

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL  
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## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

# Pastor's Page

### Growing Stronger Through the Word of God

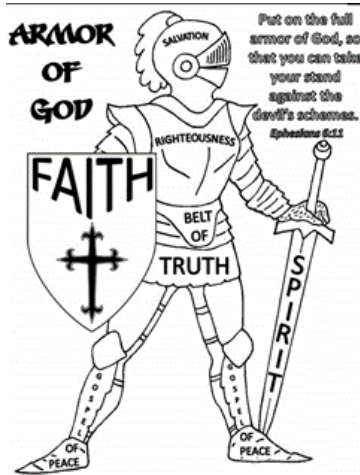
St. Augustine got me thinking more deeply into what God tells us in Psalm 36:1 when He says: *“Sin speaks to the wicked deep in his heart...”* These words are meant to remind all of us that our sinful nature, which lies deep in the hearts of each one of us and makes us all wicked sinners, is our own worst enemy. Even though the Holy Spirit is always present with His Word to give us understanding, we are often unable to understand because we allow our sinful nature to keep us from listening. It is one thing when a person wants to understand what God’s Word says but, by reason of the weakness of the flesh is *“slow of heart to believe”* (Luke 24:25), since our sinful nature weighs down our soul and oppresses our mind. But it is a different matter when we allow our sinful nature to act so destructively against our faith that it causes us to not understand what we might have understood if we had persisted in reading and meditating on God’s Word. The subject matter is not difficult, but the rebellious nature of our sinful flesh will always be an obstacle if we let it. This is what happens when sinners are attached to their sins. They hate God’s Word. *“If you are a friend to your sins God’s word is your enemy; but if you are an enemy to your sins, you ally yourself with God’s word, and then there will be two who are bent on destroying your sinful nature – you and the word of God. You can achieve nothing by your own strength, but He who has sent His word to you comes Himself to your aid, and so sin is routed.”* If you hate and repent of your sins, God gives you the good news that He has forgiven it and you will be free; but if you are affectionately attached to your sins, your sinful nature will seek to keep you from hearing, reading and meditation on God’s Word. It’s ultimate desire is to separate you from God and His Word forever.

With this in mind, we at Redeemer are happy to provide ample opportunity to hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest or take to heart God’s Word not only during the Divine Service on Sunday but also during our Sunday School and Bible Study classes on Sunday and at other times during the week.

On Sunday our Bible Study opportunities include:

#### Sunday School:

- † Pre-K, taught by Lisa Althaus, using the Little Lamb curriculum, learning to know the love and salvation we have in Jesus.
- † Kindergarten, taught by Sandy Holden, and younger Elementary, taught by Sharon Althaus, both using the Enduring Faith series to learn Bible stories and God’s Word to be strong disciples of Jesus and to sustain faith that endures a lifetime.
- † Upper elementary, taught by Rick Oberheu. Know the Bible Now is a book which includes more in-depth Bible study. Added is pre-Confirmation and doctrine discussions on how to apply to daily life.
- † High School—there is a member willing to teach this age group for students who are willing to attend. Speak with Board of Education Chairman Alissa Heinecke.



### Sunday Adult Bible Study

- † Pastor Van hopes to finishing our study of the Old Testament before Advent so that we can begin our study of the New Testament using some additional study guides. Stay tuned.
- † Jace Holden is currently teaching a study of the book of Proverbs comparing the wisdom of God to the folly of man.

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### Weekday Bible Study Opportunities

- † Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday morning at 10:15am at the home of Jenean Hovel. Currently this Bible Study, led by Eileen Mertens, is looking at John's Gospel.
- † A Men's Bible Study is under consideration. Possibly an early morning "Donuts & Devotions"
- † Table Talks will be retuning to an area near you, led by Pastor Van. The theme will be "What Does This Mean?" More details to come.

Consider these words from Martin Luther in the Large Catechism, where he discusses the importance of continually keeping the Word of God in our ears and hearts and upon our lips:

"Even though you know [God's Word] perfectly and be already master in all things, still you are daily in the dominion of the devil, who ceases neither day nor night to steal unawares upon you, to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against the foregoing and all the commandments.

