



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Redeemer Reader · June 2026

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

Synod Assembly is this month, June 11–13! And, like good Lutherans, we might ask, “What exactly does that mean?”

Synod Assembly is the yearly gathering of congregations from all around South Carolina. We gather for worship, hear reports, vote on things like the synod spending plan, reconnect with one another, and celebrate the ministry happening across our churches. This year’s Assembly will also include the election of a new bishop for the South Carolina Synod.

The theme for the 2026 South Carolina Synod Assembly is “Created to Create.” According to the synod website, this theme is rooted in Ephesians 2:10: “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...” The Greek word for “workmanship” is *poiēma*, which is where we get our English word “poem.” In other words, we are God’s handiwork — God’s poem — created to reflect the creativity, love, and grace of our Creator in the world around us.

This year’s Assembly also marks an important transition in the life of our synod. Bishop Ginny Aebischer has announced her retirement after serving as a pastor in South Carolina since 1989. She was elected bishop in 2020 after previously serving for 12 years as an Assistant to the Bishop under Bishop Herman Yoos. One of the special offerings gathered during Assembly will go toward the new Bishop Ginny Aebischer Fund, which will support youth and family ministry across the synod.

The Bishop’s Election Committee has also done a tremendous amount of work preparing for this process, and you can learn more at the synod website: scsynod.com/assembly.

What we know at this point is that the next bishop must currently be serving somewhere in the ELCA as a Minister of Word and Sacrament (pastor). The election itself happens through what is called an ecclesiastical ballot, meaning any ELCA pastor may be nominated during the process. Up to five ballots may be taken throughout the Assembly, with the field narrowing after each vote. After the first ballot, candidates may choose to submit biographical information sheets so voting members can learn more about them. Deacon John Weit, Executive for Worship, from the ELCA Churchwide Office will guide the election process. The newly elected bishop will begin serving this fall, allowing time to transition from their current ministry setting if needed.

There will also be other reports, resolutions, and agenda items considered during the Assembly, all of which will be available on the synod website. But beyond the business of the church, Assembly is always a meaningful time of worship, conversation, laughter, discernment, and reconnecting with Lutherans from across the state.

Redeemer will be represented this year by three voting members: Lindsay Boozer, Huger Caughman, Sr., and Zoe Reid. I’ll also be attending, and Erin plans to come as a visitor. Since the Assembly is being held in Columbia at Brookland Baptist Church, many folks will also be able to follow along online through livestream coverage as the Assembly unfolds.

Please keep Lindsay, Huger, Zoe, me, the synod staff, and all voting members in your prayers during this important and exciting time in the life of our synod.

Love y’all. Mean it. pm



DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM CHURCH

We have all seen this clip art before, but its message continues to be true. Our secular lives get so busy sometimes that attending church takes a secondary role.

In the Lutheran tradition, going to church is viewed as an opportunity to receive God's grace rather than just a human obligation. We gather to actively receive the forgiveness of sins, hear the Word read and proclaimed, and partake in the Sacraments to strengthen our faith.

Lutheran theology centers around several core reasons for weekly church attendance and worship:

- **Receiving God's Gifts:** Lutheranism emphasizes "Church/Worship Service" (Gottesdienst) – the belief that God comes to serve the congregation through the Word and Sacraments. Attending church is primarily about receiving God's grace and forgiveness, rather than what you bring to God.
- **The Means of Grace:** Lutheran churches believe that the Holy Spirit uses specific means to create and sustain faith. Attending ensures you are participating in the preached Gospel and receiving Christ's true body and blood in the Lord's Supper.
- **Hearing Law and Gospel:** Sermons in this tradition distinguish between the Law (what God expects from people and the consequences of sin) and the Gospel (the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ). Going to church provides this necessary spiritual encouragement and reassurance.
- **The "Singing Church":** Lutherans have a deep, historical emphasis on rich liturgical worship and congregational singing. Martin Luther used hymns as a way to teach doctrine and involve the whole family in worship, making music a central part of spiritual growth.
- **Community and Fellowship:** The church functions as a family of faith, providing mutual encouragement, emotional support, and a place to share life with believers who hold the same values.

We hope to see you in church, each Sunday morning at 10:30 am. Invite a friend, neighbor, or family member! All are welcome!

