

# Our Redeemer's Voice

OCTOBER 2022



## Three Faithful Women

*(From Our Redeemer website archives, October 2016 by Pastor John Rickert)*

October 25 marks the commemoration of Dorcas (Tabitha), Lydia, and Phoebe, Faithful Women.

Dorcas, Lydia, and Phoebe were exemplary Christians who demonstrated their faith by their material support of the Church. Dorcas, or Tabitha (the name means "gazelle" and was a favorite name among both Greeks and Jews), was well-known and much loved for her acts of charity in the city of Joppa, especially for making clothes for the poor.

When Dorcas died suddenly, the members of her congregation sent to the neighboring city of Lydda for the apostle Peter, who came and raised her from the dead (Acts 9:36-41). This was the first time an Apostle did such a miracle and it was a powerful witness to the Gentiles.

Lydia was a woman of Thyatira, who worked at Philippi selling a famous purple dye that was much in demand in the ancient world. (Thyatira was a Lydian city and so the name Lydia might originally have been an adjective.) Such a business required a great deal of capital, so she was probably well-to-do. She was also a "worshiper of

## FOR US AND WITH US!

The Lutheran Woman's Missionary League focuses on affirming every woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and helping her to live her Christian life in active missions to help support global missions.

OCTOBER is Lutheran Women's Missionary League Month. "For Us and With Us," is the theme for LWML Sunday 2022 (the first Sunday in October) and is based on Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul tells us that each of us has faced challenges and circumstances greater than our own strength (Romans 8:31-39). But, in Christ, who is for us and with us, we are already more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Like the faithful women in biblical times, Dorcas, Lydia, and Phoebe, commemorated this month, today's Lutheran women continue to help others find their strength.

The power of God is evident in the dimes, quarters, and dollars you put in your Mite Box. Mite boxes will be available this month.

**OCTOBER 15 —LUTHERAN WOMAN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE** Chairperson Kathy O'Malley announced that LWML will resume in person meetings from 9-11 a.m. at the church. All women of Our Redeemer are invited to attend. Snacks will be provided.

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God" at the local synagogue (Acts 16:14) and the first person converted to Christianity in Europe. When the apostle Paul encountered her in prayer among other proselyte women, his preaching of the Word brought Lydia to faith in Christ. She and her friends thus became the nucleus of the Christian community in Philippi (Acts 16:13-15, 40). After her baptism she invited Paul and his companions to stay in her house, which relieved Paul of the necessity of earning his support, as was his custom elsewhere.

Phoebe (her name means "bright" or "radiant") was another faithful woman associated with the apostle Paul. She was a deaconess from Cenchreae (the port of Corinth) whom Paul sent to the Church in Rome with his Epistle to the Romans. The word "deaconess" might perhaps be better translated "patron" or "helper," for Paul doesn't mean that he is a deacon when he applies a similar word to himself (2 Corinthians 11:23; Colossians 1:23, 25). In Romans, Paul writes of Phoebe's support for the work of the Early Church (Romans 16:1-2) and this, along with Paul calling her a deaconess, became the inspiration for the more regular order of deaconesses that was to emerge in the Church in the third and fourth centuries.

The date for remembering these ladies of faith was taken from the liturgical calendar used in Orthodox denominations, as they remember the Blessed Tabitha on October 25. We have simply expanded the commemoration to include more of the important women in the Early Church.

### ***Collect for the Commemoration of Dorcas (Tabitha), Lydia, and Phoebe, Faithful Women:***

Almighty God, You stirred to compassion the hearts of Your dear servants Dorcas, Lydia, and Phoebe to uphold and sustain Your Church by their devoted and charitable deeds. Give us the same will to love You, open our eyes to see You in the least ones, and strengthen our hands to serve You in others, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for-

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## ***Pastoral Call Congregational Report— Update 9.15.22*** ***Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Newark, Delaware***

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Dear Our Redeemer congregation members,

***At the September 14 call service, voters approved extending a call to Pastor Eli Voigt, currently at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bagley, Minnesota. As of the newsletter publication date, we are waiting for a response from Pastor Voigt.***

