

# OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

904 Bluff Street Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

## THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

*A traditional, liturgical, Biblical congregation in the heart of Cedar Falls ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Christ.*

Rev. Michael R. Knox, Pastor  
(319) 231-9761

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, Pastor  
(319) 389-5526

Joseph Goodroad, Vicar  
(816) 645-0188

Church Office: 266-2509

Email: [orlc@cfu.net](mailto:orlc@cfu.net) Website: [theforgivenessplace.org](http://theforgivenessplace.org)

### THE 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 14, 2023

**TO OUR VISITORS** We rejoice that you have joined us this morning to hear the Word of God, receive His gifts of life and salvation, and to respond to His faithfulness with "Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs" *Ephesians 5:19*

- ✘ Please take the time to fill out the Communion Registration/Visitors' Cards which are in the small card holders on the pew.
- ✘ Please read the announcement below regarding Communion.
- ✘ Guests who will not be communing may place the Visitor's card in the Offering plate..
- ✘ Guests who intend to commune are asked to announce this intention to the Elder and give the card to the Usher as they come forward to receive communion.
- ✘ Following the Service, a member of the Board of Communication and Outreach has a small gift for you.

#### **OUR REDEEMER PRACTICES CLOSED COMMUNION**



The Sacrament of the Altar is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink, instituted by Christ Himself. As we receive this Sacrament, the oneness of fellowship at the Altar (I Corinthians 10:17) presupposes a oneness in doctrine with the Apostles (Acts 2:42). For this reason the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of Closed Communion. If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Our Redeemer or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning. Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Knox, Pastor Saunders, or Vicar Goodroad about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation.

#### **THOSE SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE THIS WEEK**

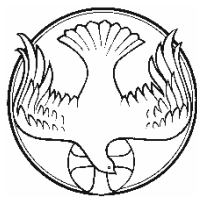
**Elder:** Rod Lair **Service Assistant:** Brady Wayson

**Organist:** Roxann List **Ushers:** Roger Mishler, James Mishler

**Tellers:** Sarah Staker, Cheryl Nissen **Shut-Ins:** Sara Lair

**Sunday, May 7, 2023**

**Attendance: 87**



**TODAY IS THE 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER.** Christian - Do you take this name for granted? Have you become so accustomed to using it when referring to yourself or to the Church that you have forgotten what it means?

The early followers of Jesus were not called Christians. For example, some were called those "*who belong to the Way.*" (Acts 9:2) Elsewhere, they are simply called "*believers*" (Acts 1:15) or "*brothers.*" (Acts 6:3; Acts 7:2) In Acts 11:26, St. Luke tells us, "*The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.*"

The name "*Christian*" was not a self-chosen name. In fact, it was unbelievers, namely the Greeks, who called the followers of Jesus, Christians. In only two other places does this term get used in the Bible. In Acts 26:28 St. Paul is on trial before King Agrippa. Paul is clearly confessing the truth of the Faith to the King. The King responds, "*Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?*" Here Agrippa is using the term Christian to simply mean, "One who follows Christ."

In I Peter 4, the term is used differently. Here St. Peter writes, "*Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.*"

As a Christian, you are a follower of Christ and You bear His name! Literally, you are *“in Christ.”* The Gospel for this day from John 14, a part of Jesus’ final discourse with His disciples on the night in which He was betrayed, speaks very clearly to this understanding of being a Christian. Listen to these, the words of Jesus, *“Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you.”*

Jesus’ words are fulfilled in the working of the Holy Spirit whom He has poured out upon you in the gracious, life-giving water of Holy Baptism. As one who now *“lives, breathes, and has their being”* in Christ, you come to the table where He joins Himself to you in the eating of His flesh and drinking of His blood. This is truly Holy Communion!

## I. THE PREPARATION

### Hymn of Invocation

*“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”* LSB #465

1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -  
 3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And

praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has tri - umphed!  
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has tri - umphed!  
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer  
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has tri - umphed!

He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and  
 He is liv - ing!” Now still He comes to give us  
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's  
 Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the Fa - ther and our

clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 life And by His pres - ence stills all  
 day That by our lives we tru - ly  
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly

here: “Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!”  
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!  
 say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!

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, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: © 1958 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001799  
 Tune: Public domain

### Stand

### Invocation

P/V: In the name of the Father and of the (✠) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

C: **Amen.**

### The Confession of Sin

P/V: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P/V: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

*Psalms 124:8*

P/V: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Psalms 32:5*

P/V: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

P/V: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to be the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: **Amen.**

*Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

## II. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Introit



Cantor: Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sus- | tain you;\*  
He will never permit the righteous to | be moved.

