



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Redeemer Reader · September 2026

..... A Note from Pastor Matt

Grace and peace to each of you!

As we enter the month of September, we do so in the midst of many new transitions. We give thanks for the ministry and service of the Rev. Ginny Aebischer as our bishop these last six years, even as we welcome the Rev. Wade Roof as our next bishop of the South Carolina Synod. School—in all its many forms—is now in full swing as students, teachers, and families settle into new and renewed routines. Our Confirmation students begin another year this month as we dive into the life, story, and ministry of Jesus and the rest of the New Testament. And together in worship, we begin another year of the Narrative Lectionary, hearing week after week this grand story of faith that we are beautifully and intimately a part of.

And it is there, in that story, that I find so much hope for us—and for the world.

As I began another semester teaching at Newberry College, I was once again struck by the fact that many students enter my classroom with very little—or sometimes no—knowledge of the Bible or scripture. Some might see that as an indictment of the world in which we find ourselves. People don't know scripture! They don't know these stories of faith! The shame!

But I try not to lean into that interpretation because, well...it isn't very helpful. And it certainly doesn't do much to encourage us to actually tell and share these stories with others.

Instead, I try to see those students as an opportunity. For some of them, I get the privilege of introducing them to this grand, magnificent, beautiful, complicated, and sometimes downright strange story for the very first time. Together, we get to hear some of the greatest stories ever told—and even wrestle with those parts of the story we might rather leave tucked away. Because the Bible is full of incredible stories. Stories we love. Stories that challenge us. Stories that comfort us. Stories that confuse us. Stories that reveal again and again how God continues to work through some very unlikely people.

People a whole lot like us.

My hope and prayer for all of us as we enter this new Narrative Lectionary year is that we might hear these stories of our faith in such a way that we are not only inspired by them, but also compelled to share them with those around us. Not in some strange or overbearing way, but in a way that expresses the joy and passion we have for what God has done—and continues to do—in our world and in our lives.

Because these stories are indeed wonderful, unique, challenging, and sometimes very odd. And we have the opportunity to listen to them, talk about them, wrestle with them, and wonder together about what they meant for those who first heard these words and how they continue to shape, challenge, comfort, and guide us today.

And perhaps, along the way, we might remember that we aren't simply reading someone else's story. We are part of it.

Y'all, we get to do that together. And I am so thankful that I get to be a part of this ministry of telling, hearing, and living these stories with you.

May we see ourselves as part of this grand and magnificent story of faith. May we listen for the ways God continues to write that story in our lives and in our world. And may we be filled with enough joy, hope, and grace that we cannot help but share that story with those we meet.

Amen!

..... **Member Updates**

Sympathy to Steve Sligh and family on the death of his brother, Jimmy Sligh, on August 4.

Sympathy to Elizabeth Willingham and family on the death of her sister-in-law, Joan Cartrette, on August 7.

Sympathy to David Wiseman and family on the death of his mother, Sally Wiseman, on August 18.

Prayer List: Andy Sidden · Dale Brown · B.L. Brown · Rev. Dick Webber · Elaine Cornwell
Rosemary Dominick · Harriet Guy

Friends of the congregation: Ember Corley · Jewel Garner · 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

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

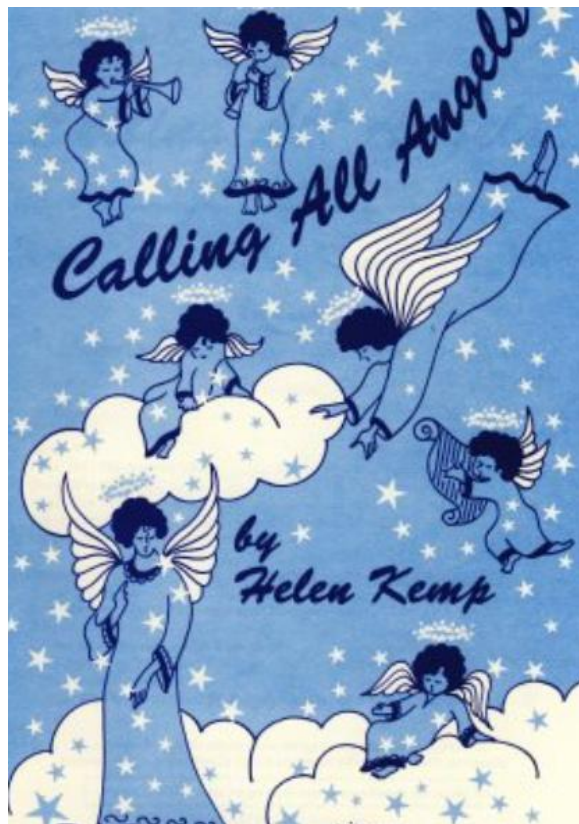
Do you have membership news to share? Please notify the church office at (803) 276-2003 or info@redeemernewberry.org.