This report from 9/18 is to update you on our status regarding calling a new pastor to replace Pastor Rickert, who ***retired*** at the end of August. ***New or changed information from previous reports is in italics.***

### **THE CALL PROCESS TO DATE**

1. *The call process started in early February when the church council submitted to the Southeastern District president's office a detailed congregational profile. In mid-July the call committee received a list of eleven possible candidates from the district president's office. Circuit Visitor Pastor Michael Thress, of Faith Lutheran in Bear, then was responsible for contacting each of those possible candidates to see if indeed they were willing to be considered. It took some time until we had responses from each of the pastors on the initial candidate list we received. (Please see prior call process reports for more details on this part of the process.)*

2. Pastor Thress's inquiries to the candidates on the preliminary list we received resulted in a short list of three candidates who were willing to be considered. The call committee then scheduled online video interviews with each of those three. The committee met with the first two on *Tuesday August 23 and with the third on August 25*. Two of them are from Minnesota, and one is from Florida, and they range in age from around 30 to around 50. All currently are in pastoral positions.

### **THE CALL PROCESS CURRENTLY**

3. *The call committee reviewed the candidates over the next several days. During that period, one of the three candidates withdrew from consideration due to concerns about moving his family. Both remaining candidates were assessed as good candidates for the congregation to consider calling.*

4. During the interviews all three candidate pastors were offered the opportunity to visit Our Redeemer in advance of a possible call. However, norms about the appropriateness of such pre-call visits vary widely in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, and thus one of the two remaining candidates (and also the withdrawn candidate) declined such a visit. In order to treat each candidate equally, we thus decided not to pursue a pre-call visit by the third candidate.

5. The next task was to schedule a call service as soon as possible. In light of the shortage of qualified pastors relative to the number of congregations in need of pastors, we did not want to delay and thus possibly lose our candidates, since they also might be under consideration by other congregations. (For example, one of our candidates declined a call from another congregation in midsummer.)

6. Scheduling the call service was constrained by both the constitutional requirement to give two weeks' notice to the congregation, and by Pastor Thress's schedule (he already had call services at other congregations in our area scheduled for Sundays in September). September 14 appeared to be the first viable day for a call service, although one candidate would not be available by phone early in the evening (due to conducting a mid-week service for university students), and the other also could not promise to be available. The congregation was informed of the pending call service on August 30, and profiles of each candidate, summarizing the call committee's interview with each, and based on notes taken during the interviews by several committee members, were distributed on September 1.

7. Constitutionally, a vote to call a pastor to Our Redeemer requires a vote of 75% of the members voting at the call service. At the call service on September 14, Pastor Eli Voigt of Minnesota received 80% of the vote on the first (written and secret) ballot. A second "show of hands" vote was taken to indicate general acceptance of this outcome.

8. Later in the evening of September 14, Pastor Thress spoke with Pastor Voigt by telephone to inform him that he would be extended a call to become pastor of Our Redeemer. Pastor Voigt now will carefully and prayerfully consider the call.

9. The formal call now is sent in writing. The written materials include a thirteen page document, required by the Synod, covering the terms of the call--pastoral responsibilities, congregational information, and multiple pages of financial details (salary, housing, health care provisions and options, etc.). In addition, we provide two additional documents covering matters specific to Our Redeemer that are not covered in detail by the LCMS call document (such as the details of our vacation policy). All this information needs to be reviewed by Pastor Voigt.

#### **THE CALL PROCESS TO COME:**

10. We have been advised that it typically takes 3 to 5 weeks for pastors to make a decision to accept or decline a call. Thus, there is no guarantee that the process will be completed as quickly as it was in 2015, when Pastor Rickert took less than two weeks to accept our call. Meanwhile, it is likely that Pastor Voigt will have additional questions for Our Redeemer, and also possible that he will make a visit to Our Redeemer, both to meet some of the congregation and see the area.

#### **YOUR ROLE AS A CONGREGATION MEMBER**

11. Pray for the work of the call committee, and the decision processes of both the committee and the pastoral candidate, that a good match would be made for continuing God's work and witness at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Thank you for your prayerful support for the call process.

