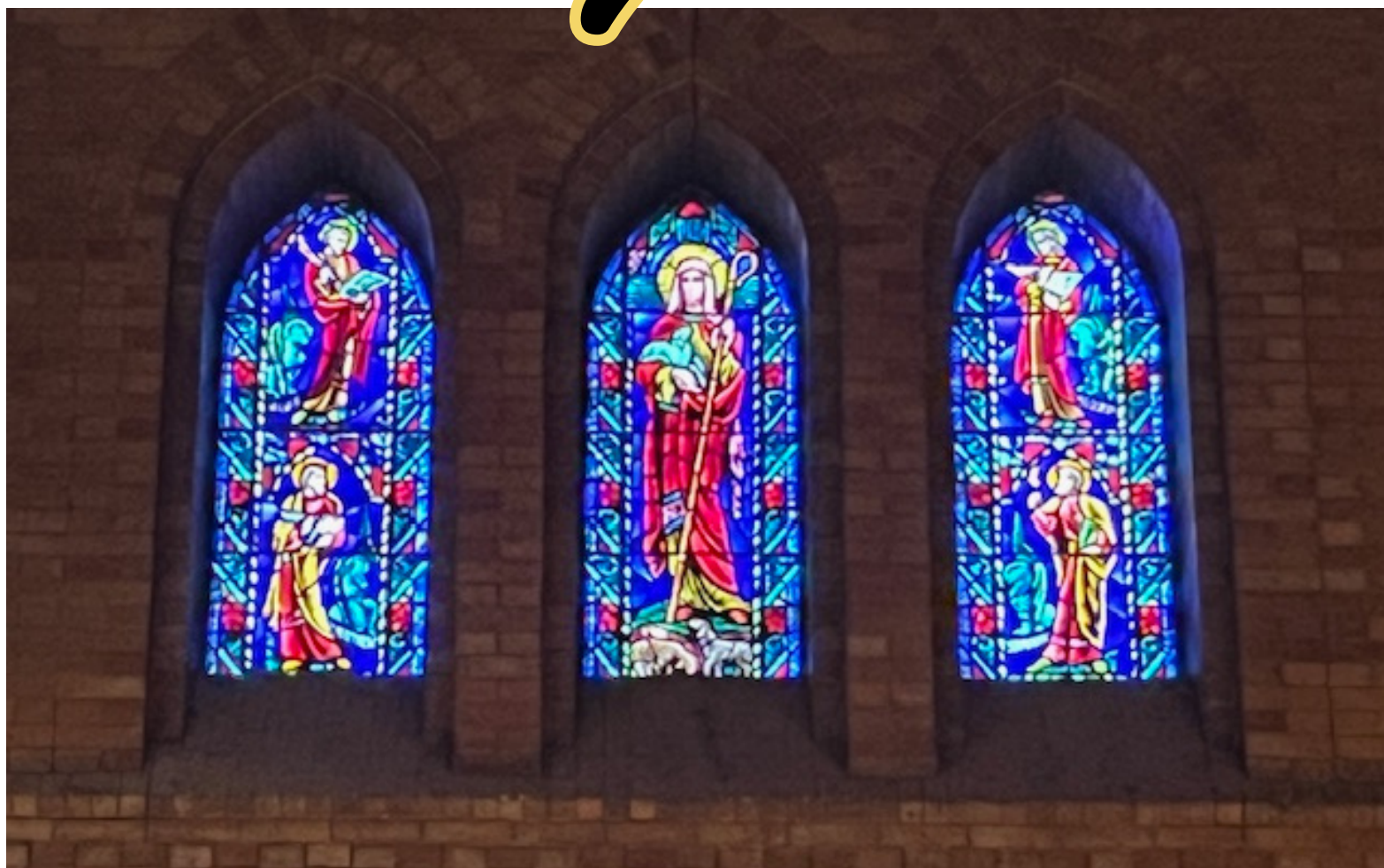


Tidings Fall 2026



What's Inside:

Letter from Pastor Heidi
Upcoming Events
Jeff Bray & Choir Info
MET Update – Solomon Tesfai
Debt Reduction Team 2026
Our Volunteers
Council Update –
Donnie Bogle-Boesiger
Sunday Worship



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A Letter from Pastor Heidi

“Greetings, Redeemer Friends!