Giving is always welcomed and encouraged, give online by scanning the QR code or by going to:
www.RedeemerNewberry.org/Give



..... **Member Updates**

Congratulations to Denise Reid on receiving the Book of Golden Deeds award from the Newberry Exchange Club.

Sympathy to Mark Senn and family on the death of his mother, Winne Senn, on May 1.

Sympathy to Kathy Long on the death of her brother-in-law, Lewis Hawkins, on May 5.

Sympathy to the family of Gary Pope who died on May 8.

Sympathy to Kristie Garner and family on the death of her grandmother, Lula Bowers, on May 15.

Sympathy to the family of Chris Routon who died on May 22.

Prayer List: B.L. & Dale Brown · Rev. Dick Webber · Elaine Cornwell · Stacy Tyson
Friends of the congregation: Ember Corley · Jewel Garner · Lee Moody

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, Fae Cousins,
Helen Fellers, Nancy Owen, Patsy Pruitt

Springfield Place: Kitty Summer · Chuck Minick

JF Hawkins: Mary Lou Weir · Sybil Cousins · Elizabeth Rodelsperger

Do you have membership news to share? Please notify the church office at (803) 276-2003 or info@redeemernewberry.org

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

Summer Choir: the Handbell and Senior Choirs will take a break from our regular Wednesday evening rehearsals. The Senior Choir will gather on Sunday morning in the choir room for a short devotional and Sunday School lesson at 9:30am with rehearsal beginning at 9:45am. This is a great time to join the choir!

Eucharistic Ministry-Bring Christ's Table to Members' Homes

Do you have a heart for serving those who can no longer attend Sunday worship? Our Eucharistic Ministry connects our community with members who are elderly, ill, or unable to leave their homes. By visiting and sharing Holy Communion, you bring the presence of Christ and the love of our congregation to those who need it most.

Pastoral training provided.

Flexible scheduling (usually once a month).

Please call the Church Office at (803) 276-2003 or email info@redeemernewberry.org to learn more about this rewarding ministry.

..... Stewardship Snippet

Through the Eyes of a Visitor

Imagine walking into our church building for the very first time. You don't know where the restrooms are, you don't know the routines, and you don't know if your presence is actually noticed. During the summer, when our regular pews might be a bit more spaced out, a guest's experience of Christ is entirely shaped by the warmth of our welcome.

When a visitor sits in our church, they aren't just looking at the altar; they are experiencing the community. To them, our church's stewardship isn't just a budget line. It is visible in how we care for the grounds, how we greet newcomers in the narthex, and how we engage the community beyond the walls.

When we talk about the "treasures" we steward, we often think of finances. However, the summer months offer a unique opportunity to be exceptional stewards of our *time* and *talent*. Take a moment and ponder these points:

- **Welcome:** Friendly faces handing out bulletins, helping guests find a seat, and guiding them toward coffee and fellowship.
- **Atmosphere:** A beautifully maintained building and grounds that communicate care, love, and respect for God's house.
- **Connection:** A simple invitation to join others for lunch at a local spot right after the service, which immediately turns a stranger into a friend.

Let's continue to be good stewards of all which God has entrusted to us!

..... WELCA



On June 19th-20th, The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer is delighted to welcome the SCWELCA Convention. This will be a busy time for our WELCA as we host around 125

women from throughout the state. We plan to make this a special time for them.

Thursday, June 18th, some of the women will be coming in to set up the Family Life Center. On Friday, around 10:30 AM, many of the women will start bringing in their projects, and we will need help unloading them. If anyone is willing to help, please let Anne, Derryll, Carol, Annette or Erin know.

Our "GAAP Project" will end on Sunday, June 14th.

Happy Father's Day on June 21st to all of the men in our congregation!

..... Lutheran Men in Mission

Redeemer's LMM will provide the meal for Vacation Bible School on Monday, June 8. If you would like to help with the meal, please contact Huger Caughman, Jr.



Redeemer's LMM and friends will be traveling to Blue Ocean in Clinton on Tuesday, June 9 at 7:00 pm. All men and boys are invited to attend. If you plan to attend, please let Huger Caughman, Jr. know by Sunday, June 7 so that appropriate reservations may be made.

