

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL
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Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



2026

IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church

Volume XXXVI, Issue V

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Sitting here in the sunshine on my brother's patio in Las Vegas, I find my mind drifting toward the sheer magnitude of God's favor. There are moments when the weight of being blessed becomes almost overwhelming. As I consider the path of my life, I am struck by the reality that God pours out His goodness for reasons I cannot fully fathom. This is the heart of our faith: that God acts toward us purely out of Fatherly, Divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us.

One of the greatest treasures of our life as Lutheran Christians is the rhythm of the Church Year. We do not merely mark time; we live the life of Christ. For four weeks of Advent, we waited in hushed expectation. For twelve days of Christmas, we rejoiced that the King was born. For six weeks of Lent, we stood in the shadow of the cross, lamenting the sin and death our rebellion brought into the world.

But now, we reside in the Great Fifty Days. For seven weeks, one more than Lent, signifying the perfection of God's restorative work, we proclaim that our Savior, King, and Redeemer has shattered the bars of death. Soon we will celebrate His Ascension to the realms of glory, where He reigns for us, and where we, through faith, shall one day follow to live in His presence forever.

Therefore, rejoice in the Lord in all circumstances. Even in the depths of woe and despair, we need fear no evil, for He has promised never to leave nor forsake you. But where is He to be found? We do not have to go searching within our own shifting emotions or up into the clouds. The Scriptures are clear: where we gather in the name of our Lord, He is there!

We begin our worship by invoking the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the same Name placed upon you at the baptismal font. In our Divine Service, we gather just as the early Church did in the Book of Acts, centering our lives on the Word proclaimed and the Word made visible in the Lord's Supper. I often wish we hungered for our God enough to seek this daily. Whether we celebrate the Sacrament weekly or biweekly, we must remember that one can never receive too

SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

MAY

Cindy Nash – 320-894-0901
Brooke Sellmann – 320-235-0075

John & Michelle Behl
Matt & Liz Cordes
John Corti
Michael & Joy Gratz
Richard & Dianne Hanson
Ron & Bonnie Jaspersen
Geri Kling
Jason & Marlene Kubasch
Rod & Naomi Lindquist
Dave & Anita Maras
Mike & Lori Martinek
David Moser
Ken & Cindy Nash
Terry Pankow
Matt & Alicia Runke
Rod & Denise Schroeder
Mark & Brooke Sellmann
Brandon & Jessica Smith
Gayne & Marvelle Stone
Adrian Wahlstrom

JUNE

Doris Ast – 320-214-7016
Sally Bierbaum – 612-751-9274

Bob & Doris Ast
Michael Baumgarn
Gordon & Betty Behm
Vern & Sally Bierbaum
Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg
Jon & Jessica Friton
Brennen Gulden
Steven & Beverly Hanson
Molly Jeppesen
Josh & Briana Jensen
Joel & Sharon Jergenson
Larry Jorschumb
Matt & Sarah Juven
Bruce & Judy Kastel
Jon & Dawn Lingbeek
Jim & Alex Malkuch
Bill & Deb Paterson
Don & Carol Ryks
Jeffrey & Linda Weitzel

NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.

LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS

SPRING CLEAN UP AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP is May 2, 2026, from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. What a great way to help camp get everything ready for another incredible summer of ministry and memory-making! From prepping the rec fields and clearing brush to hauling equipment out of storage and setting up the lakefront, there's something for everyone to jump into. It's amazing what can be accomplished together in just a day—fresh spaces, ready cabins, and a shoreline prepared to welcome campers back to the Island. Come lend a hand, enjoy some fellowship, and help get the Island summer-ready! Registration is not required but please give them a call or drop them an email to let them know you are coming so they can prepare enough food for the included lunch. Ph: 218/583-2905; licbusiness@islandcamp.org

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION is now open. Go to the Lutheran Island Camp website to register. Some camps, such as the horse camps, fill up relatively quickly, so don't wait too long to register.

LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS are available if your child is interested in attending this year! Scholarship codes will be given out upon request and online registration is required to use the codes. Please let the church office know when your child will be attending camp. Forms for these scholarships can be found in the church office.

