



Redeemer Lutheran Church
and 3K/4K Preschool

1712 Menasha Ave., Manitowoc, WI 54220

Phone: 920-684-3989

Newsletter – October 2023

Dear Saints of Redeemer,

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed! -John 8:36

Freedom! Being free citizens is a human right granted by our Creator and enshrined in the U.S. Constitution – particularly in the Bill of Rights (Amendments 1-10). With all our freedoms in the political sphere comes the responsibility to work for a safe and just society.

We also enjoy great economic freedoms. The free market allows consumers to choose from a vast array of products and services. A stroll through Walmart or any big box store can leave a shopper exhausted. Thank goodness for on-line shopping and pick-up! Do a search on Amazon for anything you can imagine, and you're sure to find it.

While these freedoms are wonderful gifts of God to us, we shouldn't confuse them with Christian freedom, which is what Jesus is speaking of in the verse above. John 8:36 is our Reformation refrain. It is part of the Gospel reading (John 8:31-36) for the observance of Reformation Day in the Church Year (Oct. 29 this year).

Jesus makes a contrast between slavery and freedom. The former indicates our bondage to sin: "everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin" (John 8:34). And, not just in human bondage to the acts of sin, but slaves to the *underlying condition* of our Original Sin, which alienates us from God. A thief may steal as a matter of habit for the rush, but the real problem is not the theft itself; it's the enslavement to the craving to steal.

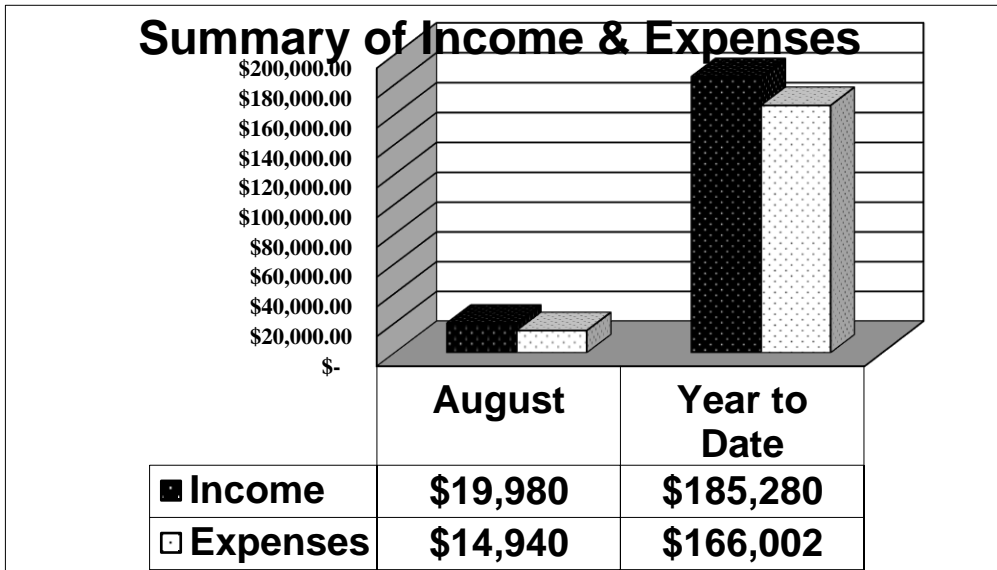
"If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). Therein lies the problem with sinners who are tempted to believe that there's nothing really wrong with us – that we're not really all that bad. Surely our church-going and charitable giving and general all-around respectability is sufficient in God's economy of salvation.

Except, Jesus says we are not free, and we need a liberator, and the liberator is Him! "If the *Son sets you free...*" The key to Christian freedom is Christ. Your day of liberation has come, and it is here! The captives are set free! You are set free! "There is therefore now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). Sin is defeated in our crucified Lord. It has no reign over you. The controlling factor in your life is Jesus and His Gospel. Death cannot harm you. You are free from the eternal consequences of sin, and the resurrection of the body to life everlasting is yours! The Son has set you free, and you are free indeed!

October blessings to you and yours as we look forward to Reformation Day and daily rejoice in our Christian freedom. Thanks be to God for our freedom in Christ!

In His service, Pastor Brassfield

Financial Update



Special Thanks to the family and friends of Rick Wolfe as they used their Memorial Fund to update and decorate the new children's area. The room is now located where the library and bookstore were previously.

A Gentle Reminder – The Finance Committee would greatly appreciate it if you would put the amount of your offering on the outside of the envelope. This is a help as the offerings are counted and a double check as to the amount in the envelope.

Second Time Singles (All Redeemer ladies invited to attend any STS outings)

Our next outing will be Thursday, October 26th. We will meet at the Rahr-West Art Museum at 11:00am to view the Table Setting exhibit and then go out for lunch – restaurant undecided. Please sign up by Sunday October 22nd so reservations can be made. Questions to Joanne Thompson.

CHILDREN'S ROOM

The Children's Room is complete and ready to be used. Please check out the former church library's new look as a children's playroom. We hope children and parents find this to be a calming space. Please take the opportunity to thank Jerri and Jeff Rathjen and Carissa Luedtke for all their hard work to make this room possible.

Call Update / Voter's Meeting

By the time this newsletter is sent out, we should know, or will shortly know, if our call to Pastor Holden has been accepted, or if we will be looking to begin the process again. I've previously mentioned this in the bulletin, but I would again like to thank everyone that attended the voter's meeting on September 10th, and for providing your input, comments and opinions. Part of the process of our voter's meetings, not just the September 10th call meeting, is that everyone and anyone should feel free to speak up in these meetings and challenge the process and issues at hand. In fact, I would suggest that we're obligated to speak up in order to come to the best conclusions possible for our Congregation. While sometimes this maybe uncomfortable, these discussions help us be better. So again, thank you to everyone that provided input! To any folks that may have held back a bit, please know we want to hear from you when we have these meetings, and we'll welcome your thoughts.