Cong: **My heart is in anguish with- | in me;\***  
**the terrors of death have fallen up- | on me.**  
**But I | call to God,\***  
**and the LORD will | save me.**

**Evening and morning and at noon I utter my com- | plaint and moan,\***  
**and He | hears my voice.**

**He redeems my soul in safety from the battle | that I wage,\***  
**for many are arrayed a- | gainst me.**

Cantor: Cast your burden on the LORD, and He will sus- | tain you;\*  
He will never permit the righteous to | be moved.

*(Psalm 119:89-93; antiphon: Psalm 119:105)*

### Gloria Patri

☐ Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

### Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*

☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

### Gloria in Excelsis

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

☐ Glory be to God on high: ☐ and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



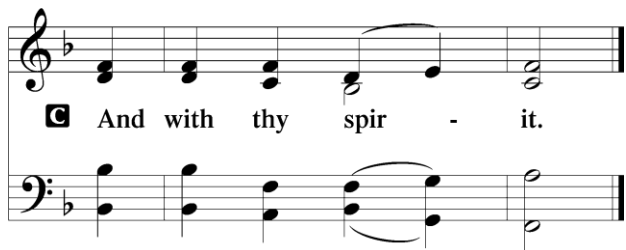
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.  
 O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;  
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.  
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.  
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-  
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.  
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,  
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

**The Salutation**



**P** The Lord be with you.

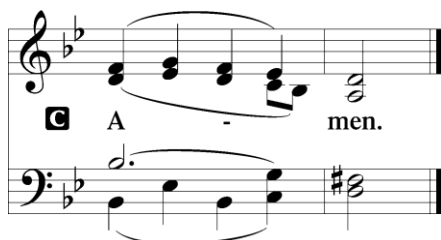
*II Timothy 4:22*



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**The Collect of the Day**

P: O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

Be seated

**The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Acts 17:16-31

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

**The Gradual**

***“He Is Arisen! Glorious Word” LSB #488***

He is a - ris - en! Glo - rious Word! Now rec - on - ciled  
is God, my Lord; The gates of heav'n are o - pen.  
My Je - sus did tri - um - phant die, And Sa - tan's ar -  
rows bro - ken lie, De - stroyed hell's fierc - est weap - on.  
O hear what cheer! Christ vic - to - rious, Ris - ing glo - rious,  
Life is giv - ing. He was dead but now is liv - ing!

Text and tune: Public domain

**The Epistle**

I Peter 3:13-22

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*(Stand)*

***THE GOSPEL PROCESSION***

*As the organ introduces the Verse, please stand and direct your attention to the cross and the Holy Scriptures as they are carried into the midst of the Congregation. Throughout the Easter Season the Gospel will be read from the center of the Nave, a reminder that following Jesus' resurrection He appeared bodily among His disciples.*

**The Verse**

***“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice And Sing” LSB #475***

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; Bring flow'rs of song to  
of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
strew His way; Let all the world re - joice and say:  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## The Holy Gospel

John 14:15-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Evangelist John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*As the procession returns to the chancel, the remaining verses will be sung:*



3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry That love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, And sing to - day with



can - not die, And sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord The life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: © 1958, renewed 1986 Hymns Ancient and Modern Ltd., admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission:  
LSB Hymn License no. 110001799  
Tune: Public domain

## The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life (✕) of the world to come. Amen**

**The Hymn of The Day**

“Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain” LSB #487



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain Of tri - um-phant glad-ness!  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst His pris - on  
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,  
4 For to - day a - mong His own Christ ap - peared, be - stow - ing  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! Now we cry To our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness,  
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun has ris - en;  
With the roy - al feast of feasts Comes its joy to ren - der;  
His deep peace, which ev - er - more Pass - es hu - man know - ing.  
Who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars Of the tomb's dark por - tal.



Loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,  
All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing  
Comes to glad - den faith - ful hearts Which with true af - fec - tion  
Nei - ther could the gates of death Nor the tomb's dark por - tal  
Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness!



Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
From His light, to whom is giv'n Laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
Wel - come in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!  
Nor the watch - ers nor the seal Hold Him as a mor - tal.  
God has brought His Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness!

Text and tune: Public domain

**The Sermon**

Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory

Stand

**The Offertory**

Psalm 51:10-12



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

**Reception of New Member**

Being received as a New Member is Alison Langel.

