

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 13th Sunday after Pentecost August 27, 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.*

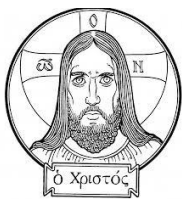
OUR REDEEMER PRACTICES CLOSED COMMUNION

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.



THOSE SERVING GOD’S PEOPLE THIS WEEK

Elder: Stephen Hoffman **Service Assistant:** Brody Irwin
Organist: Roxann List **Ushers:** Dean Fink, Dusty Greiman
Tellers: Dean Fink, Tom Strub **Shut-Ins:** Jake Jackson



TODAY IS THE 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Over the last several Sundays, the Gospel appointed for the day has detailed the busy life of Jesus. He has healed the sick, fed the hungry, walked on and calmed the stormy sea of Galilee, drove the demon from the daughter of a Canaanite woman, all while proclaiming His gracious Word. These few examples serve to remind the Church that Jesus was a servant and His service of mankind never ceased.

The words of the Nicene Creed remind each of you just why Jesus served – **“who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary.”** You must never lose sight of this truth, namely, that Jesus is in the business of saving —saving sinners like His disciples, saving sinners like the 5,000 whom He healed, taught, and then fed with bread and fish, saving sinners like the Canaanite woman and her daughter, saving sinners like the people who cried out for His crucifixion, and yes, saving people like you who gather today in God’s house.

Is it any wonder then that St. Paul, in the great doxology of Romans 11 writes, **“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out! “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.”**

What a marvelous series of questions which reveal the God of grace and mercy! **“Who has ever given to God, that God should repay Him?”** Of course the answer is no one.

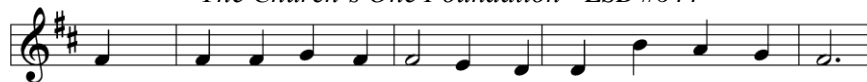
The Psalmist knew this truth well also. He wrote, **“How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.”** (*Psalm 116:12, 13*) It is not as though the Psalmist is suggesting that God’s people actually repay or compensate Him for His loving service. Quite to the contrary, the Psalmist is implying that the child of God, who has received God’s grace and mercy, will not be able to repay God but instead will “thank” God by joyfully participating in the Passover feast as he drinks from the cup of salvation.

New Testament believers who, like Peter, have confessed Jesus as “*the Christ, the Son of the living God,*” also drink from the cup of salvation. Psalm 116 is part of the Maundy Thursday liturgy. As Christians pray this Psalm our hearts and minds are drawn to the cup which replaced the cup of salvation in the Passover meal, the cup of which Christ declares, “*This is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.*” Believing and confessing these words, Jesus says, “Blessed are you!”

I. THE PREPARATION

Hymn of Invocation

“The Church’s One Foundation” LSB #644



1 The Church’s one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ’ry na - tion, Yet one o’er all the earth;
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
 By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
 And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav’n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
 Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, “How long?”
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O bless - ed heav’n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
 And to one hope she press - es With ev - ’ry grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
 And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
 That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

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: But we will | bless the Lord*

from this time forth and forevermore. | Praise the Lord!

Cong: **As for me, I have | set my King***

on Zion, my | holy hill.

I will tell of | the decree:*

The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have be- | gotten You."

Praise the Lord, all | nations!*

Extol Him, all | peoples!

For great is His steadfast | love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. | Praise the Lord!

Cantor: But we will | bless the Lord*

from this time forth and forevermore. | Praise the Lord!

(Ps. 2: 6-7, Ps. 117; antiphon: Ps. 115:18)

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

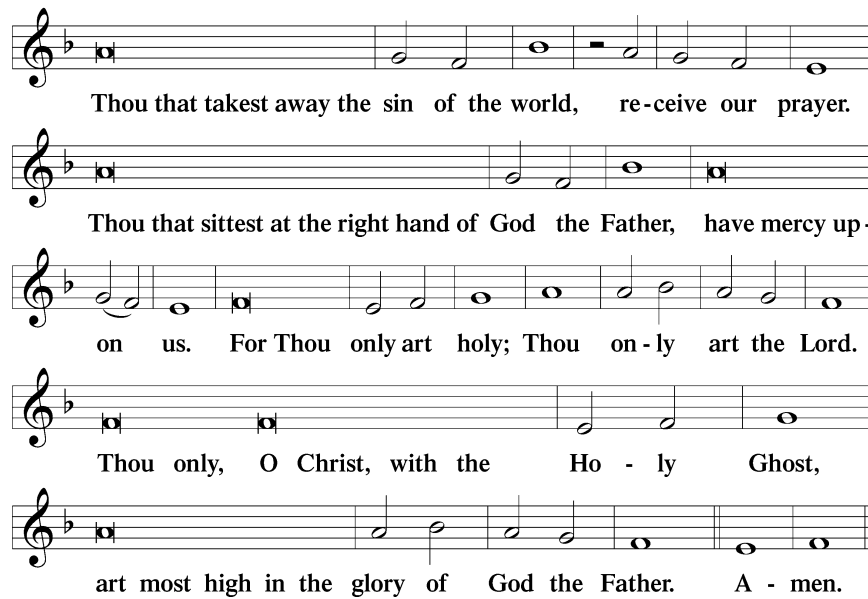
Mark 10:47

☐ 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.