Executive Board Update

Much of the board activity this year since April has been focused on the call for a new Pastor. However, during the year a couple major projects were completed – a new shingled roof was installed in August and the parking lot was resealed in spring. Several minor repairs to the building were also completed, including a new water heater in the sacristy. The "Quick Responders" group graciously paid for the new water in the sacristy. Several trees were removed from the property as well – some that were not healthy, and some trees or large branches resulting from an August 3rd storm.

Beginning in October, the board members begin the budgeting process. As noted prior, we sealed the parking lot this year not only to redo the parking lines, but we are also hoping to get a few more years out of it. We will need to repave the lot within in a few years, and the quotes received this past spring were about \$86,000. Just providing this info as a heads up, because you will likely see a "parking lot fund" line added into the 2024 budget at the annual voter's meeting.

Speaking of the annual voter's meeting, it will be either the first or second Sunday of December. We'll announce the firm date in the bulletin later this month.

As always, if you have any questions or comments about what's going on, please reach out to your board.

Executive Board Members

President – Mike Kaczowski

Treasurer – John Brixius

Director of Spiritual Growth – Kyle Olson

Director of Property/Legal – Kyle Weidmayer

Director of Education/Fellowship – Beth Utecht

Executive Board Member – Lisa Van Sickle

Executive Board member – Lee Matthias

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Kaczowski

Youth Game Nights

Dates for October game nights are Wednesday, October 4th and 18th following Catechism class. Please contact Aaron Utecht to be added to the Facebook messenger group for reminders.



Puzzle for October:

Haiku from parts of John 20:

**Do not disbelieve,
but believe. Thomas answered
"My Lord and my _____".**

Pulaski Park Fall Clean Up

Join us for our Fall Clean-Up on **Saturday October 28th at 9am**. We are looking for volunteers to help us clear away leaves, brush, and trash from our beautiful park. This is a great opportunity to make a positive impact on our community and enjoy the outdoors with your neighbors.

Please bring gloves, comfortable clothes, and sturdy shoes. We will provide tools and refreshments. Let's work together to keep our park clean and safe for everyone to enjoy.

Pulaski Park is located at the corner Division and 17th St. Manitowoc. See you there!

TRUNK or TREAT

Sunday, October 29TH from 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Redeemer will once again host a Trunk or Treat event for our preschool and neighborhood kids. Trunk or Treat is an alternative to door-to-door trick-or-treating. All you have to do is stand by your car and hand out treats to our little visitors. You can decorate your car if you want to, but it is definitely not a requirement to join in!

Please see the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center if you would like to reserve a spot for your car. We will also be accepting donations of candy, thank you!

You can contact Johanna Harris at 920-901-5803 with questions.

Senior Choir & Handbells

Senior Choir and Handbells are now beginning rehearsals for the fall months. Now is the perfect time for new members to join in the singing and ringing for our upcoming 2023-24 worship services.

Choir Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings from 8:00am to 8:45am prior to Sunday morning service. All rehearsals will take place in the church conference room. The first Sunday rehearsal will be for men only on September 17th. The first full choir rehearsal for both men and women will be on Sunday, September 24th.

Handbells will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in the church sanctuary beginning on September 20th. All current members should pick up a copy of our first song to mark during the week of September 10th from the church office.

Also, any instrumentalist or vocalist who would like to be involved in music for special occasions should contact Pastor or Gary Neustadter at 920-242-6489.



Join us at Sunday School!

Sunday School classes began on Sunday, September 17 but you can still join us! We will meet every week after Sunday morning worship service until about 11:00 am. Sunday School classes are available for ages 3K through Adult!! The whole family can learn every week. Light snack, music, lesson, and craft every Sunday!

Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center at Church.

Fellowship Sign Up

A reminder that there is a Fellowship Sign-Up sheet in the rack. If your family or group would like to host fellowship after worship, please sign up for the week in which you are available to host.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

1712 Menasha Ave., Manitowoc, WI Phone: 920-684-3989

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00am-1:00pm

Vacancy Pastor: Joel Brassfield (Phone: 920-246-2587)

Associate Pastor: Scott Hirssig (Phone: 920-629-2949)

October 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Worship 9am Sunday School 10am | 2) Worship 6pm | 3) Men's Bible Study 7am Finance 8:15am Women's Bible Study 9am | 4) Catechism 5:30pm Game Night (after Catechism) | 5) | 6) | 7) |
| 8) Worship 9am Sunday School 10am | 9) Worship 6pm | 10) Men's Bible Study 7am Finance 8:15am Women's Bible Study 9am | 11) Catechism 5:30pm | 12) Executive Board Mtg 6:30pm | 13) | 14) |
| 15) Worship 9am Sunday School 10am | 16) Worship 6pm | 17) Men's Bible Study 7am Finance 8:15am Women's Bible Study 9am | 18) Catechism 5:30pm Game Night (after Catechism) | 19) | 20) | 21) |
| 22) Worship 9am Sunday School 10am | 23) Worship 6pm | 24) Men's Bible Study 7am Finance 8:15am Women's Bible Study 9am | 25) Catechism 5:30pm | 26) STS to Rahr-West 11am | 27) | 28) Pulaski Park Clean-Up 9am |
| 29) Worship 9am Sunday School 10am Trunk or Treat 4pm | 30) Worship 6pm | 31) Men's Bible Study 7am Finance 8:15am Women's Bible Study 9am | Nov. 1) Catechism 5:30pm | Nov. 2) | Nov. 3) | Nov. 4) |

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