

The Herald

March 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 * redeemehartford@gmail.com

Pastor's Note

Dear fellow redeemed,

I am writing to you as fellow redeemed people of God, as fellow children of God, as fellow servants of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, as people active at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hartford, as your pastor. And here is what is on my mind:

Thank you for all you are doing! Every Sunday, when I come out to the chancel, I look out and see many of you gathering as the Body of Christ. I see you receiving God's Word and Sacraments. I see you praying, serving and worshipping God our Savior and Lord!

Thank you for your support of this congregation and our ministry together. I am well aware of the fact that without you, Redeemer congregation would not have a history of so many years of activity. And we also would not be continuing to worship and serve together.

The question to now ask ourselves is this: Where are we going in the future? What is in store for us as a congregation in the next year, five years, 10 years? What will you and I do today, tomorrow, and in the days and years to come?

First, I hope and pray that you will continue to worship and serve with us at Redeemer. In my 41 years of being a pastor, I had only one worship service when no one other than me showed up for the service. It was during a winter snowstorm. I lived a block away from the church. So I was able to walk to the church. I learned that a few people had tried to make it to the service. But the streets were all closed. Every other Sunday I have always had at least "two or three gathered" (Matthew 18:20) in the name of Jesus, worshipping and serving God.

Now of course we need a place to gather as the Body of Christ. And thankfully, you have built and maintained the beautiful building that we have at Redeemer. And I know that each of us are being encouraged to support the new roof that will be added later this year.

We also have a lot of work that we are all joining in here at Redeemer. Some of you are serving on the Council, as ushers and lectors, cleaning and maintaining our facility and grounds, serving food and coffee, leading committees and teams, etc. We have monthly "Special Giving" offerings that go toward various mission and ministry in our communities. We also have a partnership with Casa Guadalupe, and with Lincoln School. And we have the "Nest", which offers a space for new organizations in our community (currently used by Casa Guadalupe, Girl Scouts, and Al Anon).

(cont. next page)

Pastor's Note (continued)

So what else can we do, as individuals and as a congregation? I welcome any suggestions and ideas. And most importantly, thank you for your prayers. I look forward to joining you, and our Lord, in the important work of bringing the Good News of Jesus for all!

Serving with you,

Pastor Steve



Pastor Steve's Office Hours:

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

:

Thursday, March 5th

Thursday, March 12th

Wednesday, March 18th

Thursday, March 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,

Much is happening at Redeemer during the month of February and it reinforces the feeling of vitality I have about our church.

On February 1 we had our annual congregational meeting. This is always a great opportunity to thank God for the many gifts he has bestowed on Redeemer, recognize the accomplishments of the prior year and look ahead to planning for the future. With Pastor Steve now working 3/4 time we are starting to focus on doing God's work in our community and surrounding area.

On Sunday, February 22, we watched a synod produced video called Adventures in Renewal. This is the first in a series of videos that will help us understand the state of the church in 2026, how we got to our current state and how we can confidently move forward answering God's call. I look forward to more discussion on these topics.

Support for our new ministry partner, Lincoln School, has been very strong and Pastor Steve has delivered several items from their "wish list" to them recently. What a joy to support students and staff at the school in our neighborhood..

We've also announced plans to replace our roof. This is long overdue and we are fortunate that we've gone this long without significant problems. Each of us is being asked to make a financial pledge of support with an anonymous donor offering to match each dollar pledged. Your pledge should be returned to church no later than March 31 and the pledged amount sent in by May 1. We are hoping to have the work done in May or June.

Thanks for your continuing support of Redeemer and our mission.

Forward in Faith,
Tom Hostad
Council President



INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHURCH'S FOUNDATION

Hello everyone,

I would like to provide some more information about how the Foundation supported Redeemer Lutheran Church over the last few years. Quarterly the Foundation deposits 1% of their holdings into the RLC account. What a friend and support the Foundation has been to Redeemer. Going back to 2020 RLS has received close to \$190,000 from the Foundation, through their quarterly distributions and various other payments.

Here is a breakdown of that support:

2020	\$25,202.22
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\$24,202.22 Annual Distribution and \$1,000.00 Seminary fee

2021	\$43,487.12
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\$27,040.50 Annual Distribution and \$16,446.62 Audio/Visual Equipment

2022	\$26,471.60
------	-------------

\$23,400.24 Annual Distribution and \$3,071.36 Audi/Visual/TV

2023	\$37,543.10
------	-------------

\$25,543.10 Annual Distribution and \$12,000 Heater Repair

2024	\$29,216.77
------	-------------

\$26,216.77 Annual Distribution and \$3,000 Tuition Assistance

2025	\$26,238.58
------	-------------

\$25,738.5

8 and \$500 scholarship

Let me close with Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. God's name is trust worthy.