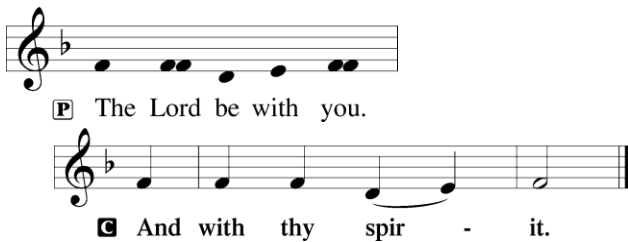


Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou 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.

C And with thy spir - it.

II Timothy 4:22

The Collect of the Day

P: Let us pray: Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; 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

Isaiah 51:1-6

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The Gradual

Psalm 138 (*antiphon v. 3*)

Cantor: On the day I called, You | answered me;*
my strength of soul | You increased.

Cong: I give You thanks, O Lord, with | my whole heart;*
before the gods I | sing Your praise;

I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your | faithfulness,*

for You have exalted above all things Your name | and Your word.

On the day I called, You | answered me;*
my strength of soul | You increased.

All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, | O Lord,*
for they have heard the words | of Your mouth,

and they shall sing of the ways | of the Lord,*
for great is the glory | of the Lord.

For though the Lord is high, He regards the | lowly,*
but the haughty He knows | from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You pre- | serve my life;*
You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and Your right hand de-| livers me.

Cong: The Lord will fulfill His pur- | pose for me;*
 Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
 Do not forsake the work | of Your hands.
*Glory be to the Father and | to the Son**
and to the Holy | Spirit;
*as it was in the be- | ginning,**
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Cantor: On the day I called, You | answered me;*
 my strength of soul | You increased.

The Epistle

Romans 11:33—12:8

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: The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of | Israel.*
 He heals the brokenhearted and binds | up their wounds.

Psalm 147:2-3



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

The Holy Gospel

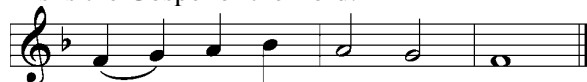
Matthew 16:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Evangelist Matthew, the 16th 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

“Lord Jesus Christ, The Church’s Head” #647



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Church’s head, You are her one foun -
2 O Lord, let this Your lit - tle flock, Your name a - lone con -
3 Help us to serve You ev - er - more With hearts both pure and
4 And for Your Gos - pel let us dare To sac - ri - fice all



da - tion; In You she trusts, be - fore You bows, And
fess - ing, Con - tin - ue in Your lov - ing care, True
low - ly; And may Your Word, that light di - vine, Shine
trea - sure; Teach us to bear Your bless - ed cross, To



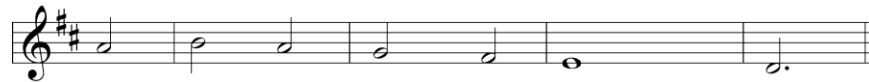
waits for Your sal - va - tion. Built on this rock se - cure,
u - ni - ty pos - sess - ing. Your sac - ra - ments, O Lord,
on in splen - dor ho - ly That we re - pen - tance show,
find in You all plea - sure. O grant us stead - fast - ness



Your Church shall en - dure Though all the world de -
And Your sav - ing Word To us, Lord, pure re -
In faith ev - er grow; The pow’r of sin de -
In joy and dis - tress, Lest we, Lord, You for -



cay And all things pass a - way.
tain. Grant that they may re - main
stroy And e - vils that an - noy.
sake. Let us by grace par - take



O hear, O hear us, Je - sus!
Our on - ly strength and com - fort.
O make us faith - ful Chris - tians.
Of end - less joy and glad - ness.

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Tune: Public domain

The Sermon

Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory

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 ✘

Sun. 8/27	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Bible Class
	11:30 a.m.	Youth Board
Tue. 8/29	6:30 p.m.	Nominations Committee
Wed. 8/30	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
	6:30 p.m.	Board of Elders
Sat. 9/2	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service at Peace – Shell Rock

HYMNS/READINGS

Sunday, September 3 - The 14th Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17)

Readings: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28	
Invocation: Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus	531
Gradual: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word	655
Hymn of the Day: Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus	685
Distribution: O Love, How Deep.....	544
Distribution: The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord	634
Distribution: The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns.....	532

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. Today Pastor Knox will continue the study of Burial practices and the Christian funeral. Starting on September 10, Pastor Knox will begin a study of Revelation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. On the Sunday, September 10, there will be a Sunday School celebration to mark the beginning of the School Year.

