

The Herald

April 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

Dear fellow redeemed,

As Spring is coming, we are reminded of new life! Changes from snow to green grass. And we can look forward to picnics and bicycling and all the wonderful outdoor activities of Spring and summer.

What about our spiritual lives? Are there changes and new experiences that we can also look forward to enjoying? Lent is a time for repentance and preparation. And now in April we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, and the new life that He gives to us.

So what does that mean for our individual lives? For the life we have as people of Redeemer Church?

What changes can we make in our individual lives that will be good for us? And I'm thinking of more than putting away our coats and boots, and getting a suntan. What can I do that will give me new life as a follower of our Savior and Lord?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Set aside a few minutes for a time with God. Spend time reading the Scriptures and in prayer. And it doesn't have to mean a huge time in your daily schedule. But the important thing is to start a new habit of Scripture and prayer at a time that you can remember and repeat.
- Look for a new way to serve God and His people. Yes, that may mean helping at Redeemer. But it also may include helping a neighbor, friend, a family member, or a person in need. Start a new habit of exercise, diet, or a new skill that you can use (learning to play a musical instrument, to speak a new language, or learning something new from a good book or podcast).

Perhaps the changing seasons, that come every year, can remind us that change continues all through our lives. New life can come with every season, every day, and with every new thought and action.

As we read in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

(cont. on next page)

Pastor's Note (continued)

I look forward to the upcoming season of Spring. Not only for the warmer weather and fun outdoor activities. But also for the new life we have in Christ, and all that our Savior and Lord will lead us to think and say and do!

Happy Spring!

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, April 2nd

Thursday, April 9th

Wednesday, April 15th

Thursday, April 23rd

Thursday, April 30th

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,

Some important updates this month:

Roof Campaign – I'd like to thank the many members who made pledges toward our initiative to replace the roof. You'll find an update on our progress elsewhere in the Herald, but I can say that your commitments coupled with the matching funds provided by a generous member will allow us to replace the roof in Spring or early Summer. Join me in thanking Don Horen for his leadership on this vital project.

E-mail hacking and Spam messages – Some of you have received messages that look like they are from Pastor Steve and actually are not. We became aware of this situation earlier this month and sent an e-mail to our members advising them of the circumstances and what to do. If the e-mail seems suspicious to you call Pastor Steve or the church office for further clarification. Your best course of action when in doubt about the authenticity of a message is to delete it without responding. You'll find more information on how to deal with suspicious e-mails elsewhere in this issue of the Herald.

Church Secretary – I'm sorry to report that our Church Secretary, Cathie Manley-Frix, is leaving us to be closer to her sons and family in Ohio. During her time with us she organized the office, purged older files and updated policies and procedures. She also supported our volunteers, especially in property matters. Her last day at Redeemer will be March 19. Thank you, Cathie! May God be with you during this next phase of your life journey. We'll be seeking a replacement as quickly as possible.

Wishing you a blessed Lenten and Easter season,

Tom Hostad

Church Council President



THE CHURCH'S FOUNDATION

Redeemer Lutheran Church Foundation – a helping hand for 40 years



It's a time of rebirth! Not just the coming of Spring, but at the end of Holy Week with its trials and tribulations is the Easter promise of renewal and everlasting life. Thank you, Lord, for second chances.

Your RLC Foundation is also grateful to our membership for ongoing support of financial gifts. So far this year, \$16,000 has been received to continue the legacy that was established in 1986.

The Foundation board decided to add those gifts to our fixed income assets through the **Mission Investment Fund** of the ELCA. With faith & finance at its core, the MIF provides a source of financing to ELCA congregations for new churches, new additions and new ministries. It also allows ELCA congregations and individuals to invest in the work of our church. As we invest these funds with the MIF, we earn an attractive guaranteed return (in this case 4%-apy for a five-year term) while providing funds for neighboring congregations to borrow to accomplish their special projects. An extraordinary ROI indeed!

With the addition of this latest term fixed-rate investment, we are now positioned with just over \$100,000 of assets with maturing investments in 2028, 2029, 2030 and now 2031 with this latest 5-year account. This brings us ever closer to the board recommendation of 15% of total assets to be held in fixed-rate accounts, with the remaining portfolio invested in equities (stocks & bonds). Over time equities tend to provide a greater overall return, while also subject to the volatility of a cyclical stock market. So, we are diversifying assets while investing with an ELCA supported financial group that provides funding to our neighbors to enhance their ministry efforts.

