



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

FALL 2026

STEWARDSHIP

"AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ON ANOTHER, AS GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE: WHOEVER SPEAKS, AS ONE WHO SPEAKS ORACLES OF GOD; WHOEVER SERVES, AS ONE WHO SERVES BY THE STRENGTH THAT GOD SUPPLIES—IN ORDER THAT IN EVERYTHING GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. TO HIM BELONG GLORY AND DOMINION FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN."

—1 PETER 4:10-11

Fellow Stewards,

We have received great gifts. For you the Word became flesh, God became Man to be baptized and bear your sins to the cross where they were paid for and put to death with Him for Him to rise again from the dead to new life. You are washed by water and the Word in Baptism where these gifts and this work of Christ was put on you. You are fed with bread and wine, the body and blood of Jesus, making you a participant in both His death and His resurrection that you would have the certain hope of your resurrection from the dead to life eternal.

As though the forgiveness of sins, resurrection, life, and salvation were not enough, God continues to pour out blessings upon us. He gives us gifts and talents to serve others and work that we would have our daily bread and all that we need to support this body and life. He sustains us not only for eternal life, but in this daily life. He entrusts us with these gifts of salvation and creation that we would have, use, and share them that "in everything God may be glorified through Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever."

This is a perfect time for us to study and consider our stewardship of God's gifts. It's a great time for this because, according to what I have been told and able to find out, it has been a little while since stewardship has been a focus and topic of study at Our Redeemer. It's also a great time for this because it has also been a little while, or perhaps a great while, since stewardship has been a concern at Our Redeemer. To this day, while it is not something of no care or no consideration, it is still not a concern, a problem, a weakness, or issue that we must deal with immediately or else face grave and dire consequences. We are doing fine.

While we are well, healthy, and spiritually mature enough to look at our stewardship in a time when we do not have to point fingers or put ourselves or anyone else

over the flames for poor stewardship, but can examine this Biblical topic in a patient, calm, level-headed and reasonable way, it makes this a good time to focus on stewardship. Don't get me wrong, stewardship is a matter of the law, even if it is the third use of the law, and so at some point it's probably going to sting, hurt a little, and make you feel guilty. That is what the law does, it accuses, so if you feel accused, know that it is simply the law doing its work. Do not panic. Do not fear. The cross is still for you and for your salvation.

In addition to our current situation, the gifts we have, the people that give so much of themselves to this wonderful place, and our financial position at Our Redeemer, we are also considering doing more with these gifts, especially potentially calling an additional church worker and considering if that is a position we want to fill, and if it is, is it full-time or part-time, and how does that relate to our position, our gifts, and our stewardship.

To help us with all of this, on November 21, Our Redeemer will be hosting a Philippians Conference focused on stewardship facilitated by the South Wisconsin District President, Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, who has also partnered with the LCMS Office of National Mission - Stewardship and co-authored a book on Stewardship for the Care of Souls. This will be a conference for the pastors, elders, leaders, and all members of Our Redeemer as well as surrounding congregations to consider the Biblical concepts and our local stewardship culture. I would strongly encourage you all as stewards of God's gifts and partners in the Gospel to join us on that day to consider what He has given us and how we use that to the glory of God through Jesus Christ our Savior.

A fellow steward,
Pastor Simek

TREASURER'S REPORT

Budget Total	\$543,430.00
Giving (Year-to-Date: 9 Weeks)	\$95,609
Weekly Need to Meet Budget	\$10,451
Average Weekly Giving (Year-to-Date)	\$10,623

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2026 YEAR-TO-DATE ATTENDANCE AVERAGES

	8 AM	10:30 AM	SUNDAY TOTAL
MAY	109.8	83.2	193
JUNE	101.25	81.25	182.5
JULY	102.25	84.5	186.75
AUGUST	101	81	182



Tips for a positive start to the school year!

Here are some tips to help children under 12 kick off the school year feeling emotionally ready.

