



# Herald

September 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**

Dear fellow redeemed,

How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb?

The answer: That is a serious problem, as we don't change!

Oh, but we do! Have you looked at a photo of me on my wedding day? I still remember the teenager from our church who visited our home quite a few years ago, and when seeing a photo of our wedding, asked, "Who is that?"

So we change as we age. We change jobs, houses, hobbies, and a whole lot of things.

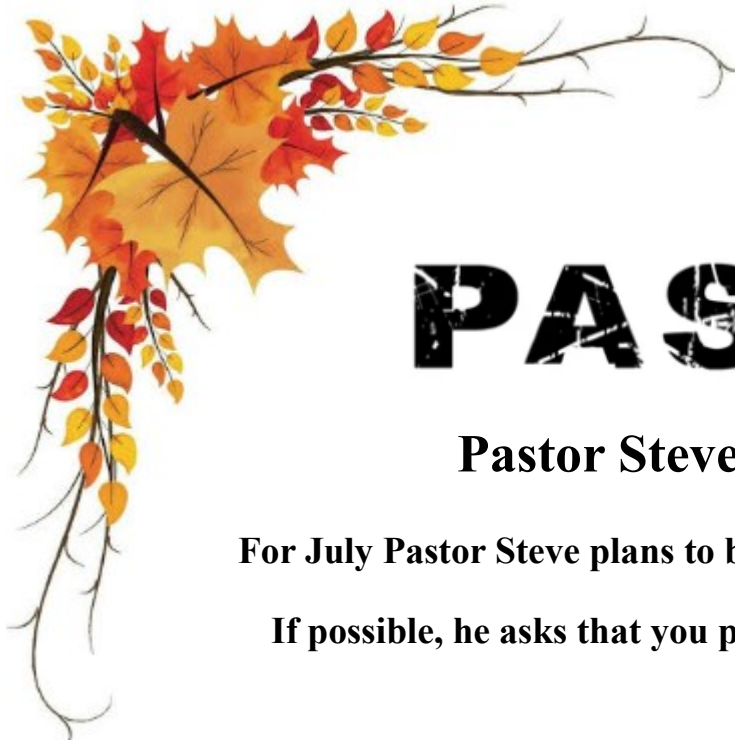
As I look at our congregation, I see the need for change! And yet, at the same time, I want to be faithful and consistent in the things that bring us together as the Church.

So how do we bring new ideas and ways to reach people of our community, while keeping what we have and treasure? I need your help! As we pray and listen and learn, let's discuss how we can improve and grow in our service to God and the people He so loves (which is ALL of us in Hartford, the Greater Milwaukee Synod, Wisconsin, our nation and world!)

I look forward to serving with you in the Church that Jesus promises to build (Matthew 16:18). And be assured that God in Christ will be at work in you, and in me, as we look for new and continued ways to bring God's love for all!

With you as God's redeemed people,

Pastor Steve



# **PASTOR**

## **Pastor Steve's Office Hours:**

**For July 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, September 3rd**

**Thursday, September 10th**

**Thursday, September 17th**

**Thursday, September 24th**

**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.**

**[pastorsteve25redeemer@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsteve25redeemer@gmail.com).**



# Presidents Message

Greetings,

Recently a group of us met to discuss Redeemer's property needs, both long and short term. Any of us who have owned a home know that some repairs can be anticipated and some cannot. For those that are known or can be anticipated we want to develop a plan to deal with each. Many of our property issues are the result of deferred maintenance – our finances would not support the potential expenses. We can't continue to ignore these needs!

Bruce Horst has an article in this issue that identifies some items of need that members may be willing to support with individual gifts. Please consider how you can respond. Our biggest needs are the upper and lower parking lots and we are considering a couple of different strategies to deal with this significant expense. Both lots are of the age that they will need to be excavated and replaced. A simple coat of sealer and restriping won't be sufficient.

Thanks to your generous support for the roof campaign and the manganous gift from an anonymous donor, we have some funds left that we can apply to this project. It won't be enough to cover the total expense, and we may need to consider another capital campaign.

