

July Newsletter

Redeemer's Christian Connection

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Pastor's Page



When it comes to the month of July there are many things which we are encouraged by the world to celebrate or focus on. Besides our independence or freedom from those who would seek to dictate our lives in paths of unrighteousness, July has also been set aside by some as: Independent Retailer Month; National Blueberry Month; National Contract Sewing Month; National Anti-Boredom Month; National Baked Bean Month; National Cell Phone Courtesy Month; National Culinary Arts Month; National Grilling Month; National Hemp Month; National Horseradish Month; National Hot Dog Month; National Ice Cream Month; National Fragile X Awareness Month; National Picnic Month; National Peach Month; and World Watercolor Month 🤔

So let me remind you of some of the feasts, festivals and other observances which the Church Year calendar encourages us to focus on during this month of July. Instead of distracting us from God's Word, these observances seek to keep us focused on God's Word for our eternal good and the eternal good of others.

July 6 - Isaiah - Isaiah is quoted in the New Testament more than any other Old Testament prophet. He was a fierce preacher of God's Law, condemning the sin of idolatry. He was also a comforting proclaimer of the Gospel, repeatedly emphasizing God's grace and forgiveness. Isaiah foretold not only the Messiah's miraculous birth (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6), His endless reign (11:1-9), and His public ministry (Isaiah 61:1-3), but most notably His Suffering Servant role and atoning death (Isaiah 52:1-3-53:12).

July 16 - Ruth - Ruth is an inspiring example of God's grace. A famine in Israel led Elimelech and Naomi of Bethlehem to immigrate to the neighboring nation of Moab with their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. Although Ruth was a Gentile living in Moab, God, through His Word (which would have been shared with Ruth through Naomi and her family) created saving faith in Ruth. When, after the death of Naomi's husband and two sons (one of whom had taken Ruth to be his wife), Naomi de-

cided to return to Bethlehem. Ruth, instead of staying with her people in Moab, said to Naomi “Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God” (Ruth 1:16). After Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, Boaz, a close relative of Elimelech, agreed to be Ruth’s “redeemer” (Ruth 3:7-13; 4:9-12). Boaz took Ruth as his wife, and Ruth gave birth to Obed, the grandfather of King David (Ruth 4:13-17), thus preserving the messianic line. So Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David and, therefore, an ancestress of Jesus Himself (Matthew 1:5). One of the things we see in all this is how God works through suffering and redemption to preserve His people and to welcome the nations.

July 20 - Elijah - The prophet Elijah suddenly appeared on the scene in the Northern Kingdom of Israel primarily during the reign of Ahab (874-853 BC). Ahab, under the influence of his pagan wife Jezebel, had encouraged the worship of Baal throughout Israel, even as Jezebel sought to get rid of the worship of Yahweh. Unfortunately many of the people of Israel were in agreement with all this. Luther reminds us that “the examples of all times teach that the Word of truth and the true forms of worship are despised by the common people...Perverse teachers are most ready to teach, and the common people are most eager to listen. In this manner the Word and the true forms of worship become lost” (AE 2:243).

Elijah was a prophet whom God kept faithful to His Word. At the end of his ministry, he was taken up into heaven while Elisha, his successor, looked on (2 Kings 2:11).

July 21 - Ezekiel - Ezekiel, from the line of Aaron, was a priest and prophet (593-570 BC). In the sixth year before Jerusalem’s fall to the Babylonians, Ezekiel was divinely inspired in Babylon to console and strengthen the Jews, who five years previously, at the urging of Jeremiah, had given themselves up to King Nebuchadnezzar and migrated to Babylon. “These people, seeing that the destruction of Jerusalem was delayed for five full years, were thinking that the predictions of Jeremiah were in vain, and they were regretting that they had voluntarily left their fatherland. Therefore Ezekiel predicted that Jerusalem would surely be overturned, even if the punishment were delayed for a while. At the same time, he also promised the liberation and return from Babylon (Ezekiel 11; 20:33-49).” In the twenty-fifth year of their migration to Babylon, Ezekiel described the building of the spiritual Jerusalem, or of the ministry of the Church of Christ, from the fortieth chapter until the end. [David Chytraeus - German Lutheran theologian, reformer and historian, 1530-1600].

