

# Our Redeemer's Voice

AUGUST 2024



## MOVING FORWARD



Rev. Jeremy Loesch

We embarked on a preaching series in July on Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Sometimes we are given a good opportunity to hear extended portions of Scripture, and this summer is one of those times. By the time this newsletter reaches your hand, we'll already be 3 or 4 weeks into it, so I'm not going to 'advertise' as much as share motivation.

In preaching, the 'rule of thumb' is to generally preach on the Gospel lesson. It is always good to hear the words of Jesus, to have our mind focused on His good and gracious work. But this is one time where the rule is ignored, for when I looked at these lessons back in May I noticed that in a few of Paul's lessons there were encouragements to walk or move as the people that God made us to be. And in one case the encouragement was to not walk in the way of the world.

While the name Barnabas (a fellow worker with St. Paul) means "son of encouragement", Paul did his fair share of it too. Paul was aware of the work of God in a person's life. We know the story of Paul's conversion and transformation. Paul does not shy away from his former life. He uses it to shine light on the power of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, to do amazing things in a person's life.

How do we, as individuals and as a congregation, move in this world? That has been an eternal question, and very likely will be. There appears to be division in every facet of our society. It's not merely the federal or state government that cannot make a decision, it's your local

HOA. Sometimes you are divided against yourself, not being able to land on a decision because of conflicting thoughts that all seem reasonable.

We strive to listen to the Word of the Lord, and follow that Word. There are many good people and good resources that can aid us. Yet the temptations of our sinful nature and the allurements of the world and the ever-present work of the devil negates our good desires. It can be hard to figure out the direction one should travel.

This sermon series isn't designed to tell you left, straight, right, or zig-zag. If you want those kinds of directions, take dancing lessons. What we are given to focus on this summer is that the Lord gives direction. Jesus asks us to follow Him. He doesn't say how fast, He doesn't tell us to follow hopping on one foot. Sometimes you can't go fast. Some days the headwinds are very strong. Following Jesus is not measured by distance, for the strength that we have to follow comes from our faith in the Lord Jesus, the great gift of God. We are always going to be moving, protected and loved by the Lord.

*Blessings, Pastor*



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## 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.

*This article by Arlen Besel appeared in the August 2022 edition of Our Redeemer's Voice.*



## SPEAK PEACE

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Carol Geisler.

*Psalm 85:8-9 - Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely His salvation is*

*near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.*

The opening verses of this psalm are a plea to God for forgiveness: "Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us!" (Psalm 85:4) Surely God will confirm His steadfast love for His people. He had forgiven and restored them in the past, but will He do so again? What will the Lord say? Will He be angry with them forever? Will He speak words of condemnation? No, the Lord's response is absolutely certain: "Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints."

We also wait to hear what God the Lord will speak. We sin against God, turning away from His Word and His will for us to follow our own sinful desires. We confess our sins, but then we may wonder what will happen next. Will He be angry or will He forgive us? With the assurance expressed in this psalm, we can be certain of what He will say. We have seen the steadfast love of God confirmed in Christ Jesus because "all the promises of God, find their Yes in Him" (2 Corinthians 1:20a). We hear and read about God's steadfast love in the Scriptures. We have seen His plan of salvation unfold through the ages, revealed in His Word. We know and believe that Jesus came to suffer, die, and rise to save us. In Baptism, we are buried with Jesus and raised to new life, born anew as children of God. During worship we confess our sins and hear God's gracious Word of forgiveness spoken in the absolution. In the Lord's Supper we receive the precious gift of Jesus' body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

God forgives us for the sake of Jesus our Savior. We have heard Him "speak peace" to us. After hearing His wonderful word of peace, we pray that we will not "turn back to folly." Strengthened by God's forgiveness and assured of His love, we seek in the power of the Holy Spirit to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8). We walk in Jesus' footsteps, even when the way is hard, even as we must take up the cross and follow Him. It is a difficult burden, but a burden to be carried with confident trust because we do not have to wonder what God the Lord will speak. In Christ Jesus, we have already heard Him and we will hear Him again. He will speak peace to His people, to His saints.