We are also contemplating the sale of some of the lower lot to Habitat for Humanity who would build a house for a deserving family in the Hartford area. The lower lot is seldom used and selling a portion of it seems to be reasonable approach to reducing cost.

We want the final decision to be made at a congregational meeting after presenting you with all the pertinent facts and a recommendation. In the meantime, I welcome your input. I'm happy to discuss over a cup of coffee on a Sunday morning or anyplace you suggest.

Forward in Faith,

Tom Hostad

Church Council President



# THE CHURCH'S FOUNDATION



*Redeemer Lutheran Church Foundation – a helping hand for 40 years*

40 years of partnership with Redeemer Lutheran Church! That's quite a milestone! Celebrating it with our members has been a special privilege. Thanks to MJ's Market and Catering for preparing the picnic supplies for our July celebration event to mark the occasion. Even though the party has passed, we will continue to focus on the distinct history of the Redeemer Foundation and what it means moving into the future.

We also recall those first directors in the mid 1980's whose efforts and foresight made the idea of a Foundation for Redeemer a reality. Along with still current members Gordon Dobbe and Jo Peterson, that list includes Guy Hoppe, Carol Orth, Ken Kresheck, Dee Skinner, Al Weitermann, Dave Zander, and Garrett Terpstra. Thanks to all the individuals who over the years joined them in contributing ideas, oversight and their time and talent to nurture and grow the Redeemer Foundation into the incredible partner it is today for our church.

I would also like to offer my special thanks to those who presently serve you on the Foundation Board. Many of these people have been in their roles for the past 10 years or longer. Lynn Nettesheim serves as Secretary, Laurie Horst is the Treasurer, Tom Hostad is a director, joined by Gabriele Priesgen who serves on the board through her role as your Church Treasurer and Kurt Hinz who as our church council vice president is the council liaison to the Foundation. And I thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege to serve as president of this group for the past many years.

Please join us as we relish our 40-year history while finding creative ways to make your Redeemer Foundation even more relevant to the future ahead for Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Scott Lopas, and your Redeemer Foundation Board



# Special Giving Highlight for September

## FRIENDS, INC.



**FRIENDS, Inc.,** is the sole provider of shelter and support services for individuals affected by Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Washington County.

### **Their Mission**

To Break the Cycle of Domestic and Sexual Violence through Shelter, Support Services, and Education.

### **Their Vision**

We envision a community where every individual lives free from the threat of Domestic and Sexual Violence, where people are educated and empowered to support survivors, and where healthy, respectful relationships are the norm.

Here is a timeline showing FRIENDS evolution:

FRIENDS, Inc., originally named “Friends for Battered Women,” began programming in 1978 with three volunteers who answered a 24-hour crisis line and provided short-term shelter for women and children that were in immediate crisis. The annual budget was set at \$5,000.

In 1986, the organization changed its name to Friends of Abused Families and the agency opened up its first emergency shelter by renting a house in Barton.

In 1988, FRIENDS, Inc. purchased the current shelter and support services facility. Originally, the space housed up to 12 individuals. Renovations have continued throughout subsequent years and currently there are a total of 20 beds available to individuals and children. Shelter residents have access to support twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week.

In response to program evaluation and feedback from clients, in 1994 FRIENDS, Inc. expanded its legal program and hired a Legal Advocate to attend charging conferences, assist with restraining orders, and provide legal information and service representation.

Additionally, in 1994 FRIENDS, Inc. started its Transitional Living Program (TLP) which is designed as a bridge to self-sufficiency and permanent housing. The program strives to empower individuals and families to achieve independence through enhancing independent living skills, maintaining income, and building a strong family unit while in a violent-free environment.

# Special Giving Highlight for September

In 1996, FRIENDS, Inc. began offering support services to victims of Sexual Violence. Program elements include Individual Advocacy, Emergency Shelter, Support Groups, Medical and Legal Advocacy, and Prevention Education for youth and adults.

As of 1998, the agency's budget and client population had seen tremendous growth. The annual budget was \$333,000, and the number of clients served was 524.