Thankful and blessed

Gabriele Priesgen

THE CHURCH'S FOUNDATION

Redeemer Lutheran Church Foundation – a helping hand for 40 years



Thank you to our church treasurer for referencing the RLC Foundation in her article.

I'd like to elaborate on the formula used for the quarterly distributions to the church from the Foundation.

10 years ago, the Foundation was Blessed with a gift that nearly doubled our assets. At the same time, the Foundation board learned of an investment vehicle that was managed by the ELCA that allowed us to diversify our holdings. We split our assets between the Baird holdings we'd invested in the late 1990's and the **ELCA Ministry Growth Fund** as it's known as today.

The ELCA Fund defaults to a distribution of 4% of fund value annually to us in quarterly disbursements. This 4% formula is considered a standard with these types of endowment assets to provide an ongoing source of funding. As we all know, investments in stocks and bonds, which provide the greatest return over time, do not always perform predictably. So as to provide a return to the Church, even in times of a correction in the market, the distribution of 1% of asset value every quarter (4% annually) allows for continued gifting to Redeemer even in years when losses occur in the market. And, over time it allows for additional funds for the Foundation to offer as grants for special concerns of Redeemer as was spelled out in the treasurer's article this month.

The primary mission of your Foundation board is to manage this asset of Redeemer as good stewards – to maintain those gifts that were given to the Foundation and provide a ready and ongoing return to Redeemer from the earnings and growth of those funds. As you read in the treasurer's article in the Herald, that has amounted to nearly \$190,000 in distributions to Redeemer ministry over the past 6 years alone.

If you'd like to share your Blessings with a tax-deductible contribution to Redeemer Lutheran Church Foundation, gifts in any amount 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.

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 liason.

Special Giving Highlight for March



Habitat for Humanity of Washington and Dodge Counties is an ecumenical Christian housing ministry creating and maintaining affordable housing through partnerships to positively impact individuals, families, our community, and the environment.

The vision of Habitat for Humanity of Washington and Dodge Counties is to serve as a powerful witness to Christ's Love building hope in our community one home at a time.

We have all seen houses build by Habitat's volunteers, some of us might remember, when Redeemer helped build a house here in Hartford. Some of us swung a hammer, others provided food for the workers.

There are also the Restore stores in several locations: West Bend, Germantown, and Beaver Dam. Check them out. Shop, volunteer, and donate there.

As always, for more information go to the website <https://hfhwashco.org>

Thankful and blessed

Gabriele Priesgen



Madison Henning	March 3
Sheila Kraeuche-Corwin	March 7
Sandra White	March 10
Aspen Henning	March 26
Neva Rublee	March 28



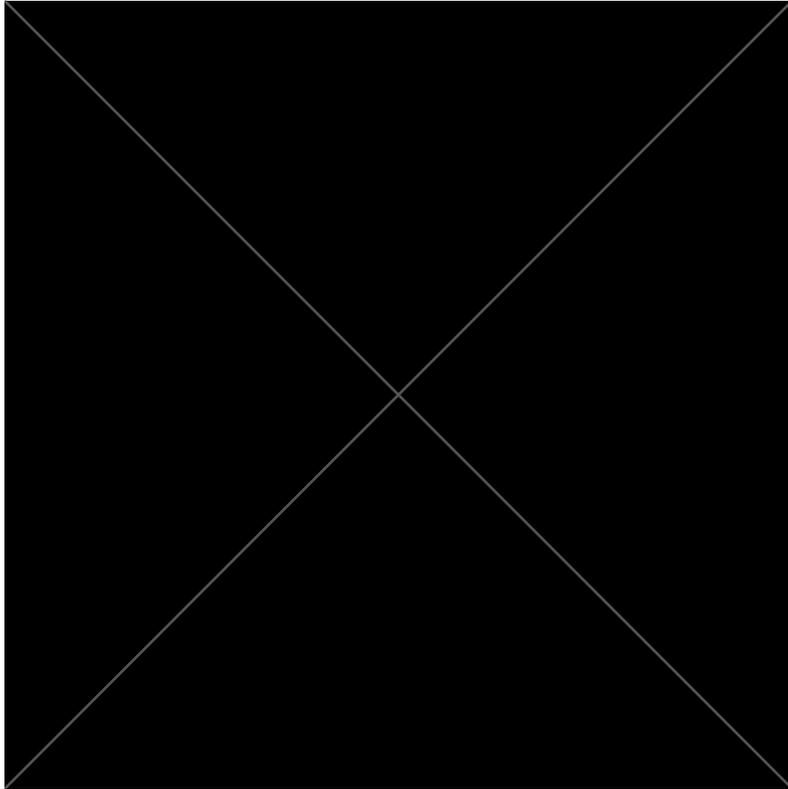
Please join Women's Ministry on the second Monday of the month for fellowship and Bible/book study in the Gathering Room.

