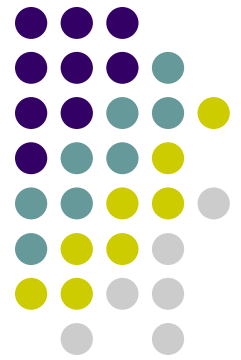


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Redeemer's Christian Connection

May Newsletter

Pastor's Corner



"This cup is the new testament in my blood."

As a follow up to the Easter Sunday sermon, "Tangible Salvation," I offer this adaption of an article from Doxology (an LCMS service organization especially for pastors which provides training, consultation and mentoring for pastors who seek to improve their skills in the care of souls).

What words of gift from our Savior, Jesus Christ on the night of His betrayal. He calls it the New Testament—διαθήκη (diatheke - Covenant, Testament, Will). We'd say the New Last Will and Testament.

I heard a radio ad during Holy Week about a company that enables you to "Protect loved ones by making a Last Will and Testament." That's precisely what Jesus is doing. He's protecting loved ones by making a Last Will and Testament! And Wills, they're one-sided aren't they? If you inherit something from a will, all you can do is receive it or I suppose you could refuse it—but you cannot cause it or earn it or force it. You passively receive. Passive Faith. Receiving Faith. Here, Jesus says, is the new last will and testament. This is pure gift.

Jesus leaves to you everything that's left in His estate at His death. He leaves no clothes. He doesn't have any, they've been stolen and gambled away. He leaves no earthly home, he never had one. He leaves no library or animals or servants or money or earthly honor. He has none. He died a slave's death. He couldn't even leave His burial plot to someone—it's borrowed. What does He have left at His death? All that's left is His body and His blood: the antidote to death. And He leaves it for you who repent and believe in Him. All to protect you in a way no last will and testament of ours could ever do.

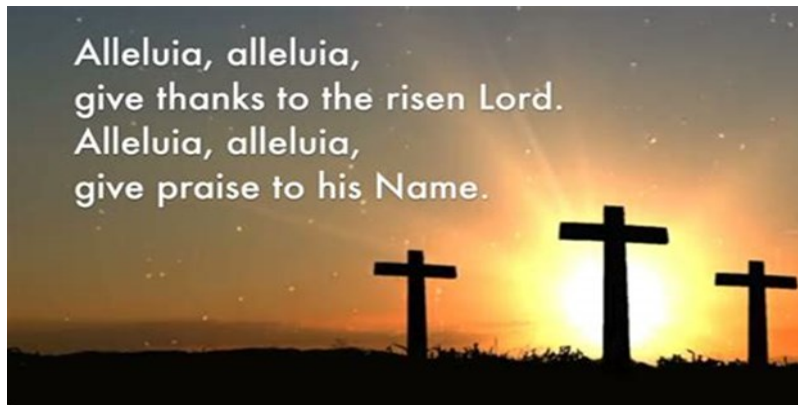
Death cannot harm you, sin is released from you, the shame of sins done against you are cleansed away, and the Devil's accusations against you are silenced through this last will and testament that makes you new again. Eat Jesus' Body, drink Jesus' Blood repenting of your sinfulness, receiving it all by faith, confessing Him and His full truth, and you are new again. Forgiven. Immune from death. Nourished and cared for by Your Savior.

The Elders of Israel ate and drank in the presence of God with Moses and Aaron—now our Lord outdoes Himself, the common folk of Christendom eat and drink God's presence with Moses and Aaron and all who died in faith in Christ and live forever. ("With angels and archangels and all the company of heaven..."). So it will be forever. Eternal life isn't a reward for virtuous living. It's a Father getting His kids home around His table. So it is at the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. It's our Father's table; it's our Father's family. Our Savior's self-giving sacrifice giving all that is His to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for holiness, for peace.

Jesus would leave the upper room, to pray that if there were any other way, His cup would be taken from Him—the cup of God's full wrath—the poisonous cup that causes stumbling, falling, shame and hatred, death and damnation. But there was no other way to save you or me, so Jesus drank that cup to its dregs. All the poison that's poured from our wickedness and failure, our defiance and hatred, our arrogance and pride, our idolatry and coveting He drank it all. And He got what I deserved. What you deserved. Then, when the full debt was paid, "*It is finished*", the water and the blood flowed from His dead body. And He's handed this water, blood, and body down to you: baptism into His death and resurrection for cleansing and life; this new-last-will-and-testament-cup for forgiveness of sins and life, and His life-giving body to sustain you forever and raise your body on the last day.



