

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

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(605) 342-0259

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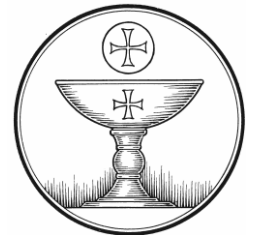
The 24th Sunday after Pentecost November 12, 2023

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.

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 24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST The Church Year is nearing its completion. During the second half of the Church Year, known as the Time of the Church, we have been counting the weeks in relation to the Day of Pentecost, with ascending numbers -- the 1st, 5th, or 17th Sundays after Pentecost. Occasionally we have interrupted this count to observe a minor festival like last week’s All Saints’ Day, but the count kept going. As the numbers have grown higher, we know that the end is near. What is it that the people of God are waiting for with such anticipation? The Holy Christian Church is waiting and watching for the promised glorious appearing of Her Savior. She confesses Her anticipation each week in the Creed - “*And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom*

will have no end.”

Through the inspired writers of the New Testament, God pictures this waiting like a bride waiting for the bridegroom. American customs of marriage do not help us understand this waiting, but the Jewish customs do. In the Jewish tradition, a woman was betrothed to a man; that is, the couple were promised to each other. As far as all were concerned, they were married, but they lived apart for a time. The groom was busy working to prepare a home where he could care for his new bride. His family and friends would prepare a feast. The bride knew that when all was ready the bridegroom would return, but she did not know exactly when. Shortly before the groom arrived, watchmen would cry out that he was near. The bride’s friends would go out to meet him and escort him to her home where he would meet her. Then the entire group would travel to the banquet which had been prepared. For those who have been prepared for this banquet, the day of the groom’s arrival is anxiously anticipated. But for those unprepared, as in the parable of the wise and foolish maidens before us today, scripture paints a much different picture. For them, the picture is one of judgment, wailing and weeping, fear and everlasting punishment.

Many in this world are oblivious to the coming day of judgment and fulfillment. They scoff at the Word of God and use the cover of night to pursue their own sinful desires. Even those associated with the Church by outward appearances, but who neglect the gathering together of the Church to be fed by Word and Sacrament, will be unprepared. Yet the Word proclaimed by the Watchmen of God continues to speak of the day for which we wait.

As we wait, God’s holy people sustain their hope by Christ’s presence in Word and Sacrament. The foolish hear that Word, but do not respond in repentance and faith. For them the day of Christ’s coming will be horrible. In contrast, the wise hear the Word, believe the promise that it brings, and joyously share in the meal of the new testament given by the Bridegroom to His friends as a sign of invitation to the Marriage Feast to come. All is now ready. The wise keep eager watch.

As you join with your fellow believers each Lord’s Day in these final weeks of the Church Year, rest assured, Christ is at work keeping you ready and well prepared to receive Him when He comes again in Glory.

I. THE PREPARATION

Hymn of Invocation

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” LSB #515



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

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: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may | lay her young,* at Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King | and my God.

Cong: **How lovely is Your | dwelling place,***

O | Lord of hosts!

Behold our shield, | O God;*

look on the face of Your a- | nointed!

For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand | elsewhere.*

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of | wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and | honor.*

No good thing does He withhold from those who walk up- | rightly.

O | Lord of hosts,*

blessèd is the one who | trusts in You!

Cantor: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may | lay her young,* at Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King | and my God.

(Ps. 84:1, 9-12; antiphon: Ps. 84:3)

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: Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; 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

Amos 5:18-24

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The Gradual Hymn

“Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide” LSB #585



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, with us a - bide, For round us
2 In these last days of great dis - tress Grant us, dear
3 To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold Speak tongues of
4 May glo - rious truths that we have heard, The bright sword



falls the e - ven - tide. O let Your Word,
Lord, true stead - fast - ness That we keep pure
fire and make us bold To shine Your Word
of Your might - y Word, Spurn Sa - tan that



that sav - ing light, Shine forth un - dimmed in - to the night.
till life is spent Your ho - ly Word and Sac - ra - ment.
of sav - ing grace In - to each dark and love - less place.
Your Church be strong, Bold, u - ni - fied in act and song.

5. Restrain, O Lord, the human pride
That seeks to thrust Your truth aside
Or with some man-made thoughts or things
Would dim the words Your Spirit sings.
6. Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true;
Preserve our faith our whole life through—
Your Word alone our heart's defense,
The Church's glorious confidence.

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The Epistle

I Thessalonians 4:13–18

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: Watch | therefore, *

for you know neither the day | nor the hour.

