

# 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

Matthew Baker, Vicar  
(605) 342-0259

Church Office: 266-2509

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

### The First Sunday after Epiphany

*The Baptism of Our Lord*

January 7, 2024

**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.

### 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.

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

**Elder:** Tom Strub **Ushers:** Scott Irwin, Carson Irwin

**Service Assistants:** Steven Dekutoski **Organist:** Roxann List

**Offering Counters:** Chris Fink, James Mishler **Shut-Ins:** Becca Barber



### **TODAY THE CHURCH OBSERVES THE FESTIVAL OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD.** This always occurs on the First Sunday after the Epiphany of our Lord.

Today is a day for each Christian to rejoice and take comfort in the Baptism of Jesus, for it points them to the Baptism which they have received into Jesus. Just as Jesus is revealed as the Son of God by the voice of the Father which declares, “*You are my beloved Son*”, so have you received this same promise. When you were Baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity, you were born again and given the privilege to be called sons of God and heirs of God's everlasting kingdom.

Similarly, as the Father declared of His Son, “*with You I am well pleased,*” so has God declared His pleasure with you. There is a difference though! The Father's pleasure with Jesus is found

in His Son's obedience. The Father's pleasure with you is found, not in your obedience, but in Jesus' obedience, including His sacrificial death, on your behalf.

As you contemplate this gracious miracle, perhaps you are led to ask the question, “How can Baptism accomplish this?” Fortunately, you already have the answer to that question in the Small Catechism:

#### **How can water do such great things?**

*It is not the water indeed that does them, but the word of God, which is in and with the water, and faith, which trust such word of God in the water. For without the word of God the water is simple water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Ghost, as St. Paul says, Titus chapter third: [According to His mercy He saved us] By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior, that, being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying.”*

## I. THE PREPARATION

*Remain Seated*

### The Liturgy of Baptismal Remembrance

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

**C: Amen.**

P: In Holy Baptism you have been forgiven your sins and granted a new life in Christ, our Lord. You solemnly renounced the devil, all his works and ways, and all his empty promises. In this gracious water of life and washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit, the Church confesses the gift of faith in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. On this day, as you recall the Baptism of Our Lord and also your own Baptism, I ask you to confess anew what God has done for you in Holy Baptism.

P: Do you renounce the devil?

**C: I do renounce him.**

P: Do you renounce all his works and ways?

**C: I do renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce all his empty promises?

**C: I do renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?

**C: Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**C: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**C: Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the (✠) resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P: Is it your earnest purpose to continue steadfast in this faith and in the promise of your Baptism and, as a member of the Church, to be diligent in the use of the means of grace?

**C: Yes, with the help of God.**

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray: Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin. We pray that You would behold us according to Your boundless mercy and bless us with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in us, which has been inherited from Adam and which we ourselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that we be kept safe and secure in the holy Ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, we would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

### Entrance Hymn

"From God the Father, Virgin-Born" LSB #401

1 From God the Fa - ther, vir - gin - born To us the  
2 Be - gin - ning from His home on high, In hu - man  
3 Glide on, O glo - rious Sun, and bring The gift of  
4 A - bid with us, O Lord, we pray; The gloom of

on - ly Son came down; By death the font to con - se -  
flesh He came to die; Cre - a - tion by His death re -  
heal - ing on Your wing; To ev - 'ry dull and cloud - ed  
dark - ness chase a - way; Your work of heal - ing, Lord, be -

crate, The faith - ful to re - gen - er - ate.  
stored, And shed new joys of life a - broad.  
sense The clear - ness of Your light dis - pense.  
gin, And take a - way the stain of sin.

5. Lord, once You came to earth's domain  
And, we believe, shall come again;  
Be with us on the battlefield,  
From ev'ry harm Your people shield.

△ 6. To You, O Lord, all glory be  
For this Your blest epiphany;  
To God, whom all His hosts adore,  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text and tune: Public domain

## II. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

### 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: Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, 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**

Genesis 1:1-5

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God**

### The Gradual Hymn

“All Who Believe and Are Baptized” LSB #601



1 All who be-lieve and are bap-tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;  
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.  
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re-demp-tion they shall stand A - mong the glo-rious,  
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.  
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

*Text and tune: Public domain*

### The Epistle

Romans 6:1–11

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: You are my be- | loved Son;\*  
with You I | am well pleased. (*Mark 1:11b*)



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

### The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:4–11

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Evangelist Mark, the 1<sup>st</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

*Is omitted because the Apostles' Creed was confessed  
during the Baptismal Remembrance*

## The Hymn of The Day

*"To Jordan's River Came Our Lord" #405*



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The Christ, whom  
2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— The Son of  
3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood And John bap -  
4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound Came God's own



heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The God from God, the  
God in flesh dis - guised— To stand be - neath the  
tized the Lamb of God, The Ho - ly Spir - it,  
voice with words pro - found: "This is My Son," was



Light from Light, The Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.  
Fa - ther's will And all His righ - teous - ness ful - fill.  
heav'n - ly dove, De - scend - ed on Him from a - bove.  
His de - cree, "The one I love, who pleas - es Me."