**WE PRAY:** Lord God, through Jesus my Savior You have blessed me with forgiveness and peace. Amen.

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## A CIRCLE OF LIGHT- DEVOTION

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The trip had been long--almost 550 miles round-trip for a brief meeting. Car trouble, a large repair bill, and an unexpected stay in a strange town had added to the stress.

But traveling alone was the hardest part. Recently widowed, she was not yet accustomed to the miles of quiet. She missed the warm and friendly chatter that had been a part of so many trips in the past. Miles sped by and darkness came. "Thank You, God, for getting me this far. Please take me safely home tonight," she prayed. Suddenly, coming over a small hill she saw a breathtaking sight!

On the prairie was a gigantic circle of lights—lights of homes and farms, irrigation wells and feedlots, radio towers and small towns. It reminded her of John 8:12, Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." As she drove on, a new and comforting thought entered her mind. "That is a picture of my life.

It reminds me of all the times that God has been with me in the past." She thought of the parents who had lived the Christian faith they taught her, the teachers and friends who had challenged her, and the loving husband who had encouraged and supported her. As her eyes scanned the horizon, each light brought another memory. Some brought a smile; others brought pain; but through them all echoed Jesus' promise, "I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20).

The lights of her own small town grew brighter. Soon she would be safely home, and for that she would thank God again. She also prayed that she would remember the circle of lights and Jesus' promise.

*Personal Challenge:* Choose a light to symbolize God's presence in your life: the welcoming brightness of your own porch light, the eternal light in your church, the lighted digital dial of your alarm clock. Each time you see that light, thank God that He is with you, surrounding you with His light and love.

*Prayer:* Thank You, Lord, for traveling each step of life with me. Thank You for being the Light that shines through every joy and every sorrow. Forgive me when my faith flickers and grows dim. Help me to remember that Your love for me is always strong and bright. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*All Scripture references are from the ESV. A Circle of Light by Myrna Lou Meyer, Edmond, OK.*

*Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League 2013 lwmlorg*

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## OUR REDEEMER NEWS & NOTES

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**BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE** — Help LCS make a difference to a child this fall. Please drop off donated items by Sunday August 25. Items requested: pencils (regular or mechanical), erasers, glue sticks, wide and narrow ruled composition books, pencil sharpeners, erasable pens, blunt tipped scissors, index cards, disinfectant, binders, combination locks, pencil cases, notebook paper, rulers, small tissue packs, pencil grips, post it notes, back packs, colored pencils, washable markers, paper towels.

**NEWSLETTER & ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE**— The deadline for information to be included in Sunday's bulletin is Tue. morning each week; newsletter deadline is 20th of each month.

**AIR CONDITIONING/HEATING PROTOCOLS**—Please shut all doors to rooms not being used to help with cooling efficiency during the summer and winter months.—*Bob.*

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**— All men are welcome to join us Sat. August 24 at 8 a.m. for fellowship. All men & those in your household are invited to talk, eat, and enjoy each other's company. Bring your own breakfast. We will serve the coffee.

**LITTLE LIBRARY**— It has been great seeing activity at the "library." Families have been spotted dropping off and picking out books. The library always appreciates the donation of children, young adult and appropriate adult books. Thanks to all who donate books.

**BUILD A BAG** - Build A Bag work sessions will restart September 10 at the church. We meet at 10 a.m. We then recycle used bedding into sleeping bags that are distributed to the homeless in Newark. Caring hearts and helping hands are needed to make this mission project a success. See Marybeth, Ruth or Lina for more information.





