

# 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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### The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost September 17, 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 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** The Psalmist writes, **“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!”** (*Psalm 133:1*) The brothers the Psalmist speaks of are not those born of a human father and mother, but, rather, those born of water and the Spirit. They are the children of God who have been given life through their mother, the Church, the Bride of Christ.

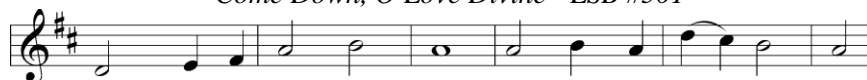
Within Christ’s Church, the children of God first receive, then give, forgiveness. Two well-known accounts from the Scriptures illustrate this beautifully, but in different manners. In the Old Testament, we hear of how Joseph, following the death of his father Jacob, forgives his brothers. The debt they owed Joseph was surely great. They had acted toward Joseph in jealousy. They separated Joseph from their father, sold him into slavery, and told their father that Joseph had been killed. They certainly had reason to fear their brother and think that he might punish them to seek retribution for their evil actions toward him. Yet, now, despite having the power to punish and bring justice upon them, Joseph forgives them. **“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!”** Jesus reiterates the importance of forgiveness being received and given when He tells the parable of the forgiving king and the unmerciful servant. But, in this case, the parable teaches about the importance of forgiving your brother by a negative result. A servant is forgiven a huge, unpayable debt by his merciful king, and yet this same servant is unwilling to forgive a seemingly minor debt to his fellow servant. Because of this, he not only is unreconciled to his fellow servant, he also loses the reconciliation he had received from the merciful king! This parable also teaches the truth: **“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!”**

The point is clear—to be forgiving you must first receive forgiveness and that is why you are here today. Through Christ’s gracious words you hear that you are the recipients of undeserved forgiveness. You rejoice in God’s promise of your baptism into Christ and, with His body and blood, Jesus gives you to eat of a meal that has as its chief purpose the forgiveness of sins. Having received abundantly, you now share abundantly! **How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!**

# I. THE PREPARATION

## Hymn of Invocation

“Come Down, O Love Divine” LSB #501



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; Seek Thou this soul of mine,  
2 O let it free - ly burn, Till world - ly pas - sions turn  
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty Mine out - ward ves - ture be  
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, With which the soul will long,



And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
And low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
Shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; With - in my heart ap - pear,  
And let Thy glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,  
True low - li - ness of heart, Which takes the hum - bler part,  
No soul can guess His grace Till it be - come the place



And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
And o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes His dwell - ing.

*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.**

*Psalm 124:8*

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

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

*Psalm 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: Deliver me from my enemies, | O Lord! \*  
I have fled to You for | refuge!

**Cong: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for | mercy \*  
In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your | righteousness!  
Enter not into judgment with Your | servant\*  
For no one living is righteous be- | fore You.**

Cantor: Deliver me from my enemies, | O Lord! \*  
I have fled to You for | refuge!

*(Ps. 143:1-2; antiphon: Ps. 143:9)*

### 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

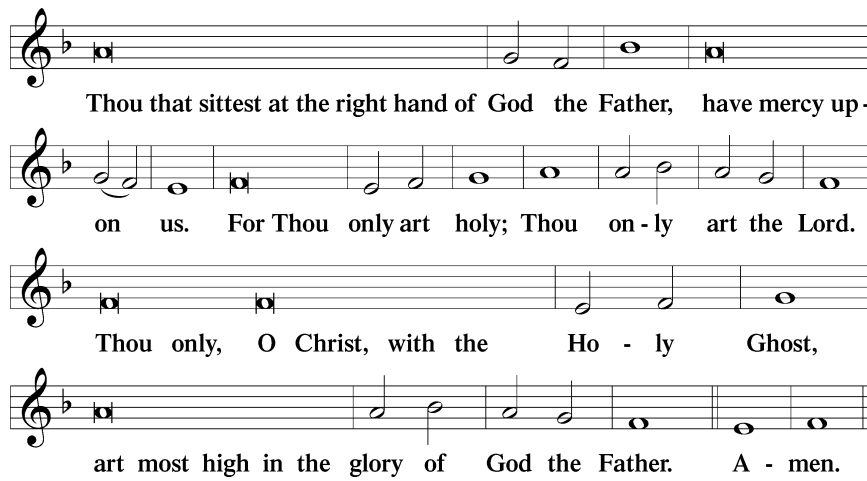
*Mark 10:47*

☐ 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 upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**The Salutation**



**P** The Lord be with you.

*II Timothy 4:22*



**C** And with thy spirit.

**The Collect of the Day**

**P:** Let us pray: O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** Amen.

*Be seated*

**The Old Testament**

Genesis 50:15-21

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God

### The Gradual

“My Soul Rejoices” LSB #933

1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the  
 great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He  
 fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion  
 bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
 halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the  
 ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
 wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the  
 sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
 to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring  
 Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
 God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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Tune: Public domain

### The Epistle

Romans 14:1-12

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

### The Alleluia/Verse

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

Cantor: If you forgive others their | trespasses, \*  
your heavenly Father will also for - | give you.