TIP #1

DAILY ROUTINES HELP KIDS FEEL SAFE AND CONFIDENT

- ❖ Plan regular times for healthy meals, play, and homework every day.
- ❖ Kids need 9-12 hours of sleep every night to help them learn.
- ❖ Get clothes and backpacks ready for school the night before.
- ❖ Set aside regular one-on-one time, without screens, to do something relaxing and fun with your child.

Put away electronics one hour before bedtime to relax together and get ready for a good night's sleep.

TIP #2

BUILDING CONNECTION BOOSTS CONFIDENCE

- ❖ Visit the school together to meet teachers and see where your child will be spending their day.
- ❖ Talk to your child about what they can expect before the school year starts. If they are nervous, let them know it's normal.
- ❖ Have a buddy for bus rides or carpools to make going to school easier.
- ❖ Reduce bullying by forming positive connections in after-school and mentoring programs.

Praise your child.

"Thank you for helping set out your school clothes for tomorrow!" or "Great job packing your backpack!"

Practice positive self-talk.

Say "I can try this" instead of "I can't do this."

TIP #3

TALKING ABOUT THEIR FEELINGS BUILDS TRUST

- 🕒 Ask your child: what was the best thing about your school day?
- 🕒 Acknowledge their feelings, even when emotions are tough because of conflict or disappointment.
- 🕒 Practice coping skills such as belly breathing.

Talk about their feelings

"It's okay to feel..." &
"I'm so glad you told me about..."

Try belly breathing together!

Put both hands on your belly, breathe in slowly through your nose, then breathe out slowly through your mouth.

TIP #4

YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD BEST. IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD NEEDS MORE HELP:

- 🕒 Talk to your child's teachers about how you can support their needs at school.
- 🕒 If your child's feelings are affecting their sleep or school, talk to school behavioral health staff or their doctor about ways to help.
- 🕒 Consider a health check-up to stay up to date on your child's routine health care.



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for more information.



5/17/2026 VOTERS' MEETING MINUTES

(PENDING APPROVAL)

Opening Prayer

Roll Call

61 in attendance; Added Vonda Sturzenbecher, Declan Lee, and Terrence Maeschen to the rolls

Membership Changes

January

Incoming Transfer In :Jeff & Lori McQuistan

February

Incoming - Transfer In: Rev. Randy & Vonda Sturzenbecher, Colin & Rachel Kelley, Terry & Paulette Pronk

Outgoing -

Death - Mitzi Bittner

Transfer Out - Colin Thuringer

Release - Danica Herman

March

Incoming - Baptism: Cooper Scott Kelley, Felicity Elizabeth Nelson

Outgoing - Death: Marge Dreesman

April:

Incoming - Transfer In: Alex Duus

Outgoing - Release: Roger & Sally Bacon

May:

Outgoing - Transfer Out: Jody Bymers

Review and Approve Minutes from previous Voters' Assembly (Nov 2025)

Treasurer's Report

a. In good standing

Action Items

- **SFLS Updates** (Paula Clemens)
 - Make sure to talk to friends and neighbors to have them check out SFLS
 - The assessment formula has changed
- **Trustees Update:**
 - We want to replace the Main East Doors for security and fire hazard reasons
 - Bid was under \$15,000
 - Re-seal the cracks of the parking lot
 - Two bids for cracked seal of parking lot
 - Alpha Asphalt \$2,600; Dakota Seal \$3,250
 - Voters approved up to \$3,000 to go with Alpha Asphalt
- **SFLS Representative for Church Council elections for 2026-2027**
 - Voters approved Steve Jastram as SFLS Representative for 2026 term

• 2025-26 Budget

- 5000 Building & Grounds - No changes
- 5100 Administration - No changes
- 5200 Missions, 5300 Events & Activities, 5400 ORLC Groups - No changes
- 5500 Education
 - Church Library \$200
- 5600 Lutheran Schools & Seminary (FETA/SFLS) - No changes
- 5700 Performing Arts - No changes
- 9000, 9100, 9200, 9900 Salaries, Compensation, Benefits, Payroll
 - Lauren will look into the Social Security Adjustment
 - No changes
- Entire Budget
 - Approved at \$543,430.00

