

# Our Redeemer's Voice

NOVEMBER 2024



## A BIT OF PASTORAL POTPOURRI



Rev. Jeremy Loesch



I'm tremendously grateful for the surprise reception this past month, with the kind gifts and cards. I was not expecting that, and as such, was talking with a member about something and thinking that I'd show up at the fellowship time eventually and that you were carrying on without me. But I'm really appreciative of all your kindnesses. We all have days that are filled with uncertainty; serving here as your pastor, partnering with you in acts of love and service to our various communities, working together to proclaim God's love and truth is one area of certainty in my life. I appreciate

our work together, your individual unknown works, and our opportunities to express God's love and mercy. Thank you.



Boundaries, borders, and lines. Christian congregations always have to be aware of what I just wrote. "You crossed the line!" "I have to maintain appropriate boundaries." "This tree line is the border of our congregation's physical property." Often the border or line is clear. It's fairly easy to live and function within your area, and perhaps you know your area of expertise. Functioning within that area makes you feel like a genius, a world beater, an expert, and feeling like that is great. You feel like you know what you are doing, which feels so much better than feeling like a nincompoop.

Are there times when we function in places where we probably shouldn't? Yes. Why would we do that when it's not our area? Because there is a job that needs to be done. And when that particular job needs to be done and you're the one who is there, you do that job.

This topic of boundaries is very subjective. You may draw a line in a place I wouldn't, and vice versa. How do we determine when we should blur a boundary line? Since there is no textbook for this sort of thing, our operating rule is our Christian faith and the love of God is our guide. What is the faithful thing? What is the loving action? What best serves my neighbor? And then we go from there.



Stay tuned- I have been in touch with our LCMS Foundation the last several months. This group handles estate planning, charitable giving, and some decisions that pertain to the latter years of our life. The LCMS Foundation is a national organization with regional representatives that help people make plans that are consistent with their faith, plans for proper stewardship of the Lord's blessings we have received, and insure their financial well-being in the "golden years".

Rev. John Denninger, former Southeastern District president, is the Foundation representative for our region. I'm making plans for him to visit us and our sister congregations in New Castle County within the next several months. Perhaps you have questions in this area, have existing plans that you want reviewed, have made no plans whatsoever but think you need to...John will be here to...share the work of the Foundation and for you to talk with him.

—Pastor

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Reverend Jeremy Loesch

# NOVEMBER — PENTECOST ADVENT

## THROUGH THE WORSHIP WINDOW



will be delivered from the wrath of the tribulation. Also in his visions Daniel sees the Father sitting in judgement.

Jeremiah predicts the coming of the righteous branch to bring justice to Israel and mankind. This is a reference to the coming Messiah; Jesus Christ.

—Arlen Besel (Archived from November 2021)



## HOLDING MONEY LIGHTLY

*This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo*

*Ecclesiastes 5:10-11, 13-15a, 16 - He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is*

*vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? ... There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came .... This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind?*

If anyone understood money, it was King Solomon—the author of this passage. He was known far and wide as a rich man—in his day, they said, "the king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stone" (1 Kings 10:27a).

And yet he is not happy. He points out that, as money increases, more and more people show up to get their share of it; and one bad decision means a man can leave nothing to his heirs. He can't take even a penny with him when he dies. So what is the point of heaping up money?

Maybe this is why Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11)—that is, just enough of what we need right now, but not so much that we pile it up for the future and begin to put our faith and trust in it. If God provides for us daily, then we learn to trust and hope in God for all the good things we need in life

But this is hard for us, because we prefer to trust in things we can see and handle and understand. God is invisible, and we cannot control Him—how then shall we trust in Him to give us what we need?

God knows that this is hard for us, and that is one reason He came into our world as the Man Jesus.

