

# 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

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### The 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost September 24, 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.

**THE REV. JAMES LAMB IS OUR GUEST THIS MORNING** 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 during the Divine Service and will teach 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.



**TODAY IS THE 17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** “That’s not fair!” Parents, how many times have you heard that? It’s not just children who think things aren’t fair. Politicians love to try and divide people by getting them to begrudge what others have or what others don’t pay. How many times have you fallen into the trap of saying something’s not fair just because you think you are missing out on something?

When hearing the Gospel for today, your first reaction might also be, “That’s not fair.” How could one worker who has worked only a short amount of time get paid the same amount as the worker who worked all day? It is because Jesus is teaching you a very important lesson. He is telling you that God is not fair, and for that you should be very grateful. Instead of fairness, God is gracious and compassionate. If God

were fair, you would get what you deserve—a hopeless life and eternal death. Put into the language of the corporate confession, “I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment.”

Yet God the Father, in his mercy, acted unfairly toward Jesus by placing all your sins upon Him. Because God was not fair with Jesus, He will not be fair to you either. Instead, He has given to you what you don’t deserve, eternal life and salvation, for the sake of Christ our Lord.

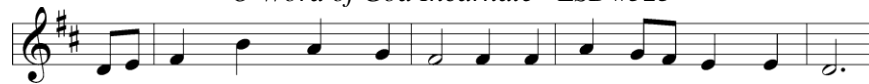
The Hymn of the Day, “Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ” (LSB #565) is a glorious confession of this truth. It emphasizes the work and the person of Christ, not in addition to, but in place of yours, as the only basis for your salvation. Each of the 5 verses begin with a similar line - *Thy works not mine, Thy wounds not mine, Thy cross not mine, Thy death not mine, Thy righteousness not mine*. Emptied of all self-righteousness you are led to sing as the conclusion of each verse, “*To whom save Thee, Who canst alone for sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?*” The answer is clear – to Christ alone!

Baptized into Christ - His works, His wounds, His cross, His death, and His righteousness are yours. Confessing your sin you flee to Him who offers even more with His gracious words, “**Your sins are forgiven**” and His gracious invitation, “**Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Take, drink, this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins.**” It may not be fair, but it is gracious and merciful. Thanks be to God, who like the master in the parable, graciously gives equally to all!

## I. THE PREPARATION

### Hymn of Invocation

“O Word of God Incarnate” LSB #523



1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
2 The Church from You, dear Mas-ter, Re-ceived the gift di - vine;  
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav - ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.  
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!



We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,  
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,  
O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace



A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.  
Mid mists and rocks and quick - sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.  
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They 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: Deliver me from my enemies, | O Lord!\*

I have fled to You for | refuge!

Cantor: I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanks- | giving\*

and call on the name | of the Lord.

Cong: **What shall I render | to the Lord\***

**for all His bene- | fits to me?**

I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation\*  
and call on the name | of the Lord.

Precious in the sight | of the Lord\*  
is the death | of His saints.

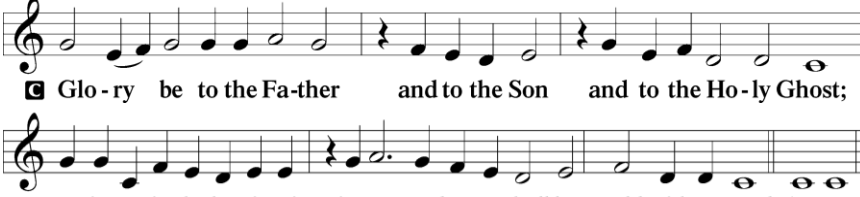
O Lord, I am Your | servant;\*

I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have | loosed my bonds.

Cantor: I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanks- | giving\*  
and call on the name | of the Lord.