• Discussion of Ministry Opportunities and Church Worker Options

- If we did want another called worker, we would need to see an increase in contributions to the general fund
- Elders discussed another called worker and would like to explore options
 - Options:
 - DCE: Director of Christian Education
 - DCO: Director of Christian Outreach
 - DPM: Director of Parish Music
 - Kantor: Called Word & Sacrament, Music leader
 - DCM: Director of Church Ministries
 - Deaconess: Women serving as professional church workers

• Church Office Worker

- Consider hiring a part time secretary. Right now we are working with volunteers
- One possibility is to do a "pastor sharing" type of arrangement with a sister congregation that can't afford to call a full pastor but we could share the cost and time of that person
- 1. Motion for adjournment with the Lord's Prayer

Motion for adjournment with the Lord's Prayer

"How can I get involved?"

Children:

Sunday School—We have Sunday School for PreK-High School on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM. Our Sunday School teachers are:

Preschool: Mrs. Kristy Eden & Mrs. Kris Leonhardt

5 yrs-2nd Grade: Mrs. Deb Huntsinger

3rd-5th Grade: Mr. Bryan Eden

6th-8th Grade: Mr. Tim Eden

9th-12th Grade: Mr. & Mrs. Craig & Stephanie Eden

Kids 4 Christ—Mrs. Janelle Lafrentz, Mrs. Jody Rieck, and Mr. Derek Greenwaldt lead our children

Kindergarten—5th grade at Kids 4 Christ (K4C) every 1st and 3rd Friday. A meal will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by our K4C program. The program ends at 7:30 p.m.

Middle School Youth:

Catechesis Classes—We have catechesis classes every Wednesday during the school year from 6PM-7PM for 5th—8th graders except during Advent and Lent. Mr. Bryan Eden teaches the 5th grade class, and Rev. Brett Simek teaches the 6th-8th grade class. There is a church family meal before class at 5PM for anyone who may wish to eat at the church.

Junior and High School Youth:

Youth Group—Mr. and Mrs. Craig & Stephanie Eden lead our youth group on Wednesday evenings 6PM—7PM for 8th—12th graders, as well as monthly activities throughout the year for 6th—12th graders.

High School and Adults:

Vocal Choir—Choir rehearsals are each Wednesday evening at 7PM (7:30 during Advent and Lent). If you are interested in joining choir, please speak with or email Rev. Shane—HShane101@gmail.com.

Handbell Choir—We meet each Tuesday at 6:45PM. If you are interested in joining the handbell choir, please contact Matt Nussbaum.

Adults:

Sunday Morning Bible Study—Sunday morning Bible study is led by Rev. Brett Simek each Sunday at 9:15AM. Join us in the Fellowship Hall downstairs!

Wednesday Adult Bible Study—We have Bible Study each Wednesday at 6PM except during Advent and Lent, led by Rev. David Morfitt.

Healing Hearts—Healing Hearts is a group of men and women who are at any stage of grieving the loss of a loved one. The purpose is to share in loss, get to know others, and find support within our church family. We meet monthly on the first Thursday at 10AM.

S.A.I.L. Classes—Parish Nurse Karen Morfitt leads our SAIL class, an exercise class focused on strength and balance every Monday and Thursday at 1:30PM.

Senior Members:

Senior Saints Bible Study—We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1PM.

Senior Saints Brunch—We meet at Perkins on 41st Street the second Thursday of every month at 9:30AM.

Men:

Guys' Garage—Mr. Tim Goettsch leads the Guys' Garage group. They meet the first Monday of each month at 6PM. There are different activities each month.

Women:

LWML—We have two LWML groups at ORLC. Evening LWML meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM. Ebenezer LWML meets the third Thursday of each month at 1:30PM.

Women's Bible Study—We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month at 6:30PM.

All members:

Volunteering—We are always looking for people of all ages to help serve on Sunday mornings - greeters, ushers, altar guild members, acolytes, and help running presentations.