



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

August, 2021

The Christian Connection

PASTOR'S COLUMM—A WORD ON PRAYER

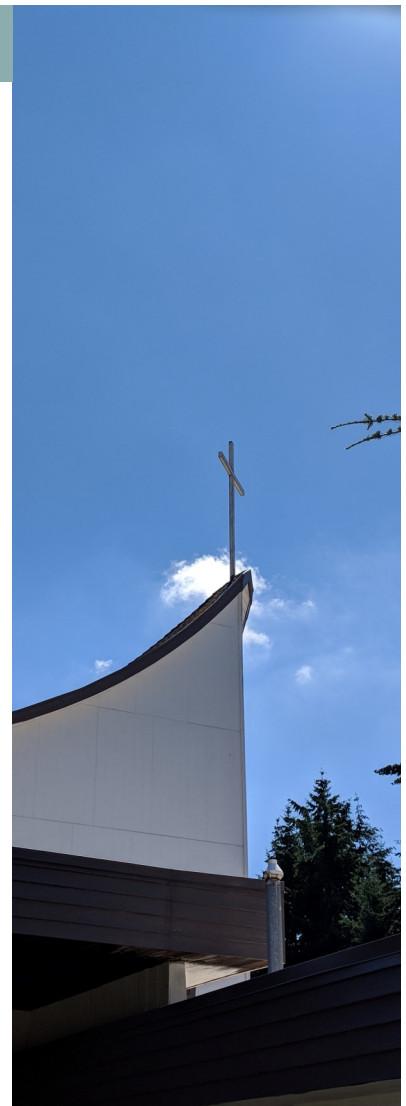
I remember the first time I heard someone teach that we are commanded to pray. It was when I was in middle school youth group. We were talking about how prayer is an ongoing conversation with God that we get to engage in. Also, we had to do it because it was one of the “marks of a believer.” What a great weight this put on me! “I must pray,” I thought. “I must show myself to be a believer!”

When my wife and I started attending a Free Lutheran Church, I thought that I should figure out what these Free Lutherans believe. My pastor suggested I read the Small Catechism and the Augsburg Confession. It was while reading these two historical confessions that I discovered I was Lutheran.

Faith in Jesus Christ saved me. God was gracious. I believed he maintained my faith and that my works had nothing to do with my salvation. I was 100% assured of my salvation because of this, so much so that during college, a CRU staff worker called me, “A cocky Christian.”

However, my thoughts about prayer hadn't substantially changed. I was still concerned with showing my faith through prayer.

After attending a Free Lutheran church for a couple years, I began reading Luther's Large Catechism. In it, Luther teaches that God, in commanding His people to not use His name in vain, is also commanding them to call upon His name rightly. My thoughts about prayer were confirmed. I must pray. This is what Christians do. (Cont. on pg. 5)



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 8/22—Community Serve Day: Worship moved to 9 AM.
- 8/28—ORLC Clean Up Day @ 9 AM
- 9/6—Labor Day
- 9/12—Sunday School Kick-Off



ORLC CLEAN-UP DAY

Mark your calendar for the morning of 8/28 and join the trustees and the rest of the congregation to help us spruce up the grounds and the building.

Bring gloves, yard tools, and get ready to get dirty and to work. We have projects that range from weeding to tree trimming, to painting and gen-

eral cleaning. This is a whole family event and there will be sure to be plenty of playing for the kids too!

Come when you can and find either Dayna, David, or Doug to find a task on the list.

*“How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!”
Psalm 92:5*

FALL BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

- Divine Worship:
Sundays at 9:30 AM
- Christian Education
for all ages: Sundays
at 11:00 AM
- Confirmation Classes
(Time and Day TBD)
- Women’s Bible Study
(TBD)
- Wednesday Evening
Worship at 6:45 PM
- Men’s Breakfast
(Saturday morning,
once per month)

COMMUNITY SERVE DAY

It would seem the name of the game this August is, “Get Dirty.” Two years ago, ORLC participated in Community Serve Day. We went over to Robert Frost Elementary after church and rolled up our sleeves and put down new wood chips, painted, organized, and helped get the school ready for students that fall.

Last year, obviously, we were unable to do this sort of work, but this year is a different story. We can once again put our muscles to work for the sake of our community.

On 8/22, we will have worship at 9:00 AM. Worship will be shortened so that by 10:00 AM, we are able to make our way over to Robert Frost to lend a hand preparing the school. Bring your gloves, yard tools, and the whole family over to help out.

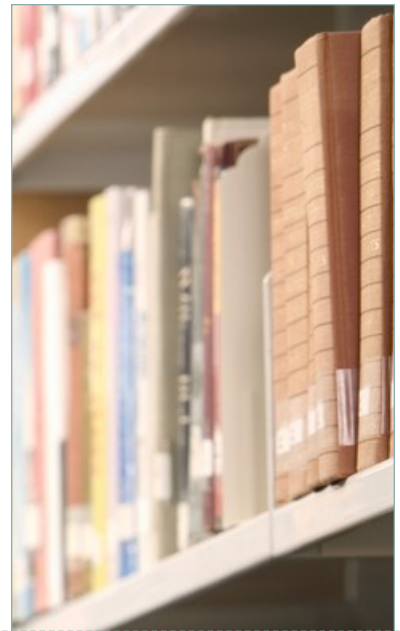
There has been talk of a bbq later that day as well, so keep your ears open for any announcements that may follow!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS was different this year. We did not have the big public invite as in years past and instead focused on fellowship within the congregation, and basic bible instruction for the entire family.