Therefore you must always have God's Word in your heart, upon your lips, and in your ears. But where the heart is idle, and the Word does not sound, he breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware.

On the other hand, such is the efficacy of the Word, whenever it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used, that it is bound never to be without fruit, but always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness, and produces a pure heart and pure thoughts. For these words are not inoperative or dead, but creative, living words.

And even though no other interest or necessity impel us, yet this ought to urge everyone thereunto, because thereby the devil is put to flight and driven away, and, besides, this commandment is fulfilled, and [this exercise in the Word] is more pleasing to God than any work of hypocrisy, however brilliant" (Martin Luther, from the Large Catechism).

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one"* (Ephesians 6:10-16).

## Reformation/New Member Dinner

Sunday, October 29th will be our Reformation/New Member recognition Service, with the Divine Service at 9:00am followed by the Reformation Dinner following the service.

Members with Last Names beginning A - M are asked to bring side salads. Members with Last Names beginning N - Z are asked to bring fruit or dessert. Brauts & drinks will be provided.

Our new members that we have received in the last year are: **Baptism:** Cezar Landeros, Case Hernandez, Abigail Mummert, Catalina and Antonio della Volpe. **Confirmation:** Nicci Egan, Heather della Volpe, William & Samantha Steinbach, Mark & Amy Mummer, Kip & Brandy Wood. **Transfers:** Erec Egan, Rodney & Vera Loose. **Reaffirmation of Faith:** Gary Grasmick.

## HYMN OF THE MONTH



Our hymn of the month for October is a buried treasure in our hymnal which I had never sung before! Both the text and the tune are beautiful, but the words of this hymn, because their foundation is God's words of promise in Jesus' death and resurrection, are truly awesome!

### Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care

LSB 757

1 Lord, it belongs not to my care  
whether I die or live:  
to love and serve thee is my share,  
and this thy grace must give.

2 If life be long, I will be glad  
That I may long obey;  
If short, yet why should I be sad  
To soar to endless days?

3 Christ leads me through no darker rooms  
than he went through before;  
he that into God's kingdom comes  
must enter by this door.

4 Come, Lord, when grace hath made me meet  
thy blessed face to see;  
for if thy work on earth be sweet,  
what will thy glory be!

5 Then shall I end my sad complaints  
and weary, sinful days,  
and join with the triumphant saints  
that sing my Saviour's praise.

6 My knowledge of that life is small,  
the eye of faith is dim;  
but 'tis enough that Christ knows all,

Text writer: Richard Baxter, (1615–1691) served as an Anglican priest in England, during days of deep unrest, a civil war, and great political instability. His writings and sermons call Christians to holy living, even if it is costly. He coined the term "Mere Christianity" which C.S. Lewis adopted for his classic work.

Tune writer: Henry J. Gauntlett (b. Wellington, Shropshire, July 9, 1805; d. London, England, February 21, 1876) When he was nine years old, Henry became organist at his father's church in Olney, Buckinghamshire. At his father's insistence he studied law, practicing it until 1844, after which he chose to devote the rest of his life to music. He was an organist in various churches in the London area and became an important figure in the history of British pipe organs. A designer of organs for William Hill's company, Gauntlett extended the organ pedal range and in 1851 took out a patent on electric action for organs. Felix Mendelssohn chose him to play the organ part at the first performance of *Elijah* in Birmingham, England, in 1846. Gauntlett is said to have composed some ten thousand hymn tunes, most of which have been forgotten. Also a supporter of the use of plain chant in the church, Gauntlett published the *Gregorian Hymnal of Matins and Evensong* (1844).

## REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Special thanks to those who have donated musical instruments for the music program at RLS. The instruments are being put to good use, and we sincerely appreciate our generous donors! Mr. Rob Wolcott comes every Thursday to teach the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students how to play their instruments and how to read music. Mr. Wolcott also is teaching the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders about rhythm and how to play the ukelele. Mrs. Cathy Barger is teaching music class for the younger students, who are learning to play handbells. Both music teachers are volunteering their time and are a special blessing for our students.

