



First Avenue and Court Street

Iowa City, IA 52245

Phone: 319-338-5626

Email: redeemer@ourredeemer.org

www.ourredeemer.org

Reflections



Weekly Newsletter—August 2, 2026

~The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost~

Summer Sunday School Lessons

Date	Bible Lesson	Scripture Reading(s)
August 2	The Wine Sign—A Wedding at Cana	John 2:1-11
August 9	No Classes—FUN FAITH FEST Set Up	
August 16	Eswatini Presentation—All Ages Meet in Fellowship Hall	
August 23	A Weather Wonder—Jesus Calms a Storm	Mark 4:35-41



The flowers on the altar for this weekend are from Skip & Marilyn Kempnich who are giving thanks for their 59th wedding anniversary.



Today's coffee and treats are lovingly provided by Our Redeemer's own Comfort Tiers. Come join in a little fellowship before Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at the Gathering Place.



INSTALLATION OF NEW VICAR

All are invited to join us this weekend for the installation of Vicar Jacob Morse at all three services.
WELCOME VICAR MORSE AND FAMILY!!



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church VBS

Sunday, August 2, 2026 to Thursday, August 6, 2026

5:00 PM—8:15 PM

2301 East Court Street
Iowa City, IA

Sign up today for Tropical Trek VBS this summer! Throughout this program, we will learn how Jesus came to seek and save the Lost! As we traverse fun and exciting places, like a dormant volcano and island caves we will discover how God finds us in every challenge we face.

NIGHTLY SCHEDULE

5:00 pm meal

5:30-5:45 pm opening

5:30-8:00 pm activities

8:00-8:15 pm closing

STUDENT AGES:

4 year old (who are potty trained)

through 8th grade students (for 2026-27)

Volunteer or sign up to attend at the link below:

<https://vbsmate.com/events/OurRedeemerVBS2026/31540>

Prayer of the Church/The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost/August 2, 2026

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For the sick and the dying, and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For the "Enter His Courts" Ministry Expansion Campaign results, we give you thanks, and we ask that you would govern the construction of the "Cross and Entrance" project this fall, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy**

P: For the love between husbands and wives and that you instituted holy marriage. Bless **Skip and Marilyn Kempnich** for their 59th wedding anniversary. Let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have Mercy**

P: For our **Vacation Bible School** this week. May it be blessed that in the fun, food, decorations, games, and crafts, Your glory may be seen and salvation in You proclaimed. Let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have Mercy**

P: For the Office of the Ministry, that Your people might be equipped to serve and be built up into His one Body. Bless the vicarage year of **Jacob Morse** as he prepares to be a pastor in Your church. Let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have Mercy**

P: For

Becky Behrens, Dorothy Blume (Carol Schuldt's sister), **Joanne Bowman** (Rob Bowman's mother), **April Tutton Clark** (sister of Grace Maurer), **Tom Cowley** (Aaron Mueller's brother-in-law), **John Enokian** (brother of Chuck Enokian), **Mary Helen Gibson** (sister of Gwen McNatt Enokian), **James Haack, Isaiah Giebeck, Ella Grace Hedberg** (granddaughter to Becky Pedersen), **Jeff Hundley** (grandson of Karen Abernathy), **Sandra Jacobs, Dora Jacobson** (granddaughter of George and Carol Schuldt), **Todd Jones** (Barb & Ron Jones' son), **Katie Kucera** (Jeff Kucera's sister), **Ruth Langehough, Dot Langholdt** (friend of Ruth Varney), **Ben Malcom** (father of Tiffany Roiseland), **Craig Michel** (Denise Schwarting's step-dad), **Norma Miller** (Twyla Freeman's aunt), **Jane Mills** (aunt of Rob Ghabel), **Marvin Muhlenbruck, Merri Mullane, Julie Pratt-Mullenkamp** (cousin of Ruth Varney), **Elora Nelson** (great niece of John and Tracy Nelson), **Erin Nielsen** (cousin of Crissy Pence), **Ed Pederson, Beverly Prem, Mary Ann Schlueter, Carol Schuldt, George Schuldt, Lee Schwarting** (Art Schwarting's mother), **Stanley Seese** (friend of Harold Warner), **Carol Simpson** (mother of Kara Hartwig), **Marlene Thompson, Natalie Ullrich** (Jeff Kucera's cousin), **Reece Ullerich, Don Warner** (Harold Warner's brother), **Harold Warner, Charma Wenck, Lynne Westphal, Garry Wilcox** (Melissa Mullane's dad), and **Jennifer Wood** (Henry & Linda Diggelmann's daughter), let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have Mercy**