Through the Gospels, we can see God in action and get to know Him. We can see Jesus caring for the sick and the poor, welcoming the outcasts, challenging those who oppressed others, comforting those who grieved, forgiving the guilty and ashamed. We start to see how trustworthy He is—how He never breaks a promise, how His heart runs to help people in trouble, even if it's their own fault. And of course we see the greatest thing He did for us, by giving Himself into death for our sake and then rising again, so that we could become children of God.

Someone who loves us that much is someone we can trust without holding back. And because He lives forever, He will always be there to help us when we are in need. With a Savior like this, we can hold our money lightly—as a tool, not a god. We know our real safety is in Jesus, not money.

# OUR REDEEMER NEWS & NOTES

**LWML SUNDAY** — The first Sunday in October we observed of Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Sunday. Our LWML leaders, below, with pastor following the service. Lutheran Women in Mission give thanks for the opportunity to serve others as we have been served, to proclaim that Jesus is our Lord and that He came for all nations, and the chance to respond with our mite offerings to support God's mission. Our example has been the widow and her mites. The offering she made was observed by our Lord leading



**GARDEN WORK PARTY** – On November 2 at 9 a.m. all gardeners are expected to help us to define perimeters, lay cardboard, mulch, turn compost and trim along fence.

**BUILD A BAG** - We offer on-the-job training if you are interested in learning how to do machine or hand sewing. on our sleeping bags for those in need of warmth this winter. Can't join us, keep us in mind when you are changing bedding with the seasons. Donations

of clean used window curtains or drapes, comforters, and blankets no longer needed will keep someone in Newark warm this winter. For those who cannot do the physical labor, there are other jobs that you can assist with.

**CHURCH YARD CLEANUP, BURN & BBQ**—Join Bob and other members of the church for the fall cleanup of the church grounds on November 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3 p.m. We will burn branches and leaves with a BBQ after.

**COUNCIL MEETINGS** — Meetings have been moved to the third Wednesday of the month.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**— Currently we have 3 volunteers to teach Robin, Emily and Marybeth. If anyone is interested in helping with Sunday School, please reach out to Robin.

**MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP/SOCIAL HOUR CHANGED**— Fellowship hour will now be held on the 2nd Sun. of the month. We ask that 2 to 3 people bring items such as simple snacks, desserts, finger foods, etc. October fellowship Sunday is on the 13th.

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



**2025 CALENDARS AVAILABLE** — Complimentary calendars for 2025 are now available. You can pick up one or two in the Narthex, overflow room library table, or in the church office.

**Touching lives in the neighborhood — Note found in the library box.** "Our Mom told us to give this (donation of books) to the church, so here you go!"

**LITTLE LIBRARY**—Always looking for donations of children's, young adult and appropriate adult books. Thanks to all who donate books.

**LWML**— Next meeting is a 10 a.m., Thursday, November 14th at Ruth's house. Call Kathy for more details.

## MORE NEWS & NOTES — BUSY FALL AT ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN



**ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN** — Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church members travelled to Orphan Grain Train to help roll and prepare hygiene packages for those who were left in the devastation of Hurricane Helene.

Meeting humanitarian needs also includes disaster recovery. Hurricane Helene did massive damage in Asheville, North Carolina. Since Asheville is in the Southeastern District, we are following the lead of their Disaster Recovery team with boots on the ground there. They put out a call for 18,000 hygiene kits and 12,000 house cleaning kits and selected other items.

Mid-Atlantic Branch immediately started assembling materials. On October 9<sup>th</sup> we prayed before we began rolling hygiene kits. The hygiene kit components include towels, wash clothes, soap, shampoo, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, toothpaste, comb, clippers, bandages, all inside a gallon bag to protect them. The volunteers from many churches are averaging about 1,400 kits a day and will have completed 5,500 kits (30% of their request to all donors) by October 30. We will keep you informed of opportunities to volunteer assistance.

Then a 53-foot truck will pick them up for delivery to Asheville. The same truck will be collecting food items and cleaning kits from the branch in Maryland. Some other requested supplies will also be shipped. Everything will be boxed and labeled so that the workers on the ground can manage the aid efficiently.

