



Redeemer's Christian Connection

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August Newsletter

Pastor's Page



RESTING IN THE
FINISHED
WORK OF CHRIST

During this vacation time of the year, and since I, at the last General Assembly meeting, announced my “plans” for retirement, I thought it would be good to rework an article I wrote eight years ago about the fact that we as God’s people are in this world not for a rest but for a reason (which I also mentioned in a sermon last month). But first, in case you haven’t heard, my “plans” for retirement.

After speaking with District President James Maxwell and the church elders, it was agreed that I would continue serving Redeemer as your pastor while you as a congregation begin the process of calling a new pastor (which normally takes one to two years at least). Once a new pastor accepts the call to Redeemer, I will then retire. More information will be made available once the call process begins.

Now, back to the fact that we as Christians are still in this world not for a rest but for a reason. Have you ever heard or used the phrase, “No Rest for the Wicked.” While we may use this phrase “tongue in cheek” in relation to ourselves, hopefully we also remember that in this life there is still a wicked nature in each of us—that we as Christians are both saint and sinner, “simul iustus et peccator” (which is Latin for “simultaneously righteous and a sinner”). But even though God gives us rest in this life, and especially in the life to come, through His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, we can also say that in this life there is “No Rest for the Righteous.”

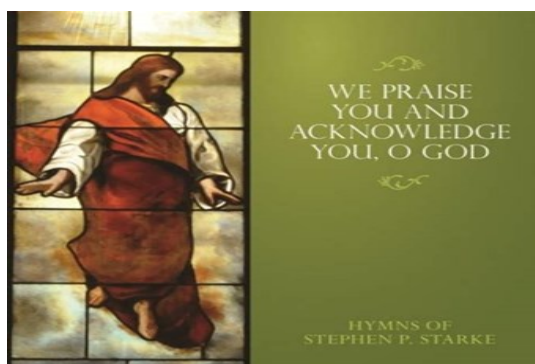
Don’t get me wrong. As I said in a sermon last month, God is not against retirement, vacations or a day of rest each week. Resting from our labors in these various forms are a foretaste of the eternal rest to come in heaven and are, therefore, one of God’s many blessings in this fallen world. But even during our times of rest, vacations and retirement, we are not to rest from our calling as witnesses to others of our salvation through Jesus Christ. Such witnessing among those we meet during our work week, on our day off, vacation and/or retirement is not a labor but a joy and privilege. It’s giving to others the remedy for death—the gift of eternal life in paradise.

I think we too often make a “labor” out of sharing the Gospel because we foolishly think that it’s up to us to turn a person from wickedness to righteousness. Thankfully that’s not what God calls us to do. Instead He calls us to simply live the life of faith, which includes living joyful lives in the awareness of God’s promises in Christ, sharing the reason for our hope and joy, supporting the church’s mission of making disciples of all nations, and praying, praying, praying. When it comes to actually bringing others to faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit will take care of that (the Gospel is “*the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes*” (Romans 1:16), and “*no one can say Jesus is Lord except in the Holy Spirit*” (1 Corinthians 12:3).

If, however, you’re struggling to “walk the talk,” remember (also during your summer breaks) we need God’s continual help, which He continues to give us, through His Word and Sacraments.

“Too many irons in the fire? Let God give you “a shot in the arm” through His Word and Sacrament of Holy Communion, reminding you that through Jesus Christ you “go scot-free.” Thanks be to God!

Enjoy the rest of your summer.



We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God

Our hymn of the month for August is from Lutheran Service Book, LSB 941 “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God.” As it says in the notes “This hymn is a versification of the *Te Deum laudamus*.” This versification is done by Pastor Stephen Starke, a prolific hymn-writer who has many hymns in LSB. The tune is from the middle of a composition by Gustav Holst called “The Planet Suite,” which is one of his finest pieces in his orchestral repertoire. Both text and tune combine to create a majestic hymn that confesses so much about our God and especially what He has done for us by sending Christ to redeem the world.

Stanza two gives great imagery about the Universal Church, composed of Christians both here on Earth and in Heaven. This is very similar to the Proper Preface in Holy Communion, which concludes with, “... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing: Holy, Holy, Holy...” *The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise; The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise. The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng, Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song: “O all-majestic Father, Your true and only Son, And Holy Spirit, Comforter — forever Three in One!”* It is such a comfort to know that when we come to the Lord’s Supper we are joining not just with the members of our local congregation, and not merely those who are still alive, but with all Christians throughout all time. When we receive the Lord’s Body and Blood we are also communing with all those who went before us in the faith. The *Te Deum* expresses these ideas so beautifully.