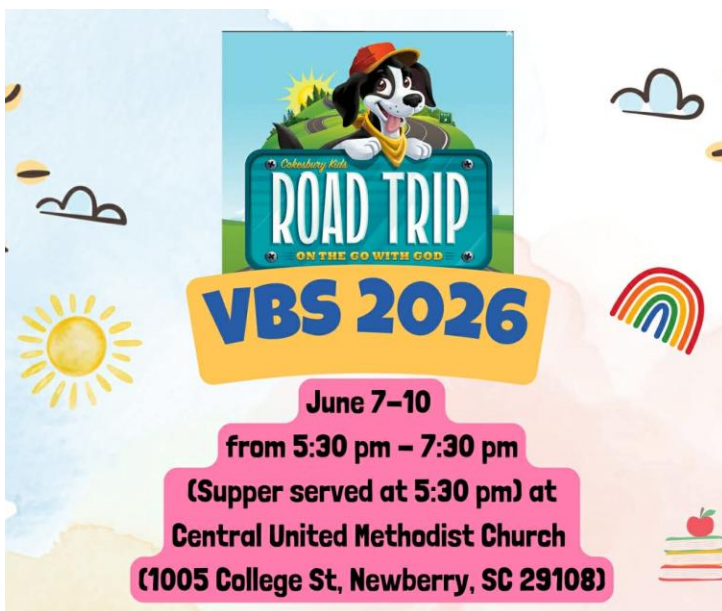
..... Christian Education Corner

SUNDAY SCHOOL throughout the summer, the children's Sunday school room will be open for all parents and children to enjoy crafts and read Bible stories together. There will not be an assigned teacher leading the class, but materials will be available.

The Gathering and The Men's Bible Class will be joining together this summer for a series by Dr. John Green.

The Senior Choir will gather for a short Sunday School lesson at 9:30 am and will have rehearsal following at 9:45 am. If you have thought about joining The Senior Choir, this would be a great time to give it a try!

VBS is just around the corner! We have once again teamed up with Central UMC and Summer Memorial Lutheran for VBS. Sign up below by scanning the QR code or fill out a form in the narthex and place it in the offering plate. Can't wait to see you there!



..... Celebrations

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 - Doggett & Christie Whitaker, Jr. | |
| 03 - Slade & Amanda Richardson | 15 - Allan & Robin Vance |
| 05 - Jeremy & Stacy Tyson | 16 - John & Carolyn Hammond, Sr. |
| 05 - Frank & Frances Williams | 16 - Stan & Linda Renwick |
| 06 - Dick & Jeannie Webber | 17 - Tom & Carol Gilson |
| 11 - Bob & Carol Montgomery | 18 - Benji & Deedee Westwood |
| 11 - Mark & Lisa Senn | 24 - Matthew & Erin Titus |
| 14 - Emma & Billy Hymes | 28 - Joe & Marg Bucher |

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 01 - Thomas Boozer | 13 - Steven Senn | 23 - Becky Miller |
| 01 - Beth Hipp | 15 - Frances Williams | 23 - Jeremy White |
| 02 - Cathy Cannady | 16 - Calvin Kopp | 25 - Carolyn Cromer |
| 04 - Gayle Lindley | 17 - Emma Chapman | 25 - Jessica Wheeler |
| 07 - John Hammond, Sr. | 17 - Ryan Lindsay | 26 - Elizabeth Coppock |
| 07 - Trey Willingham | 17 - Vickie Wiseman | 28 - Chuck Keen |
| 08 - June Lominack | 18 - Stan Renwick | 29 - Taylor Newell |
| 10 - Sally Groce | 19 - Mary Maercklein | 30 - Susan Thomasson |
| 12 - Betty Ferguson | 23 - Eve Kneece | 30 - Robin Vance |
| 12 - Weston Vance | 23 - Trista McRacken | |

..... Attendance

	Sunday School	Worship	Online Views	Total	Offerings Received
May 03	19	80	167	247	\$2,557.49
May 10	13	74	196	270	\$4,996.64
May 17	22	67	146	213	\$4,574.18
May 24	28	66	1,975	2,041	\$9,201.32
May 31	23	78	215	293	\$5,397.48
Average	21	73	539	618	\$5,345.42

..... Financial Facts

Summary Treasurer's Report for May (as of May 28, 2026)