P: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C: **Lord, have Mercy, Christ, have Mercy, Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

BIRTHDAYS

August 2	Dylan Carlson, Bob Carroll, Paul Jahnke, Brad Mullane, Emery Naraine
August 3	Douglas Kubit, Troy Stoll
August 4	Dane Dermody, Katie Loney, Shannon Miller
August 5	Kaja Mueller, Craig Sexton, Ben Weis
August 6	Lorna Jerred, Arthur Johnson, Kelsey Schwarting
August 7	Kaitlyn Brimeyer, Kathy Druecker, Isaiah Giebeck, Tammy Krantz, Isaac Pinnell, Megan Raddatz, Carrie Schneider
August 8	Debra Grolmus, Calvin Simmons, Grant Wardenburg, Diane Weyer

STEWARDSHIP July 25/26, 2026

Time		Treasures	
Worship-In Person/Live Stream 07/25—5:30pm	42	Contributions	\$14,332.50
Worship-In Person/Live Stream 07/26—8:00am	55	Monthly needs for budget	\$71,996.33
Worship-In Person/Live Stream 07/26—10:30am	144		
Total Saturday/Sunday Worship	241	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School	37/n.a.

This Week at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church August 2--9, 2026

<u>Sunday, 08/02</u>		<u>Thursday, 08/06</u>	
Worship Service	8:00am	Vacation Bible School	5:00pm
Sunday School	9:20am		
Adult Bible Class	9:20am	<u>Friday, 08/07</u>	
Worship Service (VBS Commissioning)	10:30am	***	
VBS Volunteers Lunch, Training, and Setup	11:45am		
Vacation Bible School	5:00pm	<u>Saturday, 08/08</u>	
		Sexton Family Bridal Shower	7:00am
<u>Monday, 08/03</u>		Worship Service	5:30pm
Staff Meeting	1:00pm		
Vacation Bible School	5:00pm	<u>Sunday, 08/09</u>	
Youth Committee	6:00pm	Worship Service	8:00am
		Fun Faith Fest Set up	9:20am
<u>Tuesday, 08/04</u>		Worship Service	10:30am
Solon Nursing Home	9:30am	Hot Dog Lunch	12:00pm
Vacation Bible School	5:00pm	Fun Faith Fest	1:00pm
<u>Wednesday, 08/05</u>			
Vacation Bible School	5:00am		
VBS High School Volunteers (Heyn's Ice Cream)	9:00pm		

Thank you!

A HUGE thank you to the amazing crew that arrived to help clean and refresh the vicarage. This one-day project was accomplished with a couple of new volunteers and many of you who volunteer year after year. We APPRECIATE all the time and energy you've invested in helping with this annual project.

Marilyn Albright
Pam Folkmann-Huss
Louise Klopp
Rick & Barb Gienapp
Linda Diggelmann

Dave & Cynthia Freundt
Kathy Folkmann
Dave Yansky & Diane Burke
Steve Scott
John & Sue Mentink

Pam Wilson
Bill & Beth Benson
Cathy Svare
Brenda Johnson
Kevin Rauch & Marcia Hulse



THANK YOU



**Thank you to all who
donated bottles of water and
to all who participated in the
Our Redeemer Fourth of July
parade entry. Our
community was blessed
through your generosity, and
every bottle pointed to Jesus
as the One who provides the
water that quenches our
spiritual thirst forever...**



-The Outreach Committee



Tropical Trek **Vacation Bible School** will be held **August 2-6, 2026**, at Our Redeemer from 5:00-8:15 pm. This is for students ages 4 years old (who are potty-trained) through 8th grade students (for 2026-27).