“God calls Ezekiel to witness to all sorts of conditions of men, even though prospects are bleak and the audience is hostile. As the Lord strengthened Ezekiel, He will also strengthen us to proclaim the Gospel. Our life may be one of lamentation, mourning, and woe, but that may be the only way to break through pride and lead us to see how hopeless our natural condition is. If, however, God’s accusing message is ingested. His work of forgiveness in Christ’s atonement will be “as sweet as honey.” [The Lutheran Study Bible devotion on Ezekiel 2:1-3:15].

July 22 - Mary, Magdalene - Whenever the New Testament Gospels name the women who were with Jesus, Mary Magdalene is listed first (see for example Matthew 27:56. John 19:25 is the only exception), perhaps because she was the first to see the risen Savior alive. Luke 8:2 reports that Jesus had cured her of being possessed by seven demons. As a result, like the man in the country of the Gerasenes whom Jesus also delivered from many demons (Luke 8:38), Mary Magdalene also wanted to be with Jesus.

Women were often Jesus’ most beloved disciples. While Jesus chose only men for the apostolic ministry, women were often the focus of His ministry. Luke explains that women also loved Jesus and provided for His followers from their means. Women helped pay for the ministry. Luke also mentions some women whom Jesus used as examples in His teaching (the widow of Zarephath (Luke 4:24-26); the parable of the leaven (Luke 13:20-21); the parable of the coins (Luke 15:8-10); the women grinding grain (Luke 17:35). Luke records more interaction between Jesus and women, like Mary Magdalene, than do the other Gospel writers.

July 25 - James - James and his brother John, sons of Zebedee and Salome (Matthew 27:56), were fishermen in the Sea of Galilee who were called with Peter and his brother Andrew to follow Jesus (Matthew 4:18-22). In the Gospel lists of Jesus' disciples, James is listed following Peter and preceding John. Together, these three appear as leaders of the Twelve. Because James precedes John, it is reasoned that James is the elder of the brothers. The Book of Acts records that James was beheaded by Herod Agrippa I, probably between AD 42 and 44 (Acts 12:1-2). Thus James is the first of the Twelve to die a martyr.

Although Luther was sometimes critical of the book of James in some historical matters, he recognized it as the divine voice of God. Melancthon admonished the opponents of the book of James for asserting that it presumes a merit of works for salvation. On the contrary, James speaks about the deeds of those already saved by grace through faith, and such deeds proceed from that faith.

July 29 - Mary, Martha, Lazarus of Bethany - Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany were disciples with whom Jesus had a special bond of love and friendship. John's Gospel records that "Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus" (John 11:5). On one occasion, Martha welcomed Jesus into their home for a meal. While Martha did all the work, Mary sat at Jesus' feet, listening to His Word, and was commended by Jesus for choosing the "good portion, which will not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:38-42). When their brother Lazarus died, Jesus spoke to Martha this beautiful Gospel promise: "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live" (John 11:25). Ironically, when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Jews became more determined than ever to kill Jesus (John 11:39-54). Six days before Jesus was crucified, Mary anointed His feet with a very expensive fragrant oil and wiped them with her hair, not knowing at the time that she was doing it in preparation for Jesus' burial (John 12:1-8; Matthew 26:6-13).

Heavenly Father, Your beloved Son befriended humans like us to make us Your own. Teach us to be like Jesus' dear friends from Bethany, that we might serve Him faithfully like Martha, learn from Him earnestly like Mary, and ultimately be raised by Him like Lazarus. Through their Lord and ours, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

July 31 - Joseph of Arimathea - Joseph of Arimathea is mentioned in all four Gospels. He came from a small village called Arimathea in the hill country of Judea. He was a respected member of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious council in Jerusalem. He was presumably wealthy, since he owned his own unused tomb in a garden not far from where Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27:60). Joseph, a man waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went to Pontius Pilate after the death of Jesus and asked for Jesus' body (John 19:38-39). His public devotion contrasted greatly the fearfulness of the disciples who had abandoned Jesus.

