



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
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August 2026 Newsletter - Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

"Be still, and know that I am God."

Psalm 46:10 (ESV)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each Sunday, the Lord invites us into His house to receive His gifts of grace through His Word and Sacraments. Before the first hymn is sung or the opening invocation is spoken, we have a precious opportunity to prepare our hearts for worship.

For this reason, we encourage our congregation to observe the **ten minutes before the Divine Service as a time of quiet prayer and reflection**. While greeting friends is a wonderful expression of Christian fellowship, there will be plenty of opportunity to visit together following the service during our fellowship time.

Those few quiet moments before worship allow us to lay aside the distractions of the week, confess our sins before God, pray for those in need, and prepare to receive Christ's gifts with attentive hearts. They remind us that we are entering the presence of our gracious Lord, who comes to forgive, strengthen, and renew His people.

Martin Luther wrote, *"When you enter God's house, remember where you are and with whom you speak."* Quiet reverence before worship is not about following a rule; it is a joyful response to the privilege of gathering before our Savior, who promises to meet us through His Means of Grace.

Several years ago, Pastor Steve encouraged us to live each day with a **"Gust of Grace"** by intentionally seeing, serving, and sharing Christ's love. We continue that encouragement today. As we quiet our hearts before worship, we are better prepared to receive God's grace and then carry that grace into our homes, workplaces, and community.

May our worship begin not only with our voices but also with hearts prepared to receive the gifts our Lord freely gives.

Life of the Congregation

The Word of the Lord endures forever.
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Sunday Morning Fellowship-Immediately following the Divine Service, please join us in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and an opportunity to visit and enjoy Christian fellowship with one another.

Sunday Morning Bible Study-Following fellowship, we continue our study of the **Book of Judges**. Everyone is invited to stay as we grow together in God's Word.

Choir-Our choir will remain on summer hiatus through August. Rehearsals resume on **Sunday, September 13, at 8:00 a.m.** We look forward to once again lifting our voices together in praise and thanksgiving to our Lord.

Women's Prayer Breakfast-The Women's Prayer Breakfast will not meet during August but will resume on the **first Saturday in September at 11:00 a.m.**

Women's Bible Study-Our Women's Bible Study meets on **Saturday, August 8, at 11:00 a.m.** We continue our study, "**Aging with Grace**," discovering God's promises for every season of life. A light luncheon and fellowship will follow.

Remember Our Shut-Ins-One of the greatest gifts we can share is the assurance that no member of Christ's family is forgotten. During this month, please remember our shut-ins in your prayers. Consider sending a card, making a phone call, or arranging a visit. Your words of love and encouragement remind them that they remain a cherished part of the Redeemer Lutheran Church family and are remembered with love in Christ.

Looking Ahead-Oktober Fest is just around the corner! Watch future bulletins and newsletters for event details as we prepare for another joyful celebration of Christian fellowship.

Gracious Heavenly Father,
As we gather in Your house each Lord's Day, quiet our hearts and prepare us to receive Your gifts with reverence, faith, and thanksgiving. Through Your Holy Spirit, keep us attentive to Your Word, strengthen us through Your Sacraments, and send us into the world to serve our neighbors with the love of Christ. Bless our congregation, our families, our shut-ins, and all who call upon Your name. Unite us in faith and fellowship until that day when we worship You forever in Your heavenly kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

In Christ's Service,
The Executive Board-Redeemer Lutheran Church

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