

REDEEMER NEWS

May 2023

From Pastor Petersen:

An Update on the Roof

As was reported at the April voters' meeting, if you look up at the church roof from the south, you can see some shingles that look damaged. There is also some plaster in the music office on the southwest side of the building that is blistering due to moisture. This has been a cause of concern for many people; but, let me assure you that Effie Sheron, our elected trustee, has been on top of this.

The problem is more complicated than it may appear. This is because we can't tell from the ground or inside the attic if the roof needs to be replaced completely or not. It is 18 years old. It may need to be. That being said, Effie and her preferred roofer did a very thorough inspection from the attic and could not find any signs of damage. The source of the moisture in the music office has not been determined. It may be the roof, but there are other possibilities. All this to say, despite what one section of the roof looks like from the ground, and the areas that we know must be addressed, and which are being addressed, it may be that the roof can be repaired and last another year or two.

A new roof, replaced right now, will cost about \$90,000. If that roof lasted 30 years and never needed a single penny in maintenance or repairs, it would cost us \$3000/year. Of course, it will not last that long without maintenance, and it may not last that long anyway, but that number gives us the best possible scenario for repair. But it seems that the current problems can be repaired for \$5,000-8,000. If we can get that done, that is a bargain compared to what a new roof would cost, even if it only lasts a couple of years.

Effie has scheduled repairs. They should take place in June. It is possible that will reveal that the roof has to be replaced now. If so, it will be done. The money is on hand, and there will be no fundraising toward this, nor will there be any special meetings or debate. No man knows the future; but, humanly speaking, if the roof needs to be replaced, we will do what we must to get it replaced in a timely manner, presumably before winter. If that happens, it will be possible to view the money that is spent to begin repairs, which should be less than \$2000, as "wasted." Nonetheless, it has seemed to the council majority that this is a prudent expenditure from the maintenance budget because it might solve the problem and, even if it doesn't, it will give us the information we need to make an informed decision.

An Update on the Organ Project

Many people have experienced painful "sticker shock" over the proposed organ repair or replacement. There is no way around this: a pipe organ is a huge investment. But we aren't asking for all the money right now. We are asking for pledges spread over the next five years. We can't give you an exact cost or plan yet. There are a couple of reasons for this. First of all, the actual repair or replacement is years away. We can't get an exact quote because prices change, but we do know what it would cost today. So also we can't commit to the exact scale of the project without raising funds first. We have to know, frankly, what we can afford.

It is not an emergency, but I feel that it is urgent. I feel that a pipe organ and rigorous music program is part of what makes our congregation what it is. Our services are enriched by this in subtle ways that are hard to put a finger on but which are certainly felt when one attends another congregation that lacks our resources and history. The life of this organ has been stretched in a nearly miraculous manner. This is due to the careful stewardship and sacrifices of our congregational forefathers. We have inherited much from them! It is also largely due to the herculean efforts and volunteerism of Kantor Daniel Reuning in making repairs himself and working around problems. Life expectancy was 50 years. The Seminary organ, built by the same company at roughly the same time, and very similar to ours, though on a larger scale, failed before that. Ours has lasted 66 years and isn't dead yet! But, barring the return of Our Lord or some unforeseen miracle of major intervention, it won't last a whole lot longer. It works now, and we ought to be able to keep it working for a while, but prudence requires we replace it before it can't be repaired. Again, it is not an emergency, but it is important.

To repair it back to something very close to its original state in 1957 would cost roughly \$400,000. That then could be expected to last another 50 years. The musicians, however, think this is a good time to consider some improvements that increase its durability and functionality. Their dream quote is about \$840,000 which would increase the durability and reliability 10-fold so that it should last, seriously, 500 years and also adds some additional pipes to really make the thing come alive. I'll go ahead and add my dream quote: \$1 million. Then we could get all that they want, which would be marvelous beyond words, and also establish a small endowment fund (\$160,000) for the maintenance and repair of the instrument. There is also middle ground that adds no pipes but adds durability and reliability without the expansion of pipes but leaves room for them. This price tag is about \$640,000.

Again, of course, we would all love for a donor to come forward with the cash today for the whole project and then we'd sign a contract and move on. We aren't ashamed to pray for that, but we don't expect it. We expect to be fundraising for years. Some of us are more optimistic than others. The most pessimistic on the committee are hoping that one year from now we have enough pledges and cash on hand that we can pick one of those three numbers above as a goal. From there we keep fundraising, and, in another two to four years we sign a contract and get started. The committee thinks it can be done, one way or another, eventually, and all think it should be done.