# OUR REDEEMER NEWS & NOTES

**ORCHARD**— I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and staying cool among these weekly heat waves. On Monday July 15th the ORCHARD donated 48 lbs. of yellow squash and zucchini to the Emmanuel Dining Room located at 121 N. Jackson St. in Wilmington DE. There are 3 Emmanuel Dining Rooms located in Wilmington and New Castle De. serving the most impoverished neighborhoods. They operate under the Ministry of Caring Inc. who supports so many other services for those who are most in need. For further information please click on the attached link. Thanks for all your support and interest. It's a blessing that we can help feed our neighbors in need. To learn more check out the following link [www.ministryofcaring.org/services/emmanuel-dining-rooms](http://www.ministryofcaring.org/services/emmanuel-dining-rooms) — Robin

**BUSY BAGS** – The LWML is putting together Busy Bags for children who come to church, and are asking for donations of new or gently used and clean **QUIET** toys. No stickers, crayons, or messy items, please. Donations can be left at the office or given to Kathy O'Malley.

**BULLETIN TRANSITION**—Please let Kathy, Pastor, or Sharron know if you have suggestions for the new bulletin format. Announcements will be printed in the back when space permits. An insert will be provided otherwise. All attempts will be made to get entire hymns on one page.

**LWML**—The next LWML Lutheran Women in Mission meeting is August 22 at 10 am.

**MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP/SOCIAL HOUR**—Fellowship hour is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of the month. We ask that 2 to 3 people bring items such as simple snacks, desserts, finger foods, etc. August Fellowship Sunday is on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**BIBLE STUDY** — Every Sunday at 8:45 a.m. You can also participate online.

**CHECA COMMUNITY EVENT**— Join CHECA and members of the community on Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3 to 7 p.m. in the parking lot and around the garden for hamburgers, hotdogs, and music..



**FACTS:** The Friends Helping Friends fundraising event is an opportunity for ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN to raise donations by selling shopping passes to this event. OGT keeps 100% of the \$5 donations.

**EVENT DETAILS:** Buy a 25% off discount shopping pass for \$5. It is valid in-store and online during this one day event on October 22 from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

**PASSES AVAILABLE NOW:** See Ruth to get your pass, or to help sell a few yourself.

**REGISTER TO WIN:** Scan for QR code on your shopping pass for a chance to win a \$100 BOSCOV'S gift card. One customer from each store will have a chance to win this prize. This is an event where everyone wins



# OTHER NEWS & NOTES



**LCS BLOCK PARTY & WALK/RUN...** is traditionally held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of September, rain or shine. It is hosted by one of our church partners. Come out and have some fun with us as we raise funds that help us make a difference in the lives of others. The fun day includes food, drinks, live-music,

games & activities, raffles, and friendly, non-competitive walk for adults and kids alike. Funds raised and food collected from this event go directly to our LCS food pantries. You can also volunteer at this event. Last year's event raised \$73,000.

**September 21st 2024**  
**Concordia Lutheran Church**  
**3003 Silverside Rd**  
**Wilmington, DE 19810**  
**9:00 am for registration**  
**10:00 am for Walk/Run start**  
**2:00 pm Event End**

# OTHER NEWS & NOTES



**ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN** Mid-Atlantic Branch has been having a great summer. We were open nine days in June for packing including a day on which we loaded a container for Lithuania. It was Saturday, June 22, when we loaded bicycles, walkers, large toys, and some 1,100 boxes of clothing. The 'feels like' temperature went over 100 which could have been bad for our volunteers. However, we had 28 volunteers so we could take frequent water breaks and still completed the loading in less than 3 hours.

Lithuania is a new destination for MAB but they have received shipments from other branches in the past. The missionary there distributes through six congregations, many of which are serving Ukrainian refugees.

The shipment should arrive near the end of July.

We also received photos from our previous shipment which arrived just at the end of May. It is so warming to know that your/our efforts are helping people in need.



