



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Redeemer Reader · July 2026

..... **A Note from Pastor Matt**

Grace and peace to all of you as we enter the month of July 2026!

A lot of important and exciting things happened within our Synod and in the life of our congregation this past month. It is good for us to take a moment to look back at where God has been at work and also look ahead to the future of ministry God has in store for us in our little corner of the life of faith.

At the beginning of June, we partnered with Central United Methodist Church and Summer Memorial Lutheran Church for our annual Vacation Bible School. This year, Central United Methodist hosted VBS with so much passion, love, and faith. We had numerous volunteers from Redeemer who helped with music, teaching, meal preparation, and simply being a loving presence for all who attended. The theme this year was a Road Trip with God, and it was a wonderful week of learning, laughter, and growing in faith. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's VBS such a meaningful and successful ministry.

From June 11-13, the South Carolina Synod Assembly was held in Columbia, and we quickly got to work electing a new bishop. The bishop election process is both an interesting and holy experience. It begins with an ecclesiastical ballot, where any rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament is eligible to be nominated. After that first ballot, sixty pastors from throughout the Synod and beyond received nominations from those gathered.

The second ballot narrowed the field to fifteen names, with the top seven vote-getters advancing to the third ballot. The fourth ballot included the top three candidates from the previous round, while the fifth and final ballot was a simple majority vote between the two candidates who received the most votes on the fourth ballot. After all of that discernment and voting, we elected Rev. Wade Roof, pastor of Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church in West Columbia, as the next bishop of the South Carolina Synod.

Bishop-elect Roof will begin his term on September 1, and his installation will take place in October. The location for that faithful and holy service is still being determined, but I will be sure to share that information once it becomes available.

It is an exciting time for our Synod as we look forward to the leadership and guidance God will provide through Bishop-elect Roof. Throughout the Assembly, he spoke about recognizing and strengthening the gifts that already exist within our congregations and communities. He shared a vision centered on deeper relationships, stronger connections across the Synod, and helping more people experience the grace of God at work in their lives.

The following week, Redeemer hosted the South Carolina Women of the ELCA Convention on our campus. It was a wonderful time of faith, fellowship, learning, and encouragement. Their theme, "I Am Worthy, I Am Loved, and I Am Enough," offered a powerful reminder of God's love and care for each of us. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this gathering such a faithful and successful event.

A week later, I, along with two of our confirmation students – Adam Boozer and Miriam Titus – attended Kairos Confirmation Camp at Lutheridge. This year's theme focused on Holy Communion. Together we learned, laughed, worshiped, and deepened our understanding of what it means to be in communion not only with God, but with one another as well. It was a wonderful experience and a meaningful time of growth in faith for all of us.

There was a lot of ministry, service, learning, and faithful work taking place in and through our little corner of God's kingdom throughout the month of June. As we move into July, I am excited about what lies ahead – how we continue to embody the church for the world, how we serve and care for those within and around our community, and how we live into the life of faith God has created us for, that Jesus is present with us through, and that the Holy Spirit continues to guide and direct.

Thank you for all the ways you participate in the life of this congregation and in God's work in the world. It is a joy and blessing to share in this ministry with all of you.



Support Our Little Free Pantry



Our Little Free Pantry (located directly across the street from the front of the Family Life Center) continues to be a simple but powerful way to share Christ's love with our neighbors. The pantry is available 24 hours a day for anyone who needs a helping hand, and it depends on the generosity of our congregation and community to remain stocked.

We are especially in need of practical household and food items. Helpful donations include shelf-stable meals such as spaghetti and meatballs, canned soups, pasta, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, and other easy-to-prepare foods. Personal care items are also greatly appreciated, including maxi pads, tampons, diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, and shampoo.

Fresh produce from home gardens is always welcome when available. Tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, peppers, and other fresh fruits and vegetables provide nutritious options for families in need.

Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors and live out Christ's call to serve one another with compassion and generosity.

..... **Member Updates**

Congratulations to Jake (grandson of Bob and Carol Montgomery) and Shelby Montgomery on their June 27 wedding.

Prayer List: Dale Brown · Rev. Dick Webber · Elaine Cornwell · Stacy Tyson
Rosemary Dominick
Friends of the congregation: Ember Corley · Jewel Garner · Lee Moody
Claire Whitaker Walker

Remember your church family, especially those you haven't seen in a while. Send a card, make a phone call, or pay a visit. Let them know we love and care for them and wish them God's blessings.

At Home: Carol Montgomery, John & Carolyn Hammond, John Bodie, Nancy Owen,
Springfield Place: Kitty Summer · Chuck Minick · B.L. Brown
JF Hawkins: Mary Lou Weir · Sybil Cousins · Elizabeth Rodelsperger

..... **Worship & Music Notes**

Our **summer choir** continues to gather at 9:30 am for devotions and a Sunday School lesson and rehearse at 9:45 am for worship. If you have ever considered joining the choir, this is a great time! Come check it out!

