

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

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Church Office: 266-2509

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The 15th Sunday after Pentecost September 10, 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 Baker about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation.



TODAY IS THE 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." This is the 8th Commandment. In the Catechism, the simple explanation of these words read, "***We should fear and love God that we may not deceitfully belie, betray, slander, nor defame our neighbor, but defend him, speak well of him and put the best construction on everything.***"

A certain man broke the 8th Commandment. He spread rumors about his neighbor. He put the worst construction on what he had heard about his neighbor, only later to find out that the rumor was false. Laden with guilt, the man went to his pastor. He confessed his sin. The pastor, in the stead and by the command of

Christ, forgave him. Going home, the man doubted this forgiveness and so returned to the pastor, still filled with a sense of guilt. The pastor, seeking to assist the man in understanding the nature of God's forgiveness, told the man to fill a bag with feathers, go through the village and place a feather in front of every house where he spoke the rumor. "Do this and come back to see me," the pastor told the man. The man hurried out and did what his pastor asked then returned to the church, seeking the pastor's approval. Much to the man's surprise, the pastor then instructed the man to go back to those houses and gather the feathers. The man looked at the pastor in amazement and said, "by now those feathers are irretrievable, for the wind has surely carried them away." "Precisely," responded the wise pastor, "and so it is with your rumor."

Sin is nasty. Sin is dirty. Sin means death. This is precisely why Jesus dealt with sin in the only way that it could be dealt with - by dying. Jesus died a nasty, dirty death so that sin might be forgiven. Jesus has dealt with your sin by putting you to death through your Baptism into His death. This forgiveness is real. Like the wind that carried the feathers away in the little illustration you have just read, so has the blood of Christ carried your sins away.

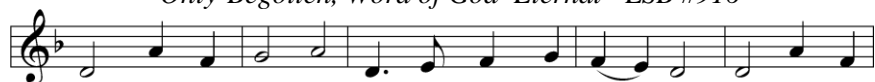
Do not doubt this dear child of God. Take comfort in the death of Christ; there the payment for your sins was paid. Take comfort in your baptism; there the forgiveness of sins was received. Take comfort in the word of absolution; there the troubled conscience is consoled. Take comfort in Christ's body and blood for, through these, Christ's blood bought forgiveness strengthens you and bestows God's peace.

As one who has been forgiven, Jesus calls you into a life of forgiveness where you must deal with sins against you. This is not easy, but it is not optional either. Jesus says, "***If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and, if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.***"

I. THE PREPARATION

Hymn of Invocation

“Only-Begotten, Word of God Eternal” LSB #916



1 On - ly - be - got - ten, Word of God e - ter - nal, Lord of cre -
2 Ho - ly this tem - ple where our Lord is dwell - ing; This is none
3 Hear us, O Fa - ther, as we throng Your tem - ple. By Your past
△ 4 God in three per - sons, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, Son co - e -



a - tion, mer - ci - ful and might - y: Hear us, Your ser - vants,
oth - er than the gate of heav - en. Ev - er Your chil - dren,
bless - ings, by Your pres - ent boun - ty, Smile on Your chil - dren,
ter - nal, ev - er bless - ed Spir - it: To You be prais - es,



as our tune - ful voic - es Rise in Your pres - ence.
year by year re - joic - ing, Chant in Your tem - ple.
and in grace and mer - cy Hear our pe - ti - tion.
thanks, and ad - o - ra - tion, Glo - ry for - ev - er.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand/Remain Standing

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: Delight yourself | in the Lord,*
and He will give you the desires | of your heart.

Cong: **Commit your way | to the Lord;***
trust in Him, and | He will act.

He will bring forth your righteousness | as the light,*
and your justice as the | noonday.

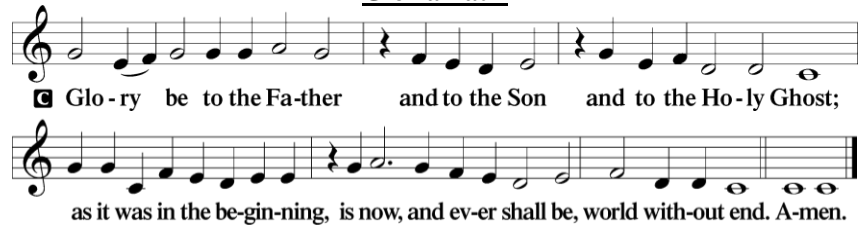
Be still before the Lord and wait patiently | for Him;*

fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil de- | vices!

