

# Our Redeemer's Voice

August 2022



Jesus  
loves me  
this I know

## Jesus Loves Me...

**Jesus loves me, this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak but He is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.**

I expect that most people who are reading this newsletter know that I will be retiring at the end of August. That means that this is the last "lead" article I'll be writing for our newsletter. What should I write as my "swan song" epistle? Should it be some deep theological treatise? Should I write

about all the things that have happened at Our Redeemer since I arrived? Should I lay out some hopes for the future for our congregation? Maybe I should encourage you to receive your new pastor with open and accepting arms. All such things can have their place but, as you can see, I've chosen to write a bit about a children's song, "Jesus Loves Me."

You might say the theme of this article is what I hope people will remember about me. I hope they remember that I preached Jesus. More specifically, I preached that Jesus loves us. And I preached that the foundation of that belief is the Bible. The reason I know that Jesus loves me is because that love is revealed in the Bible. Without the Bible, we would never know this life-saving truth.

**Jesus loves me! He who died  
Heaven's gate to open wide;  
He will wash away my sin,  
Let his little child come in.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.**

(Matthew 11:25; John 13:33; Galatians 4:19; 1 John 2:1; etc.). So when we sing "Little ones to Him belong, They are weak but He is strong," we are singing about ourselves no matter what our age or how much we can bench-press. He is almighty and so, by comparison, we are weak.

The peak of the love of Jesus for me and you is seen on the peak of Mt. Calvary. There he died for you, for me, for all humanity. Again, we know this because the Bible tells us so. In the waters of Baptism he has washed away our sins, so that we may enter through the gate of heaven. What a precious song! It conveys the love of Jesus so simply, so sweetly, so powerfully. I doubt that my ministry at Our Redeemer has been quite as clear as this song, but I hope everyone knows that all I wanted to do is proclaim Christ, and him crucified and risen for us and our salvation.

Blessings in Christ (*one last time*)

Pastor John Rickert

Now the phrase "little ones" in the song refers to children. I may not have had a lot of baptisms, but we have had a few. All of them have been infant baptisms. Jesus loves the little children (Matthew 19:14). He calls them to himself and welcomes them through the waters of baptism. But even more so, we are all "children of God." In fact, we adults are often called "little children" in the Bible

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**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
10 Johnson Road,  
Newark, DE 19713  
302-737-6176



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## ***DIGGING IN***

### ***The Nicene Creed***

#### ***Third Article, Part 6***

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And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, **who proceeds from the Father and the Son**, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the

life of the world to come. Amen.

Last month we examined some of the Biblical support for the statement that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. We have also seen how the phrase “and the Son” (just one word in Latin) was added by the council of Toledo in 586. A natural question is whether this was a theological insight new at Toledo, or is it an insight they learned from Church Fathers before them. The following quotes shall establish that the council of Toledo was simply asserting a truth they received from those who preceded them.

I consider the Spirit as coming from nowhere else than from the Father through the Son (Joel Elowsky, editor, *Ancient Christ Doctrine 4 We Believe in the Holy Spirit IVP*, 222; Tertulian AD 150-220)

The Holy Spirit also, when he proceeds from the Father and the Son, is not separated from the Father or separated from the Son. For how could he be separated from the Father when he is the Spirit of his mouth? This is certainly both a proof of his eternity and expresses the unity of this Godhead. (*ibid.* 223; Ambrose AD 340-397)

Learn now that as the Father is the Fount of life, so, too, many have stated that the Son is signified as the Fount of life. Therefore he says, with you, “Almighty God, your Son is the Fount of life.” That is, the Fount of the Holy Spirit, for the Spirit is life, as the Lord says, “The words which I speak unto you are Spirit and Life.” For where the Spirit is, there also is Life; and where Life is, is also the Holy Spirit.

Many, however, consider that in this passage the Father only is signified by the Fount. Let them, however, notice what the Scripture relates: “With you is the Well of life.” That is, the Son is with the Father; since the Word was with God, who was in the beginning and was with God.