What we are asking for at this point is for you to think and pray about it and be prepared, maybe in the fall, to make a pledge and even to start making monthly gifts toward that pledge. We are also asking for conversations about major gifts. If you think you might be able and interested in a major gift, whether that is a cash gift, part of the proceeds from a property sale, an IRA disbursement, a stock transfer, or part of a trust fund, etc., please let us know. You can talk to me or Mike Ritzman, who is the chair of the fundraising committee. We'd love to come talk to you. We can help with making this as beneficial to your income tax as possible.

You can also expect some education coming your way about pipe organs and our organ in particular as we try to make the case that, despite the size of this price tag, it is worth it. If you want technical details or information that has been gathered about the issues and solutions, Kantor Reuning, Noah Vancina, and Nicole Busarow would be happy to talk to you.

Summer Travel and Synod Stuff

I will be traveling a bit this summer to speak at some conferences and also for a couple of continuing ed courses through the Seminary. Most of this is during the week, but I will also take some vacation, and that will include Sundays. The weekday and Sunday services are being covered largely by our part-time assistants, Rev. Matt Wietfeldt and Dr. Geoff Boyle, who you are accustomed to by now and see regularly in the roles of deacon and subdeacon. If you have their contact information, which is in the church directory, you can contact them directly if you need emergency pastoral care or you can get a hold of me and, if I am out of town, I will coordinate it from afar. I want to warn you, however, that coordinating all the weekday services is a bit complicated. It is possible, I hope unlikely, but possible, that you will show up for the Sacrament and find yourself at a lay-led prayer service such as Matins or Vespers. Please don't stay away because of this, but also please don't be terribly disappointed and surprised if it happens.

The synod convention, which currently happens every three years, takes place at the end of July in Milwaukee. I am not attending. Before that, by electronic vote, the president of synod will be elected. It is unlikely that the convention does anything that directly affects our congregation's day-to-day life, but the convention does matter because the synod matters. If nothing else, it affects my mood and general disposition, how angry or sad or happy I am :). So also we do have members that might feel its effects directly, such as those who work for the Seminary or for the synod directly. I don't think there is any direct threat or promise to any of them or their institutions in this particular cycle, but one never knows. So also I have been nominated to serve on a synodical committee. I don't think it will really affect you if I am elected. I think it will require quarterly travel, but I am doing that now for the district BOD. If elected to this, I am removed from that. I think this will interfere less with Sundays than the BOD. In any case, all of this is simply to ask that you remember the synod in your prayers, asking that God's will be done and that everyone behave himself.

An Appeal for Summer Sunday School teachers

We are fairly desperate again for Sunday School teachers. If at all possible, we need to give our regular teachers a break. They are hard to find! If we burn them out or overburden them we may lose them; more importantly we may hurt them. Teaching for the summer doesn't require great Biblical knowledge or skills. We have a great, easy to follow curriculum that is new as of this year. Maggie will give you all the help and support you need. If you are too intimidated but want to help, consider signing up with a friend to do it together. I recognize that this is a sacrifice. Teaching Sunday School means giving up some social time and Bible class on Sundays. It might mean having to wipe some noses or deal with crying. It might mean losing time in the garden on Sunday morning. It is, however, valuable. It is usually also rewarding. If you are willing to at least hear more about it or to sign up for just a few weeks please talk to Maggie Casey.

Next Saturday, June 3, after Matins, (about 11:00 a.m.), there will be a **training on using the fire extinguishers** that we have in the building. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board if you want to attend.

Lutheran Night at the TinCaps is Tuesday, August 1, and we are getting together a group ticket order from Redeemer. If you would like to join us, please email secretary.redeemer@gmail.com. The tickets will be ordered on Monday June 5, so please let Jane know before that. Tickets are \$12. The 1st is also a Family Feast Night at Parkview Field, so hot dogs, popcorn, pizza, and soft drinks are \$2.

The Church Picnic will be Sunday, July 16 at 4:00 in the main pavilion at Foster Park. The church will provide fried chicken and bottled water, along with plates, napkins, and utensils. Bring sides and desserts to share as well as other beverages that you might want. In addition, bring your corn hole, frisbees, footballs, etc.

Books and Beer's next meeting will be Sunday June 11th at 7:00 p.m.

BOOK: Empire of the Summer Moon, by S.C. Gwynne

As always, the event is open to all the men of our parish of drinking age, or friends that you think would fit in. Feel free to forward and invite others.

Keep an eye on the **calendar** on the bulletin board outside the office for summer social opportunities.

There will be **no Women's Bible Study** in June, July, or August, but Women's Night Out will continue for the summer. It will be at 6:30 June 18, July 23 (date changed due to church picnic), and August 20.

Receiving and demonstrating Christ's love in word and deed.

1 John 4:19 Colossians 3:17