Sign up today for Tropical Trek VBS this summer! Join us for a Tropical Trek where we will learn how Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10)! As we traverse fun and exciting places, like a dormant volcano and island caves, we'll discover how God finds us and helps us in every challenge we face.

The schedule will include:

5:00 pm meal
5:30-5:45 pm opening
5:30-8:00 pm activities
8:00-8:15 pm closing

Online Registration for both students and volunteers is available.

For more information, contact Kara Hartwig at youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org or the church office at 338-5626.



STOCK THE PANTRY

The Morse family will be moving into the vicarage soon. Let's give them a warm Our Redeemer welcome with things for their pantry. Suggested items to donate include:

- * non-perishable food items
- * household goods
- * paper products
- * cleaning supplies
- * gift cards (grocery store, local restaurants or area businesses)

The items collected will be presented to them upon their arrival. We will continue to collect them through his installation in August. Please place your donations of goods in the box in the Narthex. *However*, please put your donations of gift cards in the church office.



PRAYERFULLY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE FUN FAITH FEST ON AUGUST 9



The Outreach Committee is excited to announce that we will have our Fun Faith Fest again this year on Sunday, August 9, from 12:00pm—2:00pm, after the second Sunday service and a hot dog lunch in the Fellowship Hall. This event is large and in order to get the event set up and make it successful, we are in need of a LOT of volunteers! There will be games, prizes, popcorn, cotton candy, a bouncy house and a dunk tank! PLEASE use the link below to sign up online, or you can sign up in person on the weekends at church (sign up sheet on Welcome Counter).

The link is: [FunFaithFest sign-up](#)

WE are also in need of CANOPY TENTS to provide sun protection for the games and registration and prize tables. If you have a canopy tent you would be willing to loan to us for that day, please contact Melody Strom at: 319-330-3326 or via email at jmstrom@southslope.net Thank you! Looking forward to working with you at this Fun Outreach event.

Best Day Ever Cake Boxes Are Needed!

The Human Care Committee is collecting cake mixes and frosting again this year. Please consider bringing a CHOCOLATE, LEMON or STRAWBERRY cake mix and a frosting to go with it. We will be collecting these the rest of July and all of August.

Thank you!





LWML Road Trip August 15, 10:00am

Where: Matchstick Marvels, 319 Second Street, Gladbrook, Iowa 50635 (Gladbrook City Centre Building)
Admission Fee: Adults \$5.00 Ages 5-12 \$3.00 Under 5 years FREE **CASH ONLY--NO CARDS accepted**
 Since 1977 Gladbrook artist Patrick Acton has created dozens of wooden sculptures made exclusively of ordinary wooden matchsticks. With over five million matchsticks and hundreds of gallons of glue, he has created more than 70 highly detailed and painstakingly scaled models. Many models have historical significance, such as Iowa governor's mansion, Terrace Hill, and a thirteen-foot scaled model of the USS Iowa battleship along with 14 others on display here at Matchstick Marvels. Ripley's Believe It or Not has purchased several of Acton's matchstick art to place in their museums throughout the world. Experience some the best matchstick art in the world and the story that began it all! The building is handicap accessible.

Carpool from church meeting at 10:00am to leave at 10:15am with arrival for a lunch break at Murph's Creamery and Grill in Toledo, Iowa at about 11:30am (Price range 10\$ to \$20 per person). We will depart Murph's at 12:30pm to arrive at Matchstick Marvels by 1:00pm. Leaving by 3:00pm to arrive back to Our Redeemer by 5:00pm. Please sign up by **August the 9th**. Sign up sheet is located on the Welcome Counter in the Narthex.