Umbrellas-need one? Missing one? Check out the narthex rack and see if yours is there. If you need an extra, please take one.



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



Wednesday Evening Rehearsals

Handbell Choir – 6:00pm · Senior Choir – 7:00pm

Sunday Morning Rehearsals

Senior Choir – 10:10am · Children's Choir –
following worship

The Christmas Program for 2026 is Calling All Angels by Helen Kemp. If your child/children are interested in participating, please contact Huger Caughman, Jr. The rehearsal schedule will be announced in October.

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).

..... **Stewardship Snippet**

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and our church council. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Stewardship Committee

Deedee Westwood, Nikki Chapman, and Ben Bowers



Giving is easy online!

Use the QR Code to be directed to the Giving page of our website.

You will be giving the opportunity to select giving One Time or Recurring through Vanco.



..... **WELCA**

WELCA will not meet in September and October. However, in October, we will be attending the Fall Heartland Conference Meeting on October 4th at 3:00 PM at Colony Lutheran Church.

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

Redeemer's Lutheran Men in Mission will meet on Tuesday, September 8 at Dempsey's Pizza in Clinton. If you plan to go, please RSVP to Huger, Jr. by Friday, September 4. All men and boys are encouraged to participate!

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!



..... **Property Committee**

The Property Committee is working with the Congregation Council on several upcoming capital improvement projects for our campus. The first project that needs addressing is the roof on the church and the flat roof areas. (The roof on the church and the main part of the flat roof is original to 1965. Portions of the flat roof were added in 2003 during the renovation.) Below is the estimated cost of the roofing project along with the amount of money we have received. Please consider making a special contribution to this project.

Other projects on our capital improvement list: sealing, repairing, and striping our parking areas, pressure washing the exterior of our buildings and sidewalks, painting and flooring upgrades around our campus, upgrading of water fountains to include bottle filling stations, lighting upgrades around our campus, and update/upgrade landscaping.

Capital Improvement Projects

Roof (Church and Flat Roof)

Estimated Cost

\$402,098.49

Funds Received

\$70,244.16

..... Evangelism Emphasis

Sharing the Good News: Evangelism as Everyday Grace

When we hear the word "evangelism," many of us picture standing on a street corner or knocking on stranger's doors. For many Lutherans, the word can feel a bit uncomfortable. We might wonder: *Is it my job to convince people? Do I need memorized scripts?*

Our understanding of evangelism is rooted in a much simpler, freeing truth. God's grace is already active in the world. We do not create grace by our speeches; rather, we are simply witnesses to the love God has already shown us in Jesus Christ.

What Does Lutheran Evangelism Look Like?

- Listening deeply: Hearing our neighbors' joys and struggles with a compassionate heart.
- Loving actively: Serving our local community through food pantries, school supplies, and quiet acts of kindness.
- Sharing our story: Being honest about how God's forgiveness and community sustain us in our own hard times.
- Inviting openly: Simply saying, "You are welcome just as you are at Redeemer."

Evangelism is telling the truth about how much God loves this broken world. It happens when you bring a meal to a grieving neighbor, when you welcome a new face in worship or Sunday School, or when you pray for someone who is hurting.

You do not need to have all the theological answers. You only need to share the good news that God's love has no limits. This week, look for one small, gentle way to let someone know they are seen, valued, and loved by God. Invite them to join us on Sunday morning!

..... Celebrations

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

08 – Bobby & Debra Willingham, Jr.	11 – Michael & Denise Reid	15 – Todd & Harriet Guy	18 – Stevie & Tonya Sligh, Jr.
---------------------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------

BIRTHDAYS

01 – Susan Bowers	07 – Jerry Haltiwanger	17 – Olivia West	24 – Kathyrne Wiseman
02 – Jamie Adams	08 – B.L. Brown, Jr.	18 – Chris Kemper	25 – Benny Ferguson
02 – Kayden Miller	08 – Brantlee Coward	18 – Ashleigh Titus	25 – Doug Riffin
03 – Von Dennis	09 – Foster Bruce	20 – Patty Davis	26 – Susan Hayes
04 – Heidi Cole	09 – Amelia Long	21 – Cullen Binnicker	26 – Angela Reid
04 – Stevie Sligh, Jr.	09 – Stacy Tyson	21 – Joe Bucher	29 – Brad Joiner
05 – Carson Moody	11 – Bryan Derrick	21 – Lynn Cary	29 – Mary Lou Weir
05 – Kitty Summer	12 – Preslea Coleman	24 – Allie Bruce	30 – Jennifer Nguyen
05 – Marty White	16 – Evan Connelly	24 – Judy Hill	
06 – Bobby Lominack	16 – Joey Westwood		