But whether in this place one understands the Fount to be the Father or the Son, we certainly do not understand a fount of that water that is created, but the fount of that divine grace, that is, of the Holy Spirit, for he is the living water. This is why the Lord said, “If you knew the gift of God and who he is who says to you, ‘Give me to drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”

This was the water for which the soul of David thirsted. The hart desires the fountain of these waters, not thirsting for the poison of serpents. For the water of the grace of the Spirit is living, that it may purify the inner parts of the mind, and wash away every sin of the soul and purify the transgression of hidden faults. (*ibid.* 223-224; Ambrose AD 340-397)

It is here, too, that he imparts the Holy Spirit to the disciples by breathing on them, giving us thereby to understand that the Spirit who is co-substantial and co-eternal with the Trinity should not be considered to be simply the Spirit of the Father but should also be held to be the Spirit of the Son. (*ibid.* 223; Augustine AD 354-430)

The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding (*Athanasian Creed*, verse 32)

I know that we have not finished with the Creed, but as you know, I retire at the end of this month. All I can say in wrapping up this series is that the rest of the creed is thoroughly biblical and in complete harmony with the views expressed by the orthodox Church Fathers. Whenever anyone asks you what you believe, either as a Christian or as a Lutheran Christian, you can recite the Nicene Creed and know that you have given a faithful and good testimony to our common faith.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor



# AUGUST—PENTECOST

As August begins, Luke tells of Jesus' urging His disciples not to worry for God cares for His own. The message continues with the reminder that we should be at peace and avoid divisions among us. Later Jesus reminds us that the door to His kingdom is narrow and few enter it. Later at the home of a pharisee Jesus speaks of the sabbath law and stresses true keeping of the law is love and compassion. He also warns against seeking the place of honor to please men. The Old Testament begins with God's covenant with Abram which is that he will be father to a great many nations. Jeremiah warns of false prophets who will

try to mislead Israel. Isaiah warns of God's judgment by the nations who oppose Israel. The Epistle lessons begin with Hebrews teaching about Faith and what it means. This teaching extends to examples of faith among the leaders of Israel. This portion of Hebrews is an excellent reminder of how we should live in faith. As we move through August let us focus on Jesus and the importance of our faith and devotion to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Arlen D. Besel—Worship**

*This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Carol Geisler.*

## ONE THING



*Psalm 27:4 -One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.*

A character in a folk tale is sometimes granted three wishes by some magical figure, perhaps a genie or a leprechaun. This does not necessarily lead to a happy ending, as the character usually misuses or wastes the wishes. David the psalmist seeks something far more substantial than three imagined wishes. He only wants one thing and he makes his request of the Lord of heaven and earth.

When David's son Solomon was enthroned in Israel, God said to the new king, "Ask what I shall give you" (1 King 3:5b). Solomon asked for just one thing, an "understanding mind" so that he would be a good king. Pleased with this request, the Lord gave Solomon both wisdom and wealth. During the Lord's earthly ministry, a blind man named Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus, David's greater Son. The Lord asked him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51b). The blind man only wanted one thing—to receive his sight. Jesus healed him and, seeing clearly, Bartimaeus followed his Lord.

As He did for David, Solomon, and Bartimaeus, the Lord hears our prayers and mercifully grants our requests according to His will. If you were to ask one thing of the Lord, as David does, what would you ask? Would you ask for wisdom or wealth? Would you ask for help and healing? The psalmist seeks only the one necessary thing that, centuries later, Martha's sister Mary would seek when she "sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching" (see Luke 10:39-42). The psalmist wants to dwell in the house of the Lord always. Where his Lord is, that is where David wants to be, "to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

"Our Lord is present among us in His Word and His Sacraments, and where He is, that is where we want to be. In His Word we gaze upon His beauty, even on the dark day when His beauty was marred by cruel nails and a crown of thorns. We gaze upon the beauty of our risen Savior as we encounter Him at the empty tomb and marvel at His nail-scarred hands and feet. We come together in worship and prayer, inquiring in the Lord's temple, learning from the Scriptures, and receiving the wondrous, beautiful mystery of His body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

Like David and Solomon, Bartimaeus and Mary, we ask of the Lord just this one necessary thing: to dwell in His presence for all of our days. Our gracious Lord grants our request, now and for all eternity. He has promised, "I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also" (John 14:3b). We want to be where Jesus is, and He wants that, too.