If you'd like to share your Blessings with 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.

We are still planning to celebrate this 40th year for your RLC Foundation. And, if you'd like to participate in Foundation decisions, please consider serving on the Foundation board.

Join us in shaping the next 40 years for your 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.



ROOF REPLACEMENT PLEDGE UPDATE

Redeemer Members, very soon we will not have Fear of Impending thunder storms. Our New Roof Pledge Drive was successful!

Pledges Received:	30
Amount Pledged:	\$53,680
Pledges Fulfilled:	17
Total Received:	\$40,180 (May 1st is the deadline)

Special Note: An online listener sent in a check for \$500.00.

Thank you to all who have pledged and are fulfilling your pledges.

A new roof will be very beneficial for several reasons. Our church building and contents will be protected, our insurance coverage and rates will be improved and it is proof to ourselves that we can still do it!

Forward in Faith,

The Redeemer Finance Team

Special Giving Highlight for April

April Special Giving Headlight Hartford Food Pantry

Our recipient of the monthly special in April will be the Hartford Food Pantry. Redeemer has a long history of giving to the food pantry at least once a year.

The Hartford Food Pantry is a volunteer, non-profit, non-sectarian organization, that provides food assistance. It meets the nutritional needs of clients, who lack sufficient means due to health conditions, low income, unemployment, or other emergencies.



We will be collecting money through the month of April and also include what was collected at the Ecumenical Lenten service on March 4th, 2026.

Thankful and blessed

Gabriele Priesgen

What's Up, Bruce?

Hi Everyone:

Bruce here, on the roof. I'd like to thank everyone who supported our fund drive to make our new roof a reality. We should have a contract signed with a contractor by the time you read this. We are looking to have the job done by the end of June.

We are working on getting a new defibrillator for the church. That also should be acquired by this reading.

As many of you know, about 1 1/2 months back the church was a bit cold. The boiler and pump were fine, (usually one of those are the culprits). The computer that controls the boiler and zones could not "talk to" the boiler. It was discovered that a circuit board went bad. That was replaced - but we need a software update to hopefully keep everything going. That is going to be taken care of in fall, before the next heating season arrives.

Again, Thank you for your pledges to help us make a new roof a reality. Any questions, feel free to ask; I'm here just about every Sunday

Bruce



OUTREACH

Sheila Kraeuche-Corwin



MINISTRY OF THE NEST

Just a reminder that we have several groups who are making use of our facility on a weekly, or monthly basis. This includes, but is not limited to:

Casa Guadalupe

Girl Scout Troup 37707

Al-Anon

I want to take this opportunity to say Thank You to Redeemer for all your thoughts, prayers and support as I move forward to the next chapter in my life. I have enjoyed my time with you as your secretary and will truly miss the Redeemer family. Blessings to each of you as you continue on your life's journey. Cathie

CYBER SECURITY

Considering some recent incidents*, it is prudent to review the following guidelines for responding to emails, texts and/or phone calls.

**We were recently made aware of emails being sent under Pastor's name but with a different email address. These emails are asking for gift cards and other unusual requests. Please do not respond - delete them*

Churches are soft targets for scammers, not hackers. Scammers, because this is a high trust environment.

Scammers have malicious intent. They are phishing to obtain passwords. It is important to check every request that comes in by email, text message or phone.

- S** Sender check. Verify email addresses or phone numbers independently, don't just reply to info on request email
- C** Caution with links and attachments. Hover over a link, don't click. Use urlscan.io
- A** Assess the urgency. (Big give away)
- M** Manual confirmation. Check who is requesting the information. Call using known phone numbers.
- S** Second opinion. Ask a trusted source.

Other suggestions

Do not share passwords.

Use a strong password or a Password Manager, like BITwarden.