Mid-Atlantic Branch plans on making another shipment in mid-November which will probably focus on house cleaning kits for Helene and Milton to be delivered as requested. Altogether we will have spent over \$40,000 on this effort, much of which came from individual donors.

OGT's international center in Norfolk has already started rotating their 5,300 water tankers into the area to furnish water for showers and flushing toilets. They are also providing a field kitchen and volunteer housing. You can read about those efforts on OGT.org.

Our warehouse is bursting with both donations and packed boxes. We are arranging a shipment currently; but, due to the recent dock strike, the exact timing is unknown. Some of you really enjoy helping pack over a thousand boxes into a container, so we will be sure to let you know when the opportunity comes up. (Others of you just like the donuts.)

We also want to report that we raised almost \$2,000 in donations during our annual Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day. Thank you for your support!

Our next fund raiser will be our annual grant matching event which will run from mid-November to mid-December. Last year the base grant was \$13,500. This year we are hoping the base grant will reach \$15,000. It is important because this is how we finance shipping those containers and the other good works the Lord puts before us.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10. To God alone be the Glory! - Submitted by Ruth



THANK YOU!

Thanks from Lithuania



## NEWS & NOTES... CONTINUED

### THANK YOU...

Dyer, a Bear Cub Scout, volunteered to help the ORCHARD in October with our garden clean up morning. He worked hard pulling weeds and clipping back overgrowth of plants. He made a difference with the appearance of our perennial garden. We truly appreciate his help and service to our church and neighborhood garden. Thanks again for your service Dyer!

**LIFE** — During November we will be collecting canned and boxed food to be distributed by Lutheran Community Services to those in need this holiday season.

## AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH

**A MUSTARD SEED DEVOTION** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6).*

Have you ever gone church shopping? Maybe you moved to a new area or became displeased with your current church. What

sort of things were you looking for in a new congregation? Did it need to be friendly without smothering you? Did the building need to be clean and updated without seeming cold and impersonal? Or maybe you were more interested in the vigor and demeanor of the minister? What message was key in the sermon? Was it uplifting enough or too condemning? Which of the following sermon themes would you prefer?

- Preach on wine and strong drink (Micah 2:11);
  - Preach not to walk haughtily for it will be a time of disaster (Micah 2:3);
- or
- A sermon that resisted the preaching about any disgrace (Micah 2:6).

In Micah, as with many of the Old Testament prophets, the preaching message centers around what the people were doing wrong: worshiping idols, turning from God, or living in debauchery. Micah's theme ran toward bullet point two. As you can imagine, the people were not thrilled to have been chastised. They wanted Micah to not preach about anything disgraceful, but instead, to give them sermons about wine and strong drink. Obviously, they wanted encouragement in these behaviors rather than be admonished to avoid them.

We also do not like to hear hard things. As a teacher, I never liked to make those phone calls with bad news, either. I dreaded having to say, "Your child has a failing grade or poor behavior in class." Even if the parent sympathized, they did not want to hear the disappointing news. Certain movie lines run through our minds:

"You can't handle the truth!" or "The truth hurts. However, sometimes a strong dose of truth is what we need, such as for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). These words of the law can weigh us down because we know how true they are. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8) *Posted on January 28, 2022*  
LWML.org

"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

*Matthew 17:20*



All you need is a  
mustard seed of faith.





# LUTHERANS AROUND US

## Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware

Grateful thanks for all that you do!

During this season in which we focus on giving thanks, the students, staff, and Directing Committee of LCM at UD join me in thanking you for all the ways in which you support our students and our ministry:

- Thank you for a successful and blessed fundraiser on Saturday afternoon, November 2! Your outpouring of baskets, gifts, and donations means so much.
- Bless you for providing tasty, home-cooked meals for our students on Tuesday evenings and for joining us for fellowship and conversation at our chapel.
- Thank you for keeping our students in your prayers, as they navigate challenging academic schedules while still prioritizing faith, service, and Christian community.
- Thank you for your generous financial gifts, both congregational and individual, which help to sustain and build this ministry with and among young adults.
- Thank you for your faithful partnership in embodying the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a broken and needy world, longing for community, reconciliation, and healing.