Building Healthy Families: August 3 begins *Simplify Your Life Week*, a reminder to clear away clutter, reduce stress, focus on what truly matters, and find peace. Clean out a closet or pantry and donate what you no longer need. Simplify your schedule to make room for meaningful time with those you love. But most importantly, take time to read John 14:27 and John 16:33 and consider this question: where are you looking for your identity, security, and peace? If it's your accumulating possessions, bank account, golf game, physical fitness level, number of acres, or your place on the corporate ladder, you'll surely

be disappointed. Carve out time this week to spend with your Father, tune your ear to hear His voice, look for and see the many ways He is already providing for you, in this life and the one to come. Find your peace in the One who came to bring you peace and be assured that true peace is found only in Him who has already overcome the world for you. www.LutheranFamilyService.org **Lutheran Family Service**

2026-2027 Enrollment Form



Child First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

What year in school: Prek 3 OR Prek 4 Sex: Male OR Female Size T-shirt: _____

Birth Date _____ Age as of September 15, _____ years

DAILY SCHEDULE:

7:30am Extended Care Drop off
9:00am Preschool Starts
9:30am Learning Centers
10:30am Snack/Bathroom
11:00am Outside Recreation
11:45am Story/Music
12:00pm Preschool Ends/Pick Up/Lunch
12:45pm Lunch Ends/Pick Up

OTHER INFORMATION:

- * Our Preschool starts after Labor Day and ends before Memorial Day.
- * Children may enroll throughout the school year as spaces allow.
- * Scholarship information is available upon request.
- * Morning extended care students may be dropped off any time after 7:30am.
- * Lunch extended care students will be picked up at 12:45 pm.
- * Morning snack will be provided by an assigned preschool student.
- * Students staying for lunch will provide their own bag lunch and ice pack to keep food cold.
- * No breakfast will be offered.
- * During winter weather you will be notified if: (We follow the Iowa City School District)
 - We are delayed, no preschool, no extended care.
 - We are cancelled, no preschool, no extended care.

CHECK DESIRED PROGRAM:

_____ (M/W/F)	Preschool Program	9:00am-12:00pm	\$256/month
_____ (M/W/F)	Preschool Program with extended care LUNCH time	9:00am-12:45pm	\$336/month
_____ (M/W/F)	Preschool Program with MORNING extended care	7:30am-12:00pm	\$374/month
_____ (M/W/F)	Preschool Program with MORNING e.c. & LUNCH	7:30am-12:45pm	\$456/month
_____ (T/TH)	Preschool Program	9:00am-12:00pm	\$188/month
_____ (T/TH)	Preschool Program with extended care LUNCH time	9:00am-12:45pm	\$240/month
_____ (T/TH)	Preschool Program with MORNING extended care	7:30am-12:00pm	\$269/month
_____ (T/TH)	Preschool Program with MORNING e.c. & LUNCH	7:30am-12:45pm	\$322/month
_____ (5 Day)	Preschool Program	9:00am-12:00pm	\$423/month
_____ (5 Day)	Preschool Program with extended care LUNCH time	9:00am-12:45pm	\$557/month
_____ (5 Day)	Preschool Program with MORNING extended care	7:30am-12:00pm	\$623/month
_____ (5 Day)	Preschool Program with MORNING e.c. & LUNCH	7:30am-12:45pm	\$756/month

Financial scholarships are available for Preschool, not for extended care or lunch expenses. Scholarships are considered at each of these deadlines and are available while scholarship funds remain: March 1, May 1, August 1.

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Best Phone Number _____

Best Email _____

Our Redeemer Preschool admits children of any race, color, nationality or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities of the Preschool. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality or ethnic origin in administration of the educational or admission policies. Our curriculum is Christian-based.

Please mail your completed form along with the **\$50 non-refundable** registration fee made payable to:

Our Redeemer Preschool
2301 E. Court Street
Iowa City, IA 52245

Upon receipt of the Enrollment Form and fee, your child's spot will be reserved. An enrollment packet will be sent to you containing all additional paperwork to be completed. Thank you for enrolling your child with Our Redeemer Preschool.