(Matthew 25:13)



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

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Evangelist Matthew, the 25th 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

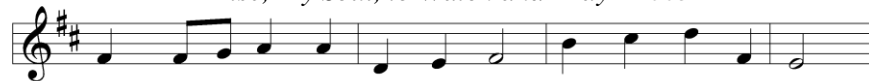
I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

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

“Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray” #663



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -
2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find
3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat
4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri -
5 But while watch - ing, al - so pray To the Lord un - ceas -



en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -
you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and
you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and
fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy
ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and faith in -



tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a
blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -
cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less
sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your
creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.
friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.
hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.
nite to serve Him And for - ev - er love Him.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory

The Offertory


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: Tom Strub **Service Assistant:** Logan Baker
Organist: Roxann List **Ushers:** Stephen Hoffman, Kyle Winter
Tellers: Sarah Staker, Cheryl Nissen **Shut-Ins:** Dean Fink

✠ OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ✠

- Sun. 11/12** 9:00 a.m. Divine Service at Our Redeemer
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class
- 1:00 p.m. Youth Yard Clean-up
- Mon. 11/13** 9:00 a.m. Vicar's Bible Study at Our Redeemer
- 6:30 p.m. Church Council
- Tue. 11/14** 6:00 p.m. Vicar's Bible Study at Peace-Shell Rock
- Wed. 11/15** 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)
- Sat. 11/18** 6:00 p.m. Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
- 7:00 p.m. Divine Service at Peace – Shell Rock
- Sun. 11/19** 9:00 a.m. Divine Service at Our Redeemer
- 10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class
- 1:30 p.m. Regular Voters' Meeting

HYMNS/READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sunday, November 19 - The 25th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 28)

Readings: Zephaniah 1:7–16; I Thessalonians 5:1–11; Matthew 25:14–30

Invocation: The Church's One Foundation..... 644

Gradual: Lord Of Our Life 659

Hymn of the Day: The Day is Surely Drawing Near..... 508

Distribution: Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared..... 622

Distribution: May God Bestow on Us His Grace..... 823

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. They are currently studying the Book of Revelation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. Parents, the children are beginning to work on music and recitations for the Christmas Music Festival on December 17.

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 meets on the 2nd and 4th 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. In November the class will meet again on the 13th and 14th.

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 2nd and 4th 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 with Vicar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Greg Gerjerts in remembrance of the anniversary of the death of his father, Henry Paul Gerjerts. *"Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him."* Psalm 62:1

THANK YOU I can't thank you all enough for the kind words, prayers, and the condolences during Art's recent illness and at the time of his death. Our Lord is good. I take comfort in the promise of the resurrection and in love of my fellow believers. Your support means more than words can express. Pat Springer



MEN'S CHOIR The Men's Choir, under the direction of Vicar Baker, will sing again during Advent. Men – if you would like to sing with them next time, they have short rehearsals following Bible study on Sunday mornings. Please speak with Vicar Baker if you have questions or are interested in joining.

UPDATED PHOTO DIRECTORY Sometime after the New Year we will be printing a new Congregational Photo Directory. If you would like to update your photo, Tammy will be taking photos for the next several weeks in the lower level of the Education Wing during refreshment time.

OUR REDEEMERS ANNUAL ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DINNER will be held on Sunday, December 3, beginning at 4:30 PM. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend. Help is needed to prepare for the meal. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall with a list of ways you can add your name to help. A free-will donation will cover the main meal and everyone attending is asked to provide either a salad or dessert. Entertainment will be provided. Watch the bulletins for more details.

REGULAR VOTERS' MEETING The Congregation will hold a Regular Voters' Meeting on Sunday, November 19 at 1:30 p.m. Normal matters of business will be taken care of including receiving reports from Officers and Boards, Election of Officers, and establishing the Budget for 2024. Any member of the congregation may bring matters before the Voters. Please speak with President Mishler to add items to the Agenda. The proposed Agenda, proposed Budget, and Minutes of the previous meeting are posted on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

ELECTIONS FOR SEVERAL OFFICES will take place at next Sunday's Voters' Meeting. The Nominations Committee has prepared the following slate of Nominees.

- President - Doug Nefzger
- Vice President - Stephen Hoffman
- Christian Care - Char Strub
- Financial Secretary - Greg Gerjerts
- Stewardship - Dave Kmoch
- Elders (2) - Ryan Thornton, Alan Czarnetzki
- Trustees (2) - Brad Bovy, Dusty Greiman
- Endowment Committee - David Jackson

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)



A THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22nd at Our Redeemer. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Peace Lutheran on Tuesday, November 21st at 7:00 p.m. You are encouraged to keep the worship of God a part of your observance of our Country's National Day of Thanksgiving.

TEXT BLAST INFORMATION Included with your bulletin this morning, printed on a green sheet of paper, is an information sheet provided by the Communication and Outreach Committee. Our Redeemer uses a computer software program entitled Church 360 to keep track of membership, record offerings, and track church attendance. A new feature was recently added which allows congregational leadership to send a text message to the congregation in the event that important or last minute information needs to be provided quickly. If you would like to be included in this text message service please fill out the form and place it in the proper container in the Narthex or Parish Hall.



FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC On Sunday, December 17 the congregation is invited to celebrate the Christmas Gospel in Word and Song. (The time is still to be determined.) The festival will include Advent and Christmas music sung or played by instrumentalists, vocalists, the Sunday School students, the Adult Choir, and the congregation. This is an expansion of what we might normally have thought of as the Children's Christmas program.

It is important for our Sunday School students to be regular in their attendance because they are starting to work on recitations and music for this music festival.

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.

Offerings so far in 2023 are 7% below our budget. With only 2 months left in 2023, some projects planned for 2023 may have to be delayed or cancelled. Please prayerfully consider increasing your donations to reduce the gap.

- Giving/income Year to Date \$192,137.21 (*through October*)
- Budget Year to Date: \$206,800
- Difference: -\$14,662.79