Two later disciples of Jesus, whom we thank God for during the month of July, include:

July 28 - Johann Sebastian Bach, Kantor - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) is acknowledged as one of the most famous and gifted composers in the Western world. A devout and devoted Lutheran, he is especially honored in Christendom for his lifelong insistence that his music was primarily for the liturgical life of the Church to glorify God and edify His people. For the last twenty-seven years of his life he was responsible for all the music in the city of Leipzig, Germany's four Lutheran churches.

Almighty God, beautiful in majesty and majestic in holiness, You have taught us in Holy Scripture to sing Your praises and have given to Your servant Johann Sebastian Bach grace to show forth Your glory in his music. Continue to grant this gift of inspiration to all Your servants who write and make music for Your people, that with joy we on earth may glimpse Your beauty and at length know the inexhaustible richness of Your new creation in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

July 30 - Robert Barnes, Confessor and Martyr - Remembered as a devoted disciple of Martin Luther, Robert Barnes is considered to be among the first Lutheran martyrs. Born in 1495, Barnes became the prior of the Augustinian monastery in Cambridge, England. Converted to Lutheran teaching, he shared his insights with many English scholars through writings and personal contacts (often at a local pub in Cambridge called The White Horse Inn). During a time of exile to Germany, he became friends with Luther and later wrote a Latin summary of the main doctrines of the Augsburg Confession titled *Sententiae* (Sentence). Upon his return to England, Barnes shared his Lutheran doctrines and views in person with King Henry VIII and initially had a positive reception. In Barnes' most important work: *A Supplication to King Henry VIII*, he attempted to defend himself against the English bishops and to convince King Henry of Lutheranism." Barnes began to lose favor with the King when the Lutheran's in Wittenberg did not agree with King Henry VIII's reasons for seeking to divorce his first wife (Barnes was appointed to carry Luther's reply to Henry VIII on the divorce issue). The changing political and ecclesiastical climate in England eventually claimed Robert Barnes' life. In 1540 he was burned at the stake in Smithfield (Central London; the oldest execution site in London).

[Much of the above is quoted or adapted from *TREASURY of DAILY PRAYER*, 2008 Concordia Publishing House (CPH), *THE LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLE*, 2009 CPH, or one of the books of the *CONCORDIA COMMENTARY* series, 2021 CPH]

ROE v. WADE OVERTURNED!

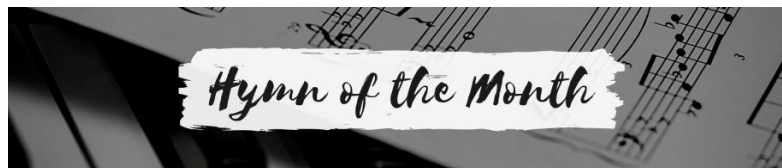
Lutherans For Life rejoices that an egregious injustice has been rectified. Thanks be to God for the Supreme Court's reversal of the erroneous *Roe v. Wade* decision! Our nation and culture owe a great debt of gratitude to fifty years of Gospel-motivated voices For Life. Their faithful witness of courage and compassion has influenced successive generations to acknowledge the reality that God creates, redeems, and calls every human life to be His own precious treasure from fertilization to forever. And we delight to receive each one as a gift and a privilege.

Nevertheless, we recognize that significant labor remains. Attention turns from one court and one congress to fifty of them. Neighbors will continue experiencing surprise pregnancies. The devil will keep deceiving the public into viewing death as a solution to suffering. Millions among us still need relief from the guilt and healing from the grief over their part in abortion. The *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* verdict does not mandate the sanctity of unborn life but merely makes the federal government neutral. Even if federal policy did protect the endangered ones, it still falls to us as citizens to ensure that our communities reflect it in actual practice. Laws and leaders can foster good and forbid evil, but only the truth of God's Word and the love of the Body of Christ can change hearts and save lives.

So, we rededicate ourselves all the more intently to speaking truth and showing love to the one right in front of us. Our nationwide network of life-minded servants remains committed to embodying and encouraging gentle relentlessness in an inevitably volatile environment. We pledge ourselves not to allow our fellowship to become apathetic following this positive development. And we are already undertaking to improve and expand our equipping of Gospel-motivated voices to declare and demonstrate the grace of God in Jesus Christ to all members of our race, no matter what age, appearance, or ability. May He bless our land, our authorities, and our people to have life and share it abundantly.