Redeemer will pay the following:

- \$100 per child/youth for a week long camp per calendar year
- \$50 per child/youth for a weekend camp per calendar year
- \$100 per family for a week long family camp per calendar year.
- \$50 per family for a weekend family camp per calendar year.
- Friends of Redeemer youth will receive \$50 for any week long or weekend camp per calendar

If you do not receive calls or texts from Redeemer on events that are coming up or that have occurred, it means we didn't receive an information card from you. Cards are available in the narthex or church office, just fill out and return to the church office. This will ensure you receive updates and important information as events occur.

much Jesus. He loves to pour the wine of gladness with a liberal wrist until our cups overflow with grace, mercy, and joy.

The month of May carries us through the Easter season and into the joy of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, comes to enlighten our hearts. This is the beautiful paradox of the Gospel: where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more. We come into the House of God not to be beaten down by the Law, but to be lifted up by the Gospel. We enter the holy place to partake of His body, His blood, and His forgiveness. What a joy to come before the Lord and be blessed, not burdened.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In the love of our Redeemer, Pastor Craig

PRESCHOOL

Hello Church Family -

May is here... for Preschool that means wrapping up the school year. We have enjoyed another year full of laughter and learning. Our Preschool program is Tuesday May 19th at 6pm. Please feel free to join us to hear the preschoolers sing their hearts out for Jesus.

The third week of April we held our annual Open House. It was a very successful year. We already have 13 preschoolers signed up for next year and are continuing to receive inquiries regularly. We would like to say thank you to Lee and Beth Corti for acquiring the bounce house from the VFW for us, and also helping us that night with tours. We continue to have wonderful volunteers from the congregation every year.

Our last day with preschoolers this year is May 21st. Please pray for beautiful weather in May as we love spending most of our time outside. Lastly, please spread the word, we will be hiring for a part time position starting in the fall, let us know if you know of any qualified applicants.

God's Blessings 😊

Michelle & Gretchen

“Be Strong and Courageous”

Johua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Transitions. Life is full of them, especially this time of year! High school seniors graduate, kids transition into summer break, and Call Day happens for those at our LCMS seminaries. Transitions of employment, where we live, and health also seem to present themselves throughout our lives. Whatever the transition, many times they are met with uncertainty for the future.

God’s words to Joshua came at a critical moment in the scripture above. Joshua is at a time of transition, uncertainty, and great responsibility. Moses was gone, and Joshua now stood before a promise yet unfulfilled, a land yet unconquered, and a people yet unsettled.

Notice how God begins: *“Have not I commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,...”* This is not a gentle suggestion or a hopeful wish. It is a divine command. Our culture often tells us to “follow your heart,” but God tells Joshua, and He tells us, to command our hearts. To choose strength. To choose courage. Why? Because the foundation of that command is not our own ability, but in His strength.

God doesn’t give Joshua-or us-this command without a promise, however. “for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Our courage is not meant to be activated from within our own limited reserves. It flows from the unshakable reality of God’s strong hand in our lives.

You are not walking into your unknown future alone. You are not facing that daunting challenge, your grief, a new chapter, or that difficult conversation by yourself. The Commander of Heaven’s Armies is with you. His presence turns the most intimidating giants into opportunities for His glory to be seen.

In all of it, the command and the promise remain. **Be strong. Be courageous. Do not be frightened or dismayed. He is with you.**

JOIN THE QUILTERS – NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! Looking for a warm, welcoming way to connect and make a difference? The quilters meet every Monday at 12:30 pm. No sewing skills required, just bring your smile and enjoy friendship, creativity, and a treat break at 2:00.

WINTER IS ABOUT OVER! What are you going to do with all those snow boots you won't be needing anymore? Bring them to Redeemer and put in the shoe collection box in the narthex for Lutheran Island Camp. We LOVE your old shoes, boots, etc.! Remember. . . .**NO FLIP FLOPS.**

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!! May collections will be “Hygiene Products”. Eye Drops, Lip Balm, Saline Nasal Spray, Disposable Razors, Foot Powder, Multi-Vitamins, Vitamin C, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Sunglasses. Please place donated items in the box located in the narthex.



REDEEMER WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB Our next books will be “The Correspondent” by Virginia Evans. We will meet on May 30th at 9am. Breakfast and coffee will be provided. No need to sign up. Read on your own and join us to discuss the book together. For any questions or need any help getting a book, please let Briana J. or Deb K. know.

MAY GIFT CARDS! Redeemer receives a percentage back in which you may apply to a Preschoolers tuition, to our Youth account or our General Education! No service fee! Forms are located in the narthex! The deadline for this month is Monday, May 11th.

REDEEMER’S MEN’S GROUP The Redeemer Men’s Group will meet on Tuesday, May 26th at 6 pm. Come join us!