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 offered on Tuesday, at 6:00 p.m. at Peace in Shell Rock.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY During the School Year the Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet for Bible Study with our Vicar on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. This class will resume on September 6th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IT IS ALMOST CHOIR SEASON AGAIN. We want to encourage ANYONE who loves to sing, regardless of the ability to read music, to join the Adult Choir. We meet every Wednesday, from 5:25-6:25 starting September 6th and finish up in late May. If you cannot commit to the full year, that is fine. Join us in the Fall or join in January. We are a fun, friendly group and would LOVE to see new faces and hear new voices. 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.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY AND AUGUST While Christmas is several months away the Christian Care Project for July and August is collecting items for Orphan Grain Train Christmas Gift Boxes. These gift boxes will be sent internationally to recipients who will deliver them to children who may not receive any other Christmas package. Items must be collected by September 1 so the Gift boxes may be sent and delivered in time for Christmas. A complete list of items needed are in the Narthex and in the Parish Hall. Only items listed will be accepted because of strict overseas shipping regulations. Please direct any questions to Char Strub or Judy Fink.

OUR REDEEMER BOOK CLUB After the summer break, the Our Redeemer Book Club will resume on Wednesday, September 6, at 10:00 a.m. (prior to the weekly Pericopes study). We hope that you will plan to join us as we 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**.) Books will be ordered soon (cost approximately \$20) – to reserve a copy, please see Sara Lair or Greg Gerjerts.



HELP CELEBRATE THE START OF SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR by attending a potluck after Sunday School and Bible Class on September 10th. Spaghetti and garlic bread will be provided as well as some games. Please sign up to bring a side dish/dessert, or to help in the kitchen. The sign up sheet is located in the Parish Hall. Contact Michaela Knox with any questions.

VOLUNTEER HELP IN THE CHURCH OFFICE 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 LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION of the Dubuque zone invite you to join them for the LWML Iowa East District Fall Retreat at Camp Iodiseca on September 8 & 9, 2023. The theme is “Christ Above All” Colossians 1 15-17. Rev. Caleb Schewe, St. John, Monticello, Dubuque Zone Counselor will lead the Bible Studies. Special speakers will be Cynthia Khan, Director of Community Engagement at POBLO, Reverend Harrison Goodman, Content Executive, of Higher Things, and through technology, Missionary Jerry Mays – in Tanzania, Africa. There will be a Saturday VBS for Children ages 3 through 6th Grade. Moms are welcome to bring your Children to attend the Saturday VBS while you enjoy the retreat. More information and a schedule of activities is posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Information brochures are in the Narthex and the Parish Hall. Please pick up a copy. Please consider attending. Any questions please talk with Judy Fink.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION This Fall, starting on the Sunday after Labor Day, 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 STUDY THIS YEAR 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.

THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

The Smalcald Articles

Part III, Article XII. –

Of the Church.

1] We do not concede to them that they are the Church, and [in truth] they are not [the Church]; nor will we listen to those things which, under the name of Church, they enjoin or forbid. 2] For, thank God, [to-day] a child seven years old knows what the Church is, namely, the holy believers and lambs who hear the voice of their Shepherd. For the children pray thus: I believe in one holy [catholic or] Christian Church. 3] This holiness does not consist in albs, tonsures, long gowns, and other of their ceremonies devised by them beyond Holy Scripture, but in the Word of God and true faith.

Part III, Article XIII. –

How One is Justified before God, and of Good Works.

1] What I have hitherto and constantly taught concerning this I know not how to change in the least, namely, that by faith, as St. Peter says, we acquire a new and clean heart, and God will and does account us entirely righteous and holy for the sake of Christ, our Mediator. And although sin in the flesh has not yet been altogether removed or become dead, yet He will not punish or remember it.

2] And such faith, renewal, and forgiveness of sins is followed by good works. And what there is still sinful or imperfect also in them shall not be accounted as sin or defect, even [and that, too] for Christ's sake; but the entire man, both as to his person and his works, is to be called and to be righteous and holy from pure grace and mercy, shed upon us [unfolded] and spread over us in Christ. 3] Therefore we cannot boast of many merits and works, if they are viewed apart from grace and mercy, but as it is written, 1 Cor. 1:31: He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord, namely, that he has a gracious God. For thus all is well. 4] We say, besides, that if good works do not follow, faith is false and not true.