Gary Weaver & Laure Pearson, Call committee co-chairs

## **Calling a Faithful Pastor**

The Call Committee asks the congregation to join us by daily praying this prayer from the Lutheran Service Book page 306.  
— Mary Beth

O Gracious Father, You led Your holy apostles to ordain ministers for the proclamation of Your Word and the faithful administration of the Sacraments of Christ. Grant to this congregation (Our Redeemer) the guidance of the Holy Spirit to choose a suitable pastor according to Your will for the blessing of Your Church in this place; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

"I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto Me and rest; Lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon My breast. I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad; I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad. It is based on the hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say,"

"I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold, I freely give the living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live.' I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him."

Jesus invites us, "Come unto Me and rest," but the Lord Himself needed to rest when He sat down beside a well in the Samaritan town of Sychar. When a local woman arrived to draw water, Jesus' simple request for a drink turned into a serious conversation about water and salvation. Jesus offered living water that became in those who drank of it "a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14b). The woman told the townspeople about the visitor at the well, and they invited Jesus to stay and speak to them. Many of them believed and drank of the living water offered by the Lord they confessed as the Messiah and Savior of the world.

During His earthly ministry Jesus needed rest, as we do, but when it came to His saving purpose, He knew no rest. His path led to the cross, and there would be no turning from it. For the sake of our salvation, Jesus knew what it was to be "weary, worn, and sad." He was, as the prophet Isaiah said, "a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as One from whom men hide their faces He was despised" (Isaiah 53:3a). Jesus suffered and died for the sins of the Samaritan woman and the sins of the townspeople of Sychar, for our sins—for the sins of the entire world. At the cross, a soldier pierced the Lord with a spear to confirm His death. Blood and water poured from the side of the Savior who paid for the precious, eternally thirst-quenching water of life with His innocent blood (see John 19:34).

Jesus said, "Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive" (John 7:38-39a). The crucified and risen Lord still calls out to the world, "Behold, I freely give the living water." We drink of the living water as the Spirit of God creates faith in our hearts. By faith, when earthly troubles make us "weary, worn, and sad," we find rest in Jesus' love and care. By faith, we have the hope and promise of eternal rest in Jesus' presence, where we will be invited to drink of "the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb (see Revelation 22:1).

**(Through the Worship Window will return next month)**

**ARLEN BESEL—WORSHIP**

## NEWS & NOTES



Madison Walter from the DNREC recently presented Robin with the 2022 Garden Hero Award, the Golden Gourd.

### **GOLDEN GOURD AWARD GOES TO ROBIN BILLY**

The DE Urban Farm and Food Coalition awarded Robin Billy with this year's *Garden Hero* award for her leadership and dedication. Without her initiative, the garden would not continue to flourish, the food bank would not benefit, and members of the community would not continue to come together touching lives with both food and friendship. Robin cares about her gardeners. She cares about the garden. She cares about helping others.

Robin wrote the grant that gave our gardeners a place to put their tools to make it easier for everyone to garden. Weekly she weighs and measures produce from our dedicated food bank plots... and delivers the food to the food bank. She uses her own time, and talents to make a difference.

Robin looks for ways to encourage the gardeners and make the community garden more inclusive to all. Robin organizes meetings for gardeners and steering committee. She keeps everyone up to date with happenings in the garden. In the spring she puts signs out in the neighborhood. *(continued next page)*

When she learned that one of our garden members teaches as an autistic school, and another has a grandchild who is autistic, she began a back to school toy drive for sensory and cause and effect items that will benefit the Brennen School

Robin proves that not only food grows in a garden. Friendships bloom, hearts unfold and seeds of kindness sprout. She is O.R.C.H.A.R.D.'s garden hero. She keeps it and the gardeners growing with love and dedication.

In other garden news, an end of season "pizza" gathering and pumpkin painting event for the garden participants is earmarked for the middle of October. The end of season garden cleanup is scheduled for November 5th with back up date of November 12.

**ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY**—OGT is preparing for its annual October fundraising even. Ruth will again be selling shopping passes for \$5.00. Tickets can also be purchased in the office from 9—2, Monday through Thursday. 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.—*Ruth Hewlett*



### **BRENNEN BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE**

Thank you to all who have purchased an item or donated to the event. Robin will be delivering these items soon. Please contact her if you would like to help her in delivering the items. —*Robin Bllly*

**SPEICAL MUSIC CHOIR**—Kathy O'Malley, Julie Hockersmith, and I are exploring the possibility of starting up a "Special Music Choir" at ORLC. This choir will not sing at worship every week, but only after a selection of music has been prepared.

Before rehearsals begin, we must develop a COVID protocol and get approval from Council. The ultimate plan calls for rehearsals to be after church on Sundays for a total time commitment of 30 minutes.

We want to know who is interested in joining the choir to help in the planning process. Please contact Mike Cannatelli at church. You can also email him or text him (*personal contact information is in the church directory*) with questions or to say you're interested.

Anyone who still has a black choir folder from when they were in the previous choir should bring it to church and give it to Kathy. —*Mike Cannatelli*



**FALL WINDOW CLEANING** The Property Board will hold another window washing party for the Church on Saturday 10/15 at 10:00 AM. If you would like to bring your own cleaner and rags, you are welcome however, those items will be available. The Spring event had about 6-7 participants and took about an hour to clean the windows. There will be a few more windows to wash this time as screens will be removed and washed prior to this date. Please mark your calendar and join the party - the more the merrier. Lina will arrange for pizza and beverages after as a reward for all the hard work.—*Bob Cooley*

**BUILD A BAG** Build-a-Bag Project has resumed making sleeping bags on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. No sewing skills are needed, just a willingness to help and serve the homeless in our community. If you have any questions please contact *Marybeth Cooley*. (*personal contact information is in the church directory*).

### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 15 Arno Kissell
- 19 Roma Balram
- 23 Laurel Pearson
- 24 Robert Johnston



**THANK YOU** Lina for bringing the wonderful fall colors into the church. Our Redeemer is beautifully decorated throughout.

# LUTHERANS OUT & ABOUT



**LUTERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY**—The new term is in full swing, and we're already experiencing God's abundant blessings at LCM! It's heartening to see the students' enthusiasm and joy in gathering, and to hear their hopes and plans for the year ahead. We welcomed three new students in September and invite new folks. Praise God! So far this term, we've savored a *UDairy* ice cream run, volunteered with FISH (*Fellowship in Serving the Hungry*), and enjoyed a multi-campus fall retreat in Ocean City, Maryland. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will draw new students to our group and that LCM will be a safe, supportive, Christ-centered place for young adults to grow in faith, leadership, and service.

If you'd be interested in connecting with LCM more intentionally this year by bringing a Tuesday dinner for our students or by serving on our Directing Committee (governing board), please feel free to contact me. I also invite you to check out our website at [www.lcmde.org](http://www.lcmde.org). Above all, we welcome your continued prayers, and we thank you for your partnership in ministry.

The students and I wish you God's blessings, peace, and joy this fall! May you and your loved ones be blessed with good health and with renewed hope.

In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister of Word and Service  
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD

## SAVE THE DATE



**OCTOBER 02**—Pastor Ray Rogers

**OCTOBER 09**—Pastor Peter Mueller

**OCTOBER 10**—Office Closed Holiday

**OCTOBER 15** — 10 a.m. Our Redeemer Fall window washing party, with light lunch after.

**OCTOBER 15** —Lutheran Woman's Missionary League Chairperson Kathy O'Malley announced that LWML will resume in person meetings from 9-11 a.m. at the church. All women of Our Redeemer are invited to attend. Snacks will be provided. Meeting will be in the pastor's office.

**OCTOBER 16**—Pastor Ray Rogers

**OCTOBER 18** — Church Council Meeting

**OCTOBER 19**—Bosco's Friends Helping Friends sale on October 19. The discount is 25% on most purchases, including items already on sale. Orphan Grain Train keeps the \$5.

**OCTOBER 20**—Newsletter Deadline

**OCTOBER 23**—Pastor Peter Mueller

**BUILD A BAG** — Meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

## CHURCH CHUCKLES (For the Kids)

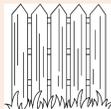


Why did the scarecrow win the Nobel Prize?



