



Redeemer Church Office
Tel: 414-933-7004
admin@redeemermilwaukee.org
www.redeemermilwaukee.org

September 27, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
631 N. 19th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

WORSHIP LEADERS

PREACHER/PRESIDER: Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen

LITURGICAL ASSISTANT: Lisa Miller

READER: Brittany Wilson

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Jeff Bray

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Larissa Bogle-Boesiger and Cheryl Walker

ALTAR GUILD: Larissa Bogle-Boesiger and Cheryl Walker

USHERS/GREETER: Dorothy Zeidler, Jacob Habeck and Sean Holub

PRELUDE

MEDITATION CHANT

"It Is Good to Trust"

Taize

♩ = 58

Bo - num est con - fi - de - re in Do - mi - no,
It is good to trust in the Lord our God.

bo - num spe - ra - re in Do - mi - no,
trust and hope in the Lord our God.

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

(please stand if able)

Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: Life Together in Mercy

We gather as God's family, called to love one another sincerely, to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

Lord, we confess that we have not always lived as your family.

When our brothers and sisters hurt us, we have sometimes held onto anger rather than seeking reconciliation.

Forgive us for the grudges we carry, the words we speak in anger, and the wounds we refuse to acknowledge.

You call us to let love be genuine, to honor one another, to practice hospitality, and to live in harmony.

Forgive us for the times we have chosen our own way over the good of the community—for jealousy, resentment, pride, and indifference.

Like Jonah, we confess that sometimes we would rather see others judged than welcomed, punished than restored, excluded than embraced.

When your mercy toward others troubles us, expand our minds and hearts to see others as you do: as people worthy of grace.

In Christ, God does not hold our sins against us. We are forgiven +, restored, and called again into the family of God.

By the grace of God, we will seek peace, practice mercy, and love one another. Amen.

OPENING SONG "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" *Red Book 712, vs 1, 2, 3*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lisa Miller

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

(please sit)

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³**Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.** ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be grasped,

⁷but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ **he humbled himself**

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly

and gave him the name

that is above every other name,

¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with

fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25

"To You, O Lord"

Marty Haugen

Refrain



Verses

1. Lord, make me know your ways, teach me your paths
and keep me in the way of your truth, for you are God, my Savior.
2. For the Lord is good and righteous, revealing the way to those who wander,
gently leading the poor and the humble.
3. To the ones who seek the Lord, who look to God's word, who live God's love,
God will always be near, and will show them mercy.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Alleluia"

Jerry Sinclair

(please stand if able)

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le lu - ia, Al - le -
lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia. *To repeat* *Last time* lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21: 23 – 32

Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen

The Good News of Jesus Christ as written in the Gospel of Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, **"By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"** ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From

heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.”

²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**
(please sit)

SERMON	“The Importance of Humility”	<i>Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen</i>
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SERMON SONG	“Come to Me, O Weary Traveler” (next page) (prayer squares collected)	<i>William Rowan</i>
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1 "Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to
2 "Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not
3 "Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my
4 "Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in



me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -
fear, my bur - den's light; do not fear the path be -
yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -
me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is



bur - dened; come to me and find your rest."
fore you; do not run from me in fright."
side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty."
gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE "The Spirit Intercedes for Us"

Larry Olson



The Spir - it in - ter - cedes for us with



sighs too deep for words to ex - press. Oh, oh.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling” *Red Book 608*

OFFERING PRAYER *Lisa Miller*

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION *Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen*

Song *Richardson/Bray*

And the ta-ble will be wide. And the wel-come will be wide.

And the arms will o - pen wide to ga-ther us in.

And our hearts will o-pen wide to re - ceive.

Presider’s Prayer

Reprise "Table Will Be Wide"
(please stand if able)

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. God, you are our Holy Parent, our Mother and . . .

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation (please sit)

COMMUNION SONG "Touch That Soothes and Heals"
(next page)

Gregg DeMay



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's
4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
peo - ple, first and least. Know with - in each act of
wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

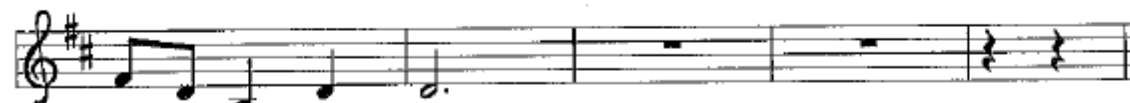
Refrain



"See my hands and feet," said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. "Be my hands and feet," said Je - sus, "live as



ones I died to save."

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lisa Miller

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance
of your love and forgiveness.
May our lives witness to these gifts
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

(please stand if able)

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

Red Book 768

DISMISSAL Go now in peace. Let us live humbly for all! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The church office is open, 9 – 1, Monday – Thursday. Call 414-933-7004, or email admin@redeermilwaukee.org to set up an appointment with a pastor.

BIBLE STUDY – Mondays – 12:30 in the Gathering Space

- This Monday we'll be looking at **Philippians 3: 4b – 14.**

LUNCH AT OLGA'S

- **We are in need of servers throughout Fall** for the Olga Sunday Meal hosted at Redeemer. We need at least 12 people. If you can volunteer individually, as a family or as a small group, please sign up at olganws.com/volunteer.