Cantor: Delight yourself | in the Lord,*
and He will give you the desires | of your heart.

(Ps. 37:5-7; antiphon: Ps. 37:4)

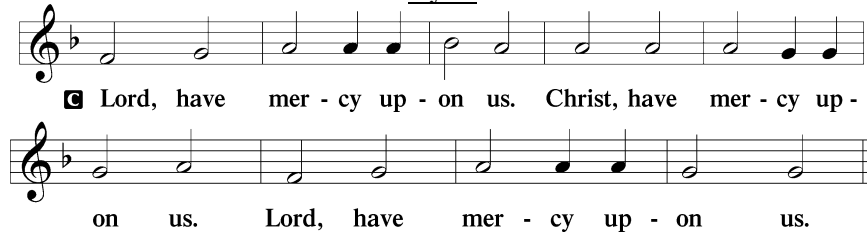
Gloria Patri



☐ 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: Let us pray: O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the 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 Old Testament

Ezekiel 33:7-9

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The Gradual

"Baptismal Waters Cover Me" LSB #616



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y
3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing
4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd
5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy
bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him
to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can
speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now
hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.
form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.
stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

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Tune: Public domain

The Epistle

Romans 13:1-10

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

The Alleluia/Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: Blessed are the poor in | spirit, *
for theirs is the kingdom of | heaven.

Matthew 5:3



C Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Evangelist Matthew, the 18th chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

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

“O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts’ Desire” #553

1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, Cre -
2 How vast Your mer - cy to ac - cept The
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, The
4 O let Your might - y love pre - vail To
a - tion's might - y Lord, Re - deem - er of the
bur - den of our sin And bow Your head in
ran - som has been paid; You now as - cend the
purge us of our pride That we may stand be -
fall - en world, By ho - ly love out - poured:
cru - el death To make us clean with - in.
Fa - ther's throne In robes of light ar - rayed.
fore Your throne By mer - cy pu - ri - fied.

5. Christ Jesus, be our present joy,
Our future great reward;
Our only glory, may it be
To glory in the Lord!

- △ 6. All praise to You, ascended Lord;
All glory ever be
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Through all eternity!

Text and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory

Stand

The Offertory

Psalms 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.

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.

THOSE SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE THIS WEEK

Elder: Rod Lair **Service Assistant:** Steven Dekutoski
Organist: Sheryl Dekutoski **Ushers:** Jason Knox, Jim Bunkofske
Tellers: Sarah Staker, Cheryl Nissen **Shut-Ins:** Sara Lair

✠ OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ✠

Sun. 9/10 9:00 a.m. Divine Service at Our Redeemer
10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class
11:15 a.m. Sunday School Celebration Potluck
Mon. 9/11 9:00 a.m. Vicar's Bible Class at Our Redeemer
6:30 p.m. Church Council
Tues. 9/12 9:00 a.m. Brunch Bunch at Cedar Falls Family Restaurant
6:00 p.m. Vicar's Bible Class at Peace-Shell Rock
Wed. 9/13 10:00 a.m. Book Club
11:00 a.m. Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
5:25 p.m.. Adult Choir
6:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study with Vicar Baker (meal at 6:15)
Sat. 9/16 6:00 p.m. Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
7:00 p.m. Vespers at Peace – Shell Rock

HYMNS/READINGS

Sunday, September 17 The 16th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19)

Readings: Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
Invocation: Come Down, O Love Divine 501
Gradual: My Soul Rejoices..... 933
Hymn of the Day: If Your Beloved Son, O God 568
Distribution: Jesus Sinners Doth Receive 609
Distribution: "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" 843
Distribution: Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face 631

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. Today Pastor Knox will begin a study of Revelation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL normally meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. This morning there will be a Sunday School celebration with a pot-luck and games following Sunday School and Bible Class.

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 Fall Vicar Baker will begin a study of the use of agricultural images and themes in the Bible. This class will resume on Monday, September 11th at 9:00 a.m. The class will also be held on Tuesday, at 6:00 p.m. at Peace in Shell Rock. See the note in the bulletin describing how Vicar plans to organize this class.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY During the School Year the Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet for Bible Study with our Vicar on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:15 and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. (There will be food on Wednesdays at 6:15) Sunday morning study will resume on September 10th and the Wednesday evening class will start on September 13th. On Sunday mornings the youth will be studying 1 Corinthians, comparing the experience of the Christians in largely pagan Corinth with our circumstances today. On Wednesdays the youth will choose topics to discuss.