## *Many Came to Serve!*

Despite a heat index nearing 100 degrees, 28 Mid-Atlantic Branch volunteers turned out to load a container and to sort and pack, many as first-time visitors to the warehouse. The large number of volunteers allowed us to rotate crews in and out of the container and finish the job in under 3 hours. The Lord provides! The container filled with medical equipment, bikes, school supplies, toys and other aid is headed to Psichotery Rehabilitation Center Gabrielius in Lithuania.

[Mid-Atlantic Branch](#)



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## **WE ARE NEVER ALONE**

As a Christian, while many times I've stood alone among people, to do what I believe Jesus would want me to do, knowing that quite often to do so won't be the best way to make friends, be liked, or be popular. In human terms that has meant standing alone. However, the Lord reminded me, this morning, that while I might be alone in human terms, as one of Christ's believers, I'm never alone as I have the Holy Spirit dwelling within me. Sometimes in the heat of the moment I, and possibly you, can forget that, so I thank the Lord for His gentle reminder.







**A CHURCH TURTLE**—In early July an Eastern Box Turtle was spotted digging backwards in the grass under the tree outside the office. After a bit of googling, it was determined that the turtle was a female laying eggs. Female box turtles travel a few feet to over a mile to find a location to build a nest where they can lay 3-8 eggs that will be incubated by the sun. If squirrels, raccoons, skunks, snakes or other predators do not get them, the eggs will hatch in about 45 days. In mid August, there could be tiny box turtles walking around. Hatchling box turtles are 1-2 inches. They can grow up to 4 inches in their first year and then typically grow 0.5-1 inch per year until they are fully grown. Once they reach 4-6 years of age, they have usually done most of their growing and growth either ceases or becomes slower.

**EASY REFRIGERATOR PICKLES**

These pickles are quick and easy to make— no sterilizing jars or special canning equipment is needed. This recipe yields about two quarts. Make sure to use pickling cucumbers as regular ones will not be as crisp. Pickling cucumbers are shorter and less smooth than a traditional cucumber. Ingredients

- 1¼ cups distilled white vinegar
- 3 tablespoons kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 cups cold water
- 1¾ to 2 pounds pickling cucumbers (about 8), cut into halves or spears
- 2 tablespoons coriander seeds
- 6 large garlic cloves, peeled and halved
- 1 teaspoon mustard seeds
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 16 dill sprigs



Make brine with first four ingredients. Heat in a saucepan until all ingredients are dissolved. Set aside and let cool.

Cut up your pickles and stuff into jars. Add three garlic cloves to each jar. Evenly divide coriander, mustard red pepper flakes and dill sprigs and place into top of jar. Fill jars, covering pickles with cool brine

<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
3	Mark J
11	Kevin K
18	Milton
20	Bonnie J
24	Lian K
25	Stephen D
27	Loren K



*Let's* **Celebrate!**

<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
7	AK & Helga
14	Kevin & Meghan



# AUGUST 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SERVING</b> — Pastor Jeremy Loesch <b>ORGANIST</b> — J. Hockersmith <b>USHERS</b> Arlen Besel Dennis Boon	<b>STREAMING</b> 8/4 8/11 8/18 8/25	<b>LECTORS</b> 8/4 Julie 8/11 Steve 8/18 Bob 8/25 Arlen		1	2	3 CHECA Party at the Garden 3-7 p.m.
4 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS2 10 a.m.	5	6 Announcements Due	7	7	9	10
11 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS2 10 a.m.	12 PASTOR VACATION	13 Announcement Deadline PASTOR VACATION	14 PASTOR VACATION	15 PASTOR VACATION	16 PASTOR VACATION	17 PASTOR VACATION
18 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS2 10 a.m. Fellowship after service	19	20 Announcement Deadline. Council Meeting Newsletter Deadline	21	22 LWML 10 a.m	23	24 Men's Breakfast
25 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS1 10 a.m.	26	27 Announcement Deadline	28	29	30	31



*PENTECOST*

# AUGUST BIBLE READINGS

- 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



***Read a little  
each day and  
you will get  
through the  
entire Bible in  
one 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