FRIENDS, Inc. completed a major renovation in 2004, making the shelter facility completely accessible to individuals with physical disabilities. Additional office space was created on the upper level to allow for larger living space in the shelter's communal areas.

In 2008, FRIENDS, Inc. celebrated their 30th anniversary! Revealing Pearls of Hope was held at West Bend Mutual Prairie Center with guest speaker Teri Jendusa Nicolai.

In 2012, FRIENDS, Inc.'s Prevention Education Program became active in all school districts at most grade levels. The interactive curriculum is a way to educate students about the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships, what constitutes Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Abuse, the use of technology, bystander intervention, and gender violence.

In 2013, FRIENDS, Inc. again expanded its legal program to include a full-time Family Law Attorney to assist victims with divorce, separation, child custody, placement and child support.

In 2018 FRIENDS, Inc. celebrated its 40th anniversary! The agency has changed its name to FRIENDS, Inc. and is now in a public location. Additionally, the agency has expanded to offer full services to all genders. We have always provided services to those who identify as male, but previously we had not provided on-site shelter services.

In 2020, FRIENDS, Inc. expanded their outreach efforts to reach underserved communities by including a full-time Outreach Specialist to offer inclusive and culturally appropriate programming and a part-time Bilingual Advocate to provide direct client support.

In 2025, FRIENDS, Inc. revamped their shelter to better serve clients by painting all shelter rooms, adding a commercial refrigerator to the shelter kitchen, improving our security camera system, and increasing capacity by adding two additional beds, bringing the total to 22 beds in 7 different rooms available for individuals and children in need.

Like always you can find more information on their website <https://www.friendswi.org/>.

Thankful and blessed

Gabriele Priesgen

# WHAT'S UP, BRUCE?

**Hello Fellow Parishioners:**

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer, for it sure has flown by. Recently a few of us got together to talk about some “wish list” items for fixing up/updating our building.

Please remember this is a wish list—some of these items do have to be addressed, others not.

We have a number of smaller projects that would run from a few hundred dollars to roughly \$5,000.

In no special order, here's where we could improve our facilities:

- **New keyboard**
- **Improving light in the sanctuary**
- **Gutters for the carport**
- **Front door latch replacement**
- **Carpeting on back stairs needs to be stretched to get rid of the ripples to prevent trip hazards**
- **Installation of cameras for improving security**
- **A new sign for the front of the building**

Now please remember that some of these are only wish items.

However, if someone would like to put some funds towards any special item, your gift would certainly be appreciated.

As far as the air conditioning in the Gathering Room—that has turned into a “problem child” that we just can't get figured out, but we're working on it.

**Thank you everyone for your continued support—you folks are GREAT!**

**A special thank you and shout out to Stephanie and Don Robinson for their work on the flower beds, and Jim & Kim Baake for help cleaning windows and bathrooms, the place is really looking great!**



On behalf of everyone at **Casa Guadalupe Multicultural Center**, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous donation of snacks and other essential items for our clients.

Your kindness and generosity make a meaningful difference in the lives of the families and individuals we serve. These donations help us provide much-needed support to our community and remind our clients that they have a caring community standing behind them.

**We are truly grateful for your continued support of Casa Guadalupe and for the partnership we have with Redeemer Lutheran Church. Your generosity helps us fulfill our mission of supporting and empowering families in our community.**

Thank you for thinking of Casa Guadalupe and for making a positive impact through your generosity.

