held at the United Methodist Church, 738 W Monroe Ave. This outreach would not be possible without the many volunteers from the four ecumenical churches: First United Methodist Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church and St. Kilian's Catholic Church. Lunch service starts at 11:30am, fellowship prior. Volunteers arrive by 9:30am.



Greta Ruegg	Jan 3
Pastor Steve Rutter	Jan 11
Mary Lou Benicke	Jan 13
Michelle Burton	Jan 29



Please join Women's Ministry on the second Monday of the month for fellowship and Bible/book study in the Gathering Room.

Bring a sack lunch.

Dessert is provided.

Save Your Cans

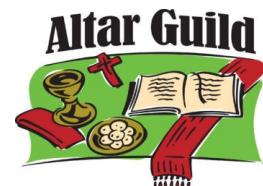
If you don't plan on selling your aluminum cans, please consider bringing them to church and place them under the coat rack downstairs for recycling



Called to Serve



January 4	9:30 am
Ushers:	Donna Lee
Lector:	Michelle Burton
January 11	9:30 am
Ushers:	Kurt & Wendy Hintz
Lector:	Tom Hostad
January 18	9:30 am
Usher:	Don & Pam Horen
Lector:	Kurt Hintz
January 25	9:30 am
Ushers:	Bruce & Laurie Horst
Lector:	Scott Lopas



January 4	Laurie Horst
January 11	Laurie Horst
January 18	Laurie Horst
January 25	Laurie Horst

Join us in person Sunday mornings 9:30am



Redeemer's Worship Service is live streamed through Facebook at 9:30 am.

Redeemer's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/redeemerhartford/>



The service is also broadcast over WTKM Radio, 104.9FM at 10:30 am Sunday mornings. The service can also be heard on the net at www.wtkm.com



In addition, you can now watch our live streamed worship on our YouTube Page.<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpIKz-cdNTRqT2LM3V7P7oA>



Weather Cancellations

Please tune into Radio Station WTKM 104.9 FM to check for church related cancellations due to weather.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD

We will be continuing our Conversations with God where, we gather for prayer, Scripture, and conversation on a different topic each month. Our January gathering will be on the topic of "Time". Come and join us for a cup of coffee and good conversation.

When: Thursday, January 15th

Time: 10am

Where: Gathering Room

We have begun partnering with Lincoln Elementary School. They have expressed a need for several items (lists will be posted in the coffee area)



clothing needs include:

winter clothes for children in various sizes:

snowpants,

winter coats,

socks,



sweatpants for both elementary and middle school,

gloves,



gloves for playing in the snow.

Snack needs include:

Goldfish,

Individually wrapped food items,

Animal Crackers,

Granola Bars...

NO bags of nuts.



Food drive/pantry needs (most helpful in Feb – Spring – Summer) include:

cereal,

shelf stable microwave meals,

canned goods

mac and cheese with cheese sauce (not add milk and butter).



JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3
4 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION	5 Office Hours- 10am-2pm	7 Pastor in of- fice 9am-12pm Office Hours- 10am-2pm	8 Office Hours-10am- 2pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm		9	10
11 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION	12 Women's Bible Study—noon Council Meeting 4pm	13 Office Hours- 10am-2pm	14 Office Hours- 10am-2pm	15 Pastor in office 9am-12pm Conversations with God 10:00a.m. Office Hrs-10am- 2pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm	169	17
18 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION	19	20 Office Hours- 10am-2pm	21 Office Hours- 10am-2pm	22 Pastor in office 9am -12pm Office Hours-10am- 2pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm	23	24
25 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION	26	27 Office Hours- 10am-2pm	28 Office Hours- 10am-2pm	29 Pastor in office 9am -12pm Office Hours-10am- 2pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm	30	31 Community Lunch First Unit- ed Methodist Church 11:30AM

Please support our generous sponsors as they generously support us.

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226 South Main St

Hartford, WI 53027

WORSHIP

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH—STAFF:

Pastor.....Steve Rutter
President of Congregation.....Tom Hostad
Vice President of Congregation.....Kurt Hintz
Council Secretary.....Laurie Horst
Keyboards.....Lori Pawlak
Treasurer.....Gabriele Priesgen
Financial Secretaries.....Jeanine Gable and Jeanette Weber

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