(Ps. 116:12-13, 15-16; antiphon: Ps. 116:17)


### 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, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

*Be seated*

**The Old Testament**

Isaiah 55:6-9

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

**C:** **Thanks be to God**

**The Gradual**

*"To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray" LSB #768*

1 To God the Ho - ly Spir - it let us pray  
 2 O sweet - est Love, Your grace on us be - stow;  
 3 Tran - scen - dent Com - fort in our ev - 'ry need,  
 4 Shine in our hearts, O Spir - it, pre - cious light;

For the true faith need - ed on our way  
 Set our hearts with sa - cred fire a - glow  
 Help us nei - ther scorn nor death to heed  
 Teach us Je - sus Christ to know a - right

That He may de - fend us when life is end - ing And from  
 That with hearts u - nit - ed we love each oth - er, Ev - 'ry  
 That we may not fal - ter nor cour - age fail us When the  
 That we may a - bide in the Lord who bought us, Till to

ex - ile home we are wend - ing. Lord, have mer - cy!  
 strang - er, sis - ter, and broth - er. Lord, have mer - cy!  
 foe shall taunt and as - sail us. Lord, have mer - cy!  
 our true home He has brought us. Lord, have mer - cy!

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## The Epistle

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

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: By grace you have been | saved through faith.\*

And this is not your own doing; it is the | gift of God..

*Ephesians 2:9*



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

### The Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Evangelist Matthew, the 20<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

“Thy Works, Not Mine, O Christ” #565




1 Thy works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad-ness to this heart;  
2 Thy wounds, not mine, O Christ, Can heal my bruised soul;  
3 Thy cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the crushing load  
4 Thy death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid the ransom due;  
5 Thy righteousness, O Christ, Alone can cover me;



They tell me all is done, They bid my fear depart.  
Thy stripes, not mine, contain The balm that makes me whole.  
Of sins that none could bear But the incarnate God.  
Ten thousand deaths like mine Would have been all too few.  
No righteousness avails Save that which is of Thee.

*Refrain*



To whom save Thee, Who canst alone For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

*Text and 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.

### Reception of New Members

Michelle Bolin, Gary Vander Werf, Augustus Linke

**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>Mon. 9/25</b>	9:00 a.m.	Vicar's Bible Class at Our Redeemer
<b>Tues. 9/26</b>	6:00 p.m.	Vicar's Bible Class at Peace-Shell Rock
<b>Wed. 9/27</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.	Youth Bible Study with Vicar Baker (meal at 6:15)
	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
<b>Thur. 9/28</b>	7:30 p.m.	Nominations Committee
	6:30 p.m.	Board of Elders
<b>Sat. 9/30</b>	9:00 a.m.	Musicians Workshop at College Hill
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service at Peace – Shell Rock
<b>Sun. 10/1</b>	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Bible Class

**HYMNS/READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK**

**Sunday, October 1 - The 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 21)**

Readings: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Philippians 2:1-18; Matthew 21:23-32	
Invocation: Thy Strong Word .....	578
Gradual: Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide .....	585
Hymn of the Day: Preserve Your Word, O Savior .....	658
Distribution: All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall.....	562
Distribution: The Law of God Is Good and Wise .....	579
Distribution: I Come, O Savior, To Thy Table .....	618

## **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. Rev. Lamb will be teaching in Bible Class this morning.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** 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**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** Today the members of Our Redeemer welcome 3 new members.

- Michelle Bolin - Michelle is the wife of Jonah Bolin. The Bolins were married on June 10 of this year. Michelle is a graduate of Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. She is a teacher by trade and the Bolins are Cornhusker fans.
- Gary Vander Werf - Gary recently relocated to Cedar Falls from Charles City. Gary was baptized and confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church in Waverly.
- Augustus Linke - Augustus transfers to Our Redeemer from St. Peter Lutheran Church in Morrison, IL. He is an accountant by trade. Augustus is married to Grace. She is currently going through Adult Catechesis with Pastor Knox and Vicar Baker.

**FLOWER CHART** There are a few Sundays remaining in 2023 to sign up for Altar Flowers. The flower chart is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall – or contact Sara Lair for details (319) 266-1163; sjlair@cfu.net.

**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."

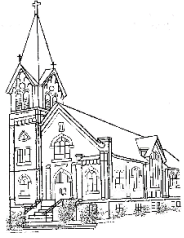
**THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE LUTHERAN WITNESS** is available in the Narthex and Parish Hall this morning. This issue is titled, "Digging In: Archaeology and Apologetics." The articles in this issue speak to the reliability of the Bible. Do the findings of archeologists support the historical and chronological 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.

**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.

**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)



**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.

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

**Elder:** Ryan Thornton **Service Assistant:** Colton Bovy  
**Organist:** Roxann List **Ushers:** Blake Wayson, Harold Saathoff  
**Tellers:** Dean Fink, Dean Garms **Shut-Ins:** Dean Fink

**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