If you haven't had a chance to meet me yet, I am the interim pastor here at Redeemer. The main goals for my time with you are to lead the Mission Exploration Team through the interim process and to help the congregation identify what you are looking for in your next called pastor. I am here to support you, listen, and help prepare you for the next phase of your (awesome and exciting!) ministry.

I have been doing interim work for the past 5 years. I love it because I get to encourage congregations and help calm them through a time of transition that can bring anxieties or fears. I commute here from my home in Grafton that I share with my husband Brian, children Bennett (14) and Anna (13), our cat Oscar, and our dog Odie. In my spare time I love to read audiobooks, drink coffee, watch shows with my husband, and travel. This summer my family went to Utah and were blown away by the beauty of that state! We did some hiking at Bryce Canyon National Park and at Zion National Park. My daughter, mom, and I also were extremely fortunate to travel around Norway. It was wonderful to see the fjords, and to introduce my daughter to ways of life that are different from ours.

Now that the bulk of the summer travels are done, the Mission Exploration Team is focusing on our work. Members are Solomon Tesfai (chair), LuAnn Blohm, Scott McIntosh, Lisa Myers, Nancy Groethe, and Donnie Bogle-Basiger (ex-officio, Council President). We are gathering information from members, friends, guests, and staff so that we can fulfill our ultimate goal: completing the Ministry Site Profile. This is the information that goes out to potential candidates so that they can learn about Redeemer and what you are seeking in your next pastor. The next page will give you a bit about the Ministry Site Profile.

- It's 10 pages long.
- 2 pages are general information, demographics, and budget information.
- There are spaces to share Redeemer's characteristics, trends, context, programs, goals, energy and partnerships.
- One page gives options on how to describe Redeemer as a community, giving opposing options and having us rate where Redeemer falls. For example: "We tend to be formal and programmatic" or "We tend to be informal and spontaneous." The MET looks at the sentence and rates where the congregation falls between those two different descriptions. There are several different categories on this page.
- The MSP also has spaces to describe Redeemer's purpose, giftedness, and mission

There are places where you describe the kind of pastor you are looking for: age, experience levels, part/full time, etc. You choose the top 5 ministry tasks you want the pastor to focus on, the gifts for ministry you need, and the mutual expectations you want to have with your new pastor. You share the rough numbers for compensation, though the final details of this always depend on who you call and how you work this out together. It is good to give an idea to the synod and to candidates of what the congregation can afford and is planning to spend on compensation. References for Redeemer are listed, including someone within the congregation, the bishop, a member of the ELCA clergy, and someone else who knows your setting well.

Finally, there is a section for open sharing about who Redeemer is, and anything else that needs to be communicated that hasn't been an option in the rest of the document.

It's a very involved and lengthy document that gives a great deal of information. The MET will be sharing parts of it with you as it's ready. Keep your eyes peeled for those times!

Please continue to keep the MET, the whole process, and your congregation in your prayers. And, as always, reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or thoughts to share with the group. May God be close in our hearts and minds as we continue serving him and discerning God's will for Redeemer.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Upcoming Events

MET Coffee Hour
September 20
9 AM
Mission Partner
Space

Outreach for Hope
Ride/Run/Walk
September 26

New Member
Sunday
September 20
10 AM Service

Rescheduled
PRIDE Service
6 PM
Ascension Luth

Pet Blessing
October 10
10 AM
North Parking Lot

Semi-Annual
Meeting
October 18
11 AM
Sanctuary

Redeemer Lutheran Church

A Letter from Jeff Bray

Greetings Everyone...

I hope this edition of Tidings finds you well, happy and healthy. It's been a wild ride these past few months, as we said farewell to Pastor Lisa in February, then we wandered the "desert" during Lent and the Easter season as we welcomed a host of substitute presiders and preachers through mid-May, when Pastor Heidi agreed to step in as our interim pastor. I have had the honor of holding space and continuity of our Sunday worship through this time and I want to thank Chris Bremer, Dar Behr, LuAnn Blohm, Barbara Rasmussen and Pastor Jon Jacobs for helping me hold things together during this transition. Thanks also to the Choir for singing at the Easter Morning Service!!! Finally, I wanted to thank publicly Miriam Ofori, for filling in for me musically a few Sundays over the summer to allow me to take some time away.