He was outstanding in his field.

What runs around a farm but doesn't move?



A fence.

Why shouldn't you tell a secret in a corn field?



Because corn has ears.

What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?



Squash.



# OCTOBER 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Worship—Communion Divine 1, 10 am Guest Pastor Ray Rogers 	3 Announcement Deadline Build-A-Bag 10 a.m.	4 Announcements Build-A-Bag 10 a.m.	5 Winkle 10 a.m. (Circuit pastor meeting)	6 Winkle 10 a.m. (Circuit pastor meeting)	7	8
9 Worship Divine 1, 10 am Guest Pastor Peter Mueller	10 Office Closed/Holiday	11 Announcements Build-A-Bag 10 a.m.	12	13	14	15 Our Redeemer LWML 9-11 a.m. Fall Window Cleaning Party 10 a.m.
16 Worship—Communion Divine 1, 10 am Guest Pastor Ray Rogers 	17 Announcements Build-A-Bag 10 a.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Zoom	18 Announcements Build-A-Bag 10 a.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Zoom	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22
23 Worship Divine 1, 10 am Guest Pastor Peter Mueller	24 Announcements Newsletter Deadline Build-A-Bag 10 a.m.	25 Announcements Newsletter Deadline Build-A-Bag 10 a.m.	26	27	28	29
30 Worship, 10 am Guest Pastor	31 November 1 Announcements Build-A-Bag 10 a.m.	URSERS Arlen Besel Dennis Boon Jim Rose	LECTORS 10/2 Kevin Gerzevske 10/9 Robin Billy 10/16 Mike Cannatelli 10/23 Gary Weaver 10/30 Julie Hockersmith	STREAMING 10/2 S&E Dibeneditto 10/9 S&E Dibeneditto 10/16 10/23 10/30	SERVING Guest Pastor Organists Julie Hockersmith David Rash	

# OCTOBER BIBLE READINGS

- 1** Jonah 2:2-9  
Jeremiah 32-34
- 2** Psalm 114  
Jeremiah 35-37
- 3** Psalm 115  
Jeremiah 38-40
- 4** Psalm 116  
Jeremiah 41-43
- 5** Psalm 117  
Jeremiah 44-47
- 6** Psalm 118  
Jeremiah 48-50
- 7** Psalm 119: 1-8  
Jeremiah 51-52
- 8** Psalm 119: 9-16  
Lamentations 1-2
- 9** Psalm 119: 17-24  
Lamentations 3-5
- 10** Psalm 119: 25-32  
Ezekiel 1-3
- 11** Psalm 119:33-40  
Ezekiel 4-6
- 12** Psalm 119:41-48  
Ezekiel 7-9
- 13** Psalm 119:49-56  
Ezekiel 10-12
- 14** Psalm 119: 57-64  
Ezekiel 13-15
- 15** Psalm 119: 65-72  
Ezekiel 16-18
- 16** Psalm 119: 73-80  
Ezekiel 19-21



***Read Through the  
Entire Bible in a year***

- 17** Psalm 119: 81-88  
Ezekiel 22-24
- 18** Psalm 119: 89-96  
Ezekiel 25-27
- 19** Psalm 119: 97-104  
Ezekiel 28-30
- 20** Psalm 119: 105-112  
Ezekiel 31-33
- 21** Psalm 119: 113-120  
Ezekiel 34-36
- 22** Psalm 119: 121-128  
Ezekiel 37-39
- 23** Psalm 119: 129-136  
Ezekiel 40-42
- 24** Psalm 119: 137-144  
Ezekiel 43-45
- 25** Psalm 119: 145-152  
Ezekiel 46-48
- 26** Psalm 119: 153-160  
Daniel 1-3
- 27** Psalm 119: 161-168  
Daniel 4-6
- 28** Psalm 119: 169-176  
Daniel 7-9
- 29** Psalm 120  
Daniel 10-12
- 30** Psalm 121  
Hosea 1-4
- 31** Jonah 2:2-9  
Hosea 5-7