Kimberly Henning	April 2
Joyce Pennock	April 2
Kathryn Hostad	April 7
Pamela Horen	April 8
Cheryl Peterson	April 20



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

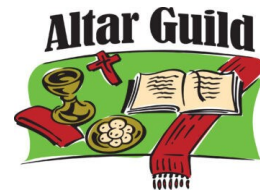


The Hartford Senior Center offers free blood sugar and blood pressure checks with a nurse. Please call or stop in the center to schedule an appointment, 262-673-4005

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*



April 5	9:30 am
Ushers:	Kurt & Wendy Hintz
Lector:	Tom Hostad
April 12	9:30 am
Ushers:	Don Horen
Lector:	Kurt Hintz
April 19	9:30 am
Usher:	Bruce & Laurie Horst
Lector:	Scott Lopas
April 26	9:30 am
Ushers:	Donna Lee
Lector:	Michelle Burton

April 5	Laurie Horst
April 12	Laurie Horst
April 19	Laurie Horst
April 15	Laurie Horst




Join us in person Sunday mornings 9:30am








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

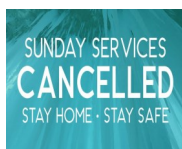
Redeemer's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/redeemehartford/>



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

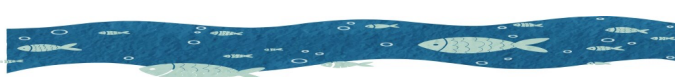
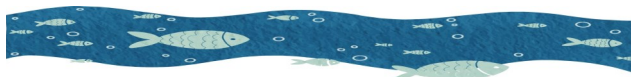
We will be continuing our Conversations with God where, we gather for prayer, Scripture, and conversation on a different topic each month. Our January gathering will be on the topic of **“Love”**. Come and join us for a cup of coffee and good conversation. The topic will be “Love”.

When: Thursday, April 23rd

Time: 10am

Where: Gathering Room

This Month's Topic: need topic



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 4:30pm. 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!

Since the first Friday of April falls on Good Friday, our monthly Redeemer Fish Fry group will be meeting on: Friday, **April 10th** instead at **4:30 p.m.**

We will be going to **The Drinking Well Pub & Grill** at 5327 Hwy 175, Hartford.

Please let me know if you're planning to join us by **Monday, April 6th** as I will be calling in the reservation that day. Also, let me know if you need a ride.

Thanks!

Anne

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Washington County is offering a “Savvy Caregiver Training” course This course will cover:

- ◆ Understanding the career of caregiving
- ◆ Different types of dementia
- ◆ How the decline in cognition affects behavior
- ◆ Dealing with the feelings that arise while caregiving
- ◆ Fitting tasks and activities to the person’s abilities
- ◆ Decision making skills.



Classes will be held on 6 Thursdays from 2:00pm 4:00pm at the Kewaskum Public Library. The dates are April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7.

Contact Tammy Dickman to register at 262-335-4497



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

HOLY WEEK FOR 2026

Thursday, April 2

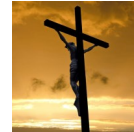
Maundy Thursday



Service at 4:00 pm

Friday, April 3

Good Friday



Service at 4:00 pm

Sunday April 5

Easter Sunday



Service at 9:30 am

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



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.

Snack needs include:

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

Other Items:

Books (gently used is ok), new toys





APRIL 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2		1 Office Hours-10am-2pm	2 Pastor in office 9am-12pm Office Hours-10am-2pm Maunder Thursday Service 4pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm	3 Good Friday Service 4pm	4
5 EASTER 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION	6 Women's Bible Study—noon Council Meeting 4pm Casa Guadalupe 6pm	7 Office Hours-10am-2pm	8 Office Hours-10am-2pm	9 Pastor in office 9am-12pm Office Hours-10am-2pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm	10	11
12 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION	13 Casa Guadalupe 6pm	14 Office Hours-10am-2pm	15 Pastor in office 9am-12pm Office Hours-10am-2pm	16 Office Hrs-10am-2pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm	17	18
19 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION	20 Casa Guadalupe 6pm	21 Office Hours-10am-2pm	22 Office Hours-10am-2pm	23 Pastor in office 9am-12pm Conversations with God 10:00a.m. Office Hours-10am-2pm Girl Scouts 5-6:30PM Al-Anon Mtg 7pm	24	28 Community Lunch First United Methodist Church 11:30AM
26 9:30am WORSHIP / COMMUNION	27 Casa Guadalupe 6pm	28 Office Hours-10am-2pm	29 Office Hours-10am-2pm	30 Pastor in office 9am-12pm Office Hours-10am-2pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm		

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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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