



Redeemer's Christian Connection

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August Newsletter



When it comes to the month of August, what do you think of besides hot summer days? There are many things which we are encouraged by the world to celebrate or focus on. Besides vacations, August has also been set aside by some as: National Watermelon Day; National Root Beer Float Day; National Mustard Day; National Book Lovers Day; International left-handers Day; National Rum Day; National Tell a Joke Day; National Aviation Day; National Dog Day. And that's the short list!



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 August. 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.

August 3 - Joanna, Mary, and Salome, Myrrh-bearers - "Known in some traditions as 'the faithful women,' the visit of these three persons and other women to the tomb of Jesus on the first Easter morning is noted in the Gospel records of Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1, and Luke 24:10. Joanna was the wife of Chuza, a steward in Herod's household (Luke 8:3). Mary, the mother of James (the son Alphaeus), was another of the women who faithfully provided care for Jesus and His disciples from the time of His Galilean ministry through His burial after the crucifixion. Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee (Matthew 27:56), joined with the women both at the cross and in bringing the spices to the garden tomb. These faithful women have been honored in the Church through the centuries as examples of humble and devoted service to the Lord."

August 10 - Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr - "Early in the third century AD, Lawrence, most likely born in Spain, made his way to Rome. There he was appointed chief of the seven deacons and was given the responsibility to manage Church property and finances. The emperor at that time, who thought that the Church had valuable things worth confiscating, ordered Lawrence to produce the 'treasures of the Church.' Lawrence brought before the emperor the poor whose lives had been touched by Christian charity. He was then

jailed and eventually executed in the year AD 258 by being roasted on a gridiron. His martyrdom left a deep impression on the young Church. Almost immediately, the date of his death, August 10, became a permanent fixture on the early commemorative calendar of the Church.”



August 15 - St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord - “Mary confesses that the foremost work God did for her was that He regarded her, which is indeed the greatest of His works, on which all the rest depend and from which they all derive. For where it comes to pass that God turns His face toward one to regard him, there is nothing but grace and salvation, and all gifts and works must follow. Thus we read in Genesis 4:4, 5 that He had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. Here is the origin of the many prayers in the Psalter—that God would lift up His countenance upon us, that He would not hide His countenance from us, that He would make His face shine upon us, and the like. And that Mary herself regards this as the chief thing, she indicates by saying: ‘Behold, since He has regarded me, all generations will call me blessed.’

Note that she does not say men will speak all manner of good of her, praise her virtues, exalt her virginity or her humility, or sing of what she has done. But for this one thing alone, that God regarded her, men will call her blessed. That is to give all the glory to God as completely as it can be done. Therefore she points to God’s regard and says: ‘For, behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. That is, beginning with the time when God regarded my low estate, I shall be called blessed.’ Not she is praised thereby, but God’s grace toward her. In fact, she is despised, and she despises herself in that she says her low estate was regarded by God. Therefore she also mentions her blessedness before enumerating the works that God did to her, and ascribes it all to the fact that God regarded her low estate...For, of a truth, she did not lie when she herself acknowledged her unworthiness and nothingness, which God regarded, not because of any merit in her, but solely by reason of His grace.” Martin Luther “

St. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is mentioned repeatedly in the Gospels and the Book of Acts, with nearly a dozen specific incidents in her life being recorded: her betrothal to Joseph; the annunciation by the angel Gabriel that she was to be the mother of the Messiah; her visitation to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptizer; the nativity of our Lord; the visits of the shepherds and the Wise Men; the presentation of the infancy Jesus in the temple; the flight into Egypt; the Passover visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve; the wedding at Cana in Galilee; her presence at the crucifixion, when her Son condensed her to the care of His disciple John; and her gathering with the apostles in the Upper Room after the ascension, waiting for the promised Holy Spirit. Thus she is present at most of the important events in her Son’s life. She is especially remembered and honored for her unconditional obedience to the will of God (‘Let it be to me according to Your word’ [Luke 1:38]); for her loyalty to her Son even when she did not understand Him (‘Do whatever He tells you’ [John 2:1-11]; and above all for the highest honor that heaven bestowed on her of being the mother of our Lord (‘Blessed are you among women’ [Luke 1:42]). According to tradition, Mary went with the apostle John to Ephesus, here she died.”