**The Prayers**

*Various Petitions are prayed. Each petition will conclude with the response:*

P: Lord, in Your mercy.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

*The Congregation, gathered for worship in person, will now be receiving the Sacrament of the Altar. This most significant portion of the Divine Service, when our Lord Jesus Christ draws near to His people with His flesh and blood, will not be streamed. Members desiring to receive the Sacrament who are unable to be present in the Church will be visited by one of our pastors to bring them the Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood.*

*Those who have joined us online for the Service of the Word are now encouraged to pray the Lord’s prayer.*

**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.**

**May the Lord bless and keep you.**

**Please call Pastor Knox (319/231-9761) if you would like to receive a Pastoral visit.**

**✕ OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ✕**

<b>Mon. 5/15</b>	6:30 p.m.	Confession and Absolution
<b>Wed. 5/17</b>	10:00 a.m.	Our Redeemer Book Club
	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
<b>Thur. 5/18</b>	5:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 p.m.	Ascension Day Divine Service
<b>Sat. 5/20</b>	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service at Peace – Shell Rock
<b>Sun. 5/21</b>	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
		Special Voters’ Meeting (before Bible Class)
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Bible Class

**Readings and Hymns for Thursday, May 18, 2023 The Ascension of Our Lord**

Readings:	Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53	
Invocation:	A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing.....	493
Gradual:	O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts' Desire.....	553
Hymn of the Day:	See, The Lord Ascends In Triumph.....	494
Distribution:	Christ Sits At God’s Right Hand.....	564
Final:	On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build.....	492

**Sunday, May 21, 2023 The Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Readings:	Acts 1:12-26; 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11	
Psalmody:	Psalm 68:1-10 (Antiphon v. 32)	
Invocation:	Thy Strong Word.....	578
Hymn of the Day:	Christ Is The World’s Redeemer.....	539
Distribution:	Christ Jesus Lay In Death’s Strong Bands.....	458
Distribution:	“On Eagle’s Wings”.....	Choral
Distribution:	He’s Risen, He’s Risen.....	480



## **BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. We are studying the topic of Christian Burial, with a particular focus on the practice of Cremation.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. We plan to hold Sunday School throughout the summer.

**WEEKLY READINGS/HYMNS STUDY** This class meets each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. to study the weekly readings, hymns, and propers for the upcoming Sunday. It is a way to prepare for the coming week's Divine Service.

**THE VICAR'S BIBLE STUDY** This class meets at Our Redeemer on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 9:00 a.m. and at Peace in Shell Rock on the Tuesday of that same week at 6:00 p.m.

**YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** The Jr. High/Sr. High Youth have been meeting for Bible Study with Vicar Goodroad on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. In May the class will meet again on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given by Dave and Connie Kmoch in honor of Christian mothers and in remembrance of Connie's late sister's birthday, which would have been May 7. *"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."* *Philippians 4:4*

**NEW MEMBER** Today we rejoice that our Lord has added to the number of those who profess to be members of Our Redeemer. We welcome by Profession of Faith, Alison Langel, as a communicant member of the congregation.

**THE LATEST EDITION OF THE REPORTER AND THE JUNE LUTHERAN WITNESS** are available in the Narthex and Parish Hall.



**BAKE SALE**

**BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT ALTERNATIVES PREGNANCY CENTER** Today is the bake sale! Come downstairs after the Service to purchase bars, cakes, cookies, pies, and more. Please help us support the Alternatives Pregnancy Center in Waterloo.

**ASCENSION DAY DIVINE SERVICE** This Thursday, May 18, at 6:30 p.m., Our Redeemer will be observing one of the Holy Days of the Church Year. On this day the Church remembers the bodily Ascension of our Lord to His Father's right hand. You are invited to pause from your busy schedules to remember the Holy Day of our Lord's Ascension and be served by our Ascended Lord.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL INFORMATION/REGISTRATION** Vacation Bible School will be held Wednesday-Saturday, June 14-17 for Preschool and Elementary aged children. Older students are welcome to participate but we will use them as "helpers" rather than having a class for them. We are happy to be partnering with Faith Lutheran in Waterloo and College Hill Lutheran in Cedar Falls. VBS will meet from 12:30-2:30 p.m. on Wednesday-Friday (6/14-6/16) with a Wrap up/Closing/Fun day planned for Saturday (6/17) morning. Families of children attending VBS, please pick up a registration form in the Narthex or located on a table downstairs in the Parish Hall. Complete the bottom portion of the form and return to Michaela Knox by Sunday, May 14th. Thank you!

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** The regular time for Corporate Confession and Absolution, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month, will take place tomorrow, Monday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. Time for Individual Confession and Absolution will be available after the Service of Corporate Confession and is always available by appointment as well. Please call Pastor Knox or Pastor Saunders to make those arrangements.

**A SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING** will be held on Sunday, May 21 immediately before the start of Bible Class. The purpose of the meeting is to approve recent changes made to the constitution of Our Redeemer regarding membership.