	Current Expenses	Major Maint./ Cap. Impr.	YTD All Accounts
Income:	\$16,554.39	\$730.00	\$137,331.22
Expenses:	\$12,886.65	\$0	\$131,024.23
Amount Over/Under:	\$3,667.74	\$730.00	\$6,306.99

..... **Worship Volunteers**

Ushers

1st Sunday - Chad Cary, Norris Long, Zeb Reid, Dennis Caughman

2nd Sunday - Kathy Riggin, Joey Nicosia, Justin Guy, Dennis Caughman

3rd Sunday - Tommy Fellers, Susan Thomasson, Tom Gilson, Dennis Caughman

4th Sunday - Elmer Long, Mack Garner, Robert Kneece, Dennis Caughman

5th Sunday - Kathy Riggin, Nikki Chapman, Doggett Whitaker, Dennis Caughman

	June 07	June 14	June 21	June 28
Altar Flowers	Christie Whitaker	Available	LMM	Marg & Joe Bucher
Worship Assistant	Alanna Boozer	Robbie Kopp	Anne Caughman	Kevin Boozer
Acolyte & Crucifer	Henry Chapman & Thomas Boozer	Levi Richardson &	JC Hazel & Gavin Garner	Jacob Chapman & Taygen Hazel
Communion Prep	Lynn Cary	Rachel Manos	Kathy Riggin	Christie Whitaker

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

June 07 - Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

June 14 - Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8 ; Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 21 - Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

June 28 - Jeremiah 28:5-9, Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

..... **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*

All Members: Ministers in Worship and Daily Life

Jeffrey Truscott, Missionary - Japan

**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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NEWBERRY, SC

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

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
31 Sunday School - 9:30am - FLC Worship - 10:30am FLC RESERVED- Caughman 50 th Anniversary Reception 2-4pm	1	2 Library Reserved	3	4 Bible Study w/ PM - 2pm	5	6
7 Property Comm Mtg - 9am Senior Choir Rehearsal - 9:30am Sunday School - 9:30am Worship - 10:30am Nominating Committee Mtg - after service	8 Prayer & Care Card Making - 9:30am Congregation Council Meeting - 6pm	9 Prayer Shawl Ministry - 10am Finance Committee Mtg - 6pm LMM - 7pm @ Blue Ocean Library Reserved	10	11 FLC Reserved - NCSND SC Synod Assembly	12 SC Synod Assembly	13 SC Synod Assembly
14 Sunday School - 9:30am Senior Choir Rehearsal - 9:30am Worship - 10:30am	15	16 Library Reserved	17	18 Bible Study w/ PM - 2pm	19 SC WELCA Convention	20 GAAP - 10am-noon - O'Neal Street UMC SC WELCA Convention
21 Sunday School - 9:30am Senior Choir Rehearsal - 9:30am Worship - 10:30am	22	23 Library Reserved	24	25 Bible Study w/ PM - 2pm	26	27 FLC Reserved - St Matthew's Baptist Church
28 Sunday School - 9:30am Senior Choir Rehearsal - 9:30am Worship - 10:30am FLC Reserved - Anne Caughman	29 Prayer & Care Card Making - 9:30am	30 Prayer Shawl Ministry - 10am Library Reserved	1	2 Bible Study w/ PM - 2pm	3	4

Congratulations!

We celebrate our many graduates at Redeemer! As a community of faith and love, we surround our graduates with prayers and good vibes as they make this transition into this next part of their lives. We give thanks for God's continued presence that has guided them to this moment and walks with them on the many paths before them now.

Here are our graduates for 2026:

High School

South Carolina Governor's School of Science and Mathematics

Asha Kaikini - plans to attend the University of South Carolina where she will be majoring in Biomedical Engineering with a specialization in Drug Design.

Reid Kaikini - plans to attend the University of South Carolina where he will double major in International Business and Hospitality Management.

Newberry High School

Zoe Reid - plans to attend Wofford College where she will double major in Government and Religion

Kaley Stone - plans to attend Newberry College where she will major in Nursing

College and Graduate Programs

University of South Carolina

AC Cary - graduated with a Masters in Business Administration degree

Western Governor's University

Rachel Manos - graduated with a Masters in Business Administration degree



Congratulations to Elin Cary, Dennis Caughman, and Levi Richardson who Affirmed their Baptism on Sunday, May 24.