With sincere appreciation,

**Casa Guadalupe Multicultural Center**

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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



## Treasurer's Report

| Month        | Income           | Expense          | Net Income      |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Jan          | \$8,568          | \$17,266         | -\$8,698        |
| Feb*         | 28,700           | \$413,777        | \$14,923        |
| Mar**        | \$47,078         | \$21,807         | \$25,271        |
| Apr***       | \$16,419         | \$16,238         | \$181           |
| May****      | \$69,689         | \$88,186         | -\$24,498       |
| June         | <b>\$14,232</b>  | <b>\$11,942</b>  | <b>\$2,290</b>  |
| July         | \$6,812          | \$24,379         | -\$17,567       |
| Aug          |                  |                  |                 |
| Sep          |                  |                  |                 |
| Oct          |                  |                  |                 |
| Nov          |                  |                  |                 |
| Dec          |                  |                  |                 |
| Yearly total | <b>\$185,498</b> | <b>\$191,595</b> | <b>-\$8,097</b> |

\*Income Incl. \$16,350 Roof Campaign

\*\*Income Incl. \$30,670 Roof Campaign

\*\*\*Income incl. \$7,500 Roof Campaign

\*\*\*\*Income incl. \$53,970 Matching Funds and \$75,600 Roofing Bill

! Expenses include \$11,420 Gutter Installation



Bruce Horst

September 1

Betty Langer

September 2



### Readers Needed at Lincoln Elementary School

Looking for a meaningful way to support children in our community?

#### Lincoln Elementary School is looking for volunteer readers!

Volunteers are invited to visit the school and share a favorite story with the children. The school asks volunteers to commit to a regular day and time for a period of time. This consistency gives volunteers the opportunity to build relationships and become a familiar, encouraging presence for both the students and their teachers.

Interested in volunteering? Please let Pastor Steve know, and we will connect you with the school contact who coordinates the reading program.

Thank you for considering this wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of local children!

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

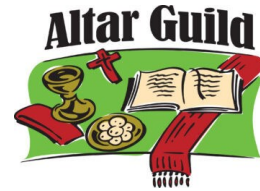
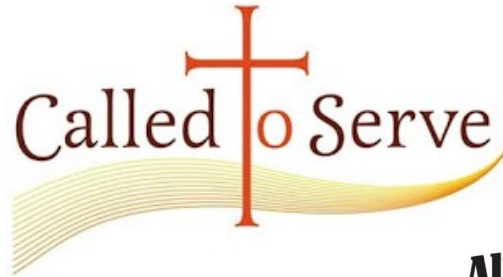
Bring a sack lunch.

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





**September 6 9:30 am**

Ushers: Bruce and Laurie Horst  
Lector: Scott Lopas

**September 13 9:30 am**

Ushers: Donna Lee  
Lector: Michelle Burton

**September 20 9:30 am**

Usher: Kurt & Wendy Hintz  
Lector: Tom Hostad

**September 27 9:30 am**

Ushers: Don Horen  
Lector: Kurt Hintz

**September 6 Laurie Horst**

**September 13 Laurie Horst**

**September 20 Laurie Horst**

**September 27 Laurie Horst**



# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

## CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD

**When:** Thursday, September 24th

**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 4:30pm. 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!

### **Our Friday Fish Fry will be on September 4th**

Ron's Cozy Corner (at W359N5920 Brown St. , Oconomowoc) on Friday, September 4th. Please be there by 4:00 pm.

Please get in touch with **Jeanette Weber at 262-673-4109** by August 31st to let her know if you are coming and if you need a ride .