And we pray: God of all power and might, to You belong the kingdom and the glory forever. Give insight and wisdom to our president, governor, legislature and magistrates. Direct them to punish evildoers, reward the righteous and strive for peace, that Your Word may have free course and be proclaimed for the salvation of all who hear it. We solemnly thank and praise You for the judgment of the US Supreme court this week in the *Dobbs v. Jackson* case which reversed the abhorrent *Roe v. Wade* decision made in 1973 which resulted in the legally sanctioned murder of countless unborn children. Lead those in our State

governments to make similar judgements which protect the life of the unborn and helpless members of our society. Curb wickedness in every heart and place. For the sake of Christ, spare us those punishments that we have deserved. Restore compassion and the desire for life among all, and lead Your Church to show Your love to the vulnerable, to the despised and to those whose hearts have turned cold. Bless and protect those in places like our Pregnancy Recourse Centers who continue to offer help and resources for born and unborn children, their mothers and families. Draw every heart to Yourself that believing in Christ Jesus, we would not perish but have everlasting life. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. One God, now and forever. Amen.



for JULY

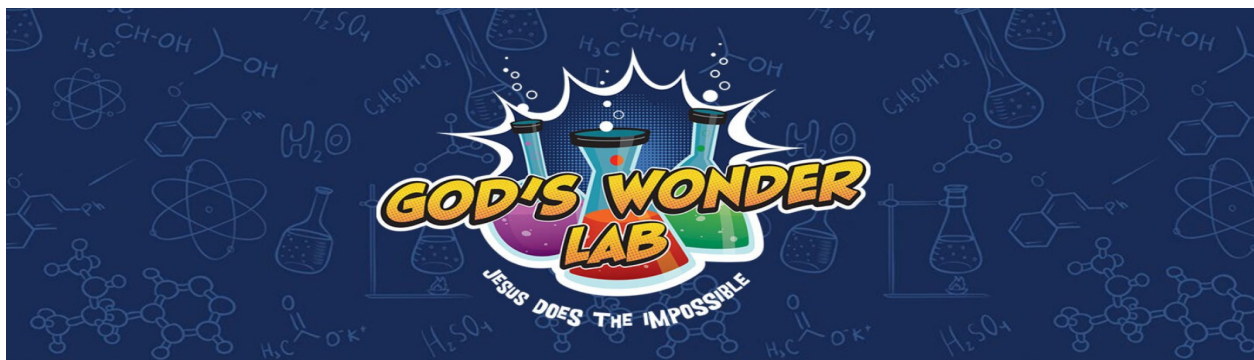
“EAT THIS BREAD” - LSB #638



Our hymn of the month for July is from “The Lord’s Supper” section of our hymnal, and is best sung with a Choir or Cantor (especially when first learning this hymn). Since Sam Buchman of our congregation has served as a Cantor in the past, he has agreed to sing the Cantor parts during the Sundays he is able to be with us.

In the footnotes we’re told that this is a hymn originally written by Robert J. Batastini together with the Taizé Community. The Taizé Community is an ecumenical community in France whose influence has spread throughout the world, especially through its meditative style of music.

Stephen P. Starke added verse 1 to this hymn to keep our focus on Jesus’ true body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper. He also included verse 2 to emphasize our Christians witness whenever we receive the Lord’s Supper. For, as St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:22 “*As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show His death until He comes again.*”



Redeemer Lutheran Church and School in Delta, CO

Join us for Vacation Bible School this summer!

Scientists conduct experiments to try to explain how things are possible. In Jesus' ministry, He did things that are impossible. His greatest miracle of all was dying on the cross and rising from the dead to save us. At God's Wonder Lab, discover that Jesus does the impossible for us. He does marvelous things!

The children will discover all this through storytelling, crafts, music & dancing, science experiments and more! Snacks and t-shirts will also be provided.