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 \$161,752.16
- Budget Year to Date: \$164,500.00
- Difference: -\$2,747.84

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF This morning we will recognize and install our Sunday School and Education staff. Many thanks to these dedicated individuals who help us faithfully teach young and old in our congregation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION THIS MORNING You are invited to a potluck after Sunday School and Bible Class today. Spaghetti and garlic bread will be provided as well as some games.

THE ADULT CHOIR meets to rehearse every Wednesday, from 5:25-6:25. Singers of all voices and abilities, anyone who loves to sing, is welcome. If you have ANY questions, talk to Roxann or Sheryl.



MEN'S CHOIR Vicar Baker, with the endorsement of Mrs. Dekutoski and Mrs. List, is attempting to assemble a Men's Choir to add to the musical offerings of Our Redeemer. This group will likely sing a simple arrangement of a hymn or liturgical music for the Divine Service once a season and will rehearse as needed. No previous musical experience is required, and the commitment to participate will be minimal.

Please speak with Vicar Baker if you have questions or are interested in joining.

OUR REDEEMER BOOK CLUB After the summer break, the Our Redeemer Book Club has resumed meeting. Everyone is welcome to read and discuss "God's Word: A Guide to Holy Scripture" by John Kleinig. (For a synopsis of the book, please see the "What We're Reading" review by Gerry Peterson on page 9 of the July-August **REPORTER**.) The Book Club meets each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. just prior to the weekly Pericopes study. If you would like a copy of the book or have questions please speak with Sara Lair or Greg Gerjerts.

VOLUNTEER HELP IN THE CHURCH OFFICE WOULD BE APPRECIATED Do you have a little time to help in the Church office? Since the beginning of the year, we have not had a secretary working in the Office. Currently Pastor Knox prepares the bulletins, opens the mail, and does other office related work. The work is not time-consuming and can likely be accomplished in a couple of hours per week. The schedule can be flexible. While the bulletins need to be printed later in the week, the other things can be done earlier in the week or even from a home computer. Qualifications would include: working knowledge of Microsoft Office and familiarity with computers and office equipment. Please speak with Pastor Knox if you would be willing and able to help.

THE LATEST EDITION OF THE REPORTER is available following the Service this morning.

BRUNCH BUNCH MEETS THIS WEEK We meet for breakfast at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant in the North Cedar neighborhood on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION This morning Pastor Knox will begin a study of the Book of Revelation. It has been more than 20 years since a study of this unique book of the Bible has been offered at Our Redeemer. The study of Revelation will include a study of parts of the book of Daniel from the Old Testament, a book which has similarities with Revelation. Both of these forward looking books of prophecy give the believer confidence as God reveals the glory of His eternal kingdom and the final victory to be enjoyed by all who trust in Christ.

VICAR'S BIBLE RESUMES THIS WEEK The class will meet on Monday, September 11 at 9:00 a.m. at Our Redeemer and on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:00 p.m. at Peace in Shell Rock. There's no denying many of us today have a much different relationship with soil and plants than people typically have had throughout most of history. Some of us get our hands dirty in the garden and enjoy the "fruit of our labors," but gardening is more a hobby than a necessity. On the other hand, farmers' livelihoods do depend on the productivity of their cropland, yet much of their work is done with computers, machinery, and other technology only available within the last 130 years or so. Given the populace's more intimate familiarity with the land during Biblical times, it's not surprising that we can find agricultural descriptions, both literal and figurative, in every section of the Scriptures.

This series doesn't propose to be an exhaustive examination of all these passages. For instance, more attention will be paid to horticulture and botany in general than to animal husbandry. Over the course of 17 sessions, from September to May, we'll discuss texts from Genesis to Revelation, some very familiar and others sometimes overlooked. We'll read selections in which plants play the leading role and discover new insights hidden "in the weeds." The goal is to gain a better understanding of how plant imagery is used in specific contexts as well as being a linking theme throughout the Scriptures.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY – Stop by the Neighborhood Library (curbside on Bluff Street) and "Read. Return. Repeat." Selections vary and are updated from time to time.

Do you have good "Lutheran" books to donate to the cause? We can especially use children's books. See Sara Lair for information.

THERE ARE SOME OLD "LUTHERAN WORSHIP" HYMNALS on the table in the Parish Hall. If you would like one, please take as many as you would like. They will be disposed of in the near future.