Regular Handbell Choir and Senior Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, August 5. The Children's Choir will resume rehearsals on Sunday, August 9 after the 10:30 am worship service.

Our **Eucharistic visitors** are important sacramental and pastoral representatives of our church community. Their visits remind parishioners who are sick or unable to physically attend Sunday services that they are still members of our community and the Body of Christ, and they are not forgotten. Eucharistic visitors bear Christ's body and blood, connecting members in their homes to the larger Body of Christ, past, present, and future.

Parishioners who would like a visit from one of our Eucharistic ministers or who would like to participate in this program are encouraged to contact the church office (803-276-2003 or info@redeemernweberry.org).

Acolyte and Crucifer Planning for 2026-2027

Our acolytes and crucifers are recruited from our children and youth here at Redeemer. If you are an adult and are interested in serving in one of these roles, please notify Pastor Matt by July 31.

..... **Stewardship Snippet**

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” –Malachi 3:10

Again and again the Bible lifts up tithing – giving a tenth of our income – as a benchmark for faithful giving. The prophet Malachi goes so far as to say God promises to rain down abundant blessings upon those who tithe. Yet most Christians fall quite short of tithing, generally giving less than 3 percent to the church.

Why? One reason is that in calculating how much to give, most people use the fixed-rate method. They first take stock of how much *they are able* to give, and then how much *they want* to give. Weighing these two factors, they then decide how much *they will* give.

There’s nothing particularly bad about this method, but it has limitations. While giving folks an offering amount they can live with, the fixed-rate method doesn’t necessarily put them on the path toward tithing.

A better method is percentage giving, that is, determining your offering as a percentage of income. Here’s how:

Using a calculator, divide your weekly (or monthly, or yearly) church offering by your take-home pay for the same period (week, month or year). Then multiply that figure by 100. This gives you the percentage of your giving. For example, if your weekly offering is \$30 and your weekly take-home pay is \$500, your percentage of giving is 6 percent ($30 \div 500 = 0.06$, then $0.06 \times 100 = 6$).

Can *everyone* afford to tithe? Of course not. Certainly God would not want children to go hungry or be cold so that their parents could tithe to church, but it’s also true that many of us, maybe most of us, could afford to give more. The important thing is to be prayerful about your offering, be as generous as you are able, and keep tithing in mind, perhaps as a goal.

Keeping track of your giving as a percentage of income provides you with information to gauge your offering and perhaps build up to a tithe. You can make it a goal gradually, over time, to increase the percentage until you reach a tithe – 10 percent. One simple way would be to increase your giving by one half of a percentage point per year.

As Malachi promises, God will bless you richly for your tithing, and not only that, your church will be blessed, too. Switching from fixed-rate giving to percentage giving is a good start.

..... **Financial Facts**

Summary Treasurer’s Report for June (as of June 29, 2026)

	Current Expenses	Major Maint./ Cap. Impr.	YTD All Accounts
Income:	\$18,610.54	\$2,477.50	\$163,071.23
Expenses:	\$17,415.08	\$0	\$154,913.25
Amount Over/Under:	\$1,195.46	\$2,477.50	\$8,157.98



WELCA will not meet in July.

We had a wonderful turn out for the SCWELCA Convention held here at Redeemer June 19-20. A great big

THANK YOU to all of those who helped organize, clean, set up, break down, and clean up after - we could not have hosted this event without you!

Thank you for your support of GAAP and the Global Project! With your assistance we were able to collect the following items:

GAAP - 1,204

Birthday Boxes - 274

Money Collected for Projects

Global Project - Japan (fence) - \$7,984

GAAP - \$3,050

Newberry College Nursing Scholarship - \$2,025

Newberry College Food Band - \$400

Katie's Food - \$100

TOTAL Money Collected - \$13,559

..... **Lutheran Men in Mission**

Redeemer's Lutheran Men in Mission will meet on Tuesday, July 14 at 7:00 pm in the Family Life Center. Walter Jacobs is the head chef and the meal will be hot dogs, chili, baked beans, cole slaw, and dessert. John Pugh, Pharmacist at Prosperity Drug Company will present the program. All men and boys are invited to attend.



We fed the VBS attendees on Monday, June 8 at Central UMC. Thank you to all who helped with this.

If you would like to join the Committee of 100, forms are available in the narthex or on the desk in the hallway outside of the church office.

AMEN for Lutheran Men!

..... **Christian Education Corner**

Our Summer Sunday School schedule continues throughout July. Be on the lookout for exciting information about our Back to School Breakfast and Gathering on Sunday, August 2. The Blessing of the Backpacks will also be that day during worship.

..... **Community Event**

On Friday, July 3, at 6:00 pm at the Newberry Opera House, the Declaration of Independence will be read and a patriotic program will be presented by Benny Ferguson, Kristin Caughman, and Huger Caughman, Jr. The event is free and open to the public.