The first quarter of our school year ends October 3. The students have been working hard and enjoyed a field trip in September to the Brennan Orchard in Palisade. It was a great experience learning about the operations of an orchard, identifying different varieties of apples, and getting to sample them. Mr. Brennan even turned on a wind machine that is used in the orchard when temperatures dip below freezing. The fan was very loud!

Mr. Althaus' class celebrated the fall equinox with an overnight camping trip on the Grand Mesa. Setting up and sleeping in tents was a first-time experience for several of the students. They hiked, fished, waded in Ward Lake, feasted on Mr. Mautz's campfire meals, roasted marshmallows and observed and focused on God's beautiful creation and His great love. We are grateful for the parents who drove their vehicles and helped out.

Pastor Van and RLS and Tiny Treasures teachers will be attending the Rocky Mountain District pastor/teacher conference in Breckenridge on October 4-6 during Fall break. The conference provides an opportunity for church workers to gather for a time of spiritual renewal and professional development.

We are grateful for your prayers and support for our school and preschool. To God be the glory!



## Life Thoughts in the Church Year

**October 8 – Pentecost XIX (Proper 22A)** – The psalmist openly rejoices that Almighty God cherishes every human life He creates. “Let your hand be on ... the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself” (Psalm 80:17). The same Lord invites us to delight in receiving one another as gifts and privileges—no matter what size, skills, or circumstances. Why settle for bloodshed when we can have justice (Isaiah 5:7)?

**October 15 – Pentecost XX (Proper 23A)** – Abortion and physician-assisted suicide represent a surrender to death brought about by fear. We need not be afraid of enduring terminal illness, because our Heavenly Father protects us even in the darkest places (Psalm 23:4). And we need not be afraid of carrying surprise pregnancy, because our dear Savior Jesus provides all we need even in the most difficult times (Philippians 4:12-13).

**October 22 – Pentecost XXI (Proper 24A)** – Taxes and politics may belong to Caesar, but every human life belongs to God from fertilization to forever. He made our bodies—and those of our neighbors—in His own image (Matthew 22:19-21). And since He retains responsibility for deciding the manner of our life and the timing of our death, abortion and euthanasia are choices no one needs to make.

**October 29 – Pentecost XXII (Proper 25A)/Reformation Day** – Our Reformation heritage includes boldly and gladly confessing God’s Word. The Scriptures speak frequently and forcefully of taking care of children (1 Thessalonians 2:7) and standing up for a neighbor’s life (Leviticus 19:16). Christians cannot promote or even permit putting people to death by abortion, assisted suicide, and embryo experimentation. Love for our Father means love for each other!



## Birthdays

Audrey Kruger—October 4  
Sandy Holden—October 7  
Brandy Wood—October 11  
Jacob Oberheu—October 17  
Phillip Dwyer—October 19  
Eveli Strassle—October 23  
Marguerite Wingfield—October 28  
Alisha Clubb—October 30

## Wedding Anniversaries

Pastor & Andrea Van Fossan—October 6  
Doug & Michelle Scarbrough—October 15  
Kenny & Morgan Andasola—October 15  
Samuel & Stephanie Buchman—October 22

## Baptismal Birthdays

Rodney Loose—October 2  
Mary Miller—October 3  
Lucy Orros—October 12  
Jan Polzin—October 13  
Brandy Wood—October 17  
Amber Jordan—October 23  
Doreen Dwyer—October 25  
Devona Henderson—October 25  
Stephanie Nesbit—October 27  
Jacob Oberheu—October 31

## THE LORD'S MINISTRY

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

Date	Attendance	Communicants	Offerings Received Gen./Designated Funds	Needed Operating Budget
9-3 -2023	75	62	\$4,363.00/\$2,434.00	\$4,455.06
9-10 -2023	76	61	\$2,781.00/\$26,115.09	\$4,455.06
9-17-2023	98	77	\$3,662.00/\$11,849.72	\$4,455.06
9-24- 2023	104	83	\$2,38800/\$2,050.29	\$4,455.06