Updated: 1/2025



Preschool Newsletter



Director/Teacher, Kaja Mueller Assistants, Christie Cherian M/W/F, Kate Ramsey T/TH
Preschool Phone: 319-338-3949 www.ourredeemerpreschoolic.org preschool@ourredeemer.org

Our Redeemer Preschool where children play, learn, and grow in Jesus!

Things Not To Worry About When Your Child Starts School

Comes home in "school" pants because his somehow got wet. Lots of young children are reluctant to use unfamiliar bathrooms and decide to wait until they get home to go. Don't worry. Teachers are used to changing wet pants. With time, the school's facilities will be on your child's list of Approved Bathrooms.



Question to ask kids!

What are you
really good at?

Our church preschool is bursting with creativity, but our craft closets are running low. We are asking our wonderful congregation for donations of **craft beads** of all shapes, sizes, and colors. Please place your donations at Kaja Mueller office door anytime this summer or fall. Thank you for supporting our youngest disciples as they grow, learn, and create!



This helps with their Fine Motor Skills: Stringing beads helps little fingers develop coordination; with their Math Concepts: Children practice sorting, counting, and pattern-making; and their Creative Expression: Kids love making gifts for family and friends.

SCIENCE - Enable children to...

- *explore and experiment
- *develop skills in using the scientific method of problem solving: observing, predicting, testing predictions and generalizations
- *use source materials in problem solving
- *manipulate objects to move from concrete to abstract
- *find out about nature
- *classify relationships between objects



Enrollment for 2026-2027 is OPEN!

Preschool enrollment for next year is now open!

Be sure to register soon to reserve your child's spot.



Our preschool runs from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, with morning/lunch extended care and scholarships available. Please contact us at **preschool@ourredeemer.org** for more details.

Personal referrals from families like yours are our number one source for new students. We've been blessed with so many wonderful children over the years, and we ask that you continue to spread the word about Our Redeemer. Help us fill our classrooms with children ready to play, learn, and grow in Christ!

Children's Ministry

Birth—5th Grade

**Our Redeemer Lutheran
Church VBS
Sunday, August 2, 2026 to
Thursday, August 6, 2026
5:00 PM—8:15 PM**

2301 East Court Street, Iowa City, IA

Sign up for **Tropical Trek VBS** this summer! Throughout this program, we will learn how Jesus came to seek and save the Lost! As we traverse fun and exciting places, like a dormant volcano and island caves we will discover how God finds us in every challenge we face.



NIGHTLY SCHEDULE

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8:00-8:15 pm closing

STUDENT AGES:

4 years old (who are
potty-trained)
through 8th grade
students (for 2026-27)

Volunteer or sign up a child at the link below:

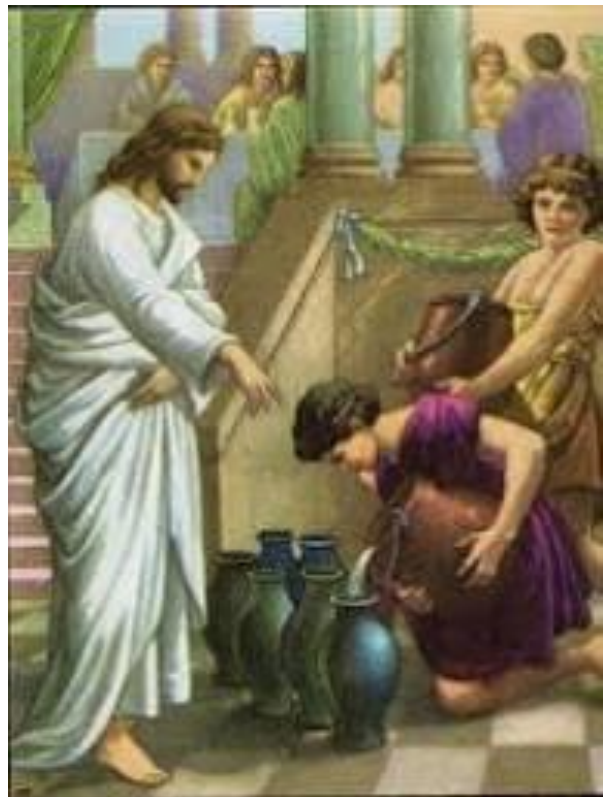
<https://vbsmate.com/events/OurRedeemerVBS2026/31540>

DONATE:

Scholarship center) Amazon Wishlist QR code money to help defray costs (box on the Welcome Counter for purchases needed for crafts and games on page 6 and on Welcome Center—purchases will be sent directly to Our Redeemer. Also, VBS Snack Food donation signup sheets are located on the Welcome Center.