..... Attendance

	Sunday School	Worship	Online Views	Total	Offerings
August 02	48	84	68	152	\$ 3,955.17
August 09	21	77	59	136	\$ 3,685.96
August 16	16	75	116	191	\$ 5,170.22
August 23	19	80	69	149	\$ 3,717.59
August 30	21	72	91	163	\$4,647.17
Average	25	77	80	158	\$4,235.22

..... **Ushers**

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

..... **Offering Tellers**

1st Sunday - Anne Caughman & Kristin Caughman
 2nd Sunday - Walter Jacobs, Ann Jacobs, & Susan Thomasson
 3rd Sunday - Matthew Bowers & Huger Caughman, Jr.
 4th Sunday - Cathy H. Turner & Rosemary Dominick
 5th Sunday - Walter Jacobs, Ann Jacobs, & Susan Thomasson

	Altar Flowers	Worship Assistant	Acolyte & Crucifer	Communion Prep
September 06	Nikki Chapman	Kristin Caughman	Levi Richardson & Elin Cary	Christie Whitaker
September 13	Angela Reid	Ernie Shealy	Thomas Boozer & Griffin Long	Rachel Manos
September 20	Available	Robert Kneece	Rosealynn Sexton & Ashleigh Titus	Susan Jacobs & Ann Jacobs
September 27	Available	George Franklin	Zarek Reid & Ellie Nguyen	Kathy Riggin

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

September 06 - Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
 September 13 - Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
 September 20 - Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16
 September 27 - Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

..... **Financial Facts**

Summary Treasurer's Report for August (as of August 26, 2026)

Amount needed for monthly budget: \$30,794.00

	Current Expenses	Major Maint./ Cap. Impr.	YTD All Accounts
Income:	\$13,528.87	\$1,555.00	\$208,822.06
Expenses:	\$16,735.94	\$0	\$204,048.86
Amount Over/Under:	-\$1,597.07	\$1,555.00	\$4,773.20

..... Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
30 Sunday School 9:30am Worship - 10:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal - after worship Youth Group Kick- Off- 5pm	31 Lutheran Services Carolina - noon-1pm	1 Library Reserved	2 Handbell Choir Rehearsal - 6pm Senior Choir Rehearsal - 7pm	3	4	5
6 Property Committee Mtg - 9am Sunday School - 9:30am Worship - 10:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal - after worship	7 Labor Day - Church Office Closed	8 Prayer Shawl Ministry - 10am Finance Com Mtg - 6pm LMM - 7pm Library Reserved	9 Handbell Choir Rehearsal - 6pm Senior Choir Rehearsal - 7pm	10	11	12 FLC Reserved - Juanita Williams - Family Reunion
13 Sunday School - 9:30am Worship - 10:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal - after worship	14 Prayer & Care Card Making - 9:30am Lutheran Services Carolina - noon-1pm Congregation Council Mtg - 6pm	15 Library Reserved	16 Handbell Choir Rehearsal - 6pm Senior Choir Rehearsal - 7pm	17	18 FLC Reserved - Humane Society Yard Sale Set-up	19 FLC Reserved - Humane Society Yard Sale GAAP - 10am-noon - O'Neal Street UMC
20 Sunday School - 9:30am Worship - 10:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal - after worship FLC Reserved - TOY Banquet	21 FLC Reserved - TOY Banquet Lutheran Services Carolina - noon-1pm	22 Prayer Shawl Ministry - 10am Library Reserved	23 Handbell Choir Rehearsal - 6pm Senior Choir Rehearsal - 7pm	24	25 FLC Reserved - Set-up	26 FLC Reserved - St. Matthew's Baptist Church First Lady's Banquet
27 Sunday School - 9:30am Worship - 10:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal - after worship	28 Prayer & Care Card Making - 9:30am Lutheran Services Carolina - noon-1pm	29 Library Reserved	30 Handbell Choir Rehearsal - 6pm Senior Choir Rehearsal - 7pm	1	2	3

**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.

(803) 276-2003

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 114

NEWBERRY, SC