Matthew 6:14

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

## The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

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

## 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

"If Your Beloved Son, O God" #568



1 If Your be - lov - ed Son, O God, Had not to earth de -  
2 But now I find sweet peace and rest; De - spair no more reigns  
3 I trust in Him with all my heart; Now all my sor - row  
4 All righ-teous-ness by works is vain; The Law brings con - dem -  
△ 5 My guilt, O Fa - ther, You have laid On Christ, Your Son, my



scend - ed And in our mor - tal flesh and blood Had not sin's  
o'er me. No more am I by sin op - pressed, For Christ has  
ceas - es. His words a - bid - ing peace im - part; His blood from  
na - tion. True righ-teous-ness by faith I gain; Christ's work is  
Sav - ior. Lord Je - sus, You my debt have paid And gained for



pow - er end - ed, Then this poor, wretch - ed soul of mine In  
borne sin for me. Up - on the cross for me He died That,  
guilt re - leas - es. Free grace through Him I now ob - tain; He  
my sal - va - tion. His death, that per - fect sac - ri - fice, Has  
me God's fa - vor. O Ho - ly Spir - it, Fount of grace, The



hell e - ter - nal - ly would pine Be - cause of my trans - gres - sion.  
rec - on-ciled, I might a - bide With You, my God, for - ev - er.  
wash - es me from ev - 'ry stain, And pure I stand be - fore Him.  
paid the all - suf - fi - cient price; In Him my hope is an - chored.  
good in me to You I trace; In faith and hope pre - serve me.

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.**

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

<b>Sun. 9/17</b>	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Bible Class
<b>Mon. 9/18</b>	6:30 p.m.	Confession and Absolution
<b>Wed. 9/20</b>	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.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
<b>Sat. 9/23</b>	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service at Peace – Shell Rock
<b>Sun. 9/24</b>	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer (Rev. Lamb will be our guest preacher.)
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Bible Class (Rev. Lamb will be our guest teacher.)

**HYMNS/READINGS**

**Sunday, September 24 The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20)**

Readings: Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Invocation: O Word of God Incarnate ..... 523

Gradual: To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray ..... 768

Hymn of the Day: Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ ..... 565

Distribution: Lord Jesus Christ, The Church's Head ..... 647

Distribution: God Has Spoken by His Prophets ..... 583

Distribution: Evening and Morning ..... 726

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

**Elder:** Alan Czarnetzki **Service Assistant:** Bo Wayson

**Organist:** Sheryl Dekutoski **Ushers:** Greg Gerjerts, David Kmoch

**Tellers:** Jonah Bolin, Tom Strub **Shut-Ins:** Roxann List



## **BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. This class has just begun a study of Revelation.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** normally meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. Children should meet in the Music Room for their opening with Vicar Baker and for music with Mrs. Baker

**WEEKLY READINGS/HYMNS STUDY** This class meets each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.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 is leading a Bible Study which looks at the agricultural images and themes in the Bible. This class meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month at 9:00 a.m. The class also meets at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings of the same week at Peace in Shell Rock.

**YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** The Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet for Bible Study with our Vicar on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:15 and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. (There will be food on Wednesdays at 6:15) 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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL** this morning are given by Ryan and Jennifer Thornton in thanksgiving for their son, Isaac, who is celebrating his birthday on Tuesday, September 19. We rejoice with the Thorntons in God's gift of children and Christian families. *"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever."* Psalm 136

**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, September 18 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.

**NEXT SUNDAY REV. JAMES LAMB WILL BE OUR GUEST** Rev. Lamb was the longtime director of Lutherans For Life and now serves as a Life Advocate with Lutheran Family Services. Rev. Lamb will preach next Sunday as well as lead Bible Class. During Bible Class he will not only address Life Issues, he will also provide information about the work which Lutheran Family Services does to help individuals and families in time of need.

**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** We're still looking for men to participate in a men's choir at Our Redeemer. There are no special skills required, and the commitment is minimal. Vicar Baker would like to have the choir sing for Reformation Sunday, so rehearsals will begin October 1. There will be 30-minute rehearsals following Bible study on Sunday mornings, and Vicar is willing to offer additional rehearsals after choir on select Wednesdays if requested. Please speak with Vicar Baker if you have questions or are interested in joining.

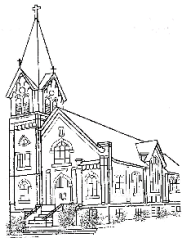
**THE LATEST EDITION OF THE REPORTER** is available following the Service this morning. Did you know that the REPORTER is also available online? You will find it on Our Redeemer's website – [theforgivenessplace.org](http://theforgivenessplace.org) under the tab "CONNECT."

**THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE LUTHERAN WITNESS** is available in the Narthex and Parish Hall this morning. This issue is titled, "Digging In: Archaeology and Apologetics." The articles in this issue speak to the reliability of the Bible. Do the findings of archeologists support the historical and chronological information recorded in the Bible? The answer is Yes! There is also an unrelated article in this issue about Church Fellowship which is well worth your read. At the most recent Synodical Convention, the LCMS declared Altar and Pulpit fellowship with five churches from around the world. Confessional Lutheran Churches from South Sudan/Sudan, Finland, Uganda, Ukraine, and Sri Lanka are our partners. Read this article to grow in your understanding of what Altar and Pulpit Fellowship means.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION** The Sunday morning Bible Study has recently begun 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.

**WEEKLY STUDY OF THE READINGS** Reminder: The study of the weekly readings is being offered both on Wednesday mornings at 11:00 a.m. and on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. This is just one more option for the members of Our Redeemer to be those who can pray with the Psalmist, ***“You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.”*** (Psalm 119:114)

**YOUTH “CORN HOLE” TOURNAMENT** On Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, Our Redeemer is hosting a Youth Group “Corn Hole” Tournament. Vicar Baker is looking for “Corn Hole” Boards and some volunteers to help with food and snacks that day. If you would like to help, please speak with Vicar Baker soon.



**CEDAR FALLS HISTORIC CHURCHES TOUR** Our Redeemer will be participating in the Cedar Falls Historical Society Churches Tour on October 15 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. It is an open house format. Our Redeemer is one of six churches that were asked to be a part of this event. This is an excellent opportunity to learn of the history and unique attributes of Our Redeemer, along with other Cedar Falls churches. Tickets are \$15 for adults and free for children 12 and under. There is a brief article about the tour in the most recent REPORTER.

**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.

### **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