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

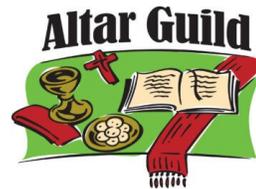


The Hartford Senior Center offers free blood sugar and blood pressure checks with a nurse. Please call or stop in the center to schedule an appointment, 262-673-4005

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.



Called to *Serve*



March 1	9:30 am
Ushers:	Donna Lee
Lector:	Michelle Burton
March 4	Lenten Service 6:30 pm
Ushers	Jeanine Gable & Jeanette Weber
March 8	9:30 am
Ushers:	Kurt & Wendy Hintz
Lector:	Tom Hostad
March 15	9:30 am
Usher:	Don Horen
Lector:	Kurt Hintz
March 22	9:30 am
Ushers:	Bruce & Laurie Horst
Lector:	Scott Lopas
March 29	9:30 am
Ushers:	Donna Lee

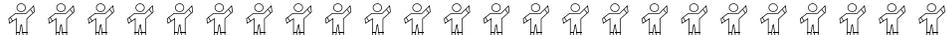
March 1	Laurie Horst
March 8	Laurie Horst
March 15	Laurie Horst
March 22	Laurie Horst



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/redeemehartford/>



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, March 26th

Time: 10am

Where: Gathering Room

This Month's Topic: **“Change”**



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 4pm. 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!

March 6th we'll be going to Big Guy's on Franklin Drive (just off highway 60) in Hartford

Please consider joining us.

Please let Anne know by Monday, March 2nd, if you will be attending so she can make reservations.

Anne Clasen

262-227-6921

FREE

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. What we have:

Foldable walker

Foldable wheelchairs

Crutches

OUTREACH

Sheila Kraeuche-Corwin



MINISTRY OF THE NEST

We received a *“Thank You”* and a check for \$200.00 from the Girl Scout Troup that uses our facility.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

LENTEN SERVICES FOR 2026

All Services are at 6:30 PM

Wednesday, March 4	Redeemer Lutheran	Social / Reception following
Wednesday, March 11	St. Aiden	Potato Bar from 5:00pm—6:15 pm
Wednesday, March 18	First United Methodist	Soup & Salad Bar preceding
Wednesday, March 25	St. Olaf	Social / Reception following
Sunday, March 29	PALM SUNDAY	



A big **"Thank You"** to everyone who has so graciously helped the children and youth at Lincoln School and Casa Guadalupe. Your contributions mean so much.

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





March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION	2 Casa Guadalupe 6pm	3 Office Hours-10am- 2pm	4 Lenten Service @ Redeemer 6:30pm social/reception following	5 Pastor in office 9am- 12pm Office Hours-10am-2pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm	6 Fish Fry group meet- ing at Big Guys at noon.	7
8 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION	9 Women's Bible Study—noon Council Meeting 4pm Casa Guadalupe 6pm	10 Office Hours-10am- 2pm	11 Office Hours-10am -2pm Lenten Service @ St. Aidan Episcopal -6:30pm with Pota- to Bar from 5:00- 6:15pm	12 Pastor in office 9am- 12pm Office Hours-10am-2pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm	13	14
15 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION	16 Casa Guadalupe 6pm	17 Office Hours-10am- 2pm 	18 Pastor in office 9am-12pm Office Hours-10am -2pm Lenten Service @ First United Meth- odist -6:30pm pre- ceded by soup &	19 Office Hrs-10am-2pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm	20	21
22 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION	23 Casa Guadalupe 6pm	24 Office Hours-10am- 2pm	25 Office Hours-10am -2pm The Chosen Show- ing 11:30am Lenten Service @ St. Olaf -6:30pm followed by social/ reception	26 Pastor in office 9am- 12pm Conversations with God 10:00a.m. Office Hours-10am-2pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm	27	28 Community Lunch First United Method- ist Church 11:30AM
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION 	30 Casa Guadalupe 6pm	31 Office Hours-10am- 2pm				While the secu- lar world enjoys green beer, Lutheran con- gregations often highlight Patrick as a heroic, faith- ful witness to Je- sus Christ.

Please support our generous sponsors as they generously support us.

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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

PHONE:.....Church Office, 262-673-2550
E-mail:.....redeemerhartford@gmail.com
Web site:.....<http://www.redeemerhartford.com>

FROM:
Redeemer Lutheran Church
255 W Lincoln Ave
Hartford, WI 53027