**Arlen D. Besel—Worship**

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# CALL FOR PASTOR REPORT—July 2022

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Dear Our Redeemer congregation members,

This report is to update you on our status regarding calling a new pastor to replace Pastor Rickert, who is retiring at the end of August.

## THE CALL PROCESS TO DATE

1. The first step was for the congregational council to complete an extensive congregational profile, describing Our Redeemer's membership, activities, practices, finances, etc. Council submitted this to the Southeastern District President's office in early February (well ahead of the required schedule).
2. At that point, it was up to the district president, in consultation with other district presidents, to match Our Redeemer with possible pastoral candidates from within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. We were informed early on that there is a serious shortage of qualified pastors, and that the process of identifying candidates could take considerable time. Indeed, it has. We finally received a list of twelve possible candidates on July 11.
3. The next step in the process is for each of the candidates generated by the district president's office to be asked whether they are willing to be considered for our pending pastoral vacancy. That task normally is handled by another LCMS pastor. In our case, Pastor Michael Thress of Faith Lutheran in Bear is doing this currently.

## THE CALL PROCESS TO COME

4. After the list of candidate pastors is made final following Pastor Thress's inquiries, Our Redeemer's call committee will get to work reviewing the candidates.
5. Per LCMS recommendations, our call committee consists of seven members, with a majority of them not currently on the church council, and representing a mix of members (different ages, long-term and more recent members, male and female, etc.). Committee members are Laurel Pearson (co-chair), Gary Weaver (co-chair), Emily DiBenedetto, Kathy O'Malley, Jessica Ford, Marybeth Cooley, and Kirk Tackitt. These individuals were solicited by the church council and graciously agreed to serve. Laurel (council financial secretary) previously has served on a call committee, and Gary (council recording secretary), with Arlen Besel, was responsible for gathering the information together to develop the congregational profile.
6. The call committee will review the various candidates, and make recommendations for which candidates to interview further and which to submit for congregational approval; this could be any or all of the candidates, depending on how the review process proceeds.

## YOUR ROLE AS A CONGREGATION MEMBER

7. Pray for the work of the call committee, and the decision processes of both the committee and the pastoral candidates, that a good match would be made for continuing God's work and witness at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.
8. Feel free to ask questions of, or offer advice to, the call committee, as it reviews pastoral candidates. You may review any of the submitted candidate profiles at the church office (however, for privacy reasons, the profiles may not be taken away from the church office or copied).

The call committee will keep the congregation posted as to any new developments as the call process continues. Meanwhile, the congregation council is working on identifying any necessary substitute pastors for between when Pastor Rickert leaves and a new pastor arrives.

Thank you for your prayerful support for the call process.

*Laurel Pearson*

*Gary Weaver*

*Call committee co-chairs*

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## NEWS & NOTES

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**FREE LIBRARY INVENTORY OVERSTOCK ITEMS**—Bob Cooley and Julie Hockersmith went through the library and removed excess items. There are Bibles, Our Redeemer license

plates, CDs, VCR tapes, and more located on the tables in the overflow room. Please do not hesitate to take items home. There is something for everyone.



**O.R.C.H.A.R.D GARDEN**—There are many volunteer opportunities in the garden. Contact Robin to ask what you can do to make a difference and promote the 2022 Garden. Robin made a second delivery of squash and zucchini to food bank on Tuesday (7/19)... a total of 132.5 pounds to date

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS SOUGHT**—Please consider donating time to teach Sunday School this fall. You can choose to teach for a set period of time, once a month, or whatever the Spirit moves you to serve. Please contact Robin if you can help.