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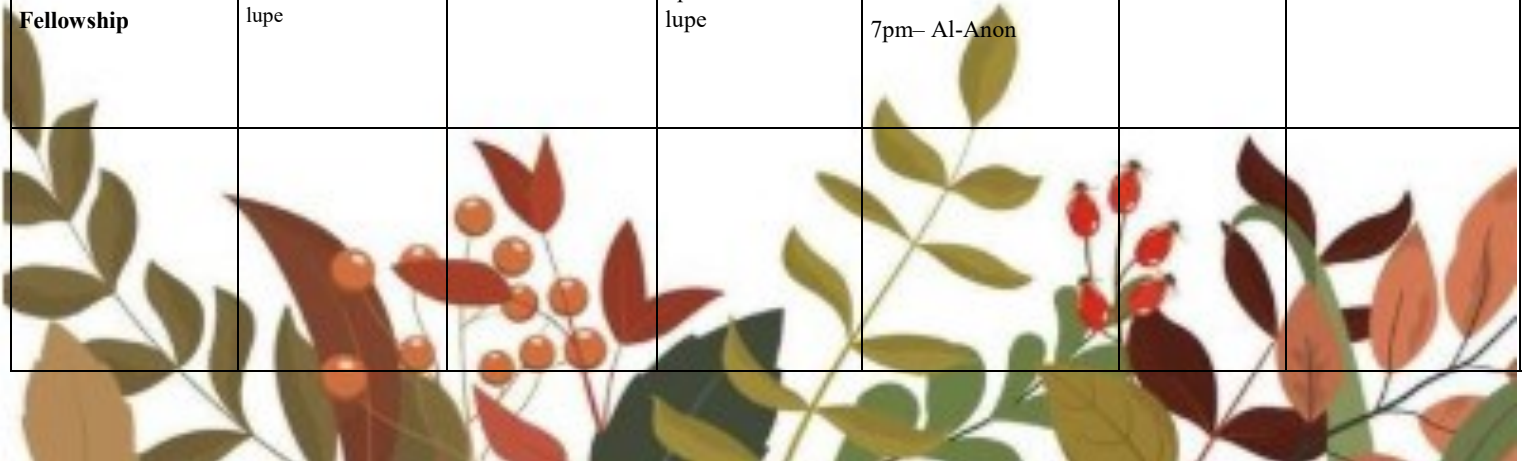
A Community Lunch is served on the last Saturday of each month. It is held at the United Methodist Church, 738 W Monroe Ave. This outreach would not be possible without the many volunteers from the four ecumenical churches: First United Methodist Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Aidan's Episcopal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





# September 2026

| Sun                                             | Mon                                                                                         | Tue                    | Wed                                               | Thu                                                                                               | Fri                                        | Sat                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                                 |                                                                                             | 1<br>10am-2pm– Office  | 2<br>10am-2pm Office<br>6pm Casa<br>Guadalupe     | 3<br>9-12 Pastor in office<br>10am-2pm Office<br>7pm– Al-Anon                                     | 4<br><b>Monthly<br/>Fish Fry<br/>Group</b> | 5                                          |
| 6<br>9:30am– Worship<br>10:30am–<br>Fellowship  | 7<br>6pm– Casa Guada-<br>lupe                                                               | 8<br>10am-2pm– Office  | 9<br>10am-2pm Office<br>6pm Casa<br>Guadalupe     | 10<br>9-12 Pastor in office<br>10am-2pm Office<br>7pm– Al-Anon                                    | 11                                         | 12                                         |
| 13<br>9:30am– Worship<br>10:30am–<br>Fellowship | 14<br>12pm-2pm<br>Women's Ministry<br>4pm-Church<br>Council Mtg<br>6pm– Casa Guada-<br>lupe | 15<br>10am-2pm– Office | 16<br>10am-2pm Office<br>6pm Casa<br>Guadalupe    | 17<br>9-12 Pastor in office<br>10am-2pm Office<br>5pm– Girl Scouts<br>7pm– Al-Anon                | 18                                         | 19                                         |
| 20<br>9:30am– Worship<br>10:30am–<br>Fellowship | 21<br>6pm– Casa Guada-<br>lupe                                                              | 22<br>10am-2pm– Office | 23<br>10am-2pm Office<br>6pm Casa<br>Guadalupe    | 24<br>9-12 Pastor in office<br>10am– Conversations with<br>God<br>10am-2pm Office<br>7pm– Al-Anon | 25                                         | 26<br><b>11:30<br/>Community<br/>Lunch</b> |
| 27<br>9:30am– Worship<br>10:30am–<br>Fellowship | 28<br>6pm– Casa Guada-<br>lupe                                                              | 29<br>10am-2pm– Office | 30<br>10am-2pm Office<br>6pm– Casa Guada-<br>lupe | 1<br>9-12 Pastor in office<br>10am-2pm Office<br>7pm– Al-Anon                                     | 2                                          | 3                                          |
|                                                 |                                                                                             |                        |                                                   |                                                                                                   |                                            |                                            |



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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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