HYMN OF THE MONTH



ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, GIVE THANKS

(OAR 215)

Our Hymn of the Month for May was chosen by one of our younger members at Redeemer Lutheran Church, who also attends Redeemer Lutheran School. It's from our new children's hymnal, One and All Rejoice (OAR) which includes a lot of the hymns from Lutheran Service Book (LSB) but also some new hymns, like this one.

It begins with a repeated emphasis in the refrain that, as we heard on Easter Sunday, Jesus is our "risen Lord."

Verse one begins with this creedal phrase from the early church, "Jesus is Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:3 - "Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says 'Jesus is accursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit." and Romans 10:9 - "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Verse two contains the spirit of Matthew 28:18-28. After Jesus' resurrection He tells His disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." In the words of this hymn we sing: "Spread the good news over all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen."

Central to this hymn is verse three which includes a baptismal reference from Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." See also Romans 6:3-5 - "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

The fourth verse emphasizes that salvation is God's "gracious gift: Life eternal for all who believe." 1 Corinthians 15:57 - "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Mark 16:16 - "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,"

The final verse includes our God inspired praise, as we "joyfully sing to our Savior."

Preschool News

April/May 2022 What's Happening at Tiny Treasures Preschool

He has risen! He has risen indeed. Easter is not only a day, it is a season. It lasts 50 days from Easter Day through the Ascension of our Lord (May 26th) to the day of Pentecost (June 5th). The preschool children will have learned about Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Ascension and Pentecost by the end of April. In May they will learn about Phillip and the Ethiopian, the conversion of St. Paul and how the Holy Spirit helps us grow in faith. We will also spend some time focusing on how nature, like us, is changing from spring to summer. We will connect movement, opposites, and growth to our Bible stories to enhance our learning.

The assessment this time of year focus on both our fine motor skills and our large motor skills. After building block towers, stringing beads and completing a plethora of puzzles the preschools will spend the remainder of the year running, jumping, throwing, balancing, pedaling, galloping, skipping and climbing. The ability to understand one's body in space in a special skill, known as proprioception, and is a key marker of academic success. Join your children at home in learning, practicing and mastering these large motor skills.

Finally, a few dates to remember for this time of year: Preschool graduation for those going on to kindergarten next year is Friday, May 13 at 6:00 p.m. The last day of Tiny Treasures is Friday, May 20th. The last day of Redeemer Lutheran School is Friday, May 27th. The first day of summer for preschool aged children is Tuesday, May 31st. The first day of summer for school aged children is Monday, June 6th (D-Day, 1944 for those of us who love history almost as much as theology). If you want your child to attend this summer, please contact Mr. Holden asap before it fills up.



Birthdays

Lowell Kindschy—May 1st
Scott Keene—May 3rd
Mark Thiebaud—May 5th
Christopher Miller—May 9th
Bobbi Koppes —May 12th
Ryan Althaus—May 12th
Renee` Orros—May 14th
Macy Weber—May 14th
Jim Gilleece—May 18th
Teresa Sidor—May 23rd
Alissa Heinecke —May 27th
Paul Althaus—May 29th

Wedding Anniversaries

Jace & Sandy Holden—May 6th
Dale & Carol Rustebakke—May 11th
Bob & Sandy Oeltjenbruns—May 14th
Ron & Rebecca Cumins—May 14th
Ed & Sue Morris—May 25th
Tom & Kathy Bieth—May 26th

Baptismal Birthdays

Nick Orros—May 3rd
Evan Fischer—May 10th
Christopher Miller—May 13th
David Wacker—May 13th
Gary Nickel—May 20th
Rick Oberheu—May 23rd
Sharon Althaus—May 25th
Jim Black—May 29th

THE LORD'S MINISTRY

Redeemer Lutherans attendance figures and financial blessings that were given for the month of April to further maintain the Lord's ministry.

Date	Attendance	Communicants	Offerings Received Gen./Designated Funds	Needed Operating Budget
4-3-2022	86	76	\$698.75/\$361.00	\$4,455.06
4-5-2022	24		\$291.00	
4-10-2022	97	84	\$295.75/\$5,947.38	\$4,455.06
4-14-2022	49	43	\$4,455-06	
4-15-2022	55			
4-17-2022	162	122		\$4,455.06

Redeemer Lutheran School Newsletter May 2022

Redeemer Lutheran School is in the last month of our first year of educating elementary students in a Christ-centered environment!