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## SAVE THE DATE

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**(AUGUST 28) PASTOR RICKERT'S RETIREMENT LUNCHEON**—All are welcome to attend pastor's luncheon following the Sunday service, August 28, 2022. Please join us in fellowship, wishing pastor and Kitty God's blessings in their new journey and adventure. They have both served our church and congregation in faith and dedication. We are truly blessed to have had them ministering and participating in the functions of Our Redeemer. We pray the Lord will be with them, guide them and bless them as they travel to new destinations and callings. The peace of the Lord be with them always. *Congregational Life—Lina Besteder*

**(AUGUST 9) FUNDRAISING APPRECIATION EVENT**—On Tuesday 8/9 **ALL** LCS volunteers past and present are welcome to share in an evening of fun, food, and baseball. We will gather at Frawley Stadium for a picnic buffet in the 3rd base side picnic zone, reserved for LCS. The buffet includes pulled pork, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, cookies and non-alcoholic drinks. Ticket, picnic meal, and parking are FREE for you and 1 guest! If you would like to pay for additional guests, contact Alex at [amazzei@lcsde.org](mailto:amazzei@lcsde.org). Register at LCS 302.654.8886 or <http://lcsde.org> Pick up tickets at LCS van and table out front on day of event.



**(AUGUST 16) CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**—The August meeting will be held on Tuesday the 16th at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Please note the change.

**(SEPTEMBER 17) LCS 5 K WALK/RUN** Register at LCS 302.654.8886 or <http://lcsde.org>

**(OCTOBER 3) LCS GOLF TOURNAMENT** Register at LCS 302.654.8886 or <http://lcsde.org>

**(OCTOBER 19) ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY**—OGT is preparing for its annual October fundraising even. Ruth will again be selling shopping passes for \$5.00. This gives you a discount for the Boscov's Friends Helping Friends sale on October 19. The discount is 25% on most purchases, including items already on sale. OGT keeps the \$5. With the cost of shipping increasing, it is expected to be a successful sale. The coupon can be used at any Boscov's location. Contact Ruth for more information.

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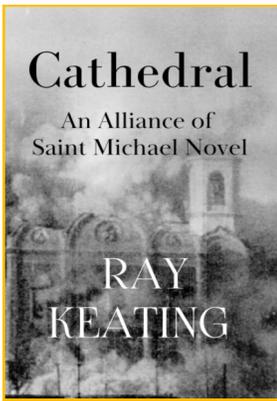
## CHURCH CHUCKLES

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**A COUNTRY PREACHER** decided to skip services one Sunday to spend the day hiking in the wilderness. Rounding a sharp bend in the trail, he collided with a bear and was sent tumbling down a steep grade. He landed on a rock and broke both legs.

With the ferocious bear charging at him from a distance, the preacher prayed, "O Lord, I'm so sorry for skipping services today. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish—make a Christian out of that bear that's coming at me!"

At that very instant, the bear skidded to a halt, fell to his knees, clasped his paws together, and began to pray aloud at the preacher's feet: "Dear God, please bless this food I am about to receive." [www.makeitcleannow.org](http://www.makeitcleannow.org)



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## **BOOK REVIEW**

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*Cathedral: An Alliance of Saint Michael Novel*

Ray Keating

Paperback, 353 pages, © 2022

As the 1920's ended, Stalin's reign of terror in Russia was in full swing. Anyone, and any organization, that he perceived as a threat to "the state" were slated for persecution and destruction. That included religion in general, and the Christian Church in particular.

The world was rocked by the collapse of the American economy, which many other countries depended on. The Great Depression swept the world. This provided opportunities for extreme political ideologies of both the right and the left.

It is in this setting that Ray Keating places his latest novel. As with any historical fiction, the setting reflects true history but the main characters are fictional. The characters in Keating's novel fit the time well. At the outset they have formed the "Institute for Christian Life, History and Arts" which has as a primary goal educating people concerning the dangers of Communism. They soon decide to also include the dangers of Fascism. Partly, because the group is targeted by Soviet agents, they come to realize that education alone will not be enough, so they form a sub-group known as the "Alliance of Saint Michael." This group takes a more proactive role, protecting sacred objects that are slated to be destroyed, seeking to deliver persecuted people from that persecution, and such.

The Alliance races against time to rescue the Glück Bible, the earliest effort to translate the Bible into Russian. Unbeknown to the Soviets, it is hidden in St. Michael's Lutheran Church, slated to be destroyed and replaced with the Palace of the Soviets. The only one who knows where it is hidden, has already been martyred. As part of the team seeks to find the missing treasure, those who remained stateside must avoid the Soviet agents who are bent on murdering them.