Each night we shared a meal together and played games. The students from the Free Lutheran Bible College in Plymouth, MN brought lots of energy and fun with puppets, dancing, and songs.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who came and who helped out. A special thanks goes to the Crum family for all their hard work and especially Kristi who was our director this year!



"There is wonder working power in the blood of the lamb."



OLD THEOLOGY BOOK QUOTE OF THE MONTH

One of the best things you can do for building up your biblical knowledge is to read old theology books.

One of the many benefits is that you will discover that many other Christians who have studied the scriptures and they have recorded their insights for your benefit!

So, each month, I'm going to include a quote from an old theology book for your edification. You can find this month's quote on page 6.

QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor's Report: Pastor encourage the congregation to consider and take action for ministry. What are the things that you enjoy to do? Let's do them together to be a blessing for our neighbors.

Pastor also mentioned a possible outreach coming up involving professional baseball players leading a clinic in the neighborhood.

Trustees Report: A number of 1 projects have been completed this quarter. The parsonage sewage line needed repair. The steeple cross was painted. There has been ongoing work to digitize church records. New coffee machine was installed. Damaged tree removal was completed at the parsonage.

Future projects and areas of concern: ORCS finances; Renewal of agreements with other congregations; Irrigation

leak repair; Replace deteriorating church doors and parsonage's front door; Additional tree removal at parsonage; Parsonage electrical, bathrooms, insulation; Church roof maintenance/drainage.

The trustees have a few items they need help with. Do you know an irrigation specialist, electrician, or handyman? We'd love your recommendation.

Time, Talent, and Tools List

We are hoping to create a resource list that includes information such as specialty tools, or skills you may have. Or, if you don't have the know-how but are a willing worker, we'd like to know that too! Email dayna@shanehall.net

Copies of the meeting reports is available upon request.

VERSE OF THE MONTH

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy."

(Psalm 92:1-4, ESV)

PASTOR'S COLUM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Luther wrote, "Prayer is just as strictly and seriously commanded as all other commandments: to have no other God, not to kill, not to steal, and so on. Let no one think that it makes no difference whether he prays or not." "Wow," I thought. Prayer is pretty serious if neglecting prayer is a sin!

I have a whole lot of confessing to do because my prayer is lacking in so many ways, whether you want to go by quantity or quality!

But then there was a beautiful teaching that I hadn't ever comprehended before. This teaching is found in the Psalms, "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." (Psalm 50:15, ESV) And, it is also found in Matthew, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8, ESV)

God makes promises to His people when they pray. He promises to hear our prayers and to answer our prayers. Maybe this is something you have heard before. I know I had heard it. But I dismissed it. I had all sorts of prayers that were not answered, I thought. But here, God promises to hear and answer. Why wouldn't I then trust Him at His Word? He does hear. He does answer. How do I know? Because He says He does.

These promises, Luther points out, are so that we are all the more encouraged and stirred up to pray. But not only this, God steps in and even gives us the words to pray. God is so gracious to us that he opens our lips that we would declare his praise. When the disciples came to Jesus, not knowing how they should pray, He said, "Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." (Matthew 6:9-13, ESV)

I never comprehended how beautiful and complete this prayer was. God said, these are the exact things for which you should pray. But God doesn't stop there. He also gives us prayer throughout the scriptures, especially in the Psalms. In the scriptures, we have the exact words that God uses to teach us to pray.

That doesn't mean we can only pray words from scripture, but it does probably mean that is where we should start when we ask the question, "What is prayer?"

This brings me back to my original thought. One of the things that has been impressed upon me lately is the imperfect nature of not only my works but also my prayer. Though my works are imperfect and often filled with self-interest, Jesus perfects them so that they are truly good. The same is true of my prayer. My prayers are too infrequent and often lacking in depth. Yet, my feeble and imperfect prayers are graciously heard by God the Father, perfected by Jesus Christ, and answered for His sake.

My prayers therefore are not my striving to prove my faith but instead they are confession of my weakness. Prayer confesses my utter inability to do what I want or need to do. Prayer is confessing full reliance upon God's grace even for the smallest things in life. I don't pray to prove my faith. I can't. I pray because Jesus has saved me and I can do nothing apart from Him. I go to him in prayer because He has the words of eternal life.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is a Confessional, Christ-Centered, and Congregational church and a member of the Association of Free Lutheran Churches. Founded in 1967, ORLC has been serving the Kingsgate community for 54 years

OLD THEOLOGY BOOK QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Which Doctrine, Then, or Which Word, Ought a Minister Set Before the Church of God?

Neither his dreams, nor the visions of his heart, or whatever seemed good or right to him (Jer 23:16, 25); also not human traditions or ordinances (Is 29:13; Mt 15:9). But let him who teaches in the church teach the Word of God (1 Ptr 4:11), so that the heart of the ministry is and remains this, Is 59:21: "I have put My words in your mouth," and as Augustine aptly says: "Let us not hear in the church: I say this, you say this, he says that; but: Thus says the Lord."

Matin Chemnitz: An Enchiridion

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