August 16 - Isaac - Isaac, the long promised and awaited son of Abraham and Sarah, was born when his father was one hundred years old and his mother was ninety-one years old. The announcement of his birth brought both joy and laughter to his aged parents (thus the name Isaac, which means 'Laughter'). As a young man, Isaac accompanied his father to Mount Moriah, where Abraham, in obedience to God's command, prepared to sacrifice him as a burnt offering. But God intervened, sparing Isaac's life by providing a ram as a substitute offering (Genesis 22:1-14), thus pointing to the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ for the sins of the world. Isaac was given in marriage to Rebekah (Genesis 24:67), and they had twin sons, Esau and Jacob (Genesis 25:19-26). In his old age, Isaac, blind and feeble, wanted to give his blessing and chief inheritance to his favorite—the eldest—son, Esau. But through deception Rebekah helped Jacob receive his father's blessing instead, resulting in years of family enmity. Isaac died at the age of 180 and was buried in the family burial cave of Machpelah by his one who by then had become reconciled (Genesis 35:28-29).

August 17 - Johann Gerhardt, Theologian - "Johann Gerhardt (1582-1637) was a great Lutheran theologian in the radiation of Martin Luther (1483-1546) and Martin Chemnitz (1522-86) and the most influential of the seventeenth-century dogmatists. His monumental *Loci Theologici* ["theological places" in twenty-three large volumes] is still considered by many to be a definitive statement of Lutheran orthodoxy. Gerhardt was born in Quedlinburg, Germany. At the age of fifteen he was stricken with a life-threatening illness. This experience, along with guidance from his pastor, Johann Arndt, marked a turning point in his life. He devoted the rest of his life to theology. He became a professor at the University of Jena and served many years as the superintendent of Heldburg. Gerhardt was a man of deep love for Christ. He wrote numerous books on exegesis, theology, devotional literature, history, and polemics. His sermons continue to be widely published and read."

August 19 - Bernard of Clairvaux, Hymn-writer and Theologian - A leader in Christian Europe in the first half of the twelfth century AD, Bernard is honored in his native France and around the world. Born into a noble family in Burgundy in 1090, Bernard left the affluence of his heritage and entered the monastery of Cîteaux at the age of twenty-two. After two years, he was sent to start a new monastic house at Clairvaux. His work there was blessed in many ways. The monastery at Clairvaux grew in mission and service, eventually establishing some sixty-eight daughter houses. Bernard is remembered not only for his charity and political abilities but especially for his preaching and hymn composition. The ten texts "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful" and "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" are part of the heritage of the faith left by St. Bernard.

August 20 - Samuel - Samuel, last of the Old Testament judges and the first of the prophets after Moses, lived during the eleventh century BC. The child of Elkanah and his wife Hannah, Samuel was from early on consecrated by his parents for sacred service and trained in the house of the Lord at Shiloh by Eli the priest. Samuel's authority as a prophet was established by God (1 Samuel 3:20). He anointed Saul to be Israel's first king (1 Samuel 10:1). Later, as a result of Saul's disobedience to God, Samuel repudiated Saul's leadership and then anointed David to be king in place of Saul (1 Samuel 16:13). Samuel's loyalty to God, his spiritual insight, and his ability to inspire others made him one of Israel's great leaders.

August 24 - St. Bartholomew, Apostle - St. Bartholomew (or Nathanael, as he is called in St. John's Gospel) was one of the first of Jesus' twelve disciples. His home was in the town of Cana, in Galilee (John 21:2), where Jesus performed His first miracle. He was invited to become one of the Twelve by Philip, who told him that they had found the Messiah in the person of Jesus of Nazareth (John 1:45). Bartholomew's initial hesitation to believe, because of Jesus' Nazareth background, was quickly replaced by a clear, unequivocal declaration of faith, "You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" (John 1:49). He was present with the other disciples (John 21:1-13) when they were privileged to see, converse and eat with their risen Lord and Savior. According to some Early Church Fathers, Bartholomew brought the Gospel to Armenia, where he was martyred by being flayed alive.



St. Bartholomew in heaven with a flay knife and his flayed skin, by Michelangelo, Sistine Chapel