..... **Celebrations**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

12 - Benny & Betty Ferguson	16 - B.L. & Dale Brown, Jr.	24 - Jeremy & Cassie White
13 - Woody & Elaine Cornwell	16 - David & Vickie Wiseman	29 - Bobby & Cynthia Lominack

BIRTHDAYS

02 - Briann Pitts	12 - Anna Marie	21 - Sonny Layman	28 - Jessica Draeger
03 - Cooper Dowd	Nicosia	21 - Lawson Ray	28 - Norris Long
03 - Shannon Lindsay	13 - Adam Westwood	21 - Donna White	30 - Taygen Hazel
06 - Grace Coleman	16 - Joshua Moody	25 - Danielle Abrams	30 - David Metts
08 - Ray Cooper	17 - Jordan Amick	25 - Tommy Fellers, Jr.	30 - Thomas Moose
08 - Ben Lindsay	18 - Kathy Dennis	25 - George Summer	31 - Erin Whitaker
08 - Becky Livingston	18 - Elmer Long	III	
09 - Amanda Richardson	20 - Joanne Fretwell	27 - Kelly Bannister	
	21 - Todd Guy	28 - Tommy Cousins	

..... **Attendance**

	Sunday School	Worship	Online Views	Total	Offerings Received
June 07	19	68	167	235	\$3,945.64
June 14	20	64	173	237	\$4,974.98
June 21	22	67	147	212	\$7,527.69
June 28	21	56	178	234	\$5,622.48
Average	20	63	166	229	\$5,517.69

..... **Worship Volunteers**

1st Sunday - Chad Cary, Norris Long, Zeb Reid, Dennis Caughman
 2nd Sunday - Susan Thomasson, Walter Jacobs, Justin Guy, Dennis Caughman
 3rd Sunday - Tommy Fellers, Joey Nicosia, Tom Gilson, Dennis Caughman
 4th Sunday - Elmer Long, Mack Garner, Robert Kneece, Dennis Caughman
 5th Sunday - Kathy Riggin, Nikki Chapman, Doggett Whitaker, Dennis Caughman

	July 05	July 12	July 19	July 26
Altar Flowers	Available	Available	Available	Available
Worship Assistant	Nikki Chapman	Joe Bucher	Mary Alex Kopp	Derryll Satterwhite
Acolyte & Crucifer	Ellie Nguyen & Adam Boozer	Miriam Titus & Zarek Reid	Dennis Caughman & Zoe Reid	Elin Cary & Griffin Long
Communion Prep	Lynn Cary	Robert Kneece and Eve Kneece	Rachel Manos	Susan Thomasson and Ann Jacobs

..... **Readings for the Month**

July 05 – Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
 July 12 – Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
 July 19 – Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
 July 26 – 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

..... **The Redeemer Directory**

The Rev. Matthew Titus, Pastor, pastor@redeemernewberry.org


Haley McBride-Stuhr, Office Assistant & Bookkeeper,

info@redeemernewberry.org, finance@redeemernewberry.org

Dr. Huger P. Caughman, Jr., Music Director & Organist, organist@redeemernewberry.org

Nicholas Todd Shumate, Choir Director, music@redeemernewberry.org

..... **Calendar of Events**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
28 Sunday School - 9:30am - FLC Worship - 10:30am	29 Basketball - 10am - FLC	30 Library Reserved	1 Basketball - 12pm - FLC	2 Bible Study w/ PM - 2pm	3 Church Office Closed Basketball - 12pm - FLC	4 
5 Property Comm Mtg - 9am Sunday School - 9:30am Worship - 10:30am	6	7 Library Reserved	8 Basketball - 12pm - FLC	9	10 Basketball - 12pm - FLC	11
PM and Family on Vacation						
12 Sunday School - 9:30am Worship - 10:30am	13 Prayer & Care Card Making - 9:30am Congregation Council Meeting - 6pm	14 Prayer Shawl Ministry - 10am Finance Com Mtg - 6pm LMM - 7pm Library Reserved	15	16 Bible Study w/ PM - 2pm	17	18 GAAP - 10am- noon - O'Neal Street UMC
PM and Family on Vacation						
19 Sunday School - 9:30am Worship - 10:30am	20	21 Library Reserved	22	23 Bible Study w/ PM - 2pm	24	25
26 Sunday School - 9:30am Worship - 10:30am	27 Prayer & Care Card Making - 9:30am	28 Prayer Shawl Ministry - 10am Library Reserved	29	30 Bible Study w/ PM - 2pm	31	1 FLC Reserved - Metro Church Youth Prayer Brunch

**The Lutheran Church of
The Redeemer**

1515 Boundary Street
Newberry, SC 29108

Phone: 803-276-2003

www.RedeemerNewberry.org

E-mail:

info@redeemernewberry.org

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs: 8am - 2pm

Fri: 8am-1pm

Church Staff

The Rev. Matthew Titus,
Pastor

Haley Stuhr, Office Assistant
& Bookkeeper

Dr. Huger Caughman, Jr.,
Music Director and Organist
Nicholas Shumate, Choir Dir.

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