**OUR REDEEMER'S BOOK CLUB** is studying the book, "THE NICENE CREED: An Introduction." Please join the ORLC Book Club in reading and discussing this book by Phillip Cary. The Book Club meets each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.. This book takes us "in depth" through the words of the Church's confession for centuries. Please contact Greg Gerjerts or Sara Lair for more details.

**BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN STARTS TODAY** What better time than Mother's Day, to kick off our support for Alternatives Pregnancy Center?

Baby bottles are a way that families can get involved and talk with kids about life and how God has fearfully and wonderfully made each one of us for a purpose. Feel free to take a bottle home, fill it with change, (or bills, or checks!) and return it to church by Father's Day.

Donations can be made with cash, checks made out to Alternatives Pregnancy Center, or you can scan the QR code that is on the poster in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall. If you prefer to donate material goods, Alternatives Pregnancy Center needs SIZE 4 diapers (only size 4 at this time), and items such as laundry detergent, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, formula, lotion, sleepers (new and gently used) baby socks, men's deodorant, shaving cream, and razors.

Alternatives Pregnancy Centers' mission statement: Alternatives Pregnancy Center exists to be a first stop for people facing an unplanned pregnancy, a place to address at risk sexual behavior, and to help build healthy families. Thank you for supporting Alternatives Pregnancy Center!



### **CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES**

In an effort to keep the members of Our Redeemer aware of our financial condition as a congregation, the following is provided by the Board of Stewardship and the Financial Secretary.

- Giving/income Year to Date (through April): \$103,350.39
- Budget Year to Date: \$84,600.00
- Difference: +\$18,750.39



### **MEET YOUR NEXT VICAR AND FAMILY - MATTHEW AND PAMELA BAKER, LOGAN, CAMDEN, BRIGHTON, AND LINCOLN**

Prior to moving to Fort Wayne, Matthew was a life-long resident of South Dakota. His family—parents, James and Robin, and four younger sisters—lived on a farm near Fairfax and were active members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Pamela grew up in Sergeant Bluff, IA, with her parents, Herman—who died March 30 this year after five years with Alzheimer's Disease—and Sandra. She has two older sisters who were out of high school by the time she was in elementary school.

Both Matthew and Pamela studied vocal music at South Dakota State University and were introduced by their voice instructor. During their time in Brookings (2003–2008), they attended

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church where Pamela was catechized into the Lutheran church and where the two were married on June 7, 2008.

They spent five years in Rapid City, SD (2008–2013), both directing choirs and teaching vocal music—Matthew with the Rapid City Children's Chorus and at St. Elizabeth Seton Elementary School (Rapid City Catholic Schools); Pamela at West Middle School and Stevens High School (Rapid City Area Schools). While in Rapid City, they attended Bethlehem Lutheran Church, teaching Sunday school, playing organ, and directing the adult choir.

In 2013, they decided to move back to Brookings where Matthew accepted a job teaching music at Hillcrest and Dakota Prairie Elementary Schools (Brookings Public Schools). After teaching preschool at Peace Lutheran Early Childhood Center for a short time, Pamela opted to teach private piano and voice lessons from home and began homeschooling their boys. In addition to regularly attending worship and Bible study at Mount Calvary, they assisted with several projects and filled various roles during their eight years there. Matthew was a Sunday school teacher, choir director, campus ministry coordinator, and church council leader. Pamela was an organist, choir director, member of the Board of Evangelism, and LWML president. Their experiences at Mount Calvary and especially their close friendships with their pastors' families were vital in bringing them to Concordia Theological Seminary in 2021.

Matthew's interests include gardening, biking, and woodworking. Pamela's are cooking, baking, and scrapbooking.

Logan (9) and Camden (6) enjoy several sports, but are most interested now in basketball and baseball. They like to look at, learn about, and talk about sports cars. (Ask them what they hope to drive someday.) They inherited a love of LEGO and many sets from their father. They're both avid readers. (This they did not inherit from their father.) Their very favorite thing to do is visit Grandpa and Grandma's farm with their 10 cousins.

In February 2019, Matthew and Pamela's third child, Jordan, died in the first eight weeks of pregnancy. He/she is buried in Brookings.

Brighton (3) and his shadow, Lincoln (1), are especially fond of toy cars and any kind of ball. They're very interested in dinosaurs—looking at dinosaur books, playing with toy dinosaurs, and pretending to be dinosaurs. Bluey is their favorite TV character, and the Bluey soundtrack is part of almost any road trip. They, too, are big fans of books—looking at them alone and being read to them. Although Brighton's vocabulary is rather limited, he's a great storyteller.

They look forward to getting to know all about the members of Our Redeemer and Peace in the upcoming year.