

Redeemer Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

August 2025

We are excited to share the good news...



We are blessed.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23

We have been following this passage in our community for the past several years. Through the unwavering faith from our congregation members, we are making a direct impact for our community with added support from our SD Synod and congregations throughout the state. We are so grateful to have accomplished great strides over the last five years so we wanted to share the news with you about what we’ve been up to here at Redeemer Lutheran Church (RLC) in McLaughlin!

New Synod Authorized Minister (SAM)

After several years of utilizing Lay Ministers due to not having a called pastor, we are excited to announce our newest addition at RLC. Please join us in welcoming Kathy Dorner, who has become a Synod Authorized Minister (SAM). She relocated from Pennsylvania to McLaughlin in 2013 to work at the McLaughlin School. She holds both a Bachelors and Masters in Social Work as well as a Masters in Education/School Counseling, is the treasurer of the local Lions Club, is the founder of Wings to Fly ministry, was ordained by Apostle Ken Cox of Where Eagles Fly in NC, and is a City of McLaughlin council member. Bishop Constanze approved her as a SAM in 2024 to serve RLC. She is mentored by Pastor Justin Van Orman of Trinity Lutheran in Mobridge.

Because of Kathy serving here, we are now able to hold at least three worship services per month, in addition to the special services needed throughout the year. We also now have a Blue Christmas service, a weekly Prayer Hour, and a weekly Bible study. We are very appreciative of Kathy's service to our congregation as well as our community.

Ecumenical Worship Services

For at least four years now, we've been hosting Ecumenical Worship services for Easter and Christmas. Our collaborative efforts have been with the SD Episcopal Diocese (Father Kim Fonder) and the Church of God (Pastors Carl & Anna Nobles).



(Left to Right: Kathy Dorner, Pastor Joel Pakan, Pastor Anna Nobles, Pastor Carl Nobles)

In 2023, RLC celebrated 90 years! Rt. Rev. Dr. Jonathan H. Folts (Episcopal Diocese) and SD Synod ELCA Bishop Rev. Constanze Hagmaier graced us with their presence at the same time for an incredible opportunity with a special worship service and a community meal for celebration, fellowship and continued discussions about the mission work happening right here at home.

In Dec. 2024, we hosted a very special Christmas celebration concert with musical talents from Tangled Blue which is a Christian music band with Pastor Joel Pakan and his wife, Pastor Aimee Pakan. As the SD Synod's new Director of Rural Ministry, Pastor Joel Pakan also returned to join us for the Easter Ecumenical service this year to share his gift of music while leading the communion portion of the service while Kathy Dorner (RLC's SAM), Pastors Carl & Anna Nobles all delivered touching messages throughout the service.

Neighbor in Solidarity - Community Alliance Group, Inc.

In 2020, the SD Synod reached out to us with an offer. They had an anonymous donor wanting to contribute towards a mission that would help with healing and reconciliation on the reservation. Several community meetings were held to discuss the opportunity which resulted in the formation of Community Alliance Group, Inc.

The Community Alliance Group (CAG) is committed to uplifting and empowering the community through hope, healing and forgiveness for the good of all. CAG strives to engage all people to help each other be their best and find strength through positivity and love while living, working, learning, and playing together as a community.

There have been numerous activities and programs developed under the leadership of CAG. The most notable would be the Gratitude Gift Shop, Wellness Center, Soul Bowl soup kitchen, and Iyuha Othi Thrift Store. You can learn more details about all the wonderful things the CAG is making happen here on Standing Rock Indian Reservation at www.communityalliancegroup.org and how we at RLC are a vital partner in supporting the mission.



Church Maintenance

In addition to worship services, the RLC building is experiencing a lot more use from CAG activities along with Aslan Consulting conducting weekly group counseling sessions and RezRecovery for regular AA/NA meetings, presentations and classes. Additionally, we converted unutilized Sunday school classrooms to provide space for the CAG Wellness Center, Three Rivers Mental Health & Chemical Dependency, Tranquility Massage, US Probation, and Standing Rock Sioux W.I.C.

Our roof currently has many places that have been leaking which has damaged several areas of the interior, especially near the altar area and up in the bell tower and balcony. The original fuel-oil furnace is still being utilized. However, we have not been able to find anyone that is willing to service it anymore and the parts are obsolete. We've also endured a few pipe bursts over the last couple of winters as well, which have caused damages to flooring and ceiling tiles downstairs.

We set a goal of raising \$100,000 to help support the costs of the needed roof repairs for both the sanctuary and the flat roof plus converting the furnace system to propane. We've recently received a \$25,000 memorial gift which has been committed to this project. RLC has also received a \$5,000 STAR (*Small Town And Rural*) Grant Award from the SD Synod Rural Ministries initiative. We also held a fundraiser auction on August 1 which helped us raise approximately \$30,000. So, we're over half way to our goal. We hope to have at least one of the projects completed before this coming winter and the second part completed before the end of 2026. **If you would like to help support these improvements, please send a check to:**
Redeemer Lutheran Church PO Box 603 McLaughlin, SD 57642



Romans 8:28: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

(RLC's 90th Anniversary Celebration)

(Easter Sunday Worship)

Psalm 100:5 (NIV): "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."



ELCA SD Synod News

The SD Synod Assembly was held in Sioux Falls at the end of May. Pearl Johnson, Kimberly Olson, and Kathy Dorner all attended as representatives of RLC. During the assembly, Bishop Constanze Hagmaier was re-elected. You can read the assembly recap online at www.sdsynod.org

How will we journey together in Christ? • Relating with intentionality • Networking across the church • Equipping leaders for ministry • Sharing Leadership with confidence in Christ's Love for All.

We are no longer the people we were when we left our buildings in March 2020, nor is the world around us — and it won't ever be. New life and possibilities have emerged. Let's embrace our current situation and reimagine it as a classroom.

We are synod, because we are called to journey together in Christ. — Luke 24:13-35



(Easter Sunday children's sermon)

Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV): "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

(Back-to-School Bash community event)

Pray

Christ accompanies us on our journey through prayer. God is always there for us. Regular prayer engages us with God's presence and God's reconciling mission. Pray about your role in God's Mission in the world, and more specifically in South Dakota.



A Message from Church Council

Redeemer Lutheran Church is a family of faith that is learning, growing and sharing Christ's love. We extend a warm welcome to ALL!! May God's grace fill your hearts as we come together in His name. Please join us for worship in person on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays or find our live stream online under Kathy Dorner on Facebook.

Kimberly Olson (President), Darlys Geigle (VP), Linda Burrer (Sec./Treas.), Pearl Johnson, & Taten Rau

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212 1st Ave W. | PO Box 603 | McLaughlin, SD 57642

Ph: 605-823-4951 | CAG57642@gmail.com

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Hebrews 10:24-25: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."



(Gratitude Gift Shop)



(Christmas Eve Candlelight service)