August 27 - Monica, Mother of Augustine - A native of North Africa, Monica (AD 333-387) was the devoted mother of St. Augustine. Throughout her life, she sought the spiritual welfare of her children, especially that of her brilliant son Augustine. Widowed at a young age, she devoted herself to her family, praying many years for Augustine's conversion. When Augustine left North Africa to go to Italy, she followed him to Rome and then to Milan. There she had the joy of witnessing her son's conversion to the Christian faith. On some Church Year calendars, Monica is remembered on May 4. **August 28 - Augustine of Hippo, Pastor and Theologian** - Augustine was one of the greatest of the Latin Church Fathers and a significant influence in the formation of Western Christianity, including Lutheranism. Born in AD 354 in North Africa, Augustine's early life was distinguished by exceptional advancement as a teacher of rhetoric. In his book *Confessions* he describes his life before his conversion to Christianity, when he was drawn into the moral laxity of the day and fathered an illegitimate son. Through the devotion of his sainted mother, Monica, and the preaching of Ambrose, bishop of Milan (AD 339-97), Augustine was converted to the Christian faith. During the great Pelagius controversies of the fifth century, Augustine emphasized the unilateral (one-sided/without the work of man) grace of God in the salvation of mankind. Bishop and theologian at Hippo in North Africa from AD 395 until his death in AD 430, Augustine was a man of great intelligence, a fierce defender of the orthodox faith, and prolific writer. In addition to *Confessions*, Augustine's book *City of God* had a great impact upon the Church throughout the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

August 28 - The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist - In contrast to the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (observed on June 24), this festival commemorates his beheading by the tetrarch Herod Antipas (Mark 6:14-29). From the perspective of the world, it was an ignominious end to John the Baptist's life. Yet it was in fact a noble participation in the cross of Christ, which was John's greatest glory of all. Christ Himself said that there had arisen none greater than John the Baptist (Matthew 11:11). He was the last of the Old Testament prophets and also the herald of the New Testament. As the forerunner of Christ, John fulfilled the prophecy that the great prophet Elijah would return before the great and terrible Day of the Lord (Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:10-13). By his preaching and Baptism of repentance, John turned "the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:6). And in the footsteps of the prophets who had gone before him—in anticipation of the Christ whose way he prepared—this servant of the Lord manifested the cross by the witness of his death.

[Much of the above is quoted or adapted from TREASURY of DAILY PRAYER, 2008 Concordia Publishing House (CPH)]



Hymn of the Month

FOR AUGUST



MAY THE PEACE OF GOD

Our Hymn of the Month for August is another good one from the writers of "In Christ Alone," Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend, called "May the Peace of God." The first part is based on the benedictions of God like those in Philippians 4:7 - *"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,"* and 2 Corinthians 13:14 - *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."*

The Refrain is based on Ephesians 4:1-7 - *"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift."*

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL AND TINY TREASURES PRE-SCHOOL

Redeemer Lutheran School and Tiny Treasures Preschool are currently enrolling students for the upcoming school year. Classes for our elementary school begin on Monday, August 15. The school year for preschoolers starts August 29. If you know of any families interested in academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment, brochures about our school are available in the office. Redeemer Rams magnets and stickers also are available to distribute. Our school website is redeemerluthेरanschool.org and includes lots of information as well as photos from school activities. Be sure to check it out!

Our State-qualified preschool staff includes Jace Holden (director), Andrea Van Fossan and Amanda Edwards. Our experienced and dedicated elementary teachers are Amy Mummert, Sarah Weber and Paul Althaus. Jace Holden serves as RLS administrator. Each member of our staff works to help students learn not only about the world around them, but to develop a deeper understanding of God and a lasting relationship with Him.

If you are able, please volunteer to paint and help with maintenance and repairs to get our facilities ready for the start of school. Also, if you would like to volunteer to prepare and serve hot lunch on Wednesdays, assist with arts and crafts projects, tutor, coordinate holiday parties, or help in other ways, please share your interests with any of the teachers or Jace Holden. Volunteers not only help the staff but also enrich the experience of the students.

The generosity of our members and others through donations of money, equipment, supplies and labor to both Tiny Treasures and Redeemer Lutheran School are a continued blessing. We are grateful to ALL for your contributions. Sincere and heartfelt thanks! Join us in asking God to bless the efforts of our staff, our students and our Board members as we seek God's guidance in sharing the Good News of Jesus and His love throughout another school year!

Thank You Note From Mark Hofman

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you all for your hospitality on July 17th as I shared a bit of the fragrant "rain" that is falling on many parts of the world through the work of YOUR missionaries of the LCMS. It gave me such great joy to bring a little bit of that hopeful news to all of you, my own home congregation, and to engage in a little Q & A time as well. My prayer is that God would allow me to give these kinds of updates to many other LCMS congregations as well, at the invitation of the pastor and/or church leadership, and to keep you updated as the Lord brings my family back to Delta periodically. Please remember that the very best gift our missionaries and workers can receive is the realization that so many throughout our denomination pray for them, their spouses and their dependent children on a regular basis. You can become more familiar with any of our individual missionaries and where they serve by going online to lcms.org/missionarysupport. If you have any questions my team and I can help answer, you are welcome to contact us at mission.advancement@lcms.org and our toll-free number: **(888) 930-4438**. May God's abundant blessings continue to fall like rain on each of you.