WHEN

Monday July 11th to Thursday July 14th

8:30 am to 11:30 am

WHERE

Redeemer Lutheran Church and School

1000 Pioneer Rd Delta, CO 81416

AGES

Preschool through 5th grade

CONTACT

Janell, VBS Director 970-778-1134

janelloberheu@gmail.com

Register Here:

www.myvbs.org/redeemerlutheranchurchdelta

Please register your child soon to help us know how many to plan for.

There will be a closing barbecue dinner with ice cream and a bounce house on Thursday, July 14 at 5:00pm. We can't wait to see you in July!

Birthdays

Tim Hinz—July 1
John Realph—July 3
Brenda Moseman—July 5
Michael Miller—July 6
Ayla Kruger—July 6
Jo Ann Wilks—July 7
Norm Sunderland—July 12
Casey Bieth—July 15
Pastor Van Fossan—July 19
Everett Tunget—July 20
Brooks Oberheu—July 21
Joey Gates—July 22
Joseph Cumins—July 22
Madyson Scarborough—July 24
Joshua Heinecke—July 25
Regina Howell—July 27
Sheri Gates—July 28
Sandy Oeltjenbruns—July 28

Baptismal Birthdays

Bobbi Koppes—July 1
Paul Althaus—July 2
Linda Wacker—July 8
Brenda Moseman—July 8
Thomas Howell—July 9
Michael Miller—July 10
Sarah Weber—July 14
Jace Holden—July 14
Dave Burgess—July 15
Bill Sinner—July 21
Beth Gilleece—July 22
Tim Hinz—July 30

Wedding Anniversaries

Paul & Sharon Althaus—July 2
Joshua & Alissa Heinecke—July 21

THE LORD'S MINISTRY

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

Date	Attendance	Communicants	Offerings Received	Needed Operating Budget
6 - 5 - 2022	97	71	\$9,735.75/\$29,681.00	\$4,455.06
6 - 12 - 2022	90	75	\$4,050.00/\$119.00	\$4,455.06
6 - 19 - 2022	75	66	\$2,575.00/\$1,596.96	\$4,455.06



Life Thoughts in the Church Year

July 3 – Pentecost IV (Proper 9) – Sometimes testifying to the sanctity of life means confronting uncomfortable truths. Jesus speaks with just such courage to three whole cities in this week’s Gospel lesson (Luke 10:13-15). And in our Epistle (Galatians 6:1), the Apostle Paul explains the ultimate purpose of warning against sin: to restore and redeem a treasured neighbor with faith and forgiveness even for abortion or assisted suicide.

July 10 – Pentecost V (Proper 10) – Leviticus 19:15 expresses our Lord’s compassion for every human life: “You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great.” He has delivered us each from domains of darkness with a grace that receives and preserves no matter what ages, appearances, or abilities. We get to extend the same joy and hope to anyone the culture labels “half-dead” (Luke 10:30)—from the embryo to the elderly!

July 17 – Pentecost VI (Proper 11) – Abortion means abandonment. Parents desert their little ones to death because they themselves feel forsaken. Today’s appointed Psalm describes how God wants all those whom others disregard: “Though father and mother have forsaken me, the Lord will take me in” (Psalm 27:10). In the Body of Christ, no one goes unwanted, even during surprise pregnancy. We share Father Abraham’s delight (Genesis 18:10) in abundance!

July 24 – Pentecost VII (Proper 12) – Even surprise pregnancies involve a father. More than 60% of women who undergo abortion report pressure to do so from a man in their life. Jesus extends instead the joy of God Himself in a fatherhood that finds beautiful and blessed fulfillment by protecting and providing for the child (Luke 11:11-13). The sanctity of life isn’t a women’s issue—it’s a Gospel gift!

July 31 – Pentecost VIII (Proper 13) – Why settle for “my body, my choice?” Death used as a solution like in abortion or assisted suicide offers pride, pleasure, property, and popularity, but all these only end up in vanity (Ecclesiastes 1:2). The real wealth that eyes don’t always see and money cannot ever buy comes from believing our bodies, hearts, and lives belong to the Father and Savior who made each one for His own (Psalm 100:3). Let God give life!