

The Herald

February 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,

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven; a time to..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)

It's that time already?! How time flies! Your time is up (already?!). Where did the time go? It seems like just yesterday that I was... You remember that far back? You were born in WHAT year?!

So how do we deal with the passage of time? Aging? And all that goes with getting older. I have a theory for why time seems to be going so fast for me. When a year passes for me, it is only 1/69 of my life. But when a two year old has a birthday, it is 1/2 of her life! No wonder that a year seems longer for that child than for me. :))

Here are a few suggestions to help deal with the passage of time:

- 1). Time is a gift from God! So let's be thankful for each and every day that God gives us. Every breath and heartbeat is God's gift!
- 2). God has entered our time when He sent His Son into our world. So God in Christ knows our experience of passing through time.
- 3). "Kairos" is a word in the original language of the Bible that means "the right time". It is the word used in Galatians 4:4, "But when the fullness of time (kairos) had come, God sent forth His Son..." Certainly God knows the right time for all things. And praise be to God that He found "the right time", the "kairos" for sending us a Savior! Now we can pray for the right time for all the important things in our life. Let's pray that God gives us the wisdom and time to do all that is needed.
- 4) It seems to me that the best advice to follow for dealing with time is to take life a day at a time. Psalm 118:24 simply puts it, "This the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." The words of the Apostle Paul are helpful also, "make the most of the time" (Ephesians 5:16). So let us live in the grace and mercy of God our Savior and Lord! Trusting in the Lord, who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)

Living in Christ,

Pastor Steve



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, February 4th

Thursday, February 12th

Thursday, February 19th

Thursday, February 26th

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.

Presidents Message

Greetings,

As I'm writing this update, I'm also anticipating our congregation's Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 1. We have much to be proud of and thankful for! This meeting typically allows us time to report on what's been done the prior year, but I'm more enthused with the opportunity it provides to talk about our future. We have exciting plans to grow our ministry and expand our community partnerships, provide more learning and fellowship opportunities for members and continue our efforts to identify and respond to the needs in our community. I'm looking forward to our discussion that day.

During the first quarter of this year, we'll be addressing the need to replace our roof. This is a longstanding need and we cannot continue to ignore it. That was made clear to us when we decided to seek lower cost property insurance. Two firms sent out representatives to inspect the building as a necessary first step in providing a quote. The response from both was that they would not insure Redeemer until we replaced our roof. When our current policy comes up for renewal later this year we expect the same response from that carrier. We'll discuss the roof replacement in further detail at the annual meeting and share our plan for resolving it.

Forward in Faith,

Tom Hostad

Council President



THE CHURCH'S FOUNDATION

Redeemer Lutheran Church Foundation – a helping hand for 40 years

Thank you!

We have received a nice Thank You card from Annie Nettesheim to the Foundation and the Redeemer Congregation for the Scholarship we presented to her at the end of 2025. We wish Annie continued enrichment in her studies and welcome her to join us anytime she is back in the area!

And, a big THANK YOU from us to a member who honored the Foundation with a generous gift in January. It's a good feeling to know that a donation to your RLC Foundation will be returned to the Church many times over in the form of gifts, grants and ongoing distributions to enable our ministry efforts to flourish.

If you'd like to share your Blessings with a tax-deductible contribution to Redeemer Lutheran Church Foundation, gifts in any and all amounts are welcome at any time. Along with those who have given before you, the Foundation intention is to hold all gifts so they may be invested to provide an ongoing return from the interest and appreciation growth back to the Church. Also, it appears the Foundation will be asked to play an even greater role of service to our congregation as 2026 unfolds.

Watch for details on our celebration of this 40th year for your RLC Foundation. And, if you'd like to participate in decisions surrounding the Foundation, please consider serving as a board director. You can make your intentions known at any time of the year, as well as at the Annual Meeting.

Join us in shaping the next 40 years for RLC 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 liaison.

What's Up, Bruce?

Hi Everyone!

Bruce here, reporting from the “Boiler” room where all is warm and cozy. Hope this cold weather is not keeping too many of you hibernating and afraid to come out. Your church is a balmy 68⁰, so don't be afraid to join us.

Since my last report the downstairs halls and bathrooms have been swept and mopped, (no small job). A lot of vacuuming has been done again to clean up after our Christmas decorations were taken down and put away. Thanks to the Hostad's, Hintz's, Joe Peterson and the Horst's for taking all our beautiful decorations down. Thanks as well to everyone who spent hours getting our church decorated for the holiday season.

We had a visitor last summer wanting to come in to church, so for safety reasons, the outside doors are now locked - even when Cathie is here. So, we installed a wireless doorbell on the outside door that has a ringer in the office. So, if you need to see Pastor or Cathie, just push the button that's on the door and someone will come to greet you.

By now you should be aware of our capital funds campaign to raise funds to pay for the church roof. Please give it prayerful thought and let's all do our best so we can get a “much” needed roof on our building.

Thank you everyone - till next time, Keep warm.