Mark Hofman
Executive Director, LCMS Mission Advancement
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Birthdays

Mary Miller—August 3rd
 Bruce Nelson—August 7th
 Catherine Clubb—August 7th
 Sue Kindschy—August 8th
 Nicholas Jetley—August 10th
 Hartland Clubb—August 15th
 Kaitlyn Heinecke—August 22nd
 Dwayne Reeder—August 23rd
 Jessa Oberheu—August 25th
 Janell Oberheu—August 29th

Wedding Anniversaries

Jim & Beth Gilleece—August 12th
 Mel & Eileen Mertens—August 16th
 Rick & Rachel Oberheu—August 26th

Baptismal Birthdays

Catherine Clubb—August 7th
 Brooks Oberheu—August 8th
 Lloyd Liebetrau—August 9th
 Eileen Mertens—August 10th
 Nicholas Jetley—August 12th
 Holly Kruger—August 12th
 Doug Scarbrough—August 12th
 Duane Jones—August 13th
 Amber Miller—August 14th
 Evelyn Kruger—August 16th
 Sue Kindschy—August 17th
 Joshua Heinecke—August 17th
 Casey Bieth—August 22nd
 Hartland Clubb—August 25th
 Bruce Nelson—August



THE LORD'S MINISTRY

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

Date	Attendance	Communicants	Offerings Received	Needed Operating
			Gen./Designated Funds	Budget
7-3- 2022	85	71	\$7,185.00/\$290.00	\$4,455.06
7-10 - 2022	93	80	\$3,168.00/\$13,268.00.00	\$4,455.06
7-17- 2022	84	73	\$6, 620.00\$20,140.00	\$4,455.06

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Inspired by the Holy Spirit – A women's Bible Study by author Christina Hegenrader through CPH, that focuses on four cornerstones of healthy Spiritual Habits – Word, Prayer, Praise, and Reflection.

Reviews of this study describe it as “refreshing, relatable, and relevant” You will learn how reading Gods Holy Word can be a well of hydration for the soul, a simple invitation to remember who we are as Beloved, Baptized Children of God. It illuminates the everyday barriers that keep us from recognizing the Holy Spirit's transforming Work in our lives.

Begins September 6th, Tuesday mornings 9:30-10:45 Meeting at the home of Jenean Hovel - 540 Cypress Wood Lane Delta CO

It will be helpful to know how many books to order – Please RSVP to the church office 970-874-3052 or Eileen 308-991-0216 by August 10th.

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

August 7 – Pentecost IX (Proper 14) – Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis can inflict real anxiety about material necessities. But abortion and assisted suicide will only leave its victims lacking even more. Our Heavenly Father, on the other hand, gets giddy to furnish sufferers with not just what we need but all the assets, land, and families He has (Luke 12:31-32). Death, even when we wield it, leaves us empty, but faith never fails to fill hands and hearts.

August 14 – Pentecost X (Proper 15) – Abortion, assisted suicide, and embryocidal experimentation deal in false prophecies and fraudulent promises. They advertise peace and escape but only deliver grief and guilt (Jeremiah 23:16-17). The Gospel of God's love and salvation for every human life cuts through (Luke 12:51) the tangles and tethers of the culture's lies (Hebrews 12:1). Faith in Jesus as Lord brings real liberty in His grace and true luxury in His favor.

August 21 – Pentecost XI (Proper 16) – Abortion doesn't mean choosing whether or not to have a family. Assisted suicide doesn't amount to deciding whether or not to be a burden. Surprise pregnancy, terminal diagnosis, or otherwise, every human being will have burdens and belong to family. The only question is what kind. Affirming the sanctity of life binds us to a strong Father (Hebrews 12:6-7) and a household of celebration (Luke 13:29; Hebrews 12:22-24).

August 28 – Pentecost XII (Proper 17) – “It is the glory of God to conceal things” (Proverbs 25:2), like the sanctity of life hidden behind surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis. “The glory of kings is to search things out,” like the sanctity of life beheld in embryos and elderly ones. Our own souls embody little children (Psalm 131:2), and angels inhabit the needs of strangers (Hebrews 13:2). If rescuing pets brings relief (Luke 14:5), what rejoicing will be ours in defending our endangered neighbors?