The third stanza reflects what Christ has done for us, echoing the second article of the Apostles' Creed. *You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son, Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev'ryone: You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin's womb, Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb; Then by Your resurrection you won for us reprieve — You opened heaven's kingdom to all who would believe.* In beautifully poetic language this stanza tells us why we praise this great God. It is because of Christ's death and resurrection that we are able to sing to our God, indeed this is the best reason of all to sing! Christ died *for me*, was raised again *for me*, and grants faith *to me* in the waters of Holy Baptism. Great news indeed!

[Adapted notes from a "Southeran Lutheran Kantor."]



Life Thoughts in the Church Year

August 6 – Pentecost X (Proper 13A) – Why should anxiety over expenses darken a terminal diagnosis? Why should panic about poverty affect a surprise pregnancy? He who sends mouths also sends meat, even conjuring necessities out of thin air (Matthew 14:19). Our gracious Savior bestows in abundance, and the Body of Christ knows how to share. If God spends His riches on relationships, how can we do any better?

August 13 – Pentecost XI (Proper 14A) – Contrary to the logic of abortion and assisted suicide, human worth doesn't come from age, appearance, or ability. God's grace in creating, redeeming, and calling makes every life precious. No one else's labor or lack thereof can improve or impair it. We declare and demonstrate a righteousness based on this faith and not based instead on works of the law (Romans 10:5-6).

August 20 – Pentecost XII (Proper 15A) – He who made and still sustains nature and all creatures has no anxieties about overpopulation. The Lord our God delights in adding another human life (Isaiah 56:8) and wrapping the next neighbor in magnificent mercy (Romans 15:32). Let the peoples praise You, O God, in ever increasing number (Psalm 67:5-6) – the unborn one, the impaired one, and even our Gospel-motivated voices For Life!

August 27 – Pentecost XIII (Proper 16A) – Confessing the Christ means advocating the sanctity of every human life. If Jesus is indeed the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:16), then He also serves as Lord of life-and-death situations and decisions. May He whose Word has plundered us out of hell's gates grant our testimony to extend this same courage and compassion to everyone considering abortion or physician-assisted suicide.

PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

School News

Another school year is quickly approaching. Back-to-School night will be held August 10 for Kindergarten through Grade 6, with classes resuming August 14th. Tiny Treasures Preschool will start on August 28.

We soon will be setting up dividers for our 3rd & 4th grade classroom in the southwest transept of the church. The two pews on the lectern side of the sanctuary will be removed to allow space for the classroom. Our grade configurations will be: Kindergarten, Mrs. Amy Mummert; Grades 1&2, Mrs. Sarah Weber; Grades 3&4, Mr. Jace Holden; and Grades 5&6, Mr. Paul Althaus. We are pleased that Mrs. Abigail Sanchez will be student teaching in 3rd & 4th grades.

Our preschool staff includes Andrea Van Fossan, Amanda Edwards, Lexis McFarland, and director Jace Holden.

If you have surplus produce from your garden or extra ground beef, elk, or other meat in your freezer, we would welcome contributions for our hot lunch program. We have 18 more students than last year.

The T-Rex races at Deltarado Days were a huge success. Many thanks to Janell Oberheu for organizing the event and to all who helped make it happen. Approximately \$2,000 will go toward our "Raise the Rams' Roof" capital campaign.

We continue to get closer to reaching the fundraising goal for our new school building. Funds and pledges currently total \$776,910. If you haven't done so and are able, please consider a pledge or donation to the building project. The amount of \$192,118 is still needed to meet our goal of \$969,028, which includes contingencies for unforeseen expenses. Hopefully, construction can begin before year end.

Twelve of the 50 students enrolled in RLS are children of members here at Redeemer. Tiny Treasures has 25 preschoolers currently enrolled, with two children of members. We thank you for your prayers, contributions, time and efforts toward our school ministry here at Redeemer. God is using our congregation to fulfill a need within the community for a Christ-centered education, both for our members' children as well as for numerous other families.

As a new school year begins, we ask for your continued prayers for our students and their families and our staff, that all efforts may be to the glory of God and for the growth of His kingdom.



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
 Kip Wood—August 30th

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
 Hartland Clubb—August 25th
 Bruce Nelson—August
 Al Buchman—August
 Eric Egan—August

Wedding Anniversaries

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



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
7-2 - 2023	94	72	\$4,665.25/\$646.00	\$4,455.06
7-9 - 2023	105	85	\$4,157.75/\$3,400.00	\$4,455.06
7-16- 2023	84		\$4,711.50/\$1,845.00	\$4,455.06
7-23-2023	105	80	\$3,827.75/\$63.00	\$4,455.06