Bruce



Special Giving Highlight for February

Mr. Bob's under the Bridge



Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge began in September 2007 with just six backpacks and open hearts. Founded by Bob and Sue Burmeister, the organization started as a grassroots effort to support Milwaukee's homeless population. In 2012, we became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, allowing us to expand our outreach and serve more individuals in need. In July 2019, our four-stall shower trailer provides a safe and private place for individuals to bathe, promoting dignity and well-being

Here is a bit of info about Mr. Bob's:

We are a mobile outreach non-profit, entirely volunteer-run, primarily serving the homeless and those who are struggling, in the Kosciuszko Park neighborhood on the south side of Milwaukee.

Our warehouse is located in Grafton where we collect donations i.e. clothing, shoes and boots, bedding, winter coats, backpacks, hygiene products. These items are prepared, loaded into our box truck and trailer, and delivered to the park for distribution every Saturday morning, to anyone who has a need.

Our mission: To foster a community of dignity, compassion and friendship by providing basic necessities such as clothing and hygiene products to the homeless and to those who need support in Milwaukee and the surrounding community.

Our vision

We envision a welcoming community in which every person receives their basic necessities, guidance, hope, and compassion.

Weekly Outreach

Every Saturday morning, our dedicated volunteers distribute clothing, hygiene kits, snacks and other essentials at Kosciuszko Park in Milwaukee. Our goal is to ensure that our friends know that we care and that they can depend on us to provide the basic resources they need.

More info can be found on the Mr. Bob's website: mrbobsunderthebridge.org.

Thankful and Blessed

Gabriele Priesgen

Treasurer's Report



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.



Shannon Ruegg	Feb 5
Jenny Nettesheim	Feb 6
Anne Classen	Feb 14



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



Redeemer Lutheran Church * ELCA

Called to *Serve*



LECTOR
SCHEDULE



USHERS'
SCHEDULE

February 1 9:30 am

Ushers: Donna Lee
Lector: Michelle Burton

February 8 9:30 am

Ushers: Kurt & Wendy Hintz
Lector: Tom Hostad

February 15 9:30 am

Usher: Don Horen
Lector: Kurt Hintz

February 22 9:30 am

Ushers: Bruce & Laurie Horst
Lector: Scott Lopas

Altar Guild



February 1 Laurie Horst

February 8 Laurie Horst

February 15 Laurie Horst

February 22 Laurie Horst

Join us in person Sunday mornings 9:30am



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

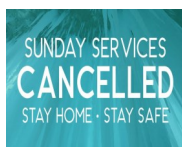
Redeemer's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/redeemerhartford/>



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

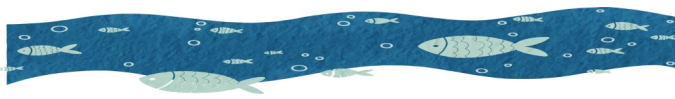
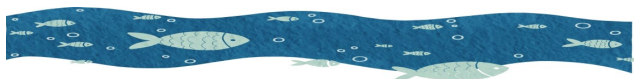
CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD

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 **"Love"**. Come and join us for a cup of coffee and good conversation. The topic will be "Love".

When: Thursday, February 19th

Time: 10am

Where: Gathering Room



The Redeemer Monthly Fish Fry group meets the first Friday of each month. January through April we meet for lunch at noon. May through November we meet for dinner at 4 pm. We do not meet in December. We go to a variety of restaurants and bars in the area. Call or text me by the Monday before the first Friday of the month so I can make reservations for the group. I will let you know about the location. You may drive yourself, or if you need a ride arrangements will be made to pick you up.

Everyone is welcome!

February 6th we'll be going to the Red Moon on the corner of Hwy 60 and P (formerly the Ranch)

Please consider joining us.

Anne Clasen

262-227-6921

FREE TO GOOD HOMES:

We have the following items that we are offering for free. If you, or someone you know is in need of any of these , contact the church office or Bruce Horst. Disclaimer - some of these items are in better shape than others.

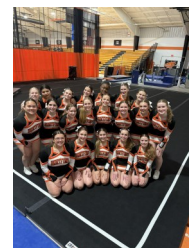
What we have:

Various walkers
tall canvas mobility walker with armrests and brakes
Various wheelchairs
shower bench
crutches



Hartford Union High School District

Saturday, February 14th, the Hartford Union High School Cheer Team will be participating in the preliminary competition of WACPC, the biggest cheer competition in the state. Buses will be using our lot throughout the day. GO HARTFORD!!!





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

LENTEN SERVICES FOR 2026

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18

Redeemer Lutheran

Wednesday, February 25

St. Kilian

Wednesday, March 4

Redeemer Lutheran

Wednesday, March 11

St. Aiden

Wednesday, March 18

First United Methodist

Wednesday, March 25

St. Olaf

More information coming soon.



We have begun partnering with Lincoln Elementary School. They have expressed a need for several items



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 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).

Casa Guadalupe, who meet at the church through The Nest Program, continue as our partner. They too have expressed needs.

Clothing needs include:

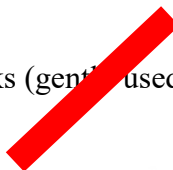
Winter coats, boots, mittens, warm clothes, winter hats, socks (gently used item are ok)

Snack needs include:

Kid snacks **NO NUTS**, fruit cups, cereal, canned goods

Other Items:

Books (gently used is ok), new toys



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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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