Now that Pastor Heidi is settling in, it's time to bring back the Redeemer Choir for the fall. Starting Sunday, September 13th, we will begin rehearsals for our first Sunday of singing, October 11th, when, once again, Choir will support and ornament Sunday worship, in song. Rehearsals will happen for 30-40 minutes AFTER Sunday worship service. I hope those of you who have sung in the choir before will return, and I invite anyone else who would like to join. You don't have to have experience or even be able to read music, just a heart full of love to sing in a group to serve the Lord.

I'm also excited to announce that later on in the Fall - into early December - we will be offering a contemplative mid-week service (for 3 of the Wednesday evenings) in Advent, to come together to prepare as a community and for ourselves for the coming of Jesus at the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas). We will incorporate Taize' chant and other familiar advent songs/hymns that will help us center, get still and pray. Candles, quiet, song, some reflection, community... I hope you will join us. We will meet in the main sanctuary starting at 5:30 pm.

Peace and All Good to you.

Jeff Bray
Director of Music,
Redeemer Lutheran Church



MET Update from Solomon Tesfai

Hello Redeemer Family,

Since the relaunch of the Mission Exploration Team (MET) in June, the team has been actively working to develop the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP is a critical document used by the Call Committee as they secure Redeemer's next pastor.

One of the most important steps in this process has been gathering feedback from the congregation through a series of questions designed to capture your perspectives and experiences at Redeemer. At its core, we asked: What does Redeemer mean to you, and what keeps you committed to this house of worship?

The response was both inspiring and insightful. The MET team used this feedback to identify several key themes that reflect the strengths, values, and priorities of our congregation. These themes were shared during a recent congregational potluck, where members appreciated the opportunity to see how their voices contributed to the ongoing work.

Over the next several months, we will continue to explore important themes, including outreach programming, the size and structure of Redeemer, strengthening our relationship with OLGA, and continuing our listening sessions with congregation members, meal guests, and other key stakeholders.

Thank you for your continued engagement, support, and prayers. Your participation is helping shape Redeemer's future and ensuring that our next pastor gains a meaningful understanding of the heart of this congregation.

Blessings,

Mission Exploration Team (MET)

Congregational Health Scorecard

- ● Inclusion & Welcome
 - ● Worship & Music
 - ● Service & Outreach
 - ● Community Connection
 - ● Transparency
 - ● Volunteer Capacity
 - ● Youth Development
 - ● Neighborhood Engagement
- 