SIGN UP GENIUS FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- Please use the link or QR barcode to sign up to be a worship leader. You can sign up to be the liturgical assistant, reader and communion assistant. Dates are in there up to the end of the year. Plan ahead!
- [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44AAA82CA2FCC34-64339932-worship#/
worship#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44AAA82CA2FCC34-64339932-worship#/)



WE HAVE A SUGGESTION BOX!

- Box is located in the Narthex on one of the large tables.
- Please put any questions, suggestions, or thoughts that you'd like to share with the MET and leadership in there, and we will check it weekly. Also, feel free to reach out to Pastor Heidi and the other members of the MET: Solomon Tesfai (chair), LuAnn Blohm, Scott McIntosh, Lisa Myers, Nancy Grothe, and Donnie Bogle-Boesiger (council president).

PLAN AHEAD

- Pet Blessing – Saturday, October 10 at 10 AM in North Parking Lot
- Semi Annual Meeting – Sunday, October 18, right after the service in the sanctuary.

As we can now begin to joyfully imagine celebrating the significant payoff of our ELCA Mission Investment Fund loan (at 7.125% interest rate, requiring a \$4,600 payment each month), we must also share we have funding needs for two important projects in the works:

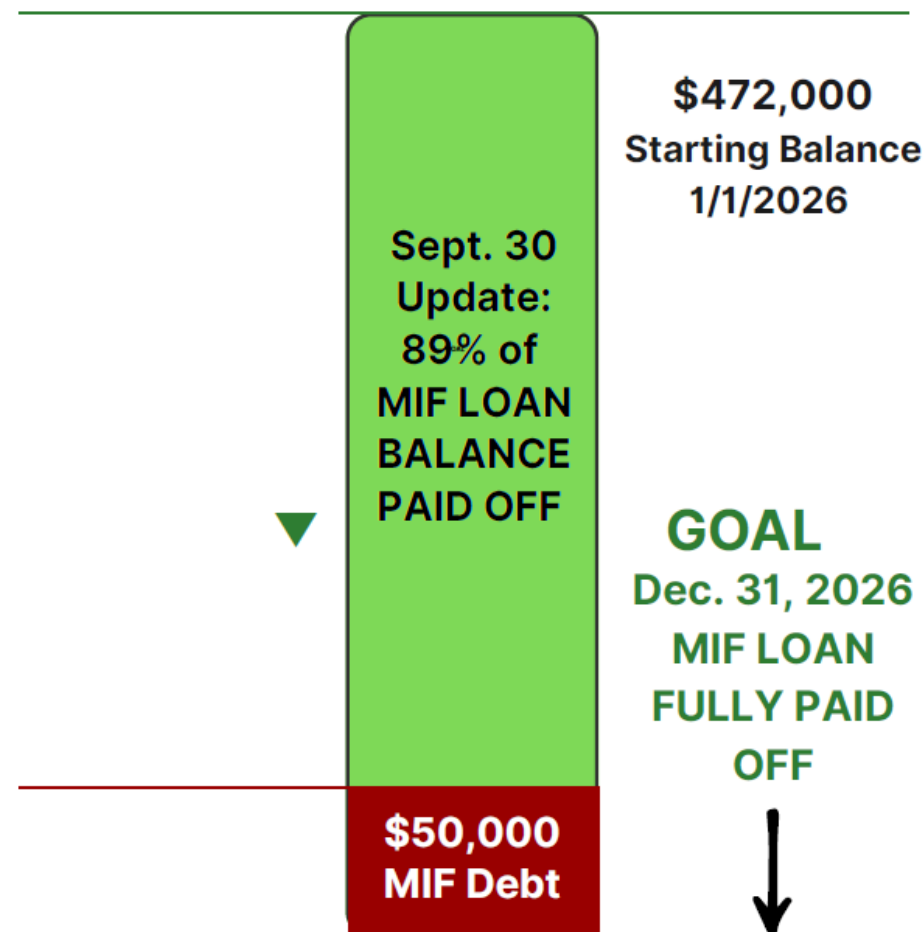
1. Regrading and waterproofing the west wall to prevent future flooding and water damage in the conference rooms on the lower level: The current estimated cost is \$17,000–\$25,000.
2. Completing payment for the North Parking Lot paving, with a current balance due of \$35,000. Our paving partner, Payne & Dolan, a division of the Walbec Group, has agreed to a deferred payment schedule, based on this company's long ties to Redeemer Lutheran. (See Fun Fact below.)

These two items need ongoing fundraising, especially the latter for which the work has been completed. Our fundraising team will continue to work until these needs are met.

FUN FACT: Walter Bechthold founded Payne & Dolan in 1930 after getting his start in the state highway department. The Bechthold family were "west siders" and, as such, were members of Redeemer Lutheran on The Grand Avenue at 19th Street. Their son, Ned Walter Bechthold, was baptized at Redeemer on May 23, 1937, and the Redeemer Parish Register contains the official record of that baptism! Ned went on to serve as CEO of the company for three decades before turning leadership over to his son, Kurt, in 1999. The company remains family-owned.

DRAINING THE DEBT

ELCA Mission Investment Fund
LOAN PAYDOWN



Every dollar of debt drains resources away from Redeemer's operating budget and our neighborhood ministries.