THE LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL will be Sunday, May 17. A huge thank you to our teachers for this year: Paula Lueders, Joanna Jerzak, Paula Donofrio, Wayne Dahlke, and Pr. Tim Renstrom.

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Apr 5	321		(Easter)			
Apr 12	217	154	35	24	2	
Apr 19	161	142	43	19	1	
Apr 26	159		(voters mtg) 55	18	0	
TOTALS	858	296	133	61	3	18
Out by Death: Terry Pankow						

CONFIRMATION BANQUET is on Thursday, May 14th for all confirmands, immediate family, mentors, sponsors, and grandparents.

MAY 17TH IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY! The confirmation service will take place during the 10:30 service. This year Redeemer has six confirmands:

CONFIRMAND

Charlie Berghuis
Oliver Beghuis
Eli Forst
Amyah Hebrink
Aspen Krakow
Elise Reznecheck

PARENTS

Jacob & Sarah
Jacob & Sarah
Noah & Desrae
Joshua & Bethany
Jeremy & Andria
Chris & Jeanne

MENTOR

Wayne Dahlke
Ron Kassel
Lee Corti
Sharon Skaro
Nichole Gleason
Stacy Pollock

A NEW ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEM has been rolled out in the sanctuary. Headphones and receivers are available in the narthex near the mailboxes. If you have hearing aids or are purchasing, check to see if they are Hearing Loop (telecoil) or Auracast compatible for easier listening.

Listen to Pastor Craig on For You Radio. "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" You can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to www.ForYouRadio.org to listen.

The strength He calls you to is not the absence of fear, but to trust His strength more than you trust your fears. The courage He commands is a settled confidence that the One who goes before you is with you wherever you go.

See ya in church!
Anna

†† MAY 2026 ††		
	ELDERS	ACOLYTES
<u>May 3</u> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellman, Ron Jaspersen Jeff Pitt, Pastor Tim Renstrom	Amyah Hebrink Aspen Krakow
<u>May 10</u> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Ted Wurm Jim Malkuch	Eli Forst Aspen Krakow
<u>May 17</u> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann, Bill Paterson Brandon Kopacek, Pastor Tim Renstrom	Gus Malkuch
<u>May 24</u> 9:00 AM Communion	Stan Skaro, Ron Jaspersen	Elise Reznecheck
<u>May 31</u> 9:00 AM Communion	Matt Akerson, Jeff Pitt	Oliver Berghuis
<u>USHERS</u> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Lori Schroeder, Jason Kubasch, Judy Linhoff 10:30 *Leon Schultz, Gary & Mary Hillenbrand		<u>LIBRARY</u> LeAnn Stauffenecker

ROAD TO RECOVERY GROUP Are you struggling with addiction? You're not alone. Or maybe you know of someone that would benefit from this group. This supportive recovery group meets at the church every Thursday evening from 6-8 pm. All are welcome! If interested, contact Penny (320) 220-2585.

YOUTH IN THE NEWS!

After excelling in two qualifying rounds, Drake is one of three teams in his grade group advancing to the national robotics championship. He'll compete in person at the K12 headquarters near Washington, D.C., where the nation's top teams will put their creativity and coding skills to the test for the championship title and a \$500 prize.



MACCRAY'S Ag Mech team achieved an impressive 5th place overall in the state! Evan Petersen is on the left.

2026 GRADUATES mark your calendars for Sunday, May 3! We will be recognizing the graduates at the 10:30 service that day. Grads, if you do not have your graduate info in yet, please email it to Anna asap!

2026 GRADUATES:

**Abigail Behl
Jackson Berghuis
Tangh Conklin**

**Wyatt Dahline
Chelsea Lopez
Isaac Marcus**

**Evan Petersen
Jasmine Petersen
Andrew Sandau**

LWML NEWS

Greetings Redeemer Ladies and LWML members,

Thank you to all who generously gave items to be donated to Arrive Ministries. May God bless and multiply our efforts.

I would like to invite each of you to join us at our May 12 meeting. We have the wonderful opportunity to vote for which grants the MN North District will support with our mites... I personally am looking forward to learning about the different organizations and making our voice count.

God's blessings,

Brooke Sellmann, chair



Willmar Middle School participants, Gus Malkuch is in the middle, participated in the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota's Honor Choir. The three students had to audition for the choir without accompaniment before performing at the St. Michael-Albertville High School Performance Hall.