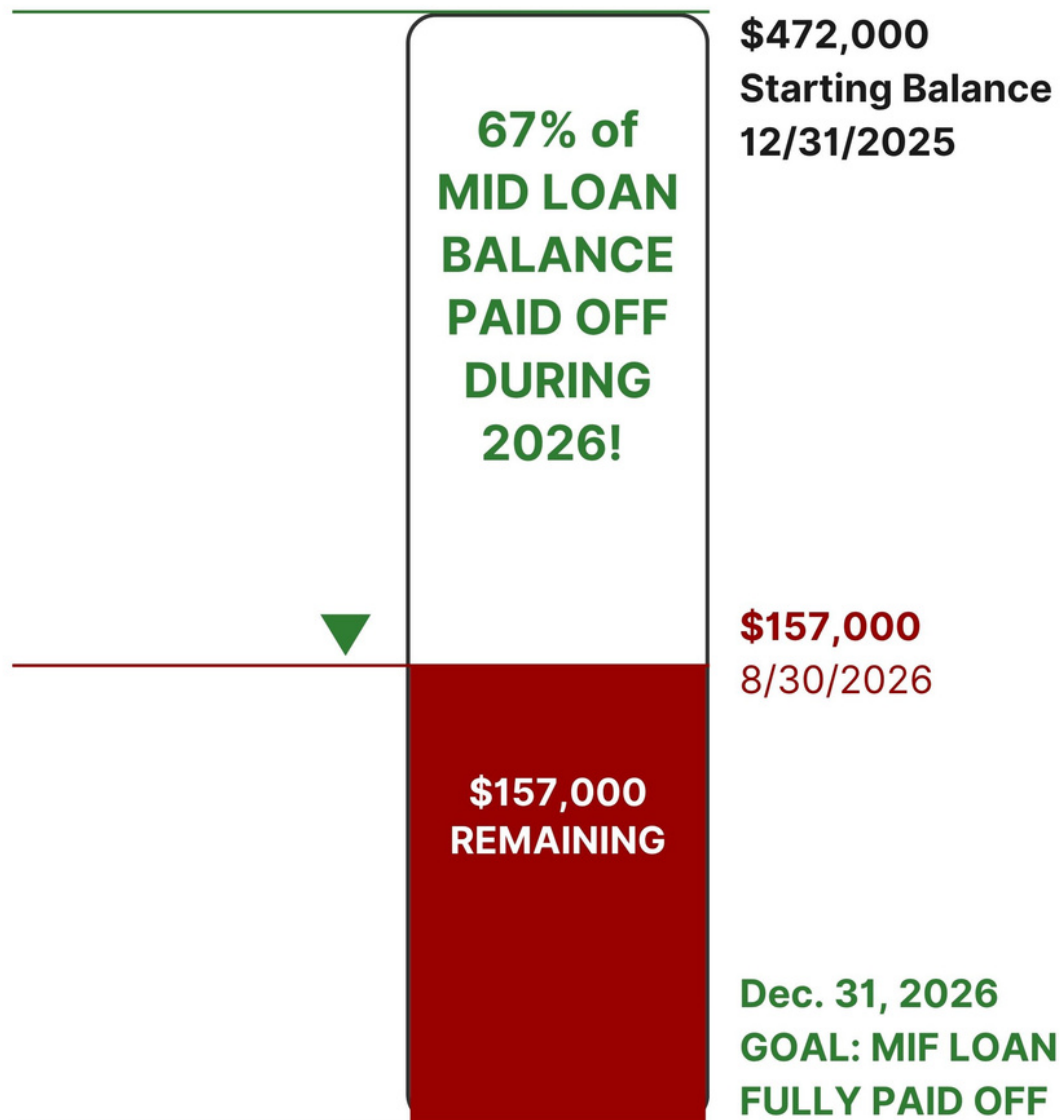


Debt Reduction Update

ELCA Mission Fund Investment

LOAN PAYDOWN:

DRAINING THE DEBT



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

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Our Volunteers



If you are interested in Redeemer's other volunteer opportunities, please email admin@redeermilwaukee.org

THANK YOU!

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Message from Council President

My dear Redeemer Family,

I'm excited to write this update to you as I look out at my beautiful, chaotic garden. I find a lot of joy in my garden (though I haven't had as much time to dedicate to it this summer as I'd like). It all starts with three things: seeds, dirt, and water. These simple ingredients slowly but surely turn to green, beautiful life. Through their lives, I transplant them into larger pots, and their eventual home in my raised beds. It's there that they're watered, fed with fertilizer, pruned, and often supported to grow to their fruit-bearing selves! I see us at Redeemer in many ways throughout this metaphor...

I see the busy Redeemer bees buzzing around, pollinating the activities of the church that encourage growth. Never asking for recognition. Always working.

I see the church as the baby plants in a pot, ready for that transplant to a new home. Eager to push forth and grow in its next stage of life!

I see the pruning of activities that don't feed our mission as a church. Strengthening the focus and desire to do good.

I see the Spirit of God watering and feeding the plants in the pews through droughts and challenges. Encouraging them to reach up and grow through difficulties.

I see new seeds being planted through trying new things to build connection amongst members. Building relationships and growing closer.

I'm honored to be serving here amongst all of you. This place tends to attract authentic, enthusiastic, and service-minded humans. Thank you for being you and giving a part of yourselves to this place. You're what make this place what it is!

What's interesting about that is that "what Redeemer is" is changing in this season. While we're establishing operations in our (no longer new) space and understanding what our next step of pastoral leadership means to us, we have an amazing opportunity to deepen our roots into who we are. I've really been challenging myself to see the qualities under the surface in people, services, and programs that make this place what it is. Then, asking myself the question: How do we strengthen that?

I'll leave you today with that question. What do you need from this community to strengthen your roots?

Peace,

Donnie Bogle-Boesiger

Council President



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Join us on Sundays!

10 AM

