

# September Newsletter



**Redeemer Lutheran Church & School**  
**1000 Pioneer Road**  
**Delta, CO 81416**  
**(970) 874-3052**  
**Email [rlclcms@deltalutheran.org](mailto:rlclcms@deltalutheran.org)**  
**Website: [www.deltalutheran.org](http://www.deltalutheran.org)**

## Pastor's Page



### The Mysteries of the Divine Service

In a recent Portals of Prayer devotion we were reminded of the importance of joining together as a congregation to not only hear the Word of God and the sermon, but to also receive the Lord's Supper during the Divine Service. It's during the Divine Service (usually on Sunday) that each of our senses are engaged. We see, hear, smell, taste and touch the mystery, especially in the Lord's Supper. I also liked how the writer of that devotion referred to faith as a "sixth sense." Our faith in Jesus Christ, which is created and sustained by God through His Word and Sacraments, is our "coup de gras"—our death blow or shot to our sinful nature.

This fits in beautifully with what another Lutheran theologian wrote recently about going to church to gather with our fellow believers around the gifts of Christ. Who is the host of the Divine Service? Christ Himself! And joining Him are the angels, archangels and all those who have preceded us into the glories of heaven.

"What an unspeakable comfort for those of us who mourn the death of the faithful, to know that they are not far, far away in some heaven way out there. No, they are with Jesus. And where Jesus gathers with his body of believers here in this world, there too are those whom we love and miss."

As Hebrews, which is a sermon, tells us: *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel”* (Hebrews 12).

This is, in many ways, the climax of the sermon. Having established the priesthood of Christ, along with His sacrifice and entrance (with us!) into the heavenly Holy of Holies, the preacher of Hebrews says that we have come, not to Mt. Sinai [where the Law was given] but to Mt. Zion, where the Son of God was given for us and for our salvation], and where we are surrounded by “angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven” in the presence of] Jesus!”

In worship, earth joins heaven around the throne of God and of the Lamb.

All glory be to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

[adapted from Portals of Prayer, August 28, 2023 and a Chad Bird blog August 26, 2023]



## LSB 726

The hymn of the month for September is a short, simple hymn of faith and trust which uses imagery that can be traced back especially to the Psalms. For example, Psalm 145. In this Psalm and hymn we are reminded that:

“The eyes of all look to You [LORD],  
and You give them their food in due season.  
You open Your hand;  
You satisfy the desire of every living thing.”

God provides us with all that we need to support this body and life (as we confess in Luther’s meaning to the 1st article of the Creed). And as we see in verse 8 of Psalm 148 (and Luther’s meaning), this is out of God’s mercy and love for us. God not only provides for us, He constantly watches over us to see that no harm befalls us, as Jesus says in Luke 12:6-7. “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

In Stanza 2 of this hymn we are reminded that we are fragile, sinful, weak, and easily frightened. Therefore, Paul Gerhardt (the writer of this hymn) directs us in this verse to take our fears and worries to our Father. God does calm our terrors, as we hear in 1 Peter 5:6-7. “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

He also removes our sins that so that He can no longer see them, as is said in Psalm 103:11-14.

“For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.  
As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.  
For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.”

God guides, directs, sustains, and forgives us out of love. There is simply nothing left to worry about concerning this life or the next. The confidence and trust this gives us is expressed in stanza 3.

Ills that still grieve me  
Soon are to leave me;  
Though billows tower,  
And winds gain power,  
After the storms the fair sun shows its face.  
Joys e'er increasing  
And peace never ceasing;  
These shall I treasure  
And share in full measure  
When in His mansions God grants me a place.

Our response to God's gracious goodness to us is to praise Him, to say thank you, to shout the loud  
“Amen!” This is the focus of Stanza 4:

To God in heaven  
All praise be given!  
Come, let us offer  
And gladly proffer  
To the Creator the gifts He doth prize.  
He well receiveth  
A heart that believeth;  
Hymns that adore Him  
Are precious before Him  
And to His throne like sweet incense arise.

The LORD is ready to receive a believing heart, and makes all believers His own children, as it says in John 1:12-13. “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Our praises rise before God as a sweet incense, as we pray in Psalm 141:2.

“Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!”

What wonderful comfort from another great Gerhardt hymn! Thanks be to God!

# REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

## RAISE THE RAMS' ROOF

As we get closer to the construction of our new school building, we are excited that anonymous donors have offered to match the next \$50,000 in donations and pledges. This means that your gift will be worth twice the amount of your donation/pledge! For example, your gift of \$50 will become \$100, a gift of \$100 becomes \$200, a gift of \$500 becomes \$1,000, a gift of \$5,000 becomes \$10,000, etc. Please prayerfully consider a first-time donation or pledge, or an additional gift, as God continues to guide and bless us in the expansion of our school ministry. To date, donations and pledges total \$779,310.

We are grateful for our 28 preschoolers and 47 RLS students, their families, our teachers, and for your prayers and continued support of RLS and Tiny Treasures. May God's Word guide and inspire all that we do so that God's love in Christ will be faithfully shared now and in the future!

## STUDENT THOUGHTS ABOUT REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

RLS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student -- "I like Redeemer Lutheran School because there are 10 people in my class, and we have chapel and hot lunch on Wednesdays. I love how all of the teachers work really hard so that the students get a good education. We also go on field trips to learn more about history and science. My class also has P.E., art and music. I believe in Jesus Christ and that He led me to Redeemer."

RLS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Student -- "I have been going to Redeemer Lutheran School for 3 years now. I love getting to learn about Christ every day! We have the best teachers. I love Wednesdays. It is a special day when we get to worship God and have hot lunch. I am so happy to go to RLS."

## Life Thoughts in the Church Year

**September 3 – Pentecost XIV (Proper 17A)** – Our bodies and lives are on loan from Almighty God. He creates us in His image, redeems us with His Son, and calls us by His name (Jeremiah 15:16) from fertilization to forever. So He does not abandon us in our frailties and mistakes. Shall we not extend this Gospel also to neighbors facing surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis?

**September 10 – Pentecost XV (Proper 18A)** – Abortion doesn't just end unborn lives. It also breaks hearts with grief and guilt. So the Lord doesn't exempt it from condemnation. He commands us to warn our brothers and sisters about its sinfulness (Ezekiel 33:7-8). Nor does He exclude abortion from His forgiveness. He would have us apply His absolution as explicitly to this iniquity as to our own (Psalm 32:5).

**September 17 – Pentecost XVI (Proper 19A)** – Surprise pregnancy often comes with complications and difficulties. Terminal diagnosis can involve suffering and sorrow. But our God brought Jesus back from the dead. He makes it His way to wring blessings out of burdens (Genesis 50:19-20). Are we in the place of God, to let abortion or assisted suicide judge (Romans 14:4) someone else's life as hopeless?

**September 24 – Pentecost XVII (Proper 20A)** – Abortion and euthanasia begrudge God's generosity (Matthew 20:15) by regarding one life as less than another. Thank the Lord that His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8), for none of us deserves to survive! Yet He preserves and protects us still, just as much as our every neighbor. O Lord, make us bold to speak Your Word of Life without fear (Philippians 1:14)!

## Birthdays

Doreen Dwyer—September 1st  
 Blake Oberheu—September 1st  
 Duane Jones—September 5th  
 Dennis Oeltjenbruns—September 5th  
 Rodney Loose—September 9th  
 Marion Hofman—September 11th  
 Lucy Orros—September 20th  
 Dave Burgess—September 20th  
 Kathy Wacker—September 23rd  
 Gordon Wagner—September 23rd  
 Tom Wingfield—September 23rd  
 Jan Polzin—September 25th  
 Shaun Howell—September 26th  
 Karen Richardson—September 27th

## Wedding Anniversaries

Al & Michelle Buchman—September 15th  
 Norm & Gladys Sunderland—September 18th  
 Scott Keene & Karen Jetley—September 19th  
 Kip & Brandy Wood—September 24th  
 William & Samantha Steinbach—September 26th

## Baptismal Birthdays

Rachel Oberheu—September 6th  
 Eileen Burnick—September 6th  
 Regina Howell—September 9th  
 Stephanie Buchman—September 11th  
 William Steinbach—September 14th  
 Kaitlyn Heinecke—September 14th  
 Janell Oberheu—September 15th  
 Jessa Oberheu—September 17th  
 Marion Hofman—September 20th  
 Everett Tunget—September 20th  
 Bob Oeltjenbruns—September 26th



## THE LORD'S MINISTRY

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

Date	Attendance	Communicants	Offerings Received Gen./Designated Funds	Needed Operating Budget
8 - 6- 2023	87	71	\$4,208.00/\$1,020.04	\$4,455.06
8- 20 -2023	105	75	\$3,805.25/\$4,426.00	\$4,455.06