**Summer
Sunday School
Sunday, August 2nd
9:20am**



**The Wine Sign—
A Wedding at Cana
John 2:1-11**

Youth

6th—12th Graders



Summer Sunday School
Sunday, August 2nd, 9:20am



The Wine Sign—A Wedding at Cana
John 2:1-11

JUNE JULY AUGUST

Watch for details!

Summer Youth Activity on
Wednesday, August 12th
Youth Activity



**Thank you to all
who helped with
Peach Pick Up Day!**



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Sunday, August 2 to Thursday, August 6, 2026

5:00 PM—8:15 PM
2301 East Court Street
Iowa City, IA

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Volunteer or sign up to attend at the link below:

<https://vbsmate.com/events/OurRedeemerVBS2026/31540>



OUR REDEEMER OFFICE DIRECTORY

Office: 338-5626 Fax: 338-9171

Website: <http://www.ourredeemer.org>

Preschool: 338-3949

Prayer Chain: 351-5297 or prayerchain@ourredeemer.org

Special Announcements Line: 338-3505

<u>STAFF & EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>STAFF & EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
Rev. Dr. Brent Hartwig, Senior Pastor bhartwig@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 337-2403 (home)	Kaja Mueller, Preschool Director preschool@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool) 338-5626 (church)
Andrew Vought, Vicar vicar@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Lorrie Bailey, Office Coordinator rededeemer@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Christie Cherian, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)	Kate Ramsey, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)
Sarah Ghabel, Bookkeeper bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Kara Hartwig, Youth Coordinator youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Denise Holida, Adult Coordinator smallgroups@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 930-0165 (cell)	Louise Klopp, Director Choirs/ Properties choirdirector@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Laurel Sellers, Consultant consultant@ourredeemer.org	319-331-3242 (cell) 338-5626 ext. 21	Kevin Sellers Director of Technology technology@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 ext. 18 631-8924 (cell)
Marilyn Paetz, Organist	351-4262 (home)		

2026 Board of Elders

Tim Eick	248-514-2881
Rick Gienapp	319-331-7425
Skip Kempnich	319-331-5639
Cameron Koch	319-269-0871
Jordan Lyon	563-506-2321
Brad Mullane	319-936-5826
TJ Ramsey	319-325-3790
Kevin Roiseland (Chairman)	319-230-5247
Chad Waring	319-331-8303

2026 Board of Directors

President	Jeff Kucera	563-316-1088
Vice President	Bruce Maurer	319-530-1524
Secretary	Barb Pronk	641-425-4880
Treasurer	Kennedy Donovan	515-230-2057
Board of Elders	Kevin Roiseland	319-230-5247
Properties	Dave Yansky	319-621-7694
At Large	Mary Robinson	319-400-5572
	Jim Tiedemann	319-341-3400
	Steve Scott	563-889-0990

DEADLINES

Reflections (printed weekly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) each Wednesday by 5:00 pm

Beacon Newsletter & Church Activities Calendar (printed monthly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) by noon on the 20th of each month.

RADIO

Lutheran Hour Ministries on Radio—WMT 600 AM Radio on Sunday mornings at 6:30 am, and KXEL 1540 AM Radio on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. For more information on Lutheran Hour Ministries go to www.LHM.org.

VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND SCREENING

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has a strong, caring ministry with children and youth. To promote the safest and most secure environment possible all employees and volunteers, both new and existing, undergo a background screening before working with younger members. Performing background checks provides safeguards and peace of mind to our staff, volunteers, parents, youth, and children.