If you are interested in observing our classes or sharing your talents, please contact Jace Holden or any of the teachers. Check out our school website (redeemerlutherschool.org) to see photos and more! In addition, to help get the word out about our school we are hosting an Open House on Tuesday, May 3, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. and plan to conduct additional Open Houses during the summer on the first Tuesday evening of each month. Be sure to invite family and friends for a visit to our school and to talk with our teachers! RLS brochures are also available to share with interested families.

Our Kindergarten class is currently reading from the Book of Acts and learning how the Gospel was spread throughout the world after Jesus' resurrection and ascension. All of our Kindergarteners are great readers and love books! They are using dominoes to formulate equations and display math facts for addition and subtraction, and are learning to count money and tell time.

All of our students are studying how nature was created according to God's plan. We are learning about seeds and plants and how they serve a unique purpose in our world. We continue to memorize a new Bible verse each week.

Our first and second graders are becoming fluent readers and love to read. They are currently reading some of Aesop's fables. In math they are adding and subtracting two-digit numbers and learning order of operations. We will be decorating ceramic tiles with the help of the owner of Amazing Glaze.

Our third, fourth, and fifth grade students are working with mixed numbers and fractions and are studying earth science firsthand with a trip to Sand Dunes National Park. They have finished their reports on George Washington Carver, an African American teacher who helped farmers of the South learn better ways to farm. God chose him to discover His plans for some of His plants. Did you know he found 300 uses for the peanut? Shampoo, ink, rubbing oil, metal polish, peanut oil, peanut milk, peanut cream and peanut cheese are just a few.

Special activities in May include a trip to the bee yard of one of our students, and a visit and presentation by a beekeeper to learn all about bees and their importance. RLS students will also be touring Pioneer Town Village in Cedaredge to experience and learn about the history of our area during the late 1800's and early 1900's. We are ending up the year with a patriotic program and barbeque for parents, students and their families.

Thank you for your continued support of RLS! It has been an amazing year integrating God's Word into every aspect of the school day!

**"See what kind of love the Father has given to us that we should be called
children of God; and so we are!"
1 John 3:1**



Life Thoughts in the Church Year

May 1 – Easter III – The Gospel of Jesus Christ reverses expectations. The Lamb once slain now reigns (Revelation 5). The persecutor gets converted (Acts 9). Empty nets bring abundance in (John 21). Dancing emerges from mourning (Psalm 30). Applied to life issues, this reveals what we call control – “my body, my choice” – as actually captivity, and God holds precious what we regard as paltry. Where we see only darkness and death, He has sown life and light!

May 8 – Easter IV/Mother’s Day – “Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4). Boundaries do not restrict freedom but complete it by releasing from the dangers beyond. Moms—like God—discipline because they love. So let us heed His voice (John 10:27) and not shrink from declaring anything that is profitable, both in public and at home (Acts 20:20), including that abortion is sinful and every human life is precious.

May 15 – Easter V – Don’t abortion and physician-assisted suicide call common—or worse—what God the Lord has made precious (Acts 11:9)? And should the transitory sorrows of surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis blind us to the joy and hope He has invested in every human being (John 16:21)? May our witness to the sanctity of all human lives begin to wipe away the tears from all eyes (Revelation 21:4) with the Gospel of Christ’s salvation!

May 22 – Easter VI – Will euthanasia “let the peoples praise you, O God”? Does embryo experimentation “let all the peoples praise you” (Psalm 67:3)? If the heavenly city’s structures have the brilliance of gemstones (Revelation 21), what inestimable value resides in the human bodies whom the Lamb has written into His book of life by creating, redeeming, and calling them each? Our witness to the sanctity of life may bring tribulation, but His grace alone has overcome it already (John 16:33).

May 29 – Easter VII – How good and pleasant it is when brothers, mothers and their babies, children and their elderly parents live together (Psalm 133:1) without putting one another to death! In this sanctity of every life, God has not just invited but commanded and accomplished blessing by the coming of His Son! And if He has wrought good from the casting of lots (Acts 1:26), may we not trust Him to wring even better from surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis?