This book appears to be the first in a planned series of "Alliance of Saint Michael" novels. It is an excellent read. I recommend the book and look forward to future books in the series.

Pastor John Rickert

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## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

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### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

3 Mark Johnston  
11 Kevin Kruelle  
18 Milton Steltz, Jr  
20 Bonnie Johnston  
24 Lian Noble Kline  
25 Stephen DiBenedetto  
27 Loren Kline

### **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

7 A. K. & Helga Kissell  
14 Kevin & Meghan Gerzevske

# HELLO AUGUST !





# AUGUST 2022



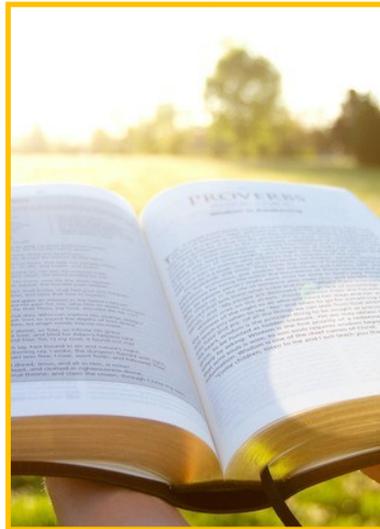
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SERVING</b> Pastor Rev. Dr. John Rickert Organist Julie Hockersmith David Rash	<b>USHERS</b> Arlen Besel Dennis Boon Jim Rose	<b>LECTORS</b> 8/7 Kevin Gerzevske 8/14 Robin Billy 8/21 Mike Cannatelli 8/24 Gary Weaver	<b>STREAMING</b> 8/7 Laurel Pearson 8/14 Robin Billy 8/21 8/24	4	5	6
<b>Worship—Communion</b> <b>Divine 3, 10 am</b> 	<b>Office Closed</b>	<b>Announcement Deadline</b>	10	11	12	13
<b>Worship, 10 am</b>	15	<b>Announcement Deadline</b> <b>Church Council 7:3– p.m.</b> <b>Zoom</b>	17	18	19	<b>20</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
<b>Worship—Communion 10 am</b> 	22	<b>Announcement Deadline</b>	24	25	26	27
<b>Worship, 10 am</b>	29	<b>Announcement Deadline</b>	31			

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# ***AUGUST BIBLE READINGS***

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- 1** Habakkuk 3:2-19  
2 Chronicles 1-3
- 2** Psalm 57  
2 Chronicles 4-6
- 3** Psalm 58  
2 Chronicles 7-9
- 4** Psalm 59  
2 Chronicles 10-12
- 5** Psalm 60  
2 Chronicles 13-15
- 6** Psalm 61  
2 Chronicles 16-18
- 7** Psalm 62  
2 Chronicles 19-21
- 8** Psalm 63  
2 Chronicles 22-24
- 9** Psalm 64  
2 Chronicles 25-27
- 10** Psalm 65  
2 Chronicles 28-30
- 11** Psalm 66  
2 Chronicles 31-33
- 12** Psalm 67  
2 Chronicles 34-36
- 13** Psalm 68  
Ezra 1-5
- 14** Psalm 69  
Ezra 6-10
- 15** Psalm 70  
Nehemiah 1-3
- 16** Psalm 71  
Nehemiah 4-6



***Through the Bible in a year***

- 17** Psalm 72  
Nehemiah 7-9
- 18** Psalm 73  
Nehemiah 10-13
- 19** Psalm 74  
Esther 1-3
- 20** Psalm 75  
Esther 4-6
- 21** Psalm 76  
Esther 7-10
- 22** Psalm 77  
Job 1-3
- 23** Psalm 78  
Job 4-6
- 24** Psalm 79  
Job 7-9
- 25** Psalm 80  
Job 10-12
- 26** Psalm 81  
Job 13-15
- 27** Psalm 82  
Job 16-18
- 28** Psalm 83  
Job 19-21
- 29** Psalm 84  
Job 22-24
- 30** Psalm 85  
Job 25-27
- 31** Habakkuk 3:2-19  
Job 28-30  
26-29