

## Why do we say what we say?

### Confession of Sins and the Absolution

Every Sunday at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, we confess our sins together. Have you ever wondered why we do this?

An early church writing called the *Didache*, admonished early Christians to “Assemble on the day of the Lord, break bread and celebrate the Eucharist; but first confess your sins, that your sacrifice may be holy.” However, the earliest forms of confession were not connected to corporate divine worship but was a rite of the sacristy (the place where the pastor prepares for the service). Early pastors, as they would prepare for worship, would pray a confession of sin. It wasn’t until closer to the 11<sup>th</sup> century that confession became a mainstay in the church, but even then, it was private confession.

To understand why we confess our sins together, we must first understand why we confess our sins at all? The short answer is that it applies the gospel to the person confessing and, at least in private confession, to a specific situation.

Think about this. When you have sinned and your conscience is weighing you down, what a great comfort it is to be able to say, “I have sinned in this specific way.” Then instead of simply acknowledging your sin and not hearing anything in return, you hear the pastor or the Christian hearing your confession say to you, “God forgives you for that specific sin.” Confession is found throughout scripture. In the Old Testament, we see David confess his sin to Nathan the prophet who then forgives David. (2 Samuel 12) We have a very clear passage in 1 John 1:9 “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” Both of these instances teach us that God’s desire is to forgive sinners and declare them righteous.

Martin Luther wrote of confession in his Small Catechism. “*What is Confession? Answer: Confession has two parts: the one is that we confess our sins; the other is that we receive Absolution, or forgiveness, from the confessor, as from God Himself, and in no way doubt, but firmly believe that our sins are forgiven before God in heaven by this.*” When I was a baby Lutheran, I found Luther’s teaching that essentially makes the declaration of the forgiveness of sins in the absolution indivisible from confession. It is automatic. You confess. You are forgiven. Yet, when you look at 1 John 1:9, it has the same teaching. There is no condition set on the forgiveness other than the confession itself. To confess your sins is simply to have faith that God is gracious and for the sake of Jesus Christ, He does forgive sins. What freedom this brings to the broken and contrite sinner!

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The purpose of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is to worship God in a Bible-based, Christ-centered ministry, evangelizing, discipling, nurturing and equipping people for the spiritual well-being of every life.

### Pastor Schultz



# Volunteer Schedule

Please mark your calendars and if there are any conflicts with your schedule, please find someone to fill your spot and let Kristine Dootson know of the substitution. If you are unable to find someone to switch with you, call Kristine Dootson @425-753-2020.

Date	Nursery	Lay Reader	Flowers	Coffee
10/6	Christina Malone	Duane Leach	Open	WMF Celebration Sunday
10/13	Melissa Douthit	Prosper Ruberwa	Open	Open
10/20	Helen Long	Pam Jussel	Open	Open
10/27	Kristine Dootson	Heidi Stedman	Open	Open

**You can listen to our sermons on our website!**

**[Orlckirkland.org](http://Orlckirkland.org)**

## October Birthdays

Alex Crowther	Oct. 2
Danelle Hall	Oct. 5
Esther Schultz	Oct. 8
Bob Rieth	Oct. 9
Marlene Varnes	Oct. 11
Eva Leach	Oct. 12
Victoria Stedman	Oct. 16
Jan Barnhart	Oct. 16
Leanne Hatch	Oct. 16
Harlan Ostlund	Oct. 19
Katie Carlson	Oct. 26
Nancy Walden	Oct. 28
Leslie Weidner	Oct. 31

## October Anniversaries

**Paul & Kim Bottem**  
10-6-79

**Jason & Julia Watson**  
10-9-93

**Lee & Nancy Gould**  
10-11-71

**Marvin & Helen Long**  
10-11-56

**Doyle & Janet Watson**  
10-22-66

**Todd & Victoria Stedman**  
10-28-95

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So, if confession is such a freeing and direct application of the gospel in the life of a Christian, why doesn't it appear in Christian services until later in history? The answer is because private confession was still a very regular part of the Christian's life. Private confession is still something that happens, and happens regularly, but not on the scale that it once happened. Private confession these days looks different than the movies. Instead of a confessional booth where the conversation happens in a veiled way, it is usually over a cup of coffee or even standing in the entry to the sanctuary.

Despite this, private confession is still an irregular practice in the church today and so on Sunday mornings we gather and prepare our hearts and minds for worship. We do this confession our sins together and we hear the words of the Gospel, that for Christ's sake, you are forgiven.

In this way, the old Adam is put to death and we arise again in the righteousness of Christ. Having been declared righteous, we are now prepared to offer prayers, praise, and thanksgiving to God and our sacrifices, meager though they be, are found acceptable to God because they are offered in faith.

Pastor Nicholas Schultz

**When we join together to remember and celebrate Reformation Sunday on October 27<sup>th</sup>, we'll be doing something we haven't done before. We will be having First Communion for our confirmands. Our Confirmation students will have completed a course of study regarding the Lord's Supper and are prepared to receive the sacrament with the congregation. This special event is for them, their families, and the congregation. First Communion is different from Confirmation where the students will publicly confirm their faith through giving a testimony of that faith to the congregation. Would you please hold Esmé and Danelle in your prayers this month especially?**

**Reminder: the ORLC quarterly meeting is on October 26th at 9 am**



Children's sermon



An Eagle amongst a flock of Seahawks!

## School News

- Pastor Schultz will be having Chapel time with the kids on October 1 & 2 during the last 15 minutes of class.
- ORCS will be visiting the pumpkin patch on October 7th and 10th. Families will meet at the pumpkin patch, and not at school.
- There will be an ORCS costume parade October 30 & 31 at 9:15 & 12:45.



The *Christian Connection* is edited and published for ORLC . It is also available on our website [www.orlckirkland.org](http://www.orlckirkland.org) . If you do not want to receive it in your inbox, please let us know by calling (425)821-2424 or emailing [orlckirkland@hotmail.com](mailto:orlckirkland@hotmail.com).

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