We also invite your help in finding two new resource people by the new year:

- A new **staff or faculty advisor** for LCM (must be a full-time employee of UD.)
- An experienced **metal worker** (for a special project!)

I wish everyone good health, safe and memorable travels, and joyous and blessed Thanksgiving celebrations! May God's peace guide us in overcoming challenges, whether local or international, and may our Lord's grace, hope, and joy surround and sustain you and your loved ones.

*In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister of Word & Service* ✝

Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD 302-368-3078; [chaplain@lcmde.org](mailto:chaplain@lcmde.org)

# Let's Celebrate!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
3	Dennis B
17	Stephen S.
26	Sarah V



**It's a BOY!**

**1<sup>ST</sup> GRANDCHILD!**

Congratulations Helga and AK on their new grandson, Arthur. Congrats to Arno and his beautiful wife, Katie!

# NOVEMBER 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>SERVING</b> — Pastor Jeremy Loesch <b>ORGANISTS</b>— Julie — Larry</p> <p><b>USHERS</b> — Arlen — Dennis</p>	<p><b>STREAMING</b> 11/03 11/10 11/17 11/24 11/27</p>	<p><b>LECTORS</b> 11/03 Kevin 11/10 Julie 11/17 Stephen 11/24 Emily 11/27 Bob</p>		<p>Circuit Meeting Garden Social 5:30 pm</p>		<p>2 Garden Work Day 9 am</p>
<p>Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS3 10 a.m. <b>ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY</b> Larry— Organist</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Announcements Due Build A Bag 10 am</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS3 10 a.m. Fellowship After Service Digital Organist</p>	<p>11 OFFICE CLOSED FEDERAL HOLIDAY</p>	<p>12 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 am</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 LWML — 10 a.m. Ruth's House.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>Bible Study 8:45 a.m. <b>COMMUNIONO DS3 10 a.m.</b> Julie Organist</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Announcement Deadline. Build A Bag 10 am</p>	<p>20 Council Meeting 7 p.m. Zoom</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS3 10 a.m. Julie Organist</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 am</p>	<p>27 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 p.m.</p>	<p>28 OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

# NOVEMBER BIBLE READINGS

- 1 Exodus 15:1-18  
Hosea 8-10
- 2 Psalm 122  
Hosea 11-14
- 3 Psalm 123  
Joel
- 4 Psalm 124  
Amos 1-5
- 5 Psalm 125  
Amos 6-9
- 6 Psalm 126  
Obadiah, Jonah
- 7 Psalm 127  
Micah 1-3
- 8 Psalm 128  
Micah 4-7
- 9 Psalm 129  
Nahum
- 10 Psalm 130  
Habakkuk
- 11 Psalm 131  
Zephaniah
- 12 Psalm 132  
Haggai
- 13 Psalm 133  
Zechariah 1-5
- 14 Psalm 134  
Zechariah 6-10
- 15 Psalm 135  
Zechariah 11-14



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



- 16 Psalm 136  
Malachi
- 17 Psalm 137  
Matthew 1-2
- 18 Psalm 138  
Matthew 3-4
- 19 Psalm 139  
Matthew 5-6
- 20 Psalm 140  
Matthew 7-8
- 21 Psalm 141  
Matthew 9-10
- 22 Psalm 142  
Matthew 11-12
- 23 Psalm 143  
Matthew 13-14
- 24 Psalm 144  
Matthew 15-16
- 25 Psalm 145  
Matthew 17-18
- 26 Psalm 146  
Matthew 19-20
- 27 Psalm 147  
Matthew 21-22
- 28 Psalm 148  
Matthew 23-24
- 29 Psalm 149-150  
Matthew 25-26
- 30 Exodus 15:1-18  
Matthew 27-28