5. The Father's word, the Spirit's flight  
Anointed Christ in glorious sight  
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall  
To save the world and free us all.
6. Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;  
This man is Christ, our substitute!  
He was baptized in Jordan's stream,  
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

*Text: © 1993 James P. Tiefel. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001799*

*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.

## **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. 1/7</b>	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Class and Sunday School
<b>Mon. 1/8</b>	9:00 a.m.	Vicar’s Bible Class at Our Redeemer
	6:30 p.m.	Church Council
<b>Tue. 1/9</b>	6:00 a.m.	Vicar’s Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
<b>Wed. 1/10</b>	10:00 a.m.	Our Redeemer 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
	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
<b>Sat. 1/13</b>	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service at Peace – Shell Rock
<b>Sun. 1/14</b>	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer – (Installation of Officers)
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Class and Sunday School

**HYMNS/READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

**January 14, 2024 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany**

Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-20; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Invocation: Hail, O Source Of Every Blessing .....409

Hymn of the Day: The Only Son from Heaven .....402

Distribution: Come Follow Me, the Savior Spake .....688

Distribution: O Morning Star, How Fair And Bright .....395

**BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. The class will resume the study of Revelation this morning in Chapter 8.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday.

**WEEKLY READINGS/HYMNS STUDY** This class meets each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m. The class studies 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** 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. The class is studying “Agricultural Themes” throughout the Bible. The class will resume on January 8/9.

**YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** **YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** The Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet 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.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2024 ALTAR FLOWERS** – Donations for Altar Flowers for 2024 can now be given. To reserve a Sunday, please place your name on the Flower Chart in the Parish Hall and fill out a flower donation card which is under the chart. Alternatively, contact Sara Lair – (319) 830-4370 or sjlair@cfu.net. Cost is \$40.00 plus tax – Bancroft will bill you directly.

**LAST CHANCE TO GET A PICTURE FOR UPDATED PHOTO DIRECTORY** We postponed the publication of the new Directory for another week. That gives everyone another chance to update their photo. Tammy will be taking photos in the lower level of the Education Wing during refreshment time.

**THE EPIPHANY EDITION OF THE REPORTER** is available in the Narthex following the Service this morning.

**NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER AND LUTHERAN WITNESS** are available in the Narthex.

**THE OUR REDEEMER BOOK CLUB** recently began reading a new book, “*The Messianic Message: Predictions, Patterns, and the Presence of Jesus in the Old Testament*,” by R. Reed Lessing and Andrew E. Steinmann. The Book Club meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. prior to the weekly Pericopes study. For a book, contact Sara Lair (319) 266-1163; sjlair@cfu.net. This book will “equip you to find the message about the Messiah in each book of the Old Testament.” We welcome new members!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR A BABY SHOWER** – Plans are being made to hold a Baby Shower for Pamela and Vicar Baker on Sunday, February 4. More details will be coming soon.

### **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 \$236,999 (*through December*)
- Budget Year to Date: \$249,100
- Difference: -\$12,101

Donations for 2023 were above the average and expenses were lower than what was budgeted for in 2023.

**2024 OFFICERS** At the November Voters’ Meeting the following were elected to serve as Officers during 2024. The installation of Officers will take place on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

President: Doug Nefzger

Vice-President: Stephen Hoffman

Stewardship: Dave Kmoch

Christian Care: Char Strub

Financial Secretary: Greg Gerjerts

Elders: Ryan Thornton, Alan Czarnetzki

Trustees: Brad Bovy, Dusty Greiman

Endowment Committee: David Jackson

*They join the following whose terms of office continue in 2024:*

Secretary: Gerry Peterson

Treasurer: Tim Koch

Education: Ryan Thornton

Youth: Anna Staudinger

Communication and Outreach: Jim Niebergall

Elders: Matt Kenitzer, Tom Strub, Stephen Hoffman, Rod Lair

Trustees: Chris Fink, Dean Fink, Blake Wayson, Kelly Barber

Endowment Committee: Dave Kmoch, Cathy Niebergall